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Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
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RE: CAL FIRE's Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF)

Dear Mendocino County Supervisors,

After 30 years of working in forest management, I am very fortunate to have retired from CAL FIRE and the JDSF Forest Manager position. As the past forest manager, Registered Professional Forester (RPF), and conservationist, I am deeply concerned about the Mendocino Trail Steward's efforts to create a Forest Reserve by removing almost 50% (20,000 acres) of JDSF's land base.

Although the details of management may change, opportunities and challenges and conflict have been a part of forestry since its inception. JDSF is truly a unique redwood forest and CAL FIRE and many public members worked actively for more than a decade to produce a management plan that balances the needs of the ecosystem (flora, fauna and people). Forest management requires ongoing long term planning, long beyond the life of an individual. At least 50% of the JDSF is currently being managed for a late seral and/or large tree condition. Specifically with the intention to maintain older forest conditions and the fauna that resides therein while increasing carbon sequestration, beauty of large old trees, and recreational opportunities.

Research
JDSF provides unique opportunities for redwood management research. It is increasingly important that sustainable management that includes timber harvest, ecosystem health, fire and drought resilience, and educational and recreation opportunities be quantified and demonstrated to the people. JDSF and the USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station have one of the longest running (60 years) and largest cooperative paired watershed studies. Research activities associated with this cooperative project have contributed to more than hundreds of publications as well as trained hundreds of scientists.

Recreation
As an avid mountain bike rider who routinely rides in JDSF three times/week (~60 miles) and participates with the local mountain biking club in trail maintenance, I am intimately aware of the upcoming short-term impact to recreational trails and thereby conflict that arises with active management (*i.e.,* timber harvesting, road decommissioning, research closures, etc.). JDSF is making every effort to balance its long-term goals; thus, sporadic trail closures must occur, but will be re-opened within 1-3 years. Recreational opportunities will exist as campgrounds will be

minimally, if at all affected, and there are numerous trails and miles of roads that are open to the public.

Fire Resilience
Unmanaged forests are at higher fire risks than managed. Active forest management, including fuels reduction and thinning is necessary, in conjunction with or as a surrogate for prescribed fire, to improve forest stand health and resiliency to drought, but also maintains a network of roads. Healthier forests that can be accessed for firefighting efforts aids in fire control activities. These maintained roads also facilitate outdoor recreation.

Sustainable Economy
The fact that outdoor recreation provides income to communities should be taken in context with all that land base and surrounding area have to offer. Mendocino State Parks manages approximately 8,000 acres of redwood forest in Mendocino County. Many of the recreational studies associated with mountain biking are based in areas where there is not an option (e.g. desert) for sustainable resource management. Local jobs associated with tourism do not offer similar standards of living that can be obtained while working in the logging industry. Additionally, economic and ecological impacts to Mendocino County's timber-based infrastructure should be considered as JDSF annually provides high quality logs to the 2-3 remaining mills in the County. If another mill closure occurs, small landowners may find it increasingly difficult to keep their forestland and/or manage it for increased resilience.

Carbon Sequestration
JDSF's forest inventory has been increasing since the CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection purchased and began managing the property in 1947. Annual tree growth is now 65 MMBF and harvest is approximately 20 MMBF; thus, the JDSF harvests less than 30% of annual tree growth. Old growth trees are protected from harvest.

In a time when improved forest management is critical due to global warming and increasing population, changing the priority from a unique research forest to a designation that prioritizes recreation threatens not only the resiliency of the JDSF and the forests in the county, but would ultimately threaten JDSF's high recreation-related values as well as opportunities for increasing carbon sequestration. Maintaining all of Jackson Demonstration State Forest as a living laboratory to investigate wildfire and carbon benefits of managed forests is integral to restoring California forests.

Sincerely,
Pamela Linstedt

Pamela Linstedt
Registered Professional Forester #2508

ECC: Thom Porter, CALFIRE Director, thomas.porter@fire.ca.gov