

Dear Board of Supervisors,

As a Mendocino citizen directly involved in the fight to stop the timber harvest in JDSF, I was very happy to learn that Supervisors Williams and Gjerde are sponsoring a resolution to support our efforts to have CalFire reassess their management of the forest in light of the latest climate science. I am extremely thankful that they have taken this brave step, and fervently hope that other supervisors will join them.

As someone with grandchildren, and having worked with children all of my career, I am saddened to think what they will suffer in the future. I want to spend my retirement years doing something to avert the climate catastrophe predicted by most scientists. Time is running out, and experts agree that forest protection is crucial.

As stated in a recent essay in The New York Times from an upcoming book, “Ever green: Saving Big Forests to Save the Planet”, by John Reid and Dr. Thomas Lovejoy, “Large forests tend to be ecologically healthy, and this healthy biology results in carbon storage on a gargantuan scale.”

JDSF is the largest demonstration forest operated by the state of California. To allow this forest to mature, would be a tremendous opportunity for Mendocino, California and the world. Protection of Native American cultural heritage is long overdue. We have a chance to do something that will carry value into the future for everyone, loggers and ‘tree huggers’ alike, by protecting this forest now. The economics can be worked out, employment can be found for those whose way of life is disrupted, but it will take hundreds of years for the trees to grow back. In all likelihood the forest won’t be able to recover in face of warming conditions and drought.

Fire danger is often used as a reason to ‘thin’ the forest. As fire ecologists would agree, cutting large fire resistant trees will actually increase the severity of wildfires in most cases. The misinformation put forth by CalFire on this subject is actually dangerous to our community. The same energy and expertise could be used to ensure that individual properties are fire safe.

I agree with other comments that assert that the resolution needs to call for a moratorium on logging to avoid a bureaucratic whitewashing and business as usual. An independent scientific study is crucial, and during that time a moratorium on all logging must be implemented, otherwise by the time a study is completed, the logs will be at the mill, and the forest will be decimated.

Thanks again for your work,  
Elizabeth Stover  
Mendocino, CA