



*With six decades of experimentation at JDSF, the Caspar Watershed Experiment is one of the longest-standing and most wide-ranging forest research experiments in the U.S.*

## **RESEARCH: Caspar Creek Watershed Experiment celebrates 60 years of forest management research**

The Caspar Creek Experimental Watershed Study celebrated 60 years last month as a living outdoor laboratory for evaluating the effects of timber management on streamflow, sedimentation, and erosion in rainfall-dominated forested watersheds. Visitors enjoyed a tour of the area from the Caspar Scales to stations manned by CAL FIRE and the U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station scientists and researchers who shared their findings and the important policies developed because of the Caspar Creek study. Research began at Caspar Creek with the construction of the North Fork Weir in November, 1962. To learn more about the historic Caspar Creek Watershed Experiment, visit the link below.

[Learn More](#)



*An important part of post-harvest forest management is the process of creating the desired forest structure in order to achieve a stronger and more resilient JDSF. Here, a forest crew is clearing brush to make sure new redwood sprouts have the best opportunity for success.*

## **DEMONSTRATION: How the process of pre-commercial thinning builds a more resilient forest at JDSF, and gives new trees a chance to thrive**

A critical piece of studying timber management is not just growing trees for habitat and selective harvest, but ultimately the process of reforestation and growing healthy forests over decades. In 2013, the Water Gulch Timber Harvest Plan utilized a silvicultural method called “group selection” to create new 2.5-acre openings off roads 311 and 210 on the east side of JDSF. The strategic cutting of these trees initiated a process of reforesting these new openings, providing environments for new trees to thrive for generations to come. Typically, when reforesting an opening, forest managers follow a process of brush and hardwood control, planting, pre-commercial thinning, and potentially commercial thinning until the desired forest structure is met to benefit all aspects of forest management.

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*New trail maps for JDSF as a whole and the Caspar-Big River area will help locals and visitors alike enjoy the amazing recreation opportunities available in the forest.*

## **RECREATION: New recreation maps help you explore JDSF**

JDSF has developed two new topographic maps, including the Recreation Overview Map and Caspar-Big River Recreation Map. These maps will be very useful when traversing through dense forested areas with a range of topography. The Recreation Overview Map includes the entire 48,652-acre JDSF property, illustrating campgrounds, roads, trails, and facilities. JDSF has received public comment, suggesting improvements to mapping in popular recreation areas, including the Mitchell Creek, Jughandle, Caspar and Big River drainages. The Caspar-Big River Recreation Map was created to capture these areas, including neighboring California State Parks and communities and includes an improved scale and navigational details. A metal backed copy of this map has been posted at the Caspar “scales” kiosk and planned for installation at the intersection of County Road 408 and adjacent to the north boundary of Russian Gulch State Park.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



*In collaboration with partners, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife operates three intensive life cycle monitoring stations. The data gathered here is used to inform the rest of the salmon surveying in the region, which in turn guides efforts to help recover these vital species.*

## **You're Invited! Salmon Spawning Survey in the Redwoods – January 7, 2023**

Curious about the life cycle of the salmon of the South Fork Noyo River? If you are interested in the coho salmon and steelhead that call JDSF home, consider joining California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Trout Unlimited, CAL FIRE and The University of California Cooperative Extension for a salmon spawning survey at JDSF. The data gathered is used to inform the rest of the salmon surveying in the region, which, in turn, guides efforts to help recover these vital species. The tour will take place on January 7th, 2023, from 10 AM to 2 PM, and will start at Camp 1. Registration is free but required to join. For more information, follow the link below.

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## **Meet the JDSF Team: Forestry Assistant II, Josh Theofanides**

Forestry Assistant II, Josh Theofanides started with JDSF in October. In this position, Josh will assist the Roads & Recreation Program. Josh recently graduated from Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo with a degree in Forestry & Natural Resource Management. The Forestry Assistant II position is a wide-ranging roll that assists in the planning, management, and supervision of projects at JDSF as well as training Forest Aides. JDSF and CAL FIRE welcomes Josh to his new role!

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