

JDSF MP Update Stakeholder Interviews- Synthesis

Paraphrased statements from interviews

We interviewed 11 interviewees. They were both individuals and groups.

KEY

MP = Management Plan

FMP= Forest Management Plan

These two terms are interchangeable in this document

THP = Timber Harvest Plan

SHaRP = South Fork Eel River Salmonid Habitat Restoration Priorities ([Action Plan](#))

CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act

JAG = Jackson Forest Advisory Group

New Vision: Tribes, Climate, Fire and Direction from State

- New Vision document has good info, focus more on co-management and restoration
- Ensuring the concerns and voices of the indigenous population are in the plan
- A real lack of tribal history in the doc
- The way it addresses “heritage resources” needs to be updated, doesn’t incorporate newer requirements by CA law (AB 52), tribal considerations for CEQA, new guidance in case law and CA Natural resources agencies
- The Tribal Advisory Council is important and addressing tribes concerns about cultural resources in MP. Need more attention in MP to cultural resources
- Under Special Concern Areas - like to see one for Tribal Cultural Landscapes/Properties be specifically protected
- Give more credence to climate change and incorporating modern science into MP.
 - Currently, primarily focused on timber harvesting and little on management and climate change
 - 2 issues: Forests can affect climate by sequestering carbon, but 2) climate change affects the forest and hampers its ability to sequester carbon.
- Fire and Climate Change need more in MP.
- Need to spend more time on the role of climate change and fire that are newer issues and open research into those areas.
- There are broad legislative and policy changes from the Gov office and unclear how it will be incorporated into the management plan and how to do that – maybe put a hold on finalizing the plan until those are done
- Setting that describes current conditions should be updated to reflect, the tone talking about logging in a neutral position, in our current understanding and with the policy of Newsom’s office
- Vision statement and MP are different, makes abiding by new vision very difficult.

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- Climate change and the science around it is a big part of why logging needs to stop, lack of science or science they are using regarding what to log, type of logging, land allocations whereas big one, consider climate change in the plan
- We need a new management plan because these old plans don't talk about climate change
- The plan needs an EIR. They think they don't have to do it, we feel it needs to go through an EIR which it should, then the openings for public input are mandated by CEQA, will be more open and transparent way to change the management plan. We believe it's illegal to do otherwise. And there will be a lawsuit if need be.
- Having the pressure of needing to be commercial logging needs to be removed from the equation
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Balancing Timber with Other Objectives

- Now the economic plan was having a certain number of max board feet / year, 35 mmbf, reduce to 20mmbf ... new vision going to focus less on economic pressure and more on restoration
- Like to see the balance shift where 'education and research' becomes more weighted. Currently, too much weight on timber harvesting. Right now very little on education and outreach being done
- Option A - sets standard for sustainable level of timber harvest. Old standard with no scientific justification, but sets the level for timber harvest. And document makes no mention of climate change and how it can affect forest and forest growth in the future. Option A - needs serious attention and re-do based on current science and future conditions.
- Taking an even age management approach is outdated. Think about forest management in a way that is productive, so timber isn't the only thing driving their science and management.
- There is good work in actively managing forests. Doing something diff than commercial harvest is still a job.
- How much money is needed to make the forest economically sustainable?
- Say we won't cut old growth, period.
- How to get the prescriber of the work to embrace the vision and collaborate with the right scientists? Or even research projects that depend on THPs? Need a paid job, like a science advisory council that gets stipends, that ground truth, like the forester does a pre-harvest inspection ... it's in house with scientists ... and gets an equal voice.
- The prescriber needs a check-list to refresh them on the goals.
- The management plan needs to be updated before further logging commences
- Important CLAFIRE gets the message that it won't be easy to keep logging, the word needs to get the people who can change the mandate from logging to restoration

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- The Matrix: 55% is way too high. Isn't supported by studies for redwoods. Seems like a workaround to have free range. 55% should be late seral development. Allocations should be based on modern science and have data backing it up, more modern data backing it up.
- JDSF is in much better shape than other commercially logged lands in County.
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Restoration Ecology and Environmental Reviews

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- The objectives for restoration should be aligned with the recovery plans, the SHaRP assessment is a dialed in document that is tied to the recovery plans, like SHaRP.
- Restoration projects in the forest they manage. Wood enhancement. Potential to work on road sediment and fish passage barrier projects. And fuels reduction, restoring hydrologic resources and stream habitat enhancements.
- Advocate for endangered species, water quality, old growth forests
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- Make sure CALFIRE conducts environmental process under CEQA and prepare the fullest extent of environmental review, an environmental impact report
- The larger issue of wanting to do a full environmental review is our priority concern CEQA with EIR
- FMP allows for clear cutting in extreme situations and it's not clear what that would be. In our modern understanding, any mention of clear cutting should be eliminated
- Phase out herbicide use - even Dawn Blake has wanted to review management of tan oaks because important to tribes for acorns, esp as herbicides harm tan oaks
- Like to see reduced tractor yarding, and sediment in creeks from tractor yarding, currently at 50% slopes, we recommend 30%, leaves that open for helicopter or cable yarding, a good compromise
- Lack of botanical surveys before a timber harvest plan ... current plan is light on the surveys, need that updated to a more regular basis
- Trying to manage roads and improve roads, to decrease sediment delivery. Any plan to decommission roads... have a section on decommissioning roads.
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- Need Language that addresses: Overstocked forests and management - can reduce tree density (thinning) by cutting bigger trees (overstory) and leaving smaller or cut understory for keeping bigger trees.
- Need more understory thinning which is better for nutrient and removes ladder fuels for fires. In hotter, drier climate understory improves moisture and reduces fire risk.
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- Like to see restoration ecological processes as a priority. Incorporating more restoration in THP practices
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- Arbitrary decisions regarding control reaches

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- Setting redwoods on trajectory for old growth, restoration, making sure that we're using the science to have old growths of the future, because we can't just say you wait 1k years and they are old growth, need to reestablish core structure
- It needs a rest. All the experiments and demonstration need a rest. Needs to be healed taken care of and not just extracted.
- Option A needs to be eliminated. There's disagreement on how it's being implemented and CALFIRE is good at selling the THPs and making them seems more about research. A lot of the good stuff they are doing has to be part of a THP, got to get the trees first, decommission a road, need to log 500 acres, but they won't do that sort of work for the benefit of the community, the wildlife, the forest
- We feel restoration should be the primary goal of what 's happening now and that should be the driver. Is this thing we want to do in the forest going to inhibit or harm the process of the forest restoring itself. Want to confirm THPs and logging are the incentives and decoupled. The budget should have no sway so it's not an incentive to justify hires, salaries, etc. In the organization overall, it's a state forest and it's very forester sentric, they need other disciplines on staff consulting more regularly, would love to see a Restoration Civil Engineer position.
- The eucalyptus needs to be cut and shouldn't be tied to a commercial timber harvest plan. Ties into the restoration and rehab, they could do more invasive species removal
- They've had 75 years to do their extraction and teach logging practice, it's okay to let that go and focus on restoration
- Like to see reforms at Board of Forestry with regular participation of biologists and restoration experts. Similar could be done with JAG with more.
- Want a comprehensive plan and vision for restoration with substantive public input, not just pieces here and there with road work and putting logs in waterways, etc.
- Work toward restoration towards pre-colonial condition - at least large portion of JDSF

Watersheds and Fish

- Emphasis on protection of water quality standards, watershed protection program
- Caspar Creek watershed study, longest running study, making sure that study is supported, Want to do more outside of Caspar.
- Get third watershed approved in Caspar Creek, how would they be cut and would buffers meet the standards, so it has different set of standards in JDSF. We fought to have the standard rules applied.
 - Okay to have boutique standards depending on your needs, but applied
 - Flexibility to test different hypothesis is important. Need rigorous experimental frameworks, demonstration has not been a strong component
 - Needed flexibility would be good to include with proof of concept, implementing rigorous scientific method in the study and research grade work.
 - Would like ability to focus on drier east side for long term study

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- Positive things have come from Caspar Watershed Study (1960, 1980, 2018), - Keep asking same questions of how harvesting impacts watershed processes and quality. Long term measurements have been most valuable
 - Like to see different questions asked - how does watershed restoration affect water processes?
- Caspar has so much opportunity because of the long standing data, a lot of big questions that JDSF could provide research assistance about, forest composition and water
- Have drafts of a document, extensive work done with California Fish and Wildlife and NOAA and the restoration community, or Mendo Land Trust, landowners like JDSF, multi partner Salmon Habitat and restoration priorities Plan (SHaRP), this group drilled down on limiting factors, at watershed scale then identified potential restoration projects.
 - Have **SHaRP** for Noyo, Big River but not for Caspar ... because focused on most potential.
 - Reconnect creek channels to floodplains, remove fish passage barriers
 - See alignment between the assessments and the recommended for salmon restoration
 - Need to go out and look at the sites, ground truth with real time assessments. Start to develop a scope for each site.
- Goal 3: Watershed and ecological processes, rather than monitoring let's talk about objectives around stream restoration.
 - Think broadly about riparian zones, there are so many species, corridors for migration, consider multiple management zones, don't get species focused.
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- There are goals and objectives for salmon recovery.
 - Goal 2 about forest restoration is focused on production, not a bad thing, having a productive river is important, a lot of partners, the growing trend is to focus on ecological processes, at a watershed scale, the production (the number of salmon) follows.

Research

- Research plan sets goals for more research on carbon sequestration of redwood forests
- Research Advisory Team (doesn't really officially exist but in MP and going to recommend to the JAG that it exists and is formalized to reviews and approves proposals for research) and on the JAG as well.
 - Try to keep research priorities and interest at JAG meeting and encourage projects that have strong research components and collaborations.
 - Try to support research that is identified as critical in management plan and the JAG and community
- Want more consistent and broad collaborative for advancing researching through promotion, proposal review and approve - Research Advisory Group/Team - creates a more robust and comprehensive research project through open conservation

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- The forest has all the data, just not consolidated for sharing and attracting more research.
- Public outreach about the need for applied research. Formalized public outreach and dialogue with the public regarding the science it produces and recreation
- Every THP is related to some kind of restoration project. But JDSF doesn't do a good job of promoting and educating to the community. Not incorporated in contractors THP.
 - This is why this Research Advisory Team can be essential to check research goals in THP's, etc.
- Research facility to help managers be more in balance
 - Got money from Cal Fish and Wildlife looking at ways to store groundwater not connecting to streams for dust abatement ... is road rocking more effective?
- Could and should be a premier Research forest for the state.
- So much potential to lead scientific inquiries
- 3 types of data really important: 1) Forest inventory every 5 years 2) Lidar data 3) Flex towers in west and east end of forest. These would create a very rich data set to attract researchers to JDSF by investing in forest research.
- If controls are an important part of the management for science, should be more thoughtful, collaborative and participatory.
- All the timber harvest should be hypothesis driven. They use science as a justification to log, but start with the science, use science to prove the point, instead of using science to justify logging.
- Formalize need and requirements for **Science advisory group**, round table of scientists working with the managers
- What new science is being provided by demonstrating logging practices? It's been demonstrated in the rest of the county. Plenty of opportunity to study that outside of state lands
- Like to see evaluation of forest opened up to statewide scientific review and input and not just JAG 'rubber stamp' harvest plans.
- Like Scientific Review Panel - Science review panel report 2004? - research if Forest Practice Rules are effective to protect salmonoids

Recreation

- Make the experience better for people recreating.
 - Aesthetics need to be an important part of managing the forest within a certain distance of those who recreate
 - Minimize disruption to recreation
 - Trail access
 - A lot of opportunity, not a lot of communication
- Recreation Task Force: CONTINUES and meets regularly

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- Working relationship with CALFIRE has grown, a good partnership, have an MOU, Mountain biking side: they benefit everyone, a great structure, when we have a trail to design, that process goes well., trail boss, club board members
- Project Review - In reviewing a project, like to see it in a physical context, with visual resources protected. Have to produce a visual study for certain projects near recreation coordinators, publically accessible forest roads- a requirement for a computer generated visual study, puts it in context
- Having the matrix around homes and public areas is not a good idea when you can have that for recreation. Trail improvements at this point seem to be tied to THPs as well.
- Need a more well-rounded org chart of disciplines and someone solely dedicated to recreation – it's often an afterthought, not just a forester who rides a bike, n,o a dedicated person with a background in recreation. There's no county parks in this area, free accessible public lands is a huge asset to the community and they should put REC as high up as logging. We make more money from tourism than logging
- Clean the place up a little and get some trails.

Communication and Public Outreach/Education

- Chain of command and communication needs improvement
- Identify better ways to communicate.
- Things need to be more discoverable on the JDSF website, CALtrees, etc, people don't understand the difference between CEQA and commenting on things at a JAG meeting, the JAG is not just a rubber stamp, we as JAG listen to the community
- Future desired conditions - like to see reference to future conditions stay and more effort into how to achieve those and better job of describing that so the public has a better understanding of the forest
- Education - Not maintained and dilapidated while there have been 50-60 THPs. Need balance
- Be more transparent in MP to recognize that lots of the good work is done through timber harvest and that it is a self-funded forest.
- Highlight the history of the forest and value it provides other landowners.
- CALFIRE staff: Please answer questions directly. If people are asking you to stop logging or to pause, sometimes CALFIRE staff say we are so understaffed and see these trees we protected on the ridge ... you can say NO there will be no pause, we're being sued by licensed timber operators, just answer the questions.
- On 409 this fall, they didn't tell the neighbors. Better communication with people who are in proximity, CALFIRE is notorious for doing the bare minimum with public notification. A lot of room for improvement.
- A lot of mistrust with CALFIRE and the Board of Forestry

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- JDSF should provide a greater presence in the forest for regulating the negative effects of unauthorised motorized and shooting and dumping
- If trees need to come out then tell us why, and they shouldn't go to waste but that's a different way to look at logging, it's much smaller scale local logging
- Like to see deeper education of the public - youtube.com etc to help the public understand more deeply the forest and are able to give informed input

Funding

- Funding - since Jackson's mission is research, they provide research funds. Much of the recovery costs of this funding is done through timber harvest and supports staff that is making research possible.

Plan Format and Objectives

- It's pretty broad at this point. The things written about restoration are very broad, which provides flexibility
- Plan to be more broad and open, but the language more specific about the mission and desired objectives.
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- Leave MP as vague as possible. Need to be able to experiment and have flexibility in the future that opens up to creative and flexible practice
- Current Plan is way too long. All over the place, not concise. Hard to digest and find information. No prescriptive language with accountability to achieve a targeted goal
 - For every statement that says we are going to do this, all have an out/exit/footnote/asterisk up to CALFIRE judgment and forester. Frustrating for the public. Need more accountability and binding statements to targeted goals and practices that meet those goals, that still allows Calfire to be flexible to social and environmental changes.
- Overwhelming theme of diversity- too much information
- BLACK box: govt to govt with indigenous people (state and fed). What's left over you can write a management plan about? Does it divulge too much to tell us what's left over? Say: What's not in the box is over here ... where does the TAC and the non TAC tribal members put info in?
- the management should include the retention of wildlife green trees
- The percentage of late seral is inadequate esp for sensitive and endangered species. Anything less than 50% of late seral should be looked at as cumulative effect. CALFIRE should provide analysis of threshold.
- Hack and squirt of the tan oaks should be eliminated and any herbicides (illegal in Mendocino County), CALFIRE should not be exempt. If public trust is what they want, they can look at Hack and Squirt

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- Steven Sillit identified elder trees and none of those trees should be cut, these are the best trees on the forest and they should be left, anything more than 35" should not be cut

What would make these public meetings most productive and open for the broadest amount of comments to be heard?

- Have Zoom option
- JAG meeting on weekends or evenings for working people to attend
- Having a non-partisan moderator has helped in the past.
- Start with a shared experience Outside with the same things, then talk about it. Indoors.
- More agreements on how we talk to each other and about each other.
- Bad meeting: podium, people in rows. Need more people in a circle, more people doing things together.
- CALFIRE employees out of uniform, participating in the conversation. Men in uniform is bad.
- CALFIRE directed process with public responding to what CALFIRE presents instead of open from public.
- Climate comments to JAG were never responded to
- Priscilla Hunter gave lots of input and never officially responded to