



Prescribed fire is a key tool for both vegetation management and also cultural enhancement. California's landscapes are among the most naturally fire-dependent on Earth. Their fire regimes were established by eons of geological, climatic, biological, and human influences, including both lightning and Native American cultural burning. In many California ecosystems, biodiversity, carbon stability, and overall ecological resilience are dependent on the regular occurrence of fire events.

## **DEMONSTRATION: Using Prescribed Fire to Restore Acorn Harvesting Potential at JDSF**

What makes for a good acorn collection site and do we have any on Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF)? When CAL FIRE leadership reached out to local tribal partners to assess interest in stewarding and harvesting cultural resources at JDSF, they received clear direction as to what would make for good sites. Tribal elders need accessible places, flat enough to be safely traversed, with large, well-formed tanoak trees. JDSF foresters began the search, followed by forest visits with tribal leaders. Several potential acorn groves were soon identified.



The long-term goal for these areas of the forest is that they be stewarded by interested local tribes to have sites where they can harvest the bounty of their stewardship. But first, beneficial fire needed to be reintroduced to these important places. Beneficial fire was used to decrease downed wood tripping hazards, increase wildfire resiliency, and prepare the site for future cultural burns. These prescribed fires can also have benefits to natural and cultural resources. The goal for CAL FIRE and their tribal partners is that these sites will become home to cultural burning and stewardship for decades, if not centuries, to come. Increasing cooperation, learning, and sharing of land stewardship knowledge at JDSF continues to be a top priority for forest staff.

Learn more about these beneficial fire efforts at JDSF by following the links below. Use your cursor to move around the 360-degree video to see the full picture.

[Learn More](#)

[360-Degree Prescribed Burn Video](#)



CAL FIRE's Forest Health Program responds to the urgent need to restore the health of California's forests and reduce wildfire risk. The program provides funding for regionally based partners and collaboratives to implement active and sustainable forest management projects. These on-the-ground efforts contribute to California's climate goals by keeping our state's forests – and the valuable carbon sink they provide – intact.

## **RESEARCH: Restoring Forest Health and Resilience and Combating Climate Change**

Restoring the health and resilience of California forests has significant, quantifiable benefits for combatting climate change. CAL FIRE's Forest Health Program works to conserve forests and improve forest health by significantly increasing fuels reduction, fire reintroduction, treatment of degraded areas and conservation of threatened forests. Healthy forests provide many benefits, including clean air and water, essential wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and a range of forest products. Just as importantly, forests also serve as a substantial carbon sink. Carbon is stored in living trees, understory vegetation, forest soils, standing and downed dead trees, and forest floor litter. California's forests sequester equivalent to nearly 7 percent of California's total greenhouse gas emissions as [reported in 2020](#).

The management of JDSF is directly contributing to these statewide goals. JDSF stores approximately 19 million metric tonnes of carbon across the forest and sequesters approximately 200,000 metric tonnes of additional carbon annually, enough to offset the

annual emissions of 19,000 average Californians. Find out more facts about JDSF and carbon here: [LINK](#)

Learn more about the climate benefits of CAL FIRE's Forest Health program by following the link below.

[Learn More About Forest Health](#)



Creating the appropriate mixture of tree and canopy distribution at JDSF is key to sustaining a healthy and resilient forest. The seed for this year's seedlings was collected in 2009 as part of a cooperative regional effort between area landowners and CAL FIRE's L.A. Moran Reforestation Center.

## **DEMONSTRATION: Tree Planting Season at JDSF and Creating a Healthy, Resilient, and Balanced Forest**

Winter rains herald the beginning of tree planting season at Jackson Demonstration State Forest. This year (2023), approximately 8,000 redwood trees were planted in the James Creek Timber Harvest Plan area, with an additional 10,000 planned for late February. A carefully planned and orchestrated planting strategy at JDSF will, amongst many other objectives, help to address the imbalance of understory and overstory trees, in turn creating a healthier and more resilient forest.

Follow the link below to learn more about planting season at JDSF and the importance of species balance in the forest.

[Learn More](#)





Keeping roads in good condition requires ongoing maintenance and being prepared to respond quickly when emergency road repairs are needed. During the January 2023 storms, JDSF crews worked to make repairs quickly in order to maintain public and operational access to the forest while also minimizing erosion.

## **RECREATION: Recovering from Historic Storms: Road Management**

Protecting aquatic life and reducing fine and coarse sediment loading into local streams is the goal of the JDSF Road Management Plan (RMP). Having roads in good condition and ensuring required maintenance has been performed are critical to protect road infrastructure from storm events. However, some road damage from big storms is expected, requiring crews and equipment to perform repairs and maintain access as soon as possible.

Learn more about storm road repairs at JDSF, upcoming road maintenance in the forest, as well as the Road Management Plan by following the link below.

[Learn More](#)

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The mitigation of wildfire, now and for future generations, requires a range of tools and partnerships to treat California's wildlands and forests. CAL FIRE proactively identifies and treats areas that pose significant risk, fulfill strategic objectives for community protection, or have lasting forest health implications.

## Fuel Breaks are an Essential Part of Fire Prevention and Community Safety

Fuel Breaks are just one important part of a wider, multi-faceted fire mitigation strategy that includes fuels reduction, forest health treatments, and home hardening and defensible space measures. Fuels reduction activities are a key tool for fire fighters, land managers, and private property owners in wildfire-prone California to protect property and natural resources. These activities include the removal or reduction of overgrown vegetation with prescribed fire, tree thinning, pruning, chipping, and roadway clearance as well as the creation and maintenance of fuel breaks. The purpose of any fuels reduction project is to reduce and rearrange the vegetation, reducing ladder fuels to create breaks in fuel continuity that alter fire behavior, reduce negative ecosystem impacts and enable fire fighters to protect communities. CAL FIRE's measures combined with citizens' efforts to create defensible space and to harden their homes will lead to a greater level of wildfire resilience across California.

JDSF has worked with CAL FIRE professionals to identify strategic locations to install a network of fuel breaks across the forest. These fuel breaks will protect adjacent communities and forest resources from wildfire while also facilitating the re-introduction of prescribed fire. The public is invited to a field review of a planned fuel break in the Mitchell Creek watershed at the Jackson Advisory Group meeting on March 15. This project will compliment a community fuel break planned along Mitchell Creek Drive and Simpson Lane.

Learn more about JDSF's planned fuel breaks, CAL FIRE's fuels reduction efforts, and see several examples of the important role fuel breaks have played in wildfire mitigation and protection below.

[JDSF Fuel Treatment Project Mapper](#)

[CAL FIRE's Fuels Reduction Viewer](#)

[Fuel Break Success Examples](#)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS





## The First Jackson Advisory Group (JAG) Meeting of 2023 is Scheduled for Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

The first of four Jackson Advisory Group (JAG) meetings in 2023 is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Confirmed meeting dates and associated documents, including the agenda, will be posted a minimum of 10 days prior to the meeting on the [Jackson Demonstration State Forest Website](#). The Mission of the JAG is to provide advice/recommendations to CAL FIRE and the Board of Forestry regarding issues relevant to the periodic review of the JDSF Management Plan required under Board policy, ongoing implementation issues, and policy matters relevant to JDSF.

Learn More about the JAG



[Visit our website](#) | [View Active Incidents](#) | [CAL FIRE on Flickr](#)