

# ***CAL FIRE Implementation of***

## **BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION JULY 13, 2011 FINDINGS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JACKSON DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST ADVISORY GROUP**

**AND**

## **BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION DIRECTION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION FOR MANAGEMENT OF JACKSON DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST**

**November 2, 2011**

This document provides the CAL FIRE Director's direction to the department for implementation of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's July 13, 2011, "Findings on the Recommendations of the Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group and Direction to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for Management of Jackson Demonstration State Forest." The CAL FIRE implementation directions are in a ***bold italic font***. All other text below is the Board's language.

***CAL FIRE will begin immediate implementation of the 2008 Management Plan according to the Board's July 13, 2011 Findings and Direction, and consistent with the additional departmental direction provided below, subject to available staffing and operations funding.***

### **I. Findings on the Recommendations of the Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group**

**The Board finds** that the Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group's (hereafter "JAG") Recommendations should be adopted for immediate implementation on Jackson Demonstration State Forest under the following conditions and exceptions:

#### **A. With regard to the Proposed Landscape Allocations:**

1. The Board adopts the landscape allocation designations recommended by the JAG to be implemented over the ensuing 40 year period and subject to modification by the Board's research governance structure. The Board also adopts the goals defined for each of these allocations.

***CAL FIRE will update its maps to recognize these designations on the landscape and the specified goals. CAL FIRE will manage these areas consistent with the designated goals.***

2. Rather than the silvicultural constraints suggested by the JAG for each of the landscape allocations, the Board will instead rely upon the Board's research governance structure, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection staff, and subject

matter experts to develop the silvicultural prescriptions appropriate to each of the allocations.

***Until new silvicultural prescriptions are developed for each allocation type by the process designated by the Board, CAL FIRE will carefully select site-specific silvicultural prescriptions consistent with the goals designated for each allocation category. In developing and applying these site-specific prescriptions, CAL FIRE will consider the JAG's recommended silvicultural prescriptions for each of the landscape allocations. Where CAL FIRE's site-specific prescriptions depart from the JAG's recommended prescriptions, staff will provide written explanation for the departure as part of the summaries prepared for each timber harvesting plan (THP).***

***CAL FIRE will annually provide JAG with a report listing and describing all THPs that JDSF plans to develop in the coming year. This report will be presented at a meeting of the JAG, where JAG and public comments will be solicited. At JAG's request, a field review of a THP will be organized to provide additional opportunity for JAG review and comment.***

3. In the area designated as the "Matrix" allocation, all silviculture not prescribed for a specific research or demonstration purpose, or reallocated by the Board's research governance structure, shall be as prescribed by the Board's Forest Practice Rules for uneven-aged management, Title 14 California Code of Regulations, Sections 895.1, 913 [933, 953], 913.2 [933.2, 953.2].

***CAL FIRE will apply this finding as described by the Board. CAL FIRE also will apply, to Matrix THPs and silviculture prescriptions, the departmental direction provided under Board Finding A.2.***

#### **B. With Regard to the Proposed Research and Demonstration Framework:**

1. The Board, in general, endorses the research-oriented management framework and governance structure concepts presented by the JAG. The Board likewise recognizes the critical necessity for a clear, well articulated research plan and supporting governance structure.

***CAL FIRE is committed to continuing to improve the research management framework of JDSF, developing an appropriate governance structure, and developing a well-articulated research plan, all with the goal of making JDSF a "world class" demonstration state forest. CAL FIRE will participate actively in the Board-defined process to these ends. The pace and scope of this work will be dictated in part by the availability of staff and budget resources.***

2. The Board expressly supports the formation of a *Redwood Region Research Consortium*.

***CAL FIRE concurs that this entity will be valuable for helping to strengthen redwood-forest-related research not just on Jackson and Soquel Demonstration State Forests, but throughout the redwood region. CAL FIRE will participate actively in the Board-defined process toward the creation and ongoing operation of the Redwood Region Research Consortium. The pace and scope***

***of this work will be dictated in part by the availability of staff and budget resources.***

3. The Board endorses the concepts of a *Research Planning Team*, *Redwood Research Group*, and *Centers of Excellence*, but does not adopt them as hard structures for implementation.

***CAL FIRE concurs with the Board on the significant potential value of these concepts. CAL FIRE will participate actively in the Board-defined process regarding these entities. The pace and scope of this work will be dictated in part by the availability of staff and budget resources.***

4. The Board assumes the responsibility for developing a research governance structure for JDSF with the assistance of the Board's Research and Science Committee, subject matter experts, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection staff, and the public.

***CAL FIRE is committed to continuing the development of a sound research governance structure for JDSF. CAL FIRE will participate actively in the Board-defined process to these ends. The pace and scope of this work will be dictated in part by the availability of staff and budget resources.***

The Board's research governance structure will bear responsibility for determining the range of stand structures necessary to fulfill the goal of creating a "world class" research and demonstration forest at JDSF. Once the Board's research governance structure has made this determination, it will then determine what, if any, modifications to the adopted landscape allocations are required.

***CAL FIRE is committed to this process for the development of stand structures needed to support a "world class" research and demonstration forest at JDSF. CAL FIRE will participate actively in the Board-defined process to these ends. The pace and scope of this work will be dictated in part by the availability of staff and budget resources.***

5. The Board does not adopt the silviculture and timber harvest guidelines proposed in the JAG's *Recommended Guidelines for Silviculture Variations in Support of Research and Demonstration*.

***CAL FIRE recognizes the concerns of JAG that led to their developing this section of guidelines "to ensure that silviculture for research and demonstration is appropriately evaluated." CAL FIRE will give consideration to the intent of these guidelines when developing or reviewing proposed research and demonstration projects which involve silvicultural treatments.***

6. The Board directs that the Research and Science Committee, subject matter experts, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection staff, and members of the public give serious consideration to the JAG's recommended silvicultural prescriptions for each of the landscape allocations as the Board moves forward with development of a research governance structure and strategic research plan.

***CAL FIRE suggested that this finding be added and appreciates that it was adopted by the Board. The JAG put a tremendous amount of difficult work into developing its consensus recommendations for the landscape allocation and***

***associated goals and silvicultural guidelines. In doing this work, the JAG explicitly balanced as best it could a large number of technical, environmental, aesthetic, social, and economic factors.***

**C. With Regard to Recreation:**

1. The Board generally supports the JAG's recommendations for recreation on the Forest, but does not support measures to shield recreationists from the realities and educational opportunities associated with timber harvest. JDSF is not a park, but is a public forest with a unique responsibility to demonstrate timber management under the State's Forest Practice Program.

***CAL FIRE understands that recreational users of JDSF should not, and indeed cannot, be shielded entirely from "the realities and educational opportunities associated with timber harvest." The 2008 Management Plan provides a significant level of appropriate measures to address aesthetic concerns related to the interface between recreationists and forest management, and these have been endorsed by the Board in Finding C.3. CAL FIRE will continue to receive input from JAG review of THPs to help guide management decisions regarding aesthetic concerns related to the interface between recreationists and forest management. Input from the JDSF Recreation Task Force also will help with these concerns.***

***CAL FIRE recognizes that interpretation of management activities such as timber harvests is an important part of the Forest's research and demonstration mission. As available resources and staffing allow, CAL FIRE will strengthen its demonstration program and associated interpretive efforts.***

2. The Board does not adopt the JAG's *Recreation Recommendation 2* in support of hiring a single contractor to perform both the recreational user survey and recreation plan. JDSF staff must conform to state contracting guidelines like any other state entity and this should be the only constraint imposed upon staff's ability to contract for outside services.

***CAL FIRE will select the best available contractors for the recreation use survey and recreation plan, under State contracting rules. If it appears to CAL FIRE that it is advantageous to hire a single contractor under a single contract for completing both the recreational user survey and recreation plan, CAL FIRE may choose to do so.***

3. The Board does not adopt the JAG's *Recreation Recommendation 4* for creation of guidelines for Timber Harvesting Plan preparation for the protection of recreation resources and preservation of aesthetics along highly traveled roads (Hwy 20, Road 350), but continues to endorse the Board-adopted 2008 Forest Management Plan's specific *Management Measures for Recreation* and mitigations for avoidance of impacts to recreation and visual aesthetics.

***Please see CAL FIRE direction provided under Finding C.1, above.***

**D. With Regard to Herbicides:**

1. The Board does not adopt the JAG's recommendations for herbicide use.

2. The Board reaffirms the 2008 Forest Management Plan's provisions for herbicide use.

***CAL FIRE will continue to implement the herbicide use provisions of the 2008 Management Plan. CAL FIRE will remain sensitive to the significant public concerns about herbicide use that exist in Mendocino County and will continue to take these into consideration as it contemplates, develops, and implements herbicide treatments.***

## **II. Findings on the Ongoing Role of the Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group**

- A. The Board finds** that the JAG has faithfully and diligently fulfilled the duties identified under item "A" of its Charter for the initial implementation period. The JAG is now directed by the Charter to continue the duties identified under items "B," "C," and "D." These duties are as follows:

**B. On an ongoing basis:**

1. **Review of ongoing implementation of the Management Plan, as requested by the Director.**
2. **When requested by the Director or Board, provide periodic recommendations on forest management policies and the Management Plan.**
3. **Review and comment on proposed even-aged harvesting.**
4. **Provide advice to the Director, CAL FIRE staff, or the Board on other specific issues as determined by the Director, CAL FIRE staff, or the Board.**

**C. JDSF Advisory Group responsibilities defined in the JDSF Forest Management Plan are hereby incorporated by reference.**

**D. The JDSF Advisory Group will inform the Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group (DSFAG) on the effectiveness of the implementation of the JDSF Management Plan.**

***CAL FIRE is committed to continuing to utilize the JAG and JAG processes as defined in the JAG Charter to receive input on the management of JDSF. CAL FIRE will continue to support and participate in JAG processes accordingly.***

- B. The Board finds** that all other duties imposed upon the JAG, including but not limited to the Board's December 8, 2010 interim period provisions for JAG review of all timber harvesting plans, are hereby complete.

***CAL FIRE greatly appreciates the lengthy, diligent, and challenging efforts that the JAG has made since its formation in 2008.***

**III. Findings on Management Direction to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and Jackson Demonstration State Forest Staff**

- A. **The Board finds** that with the adoption of the JAG's recommendations as modified herein, there is no further need for the interim management direction provisions adopted by the Board on December 8, 2010. This interim period direction is hereby rescinded, notwithstanding that any Timber Harvesting Plans already in the process of review or implementation utilizing the interim guidance provisions shall proceed in their current form.

***CAL FIRE will proceed accordingly.***

- B. The Department and its staff at Jackson Demonstration State Forest are otherwise directed to implement forthwith the 2008 JDSF Forest Management Plan and incorporate the JAG's recommendations as modified herein into the management of the Forest.

***CAL FIRE will begin implementation of the new management direction provided by the Board. The pace and scope of implementation will be dictated in part by the availability of staff and budget resources.***