Jackson Demonstration State Forest

2025 Recreation Visitor Survey

Report Prepared for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

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Executive Summary

In 2024, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) personnel and the Experience Industry Management (EIM) Department at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo initiated a replication of the 2013 JDSF visitor use study, which was published February 2014. The purpose of the replication was to assess current patterns of recreation use, visitor experiences, and management priorities in light of evolving recreational trends, increased visitation, and changing social and environmental conditions in the forest. Findings from the study are intended to inform the next iteration of the recreation management plan for JDSF.

The visitor survey was developed collaboratively with JDSF managers and with input from members of the Recreation Task Force. The instrument preserved the core items from the 2013 survey to allow longitudinal comparison while adding new items addressing emerging management considerations such as e-bikes, invasive plants, advanced mountain bike trails, and fees. Data were collected on site during three seasonal windows in 2025: May 24–27, July 24–August 4, and November 14–16. Trained Cal Poly research assistants administered the survey using iPads, with paper copies available on request, following standard social science research protocols. A total of 406 responses were retained for analysis after data cleaning.

The respondents were primarily California residents (94.2%), with 43.4% residing in Mendocino County. The average age was 46.82 years (SD = 15.81), and the largest age groups were 28–37 (22.1%) and 58–67 (20.8%). Respondents were highly educated, with 37.1% holding a four-year college degree and 24.6% holding a graduate degree. Annual household income skewed higher than in 2013, with 25.3% reporting $150,000 or more and an additional 17.2% reporting $100,000–$149,999.

Visitation patterns shifted notably from 2013. Day use accounted for 77% of respondents in 2025 compared with 47% in 2013, while overnight use declined from 53% to 23%. Day users planned to stay an average of 4.01 hours, and overnight visitors stayed an average of 2.5 nights. Some of this change may be due to additional survey locations added for 2025. Most respondents reported 1–10 visits per year. Survey areas were concentrated at two primary locations: Road

409 End of Pavement (44.0%) and Caspar “Scales” Road at the junction of Roads 500 and 600 (27.5%), which together accounted for more than 70% of contacts.

Hiking was the dominant activity (40.0%), followed by mountain biking (18.9%), camping (14.2%), and mushroom foraging (7.8%). Group sizes were small, with two-person groups most common (36.2%).

Perceived crowding was generally low, and average crowding ratings decreased on both weekdays (1.83 to 1.36) and weekends (3.01 to 1.95) relative to 2013. Satisfaction with infrastructure was high, and acceptability ratings (on a 1–5 scale) improved across all categories: trails (4.12), campsites (4.10), day use areas (4.05), dirt and fire roads (3.98), general signage (3.56), and vault or pit toilets (3.54). All six items showed improvements, and the largest improvements were observed for vault or pit toilets (+0.26) and signage (+0.17).

Satisfaction with facilities and services was highest for accessible trailheads to enter the forest (4.20), availability of parking at trailheads and at campsites (3.99 each), and the camping fee (3.99). The lowest-rated items were the availability of trash receptacles (3.19), outhouse accessibility for individuals with disabilities (3.26), frequency of law enforcement patrols (3.36), and signs posting educational information (3.37).

Perceived problems in the forest were generally rated low. Most items received “not a problem” ratings from more than 60% of respondents, and no item received any “big problem” ratings. The highest-rated concerns were roadside dumping of garbage (1.86), litter at trails, campsites, or picnic areas (1.83), vault or pit toilets that need cleaning (1.81), invasive plants along roadways and trails (1.83), and target shooting at appliances or trees (1.68).

Respondents expressed strong support for several potential managerial actions, including installing educational signs along trails (4.02), creating a formal volunteer program (4.01), developing advanced mountain bike trails (3.86), designating trails for multiple use (3.85), and requiring alternative trails during timber harvest (3.73). Support was lowest for no development of additional recreation facilities (2.94) and for implementing or increasing fees (3.08).

Figure 1. 2025. Ca Sil Xale Dah Trailhead.

Information about the forest is still obtained primarily through informal and personal channels (e.g., friends and family, word of mouth, and local residency), although digital sources such as AllTrails, Trailforks, and the JDSF website are increasingly used for trip planning. Open-ended comments emphasized the need for additional trail signage and wayfinding, more and better-maintained bathrooms, sustained attention to illegal dumping and litter, clearer separation of uses during hunting season, more wheelchair-accessible trails, and measured management of timber operations. Overall, the 2025 data indicate higher visitor satisfaction, a pronounced shift toward day use, and stable or improved perceptions of facilities and conditions compared with 2013.

Introduction

In 1990, CAL FIRE initiated a recreation master plan for Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF), informed in part by a 1987 study of forest visitors and input from key stakeholders. As demand for recreation opportunities has continued to grow, subsequent planning efforts, including the 2008 JDSF Management Plan, recommended the administration of a visitor use survey and the development of updated recreation planning strategies to guide management decisions. A comprehensive visitor survey was conducted in summer 2013 to inform those efforts and to provide a baseline understanding of visitor characteristics, attitudes, and perceptions.

In 2024, JDSF contacted the Experience Industry Management (EIM) Department at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo to replicate and update the 2013 visitor study. The purpose of the replication was to assess current patterns of recreation use, visitor experiences, and management priorities in light of evolving recreational trends, increased visitation, and changing social and environmental conditions. In June 2024, two EIM faculty members visited JDSF and met with staff to identify priority data collection sites and to discuss updates to the survey. Over the following three months, faculty and JDSF personnel collaboratively reviewed and refined the survey to ensure continuity with the 2013 instrument while incorporating new and emerging management considerations. The revised instrument was finalized in Qualtrics.

Data collection occurred during spring, summer, and fall 2025. Teams of trained Cal Poly students administered the survey on site using established social science research protocols. Sampling procedures were designed to mirror those of the 2013 study and to gather representative data in 2025, allowing for generalization to the broader population of forest visitors and enabling meaningful comparisons with 2013 findings.

This report presents a summary of the research design, methodology, procedures, results, and conclusions of the 2025 replicated study. The purpose of the research is to provide current, evidence-based information regarding visitor characteristics, attitudes, and perceptions to assist CAL FIRE JDSF managers in recreation planning and decision-making over the next decade.

Methods

In early 2025, researchers collaborated with JDSF staff to refine the recreation visitor survey, ensuring the instrument remained consistent with the 2013 study for longitudinal comparison while updating relevant management concerns. Consultation meetings were held with JDSF personnel and members of the Recreation Task Force to discuss the research methodology, update the 2013 survey, and gather input on the relevance of existing items as well as topics to be added. The study methodology, including the overall survey design and sampling procedures for contacting visitors, was reviewed and approved by JDSF. The survey was reviewed multiple times by faculty and JDSF staff to ensure it was detailed and thoroughly covered all necessary topics.

Figure 2. 2025. JDSF Mushroom Foray, Camp 20 Area. Leading public foray to educate and document mushroom species on JDSF.

Following the visitor intercept approach established in 2013, researchers and JDSF staff identified several important access points at which to intercept forest users. To facilitate direct comparison with the 2013 survey, a majority of the original locations were retained. These sites included high-traffic and high-use areas such as Road 409 End of Pavement, Caspar "Scales" Road (the junction of Roads 500 and 600), Camp One, and Camp 20, as well as less frequently used locations such as the junction of Road 450 and Simpson Lane, Gravel Pit Road, and the Forest History Trail. In alignment with social science standards for representative sampling, the study targeted a sample size of approximately 400 respondents, intended to allow generalizations to the broader forest population. Data collection was scheduled to capture a range of visitor types across three primary seasons. The dates of data collection were May 24–27, July 24–August 4, and November 14–16, 2025.

Days of the week for data collection were selected to include both busy visitor weekends and standard weekdays. Locations were rotated to provide visitors during a given day an equal

probability of participating in the study. While specific high-use sites were primary locations for data collection, student surveyors used their judgment, together with information from JDSF, to decide when to relocate for better sampling opportunities. If a selected area was not populated with visitors, survey teams moved to another high-use location to maintain sampling efficiency. Data collection occurred between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. For each day of collection, areas were assigned to and rotated through specific time blocks to ensure coverage across morning and afternoon peak periods. Travel time between forest areas and mandatory breaks were built into the daily schedule to ensure consistent researcher presence during active hours.

The survey was primarily administered using iPads, with paper copies available upon request. Respondents were approached at trailheads, parking lots, and kiosks and asked to complete the survey using an iPad. Surveyors used a pre-approved, standardized script that described the purpose of the study and the anonymity of participants' personal information. Researchers provided an informed consent form detailing the 10- to 15-minute survey process and assuring respondents that all data remained unassociated with the participant. The instrument captured visitor characteristics including gender, ethnicity, education, and age, as well as visitation history, perceived crowding, satisfaction with forest conditions, acceptability of conditions, and support for managerial actions. An open-ended item at the end of the survey invited qualitative comments, which were recorded anonymously and analyzed for themes.

All data were downloaded into Excel and cleaned and screened. Respondents who completed less than 30% of the survey were removed from the final data set. Overall, 406 responses were deemed appropriate for analysis. The data were analyzed in Excel, and all survey items are reported here. Descriptive statistics were computed for closed-ended items, and frequencies and percentages are reported for categorical responses. Where comparisons to the 2013 study are provided, both sets of descriptive statistics are presented side by side.

To complement the on-site visitor survey, the research team also conducted a series of in-depth stakeholder interviews in Winter 2025. Twenty participants were recruited from groups with established connections to the forest, including neighboring property owners, board members of community organizations, representatives of the cycling and broader recreation communities, a local gun club, and regular recreational forest users. Interviews were conducted by phone and over Zoom, lasted approximately 10 to 15 minutes, and were recorded to support accurate

transcription. After transcription, responses were entered into a spreadsheet and grouped by question. Two researchers independently reviewed the responses, identified recurring patterns, and tallied themes to determine which ideas and concerns surfaced most frequently. The interview protocol addressed the stakeholder group participants represented, where they travel from to use the forest, their primary activities, their perceptions of recreation at JDSF, noteworthy experiences, their understanding of forest management, pressing management issues, and suggestions for improvement.

Results

Visitor Characteristics

The visitor survey resulted in data collection from 406 respondents in 2025. The majority of respondents were California residents (94.2%), and 43.4% of all respondents reported Mendocino County as their county of residence. The average age was 46.82 years (SD = 15.81), indicating a wide age distribution across the sample. Respondents were highly educated, and household incomes skewed toward higher earnings, although nearly one-quarter declined to report income.

Table 1
Location of Contact

Location of Survey	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
Road 409 End of Pavement	176	44.00
Caspar “Scales” Rd (500 × 600)	110	27.50
Camp 20 campgrounds and day use area	59	14.75
Camp 1 campgrounds and day use area	46	11.50
Road 450 and Simpson Lane	7	1.75
Forest History Trail × County Road 408	1	0.25
Gravel Pit Road	1	0.25
Total	400	100.00

Most responses were collected at Road 409 End of Pavement (44.0%), followed by Caspar “Scales” Road (27.5%). Camp 20 (14.8%) and Camp 1 (11.5%) together accounted for

approximately one-quarter of the sample. All other locations each contributed less than 2% of the total sample (Table 1).

Table 2
Camp 20 Day Use Respondents: Visiting JDSF or Using Restroom Only

Response	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
No, I will be visiting the JDSF	63	87.50
Yes, only here for the bathroom	9	12.50
Total	72	100.00

At Camp 20 Day Use, the large majority of respondents (87.5%) indicated they were visiting JDSF itself, while a smaller portion (12.5%) reported they were only using the restroom. A few surveyed visitors were uncertain whether they were within JDSF boundaries (Table 2).

Table 3
How Respondents First Learned About JDSF

Source	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
Friends or family	160	39.90
I'm a local resident	109	27.30
Word of mouth	94	23.40
Driving by on Highway 20	59	14.70
Other (please list)	52	13.00
Social media	25	6.20
CAL FIRE website	16	4.00
At a hotel, motel, or B&B	5	1.20
CAL FIRE office	5	1.20
Magazine	2	0.50
Radio	2	0.50
Newspaper	1	0.20
Total respondents	401	100.00

Note. Respondents could select all sources that applied. Percentages are based on N = 401.

Responses indicate that personal and informal channels were the primary sources of initial awareness. The most frequently reported source was friends or family (n = 160), followed by being a local resident (n = 109) and word of mouth (n = 94). Passive exposure such as driving by on Highway 20 also contributed (n = 59). Digital sources were less prominent, including other websites (n = 52) and social media (n = 25). Official sources such as the CAL FIRE website (n =

16), CAL FIRE office (n = 5), and lodging locations (n = 5) were reported infrequently, and traditional media channels such as magazines (n = 2), radio (n = 2), and newspapers (n = 1) accounted for minimal awareness (Table 3).

Additional sources of awareness were varied and included both digital platforms and community-based connections. Online tools such as Airbnb, Google (n = 5), Google Maps (n = 3), AllTrails (n = 10), Strava, Trailforks (n = 3), and Misfit.org were reported, along with print and reference materials such as guidebooks (n = 2). Recreational and interest-based networks also contributed, including biking and cycling communities, local bike shops, the Mountain Biking Association, and the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA). Several respondents cited involvement in mushroom-related groups and events, such as the Mendocino Mushroom Club, the Mendocino Mushroom Festival (n = 3), mushroom-picking events (n = 2), mushroom identification classes, and the Mycological Society of San Francisco (n = 2). Local familiarity (n = 4), general driving exposure, volunteer involvement, and long-term employment with CAL FIRE were also noted. A full list of "other" responses is provided in Appendix A.

Table 4
How Respondents Obtain Recreation Information About the Forest

Source	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
Friends or family	88	21.70
Word of mouth	78	19.20
I'm a local resident	70	17.20
Other (please list)	58	14.30
I just show up to recreate	36	8.90
CAL FIRE website	34	8.40
Left blank	11	2.70
Guidebook	8	2.00
CAL FIRE office	8	2.00
Instagram	7	1.70
At a hotel	4	1.00
Facebook	4	1.00
Total respondents	406	100.00

Note. Respondents could select all sources that applied. Percentages are based on N = 406. A full list of "other" responses is provided in Appendix B.

Responses indicate that informal and personal sources dominate how visitors obtain recreation information. The most frequently cited source was friends or family (n = 88), followed by word

of mouth (n = 78) and being a local resident (n = 70). Digital sources outside of official channels were also used, with other websites or apps reported by 58 respondents. Fewer visitors relied on more formal or structured sources such as simply showing up to recreate (n = 36) or the CAL FIRE website (n = 34). Traditional and institutional sources were the least utilized, including guidebooks (n = 8), CAL FIRE office (n = 8), Instagram (n = 7), hotels (n = 4), and Facebook (n = 4); an additional 11 responses were left blank (Table 4).

Table 5
Perceived Operator of JDSF

Who do you think operates JDSF?	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
CAL FIRE	204	50.25
California State Parks	114	28.08
Not sure	53	13.05
U.S. government / BLM	19	4.68
Mendocino County	16	3.94
Total	406	100.00

About half of respondents (50.3%) correctly identified CAL FIRE as the operator of JDSF, while just over a quarter (28.1%) believed California State Parks manages the forest and 13.1% were unsure (Table 5).

Table 6
Age of Respondents

Age group	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
18–27	51	12.66
28–37	89	22.08
38–47	73	18.11
48–57	66	16.38
58–67	84	20.84
68–77	34	8.44
78–87	6	1.49
Total	403	100.00

Note. Average age = 46.82 years (SD = 15.81).

The sample had 403 respondents providing usable age data, with an average age of 46.82 years (SD = 15.81), indicating a wide age distribution. The largest age group was 28–37 years (22.1%), followed by 58–67 years (20.8%) and 38–47 years (18.1%). Respondents aged 48–57 accounted

for 16.4%, while younger adults aged 18–27 made up 12.7% of the sample. Older age groups were less represented, with 68–77 comprising 8.4% and 78–87 just 1.5% (Table 6). Overall, the sample skews toward middle-aged adults, with fewer respondents at the youngest and oldest ends of the range.

Table 7
Highest Education Level

Education	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
Less than high school	1	0.25
Some high school	4	1.02
High school	37	9.39
Vocational degree	4	1.02
Some college	59	14.97
2-year college degree	29	7.36
4-year college degree	146	37.06
Some graduate school	17	4.31
Completed graduate degree	97	24.62
Total	394	100.00

The sample had 394 respondents with relatively high levels of education. The largest group held a four-year college degree (37.1%), followed by those with a graduate degree (24.6%). Respondents with some college experience made up 15.0%, while 9.4% reported a high school diploma as their highest level of education. Smaller proportions included those with a two-year college degree (7.4%) and some graduate school (4.3%). Very few respondents reported lower levels of education, including some high school (1.0%), vocational degrees (1.0%), or less than high school (0.3%) (Table 7).

Table 8

Annual Household Income

Income	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
Less than $20,000	9	2.35
$20,000 to $39,999	18	4.70
$40,000 to $59,999	28	7.31
$60,000 to $79,999	29	7.57
$80,000 to $99,999	42	10.97
$100,000 to $149,999	66	17.23
$150,000 or more	97	25.33
Prefer not to answer	94	24.54
Total	383	100.00

Annual household income levels skewed toward higher earnings, although almost one-quarter of respondents declined to answer. The largest group reported annual incomes of $150,000 or more (25.3%), followed by $100,000–$149,999 (17.2%) and $80,000–$99,999 (11.0%). Mid-range income categories included $60,000–$79,999 (7.6%) and $40,000–$59,999 (7.3%), while lower income brackets were less represented, including $20,000–$39,999 (4.7%) and less than $20,000 (2.4%). Finally, 24.5% of respondents preferred not to answer (Table 8).

Table 9

Who Respondents Came to the Forest With

Group composition	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
Family	152	40.43
Friends	111	29.52
By self	57	15.16
Family and friends	41	10.90
Club or organization	12	3.19
School group	3	0.80
Total	376	100.00

Among the 376 respondents who reported group composition, most attended with others, particularly family and friends. The largest share came with family (40.4%), followed by friends (29.5%). A smaller portion attended alone (15.2%), while 10.9% reported being with both family and friends. Organized group attendance was uncommon, including clubs or organizations (3.2%) and school groups (0.8%) (Table 9).

Table 10

Group Size (Including Respondent)

Number of people in group	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 person	57	14.4
2 people	147	36.21
3 people	52	12.81
4 people	43	10.59
5 people	31	7.64
6 people	18	4.43
7 people	8	1.97
8 people	9	2.22
9 people	7	1.72
10 or more people	34	8.37
Total respondents	406	100.00

A total of 406 respondents reported their group size. The most common group size was two people (36.2%). Smaller groups were also common, with 13.3% indicating one person and 12.8% reporting three people. Groups of four comprised 10.6% of the sample. Larger groups each represented less than 9% of responses, including five people (7.6%), six people (4.4%), and groups of ten or more (8.4%) (Table 10).

Table 11

Number of Adults in Group

Number of adults	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1	57	14.29
2	183	45.86
3	43	10.78
4	34	8.52
5	21	5.26
6	24	6.02
7	4	1.00
8	8	2.01
9	4	1.00
10 or more	21	5.26
Total	399	100.00

Note. Average number of adults per group = 3.19.

A total of 399 respondents reported the number of adults in their group, with an average of 3.19 adults. The most frequent group size was two adults (45.9%). Single-adult groups accounted for 13.5%, followed by groups of three (10.8%) and four (8.5%). Mid-sized groups of five and six adults represented 5.3% and 6.0%, respectively. Larger groups of seven or more adults were relatively uncommon.

Figure 3. 2022. Members of the Backcountry Horseman (BCH). The BCH assists in maintaining the Big River Horse Camp.

Table 12

Number of Children Under 18 in Group

Number of children	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
No children	62	42.18
1 child	19	12.93
2 children	28	19.05
3 children	9	6.12
4 children	8	5.44
5 children	13	8.84
6 children	6	4.08
7 children	1	0.68
10 children	1	0.68
Total	147	100.00

Note. Average number of children per group = 1.71.

Of the 147 respondents who answered the question about visiting with children, the average number of children per group was 1.71. The largest share of groups reported no children (42.2%). Among those with children, two children (19.1%) and one child (12.9%) were most common. Smaller percentages reported three children (6.1%) or four children (5.4%), while some groups included five (8.8%) or six (4.1%); very few reported seven or more (Table 12).

Visitor Geography

The sample included 354 California residents (94.2% of all visitors). Of these, 172 respondents reported Mendocino County residency, representing 48.6% of California visitors and 43.4% of all visitors. The majority of non-Mendocino California visitors originated in the Bay Area and Northern California, consistent with the forest's geographic draw.

Table 13
California Counties of Residence

County	*Frequency*	*County*	*Frequency*	*County*	*Frequency*
Mendocino	172	Santa Cruz	6	Riverside	2
Alameda	25	Los Angeles	5	Colusa	2
San Francisco	17	El Dorado	5	Madera	2
Sonoma	17	Yolo	5	Napa	2
Contra Costa	12	Solano	5	Kings	1
Lake	9	Placer	4	Nevada	1
Santa Clara	9	Humboldt	4	San Luis Obispo	1
San Mateo	9	San Diego	4	Merced	1
Marin	8	Orange	3	Sutter	1
Butte	8	Yuba	3	Fresno	1
Sacramento	6	Stanislaus	3	Alpine	1

Table 14
Comparison of California and Mendocino County Residency, 2013 and 2025

Indicator	*2013 (%)*	*2025 (%)*
California residents (of all visitors)	93.8	94.2
Mendocino County residents (of California visitors)	55.4	48.6
Mendocino County residents (of all visitors)	n/a	43.4

The proportion of visitors from California remained nearly identical between 2013 (93.8%) and 2025 (94.2%). However, the share of California visitors residing in Mendocino County declined from 55.4% in 2013 to 48.6% in 2025, indicating that a somewhat larger share of California visitors is coming from other parts of the state while Mendocino County continues to supply the plurality of visits (Table 14).

Table 15

Out-of-State Visitors, 2013 and 2025

2013 state	*Frequency*	*2025 state*	*Frequency*
Nevada	5	Nevada	6
Utah	3	Florida	3
Colorado	2	Arizona	2
Michigan	2	New Mexico	2
New York	2	New York	2
Florida	1	Georgia	2
		Oregon	1
		Illinois	1
		Missouri	1
Total (2013)	15	Total (2025)	20

Out-of-state visitors in 2025 (N = 20) most commonly came from Nevada, with all Nevada respondents originating from Washoe County. Five more out-of-state visitors participated in 2025 than in 2013, and Nevada was the most common out-of-state origin in both years. The 2025 sample also included visitors from Florida, Arizona, New Mexico, New York, Georgia, Oregon, Illinois, and Missouri (Table 15).

Visit Attributes

Visit attributes were examined through items concerning type of use (day use or overnight), length of stay, frequency of visitation across months and years, and campsite use for overnight visitors. Comparisons with 2013 are presented where parallel items were administered.

Figure 4. 2019. Outhouse maintenance, Camp 1. JDSF's approach to recreation is rustic, using local materials.

Table 16

Overnight or Day Use, 2013 and 2025

Use type	*Frequency (2013)*	*Percentage (2013)*	*Frequency (2025)*	*Percentage (2025)*
Overnight	213	53.00	92	23.12
Day use	189	47.00	306	76.88
Total	402	100.00	398	100.00

Note. Some respondents indicated overnight even when they were staying outside JDSF (e.g., at a state park campground or in Fort Bragg or Mendocino).

In 2025, the majority of respondents reported day use, accounting for 77% of visitors (n = 306), while overnight use comprised 23% (n = 92). By contrast, the 2013 data showed a markedly different distribution, with overnight visitors representing 53% of respondents (n = 213) and day users accounting for 47% (n = 189). Total respondents were 398 in 2025 and 402 in 2013 (Table 16). This shift represents one of the most notable longitudinal changes in the data set.

Table 17

Planned Length of Stay for Day-Use Visitors

Hours planned	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
0	9	2.52
1	36	10.08
2	111	31.09
3	71	19.89
4	59	16.53
5	19	5.32
6	9	2.52
7	9	2.52
8	10	2.80
9	4	1.12
10 or more	20	5.60
Total	357	100.00

Note. Average planned day-use length = 4.01 hours. Although only 306 respondents self-identified as day users, 357 respondents answered this item; 51 overnight respondents also provided a planned day-use length, likely reflecting portions of the day spent in the forest.

Table 18

Planned Length of Stay for Overnight Visitors

Nights planned	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1	43	31.85
2	41	30.37
3	29	21.48
4	12	8.89
5	5	3.70
6	1	0.74
7	2	1.48
10	1	0.74
11	1	0.74
14	1	0.74
Total	135	100.00

Note. Average overnight length = 2.5 nights. A total of 135 respondents answered this item, even though only 92 self-identified as overnight visitors; 43 day-use respondents also supplied an overnight value, likely reflecting nights spent in the area but not necessarily in JDSF.

Table 19

Campsite Selection for Overnight Stay

Campsite	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
Don't know yet	105	55.56
Camp One	45	23.81
Dunlap Camp	24	12.70
Big River Camp	10	5.29
Horse Camp	5	2.65
Total	189	100.00

A total of 189 overnight respondents indicated their intended campsite. More than half (55.6%) reported that they did not know which camp they would use. Among those who selected a location, Camp One was the most frequently reported (23.8%), followed by Dunlap Camp (12.7%), Big River Camp (5.3%), and Horse Camp (2.6%) (Table 19).

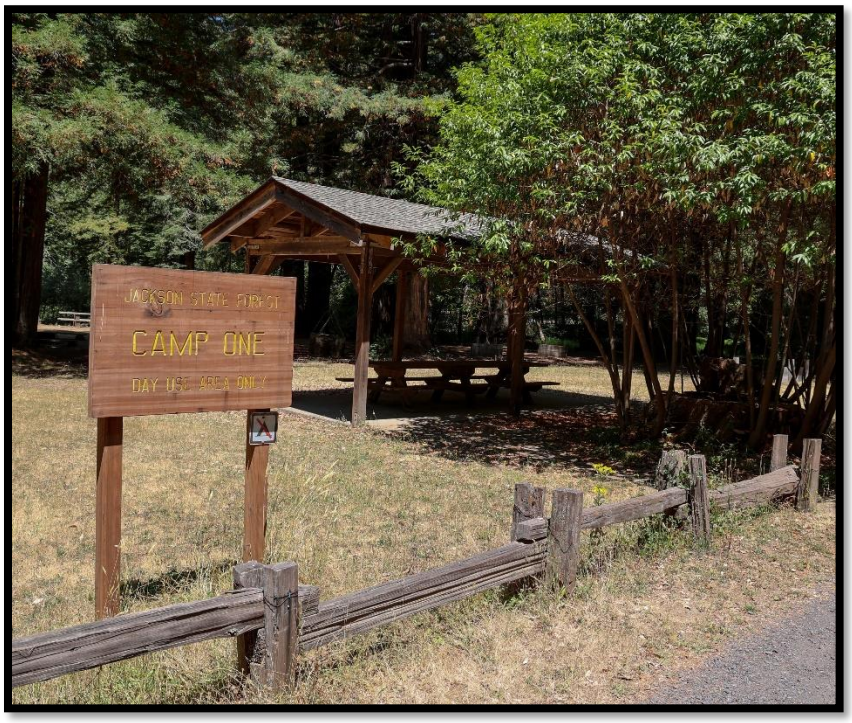

Figure 5. 2025. JDSF Camp 1 Day Use Area Camp.

Visitation Frequency

Respondents were asked how often they visit this forest on a monthly and annual basis, and how often they visit outdoor recreation areas generally.

Table 20
Days per Month Respondents Visit This Forest

Days per month	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
0	71	21.13
1–5	170	50.60
6–10	38	11.31
11–15	22	6.55
16–20	12	3.57
21–25	9	2.68
26–31	14	4.17
Total	336	100.00

Responses from 336 visitors indicate that days-per-month visitation is low to moderate. The clear majority (50.6%) reported 1–5 days per month, and a notable share (21.1%) reported zero visits in a typical month. Relatively few respondents reported 6–10 days per month, and even fewer reported 11–15 days or higher. High-frequency use (16 or more days per month) was uncommon (Table 20).

Table 21
Days per Year Respondents Visit This Forest

Days per year	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
0	18	5.07
1–10	134	37.75
11–30	68	19.15
31–60	49	13.80
61–100	21	5.92
101–200	27	7.61
201–365	38	10.70
Total	355	100.00

A total of 355 respondents reported their annual visitation. The largest proportion (37.7%) reported 1–10 days per year, followed by 11–30 days (19.2%) and 31–60 days (13.8%). Smaller

proportions reported higher levels of use, including 201–365 days (10.7%), 101–200 days (7.6%), and 61–100 days (5.9%). A small percentage (5.1%) reported zero days of visitation (Table 21).

Table 22

Days per Year Respondents Visit Any Outdoor Recreation Area

Days per year	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1–10	84	21.11
11–20	59	14.82
21–30	35	8.79
31–40	22	5.53
41–50	28	7.04
51–60	20	5.03
61–70	19	4.77
71–80	10	2.51
81–90	13	3.27
91–99	8	2.01
100 or more	100	25.13
Total	398	100.00

A total of 398 respondents reported the number of days they visit any outdoor recreation area per year. The largest proportion (25%) reported 100 or more days, indicating a substantial core of highly active outdoor recreationists. An additional 21% reported 1–10 days, followed by 11–20 days (15%) and 21–30 days (9%). Mid-range categories ranged from 3% to 7%, showing a broad distribution of recreation frequency across the sample (Table 22).

Figure 6. 2013. Firewood cutting on JDSF

Recreation Activities

Respondents were asked to identify all activities in which they typically participate during a visit to JDSF and then to select their primary activity. The activities question allowed for multiple responses, so the total number of responses exceeds the number of respondents.

Table 23
Usual Activities at JDSF (Check All That Apply)

Activity	*Frequency*
Hiking	311
Camping	168
Wildlife viewing	151
Mountain biking	137
Photography	135
Sightseeing	123
Dog walking	123
Mushroom picking	119
Wildflower viewing	118
Plant identification	118
Picnicking	113
Swimming	87
Bird watching	87
Driving for pleasure on highway	84
Backpacking	67
Driving for pleasure on dirt roads	67
Jogging or running	48
Road biking	41
Target shooting	33
Hike-in camping	29
Firewood cutting	29
Horseback riding	21
Hunting	20
Motorcycle riding	16
Other activities	13
Archery	7

Note. Respondents could select all activities that applied. Frequencies reflect count of selections.

Activity participation was led by hiking (n = 311), the most frequently reported activity by a large margin. Other highly reported activities included camping (n = 168), wildlife viewing (n =

151), mountain biking (n = 137), photography (n = 135), and both sightseeing and dog walking (n = 123 each). Mushroom picking (n = 119), wildflower viewing and plant identification (n = 118 each), picnicking (n = 113), and both swimming and bird watching (n = 87 each) were also frequently reported. Lower-frequency activities included driving for pleasure on highways (n = 84), backpacking and driving on dirt roads (n = 67 each), jogging or running (n = 48), road biking (n = 41), and target shooting (n = 33). Less frequently reported activities included hike-in camping and firewood cutting (n = 29 each), horseback riding (n = 21), hunting (n = 20), motorcycle riding (n = 16), other activities (n = 13), and archery (n = 7) (Table 23).

Table 24

Primary Activity During JDSF Visit

Activity	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
Hiking	144	40.00
Mountain biking	68	18.89
Camping	51	14.17
Mushroom foraging	28	7.78
Dog walking	16	4.44
Walking	16	4.44
Nature watching	7	1.94
Target shooting	7	1.94
Sightseeing	6	1.67
Driving	4	1.11
Photography	4	1.11
Picnicking	3	0.83
Running	3	0.83
Swimming, hunting, or work (one each)	3	0.83
Total	360	100.00

When asked to report their primary activity during a JDSF visit, respondents most often reported hiking (40.0%), followed by mountain biking (18.9%), camping (14.2%), and mushroom foraging (7.8%). Taken together, these four activities accounted for more than 80% of primary-activity responses. A smaller segment participated in a wide variety of activities, including dog walking (4.4%), walking (4.4%), and specialized interests such as target shooting (1.9%) or photography (1.1%). Very few respondents used the forest for swimming, hunting, or work (each less than 1%) (Table 24).

Perceptions of Crowding

Perceptions of crowding were measured with a five-point scale anchored at 1 = “not at all crowded” and 5 = “extremely crowded.” Respondents reported weekend and weekday crowding separately. Because the 2013 study used a nine-point scale, 2013 responses were rescaled for comparison; both the original 2013 mean on its nine-point scale and the 2025 mean on the five-point scale are reported together in Table 27.

Table 25
Perceived Crowding on Weekends, 2025

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not at all crowded	113	38.05
2 – Somewhat crowded	114	38.38
3 – Moderately crowded	47	15.82
4 – Very crowded	18	6.06
5 – Extremely crowded	5	1.68
Total	297	100.00

A total of 297 respondents reported weekend crowding perceptions. Responses were split almost evenly between “not at all crowded” (38.1%; n = 113) and “somewhat crowded” (38.4%; n = 114). In addition, 15.8% (n = 47) reported moderate crowding, and 7.7% reported “very” (6.1%; n = 18) or “extremely” crowded (1.7%; n = 5) conditions. Overall, nearly one-quarter of weekend visitors (23.6%) experienced moderate to extreme levels of crowding, indicating that peak periods on weekends can result in noticeably congested conditions (Table 25).

Table 26
Perceived Crowding on Weekdays, 2025

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not at all crowded	203	73.82
2 – Somewhat crowded	51	18.55
3 – Moderately crowded	17	6.18
4 – Very crowded	3	1.09
5 – Extremely crowded	1	0.36
Total	275	100.00

Weekday crowding patterns differ notably from those on weekends, with conditions reported as

predominantly uncrowded. The majority of respondents (73.8%; n = 203) indicated that the forest was “not at all crowded,” while 18.6% (n = 51) reported it as “somewhat crowded.” Reports of higher crowding levels were limited, with 6.2% (n = 17) indicating moderate crowding and only 1.5% combined reporting “very” (1.1%; n = 3) or “extremely” crowded (0.4%; n = 1) conditions. The distribution shows a sharp drop from “not at all crowded” to higher categories, in contrast to the more even spread seen on weekends (Table 26).

Table 27

Mean Perceived Crowding, 2013 and 2025

Item	*2013 mean*	*2025 mean*
Weekday crowding	1.83	1.36
Weekend crowding	3.01	1.95

Note. 2013 means were calculated on a nine-point scale (1 = not at all crowded, 9 = extremely crowded); 2025 means were calculated on a five-point scale (1 = not at all crowded, 5 = extremely crowded). Comparisons should therefore be interpreted as directional rather than strictly equivalent.

Comparisons between 2013 and 2025 indicate a decrease in perceived crowding across both weekdays and weekends. Average crowding scores declined from 1.83 to 1.36 on weekdays and from 3.01 to 1.95 on weekends. Weekend conditions continue to be rated as more crowded than weekdays (Table 27). Reports of high crowding (“very” or “extremely” crowded) remained low and relatively unchanged from 2013 at approximately 1%.

Facilities and Services Satisfaction

Respondents indicated their satisfaction with a set of JDSF facilities and services using a five-point scale where 1 = “very dissatisfied,” 2 = “dissatisfied,” 3 = “neither satisfied nor dissatisfied,” 4 = “satisfied,” and 5 = “very satisfied.” The highest mean satisfaction ratings were observed for accessible trailheads to enter the forest (M = 4.20), and the lowest were observed for availability of trash receptacles (M = 3.19) and outhouse accessibility for individuals with disabilities (M = 3.26). Individual item distributions are reported in Tables 28 through 49, and a cross-year comparison with 2013 means is provided in Table 50.

Table 28

Satisfaction With Accessible Trailheads to Enter the Forest

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Very dissatisfied	5	1.35
2 – Dissatisfied	15	4.04
3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	37	9.97
4 – Satisfied	160	43.13
5 – Very satisfied	154	41.51
Total	371	100.00

Note. Average rating = 4.20.

Access to the forest was rated favorably: 84.6% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with accessible trailheads (Table 28). Day use group areas and campground group areas received slightly lower but still positive ratings, with means of 3.99 and 3.93, respectively (Tables 29 and 30).

Table 29

Satisfaction With Areas for Large Groups in Day Use Areas

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Very dissatisfied	5	1.69
2 – Dissatisfied	14	4.75
3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	49	16.61
4 – Satisfied	141	47.80
5 – Very satisfied	86	29.15
Total	295	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.99.

Table 30

Satisfaction With Areas for Large Groups in Campgrounds

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Very dissatisfied	1	0.39
2 – Dissatisfied	19	7.48
3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	54	21.26
4 – Satisfied	100	39.37
5 – Very satisfied	80	31.50
Total	254	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.93.

Parking availability at both trailheads and campsites was rated highly, each with an average of 3.99 (Tables 31 and 32). In contrast, the availability of trash receptacles drew the lowest satisfaction rating in the entire series (M = 3.19), with more than one-third of respondents reporting that they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied (Table 33).

Table 31

Satisfaction With Availability of Parking at Trailheads

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Very dissatisfied	8	2.16
2 – Dissatisfied	21	5.68
3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	53	14.32
4 – Satisfied	175	47.30
5 – Very satisfied	113	30.54
Total	370	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.99.

Table 32

Satisfaction With Availability of Parking at Campsites

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Very dissatisfied	1	0.39
2 – Dissatisfied	12	4.67
3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	51	19.84
4 – Satisfied	115	44.75
5 – Very satisfied	78	30.35
Total	257	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.99.

Table 33

Satisfaction With Availability of Trash Receptacles

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Very dissatisfied	35	10.32
2 – Dissatisfied	89	26.25
3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	52	15.34
4 – Satisfied	101	29.79
5 – Very satisfied	62	18.29
Total	339	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.19.

Equestrian camping facilities were rated as moderately satisfying (M = 3.61), with a large share of respondents reporting a neutral rating (Table 34). The current $20 per-night camping fee, higher than the $15 per-night fee in 2013, drew a notably positive response, with 75.6% of respondents indicating they were satisfied or very satisfied (Table 35).

Table 34
Satisfaction With Camping Facilities for Equestrians

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Very dissatisfied	4	2.58
2 – Dissatisfied	11	7.10
3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	57	36.77
4 – Satisfied	50	32.26
5 – Very satisfied	33	21.29
Total	155	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.61.

Table 35
Satisfaction With the $20 Camping Fee per Night

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Very dissatisfied	1	0.33
2 – Dissatisfied	20	6.60
3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	53	17.49
4 – Satisfied	134	44.22
5 – Very satisfied	95	31.35
Total	303	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.99. The per-night camping fee was $15 in 2013 and $20 in 2025.

Three items related to programming and rule enforcement drew mid-range ratings. Educational and interpretive programs received a mean of 3.60, with roughly a third of respondents giving a neutral rating (Table 36). Enforcement of rules and regulations was rated slightly lower (M = 3.50), and the frequency of law enforcement patrols received the lowest rating of the three (M = 3.36) (Tables 37 and 38).

Table 36

Satisfaction With Educational and Interpretive Programs on the Forest

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Very dissatisfied	4	1.75
2 – Dissatisfied	27	11.79
3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	71	31.00
4 – Satisfied	81	35.37
5 – Very satisfied	46	20.09
Total	229	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.60.

Table 37

Satisfaction With Enforcement of Rules and Regulations

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Very dissatisfied	18	6.16
2 – Dissatisfied	30	10.27
3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	76	26.03
4 – Satisfied	124	42.47
5 – Very satisfied	44	15.07
Total	292	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.50.

Table 38

Satisfaction With Frequency of Law Enforcement Patrols

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Very dissatisfied	21	8.05
2 – Dissatisfied	33	12.64
3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	80	30.65
4 – Satisfied	87	33.33
5 – Very satisfied	40	15.33
Total	261	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.36.

The remaining facilities and services items covered trail infrastructure, information sources, and permit processes. Satisfaction with the number of loop trails (M = 3.93) was comparable to the 2013 rating, and online information sources received a mean of 3.61 (Tables 39 and 40).

Table 39

Satisfaction With Number of Loop Trails

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Very dissatisfied	3	0.91
2 – Dissatisfied	22	6.71
3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	62	18.90
4 – Satisfied	149	45.43
5 – Very satisfied	92	28.05
Total	328	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.93.

Table 40

Satisfaction With Online Information About Recreational Opportunities

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Very dissatisfied	10	3.64
2 – Dissatisfied	27	9.82
3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	69	25.09
4 – Satisfied	122	44.36
5 – Very satisfied	47	17.09
Total	275	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.61.

Outhouse accessibility for individuals with disabilities was among the lowest-rated items in the section (M = 3.26), with 26.0% of respondents expressing dissatisfaction (Table 41). Printed information sources received a mean of 3.35, with the largest share of respondents (35.0%) selecting the neutral midpoint (Table 42).

Table 41

Satisfaction With Outhouse Accessibility for Individuals With Disabilities

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Very dissatisfied	22	8.94
2 – Dissatisfied	42	17.07
3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	69	28.05
4 – Satisfied	77	31.30
5 – Very satisfied	36	14.63
Total	246	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.26.

Table 42

Satisfaction With Printed Information About Recreational Opportunities

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Very dissatisfied	13	4.59
2 – Dissatisfied	38	13.43
3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	99	34.98
4 – Satisfied	102	36.04
5 – Very satisfied	31	10.95
Total	283	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.35.

Signage was a consistent concern across the sample. Signs posting trail information received a mean of 3.44, and signs posting educational information received a mean of 3.37 (Tables 43 and 44). In both cases, roughly one-fifth of respondents expressed some level of dissatisfaction.

Table 43

Satisfaction With Signs Posting Trail Information

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Very dissatisfied	14	4.01
2 – Dissatisfied	65	18.62
3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	71	20.34
4 – Satisfied	150	42.98
5 – Very satisfied	49	14.04
Total	349	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.44.

Table 44

Satisfaction With Signs Posting Educational Information

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Very dissatisfied	14	4.46
2 – Dissatisfied	51	16.24
3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	90	28.66
4 – Satisfied	123	39.17
5 – Very satisfied	36	11.46
Total	314	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.37.

Total trail mileage was rated favorably (M = 3.95), with 75.5% of respondents reporting satisfaction or strong satisfaction (Table 45).

Figure 7. 2015. Caspar Classic Bike Race. JDSF's approach to recreation is multi-use. Mountain biking, horseback riding, mushroom foraging, running, and other events are allowed through a special use permit.

Table 45

Satisfaction With Total Mileage of Trails

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Very dissatisfied	4	1.19
2 – Dissatisfied	30	8.96
3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	48	14.33
4 – Satisfied	149	44.48
5 – Very satisfied	104	31.04
Total	335	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.95.

The four permit-related items drew a narrow range of ratings, with all means between 3.43 and 3.92. Satisfaction with the self-registration camping fee process was the highest of the four (M = 3.92; Tables 46 through 49).

Table 46

Satisfaction With Permit Process for Special Use Events

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Very dissatisfied	1	0.58
2 – Dissatisfied	14	8.19
3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	70	40.94
4 – Satisfied	55	32.16
5 – Very satisfied	31	18.13
Total	171	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.56.

Table 47

Satisfaction With Permit Process for Mushroom Picking

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Very dissatisfied	7	3.93
2 – Dissatisfied	21	11.80
3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	62	34.83
4 – Satisfied	62	34.83
5 – Very satisfied	26	14.61
Total	178	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.43.

Table 48

Satisfaction With Permit Process for Firewood Cutting

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Very dissatisfied	1	0.66
2 – Dissatisfied	6	3.97
3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	64	42.38
4 – Satisfied	54	35.76
5 – Very satisfied	26	17.22
Total	151	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.65.

Table 49

Satisfaction With Process for Self-Registration Camping Fees

Rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Very dissatisfied	1	0.55
2 – Dissatisfied	3	1.66
3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	57	31.49
4 – Satisfied	68	37.57
5 – Very satisfied	52	28.73
Total	181	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.92.

Table 50

Facilities and Services Satisfaction, 2013 and 2025 Comparison of Means

Item	*2013 mean*	*2025 mean*
Accessible trailheads to enter the forest	3.90	4.20
Areas for large groups in day use areas	4.04	3.99
Areas for large groups in campgrounds	3.97	3.93
Availability of parking at trailheads	n/a	3.99
Availability of parking at campsites	4.15	3.99
Availability of trash receptacles	3.60	3.19
Camping facilities for equestrians	3.85	3.61
Camping fee per night	3.68	3.99
Educational and interpretive programs on the forest	3.36	3.60
Enforcement of rules and regulations	3.78	3.50
Frequency of law enforcement patrols	3.69	3.36
Number of loop trails	3.94	3.93
Online information about recreational opportunities	3.37	3.61
Outhouse accessibility for individuals with disabilities	3.52	3.26
Printed information about recreational opportunities	3.34	3.35
Signs posting trail information	3.22	3.44
Signs posting educational information	3.25	3.37
Total mileage of trails	4.07	3.95
Permit process for special use events	3.68	3.56
Permit process for mushroom picking	3.77	3.43
Permit process for firewood cutting	3.78	3.65
Process for self-registration camping fees	3.91	3.92
Overall mean	3.71	3.67

Note. Scale: 1 = very dissatisfied, 5 = very satisfied. "Availability of parking at trailheads" was not asked in 2013. The per-night camping fee increased from $15 in 2013 to $20 in 2025.

Figure 8. 2023. JDSF staff maintaining picnic tables at Camp 20 Day Use Area

Satisfaction with most facilities and services remained in the satisfied to very satisfied range in 2025, and several items showed modest improvement over 2013. The largest increases were observed for accessible trailheads to enter the forest (+0.30), camping fees (+0.31, reflecting higher satisfaction with the current $20 fee), online information (+0.24), and educational programs (+0.24). Satisfaction with trash receptacles declined by 0.41, and small declines were observed for equestrian camping facilities, enforcement of rules, frequency of law enforcement patrols, and outhouse accessibility for individuals with disabilities (Table 50).

Managerial Support

Figure 9. 2025. JDSF staff biologist identifying plant species

The level of support for twelve managerial actions was assessed using a five-point scale where 1 = "strongly oppose," 2 = "oppose," 3 = "neutral," 4 = "support," and 5 = "strongly support." The highest mean ratings were observed for installing educational signs along trails (M = 4.02), creating a formal volunteer program (M = 4.01), and advanced mountain bike trails (M = 3.86), while the lowest support was observed for no development of additional recreation facilities (M = 2.94).

Two items addressed visitor-facing programs. Support for building a visitors center was moderate (M = 3.60), with a majority of respondents supporting or strongly supporting the idea

(Table 51). Support for creating a formal volunteer program was one of the highest in the section (M = 4.01), with 77.1% of respondents in favor (Table 52).

Table 51

Support for Building a Visitors Center

Support rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Strongly oppose	12	3.17
2 – Oppose	32	8.47
3 – Neutral	120	31.75
4 – Support	144	38.10
5 – Strongly support	70	18.52
Total	378	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.60. Scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 5 = strongly support.

Table 52

Support for Creating a Formal Volunteer Program

Support rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Strongly oppose	2	0.53
2 – Oppose	10	2.63
3 – Neutral	75	19.74
4 – Support	191	50.26
5 – Strongly support	102	26.84
Total	380	100.00

Note. Average rating = 4.01. Scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 5 = strongly support.

Two items related to equestrian infrastructure received moderate support. Developing horse trailer parking drew a mean rating of 3.33, and developing water facilities for horses on trails drew 3.35 (Tables 53 and 54). In both items, the largest single response was neutral.

Figure 10. 2025. JDSF 1st Annual Volunteer Day tailgate safety meeting. JDSF will work with the community to volunteer

Table 53

Support for Developing Horse Trailer Parking

Support rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Strongly oppose	10	3.21
2 – Oppose	31	9.94
3 – Neutral	145	46.47
4 – Support	94	30.13
5 – Strongly support	32	10.26
Total	312	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.33. Scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 5 = strongly support.

Table 54

Support for Developing Water Facilities for Horses on Trails

Support rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Strongly oppose	13	4.08
2 – Oppose	33	10.34
3 – Neutral	134	42.01
4 – Support	103	32.29
5 – Strongly support	36	11.29
Total	319	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.35. Scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 5 = strongly support.

Three items addressed trail designation approaches. Designating trails for multiple use received strong support (M = 3.85), while designating trails for single use (M = 3.65) and designating zones for specific uses (M = 3.54) received moderate support (Tables 55 through 57).

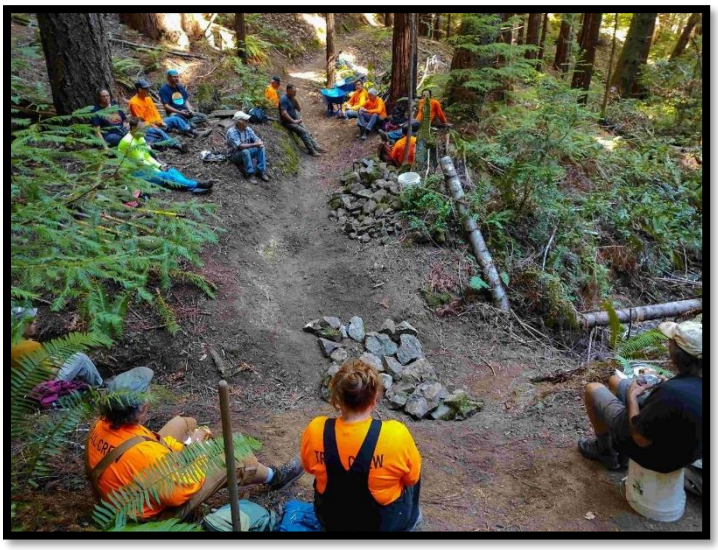

Figure 11. 2023. Rock Ford Trail Crossing – Manly Gulch Trail. Mendocino Coast Cyclists Steam Donkey Crew installing a rocked ford stream crossing.

Table 55

Support for Designating Trails for Multiple Use

Support rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Strongly oppose	2	0.53
2 – Oppose	24	6.33
3 – Neutral	80	21.11
4 – Support	190	50.13
5 – Strongly support	83	21.90
Total	379	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.85. Scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 5 = strongly support.

Table 56

Support for Designating Trails for Single Use

Support rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Strongly oppose	11	2.93
2 – Oppose	45	11.97
3 – Neutral	90	23.94
4 – Support	149	39.63
5 – Strongly support	81	21.54
Total	376	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.65. Scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 5 = strongly support.

Table 57

Support for Designating Zones for Specific Uses

Support rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Strongly oppose	11	3.02
2 – Oppose	32	8.79
3 – Neutral	117	32.14
4 – Support	151	41.48
5 – Strongly support	53	14.56
Total	364	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.54. Scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 5 = strongly support.

Support for designating an archery target shooting area was above neutral (M = 3.51), with 56.3% of respondents supporting or strongly supporting the idea (Table 58). This represents a notable decline from the 2013 mean of 4.05.

Table 58

Support for Designating an Archery Target Shooting Area

Support rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Strongly oppose	17	4.83
2 – Oppose	24	6.82
3 – Neutral	113	32.10
4 – Support	152	43.18
5 – Strongly support	46	13.07
Total	352	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.51. Scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 5 = strongly support.

Installing educational signs along trails received the highest support rating in the section (M = 4.02), with 78.7% of respondents supporting or strongly supporting this action (Table 59).

Table 59

Support for Installing Educational Signs Along Trails

Support rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Strongly oppose	1	0.26
2 – Oppose	10	2.63
3 – Neutral	70	18.42
4 – Support	191	50.26
5 – Strongly support	108	28.42
Total	380	100.00

Note. Average rating = 4.02. Scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 5 = strongly support.

Table 60

Support for No Development of Additional Recreation Facilities

Support rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Strongly oppose	41	11.71
2 – Oppose	77	22.00
3 – Neutral	128	36.57
4 – Support	68	19.43
5 – Strongly support	36	10.29
Total	350	100.00

Note. Average rating = 2.94. Scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 5 = strongly support.

This item used negative wording, which should be considered when interpreting responses (Table 60). Lower mean scores reflect opposition to halting facility development.

Three items were new in 2025. Requiring alternative trails during timber harvest received solid support (M = 3.73), as did developing advanced mountain bike trails (M = 3.86), which aligns with the growth in mountain biking participation since 2013 (Tables 61 and 62). Support for implementing or increasing fees fell near the neutral midpoint (M = 3.08), with 40.3% of respondents in favor (Table 63).

Table 61

Support for Requiring Alternative Trails During Timber Harvest

Support rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Strongly oppose	6	1.72
2 – Oppose	19	5.46
3 – Neutral	109	31.32
4 – Support	136	39.08
5 – Strongly support	78	22.41
Total	348	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.73. Scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 5 = strongly support.

Table 62

Support for Developing Advanced Mountain Bike Trails

Support rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Strongly oppose	9	2.54
2 – Oppose	20	5.65
3 – Neutral	94	26.55
4 – Support	114	32.20
5 – Strongly support	117	33.05
Total	354	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.86. Scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 5 = strongly support.

Table 63

Support for Implementing or Increasing Fees to Support JDSF

Support rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Strongly oppose	33	9.04
2 – Oppose	71	19.45
3 – Neutral	114	31.23
4 – Support	119	32.60
5 – Strongly support	28	7.67
Total	365	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.08. Scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 5 = strongly support.

Table 64

Support for Managerial Actions, 2013 and 2025 Comparison of Means

Item	*2013 mean*	*2025 mean*
Build a visitors center	3.25	3.60
Create a formal volunteer program	4.10	4.01
Develop horse trailer parking	3.80	3.33
Develop water facilities for horses on trails	3.77	3.35
Designate trails for multiple use	3.77	3.85
Designate trails for single use	3.58	3.65
Designate areas or zones of the forest for specific use	3.70	3.54
Designate area for archery target shooting	4.05	3.51
Install educational signs on trails	3.97	4.02
No development of additional recreation facilities	2.88	2.94
Require alternative trails during timber harvest	n/a	3.73
Develop advanced mountain bike trails	n/a	3.86
Implement or increase fees	n/a	3.08

Note. Scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 5 = strongly support. Three items are new in 2025.

Support levels for managerial actions showed several notable shifts between 2013 and 2025. The largest increase was observed for building a visitors center, which rose from 3.25 to 3.60. Support for designating trails for multiple use also increased slightly (3.77 to 3.85), as did support for installing educational signs (3.97 to 4.02) and designating trails for single use (3.58 to 3.65). Support declined for developing horse trailer parking (3.80 to 3.33), developing water facilities for horses on trails (3.77 to 3.35), designating zones for specific uses (3.70 to 3.54), and designating an archery target shooting area (4.05 to 3.51). The new items added in 2025 were well received, with requiring alternative trails during timber harvest (3.73) and developing advanced mountain bike trails (3.86) both above the neutral midpoint, while implementing or increasing fees (3.08) fell near neutral (Table 64).

Perceived Problems

Respondents rated potential problems in the forest using a five-point scale where 1 = "not a problem," 2 = "slight problem," 3 = "neutral," 4 = "moderate problem," and 5 = "big problem." A "don't know" option was also available. Across all items, no respondent selected "big problem," and most issues were rated "not a problem" by 60% or more of respondents. The highest-rated concerns were roadside dumping of garbage (M = 1.86), litter at trails, campsites, or picnic areas (M = 1.83), invasive plants along roadways and trails (M = 1.83), and vault or pit toilets that need cleaning (M = 1.81).

Litter and visitor conduct drew relatively low but noticeable concern. Litter at trails, campsites, or picnic areas had the highest rating among behavior-related items (M = 1.83), with 11.8% of respondents rating it as a moderate problem (Table 65). Discourteous behavior (M = 1.49) and noise from visitors or campers (M = 1.45) were both rated as minimal concerns (Tables 66 and 67).

Table 65
Litter at Trails, Campsites, or Picnic Areas

Problem rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not a problem	183	49.19
2 – Slight problem	77	20.70
3 – Neutral	39	10.48
4 – Moderate problem	44	11.83
5 – Big problem	0	0.00
Don't know	29	7.80
Total	372	100.00

Note. Average rating = 1.83. Scale: 1 = not a problem, 5 = big problem.

Table 66

Discourteous Behavior of Visitors or Campers

Problem rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not a problem	257	71.59
2 – Slight problem	50	13.93
3 – Neutral	33	9.19
4 – Moderate problem	13	3.62
5 – Big problem	0	0.00
Don't know	6	1.67
Total	359	100.00

Note. Average rating = 1.49. Scale: 1 = not a problem, 5 = big problem.

Table 67

Noise of Visitors or Campers

Problem rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not a problem	259	74.43
2 – Slight problem	25	7.18
3 – Neutral	52	14.94
4 – Moderate problem	9	2.59
5 – Big problem	0	0.00
Don't know	3	0.86
Total	348	100.00

Note. Average rating = 1.45. Scale: 1 = not a problem, 5 = big problem.

Three items asked about conflicts between different user groups. All three received ratings near the bottom of the scale. Conflicts between equestrians and hikers (M = 1.43), conflicts between equestrians and mountain bikers (M = 1.54), and conflicts between mountain bikers and hikers (M = 1.49) were each rated "not a problem" by more than 70% of respondents (Tables 68 through 70).

Table 68

Conflicts Between Equestrians and Hikers

Problem rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not a problem	248	76.78
2 – Slight problem	15	4.64
3 – Neutral	49	15.17
4 – Moderate problem	8	2.48
5 – Big problem	0	0.00
Don't know	3	0.93
Total	323	100.00

Note. Average rating = 1.43. Scale: 1 = not a problem, 5 = big problem.

Table 69

Conflicts Between Equestrians and Mountain Bikers

Problem rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not a problem	215	70.26
2 – Slight problem	21	6.86
3 – Neutral	55	17.97
4 – Moderate problem	11	3.59
5 – Big problem	0	0.00
Don't know	4	1.31
Total	306	100.00

Note. Average rating = 1.54. Scale: 1 = not a problem, 5 = big problem.

Table 70

Conflicts Between Mountain Bikers and Hikers

Problem rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not a problem	240	73.39
2 – Slight problem	19	5.81
3 – Neutral	51	15.60
4 – Moderate problem	13	3.98
5 – Big problem	0	0.00
Don't know	4	1.22
Total	327	100.00

Note. Average rating = 1.49. Scale: 1 = not a problem, 5 = big problem.

Timber-related and e-bike-related conflicts were also rated as low concerns. Conflicts between timber management and recreation use drew a mean of 1.59 (Table 71), and conflicts on trails or roads involving e-bikes, a new item in 2025, drew a mean of 1.54 (Table 72).

Table 71

Conflicts Between Timber Management and Recreation Use

Problem rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not a problem	213	65.54
2 – Slight problem	13	4.00
3 – Neutral	50	15.38
4 – Moderate problem	21	6.46
5 – Big problem	0	0.00
Don't know	28	8.62
Total	325	100.00

Note. Average rating = 1.59. Scale: 1 = not a problem, 5 = big problem.

Table 72

Conflicts on Trails or Roads Involving E-Bikes

Problem rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not a problem	229	71.56
2 – Slight problem	12	3.75
3 – Neutral	48	15.00
4 – Moderate problem	20	6.25
5 – Big problem	0	0.00
Don't know	11	3.44
Total	320	100.00

Note. Average rating = 1.54. Scale: 1 = not a problem, 5 = big problem.

Encounters with large groups on a trail received the lowest mean of any problem item (M = 1.40), and vandalism to forest resources or facilities received a slightly higher mean of 1.59 (Tables 73 and 74).

Table 73

Encountering Large Groups (8+) on a Trail

Problem rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not a problem	275	78.80
2 – Slight problem	12	3.44
3 – Neutral	52	14.90
4 – Moderate problem	8	2.29
5 – Big problem	0	0.00
Don't know	2	0.57
Total	349	100.00

Note. Average rating = 1.40. Scale: 1 = not a problem, 5 = big problem.

Table 74

Vandalism to Forest Resources or Facilities

Problem rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not a problem	227	65.80
2 – Slight problem	44	12.75
3 – Neutral	31	8.99
4 – Moderate problem	30	8.70
5 – Big problem	0	0.00
Don't know	13	3.77
Total	345	100.00

Note. Average rating = 1.59. Scale: 1 = not a problem, 5 = big problem.

Vault or pit toilet cleanliness was among the highest-rated issues in the section (M = 1.81), with 11.0% of respondents calling it a moderate problem (Table 75). Camping-related concerns such as camping too close to others, illegal camping, and parties in the forest all received ratings between 1.51 and 1.54 (Tables 76 through 78).

Table 75

Vault or Pit Toilets That Need Cleaning

Problem rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not a problem	156	55.52
2 – Slight problem	34	12.10
3 – Neutral	45	16.01
4 – Moderate problem	31	11.03
5 – Big problem	0	0.00
Don't know	15	5.34
Total	281	100.00

Note. Average rating = 1.81. Scale: 1 = not a problem, 5 = big problem.

Table 76

Camping Too Close to Other Campers

Problem rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not a problem	184	70.23
2 – Slight problem	16	6.11
3 – Neutral	53	20.23
4 – Moderate problem	6	2.29
5 – Big problem	0	0.00
Don't know	3	1.15
Total	262	100.00

Note. Average rating = 1.54. Scale: 1 = not a problem, 5 = big problem.

Table 77

Illegal Camping

Problem rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not a problem	200	65.15
2 – Slight problem	28	9.12
3 – Neutral	48	15.64
4 – Moderate problem	20	6.51
5 – Big problem	0	0.00
Don't know	11	3.58
Total	307	100.00

Note. Average rating = 1.54. Scale: 1 = not a problem, 5 = big problem.

Table 78

Parties in the Forest

Problem rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not a problem	231	73.57
2 – Slight problem	18	5.73
3 – Neutral	43	13.69
4 – Moderate problem	19	6.05
5 – Big problem	0	0.00
Don't know	3	0.96
Total	314	100.00

Note. Average rating = 1.51. Scale: 1 = not a problem, 5 = big problem.

Unauthorized vehicle use and illegal campfires were rated as low but non-negligible concerns. Illegal off-highway vehicle use drew a mean of 1.58, vehicle use on closed trails or roads drew 1.56, and evidence of illegal campfires drew 1.52 (Tables 79 through 81).

Table 79

Illegal Off-Highway Vehicle Use

Problem rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not a problem	206	65.40
2 – Slight problem	33	10.48
3 – Neutral	38	12.06
4 – Moderate problem	22	6.98
5 – Big problem	0	0.00
Don't know	16	5.08
Total	315	100.00

Note. Average rating = 1.58. Scale: 1 = not a problem, 5 = big problem.

Table 80

Vehicle Use on Closed Trails or Roads

Problem rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not a problem	209	65.72
2 – Slight problem	37	11.64
3 – Neutral	37	11.64
4 – Moderate problem	20	6.29
5 – Big problem	0	0.00
Don't know	15	4.72
Total	318	100.00

Note. Average rating = 1.56. Scale: 1 = not a problem, 5 = big problem.

Table 81

Evidence of Illegal Campfires

Problem rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not a problem	222	70.03
2 – Slight problem	30	9.46
3 – Neutral	37	11.67
4 – Moderate problem	19	5.99
5 – Big problem	0	0.00
Don't know	9	2.84
Total	317	100.00

Note. Average rating = 1.52. Scale: 1 = not a problem, 5 = big problem.

Human waste along trails or at campsites was rated near the lower end (M = 1.50), while target shooting at appliances, trees, and other objects received a higher rating (M = 1.68). Roadside dumping of garbage or abandoned vehicles had the highest mean of any problem item (M = 1.86), with 14.1% of respondents rating it a moderate problem (Tables 82 through 84).

Figure 12. 2025. Trash Clean Up – County Rd 408. JDSF has a working relationship with the Redwood Practical Shooters, who pick up trash in areas popular with target shooters.

Table 82

Human Waste Along Trails or at Campsites

Problem rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not a problem	218	66.26
2 – Slight problem	45	13.68
3 – Neutral	33	10.03
4 – Moderate problem	15	4.56
5 – Big problem	0	0.00
Don't know	18	5.47
Total	329	100.00

Note. Average rating = 1.50. Scale: 1 = not a problem, 5 = big problem.

Table 83

Target Shooting at Appliances, Trees, and Other Objects

Problem rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not a problem	199	61.80
2 – Slight problem	39	12.11
3 – Neutral	33	10.25
4 – Moderate problem	35	10.87
5 – Big problem	0	0.00
Don't know	16	4.97
Total	322	100.00

Note. Average rating = 1.68. Scale: 1 = not a problem, 5 = big problem.

Table 84

Roadside Dumping of Garbage or Abandoned Vehicles

Problem rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not a problem	163	47.80
2 – Slight problem	44	12.90
3 – Neutral	28	8.21
4 – Moderate problem	48	14.08
5 – Big problem	0	0.00
Don't know	58	17.01
Total	341	100.00

Note. Average rating = 1.86. Scale: 1 = not a problem, 5 = big problem.

Invasive plants along roadways or trails, a new item in 2025, drew a mean rating of 1.83, tied with litter as one of the more salient environmental concerns among respondents (Table 85).

Table 85

Invasive Plants Along Roadways or Trails

Problem rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Not a problem	144	48.32
2 – Slight problem	40	13.42
3 – Neutral	34	11.41
4 – Moderate problem	34	11.41
5 – Big problem	0	0.00
Don't know	46	15.44
Total	298	100.00

Note. Average rating = 1.83. Scale: 1 = not a problem, 5 = big problem.

Table 86

Perceived Problems, 2013 and 2025 Comparison of Means

Item	*2013 mean*	*2025 mean*
Litter at trails, campsites, or picnic areas	2.08	1.83
Discourteous behavior of visitors or campers	1.51	1.49
Noise of visitors or campers	1.40	1.45
Conflicts between equestrians and hikers	2.62	1.43
Conflicts between equestrians and mountain bikers	1.67	1.54
Conflicts between mountain bikers and hikers	1.51	1.49
Conflicts between timber management and recreation use	1.90	1.59
Encountering large groups on a trail	1.28	1.40
Vandalism to forest resources or facilities	2.04	1.59
Vault or pit toilets that need cleaning	2.37	1.81
Camping too close to other campers	1.60	1.54
Illegal camping	1.73	1.54
Parties in the forest	1.63	1.51
Illegal off-highway vehicle use	1.83	1.58
Evidence of illegal campfires	1.65	1.52
Human waste along trails or at campsites	1.80	1.50
Target shooting at appliances, trees, etc.	1.90	1.68
Roadside dumping of garbage	2.28	1.86
Invasive plants along roadways or trails	n/a	1.83
Vehicle use on closed trails or roads	n/a	1.56
Conflicts on trails or roads involving e-bikes	n/a	1.54

Note. Scale: 1 = not a problem, 5 = big problem. Three items were new in 2025.

Average problem ratings decreased for most items between 2013 and 2025. The greatest decrease was observed for conflicts between equestrians and hikers, which declined from 2.62 to 1.43, and vault or pit toilets that need cleaning, which declined from 2.37 to 1.81. Roadside dumping of garbage, litter, vandalism, and human waste all improved by 0.25 or more. The greatest increase was observed for encountering large groups of people on a trail, which rose from 1.28 to 1.40. Three issues were new in 2025: invasive plants along roadways or trails (1.83), vehicle use on closed trails or roads (1.56), and conflicts on trails or roads involving e-bikes (1.54) (Table 86).

Acceptability of Conditions

Respondents rated the acceptability of six forest conditions using a five-point scale where 1 = "totally unacceptable," 2 = "unacceptable," 3 = "marginal," 4 = "acceptable," and 5 = "totally acceptable." All six items were rated above the midpoint in 2025, and every item improved relative to 2013.

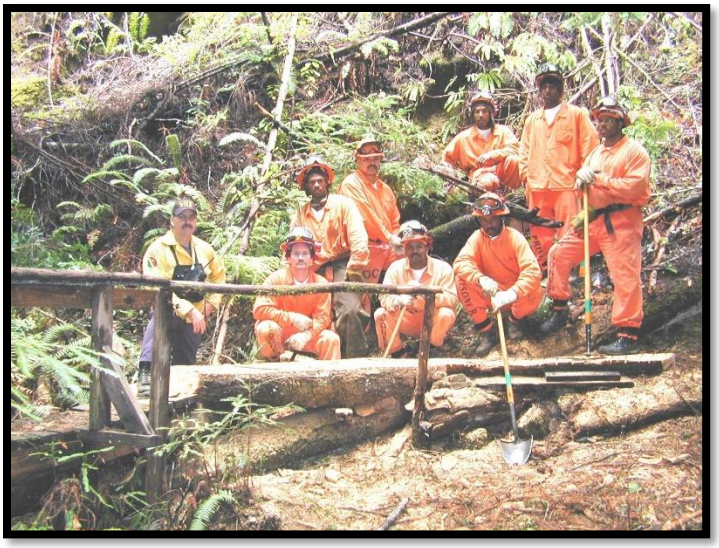

Figure 13. 2004. Parlin Fork inmate crew building a trail bridge.

Table 87
Acceptability of Trail Conditions

Condition rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Totally unacceptable	7	1.90
2 – Unacceptable	3	0.80
3 – Marginal	43	11.90
4 – Acceptable	193	53.60
5 – Totally acceptable	114	31.70
Total	360	100.00

Note. Average rating = 4.12. Scale: 1 = totally unacceptable, 5 = totally acceptable.

A majority of visitors reported being satisfied with trail conditions, with 85.3% describing them as "acceptable" or "totally acceptable." Trail conditions were rated as "unacceptable" or "totally unacceptable" by only 2.7% of respondents (Table 87).

Table 88
Acceptability of Campsite Conditions

Condition rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Totally unacceptable	5	2.20
2 – Unacceptable	11	4.80
3 – Marginal	32	14.10
4 – Acceptable	115	50.70
5 – Totally acceptable	64	28.20
Total	227	100.00

Note. Average rating = 4.10. Scale: 1 = totally unacceptable, 5 = totally acceptable.

Most visitors reported being satisfied with campsite conditions, with 78.9% describing them as "acceptable" or "totally acceptable." "Marginal" was reported by 14.1% of respondents, and 7.0% rated campsites as "unacceptable" or "totally unacceptable" (Table 88).

Table 89

Acceptability of Day Use Area Conditions

Condition rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Totally unacceptable	4	1.30
2 – Unacceptable	5	1.60
3 – Marginal	31	10.20
4 – Acceptable	181	59.40
5 – Totally acceptable	84	27.50
Total	305	100.00

Note. Average rating = 4.05. Scale: 1 = totally unacceptable, 5 = totally acceptable.

Day use areas received consistently high acceptability ratings, with 86.9% of respondents reporting "acceptable" or "totally acceptable" ratings. "Marginal" responses accounted for 10.2% and unacceptable responses for 2.9% (Table 89).

Table 90

Acceptability of Dirt and Fire Road Conditions

Condition rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Totally unacceptable	5	1.50
2 – Unacceptable	7	2.00
3 – Marginal	45	13.10
4 – Acceptable	196	57.00
5 – Totally acceptable	91	26.50
Total	344	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.98. Scale: 1 = totally unacceptable, 5 = totally acceptable.

Roughly 83.5% of respondents rated dirt and fire road conditions as "acceptable" or "totally acceptable." The rating "marginal" was reported by 13.1% of respondents, and 3.5% indicated "unacceptable" or "totally unacceptable" (Table 90).

Table 91

Acceptability of General Information Signage

Condition rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Totally unacceptable	17	4.90
2 – Unacceptable	32	9.30
3 – Marginal	84	24.40
4 – Acceptable	163	47.40
5 – Totally acceptable	48	13.90
Total	344	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.56. Scale: 1 = totally unacceptable, 5 = totally acceptable.

Signage was rated “unacceptable” or “totally unacceptable” by almost 15% of visitors, and 24.4% described it as “marginal.” Approximately 61.3% rated signage as “acceptable” or “totally acceptable.” Although the mean rating improved over 2013 (3.39), signage remains one of the two lowest-scoring items in this section (Table 91).

Table 92

Acceptability of Vault or Pit Toilet Conditions

Condition rating	*Frequency*	*Percentage*
1 – Totally unacceptable	10	4.44
2 – Unacceptable	25	11.11
3 – Marginal	58	25.78
4 – Acceptable	98	43.56
5 – Totally acceptable	34	15.11
Total	225	100.00

Note. Average rating = 3.54. Scale: 1 = totally unacceptable, 5 = totally acceptable.

About 15.5% of respondents rated the toilets as “unacceptable” or “totally unacceptable,” while the majority (58.7%) reported them as “acceptable” or “totally acceptable.” The 2025 average (3.54) represents the largest year-over-year improvement among infrastructure items compared with 2013 (3.28) (Table 92).

Table 93

Acceptability of Conditions, 2013 and 2025 Comparison of Means

Infrastructure category	*2013 mean*	*2025 mean*
Trails	4.07	4.12
Campsites	4.08	4.10
Day use areas	3.98	4.05
Dirt and fire roads	3.92	3.98
General information signage	3.39	3.56
Vault or pit toilets	3.28	3.54

Note. Scale: 1 = totally unacceptable, 5 = totally acceptable.

Other Comments Regarding JDSF

At the conclusion of the survey, respondents were invited to provide open-ended comments regarding JDSF. Twenty-one respondents provided comments, and their responses were analyzed for common themes. Four primary categories emerged: infrastructure and navigation, maintenance, safety and access, and environmental policy.

Infrastructure and navigation comments centered on a perceived lack of clear trail signage, which respondents reported made it difficult for users to find their way around the forest. There was also interest in additional bathrooms and outhouses at trailheads and campgrounds.

Maintenance comments focused on illegal dumping, including furniture and other large items, which was described as a significant issue in some areas of the forest. Respondents suggested more trash receptacles, increased funding for cleanup, and additional patrols and staffing to manage litter and dumping.

Safety and access comments included requests from mountain bikers for clearer boundaries during hunting season. Several respondents also requested more wheelchair-accessible trails, and some advocated for a shift toward first-come, first-served camping to address the problem of empty reserved sites.[1]

Environmental policy comments came primarily from local respondents. Concerns were raised about JDSF's timber harvesting practices, with some respondents suggesting that clear-cutting

[1] The JDSF is first come, first-served. This respondent must not have known that.

could elevate fire risk. Several respondents emphasized the importance of protecting redwoods and managing invasive plant species.

In-Depth Stakeholder Interviews

In addition to the on-site visitor survey, the research team conducted a series of in-depth interviews in Winter 2025 with 20 stakeholders who have established connections to JDSF. The interviews were designed to elicit a richer, more contextual understanding of how stakeholders experience and think about the forest than the intercept survey alone could provide. Participants were recruited to represent a range of perspectives, and the conversations were grouped thematically and tallied to identify the ideas and concerns that surfaced most frequently. The themes that emerged are summarized below.

Stakeholder Groups Represented. Participants represented a variety of stakeholder affiliations. These included property owners whose land is near the trail system, board members of community and recreation organizations, representatives of the cycling community and other recreation user groups, a local gun club, and general recreational forest users. Together, the participants provided perspectives from both organized interest groups and everyday visitors.

Visitor Origins and Access. A majority of interviewees reported that they travel from within Mendocino County to use JDSF, which is consistent with the residency patterns observed in the intercept survey. Most interviewees indicated that they use the forest three to five days per week. Those who live close to the forest often travel on foot or by bike, while the majority of interviewees access the forest by car.

Primary Activities. Recreation was the primary reason interviewees used the forest, with biking and walking mentioned most often. Across the recreation user groups represented, hiking, mountain biking, and mushroom foraging were the activities cited most frequently, which mirrors the activity distribution identified in the survey.

Perceptions of Recreation at JDSF. Interviewees generally described recreation at JDSF in positive terms. Common characterizations included that the forest is a “great resource available to residents” but also, in some cases, “underutilized.” Participants described the forest as a

peaceful area offering a variety of recreational opportunities, and they noted a lack of overcrowding for activities such as cycling and hiking.

Noteworthy Experiences. Interviewees described a strong sense of shared enjoyment and community among people they encountered in the forest. Representative comments included, "Anytime I come across anybody else out there there is kind of a shared positive experience because there is a shared love of being out in the woods," and, "Everybody is happy to be out there." These observations reinforce the survey finding that JDSF is valued as a setting for social and family-oriented recreation.

Knowledge of Management. Familiarity with how JDSF is managed varied widely across interviewees. Some had developed a substantial understanding through prior work in the timber industry or related fields, while others reported knowing essentially nothing about forest management practices. This range parallels the survey finding that only about half of respondents correctly identified CAL FIRE as the agency responsible for operating JDSF.

Pressing Management Issues. When asked about pressing management issues, interviewees most often pointed to timber harvesting and to communication between JDSF and the public. Specific concerns included the need to successfully put together a timber harvest plan and the ecological impact of logging, such as erosion, damage to watersheds, and the spread of invasive species. Interviewees also described a desire for more communication from JDSF regarding timber harvesting and forest management decisions and for more meaningful involvement of the local community in decision-making. A smaller number of interviewees identified visitor safety as a concern, with a particular emphasis on the need for improved signage and more consistent cleanup.

Suggestions for Managing JDSF. Interviewees offered two main categories of suggestions. The first centered on improved trail management, including more consistent trail maintenance, better maps, and clearer signage. The second focused on sustainable forest management, including reducing the impact of logging operations, advancing watershed restoration, and strengthening fire management. These suggestions are broadly consistent with the open-ended survey comments and with the managerial actions rated most favorably by survey respondents, such as installing educational signs along trails, creating a formal volunteer program, and requiring alternative trails during timber harvest.

Eye-Tracking Pilot Findings

To complement the on-site visitor survey, the research team conducted a small exploratory eye-tracking pilot with two consenting participants on JDSF trails. The pilot was designed to capture how visitors actually look at and interact with the forest environment in real time (information that self-report surveys cannot reveal) and to establish feasibility and protocol for a larger, more representative eye-tracking study in a future iteration.

During the data collection windows, participants wore lightweight, mobile eye-tracking glasses while walking along representative segments of the JDSF trail system. The device recorded gaze location, fixation duration, and scan paths as participants navigated the forest in a naturalistic manner. Recordings were reviewed frame by frame, and fixation and scan-path patterns were summarized thematically to identify where and how participants' visual attention was distributed on the trail.

Given the small sample, the eye-tracking component is treated as a qualitative, exploratory complement to the survey rather than a source of generalizable estimates. The findings are therefore exploratory and descriptive, but they captured aspects of the visitor experience that track closely with several survey results.

Across both participants, visual attention was consistently path-focused. Gaze concentrated on the trail immediately in front of the participant, with recurring fixations on obstacles such as fallen logs, exposed roots, uneven terrain, and debris that required careful footing. Figure 14 shows a representative sequence in which attention was directed almost entirely toward the trail ground.

Figure 14. Attention directed toward the trail ground.

Figure 15. Eye-tracking heatmap showing visual attention patterns on the hiking trail.

The heatmap in Figure 15, aggregated across the walking segment, reinforces this pattern. Fixation density was highest along the center of the trail and dropped sharply toward the surrounding forest, while direct visual engagement with the broader landscape was limited. This observation aligns with survey results, in which hiking was the dominant primary activity (40.0%) and trail-related facilities such as accessible trailheads (4.20) and total trail mileage

(3.95) were among the highest-rated items. The trail corridor itself, rather than the surrounding scenery, appears to have functioned as the primary setting of the visit.

Distinct ground-level features attracted sustained attention. Sword ferns drew prolonged fixations and, in one instance, physical interaction with the plants (Figure 16), indicating a point of engagement that exceeded passive viewing.

Figure 16. Focused attention on sword ferns along the trail.

Trail-condition cues also attracted attention. Debris and animal feces on or near the trail produced noticeable fixations (Figure 17). These observations align with survey findings in which the availability of trash receptacles was one of the lowest-rated facility items (3.19) and in which roadside dumping of garbage (1.86) and litter at trails, campsites, and picnic areas (1.83) were among the highest-rated perceived problems.

Figure 17. Focused attention on animal feces near the trail.

Upward and vertical scanning was uncommon. Participants looked upward primarily in reaction to unusual elements such as leaning or fallen trees (Figure 18); sustained vertical scanning was not observed. Visual attention was largely horizontal and ground-oriented throughout the walking segments.

Figure 18. Vertical scanning patterns.

Attention patterns changed at trail splits and curves. At these decision points, gaze became scattered, fixation durations lengthened, and attention moved back and forth between the available paths (Figure 19) as participants worked to interpret where the trail continued.

Figure 19. Eye-tracking heatmap of trail splits showing concentrated attention.

The scan path in Figure 20 illustrates this pattern for a single participant at a typical split, with gaze cycling among multiple points before settling on a direction. These episodes of elevated visual search are consistent with survey results and open-ended comments in which respondents described a lack of clear trail signage and wayfinding as a primary infrastructure concern.

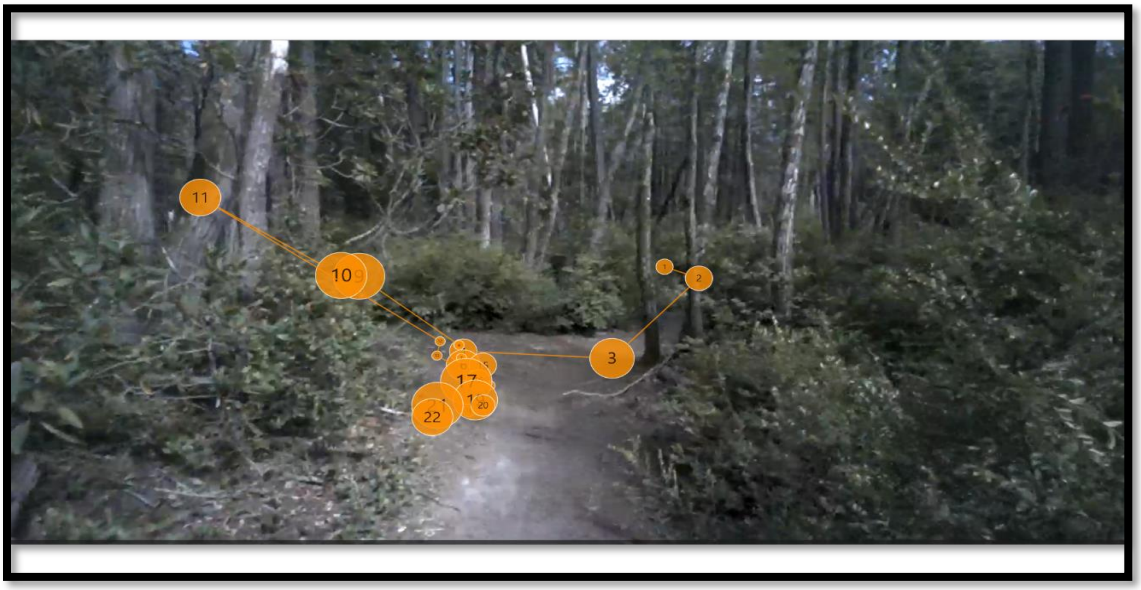

Figure 20. Eye-tracking scan path showing concentrated attention at a trail decision point.

Conclusions

Figure 21. 2025. California Department of Fish and Wildlife Salmon Spawning Tour, Camp 1 JDSF.

The 2025 replication of the JDSF visitor use survey provides an updated portrait of forest users and their perceptions that, when read alongside the 2013 baseline, reveals several consequential shifts. Visitors to JDSF display specific characteristics that should assist in the next iteration of the recreation plan for the forest, and the comparative data highlight both areas of progress and priorities that merit continued management attention.

Residents of Mendocino County and neighboring counties continue to comprise the core of forest visitation, although the proportion of California visitors from outside Mendocino County has grown. Most respondents visited with family, friends, or family and friends, and group sizes were typically small, with two-person groups most common. Road 409 End of Pavement and Caspar “Scales” Road together accounted for more than 70% of all contacts, a concentration that has direct implications for signage, trailhead infrastructure, and visitor communication strategy.

One of the most notable findings is the shift in use type. Day use now accounts for 77% of respondents compared with 47% in 2013, while overnight use declined from 53% to 23%. Planned day-use length averaged just over four hours, and overnight visitors stayed an average of 2.5 nights. The distribution of monthly and annual visitation further indicates that a minority of visitors comprise a substantial share of use, consistent with the pattern observed in 2013.

Participation in recreation remains grounded in traditional natural-resources-based activities. Hiking is the dominant primary activity (40%), followed by mountain biking (19%), camping (14%), and mushroom foraging (8%). The forest continues to serve a wide range of passive and active recreational pursuits, including wildlife viewing, photography, dog walking, plant identification, swimming, and target shooting. The growth in mountain biking since 2013 is noteworthy and aligns with respondents' support for advanced mountain bike trails and multi-use trail designations.

Perceptions of crowding decreased across both weekdays and weekends relative to 2013, although this result should be interpreted in light of the change in the crowding scale from nine points to five points between surveys. Even on the updated scale, weekend crowding is rated higher than weekday crowding, and nearly one-quarter of weekend visitors reported moderate to extreme crowding.

Satisfaction with facilities and services is broadly high. Accessible trailheads, parking at trailheads and at campsites, the current camping fee, and trail mileage all received average ratings at or above 3.9. Acceptability ratings for trails, campsites, day use areas, dirt and fire roads, general signage, and vault or pit toilets all improved compared with 2013, with the largest improvements observed for toilets and signage. Nonetheless, signage and vault or pit toilets remain the two lowest-rated infrastructure items, and dissatisfaction with the availability of trash receptacles has increased since 2013.

Respondents expressed clear support for several potential managerial actions. Installing educational signs along trails and creating a formal volunteer program received the highest ratings, consistent with the strong 2013 support for both items. Advanced mountain bike trails, multi-use trail designations, and requiring alternative trails during timber harvest all received solid support. Support for designating an archery target shooting area, while still above neutral, declined relative to 2013, as did support for horse trailer parking and water facilities for horses on trails. Support for implementing or increasing fees was near neutral, and support for halting further recreation development was low, reflecting an overall preference for continued, thoughtful development of the forest's recreational infrastructure.

Perceived problems were uniformly low, with no item rated a "big problem" by any respondent. The highest-rated issues (i.e., roadside dumping, litter, vault or pit toilet cleanliness, invasive

plants along roadways and trails, and target shooting at appliances or trees) warrant continued attention. Three issues that were not assessed in 2013 (i.e., invasive plants, vehicle use on closed roads and trails, and conflicts involving e-bikes) emerged as modest but measurable concerns that should be tracked in future iterations of the study.

Visitors continue to obtain information about the forest primarily through personal sources such as friends or family, word of mouth, and local residency. However, the growing role of digital sources, including AllTrails, Trailforks, Google, social media, and the JDSF website, is evident and represents an opportunity for JDSF to strengthen its online presence. The perception gap identified by the item asking respondents who operates JDSF, in which only half correctly identified CAL FIRE, underscores the importance of more consistent attribution in signage, online content, and trailhead materials.

An exploratory eye-tracking pilot, limited to two participants, showed that participants' visual attention was strongly path-focused, that ground-level features such as trail obstacles, sword ferns, and debris drew sustained gaze, and that trail splits and curves produced elevated cognitive load and wayfinding hesitation. These observations align with survey findings on signage, wayfinding, and trail-related concerns. The pilot also established the feasibility of mobile eye-tracking at JDSF and produced a workable protocol that provides a foundation for a possible larger, more representative eye-tracking study in a future iteration.

A few limitations should be noted. Data collection took place during three discrete windows in spring, summer, and fall 2025, and respondents who use the forest during other periods may be underrepresented. Two high-use locations dominated the sample, which enhances representativeness for those entry points but may underrepresent visitors who access the forest through less frequented locations. The change in the crowding scale between 2013 and 2025 constrains the strict comparability of crowding estimates. The open-ended comment sample was small, and while the themes identified are consistent with closed-ended findings, the comments should be read as illustrative rather than definitive. Finally, the eye-tracking component included only two participants and is best interpreted as exploratory and formative rather than generalizable.

Despite these limitations, the findings provide a current, evidence-based foundation for management and, together with the 2013 baseline, allow JDSF to make decisions informed by more than a decade of comparative visitor data.

Recreation Program Manager's Note: Current Conditions, Challenges, and Opportunities

Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) supports a wide range of recreational uses across a large and complex landscape, including campgrounds, an extensive trail system, and a road network exceeding 300 miles. The forest continues to provide a low impact recreation experience that is rustic in nature; however, the day-to-day management of recreation is shaped by operational realities that are not always reflected in survey responses. Recreation at JDSF is managed as a compatible use within a working forest and must be balanced with timber management, research, and demonstration objectives.

One ongoing challenge is maintenance, particularly related to trash, illegal dumping, restroom conditions, signage and road maintenance. While survey results suggest that visitors do not perceive these issues as major problems, much of the dumping and associated impacts occur outside of primary recreation areas and are not always visible to the public. Addressing these issues requires consistent staff time and resources across a large geographic area. There has also been discussion of forming a more inclusive "Friends of JDSF" group to expand volunteer involvement; progress in this area will depend on building interest, trust, and a shared understanding of the forest's multi-use mission.

Over the past decade, JDSF has experienced a reduction in internal capacity to support recreation management. The closure of Chamberlain Conservation Camp in 2020 and Parlin Fork Conservation Camp in 2025 resulted in the loss of 10 inmate crews that historically assisted with maintenance, construction, and other operational needs. These facilities also supported infrastructure such as a woodworking shop and sawmill, which are currently not available. This loss has reduced the forest's ability to complete both routine and large-scale projects with internal resources, including milling locally harvested redwood for campground picnic tables (47), outhouses (16), and pedestrian bridges (16), as well as providing personnel to assist with construction.

At the same time, JDSF has begun transitioning toward a more partnership-based approach to recreation management. Historically, volunteer engagement was limited; however, recent efforts have demonstrated the value of working with user groups. Agreements with Mendocino Coast Cyclists (2020) support trail maintenance and responsible for development of approximately 8.5

miles of multi-use trails, while Redwood Practical Shooters (2023) assist with periodic cleanup efforts in popular shooting areas. JDSF is also working with the equestrian community to explore a similar agreement focused on maintaining horse camps and related facilities. These partnerships represent an important step toward shared stewardship, though broader participation remains a challenge.

JDSF may also benefit from expanding coordination with regional partners, such as California State Parks, to explore a more collaborative approach to recreation management. This is particularly important given ongoing funding constraints. JDSF has historically relied on timber revenue to support operations across the state forest system; however, reductions in timber activity, combined with an uncertain long-term funding source, have raised significant concerns for long-term management. Among the most costly needs are upgrades to stream crossings, bridges, and road surfaces to standards that protect watershed health and support state- and federally-listed fish species, including steelhead and Coho salmon.

To address ongoing service needs, JDSF initiated a contract in 2024 for restroom cleaning and trash removal in campgrounds and day-use areas, with services currently scheduled through 2027. This represents a shift toward contracted services to maintain basic visitor amenities in the absence of sufficient internal support staffing.

JDSF continues to accommodate a diverse mix of recreational uses, including hiking, mountain biking, hunting, and target shooting. Managing these uses across a working forest landscape requires clear communication, coordination, and ongoing attention to user conflicts and safety considerations.

JDSF has also recognized the need to improve public outreach and communication with visitors. In recent years, the forest has dedicated staff time to outreach efforts, including the development of periodic newsletters that are made available on the JDSF website, as well as increased use of social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. These efforts are intended to provide more accessible and timely information to the public and to improve awareness of recreation opportunities, conditions, and regulations.

In addition to addressing current conditions, JDSF is taking steps to improve long-term recreation planning. The results of this survey will help inform and guide the next revision of the JDSF Recreation Management Plan, ensuring that future decisions reflect current recreation use

patterns, visitor preferences, and operational constraints. These efforts will be informed by ongoing monitoring of recreation use, facility conditions, and resource impacts.

Looking ahead, several key priorities remain:

- Addressing ongoing maintenance needs, particularly illegal dumping, trash, and restroom conditions
- Expanding partnerships and volunteer involvement to support stewardship and project work
- Improving communication and wayfinding across the forest
- Managing diverse recreation uses across a multi-use landscape
- Implementing the Trail Master Plan to guide future trail development and maintenance
- Identifying sustainable, long-term funding sources to support recreation management

JDSF remains a valued public resource with strong visitor support. The primary challenge moving forward is sustaining and improving recreation opportunities with limited staffing and funding, while addressing deferred maintenance of existing facilities.

Appendixes

Appendix A. "Other" Responses: How Respondents First Learned About JDSF

The following were reported by respondents as additional sources through which they first learned about JDSF. Counts in parentheses indicate the number of mentions where more than one respondent provided the same answer.

- Airbnb
- AllTrails (×10)
- Bike shop
- Biking
- Cycling club
- Driving
- Employed by CAL FIRE for over 25 years
- Google (×5)
- Google Maps (×3)
- Guidebooks (×2)
- Local (×4)
- Mendocino Mushroom Club
- Mendocino Mushroom Festival (×3)
- Misfit.org
- Mountain Biking Association
- Mushroom identification class
- Mushroom picking event (×2)
- Mycological Society of San Francisco (×2)
- National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA)
- Strava
- Trailforks (×3)
- Volunteers

Appendix B. "Other" Responses: How Respondents Obtain Recreation Information

The following were reported by respondents as additional sources through which they obtain recreation information about JDSF. Counts in parentheses indicate the number of mentions where more than one respondent provided the same answer.

- Airbnb
- AllTrails (×16)
- Employed by CAL FIRE for over 25 years
- Found by accident
- Google (×2)
- Google Maps (×2)
- Guidebooks (×2)
- Internet (×2)
- Mendocino Mushroom Club
- Mendocino Woodlands
- Mountain bike club (×2)
- Mycological Society of San Francisco
- Mushroom hunting
- Perplexity.com
- Resident (×2)
- Signs in campground
- Social media and Trailforks
- Strava and Trailforks
- Trailforks (×7)
- Trails app
- Tripadvisor

Appendix C. Survey Instrument

The following outlines the content and response formats of the visitor survey administered during the 2025 data collection. The instrument was hosted in Qualtrics and delivered on iPads, with paper copies available upon request.

Contact and Group Information

- Date and time of contact; location of contact.
- How many people are in your group today, including you? How many are adults? How many are children under 18?
- How many of the following are in your group today: females; males; transgender male/trans man; transgender female/trans woman; non-binary; gender non-conforming?
- Who came with you to the forest today? (single best match)

Visit and Visitation History

- On average, how many days each month do you visit this forest?
- On average, how many days each year do you visit this forest?
- During the past 12 months, how many times did you visit a forest, park, or outdoor recreation area (forests, parks, lakes, rivers, beaches, scenic areas, trails, and open spaces)?
- During this visit, are you staying overnight in the forest or are you a day-use visitor? (Overnight / Day use)
- If day use, how many hours do you plan to stay in the forest today?
- If overnight, how many nights are you staying in the forest?
- If overnight, what campsite(s) will you be using? (check all that apply): Big River Camp; Camp 4 (closed); Camp 6 (hike-in); Camp 8 (closed); Dunlap Camp; Horse Camp; Indian Springs (closed for season); Poison Oak (closed); Redtail (horse); Roundhouse; Teacher's; Tin Can; Trillium; Tilley Group Camp; South Fork 1–3; South Bend; Volcano (hike-in); Wagon; Don't know yet.

Recreation Activities

- What activities do you and members of your group usually participate in during a visit to the forest? (choose all that apply): archery; backpacking; bird watching; camping; dog walking (new in 2024); driving for pleasure on highway; driving for pleasure on dirt roads; jogging/running; firewood cutting; hiking; hike-in camping; horseback riding; hunting; mushroom picking; mountain biking; motorcycle riding; road biking; sightseeing; target shooting with firearms; wildlife viewing; picnicking; photography; plant identification; wildflower viewing; swimming.
- Of these activities, which is usually your primary activity during a visit to JDSF?

Perceived Crowding

- In general how crowded is JDSF when you visit (scale 1–9: 1 = not at all crowded, 3 = somewhat crowded, 6 = moderately crowded, 9 = extremely crowded)? Rated separately for weekdays and weekends.

Satisfaction with Facilities and Services

Scale: 1 = Very dissatisfied, 2 = Dissatisfied, 3 = Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 4 = Satisfied, 5 = Very satisfied; Don't know.

- Accessible trailheads to enter the forest; accessibility for individuals with disabilities; areas for large groups in day-use areas; areas for large groups in campgrounds; availability of parking at trailheads; availability of parking at campsites; availability of trash receptacles; camping facilities for equestrians; camping fee of $15 per night; educational/interpretive programs on the forest; enforcement of rules and regulations; frequency of law enforcement patrols; number of loop trails; online information about recreational opportunities; printed information about recreational opportunities; signs posting trail information; signs posting educational information; total mileage of trails; permit process for special use events; permit process for mushroom picking; permit process for firewood cutting; process for self-registration camping fees.

Support for Managerial Actions

Scale: 1 = Strongly oppose, 2 = Oppose, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Support, 5 = Strongly support; N/A.

- Build a visitors center; create a formal volunteer program; develop horse trailer parking; develop water facilities for horses on trails; designate trails for multiple use; designate trails for single use (e.g., only mountain biking); designate areas or zones of the forest for specific use; designate area for firearms target shooting; designate area for archery target shooting; install educational signs along the demonstration trails; no development of additional recreation facilities; restoration of the Red Schoolhouse; use JDSF for commercial logging (new); designate recreation-specific areas free from future logging activities (new); create facilities for hosts around forest to establish a presence that discourages illegal activity such as trash dumping and motorcycles (new).

Perceived Problems

Scale: 1 = Not a problem, 2 = Slight problem, 3 = Moderate problem, 4 = Big problem; N/A.

- Litter along a trail, at a campsite, or at a picnic area; discourteous behavior of visitors/campers; noise of visitors/campers; conflicts between equestrians and hikers; conflicts between equestrians and mountain bikers; conflicts between mountain bikers and hikers; conflicts between timber management and recreation use; conflicts between off-highway vehicles and other forest visitors; encountering large groups of people (8+ in a group) on a trail; vandalism to forest resources/facilities; vault/pit toilets that need cleaning; camping too close to other campers; illegal camping; parties in the forest; illegal off-highway vehicle use; vehicle use on closed trails/roads; evidence of illegal campfires; human waste along a trail or at a campsite;

target shooting at appliances, trees, etc.; roadside dumping of garbage in the forest including abandoned vehicles; invasive plants along roadways and trails (new).

Acceptability of Current Conditions

Scale: 1 = Totally unacceptable, 2 = Unacceptable, 3 = Marginal, 4 = Acceptable, 5 = Totally acceptable; Don't know.

- Overall condition of trails (erosion, vegetation loss, tree root exposure, downed trees); overall condition of campsites (erosion, vegetation loss, tree root exposure, picnic tables, fire rings); overall condition of day-use areas (erosion, vegetation loss, tree root exposure, picnic tables); vault/pit toilets; general information signage; overall condition of dirt/fire roads.

Information Sources

- How did you first learn about JDSF? (check all that apply): friends or family; word of mouth; at a hotel/motel/B&B; driving by on Highway 20; magazine; newspaper; radio; CAL FIRE website; CAL FIRE office; other website; I'm a local resident.
- How did you obtain recreation information about the forest? (check all that apply): at a hotel; word of mouth; friends or family; I just show up to recreate; I'm a local resident; magazine; newspaper; CAL FIRE website; CAL FIRE office; other website; Instagram; Facebook.

Demographics

- Gender that best describes you; marital status; age in years; highest level of education completed; approximate annual household income; racial category or categories that best describe you.
- Do you live in California? If yes, what county do you live in? If a Mendocino County resident, how did you get to the forest today (hike/walk/run; bike; vehicle; ride horse), and how many minutes did it take? If no, what state or country do you live in and, if not from California, what is your zip code?

Open-Ended

- Any other comments about JDSF?