



## July – December 2025 Program Updates

### Timber Sales – Jason Serna

#### Personnel

- A candidate for the Forestry Assistant II opening has accepted the position. The employee is currently going through the hiring process and is expected to start in early January.
- Hiring for Forestry Aides has started. The Department received over 180 applications and after the initial review, the program is scheduled to interview approximately 120 people. Interviews are planned for early December, with job offers expected in January or February.

#### Timber Sales

- AMEX THP – THP had cleared second review and was recommended for approval. Timber marking has been completed and work on a Timber Sale Agreement has begun.
- Fire Berry THP – The THP was submitted for review in mid-November. PHI is expected to occur sometime in December.
- Camp One THP – THP work has resumed. The THP is expected to be submitted in the winter of 2026.
- Camp 8 South THP – In early stages of development and submittal is anticipated sometime in the fall of 2026.

#### JDSF Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI)

- CFI remeasurements have been completed
- In total, there are 141 permanent plots that are 1/5 acre in size.

#### Fuel Reduction

- Broadcast burning was conducted on 32 acres at the Thompson Gulch VTP in October.
- Various MEU crews treated understory fuels along County Road 408 during the fall. They will continue pile burning through the winter.

### Research & Demonstration – Julie Rhoads

#### Personnel

- Caitlin Grace accepted a permanent Forestry Assistant II position in September, transferring from her Limited Term Environmental Scientist position.



*Forestry Aides conducting CFI remeasurements*

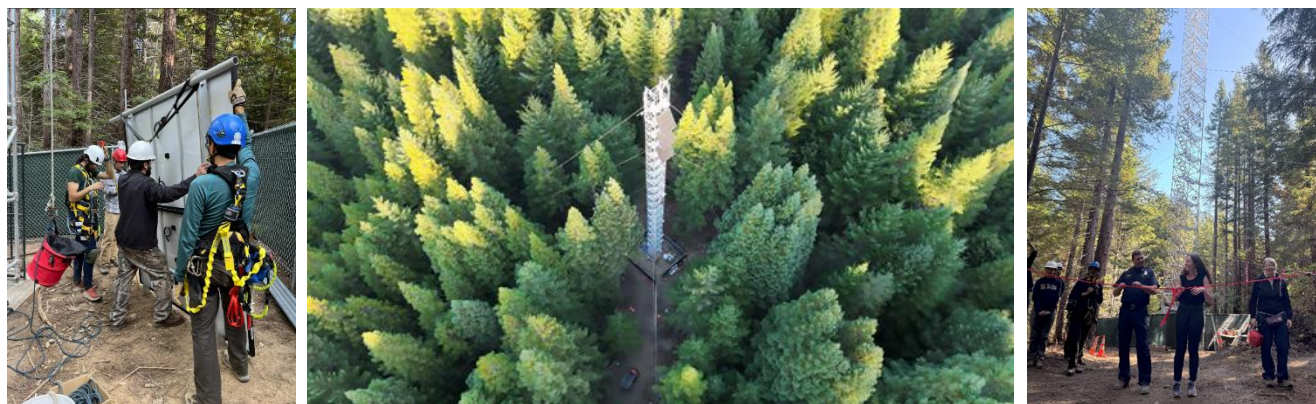


*View of Thompson Gulch Rx Burn from Air Attack-110*

- One candidate for the Forester I position was interviewed in November and we are working through the hiring process.

## Research

- Research crews collected pre-operations vegetation and fuels data at three project locations. The Forest Learning Center continues to be heavily utilized. Projects include:
  - University of Nevada, Reno- AMEX THP
  - UCCE- Fire Berry THP
  - UC Berkeley- Jug Handle Restoration Project
- Additional data collection at the Fire Fuels Mitigation Study is underway by Alejandro Anasal from UC Berkeley with UCCE staff.
- The Parlin and Mitchell Creek Flux Tower construction has been completed. UC Davis staff are completing final instrumentation. Peter Rowland, Caitlin Grace, and Liam Richardson attended the Climber Safety and Rescue training and are the designated staff for sensor maintenance assisting with data collection and other research needs. Examples from Parlin of the live data being shared:
  - Near-real-time view of the data that is sent back to the lab daily: [https://tracegas.lbl.gov/worldview/dashboard/redwood\\_parlin/MONTHLY.html](https://tracegas.lbl.gov/worldview/dashboard/redwood_parlin/MONTHLY.html)
  - PhenoCam images, with images taken at the tower top every half-hour: <https://phenocam.nau.edu/webcam/sites/jacksonforestparlin/>



*Flux Tower – Instrument installation, aerial view, ribbon cutting ceremony during 30x30 tour*

- Stacy Standish and Lynn Webb are working to produce ArcGIS StoryMaps showcasing research on the JDSF website.
- Scott Kirby and Jeremiah Steuterman collected and submitted redwood sprout material from the Fire Fuels Mitigation research areas to the Redwood Tree Improvement Cooperative in September. Sprout material was delivered to the Sequoia Orchids and Redwoods Nursery laboratory in Fortuna. It will be grown in the greenhouse with samples from other landowners and then transplanted into provenance trials in 2028.
- L.A. Moran Reforestation Center and their contractors visited JDSF between August and October for training, scouting, and monitoring of redwood and Douglas-fir cones.
- Dr. Pascal Berrill's Cal Poly Humboldt students remeasured the redwood cultivar experiment at Camp 20 during Thanksgiving week.
- Multiple limited-impact research applications have been reviewed and approved.



## Caspar Experimental Watershed

- Agency consultation for the NF and SF Caspar Pond cleanups and SF Caspar bridge replacement continues.
- Northern Arizona University, CAL FIRE, and USFS PSW staff spent a week in September collecting fuel and soil moisture data for an add-on study to the Redwood Resiliency Project. This study seeks to illuminate the spatial variation in soil moisture and fuel moisture at the subwatershed scale across a range of harvest intensity and stand conditions in the Caspar Creek Experimental Watershed.
- PSW staffing has been affected by federal funding reductions, and several were furloughed during the shutdown. Winter staffing will be supplemented with grant funding through Northern Arizona University.
- Scott Kirby continues to coordinate trail brushing and infrastructure improvements in the watershed as well as FLC maintenance.

## Outreach Events

- CAL FIRE, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, and Save the Redwoods League hosted the “Cultivating Biodiversity: Forest Management as a Conservation Strategy - Mendocino 30x30 Forestry Tour” for the 30x30 Partnership Coordinating Committee. Discussion included how forest management, including harvest, is important in fostering and maintaining biodiversity and how and why that fits within the 30x30 framework.
- UCCE & JDFS held a tour of the Fire Fuels Mitigation Project at Top of Hare for landowners and managers in July, and at Fairbanks for the Cal Poly Humboldt Master of Forestry students and land managers.
- Robert Douglas, Liam, and Jade Wilder tabled at the Paul Bunyan Days Logging Competition.
- Caitlin Grace, Lee Barr, and Julie Rhoads tabled various career days including College of the Redwoods, Howard Forest, and a UC Berkeley Forestry Club meeting.
- Other summer and fall tours included: Wilderness Wonders (FBUSD summer class), Banana Slug Walk and Roll, Sherwood Valley Environmental Program’s students from their Restoration Career Pathways Summer Camp, UC Berkeley Silviculture student field trip, and multiple Fungi Forays.

## Wildlife & Botanical Resources

- North Coast Field Biologists continue NSO and MAMU surveys across JDSF.
- Barred Owl research and removals continue with University of Wisconsin.



*Paul Bunyan Days – Logging Show*



*Leslie’s Accessible Walks – Banana Slug Walk & Roll*



*Barred owl photo captured by Danny Hofstadter, University of Wisconsin*

- JDSF has deployed ARUs for the Effectiveness Monitoring Committee funded study, “Establishing a Survey Protocol for Marbled Murrelet Using Passive Acoustic Technology.” Ten ARUs have been deployed across five sites on Russian Gulch State Park, Mendocino Redwood Company, and private property in northern Sonoma County.
- Robert Douglas is managing photo processing and card exchanges for wildlife cameras and Sacramento staff continue upkeep and data processing from the bat and bird ARUs on the Fire Fuels Mitigation Study.
- JDSF staff assisted in the deployment of stream temperature gauges at 33 locations across the forest which will log stream temperature hourly starting on June 1<sup>st</sup> and continuing through September 30<sup>th</sup>.



*Black bear photo captured by wildlife camera at the FFM study*

## **Roads & Recreation – Erik Wahl**

### **Personnel**

- Liam Richardson filled the Roads and Recreation Forestry Assistant II position in October. Liam spent five years with the Marine Corps and has a degree in Forestry from Cal Poly-Humboldt.

### **Recreation**

- Per suggestion from the JDSF Recreation Task Force (RTF), 5 field meetings have been scheduled with intent to conduct shorter meetings at field locations, followed by a longer meeting to conduct RTF business, etc. To date, field topics include 1) trail safety on proposed “Caspar Crossing” Trail, 2) Jughandle Restoration & Research Project and 3) Retail Horse Camp. On November 8, the RTF met at Caspar Scales to walk and discuss trail safety. Attendance was low, including 3 public, 2 of 5 RTF and 1 JAG members.
- In early July, campers reported bear activity and trash cans were continuously tipped over within most Camp 1 campgrounds. To avoid closing campgrounds, Erik Wahl and several Forestry Aides immediately installed 16 metal bear proof trash cans, requiring anchoring bolts on 11 existing concrete foundations and pouring concrete for the remaining 5. Immediately following installation, no bear activity was observed or reported. Remaining bear proof trash cans need to be installed in Big River, Horse Camp and Dunlap campgrounds.
- Theft and illegal trash dumping significantly increased during the summer months to present. The following are notable events:
  - Two reports of stolen camping gear in Camp 1 Campgrounds.



*JDSF Forestry Aides prepping concrete mix for bear proof trash can installation at South Fork #3 Campsite.*

- Stolen campground fees from all iron rangers, mostly from Camp 1. Thieves are using a metal object with a sticky substance and string. Welded angle iron discouraged theft, however, did not prevent it.
- The CCC's power tools were stolen in Brandon Gulch. It was suspected that thieves were on motorcycles.
- Caspar Experimental Watershed equipment has experienced minor damage and theft over the summer.
- CDFW's generator was taken within the fenced area at the Egg Collection Station, Camp 1.
- Roads 810, 900, 500 and County Road 408 continue to be "hot spots" for trash dumping.
- Students from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo completed the JDSF Recreation Survey. One of the survey goals included surveying during the mushroom gathering season. Surveys were performed in conjunction with the Mycological Society of San Francisco during their mushroom collecting foray event, November 15<sup>th</sup>. A total of 420 surveys completed, meeting the target.
- The Redwood Practical Shooters (RPS) conducted their biannual clean-up along Road 408 between Hwy 20 and the 408-gravel pit. The public was informed through social media and email prior to the event asking for participation. No participants outside of RPS membership were in attendance.

#### Restoration

- The CCC crews completed installing 110 logs at 35 sites along approximately .85 miles along Brandon Gulch. The Mendocino Land Trust was the grantee, acquiring funds through the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP).
- Work to stabilize stream bank below the Chamberlain Creek water treatment facility was completed in conjunction with large wood installed for fish habitat enhancement upstream as an additional mitigation.

#### Roads

- JDSF HFEO's performed the following notable work activities:
  - Installed new and replaced 8 ditch relief culverts along lower Road 250. Other work included some shaping and rocking where needed.
  - Abandoned lower Road 371 within the Red Tail THP. Work involved two (2) culvert in-stream excavations and installing waterbars and rolling dips. Access for recreation was maintained down to the SF Noyo River.
  - A few ditch relief culverts were installed along Road 500 associated with the Caspar 500 THP.
  - A log stringer converted to a pedestrian bridge was removed east of the Roundhouse Campground. The abutments were failing and a concern to public safety.
  - General road maintenance on Road 600/620 and opening/reinstalling waterbars along Road 202 and into firewood cutting areas.
- All watercourse crossings have been replaced along Road 720. Next step includes shaping, grading and installing an estimated 2,300 tons of road base to improve Road 720 for year-round access. Plans include performing work with JDSF HFEO's in spring, 2026.
- The Roads Program is working with CDFW to determine end of anadromy for Chamberlain Creek and unnamed tributaries crossing Road 250. Road 250 is next priority for upgrading culverts, etc.
- The JDSF road "Project List" was updated for all JDSF primary and secondary roads, capturing work performed during each period of the FMP (2008-2015, 2016-present), including road abandonment. The list is used to prioritize work based on erosion hazard potential of sites captured in the JDSF road inventory database and vicinity to streams (WLPZ's).