Little North Fork Big River
Timber Harvest Plan

Project Goals

• First step towards a Late Seral Development forest.
• Maintaining and improving forest health and fire resiliency.

Forest Health and Fire Resiliency

• Removing some of the less vigorous trees allows the remaining trees to thrive because more sunlight and soil resources are available.
• Management creates more space between trees so wildfires can shift from a crown fire to a ground fire.
• Work will include treating fuels and logging slash along roads and trails for further protection and creates a strategic, defensible location for fire fighters.

Late Seral Development

At JDSF, Late Seral Development is used to shape a young forest to increase “old growth” characteristics using forest management through time.

Old Growth forest characteristics include:

• Open spaced trees
• Larger trees
• Multiple canopy layers
• Large limbs or trees with deformities such as flat tops and basal hollows.

Late Seral Development harvests only about 30% of the stand and plans longer periods between harvests (~20 years or longer).

Basal hollows are great places for wildlife to shelter and nest.

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Open space between trees provides both room for the trees to grow and can assist in transitioning fires from the crown to the ground.
Sudden Oak Death (SOD)

JDSF uses best management practices for projects with SOD. These include:

- Washing all equipment before and after entering the project area.
- Logs are the only forest material (i.e. no branches or soil) that are permitted to leave the project area because logs are much less likely to spread the disease.
- Soil from road construction is utilized within the project area.

Roads and Recreation

- The proposed roads are designed to use existing roads and fit newly constructed road to the topography avoiding watercourses, using ridgetops and maximizing the use of cable yarding which has the lowest impact to the forest.
- Using modern techniques like rolling dips and outsloping will create “self-maintaining” roads.
- The road network is an important component of fire protection of the Forest and neighbors.
- Improve existing trails and re-route trails where necessary can take place as part of this project.