

# JDSF AND LAND ALLOCATIONS: A Forest Management Plan Abstract

## Background Facts

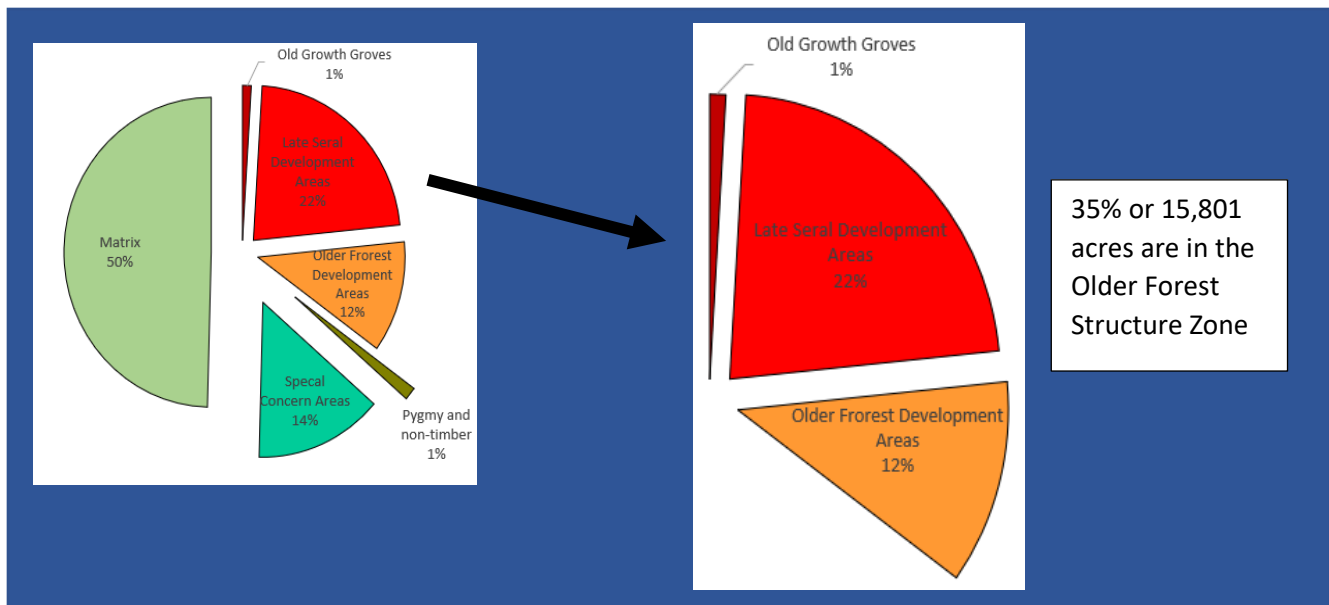
- Management is based on State and Board of Forestry policy stating that the State Forests shall be retained in timber production for research and demonstration purposes, while recognizing recreation as a compatible land use on Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF).
- Forest Management Plan (FMP) – blueprint to the forest management of JDSF:
  - Current version is the 2016 update
  - Revised every 10 years with input from the public – next update in 2026
  - Implementation of the FMP moves the forest towards the desired future forest conditions and provides for long-term forest health

JDSF = 48,652-  
acre redwood/  
Douglas-fir  
Forest

## JDSF Land Allocations

Implementation of all the land allocations, allows the Forest to maintain a diverse ‘library’ of different stand structures and conditions to accommodate a range of research and demonstration opportunities. The [Older Forest Structure Zone](#) extends across JDSF from East to West and North to South, which provides a wildlife corridor of older forest across ownership boundaries (State Parks) and across the landscape (FMP, Pg 70).

## Older Forest Structure Zone



## Land Allocation Classifications

**Old Growth Groves:** (~1% of Forest) 11 Old Growth Groves scattered across the Forest, along with the residual remnant Old Growth Trees, are preserved and are not harvested.

**Old Growth Definition:** An old-growth conifer tree is any live conifer, regardless of size or species that was present in the original stand before the first historic logging on JDSF (1860), based upon the professional judgement of JDSF staff (FMP, Pg 104).

Main management goals:

- Maintain the health/resiliency to all disturbances (*FMP, Pg 24; 40-41*)
- Maintain Old Growth Groves

Management activities include:

- Prescribed fire
- Understory vegetation management

Old Growth-like stand structure and traits  
includes multiple canopies, larger limbs, deformities in trees, good spacing, larger trees etc.

**Late Seral Development Areas (LSD):** (~22% of Forest) Managed to accelerate the development of larger trees/other older forest structure with fewer future harvests (*FMP, Pg 67*). These include Water and Lake Protection Zones (WLPZ).

Main management goals:

- Guide younger stands to increasing “Old Growth-like” traits
- Promote wildlife habitat, “Old Growth-like” stand structure
- Maintain health and resiliency to all disturbances

Management activities include:

- Limited timber harvesting (uneven-aged management silviculture or non-traditional silvicultures) with longer intervals between harvests
- Prescribed fire
- Timber stand improvement
- Understory vegetation management

**Older Forest Development Area (OFDA):** (~12% of Forest) Stands managed on longer intervals between harvests, for growing larger trees for harvest, while creating/maintaining an older forest structure (*FMP, Pg 67*).

Main management goals:

- Create a demonstration for small/non-profit landowners who manage for a variety of objectives (aesthetics, wildlife habitat, timber harvests/restoration)
- Increase the number of larger trees while managing across all size classes
- Provide a contiguous older forest corridor across JDSF both East/West and North/South connecting Old Growth Groves and Late Seral Development Areas

Contiguous older forest corridor = 6,803 acres

Management activities include:

- Timber harvesting (uneven-aged management silviculture) with longer intervals between harvests
- Prescribed fire
- Timber Stand Improvement
- Understory vegetation management

**Matrix:** (~55% of Forest) Stands managed with a variety of silvicultural methods to create a dynamic, heterogeneous forest landscape. Area managed to form diverse levels of forest succession for research opportunities, and demonstrations for large/small landowners. The Matrix allows for a bit more discretion to try new silvicultural techniques, create different stand structures and address questions/concerns from the entire redwood region (*FMP, Pg 67-69*).

Main management goals:

- Derived based on stand conditions, long-term planning, research projects, wildlife/ecological conditions, etc.
- Create the diverse 'library' of opportunities for research and demonstration for both large and small landowners that has not been discussed with previous allocations
- Along with the **Older Forest Structure Zone**, will provide a range of forest succession patterns for both ecological and research purposes

**Older Forest Structure Zone – includes Old Growth Groves, Late Seral Development Areas and Older Forest Development Areas**

Management activities include:

- Timber harvesting (predominantly uneven-aged management silvicultures with limited even-aged management silvicultures)
- Prescribed fire
- Timber Stand Improvement
- Understory vegetation management

**Special Concern Areas:** (~14% of Forest) This includes areas such as Eucalyptus infestation areas, Woodlands Special Treatment Areas, State Parks Special Treatment Areas, Neighbor Buffers, Power line rights-of-way, Recreation buffers, "Mushroom Corners", and others. Management goals are specific to the unique elements i.e. the Eucalyptus Infestation Zone management activities focus on restoring the native vegetation, while not increasing the Eucalyptus population.

Main management goals:

- Varied; depends on the site conditions and goals of the FMP (*FMP, Pg 194-197*)

Management activities include:

- Timber harvesting (uneven-aged management silviculture)
- Prescribed fire
- Vegetation management projects

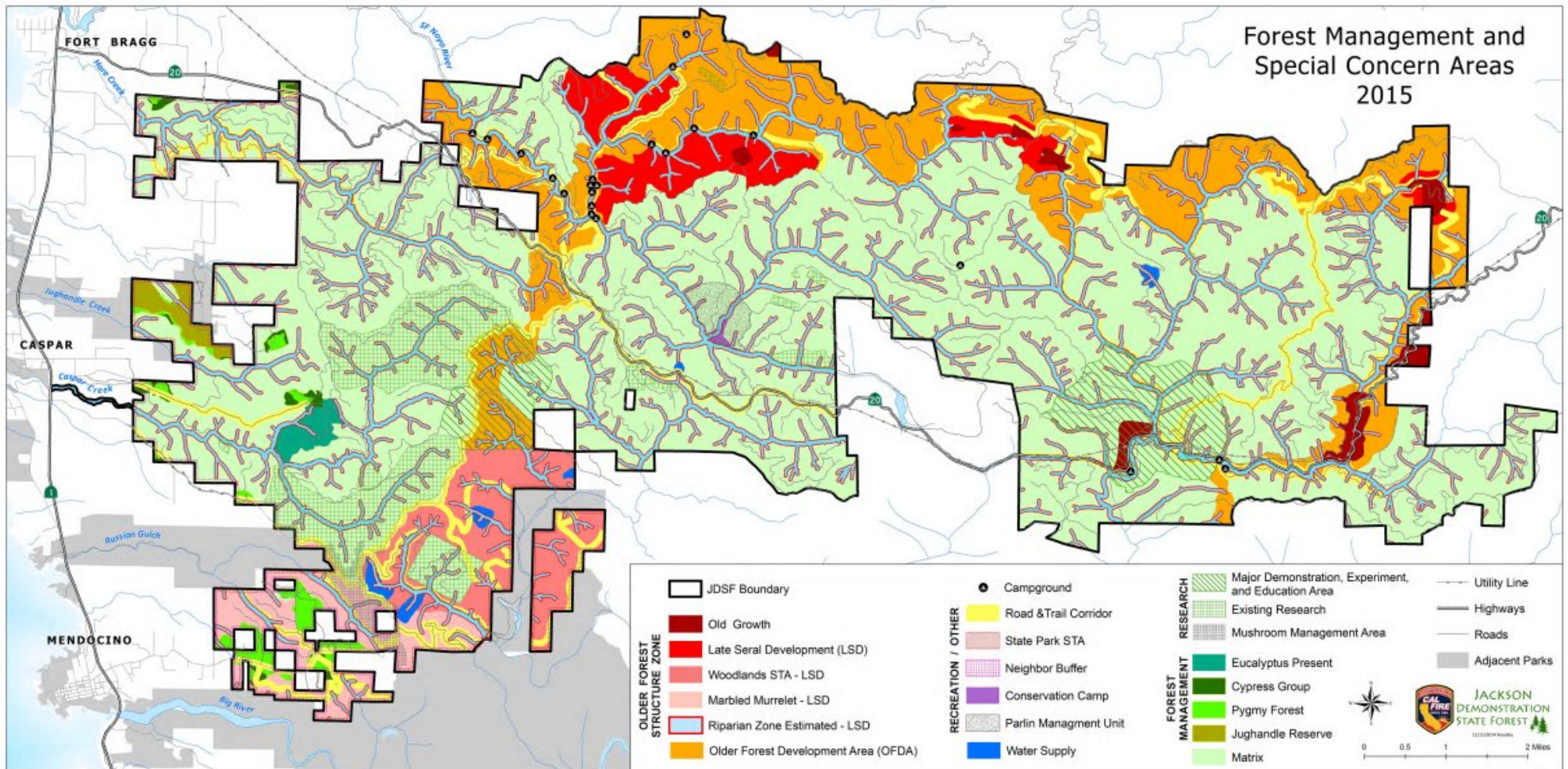
**Pygmy and Related Non-Timber Areas:** (~1% of Forest) Includes Cypress, Pygmy, Bob Woods Meadow, etc.

Main management goals:

- Managed to promote the health and resiliency to all disturbances for unique ecosystem (*FMP, Pg 194*)

Management activities include:

- Prescribed fire
- Understory vegetation management



## LAND ALLOCATION GLOSSARY

- **Active Management** – any practice taken by JDSF staff to maintain the Forest. Activities of active management include silvicultural methods (harvesting), timber stand improvement, prescribed fire, invasive weed control, understory vegetation management, etc. Examples of other State and Federal agencies that practice active management are State Parks, National Parks, and National Forests.
- **Disturbances** – an event within a forest that can cause unwanted large-scale mortality or change the landscape in a drastic manner. Disturbances include wind, fire, pests, disease, and floods.
- **Ecosystem** – a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment. Examples include pygmy vs meadow vs old growth grove vs early successional forest type.
- **Even-aged Management** - managing a stand that is one-aged or one size class. Management activities include Variable Retention, Shelterwood, Seed Tree, and Clear cuts. JDSF has strict restrictions on even-aged management on the Forest (*FMP, Pg 10*).
- **Forest Composition** – the species that make up the forest.
- **Harvest Entry** – the number of years between harvests for a stand.
- **Heterogeneous Forest Structure** – a mosaic; having variation in stand conditions, age classes, and forest composition across the landscape i.e., mixed age redwood & Douglas-fir stand like JDSF.
- **Homogenous Forest Structure** – having little to no variation in stand conditions, age classes and forest composition across the landscape i.e., a Christmas tree farm or a lodge pole pine stand.
- **Passive Management** – a ‘hands-off’ approach that humans do not interfere with the progression of a landscape. An example of State and Federal agencies that practice passive management are Wilderness Areas.
- **Pre-commercial Thinning** – thinning or removing of some sub-merchantable (less than 12 inches Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)) trees with the end goal of promoting the growth of the remaining trees.
- **Riparian Zone** – referring to the map legend on page 4. These are Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones (WLPZ) that are given varying buffer protections based on the Forest Practice Rules.
- **Rotation Age** – the age that an individual tree can be harvested.
- **Silviculture** – the art and science of manipulating the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests and woodlands to meet the diverse needs, goals and values of landowners and society such as wildlife habitat, timber, water resources, restoration, and recreation on a sustainable basis.
- **Timber Stand Improvement** – any activities that promote the growth of native species within a stand. Activities include pre-commercial thinning and hardwood management.
- **Uneven-aged Management** – managing a stand for multiple age classes within the stand. Management activities include single tree selection, group selection, and cluster selection.
- **Understory Vegetation Management** – activities that typically promote the reduction of fire fuels within the understory of a forest. Includes invasive weed control, mastication, lopping, chipping, pile and burning.
- **Water Supply** – referring to the map legend on page 4. These are water supply sites for either the State Forest or neighbors.

## References:

Jackson Demonstration State Forest Management Plan. 2016. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Natural Resources Agency, State of California. [https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/ncejt2mz/2016-jdsf-mgmt-plan-final\\_ada.pdf](https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/ncejt2mz/2016-jdsf-mgmt-plan-final_ada.pdf)

“Option A”: *Jackson Demonstration State Forest Management Plan for the achievement of Maximum Sustained Production of High-Quality Timber Products in accordance with Title 14 CCR 913.11(a) California Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection*. October 2014. The Resources Agency, State of California. Peterson Gulch THP (1-14-122MEN).

California PRC § 4361.5

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displayexpandedbranch.xhtml?tocCode=PRC&division=4.&title=&part=2.&chapter=9.&article=](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayexpandedbranch.xhtml?tocCode=PRC&division=4.&title=&part=2.&chapter=9.&article=)

Board of Forestry Policy 0351.2 [https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/9117/9-6-chapter\\_0350\\_forestmanagement-ada.pdf](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/9117/9-6-chapter_0350_forestmanagement-ada.pdf)