

Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2018

Attendees:

George Hollister (GH), John Andersen (JA), Doug Albin (DA), Mike Anderson (MA), Amy Wynn (AW), Darcie Mahoney (DM), Charlie Schneider (CS), Mike Powers (MP), Robert Horvat (RH), Jason Serna (JS), Lynn Webb (LW), Tori Norville (TN), Julie Rhoads (JR), *Guest/Public*: Wayne Bohlen, Jeanne Smith

Call to Order and Introductions

Review/Approve Previous Meeting Minutes: *Review Item* Minutes from May 7, 2018 JAG Meeting.

Motion to approve by Amy Wynn and Second by John Andersen. Unanimous approval of minutes as presented. Kimberly Rodrigues absent.

Staff Reports

Mike Powers

Timber sales/deliveries on target which means JDSF is in good financial standing. With that standing JDSF has been fixing up facilities, roads and bridges. Fixing of the Camp 20 outhouse is in the works. Next year's timber harvest plans – 7 so we can build up a library and have operational flexibility. Staff up-dates as follows: Robert Horvat has been promoted to Forester II for the roads and recreation position. Erik Wahl has transferred from Sales to Recreation Forester I position (Robert Horvat's old position). Kirk O'Dwyer has transferred from Research and Demonstration Forester I position to Sales Forester I position (Erik Wahl's old position). Plan to start with sale duties between April and September 2019. Currently have a Forester I position open in Research and Demonstration.

Rd 200 update going to upgrade the road and bring it to code rather than the other alternatives of re-routing or complete road move, Rd 900 Rock Quarry. Questions put forth by JAG committee: How long is a THP good for? (AW) Up to 7 years but surveys for NSO, MAMU and botany need to be continued for that period. What is the long-term plan for what is being harvested on JDSF (AW)? GIS database with plan locations and dates. Some concern over how intensely/ the number of THP's some areas of the forests are being harvested – specifically Caspar area (DM; later brought up again by MA). Was suggested that future JAG meeting have a landscape map of future harvests, maybe break up the amount of harvests in a specific area per time.

Lynn Webb

NF Caspar pond cleanout and by-pass project went better than expected this year. Hyper spectral ground truthing plots are taking longer than anticipated due to limited work force. NF PCT – was not able to complete for the second year due to lack of staff and aide availability. Currently working on fixing the Caspar trail system to ensure safety during winter wet period. Contracting with CCC's to do the work. Kirk designed the bridges and we had an engineer make minor modifications to them to ensure safety. Cultivar study is wrapping up – JDSF might keep their plots going just to see what could happen down the line. Found there was rodent and pest damage to many of them. UC extension forester might be a useful resource – entomologist/pest specialist (recommendation by GH). Amphibian DNA study with potential grant funding in the works, will span over 3 years to help understand the amphibians in

this area. Questions put forth by JAG committee: Tan oak study by Paschal Berrill, how is the progress/what are the results? (JA) The Water Gulch tan oak study results were discussed and the SAF poster was referenced. Hack and Squirt was found to be the most cost effective when compared to cutting sprouts.

Jason Serna

SF Caspar THP, Matrix, 4.2 mil BF in 2018 – underrun significantly. Porter, underrun by ~ million BF Pond cleanout was paid for with this sale. Sequoia, finish next year, underrun ~ million BF. Road abandonment project delayed until next year because PCFW said all or nothing for work so it didn't mess with their studies. Didn't really like the feller, buncher and processor on the sales, there was more residual stand damage, stump heights were not great, possibly look at mechanical damage in a future meeting. Not opposed to using both machines again but the purchaser will have to suggest it and then JDSF would do a minor amendment to the THP plan. Suggestion that were made by the JAG committee: Research panels/interpretive signage along the bike trail explained the different prescriptions of each gauged watershed (AW). Wonder Crossing THP, 6-month extension, loggers will pay for some rock for roads and the additional owl surveys to go into next year, overrun, road abandonment went well, violation to the LTO – no fire tools present when plan was inspected. Camp 8 THP, 6-month extension, overrun. James Creek THP, plan was submitted but returned for a clerical error, answering of 1st review questions is occurring now. Bear Gulch #2, submit before Thanksgiving. Parlin 17 submit sometime in the new year.

Robert Horvat

Lots of road work was done this year. Foresee about 2 contracts a year for road work. Excavator and masticator head were purchased and has been utilized on the forest. Red School House Project Phase 1 complete, hopefully next year will be able to start phase 2. JAG Committee recommendation: used as an interpretive center or at least put up some signage (AW and MA). Campground facilities upgrading continues. Rd 440 (Bunker Gulch) decommission is planned for next year, James Creek bedrock restoration project finished this year, fish can now reach the higher reaches of the creek. Questions put forth by JAG Committee: Usage of Campgrounds? (MA) Slightly decreased this year. Rd 500 broom removal and when will that occur? (AW) Done. Camp 1 loop trail rehab completion date? (AW) 5 more work days so hopefully at the end of the month. Caspar trail (Rd 630) reopen date? (AW) We need to wait for operations to stop and then a wind event to clear out any dead/broken limbs. Rd 700 plans/progress? (DM and DA) Still working on the problem, grant funding in the works, concrete culvert.

PG&E Electric Transmission ROW Danger Tree Removal Project and Shaded Fuel Break: Review Item

JDSF was asking the JAG committee to approve project to be in compliance with the Forest Management Plan. Motion to approve by Mike Anderson and Second by John Andersen. Unanimous. Kimberly Rodrigues absent.

Julie Rhoads – Forester I

Class III timber sale. Runs from Bunker Gulch to Willits but we are only going to be harvesting from Bunker Gulch to James Creek for profit due to the access to the logs to the east of James Creek. Only harvesting danger/hazard trees that PG&E has designated – they marked the trees. 245ft total width from Bunker to McGuire's Pond (Shaded Fuel break). 145ft total width from McGuire's Pond to James Creek. Some trees were marked in the ROW were old growth within a MAMU habitat. Julie is meeting

with the CDFW biologist to make sure that those trees can be taken or if other measures need to be taken – it does not appear that this site is habituated by MAMU currently. Questions put forth by JAG Committee: How much (%) of the trees that are marked make up the old growth stand? (AW) 2-3%.

Field Tour

Rd 360 Bridge: Plan to replace 6 other bridges of similar design and era as the 630 bridge. Forced to replace because of load limits. Asphalt was added to the top of the bridge to protect the concrete. Had to shop engineers around because we needed one who would be willing to work with our abutments even though we had no specs on them. Questions from JAG Committee: Who did the work? How much did it cost? Why so hefty? No maintenance for the staff. How was it paid for? Camp 8 THP. Lifespan of bridge? (AW) Over 50 years.

Bear Gulch #2 THP: Review Item JDSF was asking the JAG committee to approve THP to be in compliance with the Forest Management Plan. Motion to approve by Amy Wynn and Second by Darcy Mahoney. Unanimous. Kimberly Rodrigues absent. VR sample mark. Demonstration aspect – will RW that is below 14in release after being suppressed for so long? Some areas will have the small diameter trees kept but others will have them harvested. ~90 acres dispersed. Concerns raised by the JAG committee: Stand looks very nice so why is a VR being prescribed? (GH, DM, JA) Staff's reasons: Management plan calls for 10% of early succession forest which we don't really have currently. The TO and fir factor within the unit. Selection considered, but due to high retention standard per the FMP, VR silviculture is more economically feasible given preharvest stand condition overall. Creating Ecotones with the other areas around this THP (seedtree, clearcut etc.). The amount of breakage and defect in some of the larger trees that will be cut (GH). Wanted to know the logical process of why a VR was chosen (GH). Look at growth and yield tables, would not recommend to the small landowner. Did not fully understand what we were going to measure/study (JA). Thought that clump selection would be a better option (JA).

Large Woody Debris Project Stop

1600 permit? Yes. Fish habitat restoration? Have we seen results? Yes, already seeing fish. Majority of LWD imported from THP area as cull logs. Other LWD sourced along Road 300 as hazard trees to remove. Group Selection. Retain tan oaks/hardwoods 22 inch and larger. No hardwood herbicide treatments proposed. Small hardwoods will be cut and removed for firewood. Planting where needed/appropriate. Selection around the opening to soften edge. Openings will be 2 acres or less. Questions from JAG Committee: Will there be blow down? Probably some. Does JDSF get heat for using herbicide? (JA) Yes, public is interested in herbicide use on the Forest.

Parlin 17 THP Review Item JDSF was asking the JAG committee to approve Parlin 17 THP with tan oak treatment (~100 acres) to be in compliance with the Forest Management Plan. Motion to approve by Mike Anderson and Second by John Andersen (with the idea that the tan oak treatment areas will have a control aspect to the study). Unanimous. Kimberly Rodrigues absent. About 1000 acres, single tree selection. Tan Oak Problem, 3rd growth tan oak but to the point that conifer stocking is a problem in the northern portion of the plan area. JDSF is anticipating the need to use herbicides on approximately 100 acres of the plan area to control heavy hardwood stocking and promote conifer. JDSF

was considering either block treatment (specific areas heavy to hardwoods) or radius treatment around harvested redwoods to promote sprouting success. JAG Committee thoughts and ideas: 120 sqft of RW within the site we are standing in currently plus good RW regeneration that is over the tan oak...wondering if there is a tan oak problem? (DM) Would JDSF think about prescribed burns to treat/manage tan oak? (JA) Yes...might do it in a different part of the plan due to ease of access. MP asked JAG committee what they would like JDSF to demonstrate/research in this area? Cut tan oak vs herbicide tan oak vs control tan oak to see the differences in RW regeneration (DM). Restoring conifers to areas that have been overtaken by tan oak by using less herbicide (JA). Try using herbicide on only a % of the stems within an area (GH, DM, JA). Question: Does JDSF have a database of heavily invested tan oak areas and the treatments done in those areas? (AW). Per LW, JDSF maintains a GIS database of treatments and area over time. Shaded Fuel Break/ Prescribed Burn 100ft on either side of the road. Burn will hopefully in fall ~100 acres, burn off logging slash. The burn will be boxed in by rocky roads and a creek to ensure engine access. Could JDSF study how to make the Forest Fire Exemption economic for the small landowner? (JA). *Astragalus* is around Rd 330 so the fuel break will be modified along this road to protect them

Field Stop Weed Management Plan

GH – public feedback? Yes, but more to the point of why are things changing not so much to the aspect of why are you used herbicide. DM – since there are health concerns with Glyphosate by organizations such as World Health Organization, would JDSF consider using different herbicides? Yes – LW is currently researching other options and other herbicides are possible.

Public Comment

AW – Create a list of possible Forest Management Plan revisions discussed in JAG meetings. MA – echoing DM's earlier comment about the placement and timing of harvest (i.e. Caspar) – more staggering.