

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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Stacked logs posing fire risk from paused Chamberlain Creek timber sale to be hauled from Jackson Demonstration State Forest in coming weeks

(Mendocino County, CA) Local contractors working for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) on the Jackson Demonstration State Forest will soon move previously felled and stacked logs from an area where the Chamberlain Creek Timber Harvest was underway.

The now-paused timber sale produced logs that were stacked into staging areas and have been sitting idle since December 2021. With fire season underway, these log decks continue to dry out, in turn increasing fire risk, blocking access for treating slash piles, and presenting economic challenges for a local, small business owner who previously purchased the timber.

In the coming weeks, these logs will be moved and hauled to local mills where they will be processed for use as sustainable, long-lasting wood products and long-term carbon storage. Hauling work is not expected to pose any negative impacts to the surrounding environment or the adjacent community, and community members may see truck activity in the area.

“Across the state, we’re taking steps to reduce catastrophic wildfire risks as we head into the peak of wildfire season, which also includes a range of forest management activities” said CAL FIRE Deputy Director for Resource Management, Matthew Reischman. “Removing these stacked logs is important to reduce flammable fuels within the Jackson State Forest and to protect communities and landscapes as we head into the period of peak wildfire danger. It also supports local communities that have been impacted by paused timber harvest activities in the Jackson Demonstration State Forest.”

Trimming of branches on these logs and processing of slash materials will occur to more efficiently haul material. No additional trees are being harvested as part of this haul operation. Area roads will be maintained in a way that minimizes impact while allowing for safe access to the area.

“It is time we get these logs from the Chamberlain Creek Timber Harvest removed. Leaving them in place will only create a greater fire hazard in already tinderbox conditions,” said Senate Majority Leader Mike McGuire. “The California Natural Resources Agency and CAL FIRE have been working hard on a revised interim master plan on the Jackson Demonstration State Forest, taking in critical feedback from the community over these past many months. There will be more to report on this in the coming weeks and I’m hopeful that we will continue to find common ground.”

Through collaborative discussions, CAL FIRE continues to update its management plan for the Jackson Demonstration State Forest to modernize its mission given accelerating climate change and increasing catastrophic wildfire risks to coastal redwood ecosystems. Key priorities for this update include ensuring the Jackson implements restoration forestry practices in line with climate change and wildfire resilience, establishes tribal co-management approaches, and enables cutting edge science that informs best

practices for managing forests across the state. In coming months, the Jackson Advisory Group will continue to facilitate input from local communities and stakeholders to inform this important management update.

“We’re committed to protecting community safety and limiting wildfire risk while managing the Jackson Demonstration State Forest for the many benefits it provides.” said Reischman. “We are committed to working with tribal governments, local communities, and the regional forestry sector to ensure the forest is managed as an environmentally sustainable forest, which protects natural landscapes and watersheds, enables ecologically appropriate timber harvest for supporting local communities, and provides one-of-a-kind recreation opportunities.”

CAL FIRE’s nine demonstration state forests, including the Jackson, serve as a living laboratory for how to care for and manage California’s forest lands for multiple benefits, including ecological and watershed protection, wood products and timber production, recreation, and habitat restoration. The Jackson Forest provides unique research and demonstration opportunities in a coastal redwood forest where environmental scientists, foresters, and other researchers can study the effects of various forest management and restoration techniques. Road abandonment for improved instream fisheries habitat, forest thinning to increase forest resilience to fire, and regeneration studies are a few examples of research practices underway at Jackson Demonstration State Forest.

For more information about the Jackson Demonstration State Forest, visit: [Jackson \(ca.gov\)](#)

For more information about California’s demonstration state forests, visit: [Demonstration State Forests \(ca.gov\)](#)

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