Members in attendance: Chris Ruddick, Teresa Sholars, Nick Taylor; Absent: Sarah Bradley, Stacey Bradley; JDSF Staff: Robert Horvat, Erik Wahl, Kevin Conway; Members of the Public: Marc Jensen, Mike Garbabedian, Myke Berna, Dan Sweet

The Task Force reviewed and accepted the minutes from the August 26, 2020 meeting as written.

Note: These minutes are not a “word for word” transcript of the meeting, though most points and speakers are covered.

Recreation Program Updates

Robert gave the update as follows: Camp 1 day use and campgrounds and Forest Rd 350 is closed to access by the public at Hwy 20. This is due to scheduled timber operations in the Redtail THP and planned road work on Rd 350. Operations were started and then ceased due to presence of protesters interfering with harvest operations. Loggers then went to other project areas. The area will remain closed for the loggers to return when available and resume operations. This area represents 50% of campsites and is very popular day use area for recreation. The large impact to recreation is noted and attempts will be made to minimize them.

Timber Operations started at the Top of Chamberlain Cr and Rd 200 is closed as well as Rd 240 due to road construction. Presently Rd 200 is not locked and visitors can access the waterfall grove and Rds 230, 250. These areas can provide nice access to the north and east.

Dunlap & Big River campgrounds are seeing some moderate increases in use and both are usually filled on weekends as National Forests in California are closed at least until mid-September.

Work is being started on a contract to install a concrete outhouse on Rd 500 Scales site. This is planned for install 2022 or 2023 season.

There is still no dedicated recreation maintenance staff except for Erik & myself. So very little is being done in recreation infrastructure maintenance. JDSF is trying to hire seasonal recreation maintenance staff but it is complicated and slow process and the wages are low. JDSF would also like to hire a full-time maintenance position.

Road 110 is being abandoned. This road is used as a route for equestrian riders. The removed stream crossings are too steep for them to use so we have put in a bypass trail for them to get around the steep crossings.
Camp One needs a horse campground. Presently Redtail campground is the designated horse campground however it gets very little horse use due to the steep driveway and tight areas. Horse trailers have a hard time pulling in, parking, and pulling out. We are proposing to convert Roundhouse Campground to a horse camp. Plan to build 125’ of road on backside of outhouse to make a loop road and install high-line poles to hitch horses to. This would remove three general campsites and we will convert Redtail sites to general use and make the camp-host site a general campsite and split Trillium to two sites. The result is the three roundhouse general use campsites will be replaced with the other sites.

Teresa asked about camp hosts in the campground. JDSF doesn’t have camp-hosts anymore as we do not have amenities to attract reasonable hosts. In the past had many problems with unreasonable hosts.

Chris mentioned a potential horse camp site at Camp 8 located at the end of Rd 361. This was considered however that is a thinner roadway with some grades and could pose potential problems with horse trailers especially with regular camper traffic. We felt that Roundhouse would work better, it would be safer, and has potential overflow parking in the day use area. Also, we are not sure how much use it will get or how we will control horse camping only there. In the future, this horse camp can be re-located if it does not work out here.

**Current Projects impacting recreation**

**Caspar 500 THP:** This project is located on the south side of Road 500 up to Caspar Orchard and south to Rd 600. This project will affect trails in the project area, traffic on Caspar Logging Road, Road 500 and Road 600. Noise around the area of the operations. Planned for operations in 2021 and 2022.

**Redtail THP:** This project is located on parts of Roads 350, 359, 370, 371, 90, 91 and will close access to the Camp 1 recreation areas at various times in 2021 and 2022.

**Chamberlain Creek THP:** Operating at the north end of Rd 200 and Rd 1000. It would cut off access to Waterfall Grove northern trailhead.

**Soda Gulch THP:** Will close access to Rds 231, 230, 111, 112 areas. This area is used mostly by equestrians.

**Road 110 decommissioning:** This abandoned Rd 110 from 1020 to Rd 100. Affects mostly equestrians, however a by-pass trail was installed to provide access back to Rd 111 and Rd 100.

**Road 100 Upgrade:** Rd 100 will be closed during this project. This project has been postponed to 2022 season.
Road 200 Upgrade: Road 200 north of Rd 240 will be closed. This work is postponed to 2022 season.

Near future projects impacting recreation:

Boundary Creek THP: The plan has been accepted for filing and unsure about timing of operations. Includes roads 380, 300 and 381 and would close Redtail and South Bend camp sites.

Railroad South: a proposed Timber Harvest Plan (THP). This project is along Rd 408 from Rd 720 to Rd 700 and then downslope to Railroad Gulch. The management is Late Seral Development. The silviculture will be single tree selection. This project will affect the trail system in that area, and there will be logging traffic on Roads 720, 408 and possibly 409. Some noise impacts to Mendocino Woodlands State Park. This project is proposed and has very little work done on it to date and is on hold from further work at present.

North Fork Big River THP: This project is in the state forest island east of Mendocino Woodlands State Park and will impact trails in the project area and will generate noise impacts for Mendocino Woodlands. Management is Late Seral Development and silviculture single tree selection. THP is still under review and has not been approved. Operations date on this project has not been set.

Mitchell Creek THP is located east of Mitchell Creek Drive from the property line to Road 510 and then east of 510 a section north of Rd 500 to Rd 450. Recreation traffic along these roads will be impacted and traffic on Rd 500. Originally proposed for 2022 operations, however THP is still in the review process.

Minor Forest Projects

75 wood permits sold to clean up last years deck, no new sites available due to operations.

Mushroom permit sales are increasing year after year. To date 241 permits have been sold. This will double once the rains come. Teresa asked if we have demographic info on where the permit purchasers are from and we do. Joy has access to the exact numbers but has noted that most permit purchasers are after the 1st rain in mid-October.

Special Use Permits (SUP)

Mountain biking & mushroom group events are the most popular events.

2018 20 SUP events were held.
2019 21 SUP events were held.
2020 no events due to pandemic.
2021 2 SUP events 1 – Horse, 1 – MTB, 1 – filming & 1 shooting (Redwood Practical Shooters).
Recreation Trails – Maintenance, Current & Planned Projects, Impacts (PowerPoint)

Erik presented a PowerPoint, illustrating and discussing notable trail maintenance work (last 3 years), current and planned trail projects, official trails within active and future THP’s and a summary of total miles of both un-official and official trails. The intent of the presentation was to update the RTF, share status and impacts to recreation within active and future THP’s and to continue addressing request for adoption/abandonment of un-official trails and development of new trails. The objectives are as follows:

- Assess adoption (and abandonment) of un-official trail outside of areas of special concern
- Review comments and provide input/recommendations
- Note any suggested location of new multi-use trails

Many maps were included in presentation and a prop of JDSF’s recently developed 24” x 36” Recreation and Area Closure – Overview Map. Two areas of notable un-official trails were discussed and illustrated on maps named “Russian Gulch State Park to County Road 408” and “Ecological Staircase/Pygmy Forest Reserve”. These areas and other attributes were discussed. These maps were shared with the RTF prior to the meeting for review. Concluding the presentation, next steps were discussed as JDSF being the lead to:

- Capture Ideas/Considerations for unofficial trails
- Guide/Support Recreation Task Force
- Other recommendations

Teresa and Nick commented on sharing location of new trails. Erik asked that this be presented as one product by the task force, opposed to having each member present own ideas.

Members Sarah and Stacey were unable to attend the meeting, however, both were updated with meeting highlights and Erik repeated the PowerPoint presentation.

The attached is a guidance document for the RTF to provide recommendations/suggestions to JDSF, as discussed during the meeting.

Submitted by

Robert Horvat
CALFIRE - JDSF