



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Review of
Jackson Advisory Group Recommendations

Recreation



Recreation Recommendations: **2008 FMP v. JAG Report**

2008 FMP Provisions (Refer to Pages 117-120 of 2008 JDSF FMP)

- **Create Forest Recreation Task Force**
- **JDSF to convene annual meeting(s) with recreational user groups**
- **Hire Contractor to conduct recreational user survey, and prepare report of findings and recommendations. Contractor to confer with Forest Recreation Task Force.**
- **Develop a “Recreation Plan” based upon survey findings, guidance of Task Force, and JAG recommendations.**
- **JDSF inventory, maintenance, and upgrade of signage; new brochures, maps, and posters; Little Red Schoolhouse historic site to be restored and opened to public.**
- **JDSF to recruit and train qualified camp host Volunteers-in-Prevention (VIPs) to issue campfire permits, convey recreational goals to campers, and generally facilitate positive camping experience. Facilities at two host campsites to be improved (electricity & plumbing absent) to attract VIP applicants.**
- **Specific “Management Measures for Recreation” and mitigations for avoidance of impacts to recreation and visual aesthetics.**



Recreational User Survey Effort

- JDSF to contract with a professional to develop and administer user surveys. Contractor to prepare a report of findings and recommendations. Contractor to confer with Forest Recreation Task Force throughout survey effort.



JAG Recommendations for Recreation

1. With a few exceptions, the recommendations of the Forest Recreation Task Force should be incorporated into recreation plan. Exceptions are:
 - JAG recommends that dedicated recreational funding and staffing include provision for increased security in recreation areas.
 - JAG supports designation of at least one, possibly more dedicated staff for recreation and education program.
 - JAG takes no position on OHV area development, but points out that it may not be consistent with goal of providing low-impact recreational opportunities.

This recommendation seems consistent with the provisions of the original 2008 FMP.



JAG Recommendations for Recreation

2. JAG recommends that a single contractor be hired to prepare and administer the survey effort, and draft the recreation plan as soon as possible. [JAG Report states that JDSF Staff are currently preparing RFP for user survey only.]
 - JAG believes that time and money better spent developing single RFP to handle both functions, rather than two separate RFPs (and prospective contractors).
 - Last effort (est. 1990) utilized single contractor to perform both functions.
 - JAG supports urgent action to get the recreation plan developed.

This appears to be a refinement of the direction in the 2008 FMP, as the FMP does not delve into contracting level detail.



JAG Recommendations for Recreation

3. JAG recommends that JDSF proceed with maintenance and improvement of existing recreational trails and facilities, as needed or recommended by the Recreation Task Force, while the recreation plan is under development.
 - Improvements to existing facilities and sanctioned trails are not major decisions that require guidance of approved recreation plan.

This appears to be consistent with the direction in the 2008 FMP.



JAG Recommendations for Recreation

4. JAG and JDSF Staff should develop guidelines for Timber Harvesting Plan preparation for the protection of recreation resources and preservation of aesthetics along highly traveled roads (Hwy 20, Road 350)
 - Guidelines should be flexible and adaptive.
 - Prior to guideline development, JAG and JDSF Staff should review and evaluate the performance of the implemented Brandon Gulch THP aesthetic protection measures.
 - Visual impact of logging is often a major negative for recreationists.
 - All THPs that contain recreational trails and roads should include aesthetic protection measures.

This appears to be substantive refinement of the 2008 FMP. The FMP contains numerous provisions for addressing recreation and visual aesthetics, but does not speak of guideline development or address plan-level expectations.



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Economics



Economics Recommendations: **2008 FMP v. JAG Report**

2008 FMP Provisions (Refer to Pages 130-131 of 2008 JDSF FMP)

- Recognition that spending will increase commensurate with increased harvest revenues deposited into the Forest Resources Improvement Fund.
 - Increased funding will be spent on road management, research and demonstration, timber stand improvement, and general operating expenses.
- Recognition of additional benefit derived from increased staffing of science, administrative, and recreation/education positions.
- A substantial increase in the level of available funding would benefit state and regional needs for forest management research.



JAG Recommendations for Economics

Nine budget & revenue oriented recommendations:

- 1. Timber sales should reflect allocations.**
- 2. If “prudent reserve” of 3-year’s operating budget is established, it should be invested in money market type account with all interest applied to JDSF programs.**
- 3. Research cost projections should be utilized to support an annual budget line item for Forest research.**
- 4. Other JDSF-initiated projects should be required to be accompanied by long-term cost projections.**
- 5. JDSF should support local wood products needs and utilization infrastructure.**
- 6. Capital support for basic Forest infrastructure should be separated from operations of individual timber sales.**
- 7. JDSF should charge fees for forest uses.**
- 8. JDSF should explore cost-efficient methods for obtaining timber sale program participation by smaller operators.**
- 9. JDSF should consider offering smaller timber sales (100 MBF to 500 MBF) scaled to demonstrations for smaller forest landowners.**



JAG Recommendations for Economics

Three research-related recommendations:

- 1. Consider the possibility of attempting to amend Public Resources Code Section 4799.13 (Forest Resource Improvement Fund) to allow for establishment of “prudent reserve” of 3-years operating budget.**
- 2. [Presuming the statute is amended], 3-year reserve should be created gradually, as market conditions allow.**
- 3. Department should obtain professional grant-writing capability to gather funds for JDSF research and science program.**



JAG Recommendations for Economics

The twelve recommendations, individually and collectively, represent a substantive refinement of the 2008 FMP.



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Herbicides



Herbicide Recommendations: **2008 FMP v. JAG Report**

2008 FMP Provisions (Refer to Page 95 of 2008 JDSF FMP)

Four express limitations on herbicide use on JDSF:

- 1. Herbicides will be used only when no other effective and feasible control methods have been identified.**
- 2. No herbicide will be used unless it is integral to long-term, ecological based management.**
- 3. Public and environmental safety is a priority. When herbicide use is indicated, JDSF staff will reduce risk by selecting appropriate herbicide formulations and application techniques, as well as taking additional precautions.**
- 4. To reduce the potential for negative public response, herbicide use must incorporate evaluation of possible adverse aesthetic impacts associated with standing dead plants.**



JAG Recommendations Regarding Herbicide Use

- 1. JDSF should explore alternatives to herbicides with the goal of eventually eliminating herbicide use altogether.**
- 2. All significant herbicide applications/programs should contribute to research objectives and be evaluated against alternative methods of vegetation control.**
- 3. Public notice of all herbicide applications should be posted at office and in field for an order of magnitude longer than minimum label requirement for posting period.**
- 4. Evaluation of herbicide use should be “enhanced” for particularly sensitive habitats and public use areas.**
- 5. All herbicide use should be non-aerially applied and use minimum effective treatment concentrations.**
- 6. Silvicultural prescriptions and harvest operations should minimize the potential for future weed control problems that could require herbicide treatment.**
- 7. Use and evaluation of herbicides should be incorporated into public outreach and information programs.**
- 8. JDSF should establish guidelines for level of hardwoods that would trigger herbicide use for stocking control.**
- 9. JAG supports limited use of herbicides to control invasive weed species.**



JAG Recommendations for Herbicides

While a few of the recommendations are consistent with the 2008 FMP provisions for herbicide use, the majority represent a substantive refinement of the 2008 FMP.

- In particular, goal of eliminating herbicide use altogether, additional period for public notice posting, and express relationship to research objectives.**



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Outreach



Outreach Recommendations: **2008 FMP v. JAG Report**

2008 FMP Provisions (Refer to identified pages of 2008 JDSF FMP)

- 1. Support for additional staff positions in research, education, and outreach (p. 55).**
- 2. Provision for two designated public areas for silvicultural demonstration. (p.71)**
- 3. Provision for new maps, posters and displays. (p.118)**
- 4. Provision for human-caused fire prevention educational information. (p.122)**
- 5. Provision for public tours. (p.143)**
- 6. Provision for use of internet to make educational materials publicly available. (p.143-144)**
- 7. Provision for no less than two public newsletters annually. (p.144)**
- 8. Support for creation of an interpretative center (either on Hwy 20 or at proposed Noyo Center for the Environment in Fort Bragg). (p.146-147)**



JAG Recommendations Regarding Outreach

In addition to support for 2008 FMP outreach provisions, JAG recommends:

- 1. Staffing, funding, and facilities should be dedicated, at appropriate levels, to development of a high quality and effective outreach and public education program.**
- 2. Schools and colleges should be encouraged through grants and technical assistance to establish study areas to enable successive classes to gather time-series data on ecosystem dynamics and management.**
- 3. A “collaborative outreach consortium” should be established among complementary outreach and education interests (i.e. Forest Recreation Task Force, Redwood Forest Foundation, Mendocino Woodlands Science School, State Parks, etc.)**
- 4. The proposed JDSF-specific website should be “imaginative, high-quality, and interactive” in providing information on all programs, activities, and publications.**



JAG Recommendations for Outreach

The recommendation for dedicated outreach staff, funding, and facilities is consistent with the 2008 FMP.

The recommendations for designated school/college study areas, and creation of an outreach consortium appear to be substantive refinements of the 2008 FMP.



Timelines and Decision Points

- As reported previously, the Board has no strict time constraint for its evaluation of the recommendations. However, there are some time-related considerations:
 - JDSF Staff need further direction for management purposes so that future harvest planning can proceed in an orderly fashion.
 - The JAG Members would appreciate the Board's response to their Report given the dedicated time it took to produce.
 - The affected public might appreciate a conclusion to the planning effort (recognizing that adaptation will continue to be a key feature of the plan's implementation).



Timelines and Decision Points

- The Board could consider a June Agenda item for possible discussion of action on the JAG Report.
 - Areas left for committee review include JAG recommendations for economics, herbicides, and outreach. [These items could be covered by staff under the full Board item prior to the Board's discussion of possible recommendations].
- The Board could delay any discussion of action on the JAG Report until all elements of the JAG Report have been reviewed and discussed in Committee. [Board Members may not need further additional staff reporting on JAG recommendations.]