

**Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee**  
**Friday October 15, 3:00 - 5:00**  
Via ZOOM  
**Meeting Agenda**

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Topic: Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee

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1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Review of Agenda
3. Review and Approval of Minutes from August and September 2021 (Attachment 1 & 2)
4. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items.
5. Report to the MCCAAC, by Committee Members on Ongoing Activities and Possibilities for Collaboration.
6. Discuss and Consider Approval of letter re “Coal Train”
7. Discuss Mendocino County Energy Audit and Develop Recommendations to the BOS.
8. Discuss and consider approval of JDSF Legislative Book endorsement (Attachment 3)
9. Discuss and Develop Program for Climate Change Education & Outreach.
10. Discuss and Develop Recommendations Regarding How to Address Drought and Water Issues in Mendocino County.
11. Report back from Sonoma County Climate Mobilization Committee.
12. Discuss follow up activities from previous meetings.
13. Identify a Meeting Date for November
14. Adjournment

**Mendocino County Climate Action  
Advisory Committee  
Friday September 17, 3:00 - 5:00  
Meeting Notes**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Roll call showed the following members also in attendance: Randy MacDonald, Richard Hubacek, Ellen Drell, Cathy Monroe, Susan Sher, Marie Jones, Sandy Marshall  
Members not present: Jessica Stull-Otto, Eleos Kostis, Tess Albin-Smith.  
Members of the public: Mo Eileen Mitro, Carrie Durkee

**2. Review of Agenda & Comments on non-agenda items**

Marie provided an agenda review. Supervisor Maureen Mulheren provided an overview of the issue around the proposed Coal Train that would run from Montana to Humboldt, Asked for us to write a letter to the BOS and McGuire's office.

**3. Review and Approval of Minutes from August, 2021**

The meeting minutes were not approved due to an absence of a quorum

**4. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items.**

Supervisor Maureen Mulheren provided an overview of the issue around the proposed Coal Train that would run from Montana to Humboldt, Asked for us to write a letter to the BOS and McGuire's office.

**5. Due to a lack of a Quorum the committee briefly discussed a variety of topics including:**

- The Jackson Demonstration State Forest Legislative Book and cosponsor of the book by various organizations. The need to send letters to Wade Crowfoot and Caltrans about the importance of looking at Climate Change as part of THP review processs.
- Grass Roots Institute provided an update on their activities.
- Cathy and Eileen are developing a survey to the public about attitudes about Climate Change.
- The need to develop a scholarship or internship to get some help for the MCCAAC.
- Richard volunteered to write a monthly column on Climate Change for the Ukiah Daily Journal. He will ask for guest writers when he needs one.
- The website needs to be updates to include the final signed resolution to the Natural resources agency re Jackson, final signed reommendations to MCOG, and add a link to Drawdown Climate Solutions 101. Marie to follow up with Michael Potts.

**6. Discuss and Develop Program for Climate Change Education & Outreach.**

The following subcommittee was formed to address education and outreach: Randy, Richard and Ellen and Jessica.

Some ideas for the subcommittee to work on include:

- ✓ Recruit people in education to the MCCAAC
- ✓ Tap into existing youth groups
- ✓ Reach out to supervisors
- ✓ Explore UC Climate Stewards for volunteers
- ✓ Richard will engage in Media Outreach, everyone to forward their media contact list to Richard.
- ✓ Cathy will create displays on climate for the library.

**7. Discuss and Develop Recommendations Regarding How to Address Drought and Water Issues in Mendocino County.**

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

**8. Discuss and Develop Follow Up Activities with Regard to County's Climate Action Fund.**

The Rural Institute asked the MCCAC to undertake the following course of action with regard to the Climate Fund:

- ✓ The MCCAAC (as the BOS's advisory body on climate) to request the energy audit report on county infrastructure be sent to the committee for review as soon as it's available.
- ✓ The MCCAAC should share the document with as many local environmental and community groups as are interested; with a short simple request - to send to the MCCAAC their list of the top three projects identified in the audit that they feel the county should pursue first. The MCCAC may also identify one or more projects not identified in the audit that they feel the county should pursue as a future project.
- ✓ The MCCAAC will hold one public hearing to offer any group or person in the county an opportunity to make a three minute statement about their project choices.
- ✓ Based on the written comments, the hearing and its own deliberations - make a set of recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for which projects should be prioritized. And request, the BOS direct the CEO's office to provide a short written report quarterly to the MCCAAC on the progress of the Carbon Free Mendocino County Government projects approved by the board so that the MCCAAC can monitor and advise the BOS accordingly.
- ✓ The MCCAAC agreed to work towards this action plan.

**9. Discuss Options for Mitigation for tree removal from PG&E power lines.**

This was tabled for a follow up meeting at a later date.

**10. Report back from Sonoma County Climate Mobilization Committee.**

The subcommittee recommended the following projects for us to consider:

- ✓ Develop a Mendocino County Strategic Plan for Climate Mobilization
- ✓ Adopt a Mendocino County Climate Neutral Resolution
- ✓ Develop a Long Range Climate Change Plan
- ✓ Complete the Green House Gas Inventory

**11. Discuss follow up activities from previous meetings.**

No time for this discussion

**12. Identify a Meeting Date for September**

- ✓ The meeting will be held on Friday September 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00.

## 13. Adjournment



**Mendocino County Climate Action  
Advisory Committee  
Friday August 20, 3:00 - 5:00  
Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Roll call showed the following members also in attendance: Jessica Stull-Otto, Randy MacDonald, Richard Hubacek, Ellen Drell, Cathy Monroe, Susan Sher, Marie Jones, Tess Albin-Smith.

Members not present: Eleos Kostis, Sandy Marshall

Members of the public: Eileen Mitro, Carrie Durkee, James Schoonover, Peter McNamea

Cathy will follow up with a letter to the clerk of the board regarding removal of the following members from the Committee: Javier Silva, Michael Potts and John.

**2. Review of Agenda**

Cathy will compose a letter to the Governor regarding redistricting for our next meeting

**3. Review and Approval of Minutes from July, 2021**

The meeting minutes were adopted unanimously.

**4. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items.**

No public comment on non agenda items.

**5. Discuss Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and Climate Positive Projects for Funding from Infrastructure Bill (Marie)**

The following ideas were generated by the committee for consideration in the CEDS:

- ✓ Install PV on all County buildings
- ✓ Establish new water storage tanks/ponds/etc for community water systems.
- ✓ Install more bicycle routes throughout the County
- ✓ Invest in e-bike rentals in the larger towns.
- ✓ Invest in electrical charging stations for vehicles throughout the County
- ✓ Upgrade the Mendocino Transit Authority
- ✓ Implement the recommendations of the County energy audit.
- ✓ Invest in localized energy generation and storage systems
- ✓ Invest in more affordable housing
- ✓ Expand the capacity of the Covelo Sewer District and the Round Valley Water District
- ✓ Widen fire route escapes and or provide alternative fire escape routes in the following communities: Potter Valley, Booktrails, Redwood Valley, Albion Ridge Road, pudding creek road, Simpson Lain, Gibney Lain.
- ✓ Adopt the MCOG project list as part of the CEDS
- ✓ Develop a program for rainwater catchment

- ✓ Methane flares for the County Dump

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**13. Adjournment**

**DRAFT**

**PROTECT**

**Jackson**

**State Forest**

2021



*Photo: JK*

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# SUMMARY

The climate crisis is changing how we view many activities that we used to undertake with little thought. Economic resiliency has replaced the language of growth. Environmental concerns are no longer a luxury, especially when drought, wildfire and other challenges face our State at every turn. Likewise in this moment, we can pause and rethink if the State of California should continue to engage in large scale commercial logging in our largest 50,000-acre Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF). Our State could use this forest instead to help combat climate change, increase our economic resiliency, utilize traditional cultural knowledge, protect and restore biodiversity, reduce fire risk, all while expanding equitable outdoor access and recreation for all Californians. This is the better deal for Californians and for nature.

These State lands should be utilized to achieve the State goal of conserving 30% of California’s land and coastal waters by 2030 (30X30). If our largest State owned forest is not the right place to implement our 30X30 goals, what is?

We can put our State Forest to better use than commercial logging. It can be used to:

- **Build Climate Resilience.** *Trees are the only reliable carbon sink, and redwoods are the most effective trees at carbon sequestration in the world. Redwoods live for 2,000 years and sequester more carbon (250 times more) than any other tree type, and the older they get the more carbon they store each year. Conversely, logging is one of the most damaging activities to our climate because it reduces the effectiveness of our best and most productive carbon sink, while releasing a majority of the sequestered carbon (in slash burning and mill waste) into the atmosphere. Even the final deck boards and fencing materials only last 30 years. By stopping commercial logging in Jackson we would increase carbon sequestration and create a world-class state-owned carbon sink.*
- **Address Equity.** *The Coyote Valley Band of Pomo has called on the State to stop logging Jackson Forest in order to protect cultural resource and to engage in restorative management of the forest. Additionally Coyote Valley Band of Pomo is engaged in Government to Government negotiations about the management of this State*



resource.

- **Increase Economic Sustainability.** Historically logging has been a source of good paying jobs on the north coast, however this is no longer true. Jackson supports relatively few logging jobs, as it comprises just 5% of all timber lands in Mendocino County. Currently, there are only 350 wood products jobs in Mendocino County, and only 17 are supported by logging in Jackson. In contrast in 2018 tourism provided over 6,900 jobs and Jackson would better serve Mendocino County as an economic engine for tourism and recreation.
- **Provide a stunning opportunity for outdoor access and public recreation.** Jackson provides many miles of unmarked and unimproved walking, hiking and biking trails which are actively utilized by tens of thousands of visitors each year. These facilities could be improved with the installation of more camping facilities, trail signage and public rest-rooms.
- **Reduce Fire Risk.** Timber harvests have been equated with fire safety. However post-fire research has found that logging greatly increases the risk of forest fires, due to the: 1) highly flammable slash left behind; 2) wind tunnels that result from the removal of swaths of trees; 3) elimination of the fog drip which adds significant moisture to redwood forests; 4) growth of a post-logging dense under-story that is fire-prone; and 5) removal of the fire resilient large redwood trees. By halting commercial logging in Jackson we can increase its fire resilience over time.
- **Demonstrate Forest Restoration.** The Forestry Board's policy describes Jackson Demonstration State Forest as "commercial timberland areas managed by professional foresters who conduct programs in timber management, recreation, demonstration, and investigation in conformance with detailed management plans," (Board Policy 0351.1). However, Jackson demonstrates the same logging practices over and over: 95% of all acres harvested since 1997 were Selection (69%), Group Selection (20%) and Commercial Thin (7%). There have been no new logging practices demonstrated in JDSF in many years. Instead, Jackson could demonstrate forest restoration and carbon sequestration, not the same old commercial logging practices.
- **Pay for it.** The State earns relatively little revenue from timber harvests in Jackson, a recent 500-acre timber harvest sold for \$3,500/acre. Overall timber harvested in Jackson bring in about





\$6 million per year, cost about \$4 million and result in about \$2 million in profit to the State of California, a tiny fraction (0.03%) of Calfire's \$7 billion budget.

**What is next for JDSF?** To transform Jackson, we must:

1. Halt timber harvest, the approval of new Timber Harvest Plans and the sale of timber harvests in Jackson Demonstration State Forest until a new Management Plan is adopted.
2. Adopt legislation to change the management objectives of Jackson from "commercial logging" to "forest restoration, carbon sequestration and public recreation."
3. Include Jackson Demonstration State Forest in the CNRA 30X30 strategy to achieve 30x30 goals.
4. Support the rights of Indigenous Pomo tribes to engage in Government-to-Government consultation regarding management of Jackson Demonstration State Forest.
5. Establish an official, professionally-mediated public planning process to develop a new Management Plan for JDSF. This dialogue should include key stake-holders, including: local representatives, Native American tribes, non-profits, user groups, academics, and Jackson Management.



CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE



*Photo: MJ*



**Climate Action Mendocino**



**Our Future Depends  
on  
Taking Action Today!**

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**Text:** Marie Jones, John P. O'Brien Ph.D, Polly Girvin

**Photos:** Art Mielke (AM), John Klein (JK), Chet and Madia Jamgochian (CMJ), Garth Hagerman (GH), Marie Jones (MJ)

**Layout & Design:** Marie Jones



# Contents

A photograph showing several large, stacked logs of varying lengths and diameters, with rough bark and some charred ends, set against a background of dry brush and trees.

**OVERVIEW OF JACKSON**

**1**

A close-up photograph of a vibrant green fern frond with distinct, dark, wavy leaflets, set against a dark, blurred background.

**CLIMATE RESILIENCY**

**8**

A photograph of a blue mountain bike's handlebars and front fork, with a person's hands visible on the grips, set in a forest environment.

**OUTDOOR RECREATION,  
SUSTAINABLE JOBS & ECONOMY**

**11**

A photograph of bright red, branching coral structures, possibly sea fans, against a dark, underwater background.

**RESPECT FIRST NATION &  
CULTURAL RESOURCES**

**15**

A photograph of a grey and brown wolf standing in a natural, outdoor setting, looking towards the right.

**PRESERVE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**20**

A photograph of a dense pile of dry, tangled brush and sticks, typical of a fire-prone area.

**REDUCE FIRE RISK**

**22**

A close-up photograph of a purple iris flower with yellow and white markings on its petals, set against a background of green foliage.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

**28**



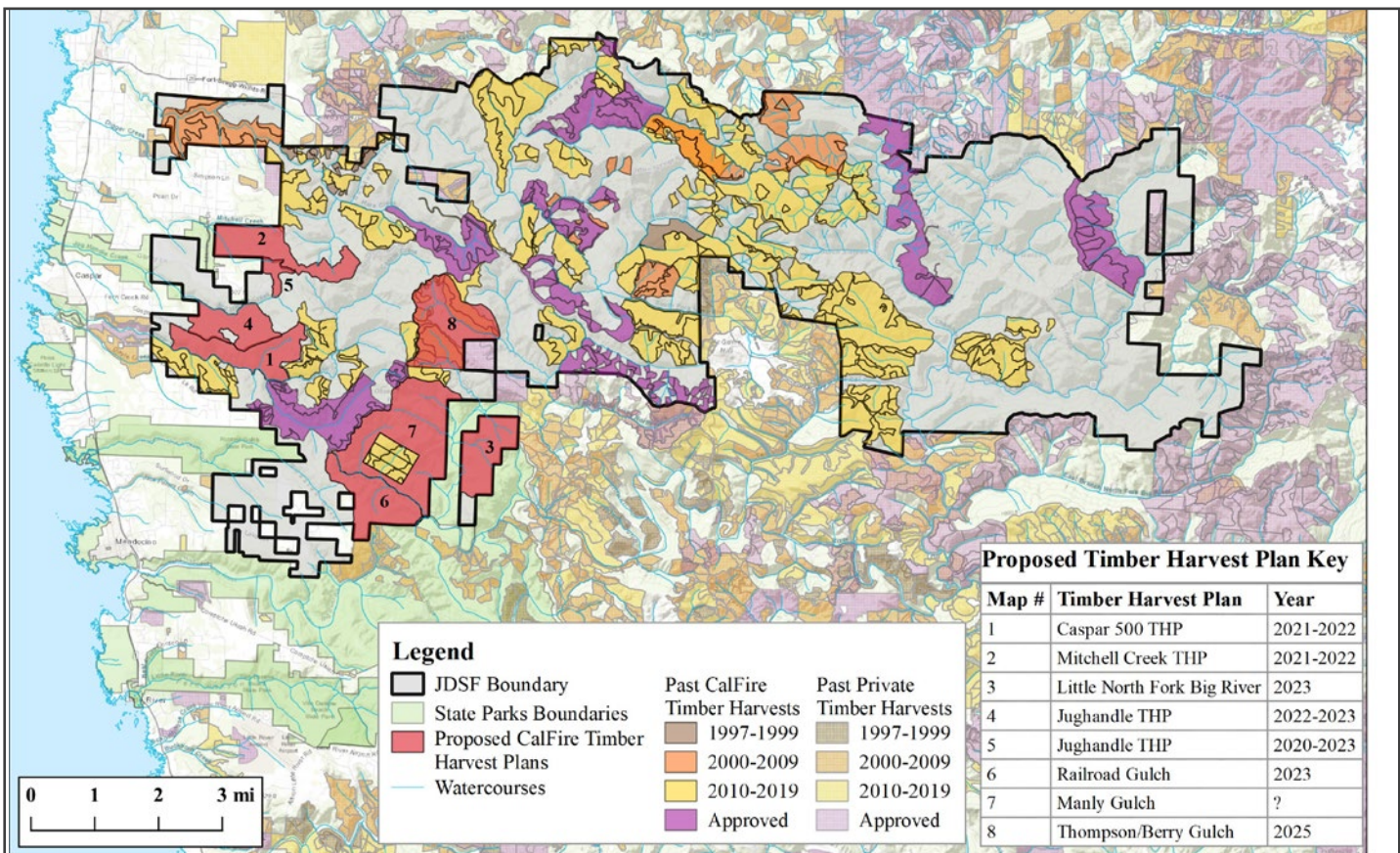
# OVERVIEW - JACKSON

## What is Jackson Demonstration State Forest?

- Largest State Owned Forest at 50,000 acres.
- Currently managed for commercial logging.
- Includes many wetlands, riparian and stream habitats.
- Has 90 miles of fish bearing streams.
- Includes hundreds of miles of connected public trails.

Jackson State Forest is the only publicly owned redwood forest of significant size south of Humboldt County. Furthermore, it is the only state forest managed for industrial scale logging.

- The map illustrates the state's logging activities including those planned for the next five years (in red). The forested areas that are currently being logged include some of the largest old second growth redwood groves and currently offer hundreds of miles of beautiful hiking and biking trails.
- The eight areas slated for logging are close to hundreds of residences, border three State Parks, and are visited by tens of thousands of people annually.





MENDOCINO COUNTY  
PROTECTS ONLY 2% OF  
ITS TIMBER LAND FROM  
LOGGING, COMPARED TO  
37% IN DEL NORTE COUNTY  
AND 11% IN HUMBOLDT  
COUNTY.



## Opportunities & Challenges

*The current Management Plan was adopted in 2016, when the Climate Crisis seemed a more distant concern. With recent catastrophic heat waves, drought and fires, the climate crisis is accelerating with more consequential environmental and economic impacts. The Management of Jackson must refocus from industrial logging to climate resiliency and mitigation.*

- *Jackson offers the State an opportunity to sequester carbon in a State-owned forest, and redwoods are the most productive forests at carbon sequestration.*
- *Species conservation and protection is critical in this time of climate crisis. Jackson is home to over 1,266 species, not counting insects, including rare, threatened and endangered species, such as Coho, Northern Spotted Owls, Marbled Murrelet, osprey, red legged frogs, and many others.*
- *There are numerous Pomo cultural places, sites and resources in Jackson, some of which have been damaged, destroyed or degraded by logging activities.*
- *Mendocino County's economy was once driven by the redwood forest products industry, however the economy has transitioned to a visitor serving economy. Jackson is well positioned to become a nationally recognized destination for mountain biking, camping, ecological restoration and climate mitigation. These new economic sectors already provide ten times the jobs as those from logging.*
- *Jackson's demonstration mandate can be shifted to the demonstration of Forest Restoration and Carbon Sequestration.*

# DEMONSTRATION & RESEARCH @ JACKSON

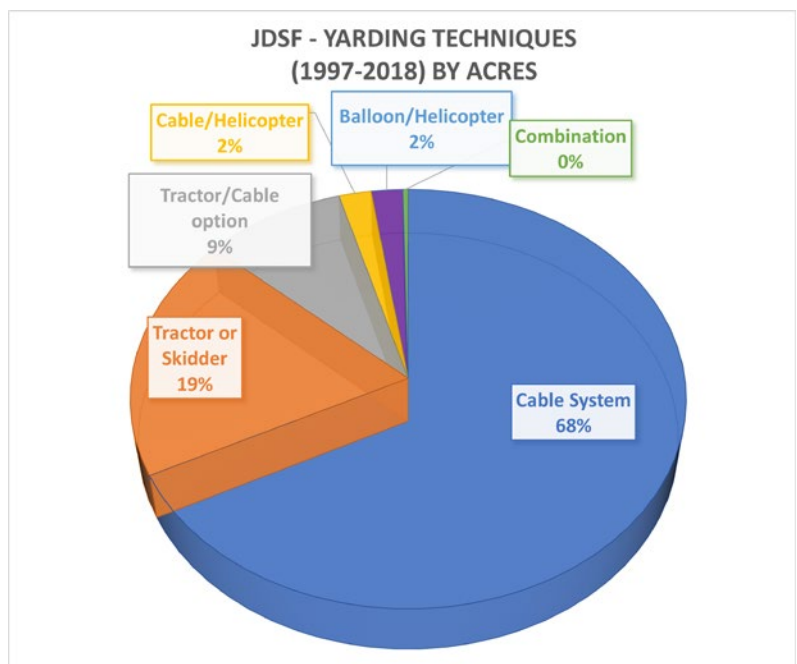
Jackson Forest is managed to demonstrate “innovative” commercial timber harvests. The Forestry Board’s policy describes Jackson Demonstration State Forest primary purpose as “commercial timber lands” that are managed to “conduct innovative demonstrations, experiments, and education in forest management” (Board Policy 0351.2).

Since 1997 JDSF has approved 50 THP’s that demonstrate the same logging practices over and over. Calfire has approved “Selection’ for 69% of all acres that were harvested in Jackson. The second most common technique were group selection (20% of acres), and commercial thinning (7%). These logging practices are no loner innovative as they are used throughout the commercial logging industry.

Additionally, the most common landing techniques are also employed regularly at JDSF, including: Cable System (68%), Tractor/Cable Option (19%), Tractor/Skidder (9%). Theses are no longer innovative techniques.

Clearly JDSF’s logging demonstrations are not innovative, and they are only marginally profitable. Overall timber harvested in Jackson brings in about \$6 million per year, cost about \$4 million to administer (road building), and result in about \$2 million in profit to the State of California, a de minimis (0.03%) of Calfire’s \$7 billion budget. **The policy goal to cut state owned forests for revenues and demonstration are now outweighed by the policy goals for carbon sequestration and recreation.**

JDSF - Completed Timber Harvest Plans Siviculture Techniques (1997-2018)		
	Acres	Percent
Selection	8,705.2	69.4%
Group Selection	2,548.0	20.3%
Commercial Thin	887.8	7.1%
Alternative Prescription	154.2	1%
Seed Tree Seed Step	129.8	1.0%
Clear cut	50.5	0.4%
Shelterwood Seed Step	41.9	0.3%
Variable Retention	12.1	0.1%
Road Right-of-Way	6.6	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,536.1</b>	<b>100.0%</b>





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*Forestry research is a primary policy objective for managing Jackson Demonstration Forest for commercial logging, and many research projects have been completed at Jackson. They explore the impacts of logging on the environment, watersheds, landslides and sedimentation, and the efficacy of various silviculture techniques. The research is largely carried out and paid for by academics and students affiliated with colleges and universities.*

*However, much of the research completed at JDSF does not depend on continued logging of the forest. Additionally, with a revised mission, Jackson could be used for new research focused on carbon sequestration, forest management through traditional ecological knowledge, fire resilience, climate mitigation and forest restoration. These research topics are more relevant to our time and more in line with State ownership of a forest.*

*When old forests are cut in the name of science, alarm bells should go off.*



*Photo: MJ*





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# TWO STORIES IN A FOREST

These photos illustrate two different property owners on two sides of a road and of a trail.



ON THE LEFT, THE FOREST IS OWNED AND MANAGED BY STATE PARKS.



ON THE RIGHT, JACKSON FOREST IS OWNED AND MANAGED BY CALFIRE.



SLASH LEFT BEHIND AT JACKSON







Photo: MJ

## Jackson Forest - Clearcut Timber Harvest & Access Road



Photo: MJ

*Last week, I toured the harvest sites and clear cuts with a team of independent climate scientists, engineers, and naturalists...and what I witnessed was an infirmed, young, fire-threatened, and over-crowded forests and many large, carbon-storing trees marked for extraction. Across vast swaths of the forest, the bewildering forest policy on display, presumably for scientific ends, has failed. In the past week, the Newsom administration has rightly halted logging operations to de-escalate tensions between CALFIRE and to reengage the local community. I urge the governor's administration to account for emerging forest and climate science, to reject the obfuscating rhetoric of the silviculture industry, and to redesignate the forest as the Jackson Forest Reserve as part of the 30x30 conservation plan.*

*- Obi Kaufmann, Author California Field*





*Photo: MJ*



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# CLIMATE RESILIENCY & JACKSON

THE REALITY OF A HUMAN-CAUSED CLIMATE CRISIS IS NOW ACCEPTED BY ALL REPUTABLE SCIENTISTS WORLDWIDE. CLIMATE CHANGE PRESENTS AN IMMENSE THREAT TO HUMANS AND THE NATURAL WORLD.



PHOTO: "DEMONSTRATION" LOGGING OPERATION IN JACKSON STATE FOREST



There is a deep connection between forest protection and climate protection. First, forests are critically important in our fight against rising CO2 levels and concomitant climate change. Despite covering only 9% of the earth's surface, forests are responsible for sequestering 25% of anthropogenic carbon emissions, which is approximately equal to the carbon sequestered by the global oceans ([Pan et al., 2011](#)). Second, enhancement of forest-based carbon storage is critical to mitigate emissions in other sectors, especially as no alternative carbon-sink technologies have yet been proven at scale. (Houghton, et al, 2015).

As part of the thinking about the future of JDSF, it's important to understand that logging reduces the **net new** carbon sink in forests by about 25% each year throughout the US. ([Harris et al., 2016](#)). In fact climate researchers have determined that limiting timber harvesting and increasing forest protection on public lands is the best approach to increase forest carbon uptake ([Law et al., 2018](#)).

Some may argue, that forests may burn with climate change and so timber harvests are a better way to sequester carbon than letting the trees burn. However, timber harvests result in five times higher loss of sequestered Carbon (C) than all other natural or human-caused forest disturbance types combined, including fire, wind (hurricanes), insect infestation, and land use conversions from forest to other uses. ([Harris et al., 2016](#)).



Photo: AM



Photo: MJ



*“If anyone is wondering if climate change is real, come to California,” - Governor Newsom*



INCREASING FOREST PROTECTION IS THE LOWEST COST AND THE SINGLE MOST EFFECTIVE TOOL WE HAVE IN MEETING EMISSION REDUCTION TARGETS



Over time, old-growth forests store approximately twice as much carbon as forests managed on a 100-year rotation, and forests managed on a 50-year rotation store about 38% as much as old growth ([Harmon et al., 1990](#)). Unfortunately, Jackson is on a very short, 20-year logging rotation schedule. This means every piece of the forest is logged every 20 years on average. During each successive logging, the forest loses more of its old second growth trees, because these trees produce the most board feet of lumber. As Jackson has most of the old second growth forests in California, these forests should be protected as they are the best at sequestering carbon and mitigating the climate crisis.

Additionally, studies show that redwoods continue to grow and absorb carbon throughout their 2,000 year lives ([Luysaert et al., 2007](#); [Stephenson et al., 2014](#), [Lutz et al., 2018](#); [Mildrexler et al., 2020](#)), therefore premature mortality through harvesting is associated with both immediate carbon releases and the much more important decreased sequestration potential over time ([Battles et al., 2014](#)).

In fact, the dominant cause of carbon loss from our forests is timber harvest ([Harris et al., 2016](#); [Berner et al., 2017](#)), and thus protecting forests from logging maximizes carbon storage and removal of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere ([Campbell et al., 2012](#); [Law et al., 2018](#)).

Some will argue that cutting down trees and converting them to wood products sequesters carbon, however the redwood products that become decks, fencing and trim in homes typically end up burned or in a landfill within 30 years ([O'Connor, 2004](#)). That time frame is a fraction of the sequestration potential of old-growth forests, particularly Redwoods that can sequester carbon for millennia ([Harmon et al., 1990](#); [Iberle et al., 2020](#); [Sillett et al., 2020](#)).



# RECREATION, JOBS AND ECONOMY



*Photo: CMJ*



*Logging has been replaced by tourism as the primary economic engine of the Mendocino County economy: tourism now provides 6,900 jobs, more than 20 times the number of jobs as the whole timber industry in Mendocino County, which employs less than 350 employees.*

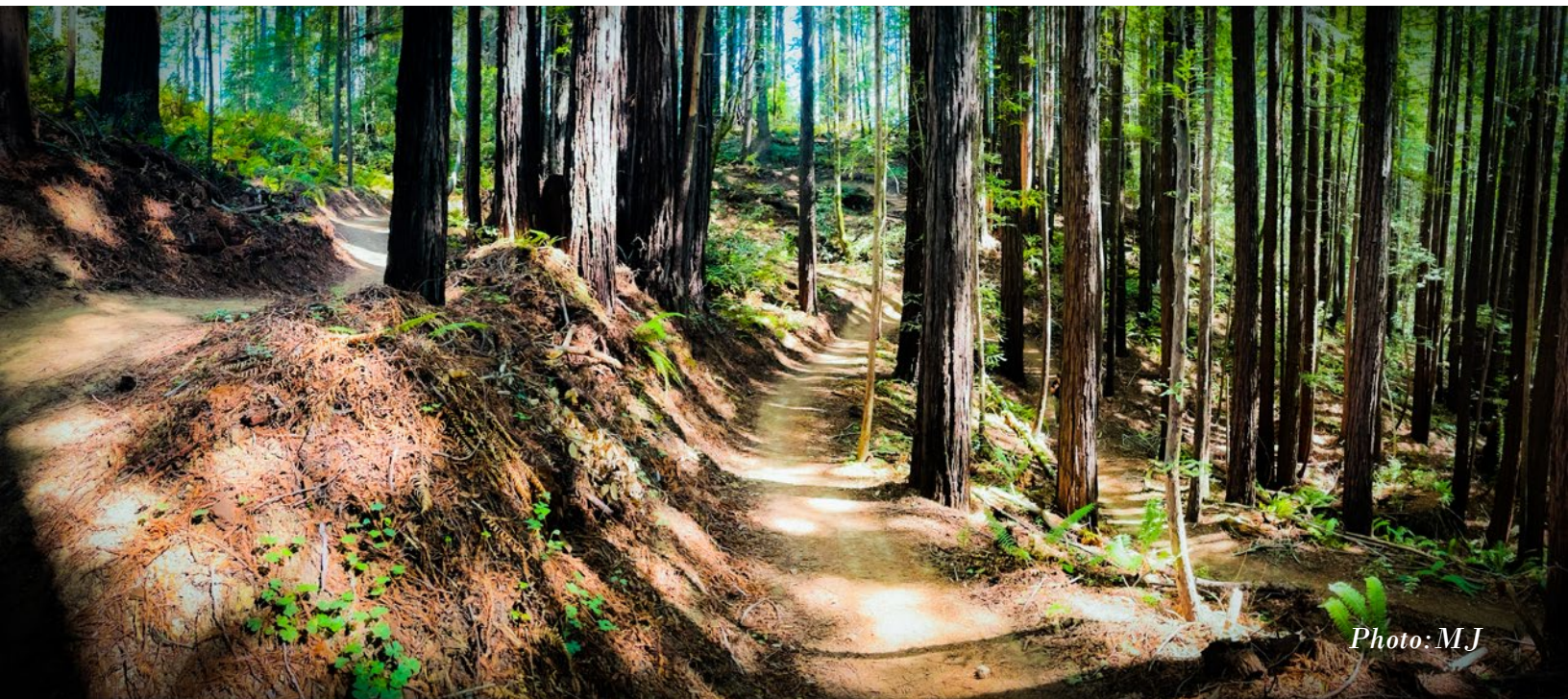
*Additionally, the cessation of logging will not have a substantial impact on county-wide timber industry employment or revenue, because Jackson represents a fraction (5.6% or 48,652 acres) of the total timberlands in the county (866,206 acres).*



Tourism plays a vital role in the Mendocino County economy. In 2018, prior to the pandemic, total direct travel spending in the county increased 9.15% to \$482.2 million. Tourism generating wages of more than \$214 million. The County Treasurer-Tax Collector's October 2020 Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) report shows that revenue to the County from lodging businesses increased to \$7.4 million.

A substantial portion of the visitors to Mendocino County come to experience our unparalleled outdoor recreation opportunities. Indeed outdoor recreation is one of the most prominent growth sectors worldwide and locally and JDSF is one of the top four tourism draws in the county. It is very popular with mountain bike hikers, campers, birders, mushroom enthusiasts and nature lovers generally.

Jackson could play an even larger roll in our local economy as a recreation draw, especially with some simple improvements such as highway signage, trail markers, and a few rest-rooms. Currently logging threatens this vibrant part of our economy as it degrades the nature based recreational opportunities in Jackson.



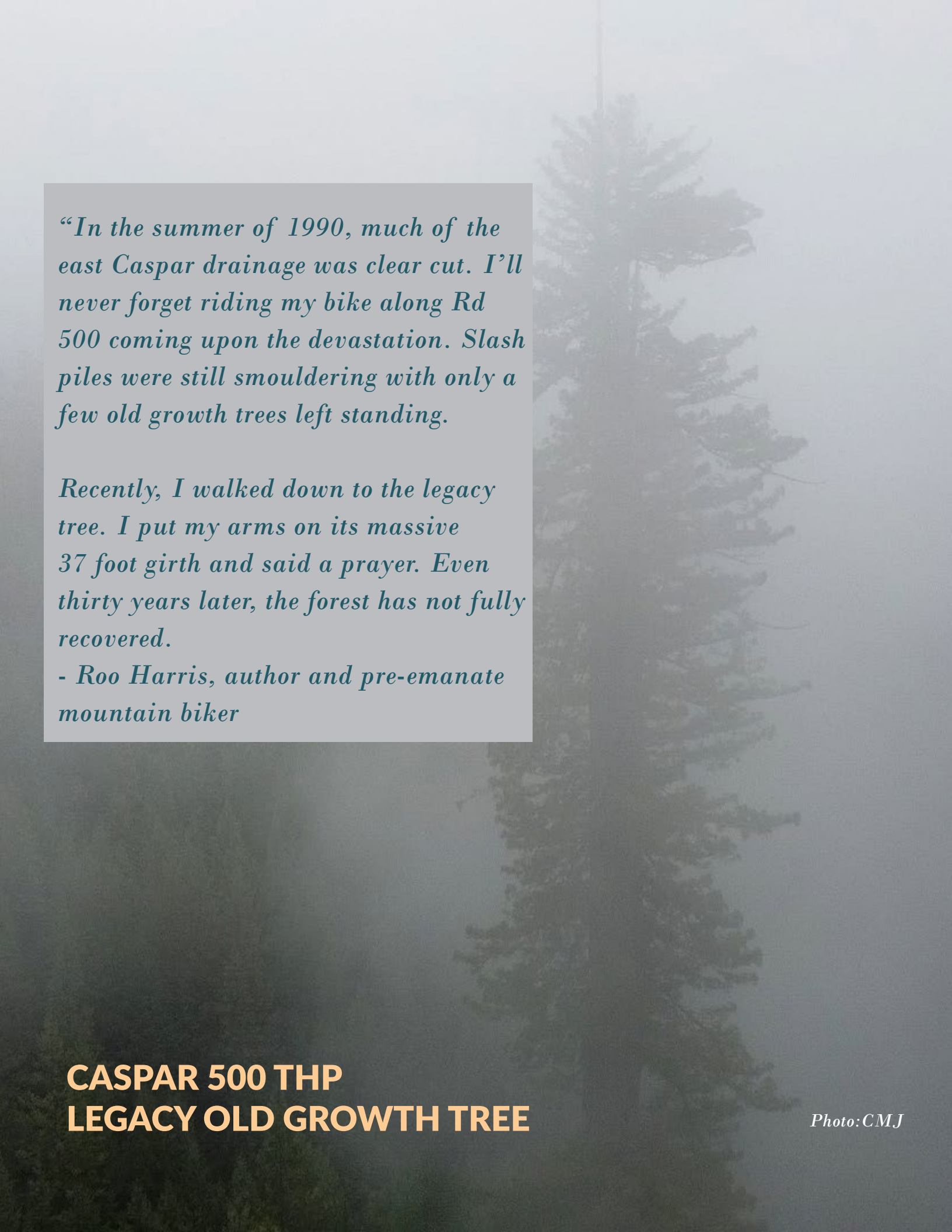


OLD GROWTH HARVESTED IN THE 1800S



OLD SECOND GROWTH HARVEST IN JDSF, 2021



A large, ancient-looking tree, possibly a Douglas fir, stands in a misty forest. The tree is the central focus, with its branches reaching out. The background is a soft, hazy landscape of more trees and hills, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere. The overall tone is quiet and contemplative.

*“In the summer of 1990, much of the east Caspar drainage was clear cut. I’ll never forget riding my bike along Rd 500 coming upon the devastation. Slash piles were still smouldering with only a few old growth trees left standing.*

*Recently, I walked down to the legacy tree. I put my arms on its massive 37 foot girth and said a prayer. Even thirty years later, the forest has not fully recovered.*

*- Roo Harris, author and pre-emanate mountain biker*

**CASPAR 500 THP  
LEGACY OLD GROWTH TREE**

*Photo:CMJ*





FIRST NATION

## COYOTE VALLEY BAND OF POMO, ELDER

### PRISCILLA HUNTER

on Protecting Her Forest Family & Recovering Her Homeland



*My name is Priscilla Hunter and I am a tribal elder of Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians. I also serve as the Chairwoman of the Inter-tribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council consisting of ten local tribes who have purchased 3,900 acres on the Mendocino Lost Coast in order to preserve the forest there and save it from a third clear-cut. Our view of a sustainable forest is a forest that sustains our culture, values and way of life, not one that is managed in order to be cut for profit.*

*As such, we placed a wilderness easement on our Intertribal park lands in order to prohibit in perpetuity any commercial logging there. The Jackson Demonstration State Forest generates millions of dollars of profit every year from logging operations on lands previously ravaged by clear cuts. In this time of climate change, it is time to preserve and protect the growth of redwoods on these lands, rather than cut them down in massive numbers, and let the forest heal for the benefit of future generations. This is the Peoples' forest, not a timber company's forest.*

*The members of my Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians Tribe are Coast Yuki and Northern Pomo. We are intimately connected to the Coastal redwoods, the oaks, madrones and pepperwood trees from thousands of years of respectful interrelation with them. We are the original peoples of the land now called Mendocino County with strong ancestral connections to the trees, plants and critters that inhabit this region. In the past our Ridge runners ran the Mendocino coastal ridges with great speed and spiritual power and continue to protect us. When in prayer, we can see them. Our ancestors from time immemorial gathered acorns throughout the coastal range, fished for salmon in the rivers and gathered food, basket weaving materials and medicinal plants from the coastal forest. We lived in harmony with the forest, only using redwood trees that fell down.*

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Our ancestors would be unable to comprehend measuring the value of a forest by the amount of merchantable board feet it can produce for sale. To us, the redwoods are sacred guardians of our ancestral territory that we turn to in prayer. Therefore I and the 10 member tribes of the Intertribal Sinkyone Wilderness Park, are dedicated to their preservation and would prefer they not be cut at all. The Intertribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council has placed a wilderness conservation easement upon the park lands they manage north of the Jackson Demonstration State Forest on Mendocino's Lost Coast. This conservation easement prohibits the commercial harvesting of redwoods in perpetuity and provides for the natural recovery of the forest.



The forests helped “sustain” us for thousands upon thousands of years and we never cut down the redwoods. Now, the timber industry and Jackson Demonstration State Forest managers define “sustainability” in a manner completely at odds with our Indigenous world view. “Sustainability” to them means being able to cut down redwood trees that can live for thousands of years and replant them in order to keep continuing cutting the trees every few decades. The primary motivation for their sustainability model is money and job creation, not forest health. In their rush to cut redwood trees, they fail to honour the vital life giving force of these forests that are the very lungs of Mother Earth.

Devastation of our ancient redwood forests has paralleled the devastation inflicted upon my Coast Yuki and Northern Pomo ancestors by the brutal invasion of our territory by non-Native settlers. The non-Native settlers’ clear-cutting of the forest occurred simultaneously with the rape, murder and enslavement of my ancestors. My ancestors had to flee to the Redwoods and hide in order to save themselves from death at the hands of the settlers. When I speak today for the redwoods, I do so with the cries of my ancestors in my heart and with the future generations ahead of us in my mind and prayers. We Indian people in Mendocino County are the remnant survivors of a state sanctioned genocide, as the coastal redwood trees are the remnant survivors of massive amounts of clear-cutting by non-Native settlers and their descendants. We Indian people feel a heartfelt kinship with the slaughter that the redwood trees faced just like our ancestors faced at the hands of non-Native settlers.

Mother Earth is bleeding and barely breathing as the Rain Forests are cut down from here to the Amazon and up north to Alaska. Climate change is wrecking great damage on our local community with forest fires raging all around us due to drought. For the health of the forest and the critters within it, for the well-being of my people both spiritually and culturally, and for the fresh air and carbon sequestration that large redwoods provide, the coast redwoods in Jackson Demonstration State Forest should be protected. They should be allowed to grow to



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*become ancient trees, sustained in a family circle of madrone oak trees, pepperwood trees and manzanita and huckleberry bushes.*



*Our forest family since time immemorial here in the Redwood Rain Forest region and in our Coast Yuki/Northern Pomo ancestral territory has always consisted of the following trees living together in a mutually sustaining interactive community. I shall designate these trees with their Northern Pomo names in order that their spirit enters these pages: k'asilxale (redwood tree); k'abat' xale (madrone); bihem xale (pepperwood); shik'o (willow); kaye (Manzanita tree); xawa' xale (fir tree); jomxale (grey pine tree) and a variety of oaks. The acorns from oak trees provided and continue to provide an essential traditional food source for the members of mine and neighboring Tribes. Before the forest was clear-cut by non-Native settlers these trees lived in a mutually sustaining circle of life which also helped sustained both physically and spiritually the Indian people of this region and restoration efforts should include their preservation in a mutually sustaining circle of life.*

*The Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians have initiated Government to Government Consultation with Cal-Fire and the Forest Manager of Jackson Demonstration State Forest. The Jackson Advisory Group contains the head of the timber company that wants to cut the 60 to 90 year old redwoods that have managed to grow on the State Forest's clear cut lands. This is a conflict of interest at the forest management level. He represents private industry, not the public trust. Redwood trees can live for 1,500 to 2000 years, cutting 60 to 90 year old redwoods as currently proposed by the managers of the Jackson Demonstration State Forest is cutting them in their virtual infancy.*

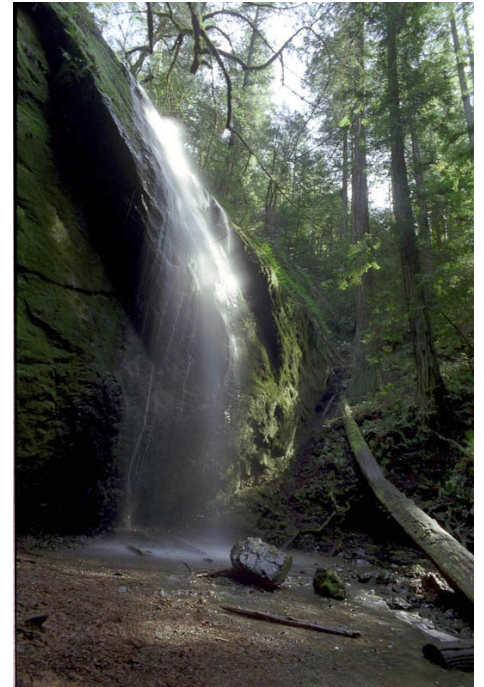
*Another conflict of interest is the timber company's foresters who are given the ultimate say in identifying the perimeters of and determining whether our ancestral archaeological sites are deemed worthy of protection. The government to government consultation my Tribe has initiated with the Jackson Demonstration State Forest, CAL-Fire, the CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the CA Department of Resource Management may be difficult as we as Indians look upon the forest in such a different manner than logging companies and consider our ancestral cultural sites to be sacred and worthy of protection and not merely troublesome obstacles to be overcome in logging plans. To the extent that the mission of the Jackson State Demonstration Forest is to protect the forest rather than merely commercially harvest it, the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians urges the State to restore this forest to the fullest extent possible by reintroducing all of our tree relations that previously thrived together in the forest and nurturing the growth of them all, not just promoting the growth of redwoods at their expense.*

*I was truly shocked to hear that the Management Plan for the Jackson Demonstration State*

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Forest contains so much emphasis on and even allows for extensive commercial harvesting of redwood trees on this land. I thought as a State Park the forest there was protected.

The drafters of the Mission Statement for Jackson Demonstration State Forest looked at a forest in terms of how many board feet could be extracted from it for profit. This view leads to a disrespect of the forest as a whole and the failure to see the interrelation and mutual collaboration of the diverse tree family members who previously lived all together, sustaining each other in our ancestral territory and offering us the beautiful and generous gift of being the lungs of Mother Earth that sustain our very breath. They give us the gift of breath and thus they should be cherished as our relatives. For we could not live without them as they, as the earth's lungs, sustain our very existence. Sustainability should not be measured by how many years loggers must wait to re-cut a previously ravaged forest and then how many years they must wait to cut them once again.



Forests should be restored to live as actual forests and not as a patchwork of single species tree farms. I beg the State to follow the model of the Intertribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council and simply let the forest heal. [Please reference the following scientific research articles that support this indigenous restoration perspective: Restoration of Coast Redwood (*Sequoia Sempervirens*) Forests through Natural Recovery, Will Russell, Jeff Sinclair, Kristen Hageseth Michels, Department of Environmental Studies, San Jose State University (2014) and Stand Development on a 127 year old Chronosequence of Naturally Regenerating (*Sequoia Sempervirens*) (*Taxodiaceae*) Forests, Will Russell and Kristen Hageseth Michels, Department of Environmental Studies, San Jose State University (2010).

Of further and particular alarm to Pomo people is the killing of thousands upon thousands of oaks by timber companies through the spraying of Imazapyr and Glyphosate and other herbicides in order to promote the growth of merchantable timber. This is a travesty that cuts to the heart of Pomo culture because of our reliance on acorns as an essential food source. I therefore strenuously object to the hack and squirt poisoning of oak trees or the foliar spraying of herbicides in any of the THPs proposed for logging at Jackson Demonstration State Forest.

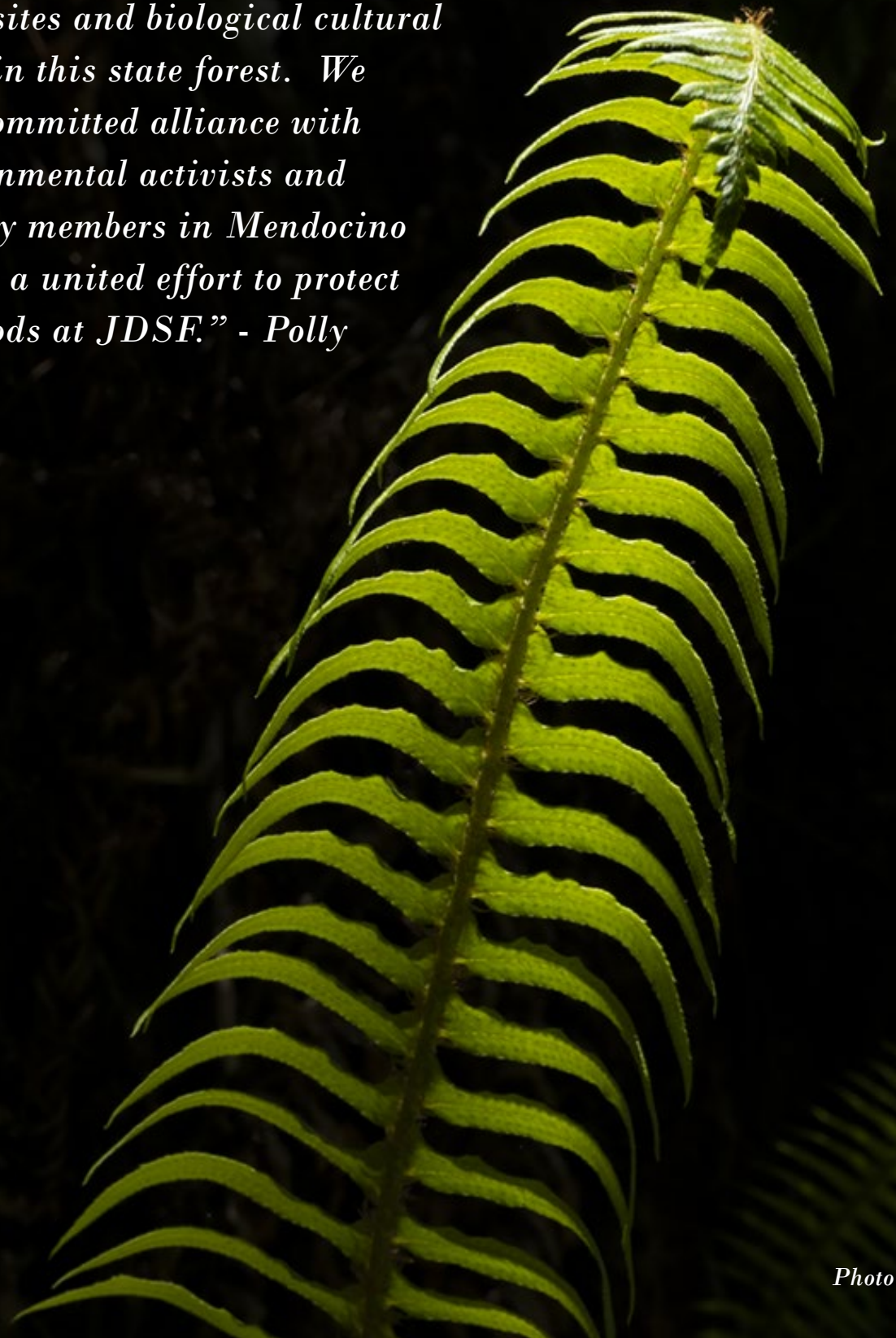
Thank you for your attention to these heartfelt concerns.

Priscilla Hunter—3/3/2021, Redwood Valley, California



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*“We remain a sovereign Indian nation committed to protecting our ancestral sites and biological cultural resources in this state forest. We are in a committed alliance with the environmental activists and community members in Mendocino County in a united effort to protect the redwoods at JDSF.” - Polly Girvin*



*Photo:AM*

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# ECOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

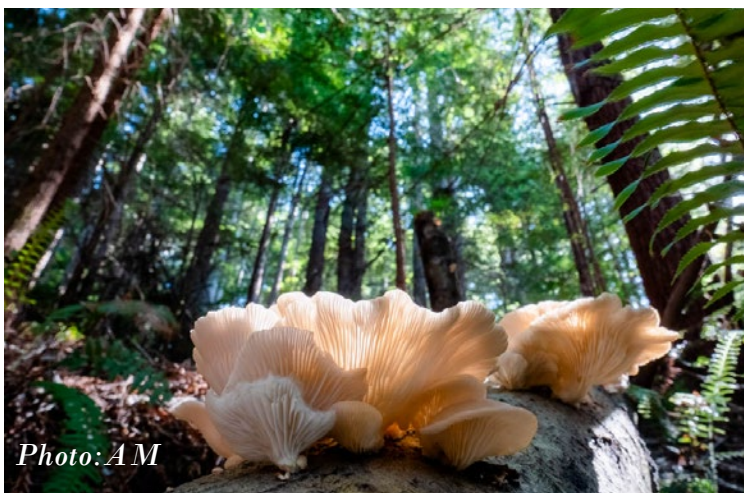


THE CLIMATE CRISIS HAS CONTRIBUTED DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY TO THE LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY AND THE DESTRUCTION OF ECOSYSTEMS.

JACKSON IS UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO HELP RETAIN BIODIVERSITY IN OUR REGION AND THE STATE.



- *Under the 30x30 vision laid out in the Global Deal for Nature, lands are classified according to their GAP status code, which indicates the gap between their biodiversity and their current level of protection.*
- *Jackson Demonstration State Forest, as GAP3 land, is recognized as having, “particular potential to advance biodiversity and climate protections more quickly through administrative mechanisms.”*
- *The Global Deal for Nature notes that, to avoid an irreversible wave of mass extinction, 90% of biodiversity hot spots globally must have the highest level of protection by the year 2030.*
- *Currently Jackson is not a good deal for nature so long as state managed industrial logging continues.*





*“What can the redwoods tell us about ourselves? The flickering, transitory quality of human time and the brevity of human life – the necessity to love.”*  
- Richard Preston



*Photo: MJ*

JACKSON IS HOME TO OVER 1,266 SPECIES, NOT COUNTING INSECTS, INCLUDING: COHO AND STEEL-HEAD, 13 AMPHIBIAN SPECIES, 21 MAMMALS, 131 BIRD SPECIES, AND MANY RARE, THREATENED OR ENDANGERED PLANTS.

JACKSON IS HOME TO OVER 745 SPECIES OF FUNGI.



*Photo: AM*



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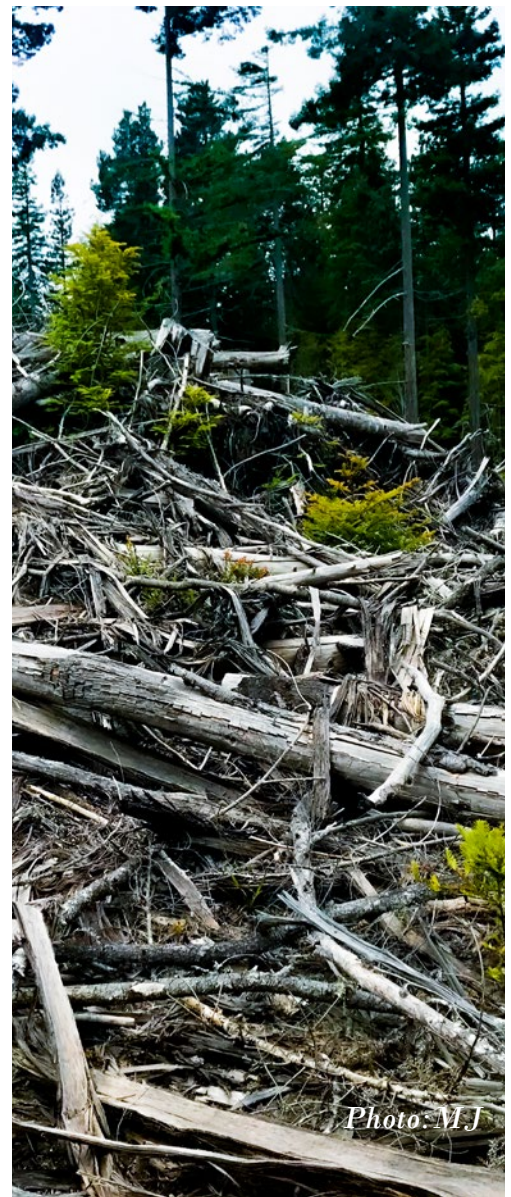
# REDUCE FIRE RISK

RESEARCH HAS FOUND THAT  
COMMERCIAL LOGGING PRACTICES DO  
NOT REDUCE WILDFIRE DANGER, INSTEAD  
THEY EXACERBATE IT.

*Some politicians and Calfire managers claim that our forests are overgrown and need to be “thinned” or “raked” to prevent catastrophic fires. However, thinning and logging in all scenarios increased fire-line intensity and in-stand wind speeds and the associated crowning potential of the fire [Cruz et al., 2014](#). Additionally, uncut forests are the most fire resistant of all forest types. Partially cut stands (treated and untreated slash), suffer the most severe fire damage ([Weatherspoon and Skinner, 1995](#)).*

*In a redwood forest all types of logging increase fire risk because large trees make up the canopy over-story that provides cooling shade to the under-story below. Stand openings created by “thinning” allows the under-story to receive much more solar radiation resulting in rapid growth of thick brush, which quickly dries out during the summer months and becomes highly flammable tinder. Coupled with leftover slash from the timber harvest and the remaining stand of smaller trees, the dry under-story provide both horizontal and vertical continuity necessary to turn a surface fire into a crown fire (Weatherspoon, 1996).*

*Logging intensity is the second most important predictor of wildfire intensity, surpassed only by weather and drought conditions ([Zald and Dunn, 2018](#)). Across the entire western U.S., fires burn with less intensity on lands that have the highest protections from logging ([Bradley et al., 2016](#)).*





The largest trees in any stand are logged first because they have a higher market value. Large trees also provide the greatest protection from wildfire because they are the most fire resistant. Large trees have the thickest bark and the highest basal branches, which protect the tree from cambium kill and prevent the fire from climbing up the fuel ladder into the canopy. Because the largest trees are the most fire resilient, their selective removal weakens the forest's overall resilience to wildfire.

### Solar Radiation

Logging large trees opens the forest canopy allowing more sunlight to reach the forest floor and dry out the under brush and soils, and create a hotter, drier, and more flammable under-story microclimate ([Weatherspoon, 1996](#)).



Photo: DJ



## Fog Drip

The largest trees have the greatest tree canopy and contribute the most to the summer fog drip which greatly increases the vapour content in a mature coastal forest like Jackson. Fog drip increases surface and under-story moisture thereby reducing wildfire risk.

Summertime fog drip contributes positively to stream flows, which provide water for numerous ecosystem functions and human use ([Sawaske and Freyberg, 2014](#)).

## Wind

Logging the largest trees thins the canopy allowing for greater in-canopy and in-stand wind speeds that fuel higher intensity fires ([Banerjee, 2020](#)). The artificially enhanced windier environment enhances evaporation rates, further drying out the forest fuels, and, in the event of a fire, allows the fire to spread faster with greater intensity ([Weatherspoon, 1996](#); [Cruz et al., 2014](#))

The best way to protect homes from large fires is to establish defensible space of 100 feet. Vegetation management activities beyond 100 feet from homes has negligible influence on whether or not a home survives a wild-land fire (Syphard et al., 2014, DellaSala and Hanson, 2015).



*Photo: M.J*

THE WET FOREST FLOOR PRE-HARVEST.



THE DRY "FOREST" FLOOR AFTER A 1997  
TIMBER HARVEST AT JDSF.





Families for the Forest is a group of youth and parents who have been gathering to raise awareness of Timber Harvest in Jackson. They learn about the forest, have been cataloguing the plant species on fun family hikes, and participate in protests to oppose the logging.

*“Redwood trees should not be cut down, they’re very helpful to the planet and they’re helpful to us, and what about all the animals that live there? Don’t they deserve to live in a beautiful forest?” - Amede age 10*

*“It’s important to protect the trees because we will die without them, and so many other creatures will die too. And I feel so safe in the trees, I feel like it’s where I really live. The loggers don’t understand the trees’ language, but we all know they don’t want to be cut down.” - Jory Leeleck Wellspring age 6*

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*“From the forest’s ability to shield us from impending wildfires to its critical role in minimizing catastrophic climate change, the options seem pretty clear: Selling it for quick cash falsely identifies it as dispensable, while preserving it treats it as the crucial investment in our future that it is. We are here to support this investment until the people’s forest is finally managed scientifically and democratically.” - Anonymous, age 19*

*“My generation is who will pay for what this generation has done.” - Ravel Gauthier, Age 12.*

*“I want to see these trees when I grow up.” - Royal age 6*





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*“We are beginning to rightly calculate that the measurable worth of a large and old, standing tree, with its intact habitat space, its carbon store, and its cultural value, outpaces the worth of that tree on the ground.... There may be as much as 40 million metric tons of Carbon in JDSF’s approximately 50,000 acres and much of it is in the big trees. The best thing we can do is to leave it there standing.*

*- Obi Kaufmann, Author California Field Atlas*



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# POLICY CHANGE

1. Halt timber harvests, the approval of new Timber Harvest Plans, and the sale of timber harvests in Jackson Demonstration State Forest until a new Management Plan is adopted.
2. Adopt legislation to change the management objectives of Jackson from “commercial Logging” to “forest restoration, carbon sequestration and public recreation.”
3. Support the rights of Indigenous Pomo tribes to engage in Government-to-Government consultation regarding management of Jackson Demonstration State Forest.
4. Include Jackson Demonstration State Forest in the CNRA 30X30 strategy to achieve 30x30 goals.
5. Establish an official, professionally-mediated public planning process to develop a new Management Plan for JDSF. This dialogue should include key stake-holders, including: local representatives, Native American tribes, non-profits, user groups, academics, and Jackson Management.



*Photo: JK*