

Dear Chair Gjerde, Supervisor Williams, Supervisor McGourty, Supervisor Mulheren, and Supervisor Haschak.

I support the resolution requesting a scientific review of Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF).

I suspect that such a review will discover that, in large part, JDSF is a well-managed forest. Among other factors, JDSF already takes climate change and wildfire resiliency into consideration with regards to the active management of the Forest.

Publicly, I have largely remained silent on this matter.

However, since some of you know me professionally as well as personally, and therefore my character and my values, I wanted to give you my input on the Resolution and a brief look into my JDSF experience.

As a member of the JDSF Jackson Advisory Group (JAG) for upwards of 10 years, I have witnessed first hand the intense dedication of JDSF's staff to the sustainable management of the Forest. Being on the JAG has been incredibly rewarding. I refer to the JAG meetings as regular "geek sessions," often resulting in long, long discussions diving deeply on fairly esoteric topics. I have always encouraged members of the public to join these geek sessions.

As a recreation representative on the JAG, my questions and constructive commentary have always been regarded respectfully, and quite often resulting in changes to conceptual THPs that are being pondered in high-recreation areas. Through discussions with JDSF staff (sometimes even directly with a contracted Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) Anderson Logging), we have been able to incorporate into the operations minimal disruption to recreation; sometimes this results in a highly nuanced choreography of trail closures, trail restoration - if impacted - and temporary and/or permanent trail bypasses if necessary. Often, these discussions begin at a JAG meeting (or a JDSF Recreation Task Force meeting with a trail representative) and then continue well beyond in order to develop that nuanced choreography and potential trail improvements.

Keep in mind that the JAG is advisory only, similar to other community advisory groups. For anyone interested in affecting major changes that go beyond the current Forest Management Plan, I recommend that interested members of the public make public comment to the CalFire Board of Forestry at their monthly meetings. The BoF directs CalFire staff much as the County Board of Supervisors directs County staff.

All organizations, including mine, have room for improvement. A good organization is adaptive, embracing education and change. I have found JDSF staff to be very receptive to community input, and they do their best to accommodate change as fits within the Forest Management Plan (FMP), incorporating future changes into the FMP during its update cycle. As best I understand, the last Forest Manager, Mike Powers, had been creating a good-sized list of improvements that he wanted to include in the next FMP update, which is presented to the JAG for review. I look forward to learning what those edits might be, encouraging the next Forest Manager to reference Mr. Powers' notes.

I appreciate the time that you have taken to read my commentary.

Thank you for the hard work that you do, balancing the concerns of such a wide variety of community members.

All the best,
Amy