

# Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group

## May 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: George Hollister (GH), Doug Albin (DA), Michael Jones (MJ), and Amy Wynn (AW), Mike Powers (MP), Robert Horvat (RH), Jason Serna (JS), Lynn Webb (LW), Julie Rhoads (JR) *Guest/Public:* none.

Call to Order and Introductions. Mike Powers discussed COVID 19 risk mitigation measures and best practices for the meeting. Meeting called to order at 0911.

Review/Approve Previous Meeting Minutes: *Review Item* Review of minutes from the November 5, 2019 JAG Meeting. Motion to approve by Michael Jones and second by Doug Albin. Unanimous. Need clarification on persons who motioned and seconded approval of minutes from May 6, 2019 meeting. Mike Anderson, John Andersen, Charlie Schneider absent.

Exparte Communication Disclosure: George Hollister communicated one-way with Mike Powers, Lynn Webb, and Jason Serna regarding lopping projects from 1980s and 90s. Amy Wynn and Nick Taylor representing Mendocino Coast Cyclists (MCC) met with Mike Powers in early March to start brainstorming ideas on how to reduce impacts to recreational users during upcoming timber operations in high use areas.

## Staff Reports

### Robert Horvat – Roads, Recreation, and Forest Sustainability Manager

Bid out 2 road upgrade projects, prioritizing roads close to streams with the highest use. Road 350 upgrades include multiple culvert upgrades and chip sealing the parking lot and day use area. North section of Road 200 which has large crossing replacements. 2 bridges will have concrete superstructure installed this summer- Parlin Creek and Chamberlain Creek. Staff is preparing for camping season, although unsure if/when camping will open due to Health Orders. Currently building one new outhouse and working on other deferred maintenance. Unknown if we will be able to hire 2 maintenance Forestry Aides due to hiring freeze, etc. Working with MCC to find a funding source to contract out trail building work on the 408-bypass trail from Woodlands to the Forest History Trail. Trash dumping has been increasing recently and expect a continued increase due to economic climate. Planning to do cleanup events with staff and volunteer groups. Planning for upcoming projects including upgrades to Road 230 and 250 in Chamberlain.

## Questions/Comments

GH- Who is doing the chip sealing? Didn't think there was anyone in FB? RH- Greenwood Aggregates (Robin Bird). MP- Wylatti and GeoAggregates also do chip sealing. Cost is \$1.50/sq.f.t. We had hoped that CalTrans would remodel the bathroom at Camp 20 Day Use Area as part of the curve realignment project, but that didn't work out. However, they will repave the parking area. This will require ongoing maintenance. In conformance with the County Public Health Orders, JDSF closed camping but kept the Forest open for dispersed exercise. Public has been able to use JDSF while City (FB) and Parks are closed. AW- The public has been grateful to be able to access JDSF and have observed users practicing

social distancing. MP- There was discussion and calls to close entirely, but we wanted to keep JDSF open as much as possible. RH- CalTrans has two additional curve realignment projects on JDSF towards James Creek. AW- 408 bypass trail construction has been a high priority project for MCC to improve safety, avoiding narrow steep sections with blind turns and avoiding the quarry. It has been a positive experience working with JDSF staff. MP- Environmental review for this project has been completed. MJ- What was the scope of the Highway 20 project? RH/LW/MP- comments to explain project, curve realignment to reduce number of vehicle accidents.

## Jason Serna- Timber Sale Program Manager

2019 Active Sales: 23 Gulch- Felling and yarding started this year in January, shipped 1.5 MMBF up until shut down in February for NSO. Restarted in April, estimated 2.5 MMBF remaining through July. Bear Gulch- Approximately 4 MMBF remaining. Will start June or extend into 2021 due to economy and timing of bridge installation at Parlin. 2020 Sales: South- sold to MFP for \$377/RW for an est. value of \$551,501. Plan to start in June and finish in 2020. Parlin- sold to Willits Redwood for \$639/RW for an est. value of \$1,914,456. Plan to start in July or August, and log mostly in 2021. Will have shipping delay during Parlin bridge install. Moe Gulch- sold to Conrad for \$478/RW for an est. value of \$1,265,678. Had to put out bid a second time after no bids received on first attempt. Removed the shaded fuel break from the contract. Plan to start logging in August and shipping in September. Will log mostly in 2021. Camp 17- sold to Conrad for \$478/RW for an est. value of \$1,265,678. Received 4 bids, highest # bids in a long time. Will start mid-June in the tractor ground. Cable logging will start this winter or next spring. PGE ROW- sold to PGE for \$225/RW for an est. value of \$142,550. Contract is held up in Sacramento but expect to start mid-summer. 2019 sales totaled 14.5 MMBF generating \$4.8 million. Currently we have 700-1,000 acres left to mark for 2021 sales. The economic situation and log market are unknown, anticipate at least one less sale will be sold. Upcoming sales include Red Tail, James Creek, Caspar 500, and Soda Gulch. MP- The pandemic and impacts to the economy will likely impact JDSF negatively. Our operating budget is based on revenue from timber sales. We will have to make adjustments. We have already halted all spending and hiring as directed by the state. We do have \$10 million in reserve. With pending retirements, we may have difficulty fighting to backfill those positions depending on the bargaining unit of the employee. We will continue business, including prepping plans to be 2-3 years ahead to increase flexibility. Continuing planning so we have more options.

## Questions/Comments

AW- Is the fuel break still happening in Parlin despite being removed from the TSA? MP- The plan is to implement with grant or other funding. It was too expensive as part of the TSA. AW- Comments/questions heard from the public include "Why does JDSF have to log?" and "Is carbon sequestration a process to stabilize funding?" MP- That is not an option for us, we would need a change in the statute. MJ- CCI is a state funded program meant for private forests. Issue with state paying itself for projects. LW- JDSF is currently hosting 3 CCI funded research projects. GH- JDSF is the only place where you can see different methods of harvest management, where we work with recreational users at the same time. This has potential to move the industry ahead. AW- The signs on the Lindquist trail are a great demonstration to riders. They don't get access to ride on industrial land, so don't have means of comparison [to JDSF practices]. It is informative to see regeneration in clearcuts, etc. This is good information on the CCI program to relate back to cyclists. MP- We can harvest more than sustainably with changing market conditions. MJ- What is the purpose of the PGE ROW project? Response by PGE since recent fires has been aggressive. JS- Maintenance and removal of danger trees. MP- PGE wants to widen the ROW, but JDSF will not allow it. They have a 45' allowable clearance of the ROW under the

FPRs. There has been an issue with overlapping maintenance programs and use of multiple contractors. This project is combining the intent of these programs. AW- Will PGE leave a bunch of logging slash like last year? MP- That was work conducted on Soper and Conservation Fund, and not complete. MJ- Referenced work by PGE on State Parks which possibly needs more oversight by Parks.

## Lynn Webb - Research and Demonstration Program Manager

HSU students completed regeneration plot installation in the silviculture demonstration in SF Caspar on Road 640. Hoping to continue using this site for HSU Capstone Projects. In the publication stage of past projects. Working with Pascal Berrill, who has returned to HSU, on a 20-year study comparing growth rates in conifer after cutting and herbicide treatments to hardwoods. Looking at a project in recently harvested Variable Retention and Clearcutting units to study the first couple years of growth in order to see differences in mechanical vs. chemical treatments. Seeking partners in this research. Prepping for CFI this year, which is remeasured every 5 years. Caspar VR units were planted this spring. Reevaluated and treated hardwoods in the Wonder Crossing THP. Treated hardwoods in James Creek. Conducted TSI work at Tunnel. Will bring back masticator to work on areas adjacent to the property lines. Did thinning in the MASAM study at Walton Gulch. Working on long range TSI planning. We have 600 acres for mechanical and chemical treatments. These follow the FMP and are generally on the east side of the forest. CCCs are working on building engineered bridges in Caspar. Having issues with lumber dimensions produced by the Parlin mill. Working with HSU to use LiDAR to evaluate stands for LSD/OG attributes, and how evaluating how stands have changed with fire suppression last 100-160 years. Edwin Diaz is the new R&D Forestry Assistant II.

## Questions/Comments

GH- Who conducted PCT? Contracted by the hour or acre? LW- Great Tree Tenders, and we paid by the hour. Provided a lot of supervision. MP- Lynn and Jeremiah have been developing a program for reviewing and implementing follow-up treatments after timber harvests, etc. to complete the intent of these projects. Jeremiah has gotten an exemption to cover the property for these projects. LW- Will email out comparative watershed study for low flows. [*handout at meeting*] AW- Tries to convey to her group all the great things JDSF is working on. Is Lynn available to explain these projects and topics? LW- Happy to do that! GH- This is fundamental research that influences how people look at forests in general and how to maintain them. LW- Unfortunately with the new website changes to provide ADA compliance, we cannot provide the same level of information as we have done in the past.

## Mike Powers – Forest Manager

Discussion of the projects that will be reviewed in the field: The FMP gives direction in accompaniment with the Option a, and is approved by the Board of Forestry. This gives land management direction for projects, dictating whether the project falls within the Matrix, LSD, or OFDA. These two projects are located in the LSD area. This means the stand should be managed to develop late seral characteristics faster than they would normally develop. The Railroad South THP is within the MAMU Habitat Development Area and within the Mendocino Woodlands STA. This is a high use area with multiple trails and other recreation. We are proposing single tree selection, where 30% of the basal area is removed, and managing to grow larger trees more quickly. Will plan to minimize impacts to recreation by spreading operations over time, and rehabilitating trails after operations. The LNF Big River THP is an isolated piece that is accessed through State Parks. We will need to build a new road network to allow for cable logging. Within this block, are two stands that have old growth components. Proposing to exclude 55 acres that is harder to access and includes the Big Tree Loop trail. The other area is 18 acres

where OG trees will be left anyway, per FMP Old Growth Policy. Conducting MAMU surveys. The LSD component is already present in this stand. Harvesting would be minimal. We have the option to exclude these areas. There are 400 acres of old growth aggregates in “reserves.” Would like to designate the larger area as reserve and exclude from any management activity. Asking the group, as advisors, on their opinion about these options.

## Questions/Comments

AW- Walked with Nick through the MAMU designation area, what [by means of management] would that stand need to improve? MP- Thinning from below would improve the stand. The southern stand is like other reserves that are unique and left untouched. AW- Moving the south portion to a reserve would build trust with the public and be a good political option. There is not an ideal option in the FMP for managing a stand like this. GH- Is this small of an area significant? MP- Similar to those unique stands. MJ- What is the surrounding land management? MP- To the east is land formerly owned by Georgia Pacific, Campbell, and State Parks to the west. AW- Would there be impacts to recreation if put in reserve? MP- There would be no impact to recreation, we can still do maintenance. AW- Would there be negative impacts from not being able to physically manage these stands if designated reserve? MP- Depends on what happens in the future, cannot predict extent of fires, pest infestations, etc. MJ- What are the understory conditions? MP- There is 100% cover. MJ- Would not like to see reduction of management options available such as prescribed fire. MP- May have the option to make such changes in the next FMP revision. MJ- The south area seems like an ideal area to have a reserve, where there is high recreation, and builds public/social trust. The other area on the ridge does not seem necessary to put into a reserve. GH- The other option is to have a “no-harvest” area within the THPs. MP- Yes, or could do LSD treatment in the plan. GH- These stands were actively managed with fire pre-settlement. Excluding fire shifts the stand conditions, look at Montgomery Woods for example, with an increase in tanoak. Active management is necessary if we want to maintain these stands. We could just avoid these areas and monitor for management needs. AW- Could we do a prescribed burn there as a demonstration? Would be beneficial to have signage at resting points in the bike trails. You could add language for habitat, research, prescribed fire, and various treatments. Turning second area to OG reserve would be beneficial. MP- Appreciates input from advisors to hash out direction. Option could be to leave out the sliver and designate the second area as reserve. LW- Could demonstrate needs to keep the options open. *Depart for field tour.*

## Public Comment

Because of COVID-19, the public was asked to not attend today’s meeting. Instead, written comment was encouraged. The office received 45 emails, the bulk being from members of the MCC. Mike Powers read one letter that was similar in message to the bulk of those received. The comments included: many people travel to the area to use the trails, would like to demonstrate a partnership model, and coordinate with trail volunteers, requested that JDSF prioritize minimizing impacts from harvest and clean up trails to not put burden on the trail crews. The tone of the second letter was more extreme, and included comments such as the following: THPs are inappropriate and unacceptable, trail system is a gem on the coast, bringing in many people and tourism dollars, Forest too important to ruin for short term greed.

## Field Tour

### Railroad South Timber Harvest Plan

This plan is 520 acres, last logged in 1997. Will use existing trails and roads. JDSF has adopted the bulk of user-built trails in this area that were established since the last entry. We will see typical impacts from logging to aesthetics in this area. We will reestablish the trails and lop and scatter after the harvest to minimize that aesthetic impact. We will need to build one new road off of 409 for cable logging access. There are also 4-5 domestic water intakes in the plan area for the Woodlands Camp that will be protected.

### Questions/Comments

AW- Is there an area with similar impacts that recreationists can point to for comparison? LW- Other recent harvests had different objectives so not similar. This is more of a restoration type that might resemble something in the NPS. MP- What else could we do to grow large-limbed trees for MAMU? AW- This would be a unique demonstration because of the ease of access. One that we can point to in the future. Could we put up informational boards in this area to show post-harvest? Good location is at the top of hills where bikers rest. JS- Would we want to create a parking area with a kiosk and signage? This will be the new road into Woodlands. AW- This would be a good spot, similar to Scales. JS- Tried to put in a parking area at the end of Road 409 pavement but couldn't because of MAMU habitat restrictions. AW- Working with Nick Taylor on strategies to minimize impact but haven't gotten that far yet. MP- It is good to talk and plan with the biking community, but since we have 7 years to complete the plan, there is no urgency. GH- Looking at the mark, it doesn't look like it would be attractive to a log buyer.

### Would like to have more options but have to follow the prescription in the FMP (MP)

This plan won't be as economical. JS- Can also remove some tanoak to help with redwood regeneration. LW- Will focus on where there is redwood. AW- You can't mark Douglas-fir overtopping redwoods because they're dominant? MP/LW- They are dominant and also potential MAMU habitat. You could argue that redwood and longer-lived species. GH- If this is the intent of what the project looks like then it is not inconsistent with the FMP. The Doug-fir looks like it's not growing. If we want LSD attributes, they are already there. MJ- That is what the objective is, that tree is a future wildlife tree. Does the silviculture prescription getting us to LSD objective or are there modifications that we can do to make it better or different? AW- Is there is a research option for creating MAMU LSD? LW- Knows one possible person to talk to about that. MP- Not sure about the allocation of this area for MAMU habitat, and what the long-term results will be. LW- FWS stopped doing offshore surveys in this area because of low populations that were not expected to recover. They are also impacted by increasing raven populations.

### John Andersen Comment

MP- We have received a comment from John Andersen about this plan. This plan implies use of single tree selection (yes), basal area removal of 30%, marking is thinning from below, and includes MAMU protections. Therefore, the plan is consistent with the FMP. GH- Don't see 30% mark here. MP- It is marked lighter next to trails and roads and balanced out through the rest of the stand. AW- Thinks it would be good to get rid of the tanoaks, but do they serve as a wind buffer? JS- No. MP- Tanoak will

sprout, may not be an issue in the stand. AW- The visual treatment is wise. Likes the idea of the staging area, that would be a bonus. Trusts the cooperative relationship, and that between now and 2027 we can work on the timing issues. Is the trail rehabilitation an operator's requirement and what is the oversight or quality control? MP- The work is included in the contract, either the LTO or subcontractor could complete it. Will include a scope of work necessary to rebuild the trail. JS- Some of the trails will need to be opened and reused as roads. AW- Can you clarify the timing of openings of these roads? MP- Working with Erik to determine if we're moving certain trails off of the roads. AW- How does the trail maintenance affect cost? MP- Minimal, not as much as SFB. GH- If the volume is at 1/3 it will provide sufficient revenue. We have a year to discuss with the recreation committee.

**Railroad South THP Review Item** Amy Wynn motioned that the JAG committee find the Railroad South THP complies with the Forest Management Plan, considering the Special Treatment Area and recreation components. Second by Doug Albin. Unanimous. Mike Anderson, John Andersen, Charlie Schneider absent

## LNF Big River Timber Harvest Plan

GH- We're looking at thin from below again? MP- Correct. We're building new roads to accommodate cable yarding access. This will connect to the neighboring road system and will haul out to McGuire's Pond. Some hardwoods within 25' of a redwood stump will be cut. Again, we will reestablish the trails, and lop and scatter adjacent. Planning a 2-phase implementation. The first season will be road building and tractor yarding. That winter will be falling and cable yarding and hauling in the spring. DA- Are these new roads seasonal? MP- No, temporary. MJ- You will not need to worry about hardwoods in this stand, it is heavily infected with SOD. Will have to work with heavy equipment for decon, especially if/when you're moving equipment 12 miles out through uninfested area. Discussed SOD characteristics. AW- Is that a concern to JDSF when you want to get rid of hardwoods? MJ- Discussed relationship of recreation and movement of SOD in high use areas like Parks. GH- Has seen SOD in very remote areas. MJ- It is an airborne pathogen, works its way down drainages. Has seen extensive mortality last couple of years. GH- Will this wipe out tanoak? MJ- Big Sur for example, can see residual population existing but not sure yet if they're genetically resistant or if they're avoiding becoming infected. Maybe in 100 years we will see a limited tanoak population. GH- Has seen dead chinquapins. MJ- *Phytophthora cinnimomi* is even scarier than *P. ramorum*, because it kills all species. There was an event in the 1970s and now increasing again. LW- There are studies (Yana Valachovic) on *P. ramorum* that show these areas develop chronic increasing fuel levels compared to a one-time Imazapyr treatment. MJ- There are obvious ecological impacts in addition to fire. GH/MP- Thinks we will see a shift towards Douglas-fir and conifer encroachment. LW- This is an issue for mast production. MJ- A homogenized stand creates more susceptibility to other diseases. LW- Talked with Teresa Sholars about retaining hemlock with structure. MJ- Found wooly adelgid on hemlock.

## Is it still appropriate to reduce hardwood to promote redwood regeneration given SOD?

(MP) MJ- It will help with promoting regeneration. Need to think about how to manage for hazard trees. Or remove dead and dying and retain healthier trees. When is next entry? MP- 15-year return interval. MJ- Maybe refrain from tanoak management, reassess at 15 years. If it's an aesthetic item take along trails and focus on conifer removal. By the time the contract is complete over the next couple years, you will already see a change in this stand. MP- Good discussion, thanks. Will reassess

with Jason prior to the sale. Will likely have to do a significant amount of cleanup. GH- If you reduce the tanoak to a low basal area, will that reduce the infection rate? MJ- It will reduce the rate of spread. The key is bay laurel. Will not be able to stop SOD. These stands are adapted to a fire return interval.

## Fire

Fire is a tool to reduce bay laurel. AW- Can we use prescribed fire on the forest?

MP- We are, starting with a project in Parlin to work out logistics. This is a staffing issue, since we have to plan and stage resources. MJ- Could use the VTP for landscape level treatment. This is a programmatic EIR for all ecosystems. It is complete but under litigation. AW- If you use prescribed fire in this area, would you be able to use community volunteers? MJ- Mendocino County Prescribed Burn Association is a group of volunteers that help private landowners to burn. There are more options on private land. AW- Could we work with Conservation Fund (neighbors) to do a burn? MJ- Advocates for using prescribed fire as a management tool. MP- Would like to, there are hurdles to jump through. It hasn't been used on JDSF since the 1990s. AW/MP- Discussed cultural/traditional use of fire. GH- Looking at this stand, you're going to get a lot of Douglas-fir and fir regeneration. Madrone and huckleberry may also benefit. Good to think about what this transformation will look like. MP- Yes, and we're hoping to influence that direction. MJ- Only way to maintain redwood forests is to burn. Look at RNP for example. LW- Last seed crop was from 2009, after the 2008 lightning fires. Studies showed that we have a 6 to 25-year fire return interval on JDSF. DA/LW- Discussed study of offshore sediment that analyzed layers of charcoal and pollen. AW- RIFI has videos, it would be cool if CAL FIRE had a YouTube channel or website to relay more information. MJ- Lots of videos out there with this type of information. JS- It is more common to get PR for these projects in the cities, i.e. Santa Cruz. GH- Santa Cruz redwood and Humboldt redwoods have abundant cone production. Discussion on inversion layers, stress, proximity to camping and wood stoves, possible stressor that would induce RW cone production. Could be studied. Discussed marked trees. MJ- You're thinning out the fairy rings, are they 100 years old? MP- Yes, also thinning out some of the Douglas fir, but leaving the large firs.

## Trails

AW- Confirming that Big Tree and Moto will still be able to use while harvesting adjacent to these trails?

MP- Yes, they are out of the project area. AW- Is it possible to exclude the Marsh Trail area?

Woodlands does not like cyclists to use their roads during the summertime. Need to have alternative to keep access.

MP- It is in a Class I but may have corridors which will necessitate trail closure. JS- Will

limit closures but whole area may be affected over two seasons. There are seasonal restrictions on

logging. AW- Doing inspection for hazard trees instead of waiting for winter storms is an improvement.

Can we make improvements to Jeep Trail? Is 720 to remain open for rec use? MP- Yes, after operations

and inspections. AW- Can we use temporary roads for new trails? Nice to check out possible new trails.

MP- Roads are open to non-motorized vehicles. AW- Staff should engage cyclist group in designing trail.

MP- Project is pretty cut and dry, the complication is the recreation component. A certain number of people will never be appeased, but we can work on solutions and keep a number of people happy.

There is an expectation of a rotation of trail closures. AW- Appreciates the past few years of

collaboration and working with the staff. GH- Have to recognize the difference between "possible" and

"feasible" when considering how much time to spend. The focus is on management. We want to see

the recreationists out there, but it has to be safe. It's a two-way street. The people seen here

recreating seem to want to make it work. AW- There are a few people who are harder to communicate

with and have different opinions. Will work on email to disseminate information to the group. MP-

Some of the public comments make it seem like people don't know what JDSF is doing. Will consider

writing a neutral and informative response. LW- There is a list-serve of people who want to change the mission for the forest. We want to start a conversation with those people. We don't want to repeat earlier issues. MP- Those people will always be out there. We are on good footing. There were holes in the FMP previously. AW- The Option a handout was handy. Will be good educational resource for letter to the group, when discussing late seral and what the intent is. MP- Discussed the relationship of the FMP, Option a, and THPs. Described that mark seen is similar to that in the cable ground. GH- What is the harvest by species? JS- 60/40 redwood/DF. MJ- Discussed *Phellinus pini*. Looks like a cool project.

[LNF Big River THP Review Item](#) Amy Wynn motioned that the JAG committee find the LNF Big River THP complies with the Forest Management Plan, considering the following: MAMU habitat on south end of the project be designated as a reserve. Remove smaller MAMU habitat area from the THP. Review options for management (i.e. prescribed fire) in old growth reserve stand in future FMP revisions. Consult with the project's LTO to reduce impacts and closure of the Marsh trail to the extent feasible. Engage the recreation group in the planning for phasing of trail closures and rehabilitation. Second by Michael Jones. Unanimous  
Yes, with Comment(s): Mike Anderson, John Andersen, Charlie Schneider absent.

Parking lot discussion: BADO vs NSO, Bishop Pine Community and regen, county hardwood ordinance.  
Meeting adjourned at 1430.