Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) Public Engagement Participant Agenda

Monday, October 21, 2024

<u>Location:</u> Fort Bragg Town Hall, 363 N. Main St, Fort Bragg Time: 5-7 PM

FORT BRAGG ZOOM Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87125293417

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

<u>Location:</u> Saturday Afternoon Clubhouse, 107 S. Oak St, Ukiah

Time: 5-7 PM

UKIAH ZOOM Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4949337319?omn=85332032134

| 4:30 | Doors Open/Sign In | | | | |
|------|---|--|--|--|--|
| PM | Coffee, Tea and Snacks provided | | | | |
| 5 PM | Welcome / Land Acknowledgement / Objectives / Agenda Overview | | | | |
| | Brief Overview of the Management Plan Update Process Estelle Clifton, Clifton Environmental | | | | |
| | Presentation: The Context of Management at JDSF Estelle Clifton, Clifton Environmental | | | | |
| | Community Input Small Group Activity | | | | |
| | Break | | | | |
| | Presentation: JDSF Purpose and History Kyle Farmer | | | | |
| | Participants Co-create Timeline of JDSF | | | | |
| | JDSF MP Update Process and Next Steps for Community Input | | | | |
| | Closing and Next Steps | | | | |
| 7 PM | Event Ends | | | | |
| | | | | | |

JDSF History since 1947

1947-1994

1947

1955

1961

1965

1970

1973

1976

JDSF acquired from Caspar Lumber Company

Jackson State Forest Advisory Committee established First Caspar Watershed Experiment Begins Lindquist Pre-Commercial Thin Study implemented Master recreation plan for the Forest was developed.

Pygmy Forest Reserve declared a Registered Natural Landmark by the U.S. Department of Interior A ten year impact report on road construction in the Caspar Creek Watershed was published.

Senate Bill 1063 transferred 720 acres of the Mendocino Woodlands Recreation Area to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

1979

1983

1985

1987

1989

1990

1994

The Whiskey Springs redwood commercial thinning study begins Public controversy emerged in response to Railroad Gulch demonstration projects chosen location Caspar 1 (1st Phase) Completed Caspar 2 begins with pre-project monitoring of the North Fork Timber sales along Hwy 20 and county roads, increasing controversy over harvest practices occurred.

Timber harvesting operations commenced in the North Fork Caspar, which is designated as the cumulative effects study basin.

The JDSF
Recreation Plan
was completed
incorporating a
recreation "corridor"

Surveying for the presence of Marbled Murrelets was conducted on JDSF for the first time.

JDSF History since 1947

1995-2013

1995

1997

1998

1999

1999

2000

2001

A series of protest were organized outside the door of JDSF office centered around the "Blender" timber sale in Caspar. Citizen's Advisory Committee formed Several protests and 3 arrests occurred on the forest

John Betts completed an archaeological report detailing all known cultural resources on JDSF. Large woody debris were placed in Caspar and Hare Creeks to assess the response of salmon. Pygmy Forest Reserve declared a Registered Natural Landmark by the U.S. Department of Interior

Ten flumes installed in Caspar to begin collecting baseline data for Caspar 3

New Statewide Forest Advisory Committee was appointed by Director to advise on research and demonstration priorities

2003

2004

2008

2010

2011

2012

2013

Court found that the 2002 management plan was invalid

The Demonstration State Forest Program Research Coordinator position was vacated and the research grant program discontinued due to lack of funding. Board of forestry and Fire Protection Approves the Forest Management Plan and Certifies the Environmental Impact Report. JDSF staff and Recreation task Force members attended a recreation symposium held in Fort Bragg to help improve the regions recreational economy.

Recommendations from the JAG adopted in part by the Board of Forestry into the Jackson Forest Management Plan Three pairs of barred owls were found on JDSF.

First Sudden Oak
Death site found on
JDSF along Trestle
Trail in North Fork of
South Fork Noyo

JDSF History since 1947

2014-2023

2015

2016

2018

2020

2021

2022

2023

7 permitted mountain bike events take place on the forest The 2016 Jackson
Demonstration
State Forest
Management Plan
was reviewed and
approved by the
Board of Forestry
and Fire Protection.
It completes the
2002-2008
planning process
by incorporation the
Research and
Recreation Plans.

Caspar 2 completed, Caspar 3 begins JDSF Fire
Protection Plan is
developed and
found in
conformance with
the management
plan by the JAG. It
includes mapping a
system of potential
shaded fuel breaks
to be installed and
maintained for fire
prevention and
suppression.

Day use recreation remained available to the community while camping was closed or open to reduced occupancy when local health orders required during the COVID 19 epidemic. Recreation use increased significantly due to many other facilities and public lands being closed.

South Fork Caspar Lindquist Pre-Commercial Thin Study first established in 1961 was completed -Fire and Fire Surrogates, a research collaboration between UCANR, UC Berkeley, JAG subgroup was
established to
review the JDSF
Management Plan JAG Tribal
Relations Subgroup
presented
Management Plan
Review and
Recommendations
to the Board of
Forestry

A Tribal Advisory
Council was
established by the
Mendocino Unit to
provide better
communication
between Unit
leadership and local
Native American tribes
to advance tribal
access and interests,
including JDSF.



JDSF PROJECT PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT FLOWCHART

Formal Public Comment

informal public comment: call 707-964-5674 and chat with foresters if you have questions or concerns

START

Internal long-term plan development in conjunction with Forest Management Plan (FMP)

This includes looking at research needs, road abandonments, etc.

Feedback from JAG is taken by JDSF staff to change/update long-term plan

Discuss long-term plan at JAG

Meeting

JAG meetings are noticed and open to the public and input from the JAG members as well as the public is considered

Project found to not follow FMP

Projects found to not follow FMP are required to return for revisions

Many projects are approved with recommended changes

Project found to follow FMP

JAG Meeting with discussion of proposed project

When JDSF staff has enough work to show the scope of the project, proposed project gets scheduled for a JAG meeting

JDSF staff works on project layout and CEQA documentation

Start laying out/correct project for environmental permitting process

Submission of environmental permitting documents to multi-agency review team (CalTrees)

Multi-agency review team is made up of Water Quality Board,
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California
Geologic Survey (CGS), CALFIRE
Forest Practice, and others. This process usually takes over 3 months and includes a 45-day formal public comment period.



Re-evaluate if project is viable

Approved

The environmental permitting for the project is approved

Approved projects can be amended if needed

Work begins on tasks such as: culvert sizing, rock estimates, recreation, timber marking, research layout, etc.

These are tasks that were not required in the permitting documentation



The nitty-gritty details that go into the contract



EPILOGUE

Monitoring/data collection period

(3-5 years)



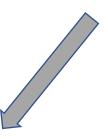
Timber Harvest Plans, along with most projects require monitoring by law and if the project contained a research component there is a data collection period



Purchaser completes
project and
environmental
permitting is closed

Usually, 6 months to 5 years

Project is bought by Purchaser



Final contract

goes out to bid

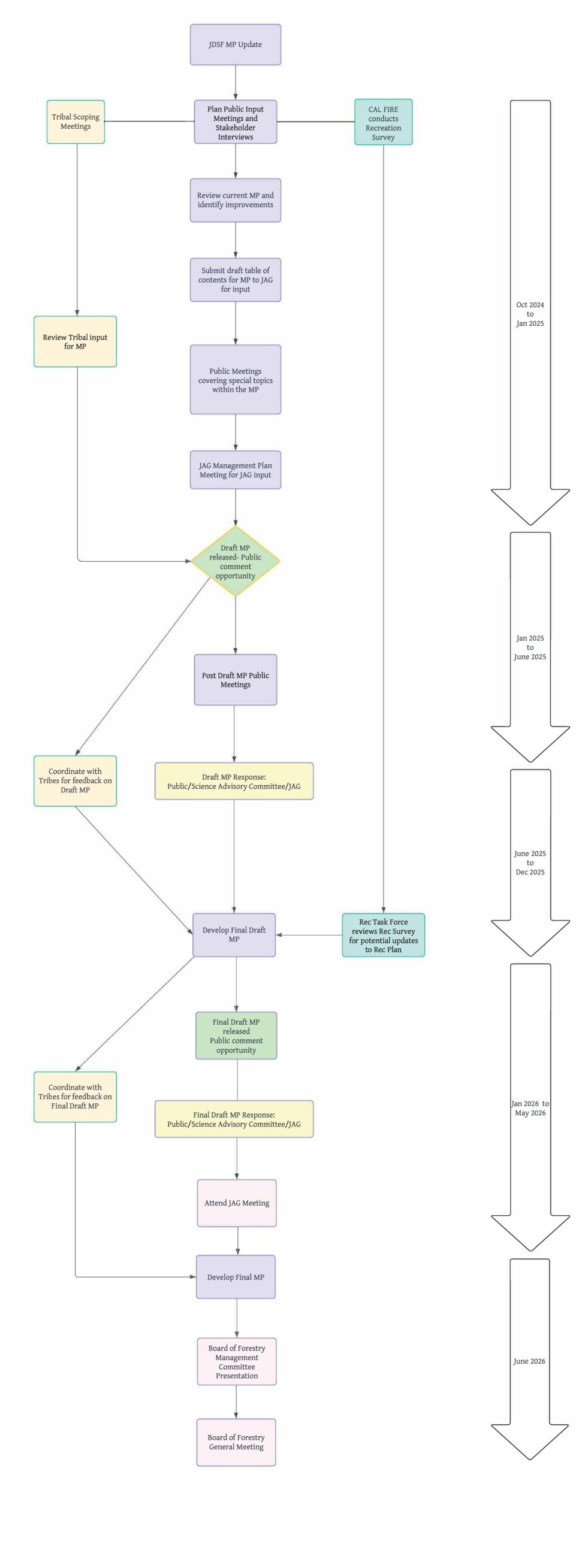
(eProcure)

February 2022

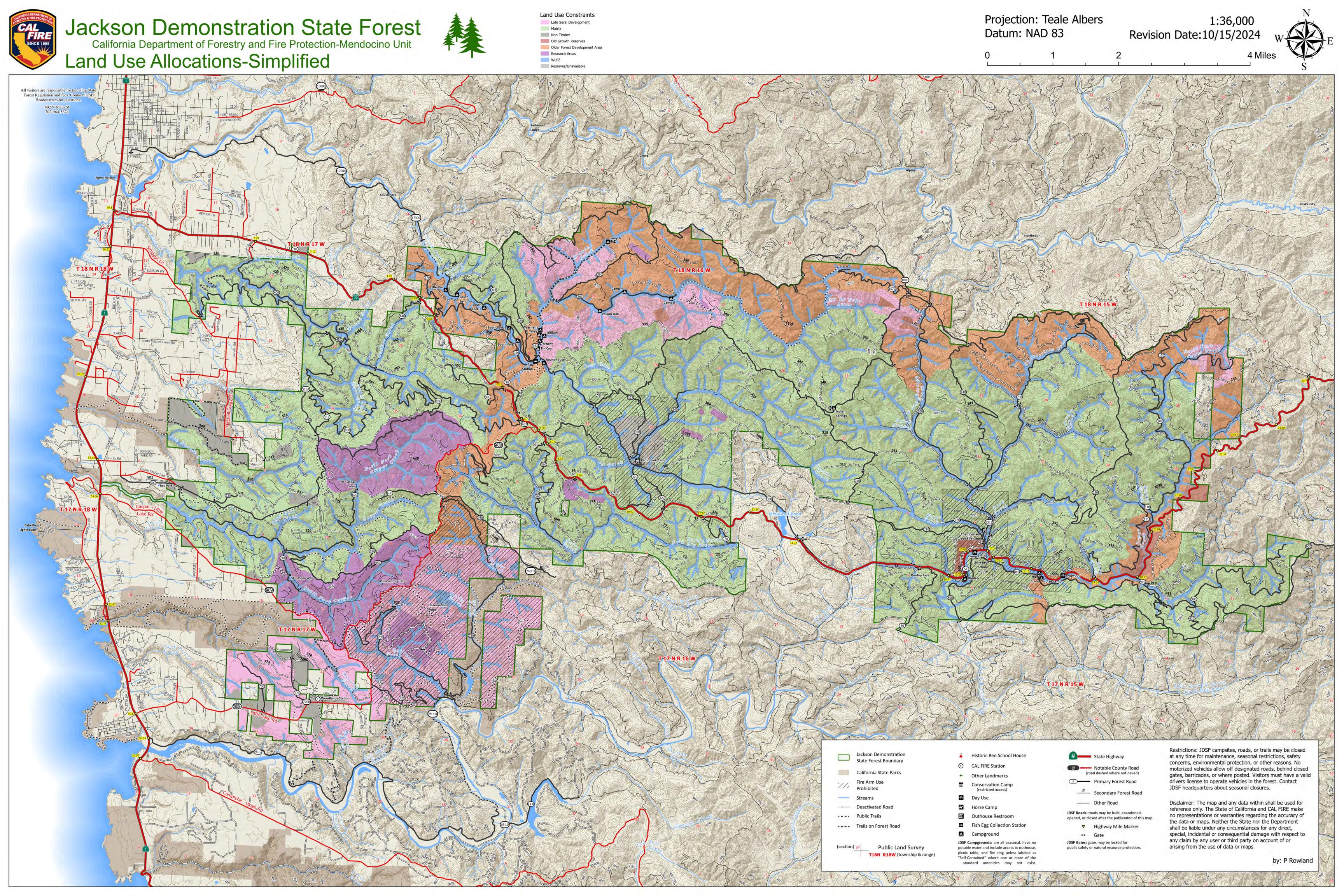
EXAMPLE

JDSF TIMBER SALE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS DRAFT

| Sustainable Forest Management Forecasting Provide annual map to Jackson Advisory Group (JAG) and Tribal Advisory Council identifying potential future management areas. Prioritize development of timber harvest plans based on feedback JAG, Tribal Advisory Council, and public. |
|---|
| 2. JAG Review Early notification to local Tribes of project footprint and goals. Early development of timber harvesting plan (THP) including identifying research, restoration, recreation, and fuel reduction opportunities. JAG Review of proposal, including field tour. JAG and local Tribal recommendations incorporated into plan. |
| JAG Approval JAG determines if project is in compliance with the Management Plan and New Vision (until management plan review is complete). |
| 4. THP Permitting CEQA required notification to local tribes. JDSF staff completes development of THP and submits for multi-disciplinary review process. Outreach to potential research partners. |
| Fre-Timber Sale Public Tour (optional) This tour will take place during development of the Timber Sale Show approved THP field work. Discuss additional contract items to include in timber sale agreement such as recreation improvements, timber stand improvements, fuel reduction opportunities, firewood sales, and aesthetic concerns. Tour is optional based on public interest and JDSF staff availability. |
| 6. Timber Sale and Operation Advertise and award Timber Sale JDSF staff conducts contract administration during operations. |
| 7. Post-Operations Public Tour (optional) May be at JAG meeting or separate. Review outcome verse identified management objectives. Review research and restoration projects Tour is optional based on public interest and JDSF staff availability. |
| 8. Adaptive Management Produce timber sale summary documenting operations, any challenges, and recommendations for future projects for JDSF records. Incorporate lessons learned into future projects. |



| JDSF Forest Zoning Land Allocations | Old Growth Reserve | Late Seral Development Zone | Old Forest Development Area | Matrix and Research Areas |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| Management Objective | Maintain forest health and resilience. | Accelerate the development of larger trees and older forest structure. | Manage forest with extended harvest rotations and higher levels of forest habitat complexity. | Manage forest with a variety of silvicultural methods to create a heterogeneous landscape and support forest research. |
| Prescribed Fire | Re-introduce beneficial fire to support ecological process. Treat surface and ladder fuels to reduce unnatural fuel accumulations from fire exclusion. | Burn prescription may be designed to create habitat features such cavities in reserve trees. | Burn prescription should prioritize consumption of surface fuels with minimal damage to tree stems. | Integrate fire in timber harvesting to stimulate regeneration and reduce fire hazard. |
| Road Management | No new roads are built | Maintain and upgrade roads and culverts to prevent sedimentation. When feasible, decommission riparian adjacent roads and relocate access roads on ridgelines. | | |
| Wildlife Benefits | Large trees with deep plated bark, basal cavities, large limbs, complex crowns, and multiple canopy layers create complex wildlife habitats that support nesting, among other activities. | Small and medium size trees will develop into large trees at a faster rate than if self-thinned. Old growth like traits are developed to promote wildlife habitat. | Tree diameter growth is accelerated by thinning. High canopy retention provides continuous "nesting" type habitat. Strategic distribution provides wildlife corridors both north/south and east/west across forest. | Harvest options include creating more open forest stands or early seral habitat with abundant forage resources while retaining vertical structures for cover and roosting. |
| Considerations during harvest tree selection | Management limited to understory vegetation management to promote stand level fire resilience. | Wildlife trees with structures such as flat tops, tuning forks, etc., are retained. Target densities of 4 snags greater than 30" are maintained. Selection silviculture shunts growth to residual trees. Canopy openings promote large branch development. | Tree selection is designed to meet objectives for both habitat creation and future timber quality. Snags and exceptional habitat trees are retained along side trees are selected for long term growth of high-quality wood products. Selection silviculture shunts growth to residual trees. | Tree selection is consistent with sustainable forestry approaches while protecting rare wildlife and botanical resources. Most defect is removed and trees with strong crowns and growth potential are retained for future harvest. Regeneration of young trees is generally an objective. Forest Management Plan gives maximum flexibility to these areas. |
| Forest Research Potential | Wildlife habitat, carbon storage, redwood genetics. | Ecological fire for habitat restoration, forest thinning for accelerated restoration, corridor ecology, disturbance resistance silviculture. | Forest restoration techniques within working forests that can be scaled to non-industrial and non-profit landowners across the redwood region. | A broad diversity of forest management activities provide opportunities for both shortand long-term research or demonstrations of novel management techniques. |
| Recreation | Popular areas for visitors based on social value. Limited opportunity for new trail development. | Popular areas for visitors based on aesthetic values. Trails development should be carefully considered to avoid year-round noise disturbance. | This is an area to encourage recreation, as aesthetic values match popular preference. | Recreation is encouraged so long as it does not interfere with research. Educational opportunities regarding forest management abound. |
| Target demographic for management demonstration | State Parks, NGOs, Private landowners capable of funding road and river restoration without income from harvest. | State parks, NGOs, Private landowners for whom restoration through active management is a primary objective. | "Average" private landowners aiming to balance restoration of road, rivers, and forest stand structure with financial needs. | Progressive industrial landowners, silvicultural researchers. |



CHAPTER 0350 - FOREST MANAGEMENT POLICIES

DEMONSTRATION STATE FORESTS

0351

GENERAL 0351.1

California's Demonstration State Forest program (state forests) has been in existence since 1946 when the first forest properties were acquired. Public Resources Code (PRC) §§ 4631-4658 provide the authority for acquisition, administration, and operation of State Forests by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). Most of these statutes were enacted in 1945 following recommendations of the Forestry Study Committee established by the Legislature in 1943. There are now eight State Forests totaling 69,596 acres as shown below:

| DEMONSTRATION STATE FORESTS | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|--------|------------------|--|--|--|--|
| State Forest | County | Acres | Date Acquired | | | | |
| Jackson Demonstration State Forest | Mendocino | 48,652 | 1947 | | | | |
| Latour Demonstration State Forest | Shasta | 9,003 | 1946 | | | | |
| Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest | Tulare | 4,807 | 1946 | | | | |
| Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest | Lake | 3,493 | 1949 | | | | |
| Soquel Demonstration State Forest | Santa Cruz | 2,681 | 1990 | | | | |
| Los Posadas Demonstration State Forest | Napa | 796 | 1929 | | | | |
| Mount Zion Demonstration State Forest | Amador | 164 | 1932 | | | | |
| Ellen Pickett Demonstration State Forest | Trinity | 160 | 1939 | | | | |

Jackson, Latour, Mountain Home, Soquel, and Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forests are working forests, actively managed by Registered Professional Foresters who focus on demonstration of commercial timber management, plantation management, ecosystem restoration, fire prevention (including non-commercial vegetation management and prescribed fire), recreation and monitoring in conformance with detailed management plans. Las Posadas, Mount Zion, and Ellen Pickett State Forests were acquired as gifts to the state and are relatively noncommercial in nature. These smaller forests are used primarily for administrative and recreational purposes, where allowed, and are managed by local CAL FIRE personnel incidental to other responsibilities. Deed restrictions preclude some uses on these forests.

To attain proper management of private timberlands and state owned timberlands in California, there is a need to investigate, develop, and demonstrate new and improved forest management methods, monitor the effectiveness of those management

techniques, and educate timberland owners and the public on the suitability and practicality of such methods and techniques. The state forests serve this purpose while contributing to the economic stability and diversity of local communities by providing forest products and outdoor recreation opportunities which sustain local employment and tax bases. Additionally, outdoor recreation is an important public benefit, and a primary objective, of several of the state forests.

The value of the Demonstration State Forest program will continue to increase as the demand for forest products, recreational opportunities, valuable wildlife habitat, and forest related science increases and as public interest in forest management practices intensifies. Demonstrations of the compatibility and conflicts involved in managing multiple use of forest land are essential as population and development pressures increase.

The state forests require a stable land base to facilitate long range planning necessary in forest land management and experiment design. The State Forest program should, at a minimum, maintain the current land base, preserve the integrity of the existing state forests to assure their continued management, and seek opportunities to acquire new holdings for the Demonstration State Forest system. Reduction of private and public inholdings through purchase or exchange is desired to facilitate more efficient management of the existing state forests. Additional demonstration forests which are adapted to meet local requirements for investigation, demonstration, and education are needed in those counties where management of private timber ownerships is challenging and no state forests exist. Lands already under ownership of the state could assist in meeting these needs through deed transfer.

In consideration of the above facts, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) has adopted the following policies to guide CAL FIRE in administering the Demonstration State Forest program and managing the state forests. (Revised and Adopted by the Board July 19, 2018, Bishop, California.)

PROGRAM PURPOSE AND LAND USE PRIORITIES

0351.2

The primary purpose of the Demonstration State Forest program is to conduct innovative demonstrations, experiments, and education in forest management. All state forest land uses should serve this purpose in some way. In addition:

- A. Timber production will be the primary land use on Jackson, Latour, and Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forests. Timber production will be subordinate to recreation on Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest, and limited on Soquel Demonstration State Forest to those operations necessary to provide funds for the maintenance and operation of the state forest and to achieve its statutory goals of PRC § 4660;
- B. Recreation is recognized as a secondary but compatible land use on Jackson, Latour, Soquel, and Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forests. Recreation is a primary use on Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest as prescribed by PRC § 4658;
- C. Demonstration State Forests may be used for CAL FIRE administrative sites when such use will benefit state forest or Fire Protection programs;
- D. Special uses primarily benefiting non-forestry and/or private interests will

have low priority. Such uses that conflict with state forest objectives are discouraged.

(Revised and Adopted by the Board July 19, 2018, Bishop, California.)

DEMONSTRATIONS AND EXPERIMENTS

0351.3

The Board, consistent with PRC § 4631, recognizes and reaffirms that the primary purpose of Demonstration State Forests is to conduct demonstrations, investigations, and education in forest management. The Board supports the emphasis and expansion of demonstrational, experimental, and educational activities on state forests. Accordingly, in the operation of state forests, CAL FIRE will:

- A. Conduct a balanced program of demonstrations and investigations in silviculture, mensuration, logging methods, economics, hydrology, resource protection, fire prevention, and recreation; directed to the needs of the general public, private forest landowners, timber operators and the timber industry.
- B. Continue to develop procedures to assure dissemination and online availability of information obtained on state forests to forest landowners, timber operators, and the general public.
- C. Integrate the Department's Forestry Assistance Program with state forest demonstration activities to more effectively reach private forest landowners and the general public.
- D. Conduct periodic field tours to exhibit state forest activities and accomplishments to forest industry, private forest landowners, relevant public agencies, and the general public. Field tours should be initiated CAL FIRE and conducted at such times and places to encourage public attendance.
- E. Seek special funding as needed from the Legislature to support specific research projects within the Demonstration State Forests.
- F. Consult with and solicit the cooperation of local, state, federal, tribal and private partnerships and other public and private agencies in conducting research and demonstrations requiring special knowledge or investigating forest management problems of mutual interest. It is particularly of mutual benefit to make the State forests available to educational institutions, and other agencies for research projects.
- F. Cooperate with the Department of Parks and Recreation in establishing forest management demonstration areas compatible with recreation for educational purposes.

(Revised and Adopted by the Board July 19, 2018, Bishop, California.)

Purposes and policies for timber management on state forests are established in PRC §§ 4631 and 4651. The Board has further adopted the following policies pertaining to management and harvest of timber on state forests:

- A. The Department will conduct regular and consistent periodic timber sales on Jackson, Latour, Boggs Mountain, Soquel, and Mountain Home Demonstration State Forests. Harvesting may be deferred in accordance with a Board approved management plan;
- B. A rotation age, cutting cycle, and an allowable annual cut will be established for each state forest from which timber is harvested. Timber harvesting schedules should be projected at least ten years into the future, and the allowable cut levels must be based on pertinent current inventory and growth data, which is derived from a robust inventory standard that is subject to periodic review.
- C. State forest timberlands will be managed on the sustained yield principle, defined as management which will achieve and maintain continuous timber production consistent with environmental constraints;
- D. State forest timber stands should be harvested on the basis of maximizing sustained production of high quality forest products. This should not preclude intermediate cuts designed to increase total yield and reduce losses from mortality;
- E. Timber production and harvesting should provide for coordination with other state forest uses. Silvicultural practices should be compatible with recreation, soil, water, wildlife and fishery values, carbon sequestration, and aesthetic enjoyment;
- F. Economically and ecologically justifiable intensified forest management practices to increase total fiber production and timber quality will be pursued on the state forests. These practices will be designed and carried out for maximum applicability (or demonstration values) to private landowners. Financing to conduct such intensive silvicultural practices should be actively sought by the Department;
- G. Timber sales should have demonstrational value and include experimental and educational aspects whenever possible. (Revised and Adopted by the Board July 19, 2018, Bishop, California.)

RECREATION ON STATE FORESTS

0351.5

- A. Recreation is recognized as a valuable stabilizer and diversifier of local economies. As such, recreation is a secondary, but compatible use, on Jackson, Latour, Soquel and Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forests. Recreation is a primary use on Mountain Home State Forest as prescribed by PRC § 4658.
- B. The recreation program on state forests will make camping and day use

facilities available to the general public, offer a degree of control and protection to the forests, and demonstrate that recreational use and timber management can be compatible land uses.

- C. Campgrounds, picnic areas, and trails will be developed on state forests, as funds become available, but only consistent with the recreational carrying capacity as determined in the respective state forest management plan.
- D. Recreation improvements will generally be rustic in character with sanitary facilities and water sources which meet public health requirements. Special attention should be given to maintaining safe and sanitary conditions in all recreation sites utilized by the public.
- E. Recreation use will be integrated with timber management activities to demonstrate how these uses can be compatible. The presence of recreationists on the state forests presents a unique opportunity to explain timber management to the general public.
- F. The state forests will remain open for public hunting and fishing in accordance with State Fish and Game Code and regulations except for specified closures required for public safety and forest protection as authorized by law.

(Revised and Adopted by the Board July 19, 2018, Bishop, California.)

SPECIAL USES OF STATE FORESTS

0351.6

Special uses of state forests will be permitted only when there is a clear benefit to the state and when such uses do not conflict with primary (uses) programs of timber management, demonstration, education, research, and recreation. Such concessions must be consistent with this policy and receive written permission of the Forest Manager. The Forest Manager may require use or concession specific permit conditions to protect state resources and promote state forest objectives.

A. Use of state forests for mining and commercial concessions is discouraged. Concessions on state forestlands means:

- 1. The privilege of maintaining a subsidiary business within the forest, or
- 2. The space allotted for such a business, or
- 3. The business itself.
- B. Examples of concessions that are discouraged:
 - 1. Those that require kiosks or other structures.
 - Those that are commercial in nature, where the operation is tied primarily to commercial revenue generation (e.g., vendors that sell souvenirs or food) instead of a cooperative relationship which promotes activities that are consistent with the compatible uses of the state forests (youth recreation camps, recreation events).
 - 3. Mining
 - 4. Those that have no clear connection to the role of the forest in timber management, demonstration, research, and recreation.

C. Use of State Forests for grazing or browsing by appropriate livestock species shall be allowed pursuant to PRC 4656. Grazing may be allowed on state forestlands with an approved permit when grazing provides a management benefit to the property (e.g. prescribed herbivory to manage vegetation, improve soil health, and/or achieve other ecological goals). This may include grazing that is in conjunction with a research project where the potential management benefits of the project are undefined or unclear and may include existing grazing agreements on land that is transferred to or purchased by the State. Grazing shall be allowed in each State forest consistent with the Forest's management goals as outlined in the Forest Management Plan.

(SPECIAL USE OF STATE FORESTS updated and adopted by the board on August 8, 2012.)

(Revised and Adopted by the Board July 19, 2018, Bishop, California.)

GRANTING TEMPORARY PERMITS FOR PASSAGE

0351.7

It is desirable to grant temporary permits for passage across state forests to forest products operators or other parties having need of them in the course of their operations where such permits do not interfere with the stated uses of state forests. Applications for temporary permits for passage may be made to the Director, who will be guided by the following principles in submitting applications to the Director of General Services for approval.

- A. Temporary permits for passage will be granted on a reciprocal basis where practicable.
- B. The state will have free use of all lands and routes over which permits for passage have been granted.
- C. The state will reserve the right to cross, recross, and parallel any such lands or routes with its own roads or utilities.
- D. Temporary permits for passage will be limited to a minimum economical width, but in no case shall exceed 60 feet except for needed cuts and fills.
- E. The grantee of any temporary permits for passage will pay the state the current market value of timber necessarily cut or damaged in clearing and construction on state lands, provided that the price and volume will be determined by the Director, and such timber when paid for will belong to the operator.
- F. Temporary permits for passage will be of such duration as to meet the reasonable needs of the grantee. Five years' non-use of any permit for passage for the purpose granted will constitute an abandonment forfeiture thereof unless the period of non-use is otherwise agreed upon.
- G. The state will be reimbursed for any damage caused to state property in the construction and/or maintenance of such, provided that the grantee will hold the state harmless from any and all liability arising from the construction, maintenance and/or use of areas covered by such permits for passage.
- H. Where it appears that benefit will result to the state, any charge for such

permit for passage may be reduced accordingly.

I. All slash and snags on the area covered by a permit for passage will be disposed of by the grantee. The grantee will have the same responsibility for fire protection on any such area as is required by the Board for fire protection on a timber operating area.

(Revised and Adopted by the Board July 19, 2018, Bishop, California.)

PERMANENT EASEMENTS ACROSS STATE FOREST LANDS

0351.8

Permanent easements across state forest lands are sometimes necessary to allow adjacent owners access, use, and development of their property. Granting of permanent easements across state forest lands can influence the development of rural subdivision residential complexes which are not in harmony with state forest management activities.

The Board does not support or encourage residential development within state forest boundaries or on lands contiguous with state forest boundaries. The following guidelines will be followed by the Director in considering requests for permanent easements:

- A. Requests for permanent easements and widening of existing easements will be discouraged, but may be considered when no other routing through non-state forest land is physically possible or if such other routing presents substantial and unreasonable difficulties or environmental damage;
- B. Requests for permanent easements will be submitted by the applicant in complete and understandable form with appropriate engineering data and plots as may be required by the Director. The applicant will prepare any required environmental documents and bear all administrative costs associated with processing this easement agreement;
- c. Requests for permanent easements will be accompanied by a non-refundable deposit to cover administrative and engineering costs involved in studying the request. The deposit will be applied toward any fees charged if an easement agreement is consummated. This non-refundable deposit will be forfeited by the applicant if for any reason an easement agreement is not granted by the state. All fees may be waived where reciprocity is a consideration;
- D. In those special cases where permanent easements are necessary for rural subdivision residential development, the easement will be accepted by the county as part of the public road system and developed to public road system standards;
- E. To prevent proliferation of roads and easements, parcels with multiownerships will be required to share a common easement across state forest lands if at all feasible. This may involve substantial increases in planning, negotiation, engineering, and cost to the original applicant;
- F. To maintain control of easement use which could lead to rural subdivision residential development, an effort will be made to formalize by agreement, any prescriptive rights to state forest roads which adjacent owners

may have acquired through uncontested use;

- G. Permanent easement requests will be considered for only the minimum width and minimum development needed for the requested use;
- H. A clause will be included in all permanent easement agreements guaranteeing the State all forest management options in areas adjoining privately developed lands without interference from the grantee;
- I. The Director will record all permanent easement agreements with the local county.

(Revised and Adopted by the Board July 19, 2018, Bishop, California.)

STATE FOREST LAND ACQUISITION POLICY

0351.9

- A. The state forests should remain intact as management units without further diversion of productive areas to non-forestry purposes. There should be no future transfers of commercial timberland from the state forests except where such transfers meet the program objectives of the state forests.
- B. Private and public inholdings within the state forests should be reduced through acquisition or exchange. Irregular property lines should be rectified by adjustment, acquisition, or exchange, where desirable, to facilitate efficient management and to avoid conflicting land uses on adjacent areas.
- C. Public Resources Code § 4631(c) permits acquisition of "Demonstration forests of 2,000 acres or less adapted to furnish local needs of investigation, demonstration, and education in those timber counties where the ownership pattern is such that management of small areas is an important problem." Existing sites administered by CAL FIRE involving significant timberland areas should be analyzed to determine if they could be utilized as Demonstration State Forests. Existing Demonstration State Forests without permanent dedicated staff should be evaluated to determine their unique values and contributions to the state forest program. Evaluation should also occur as to whether or not their sale, exchange, or transfer would result in the acquisition of property better suited to meet the objectives of the Demonstration State Forest Program.

(Revised and Adopted by the Board July 19, 2018, Bishop, California.)

STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS

0351.10

Management Plans for Boggs Mountain, Jackson, Latour, Mountain Home and Soquel Demonstration State Forests shall be prepared by CAL FIRE, with appropriate public review, for approval by the Board. CAL FIRE shall present to the Board a thorough review of each existing management plan at least every ten years. After each review, the Board may direct the Department either to continue

management under the existing management plan, to prepare amendments to the management plan, or to prepare a new management plan for public review and Board review and approval. CAL FIRE shall submit the revised or newly prepared plan to the Board within a reasonable timeframe as identified by the Board. CAL FIRE shall continue management of the state forests under existing plans, with appropriate consideration for changes in law or regulation, until amendments or new plans are approved by the Board. (Revised and Adopted by the Board July 19, 2018, Bishop, California.) (Revised and Adopted by the Board July 19, 2018, Bishop, California.)