

Background for JAG Discussion of Recreation Recommendations

The materials on the following pages were compiled to provide useful background for discussion by the JAG of Recreation Committee Recommendations.

I have tried to compile all of the materials relevant to the discussion; so that members of the JAG have a complete picture of the charge to the JAG, correspondence with Cal Fire, recreation goals in the management plan, and specifics in the management plan with respect to the recreation planning and advice process.

Certain points emerge from reviewing this material:

- 1) the JAG has a clear mandate and charge to comment on development of a recreation plan for JDSF.
- 2) the Recreation Task Force should be the primary source of recommendations on the content of the recreation plan, but advice from the JAG on the recreation plan is specifically mentioned in the FMP (p. 118, reproduced on p. 5 of this document).
- 3) Related to Recommendations 2 and 4 of the Recreation Committee, in the MP the Task Force is specifically requested to assist in defining "recreation corridors" and recommending measures to protect recreation resources within these corridors. (p. 4).

The Task Force Chair and the Recreation Committee have agreed that the JAG is better equipped to develop recommendations with respect to protecting recreation resources during timber operations. (Rec Committee Recommendation 2)

The Task Force and the Recreation Committee agree that applying the concept of "recreation corridors" is no longer appropriate. Because replacing the concept involves recommending a change in the management plan, this recommendation is best made by the JAG. (Rec Committee Recommendation 4.)

JAG Charter excerpt:

- A. During the initial implementation period (not to exceed three years) the Advisory Group shall provide input on the following:
- ...4. The process of conducting a recreation users survey, establishing a recreation user group, and **developing a new recreation plan for the Forest**. This plan would indicate the desired extent and location of recreation areas, corridors, roads, trails, and facilities that will be managed to enhance the full spectrum of appropriate recreational opportunities given JDSF's management goals. [Emphasis added.]

Comment:: JAG is mandated in its charter to "provide input on ... developing a new recreation plan for the forest. Therefore, recommendations from the JAG related to development of a recreation plan are consistent with the charter mandates.

Correspondence with Cal Fire on Recreation Committee Activities**Excerpt from Letter from John Helms to Chairman Dixon and Director Grijalva, dated September 19, 2008:**

CAL FIRE and JDSF staffs have supported the efforts of the Committee, and a JDSF staff member has participated in its meetings. The JAG also favors the active approach taken by the Committee. However, we have some concern that the approach of the Committee, which is to actively engage and encourage action by and organization of recreation users, may exceed the scope of the JAG as expressed in its charter. The charter says that the JAG "shall *provide input...*" on the process. The active role taken by the Committee could be interpreted as exceeding this charge; however, the Committee recommends that the best way to provide the input specified in item A-4 is to actively engage and facilitate the users to become involved with making plans and helping with their implementation.

We welcome your clarification on whether you support the Recreation Committee's approach and actions.

Excerpt from Response from Director Grijalva and Chairman Dixon, October 22, 2008:

We support the Recreation Committee taking a somewhat more active role than the Charter specifically describes. It is important that this activity occur with the following considerations in mind:


- JDSF staff should play the primary, ongoing role in maintaining an active, direct engagement with the recreation community.
- The Recreation Committee should be helpful in advising us how to strengthen interactions with JDSF's recreation community and should not supplant efforts by JDSF to further develop and maintain this engagement.
- The Recreation User Group is intended to be an entity that reports to JDSF, not to the JAG. Thus, we want to make sure that this relationship does not become clouded by the actions taken by the Recreation Committee in helping to establish the Group.
- The activities of the Recreation Committee should not get ahead of the recreation planning process that is described in the Management Plan and the Charter. It is intended that major decisions about recreation management on JDSF are to be developed through this recreation planning process. Recreational planning must occur in context of greater JDSF management, not independent of it, or ahead of the other major aspects of the JAG's work.

We look forward to the Recreation Committee, the JAG, and the Recreation User Group making significant contributions to the recreation planning process. We have directed JDSF staff to engage fully with the Recreation Committee and the recreation community, including playing a leadership role in the development of the Recreation User Group. In turn, we expect the Recreation Committee to fully engage with JDSF staff as the Committee plans and carries out its activities.

We wish to reiterate our support for and appreciation of the work of the JAG and the Recreation Committee. We value the JAG's inputs on JDSF management and look forward to a continued, productive relationship among the JAG, CAL FIRE, and the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Sincerely,


 RUBEN GRIJALVA
 Director
 CAL FIRE


 STAN DIXON
 Chairman
 State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

From the 2007 FMP

JDSF Management Plan Goal on Recreation (pp.10-11)

Goal #5 - RECREATION and AESTHETIC ENJOYMENT: Plan for and provide enhanced levels of low impact recreational opportunities that are compatible with forest management objectives and healthy ecological processes, that are consistent with historic recreational use characteristics, and that allow for engagement of recreation user groups. **[Note: The JAG adopted this introductory language of the goal of the MP on recreation without change.]**

Objectives:

Base the development of future recreation programs and facilities on a plan that assesses needs, opportunities, and available resources.

Maintain campgrounds, picnic areas, trails and other recreational facilities in a safe, healthy and attractive condition.

Continue to utilize a style of recreational improvement that is generally low impact and rustic in nature. Develop campground and day use areas so that they are concentrated in identified recreation corridors. [Relates to Recreation Committee Recommendation 4.]

Extend existing trails to create a more extensive trail system, including linkages with neighboring State Parks. [Relates to the Task Force recommendation for 3 sets of nested trails.]

Demonstrate that recreation is compatible with demonstration and timber management land uses, as well as many research activities, through the integration of recreational development and use with these other activities. Utilize this opportunity to explain forest research and management to the recreating public. Include appropriate mitigations in harvest plans that may impact recreation and aesthetic values.

During timber management activities conducted adjacent to residential areas, consider and mitigate the project's effects on the casual and informal recreational uses of the State Forest by the Forest's neighbors.

In cooperation with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, establish forest management demonstration areas compatible with recreation for educational purposes adjacent to the Mendocino Woodlands Outdoor Center and the Pygmy Forest Reserve.

Engage various recreation user groups interested in cooperating in the design, implementation, and stewardship of a more extensive recreational facilities system.

Recreation, Aesthetics, and Public Use (pp. 116-17)

In accordance with Board of Forestry and Fire Protection policy, recreational facilities will generally be maintained to provide a rustic and informal experience. Existing recreational opportunities and associated management measures (i.e. infrastructure maintenance and improvement) will continue (as described in Chapter 2), and new opportunities will be created. Implementation of the following objectives will facilitate attainment of the Recreation Goals listed in Chapter 1.

Form a User-Group Recreation Task Force

JDSF will develop new relationships with the full range of groups who are interested in joint stewardship to enhance the recreational opportunities on the Forest. Staff will solicit representatives from different place-based groups, interest-based groups, recreationalists and schools for participation in a Forest Recreation Task Force or other organized capacity. The intent of the task force will be to share in stewardship, development of policy recommendations, and carry out other responsibilities regarding recreation on Jackson Demonstration State Forest. Meetings will occur at least annually. Participants may include, but not be limited to: JDSF neighbors, cyclists, equestrians, target shooters, teachers, hunters, hikers, campers, bird watchers, nature photographers, trail guide writers and event organizers. ...

...

- **Recreation user groups will help define a JDSF recreation corridor, particularly around the campgrounds and heavily-used trails, where recreation impacts will be given strong consideration with respect to state forest management activities. User groups will help define recreation attributes that should be protected within the corridor, and make recommendations accordingly, such as**
 - **Measures to minimize aesthetic visual and noise impacts; and/or**
 - **Designing timber management activities to improve and/or demonstrate recreation opportunities, principles, or practices.**

...

Recreation Users Survey

As described above, the Recreation Task Force will be used to help develop recreation user survey concepts. JDSF will contract with a professional to develop and administer the surveys and to prepare a report of the results and recommendations for how JDSF might respond to the findings. The professional hired will be asked to confer with the Recreation Task Force during this process.

Develop a Recreation Plan

Using the guidance of the Recreation Task Force, the results of the recreation users survey, **and the advice of the new JDSF advisory group**, develop a recreation plan for the Forest that identifies short-term and long-term priorities for enhancement of recreation opportunities, including those related to the development of new recreation facilities (e.g., trails, campgrounds, interpretive sites) and the operation of existing facilities. [Emphasis added.]