

Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF)

- **Jackson Demonstration State Forest is a 48,652 acre working forest. For over 70 years, JDSF staff have been the responsible stewards of the Forest, practicing sustainable forest management while accommodating hundreds of demonstration/research projects and providing diverse recreational opportunities. JDSF is an outdoor laboratory that provides a coastal Redwood forest landscape where important research and demonstration can occur.**

JDSF has three major functions 1) Demonstrating sustainable forest management, 2) Providing a redwood forest landscape for research, 3) providing recreational opportunities to the public.

- **Current Project Proposals** -- Most recently proposed forest management projects are a combination of light selective thinning of the forest to both improve forest health for fire resiliency and promote late seral development (old forest structure).
- **Forest Management Plan** -- JDSF management follows a comprehensive Forest Management Plan that is a product of 5+ years of planning and public input.
- **Project Planning** -- JDSF project development takes years of planning, surveys and studies. Projects are developed in consultation with and reviewed by the Jackson Advisory Group (JAG), CAL FIRE Forest Practice, Cal Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Cal Geologic Survey, Cal Water Quality Control Board, Local Native American groups and Cal Parks and Recreation. Projects are required to comply with the JDSF Forest Management Plan, State Laws, CAL FIRE and BOF policies.
- **Sustainability** – All harvesting on JDSF is sustainable with an average 27% of the annual Forest growth being harvested. JDSF has a timber inventory of approximately 2.3 billion board feet of conifer trees that grows about 53 million board feet of timber each year. On average, JDSF harvests 14.3 million board feet of conifer timber each year which is approximately 27% of the annual growth. This conservative approach to harvesting results in significant increases in biomass (carbon sequestration) each year and over time.
- **Minimizing Disruptions to Recreational Use** – Measures implemented in project to limit disruptions to recreational use include: 1) implementing projects in phases over multiple years, 2) spreading projects out over the Forest so that impacts to several popular recreation areas do not occur at the same time, 3) where feasible establishing bypass routes so trail users have an alternative access to other trails or open areas of the Forest to use, 4) re-establishing and opening official trails as soon as possible and safe post project completion. JDSF is a 48,650 acre working Forest and on average actively manages and closes to the public approximately 2.2% of the Forest each year to the public.
- **Re-Investing in Recreation and Roads** – The design and implementation of timber harvest projects include where appropriate road upgrades and maintenance as well as improvements to recreational resources such as trails. Implementation of timber harvest projects include monetary resources to re-invest in improving the Forest road infrastructure, mitigating on-going erosion and improving official trails.

- **Recreational Resources** – JDSF provides diverse opportunities for recreational use. From mushroom collecting, recreational shooting to trail use and camping, JDSF has a recreational opportunity for most people. There are a total of 48 miles of official trails and 22 campgrounds (63 individual campsites) on the Forest. On average, 97% of the Forest is open to the public every year without disruptions from active forest management.
- **Wildfire Preparedness** – Projects incorporate fire fuels management, so the Forest is more fire resilient and in a safer condition for our neighbors and neighboring communities. Forest thinnings are designed to remove the smaller suppressed trees, treat logging slash, masticate woody debris, establish shaded fuel breaks and potentially implement prescribed fire.
- **Jobs and Economics** -- The State Forest program is a self-funded program with significant re-investment of revenues back into the maintenance of the lands and facilities. Especially roads to mitigate erosion and habitat restoration. All revenues generated by the State Forests go into the Forest Resource Improvement Fund (see PRC 4799.13) that is a special fund dedicated to finance State Forest operations and management only.

The average annual JDSF harvest of 14.3 million board feet of conifer timber provides for approximately 160 local jobs. According to the Forest Management Plan, every 1 million board feet of harvested timber relates to 8 direct and indirect jobs. JDSF has a staff of 20 full time and between 6-10 part time/seasonal employees. Every year JDSF provides tax revenue to Mendocino County. In 2020, JDSF made tax payments for in-lieu property tax and timber yield tax that was equal to \$272,000 paid to Mendocino County.

- **Demonstration State Forests** -- According to the State Parks webpage there is a total of 1.5 Million acres of State Parks lands in California and a total of 243,192 acres of “coastal redwood” State Parks lands stretching from the Oregon boarder south to Monterey County. There is a total of approximately 72,000 acres of Demonstration State Forest in California available for research and demonstration. There is a total of 51,331 acres of redwood forest Demonstration State Forests (Jackson and Sequel State Forests).
- **Landscape Allocations** – The JDSF Forest Management Plan along with wildlife protections required by State and Federal law include a set of landscape allocations of the JDSF land ownership that management is required to follow.
 - Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone Areas – 7440 acres
 - Woodlands Special Treatment Area – 2511 acres
 - Buffers for Neighbors – 875 acres
 - State Parks Special Treatment Area – 415 acres
 - Pygmy Forest/Jughandle Reserve – 860 acres
 - Old Growth Reserves – 459 acres
 - Campground Buffers – 133 acres
 - Northern Spotted Owl Core Protection area -- 2713 acres of no harvest
 - Marbled Murrelet -- 787 Acres of protection area.
 - Late Seral Development and Older Forest Structure Development – 15,801 acres