

JDSF RECREATION TASK FORCE - MEETING MINUTES—June 14th, 2024

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Meeting Information and Attendance

Jackson Demonstration State Forest – Recreation Task Force
Wednesday June 14th , 2024; 0900– 1530
Meeting Location: CAL FIRE Woodlands Fire Station, Mendocino, CA

Rec Task Force Members in attendance: Chris Riddick, Morgan Danial, Sara Bradley, Stacy Bradley

CAL FIRE Staff in attendance: FC Ryan Blume, Forester II Erik Wahl, FA II Josh Theofanides

Public Members in attendance (*per the sign in sheet*): Marc Jensen, Keri Schwab, Marni Goldener, Lynne Paschel, Dan Sweet, Alan Mitchell, Alex Penney, Tammy Bray, Tina Griffen, Lari Shea, Jeanne Pepper, Loraine Duff, Donald Bowe, Donald Mackenzie, Linda Klee

Note: These minutes are not a “word for word” transcript of the meeting, though all points and speakers are covered.

Meeting Agenda

- Erik Wahl call meeting to order at 0908

ITEM 1: Introductions

- New RTF member Morgan Danial and Elias Steinbeck

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ITEM 2: Recreation Task Force

2a: Membership

- 2 vacant positions for the position of the Camper and Hiker position

2b: Meeting Minutes and Action Items

- Due to lack of RTF member attendance from last meeting, no motion was made but minutes and comments have been shared with the RTF
- 3 public comments received.
- Timeline discussed but recreation falls behind roads and restoration of the forest.
- Comments made of the workload if managing all forest activities.

ITEM 3: JDSF 2024/2025 Recreation Survey by CAL POLY

- Forest Tour with CAL POLY staff Keri Schwab and Marni Goldener
- Complimenting last survey using previously surveyed sites along with the addition of other locations per request from public input (End of Pavement) and removal of Rd 450 and Simpson Lane site from previous survey due to lack of expected data.
- Discussion on other high use areas that could be included and the comparison of incidental use vs intentional use.

-CAL POLY Recreation Program Professors discuss and outline their survey

- Decision of survey locations
 - Timeline of August 2024, October/November 2024, July 2025 for times of survey.
 - Data analysis will be completed, and survey will be submitted in December of 2025.
 - Conduction of student surveys, methods used to collect data and incentives for participation.
 - Interviews will be conducted with both key stakeholders and the general public use.
 - Discussion of physiological measures implemented through HR measures and eye trackers to gather deeper information on public use.
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- Discussion of trail counters and MCC willingness to provide if requested.
 - Discussion on the results from previous survey and the goals and purpose of the current one.
 - Chris Reddick discusses previous survey and the problems that arose due to the lack of information provided to the public and changes in management that most information and action fell through the cracks.
 - Discussion on the purpose of gauging public opinion of recreational use, the problems, the conflict, and experience.
 - Comments about public access to the surveys both past and previous and how preliminary reports will be conducted.
 - Stacy Bradley comments on some of the results from the last survey.
 - Suggestion from Marc Jensen about coordinating times to get the best results and participation.
 - Discussion on the online survey and the pros and cons of them.
 - Lynne Paschel asked if the survey would be conducted online and if location and times of survey would be announced. Stacey Bradley commented on how online surveys can be a problem. Cal

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Poly acknowledged. Erik Wahl commented on concerns that if exact locations are announced, folks can call others to attempt to skew results.

- Discussion on importance of random sampling to maintain integrity of the results.
- Comments made regarding reaching the amount of people that utilize the forest outside of the main hubs.
- Comments made regarding Tribble stakeholder

-10 mins taken to receive feedback on survey questions, survey locations and other stakeholders and submitted to CALFIRE and CALPOLY

Feedback received:

- Maintain similarity to past survey for comparison and reading trends.
- Measuring local vs tourist recreationalist.
- Include question about favorite part of the trail.
- Comments on desire of CALFIRE to be very concise about what the measurable goals and creating questions to get the information they want from the results.
- Erik Wahl wants there to be questions towards peoples interest in getting involved into maintaining recreational aspects of the forest.

ITEM 4: General Recreation Update

-Erik Wahl gives recreational update

- Roadwork
 - Rd 200 maintenance and the work being done with the San Francisco Boys and Girls Club, time frame for completing road work, and contribution from the club and Redwood timber to fund maintenance.
 - Rd 720 being updated and maintained to create primary accesses to the woodlands state parks area while abandoning road 700 and conducting replacement of Railroad Gulch crossing at the bottom of 720 implementing salmon passage crossing.
 - RD 500, 510/511 improvements
- All Hands work day.
 - Removal of hazard trees, cleaning Camp 20, and trash removal from 408.
 - Possible annual event with public attendance.
- Implementation of Bear Proof Trashcans
- Trail Work
 - Completed last bridge on Manley Gulch. All 5 bridge improvements completed.
 - Marc Jensen gives trail update.
 - Lindquist loops trail completed.
 - EZ-out trail development being conducted, roughly 2 more days of work to remove trails from skid roads and connect trail to Lindquist loops.
 - Removal of fall trees from trails.
 - Discussion on unsanctioned EZ-in trail seasonal crossing on anadromous streams

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- Removal of crossing near Russian Gulch unsanctioned trail with collaboration of State Parks.
 - Problems with the crossing and trail include environmental impacts and safety hazard due to people getting lost.
- Collaboration with Redwood Practical Shooters Club to clean up the gravel pit shooting range.
- Discussion on continuous problems with trash dumping and avenues to mitigate issue.
- Flux tower implementation to assess carbon, water and energy are entering and leaving the system at one time. Going to give impacts of climate change on the redwood forest.
- Fire and fuel mitigation study that is being conducted in JDSF in effort to increase fire resiliency and the research on impacts of fire. Discusses the process and locations of burning and the possible impacts to the community.
- NFSF Noyo creek large woody debris study.

- Comments about public outreach regarding informing recreational updates
- MCC requests horse users to join list serve to stay up to date on trail information.
- Discussion on creating volunteering group to improve public engagement in maintenance forest and that history of discouragement to this idea.
- Conversation of creating a new map that highlights ideal users and possible obstacles on the trail.

-Erik Wahl talks about “The Friends of Jackson Forest” and how only focusing on one aspect of use creates problems and efforts should be focused general improvement of the forest and assisting CAL and JDSF.

- Sara Bradley talks about the State Parks format of a program that could be used within Jackson to improve volunteer efforts.

ITEM 5: Camp 1 Horse Camp

-Erik Wahl discusses idea of converting Roundhouse in Camp 1 to a horse camp and the history of this conversation in past RTF meetings.

-Discussion on how Redtail campground was converted into a horse camp without any discussion from the users and the problems with horse trailer access to the site due to the roadway.

-Tour with Stacy Bradley and Tina Fabuola was conducted to determine the process of conversion, what environmental review will need to be conducted, and the cost of conversion.

-Comments on the idea of opening all campgrounds to horse campers and why there is a designation of where horse campers can go and is requested as future agenda item.

-Erik Wahl discusses transitioning other sites; camp host and trillium to make up for lost sites from Roundhouse.

- June 28th is the set date to meet up with CDFW for consultation, the CEQA exemption will be conducted by Tina Fabuola, and the archeology to be conducted by CALFIRE.

-- Discussion conducted on manure management.

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-Comments on how the original horse camp was completed through different public improvements slowly and doing the same thing for Roundhouse rather than waiting for full funding to be completed. Many members of the public express desire to designate the area as a horse camp and then working getting the infrastructure implemented since there is a lack of infrastructure at Red Tail. Erik comments on wanting infrastructure in place prior to opening and waiting for CDFW consultation.

Public Comment for Meeting

- Public Member asks about volunteering on the state forest.
 - Erik tells him to reach out to groups that have MOU with the forest and the need for improvement for campgrounds and signs can always be improved.
- Tina Fabula states that CAL FIRE must be active in developing multi use volunteer group instead of relying so heavily on private user groups.
- Discussion on the trail counsel that was attempted and the interest in resurrecting the idea.
- Discusses how not many young people are involved and the challenges of trail management.
- Mark Jensen discusses his goals as trail boss for MCC: increasing sight lines, riders etiquette, trail design.
- Dan Sweet talks about MCC list serve and the trail work information that is provided.
- Discussion on different horse-riding groups that showed interest in the development of the round house campsite.
- Member of the public asks about towers with cameras and solar panels on roads in the forest.
 - Erik comment on towers implemented to improve early fire detection.
- Stacy Bradley talks about next steps in developing roundhouse post CDFW.
- Erik Wahl talks about continued effort with Tina for CEQA, finding funding, and time as recreation is not a priority.
- Dan Sweet asks what help the community can provide to help for the completion of the camp and other projects to make it easier.
- Erik Wahl talks about the new position that was created to help patrol this area and how the lack of staff creates lots of issues to complete projects in a timely manner as well as the difficulty of funding for the state forest and CALFIRE.
- Comments on public patrol and being stewards of the land.
- Tina suggests filing the paperwork for a categorical exemption as the next step and creating an itemized list of supplies needed and expense for each item and where it will be sourced.
- Erik Wahl discusses archeological approval timeline.

Future Agenda and Scheduling

- Next meeting set at for 11/08 0900.
 - Wants presentation on project map for Horse Camp transition. **ACTION ITEM: Develop Project Map for Roundhouse Horse Camp Conversion. Also include for Camp Host Site & Tilley.**
 - Wants to look at roads, burned area, and other recreation sites.

MEETING Adjourned 1213

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Below are previous meeting minutes action items with note on progress:

ACTION ITEM: Purchase and post Trail Etiquette signs at major trailheads.

Action: A “Horses Have Right-of-Way” sign was developed with trail etiquette sign. More copies are needed and time for staff or volunteers to assist.

CONTINUE EFFORT

ACTION ITEM: Improve and place temporary signage along non-sanctioned trails that inform public that trail has not been surveyed for ecological and cultural resources. Request trail community support in replacing signage if (when) removed.

Action: DRAFT Trail Rating Criteria was developed and shared at January 18, 2024 meeting.

CONTINUE EFFORT (JDSF needs to develop map of unofficial trails).