

Little North Fork THP

CALFIRE AND JDSF proposed THPs

Lee Susan RPF,

I am writing to express to you my disappointment in the extensive logging plans for Jackson State Forest, my back yard. We have owned an old homestead in Jackson State Forest since 1973 on Road 740. Everyone of those nearly 50 years we have been surrounded by the wonder and beauty of this land that will be forever changed because of the extensive proposed THPs within the western parts of Jackson State Forest.

Our family property lies BETWEEN Little North Fork THP and Old Berry (gulch) THP along that ridge top. We have lived peacefully off grid with the threatened and endangered species, we meditate among the redwood cathedrals, we have somehow survived the reckless, speeding log trucks that use the very narrow, one lane, dirt County Road 408 to haul logs to Hwy 20, so far. I feel now we are in a bullseye. This Forest is more threatened than ever.

With all the horror of the Pandemic this past year, this Forest has been a refuge of peace....one of the few safe places humanity can go and still be socially distanced. Why not preserve this Forest as it was intended for the people as recreation lands?

> Specific to Little North Fork THP:

> The Woodlands property was deeded to the State on condition that it be used as a Recreational Area in perpetuity. Adjoining trails like Eagles Roost, Ripper Riparian Nature Trail, Old Jeep Trail, Mellow Loop and Steam Donkey, aka the Ridge trail, some of which were constructed specifically for the use of campers, and will be affected by this THP. While mitigation is said to include trail restoration after the timber harvest, there is no guarantee that this will be done, and the forest that these trails currently pass through will be irretrievably altered.

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> The Coast Redwoods to be logged are second growth Redwood. Many of these are likely somewhere around 80 years old. Second growth redwood is rare. The woodlands is a historic park, the last remaining Recreational Area in close to its original condition. Its features are the hand crafted buildings, and the magnificent forest that was once here. Protecting and preserving the buildings and a reasonable protected forest buffer around them is the right way to manage this park. The ~700 acres allocated to the State Park is not enough. A CDF Special Treatment Area that extends to Road 408 on the west, and to the Conservancy and the Big River parcels on the east currently protects the camp's springs and nature trails, and must be respected, and understood to be a timber harvest free zone.

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> Because this forest has not been logged for a long time some old growth species are slowly returning to the Woodland redwood forest. The THP outlines some of the better known species

including mitigation for the endangered Marbled murrelet. But the Woodlands has been a site for naturalists for decades. San Francisco State University ran a field campus in the Woodlands in the 1970's. Mushroom clubs have stayed here. There are lesser known species, like *Pimotheca*, a spider for which the Woodlands is the type locality, that get no mention in the THP. Countless papers have been written about this rare 2nd growth redwood habitat. It is research that can be built on if the habitat is not destroyed.

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> The Woodlands parcel and the surrounding Special Treatment Area "should" be managed to promote late seral development. This is a long term forestry practice intended to promote the return of mature forests. Largely the forest is left alone except for occasional minor thinning of small trees which crowd the big ones in order to help facilitate the growth of the large trees. As a Demonstration forest area, this sort of forestry practice seems like it would be in line with the research aspect of a demonstration forest, at the same time it protects and incorporates a heavily used recreation area in its midst. This would be in line with the terms California accepted when it took on control and management of this property from the federal government.

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> The unique microclimate of the Mendocino woodlands depends on a sizable body of large tree forest. The State Park parcel is just enough to protect the physical roads & buildings. Maintaining the microclimate depends on maintaining the large trees in the Special Treatment Area.

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> Stream water quality is important. While the THP says it will do "mitigation" to ensure that silt from road building and heavy equipment within a few hundred feet of the creek, will not contaminate the creek, the best way to ensure that these hillsides are maintained is to stay away from the Special Treatment Area. Jackson State forest is large and there are other places further away from historical buildings, heavily used Recreation Areas, endangered animal habitat and salmon spawning grounds that can be logged. Logging next to the Woodlands is not conservation or preservation of a unique heritage site.

Barbara Sochacki

Old Mill Farm