



Mendocino County Farm Bureau

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Affiliated with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation

November 13, 2021

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

Via Email: bos@mendocinocounty.org

RE: Agenda Item 4A) Discussion and Possible Action Including Adoption of Resolution Requesting Scientific Review of Jackson Demonstration State Forest

Dear Chair Gjerde and Board Members,

The Mendocino County Farm Bureau (MCFB) is a non-governmental, non-profit, voluntary membership, advocacy group whose purpose is to protect and promote agricultural interests throughout the county and to find solutions to the problems facing agricultural businesses and the rural community. MCFB would like to submit the following comments for agenda item 4A.

Forest Carbon Sequestration

- Working forests and forest products have been, and will continue to be, important contributors to carbon sequestration.
- Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) currently incorporates management practices and research related to carbon sequestration.
- JDSF is currently aligned with the state's climate goals, as outlined in CAL FIRE's letter to the Board on this topic.

Public Process

- The introduction of this Board item and related resolution should have evolved through a more transparent process that allowed for conversation between elected officials, state agencies, JDSF management, forestry professionals and the public.
- Instead of acting through a resolution, the Board should instead look at ways of moderating a dialogue with all the interests listed above so that the focus of the conversation is not based on a single perspective.
- Anyone that wants to influence the management of JDSF need only step forward and participate in the open, public, and transparent processes available to them.

Position

- MCFB does not support the recommended action under agenda item 4A and opposes the Board moving forward with the discussion of JDSF using this platform.
- If the Board is insistent on moving forward with this action, we encourage consideration of the attached suggested amendments to the proposed resolution.

MCFB is willing to continue to engage with our forestry members, or other interested parties, on the topics of carbon sequestration and the management of all state-owned properties, including JDSF. MCFB encourages the Board to also be open to listening to all sectors of the community when discussing the overall management of our public lands for the multi-purpose use model that benefits forest health, local economies, and various public interests.

Sincerely,



Estelle Clifton
MCFB Natural Resources Committee

RESOLUTION NO. 21

RESOLUTION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REQUESTING SCIENTIFIC REVIEW OF ~~JACKSON DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST~~ STATE LANDS AND RELATED MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENTS TO ALIGN WITH 30X30 CLIMATE GOALS

WHEREAS, the science is convincing that our existential fight against climate change demands expanded effort to store carbon in the State's natural and working lands to remove it from the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors embraces the responsibility to mitigate the systemic risks climate change poses to humans and natural systems; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom, through an executive order, committed the State of California to a goal of protecting 30% of California's land and coastal waters by 2030; and

WHEREAS, in November of 2021, leaders of more than 100 countries, including the United States, held climate talks in Glasgow and President Biden pledged to end deforestation by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's executive order directs the State's Natural Resources Agency to draw up a plan by February 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the County of Mendocino has an integral role to play in helping the State achieve its 30 by 30 climate goal encouraged by California's Climate Change Scoping Plan for local governments to adopt goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15% below 1990's levels by 2020, 40% below 1990 's levels by 2030 and 80% below 1990 's levels by 2050; and

~~WHEREAS, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has adopted commercial Timber Harvest Plans for Jackson Demonstration State Forest based on goals not yet refreshed to reflect the State's recent climate commitments and has commenced logging; and~~

(Comment: This section is speaking to recent climate commitments being applied to existing, approved timber harvest plans that have undergone extensive CEQA review and a public input process. Additional climate goals, based on recent actions, can be incorporated into future plan review processes, but using this resolution to impact existing plans is not acceptable.)

WHEREAS, science-based forest management is vital to bolstering long term forest health, improving forest resiliency from wildfire, protecting wildlife habitat and riparian corridors; and

WHEREAS, the County of Mendocino respects the guidance of Mendocino's indigenous people, many of whom are calling to prioritize carbon sequestration and in forest storage, preservation and protection of Native American cultural heritage, equitable access to public lands, and the protection of California's rare and endangered species; and

WHEREAS, the State of California should ensure there is not inconsistency between Jackson Demonstration State Forest management ~~goals~~ plan amendments and the recently adopted State of California climate change commitments.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors urges Governor Newsom and the State's Natural Resources Agency to include any climate impacts of ~~commercial logging management, or the lack thereof~~, on State lands in drawing up the plan to protect 30% of California's land use and coastal waters by 2030, and to publish a science based report that evaluates carbon sequestration capacity and wildfire resiliency of current management practices ~~as well as alternate management scenarios, of Jackson Demonstration State Forest~~; on all State lands; and

(Comment: The Board should not single out individual practices, or one single state property, but instead look at overall management, or lack thereof, on ALL state lands as part of the statewide 30 by 2030 climate goals.)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors strongly urges Governor Newsom to align Jackson Demonstration State Forest management ~~goals plan amendments~~ with the ~~recently adopted~~ State of California climate change commitments, and to do so in a way that enhances the wide ranging scientific, recreational, and economic opportunities offered by Jackson Demonstration State Forest.