

Dear Supervisors,

I am sure you are aware by now of how shocked the residents and visitors to the Jackson Demonstration Forest are to have discovered the plans to perform industrial logging in Western portions of the Jackson Forest. The Caspar 500 timber harvest plan was approved at the start of the pandemic and the public did not find out about until after it was finalized.

I am sure you know the residents of Mendocino County have valid concerns and economic interests that are relevant to the management of our forest. I am sure you are aware that while the average citizen has a right to participate, most are unaware notifications, how to submit comments, and how to find out about the narrow time windows for doing so. I am sure you are aware that the system of permitting is designed to limit public interest and participation. I am sure you are aware that this creates feelings of resentment and distrust among the public as they feel they are deliberately disregarded. This leads to protests and lawsuits and a lot of grief for everybody involved.

While this has been the historical path to serve the logging industry and the needs of CalFire, it does not serve the people of California as a whole, nor does it seem to respect the urgent need to address climate change and fire safety. The current THP's active and proposed for The Jackson Demonstration Forest do not reflect the wisdom of current science. We know that logging and logging roads can do more harm than good, that industrial logging does not always reduce the threat of fire, that endangered species and their habitat are sacrificed, the rivers are impacted with sediment affecting threatened fish. We know these plans are economically motivated and do not take in the long term needs of the forest and the people who depend on it, and the public who own it.

We can do better. The people of California and the residents of Mendocino County have a right to participate in our future and as our representatives with political standing, we need you to be our voice. This way of doing business has gone on far too long and has to change. It will change. Please be forward thinking and help us. Please work with Forestry and Timber to create a better, safer, and healthier forest and find a way for our voices to be heard.

Sincerely,

Sakina Bush

Fort Bragg, CA.