JDSF Recreation Task Force
Summer 2021

Trail Work Update, Current and Planned Projects & Need Assessment
On July, 2020, the JDSF Recreation Task Force (RTF) met to discuss ongoing recreation activities, when a member suggested trail development on JDSF. Prior discussions and RTF recommendations included addressing unofficial trails. During the meeting, it was agreed that JDSF would create trail maps to allow input on development of a work plan. Three E size maps (1:18,000 scale) were created, illustrating both official trails [as shown on JDSF base map (4/19/2018)] and unofficial trails.

Copies of maps were provided to the following RTF members:

- Teresa Scholars
- Stacey Bradley
- Nick Taylor
- Sarah Huff
- Chris Ruddick
JDSF Recreation Task Force

Mission & Duties

- Provide Advice/Recommendations
- Review Recreation Policy & Plans
- Provide Input
- Carry out other responsibilities
Objectives

Need Assessment

– Assess adoption (and abandonment) of un-official trails outside of areas of special concern
– Review comments and provide input/recommendations
– Note any suggested location of new multi-use trails
Official vs. Un-Official Trails Explained

**Official Trails** are often referred to as “sanctioned” or “public” trails. They are illustrated on JDSF’s base and Recreation & Area Closure maps. Illustrating these trails on maps informs the public that trails are suitable for use, as determined by the Forest Manager. There are approximately 34 miles of official trail on JDSF.

Intent for proposed trails are to become official, unless any conflicts with other land uses, sensitive areas or safety concerns.

**Un-Official Trails:**

1) Trails as dirt paths or on log skid trails used or built without permission, often referred to as “user built”.

2) Routes illustrated on non-JDSF maps, smart tech applications (i.e. Trailforks), etc.

There are approximately 38 miles of un-official trails.
Outline

- **Notable Trail Work** (Last 3 Years)
  - Camp 1 Loop
  - Bob Woods
  - Waterfall Grove
  - Manly Gulch
  - Forest History

- **Current and Planned Trail Projects**
  - JDSF Recreation & Area Closure Maps
  - Sweatpea*
  - Observatory+
  - Cypress*
  - Lindquist Study Areas*
  - “Widow Maker” Abandonment
  - Blue Gum*
    - Discussion in Trail within Active and Future THP’s
  - Jughandle THP Connector*
    - Discussion in Trail within Active and Future THP’s

- **Official Trails within Active and Future THP’s**
  - Caspar 500
  - Red Tail
  - Jughandle
  - North Fork Big River
  - Railroad South

- **Summary**

- **Unofficial Trail Discussion/Consideration for Adoption**
  - Russian Gulch SP to Road 408
  - Ecological Staircase (JDSF)

* Proposed Official Trails  +  Official Trail
Notable Trail Work

Notable Trail Work (Last 3 Years)

- Camp 1 Loop (2.3 miles)
- Bob Woods (1.3 miles)
- Waterfall Grove (1.0 miles)
- Manly Gulch (2.4 miles)
- Forest History (3.7 miles)

Note: Maintenance Work included grooming and brushing.
Notable Trail Maintenance
Camp 1 Loop

- Lower reroute, improving gradient on steep pitch.
  - Original Trail Segment Naturalized
- Upper reroute, abandoning trail along perennial watercourse
  - Original Trail Segment Blocked
- Bucking of fallen logs

Place Photo Here
Notable Trail Maintenance

Bob Woods

- **Lower Reach**
  - Impacted from Bob Woods timber sale
  - Trail segments re-established

- **Mid-Reach: heavy brushing (west of meadow)**
  - Heavy Brushing

- **Meadow**
  - No Dirt Work Performed
  - Placement of Carbonite Posts as visual

[Image: Bob Woods Meadow (2005)]
Notable Trail Maintenance
Waterfall Grove

- Segment between Road 200 & Waterfall
  - Rebuilt Wooden Rail (along Rd 200)
  - Installed 28 Steps (3” x 8” Redwood)
  - Reroute for improved gradient
  - Retaining Wall
  - Grooming
Notable Trail Maintenance
Waterfall Grove

Earthen steps below stairs. ¾” Rock and compacted.

Earthen steps between Road 200 & Waterfall
Notable Trail Maintenance
Waterfall Grove

Re-Route segment
Retaining Wall
Notable Trail Maintenance
Waterfall Grove

Excavated trail to clear under fallen redwood

Steps through fallen redwood

Trail improvement
Notable Trail Maintenance
Manly Gulch

◆ Bridge Replacement
  – JDSF Engineered Pedestrian Bridge
    ◆ Live load rated at 800 lbs.
      – Not Suitable for Equestrians
      – Not standard for use on multi-use trails
      – Approved by Tech Services
    ◆ 48-50” Tread  42” Handrails
  ◆ Earthen Ramps
  ◆ All Heart Redwood
    – Milled at Parlin Fork Camp
  ◆ Above Calculated 100-Year Flood Flows

JDSF Forestry Aids delivering bridge materials, winter 2020.
Notable Trail Maintenance
Manly Gulch

Bridge 1 – Woodlands State Parks.

Existing bridge
Notable Trail Work
Manly Gulch

Bridge 2 – Original bridge with railroad ties used for stringers.
Notable Trail Work
Manly Gulch

Bridge 2 – 22’ Span Replacement
Notable Trail Work
Manly Gulch

Bridge 4 – Original bridge. Large concern for public safety.
**Notable Trail Work**

**Manly Gulch**

**Bridge 4** – Replacement w 19’ span.
Notable Trail Work
Manly Gulch

Bridge 5 – Planned for replacement with Rocked Ford Crossing

Existing bridge

Proposed Rocked Ford Class III Watercourse Crossing
Notable Trail Maintenance
Manly Gulch

- Trail Segment
  - Need 3 Pedestrian Bridges (12-16ft)
  - Closed Until Bridges Replaced

TRAIL SEGMENT CLOSED

- This trail segment is closed until pedestrian bridge crossings are replaced.
Notable Trail Maintenance
Forest History

Lower bridge replacement. 19’ Span. 50” Wide Tread w 42” Handrail

Bridge Replacement, 2021
Notable Trail Maintenance

The Mendocino Coast Cyclists (MCC) have worked cooperatively with JDSF. Hours from 2019 to present:

- Camp 1 Loop, Bob Woods, Waterfall Grove, Manly Gulch, Forest History (10.7 miles): 570 Hours
- Other Trails: 910 Hours
- **TOTAL HOURS: 1,480**

CDC Inmate Crews:

- 5 Days (Paid by MCC Sponsor): **60 Hours**

JDSF Staff:

- Camp 1 Loop, Waterfall Grove, Manly Gulch, Forest History (combined): **120 Hours**
Current Projects

- Abandoned Road 630/Sweatpea* (3.7 miles)
- Observatory+ (2.0 miles)
- Cypress* (0.8 miles)
- Lindquist Study Areas* (2.9 miles)
- “Widow Maker” Abandonment (1.0 miles)

* Proposed Official Trail  
+ Official Trail
Current Projects
Road 630 Abandonment/Sweatpea Trail

- **2001**: Pacific Watershed Associates inventory & action plan
  - Primary funded through CDFW – Fisheries Restoration Grant
- **2005 (Sept-Oct.)**: 10 Class II (Perineal) and III (Ephemeral) culvert crossings removed.
  - Road surface ripped & outsloped
  - Ditch Relief Culverts Removed

![In-Stream Crossing Excavation, Komatsu 220](image1)

![Ripped road surface, Komatsu D-9](image2)
Outsloped road surface

Large Crossing Excavation. Project Geologist in Foreground

In-Stream Excavation, before 1st winter

Before and During Excavation
Current Projects
Road 630 Abandonment/Sweatpea Trail

- **2016**: Permission to build trail granted to Mendocino Coast Cyclists (MCC)
Current Projects
Road 630 Abandonment/Sweatpea Trail
Current Projects
Road 630 Abandonment/Sweatpea Trail

- **2018**: JDSF HFEO’s pulled back approaches with excavator on 8 of 10 stream crossings.
  - All well vegetated, appear stable and suitable for use.
- **2 of 10 crossings without heavy equipment work**
  - North Xing: Rocked Channel with Rock Gabion
    - Temporary or Long-Term Solution?
  - South Xing: Bridge composed of Local Materials
    - Need bridge designed for equestrians (request in with tech services)
Current Trail Projects
Observatory Trail

- **2018: Permission Granted & Layout Approved**
  - Avoiding Popular Shooting Area
  - Avoids Caspar Watershed
  - Cooperative Effort w JDSF & MCC
  - Funded by “One Track Mind”
  - Machine Built
Current Trail Projects
Observatory Trail

- **2019: Trail Plan Approved**
  - Minimize Impacts
  - Minimize Gradient (To Extent Feasible)
  - Sustainable Design
  - No Watercourse Crossings
  - Incorporated “user-built” trail segment
  - Agreement (MOU) Signed with MCC

- **2020: Completed (End of Summer)**
  - Opened, March 2021
Flush cutting stump for trail surface

KUBOTA mini-excavator with 4-foot wide tracks
Current Projects
Cypress Trail

- Requested by MCC/Local Community
  - Bypassing Caspar 500 THP
  - JDSF Staff to perform work
  - Hand tool construction

- Demonstration Value
  - Proposed Jughandle THP
  - Along THP Boundary & Nearby Class II

- Connects to Road 530
  - Popular Recreation Route
    - Roads 531 & 533

Trailhead sign

JDSF & USFS staff workday, March 2021
Current Projects

Lindquist Trails

- **Requested by MCC**
  - Improve Route within Lindquist Pre-Commercial Thinning (PCT) area
    - 4 Re-Routes
    - Re-Purpose 0.6 miles of unmaintained trail accessing study area
    - Demonstration, Research & Recreation Value
    - Re-establish signage

- **0.7-mile connector to existing trail & Road 409**

Lindquist Pre-Commercial Thinning Study

- 1961 Clear Cut Harvested
- 1981 18 – 0.4 acre plots thinned
- 6 density levels & control plots.
- Last Measurement scheduled, summer 2021
Current Projects
“Widow Maker” Trail Abandonment

“User-Built” Single Track
- Unsuitable for Adoption
- Priority for Abandonment
  ◆ Environmental Impact
- Traverses Steep Slopes
  ◆ Active & Dormant Land Slides
  ◆ Crossing Wet Areas/Perineal Streams
- Bridges & Narrow Trail
  ◆ Concern for Safety
Current Trail Projects
“Widow Maker” Trail Abandonment

Retaining feature above wet area

User-Built Stream Crossings

2017 Landslide above Jughandle Creek
Official Trails within Active & Planned THP’s

- Caspar 500 THP*
- Red Tail THP*
- Soda Gulch*
- Railroad South THP+
- Little North Fork Big River THP+
- Jughandle THP+

*Active 2021  +Planned
Official Trails within Active & Planned THP’s

Caspar 500 THP

- **Parallel 500 Trails (2.0 miles)**
  - Popular Recreation Area
  - Light to No Harvest adjacent to trail
  - 100-foot Shaded Fuel Break along Road 500
  - Per Agreement, lop within 100 feet of permanent & seasonal roads
  - Per Agreement, re-establish trails
  - Minimal Impacts Expected
Blue Gum Trail Adoption/Road 669 Abandonment (1.1 mile)
- To be adopted as Official Trail
- Within Cable Yarding Area
- Demonstration of Logging Operations used to Improve Recreation
  - Cable Yarding Machine to deliver materials
    - Rock & Bridge
- Work included in/paid for by timber sale contract
  - MP’s 1, 2, 6, 27: Rock armored fords (Class II & III’s Watercourses)
  - MP 5: Glue laminated bridge
  - MP 3, 4: Instream excavation with trail
  - MP 30: Pull culvert & rock
Official Trails within Active & Planned THP’s

Caspar 500 THP
Blue Gum Trail/Road 669

- Map Points 1, 2, 6 & 27: Rocked Ford Trail Crossings
  - Replace narrow “User-Built” watercourse crossings

Crossings using local wood materials.
Glue Laminated Engineered Bridge. MP 5
- Crossing Blue Gum Creek (Fish Bearing Stream)
- 20-foot span 5-foot wide 52” Handrails
- To be cable yarded in place by Anderson Logging. Bridge ordered by JDSF ($20,000+)
- High Live Load/Pounds per Square Inch
  - Suitable For Equestrians
Map Points 3 & 4: In-Stream Crossing Excavation.
- 2 – Class III Watercourses above Blue Gum Creek
- Reduce potential sediment delivery
- Restore original stream orientation & gradient
- Incorporate rocked trail
Official Trails within Active & Planned THP’s
Red Tail THP

Camp 1 Loop

- Popular Hiking Trail
  - Lower Trailhead at Day Use Area
  - 0.7 trail miles within THP
- Single Tree Harvest
- Lop within 50 feet
- Assess conditions & re-establish trail
  - Trail impacts expected to be minimal
Road 202/200 to Road 230

- Popular Equestrian Route through THP
  - Includes Road 202, Rd 202A, Road 112, 112A, 232A
- Single Tree Selection
- Per Timber Sale Agreement (TSA)
  - Retain at least a 4 foot path passable to horseback travelers.
  - MP 193: Horse Rocked Ford Crossing
  - Slash within 100 feet of permanent Road 111, 230, 231 & 232 to be treated.
  - Slash within 50 feet of seasonal Road 111, 112, 112A & 202 to be treated.
Official Trails within Planned THP’s
Jughandle THP

DRAFT

1 inch = 875 feet
Official Trails within Active & Planned THP’s
Jughandle THP

- Group Selection and Single Tree Selection
- Recently constructed “Cypress” trail (0.8 mi.) within portion of THP (Unit A)
- Official Trails parallel and south of Road 500
- Road 500 within Road & Trail Corridor (FMP, Figure 5)
- Existing Roads popular with recreationists (yellow highlight)
- Per Jughandle JAG Summary – Recreation & Aesthetics
  - Within Road & Trail Corridor and Popular Route (yellow highlight)
    - Smaller Group Opening Size
    - Avoid Slash & Debris within traveled road surface
    - Drainage facilities as rolling dips, opposed to waterbars
    - At a minimum, lop debris down to 24-inches within 50-feet each side of roads.
    - Upon approval of CEQA document, multi-use trail construction
      - Goal to maintain popular route, avoiding pygmy habitat & connecting official trails south of Road 500.

- Earliest Start of operations 2023
Late Seral Development Area
- Single Tree Selection
- Limited Future Harvest Entries

Adjacent Lands
- Mendocino Woodlands and Big River State Parks
3.4 Trail Miles within Ownership
- 1.5 miles (44%) Single Track
- 1.9 miles (56%) Double Track/Jeep Roads
  ◆ 1.5 Along Proposed Temp. Roads

Recreation Considerations
- Low Gradient Mainline Ridge Road
  ◆ Likely to be maintained for seasonal, fire, emergency access, etc.
- Temporary Roads off Ridge
  ◆ Steeper Gradients
  ◆ Next Slide illustrates Double vs. Single Track
- Trail Closures
  ◆ Marsh and Big Tree Trails Open during Operations
    - All other trails closed for public safety
  ◆ Lop and scatter slash within 50 feet of trails.
- No Timber Operations on Weekends or Holidays within 1,000 of Campgrounds between July 1 and Labor Day.
Official Trails within Active & Planned THP’s
Little NF Big River THP

Little North Fork
Big River THP
South Map

Little North Fork
Big River THP
North Map

Official Trails illustrated as single & double track. Maps at 1:6,000 scale.
Official Trails within Active & Planned THP’s

Railroad South THP

Map:
- Parallel Action Trail
- Observatory Trail

No trees marked for harvest within 100 ft of trail within Mushroom Management Area

Legend:
- Existing Permanent Road
- Existing Seasonal Road
- Existing Temporary Road
- Proposed Temporary Road
- Class I Watercourse (salmonid spawning & rearing habitat)
- Class II Watercourse
- Class III Watercourse
- Watercourse Class Transition (mid stream)
- THP Boundary
- Tractor Yarding (all other areas Cable)
- Gate
- Ownership Boundary

NOTE: Cable yarding in tractor areas are an option

THP Road Notes: Permanent and seasonal roads are considered "public"

Railroad South THP Preliminary Harvest Map
Sections 14,15,22,23,24 & 26, T17N R17W, MDB&M
USGS 7.5 min Quadrangle: Mendocino
Contour Interval = 40'
1:12,000

DRAFT 8/31/2021
Official Trails within Active & Planned THP’s
Railroad South THP

Railroad Gulch Area Trails
- Harvest Boundary Revised from JAG Summary
- 2.5 Trail Miles within THP
- Late Seral Development Area
  - Single Tree Selection
- No Disturbance & 2021 Mushroom Management
  - 45 acre no disturbance area
  - 277-acre mushroom management area
    - 112 acres within THP
- Consider developing parking area with kiosk
  - Road 720, just east of County Road 408
SUMMARY

- Unofficial Proposed as Official: 7.6 miles
  - Lindquist Loops
  - Sweatpea
  - Blue Gum
- Unofficial Adopted as Official: 1.1 miles
  - Road 500 Parallel Trail Segments
    - “La Jit” & “Gunslinger”
- Unofficial Abandonment: 0.7 miles
  - “Widow Maker”
- Unofficial Trails (next few slides): 6.6 miles
  - Russian Gulch State Parks to Road 408
  - Ecological Staircase (JDSF)

TOTAL UNOFFICIAL TRAIL MILEAGE ABOVE = 16 of 38

- Proposed New Official Trails: 1.0 ± miles
  - Jughandle Connector
- Completed Official (Recent) Trails: 2.8 miles
  - Observatory Trail
  - Cypress Trail
Unofficial Trails

- Russian Gulch State Park to County Road 408
  - Within Late Seral Development Area
  - Multiple “user-built” trails as dirt paths and skid trails
    - 3.2 Miles Total
  - Connects to Official Trails
  - Segments within Russian Gulch State Park
  - Goal: Assess the Need to Adopt a Trail
Unofficial Trails

Ecological Staircase/Pygmy Forest Reserve Trails

Boardwalk Trail

Jughandle State Reserve

"Miracle Mile"

Proposed Road 530 Abandonment

"Widow Maker"

Rd to be Abandoned (someday)
Unofficial Trails

- **Ecological Staircase/Pygmy Forest Reserve**
  - Currently Trail follows Road 540, 541 and 542
    - Road 541 will be abandoned someday
    - Road 540 upgraded/maintained as an emergency route
    - Road 542 unmaintained through “pygmy habitat”
  - 2.6 miles “user-built” trail (blue highlight)
    - Parallels Roads 540 & 542
    - Adjoins Ecological Staircase Trail (Jughandle State Reserve)
      - Hiking Only Trail
    - Overall stable
    - Crosses proposed Jughandle Creek crossing removal/Lower Road 530 abandonment
    - Ties in with proposed trail abandonment (i.e. Widow Maker)
    - Aesthetic
  - 0.6 miles “user-built” trail, (North Road 540)
    - Transects pygmy habitat
Planning

- **Further Assessment/Work**
  - Establish Timelines
    - Adoption & Abandonment of Unofficial Trails
    - Current and Expected Maintenance
WHATS NEXT?

JDSF as lead will draft the meeting minutes
- Capture Ideas/Considerations for unofficial trails
- Guide/Support Recreation Task Force
- Other recommendations

Performing site visits will be encouraged, including a future field trip meeting