

## Proposed Indian Springs Reserve

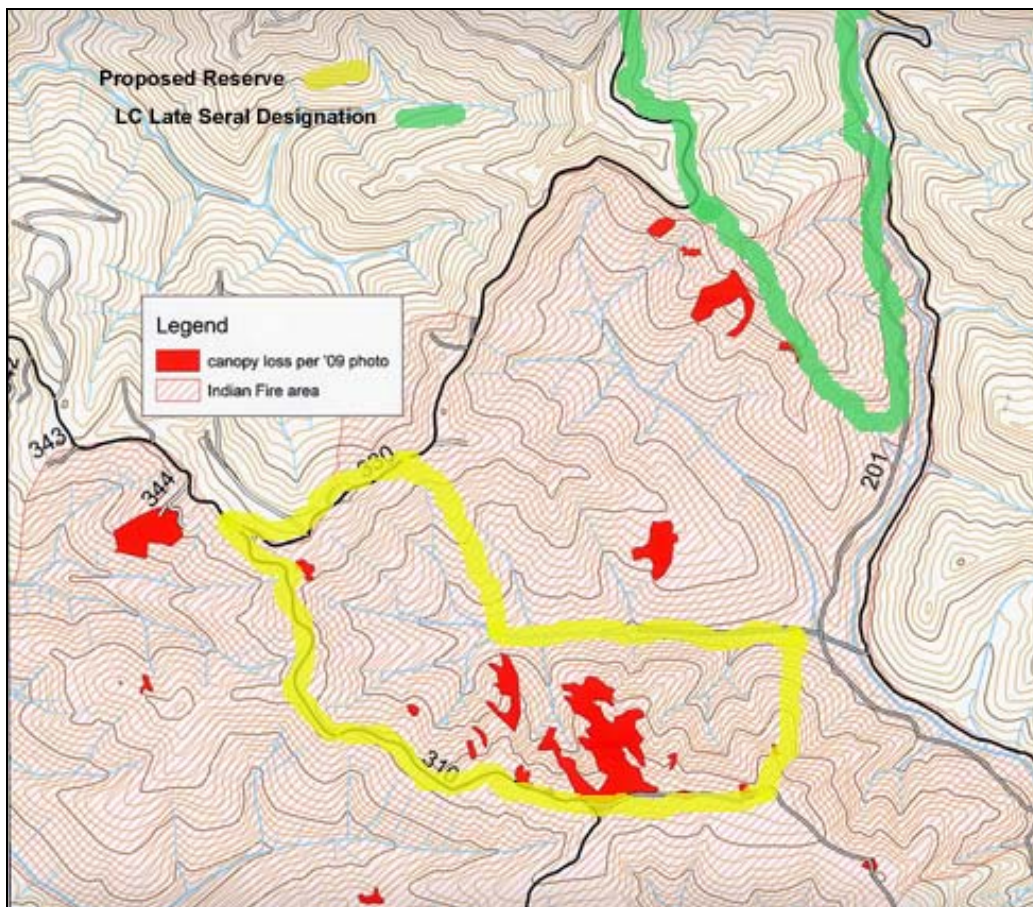
A reserve of approximately 300 acres is proposed in the Indian Springs area of West Chamberlain.

The Indian Springs reserve would be the only significant reserve of older second growth on the eastern half of Jackson Forest. The composition of the forest in this reserve differs significantly from that of the only other reserve of older second growth (Camp 3 Reserve) in Jackson Forest. It contains a relatively higher proportion of Douglas Fir.

The reserve would have a dual benefit:

- The reserve encompasses an area that was burned in the Indian Springs fire of 2008. It contains three drainages that had different intensities of burn. It offers the opportunity to do research on the recovery over time in these drainages without management and compare it to recovery in adjacent burned areas with active management. Future controlled burns would be permitted in the control area for research purposes.
- The reserve would provide an area of unmanaged forest on the eastern side of Jackson Forest in an area of high recreation potential. Unmanaged forest has a high aesthetic and spiritual value for the public.

Figure 1



Indian Springs was long used by Indians and seems likely to be an important archeological site of Mendocino County.<sup>1</sup> The preserve would provide protection for the archeological resources beyond that provided by JDSF practices to minimize impacts of logging.

Indian Springs is the site of the only campground in this section of the forest.



The road to the campsite parallels the railroad built by Caspar Lumber Company. Railroad trestles still remain along this road, adding to its value as a recreation resource.



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<sup>1</sup> Susan M. Hector, Daniel G. Foster, Linda C. Pollack, Gerrit L. Fenenga, and J. Charles Whatford, *A Charmstone Discovery in the Redwood Forests of Mendocino County, California*, November 30, 2005; <http://www.indiana.edu/~e472/cdf/reports/Charmstone.pdf>. This article stresses the value of avoiding damage to the archaeological site by road work and logging.

## ***Why Designate an Additional Reserve?***

If a reserve is to be established in this part of the forest, the proposed reserve has much to recommend it.

The fundamental issue that needs to be addressed is the extent to which reserves should be a part of the landscape allocation done by the Landscape Committee. The JAG has not directly considered the question of what amount of the forest should be placed into unmanaged reserves. The Landscape Committee ultimately needs to bring this question to the JAG, but it seems reasonable the committee first address the issue itself and make its recommendation to the JAG.

Here are some considerations:

Jackson Forest is a publicly owned forest. As such, its management should reflect public values. Unmanaged reserves that are allowed to recover naturally over time to old growth are important to the public. There are many in the public that would like to have no active management on Jackson Forest. Many others accept active management that is aimed at restoring the forest to older forest and providing a location for research on redwood forestry issues. Even among the latter group, however, there is a strong sentiment for maximizing the recreation and spiritual value of the forest. Unmanaged reserves located in areas of high recreation potential serve this purpose.

As the experimental program is developed, additional control areas are likely to be designated, but the criteria for these reserves will be their value for experimental measurements. Recreation and spiritual values will play little role.

It should be the role of the JAG to designate reserves to satisfy the desire of the public to have parts of the forest that are allowed to recover naturally and that can serve as recreational and spiritual resources. The reserves so far designated seem very inadequate for this purpose.

So far, the only reserves that have been designated by the Landscape Committee are:

- An extension of the Jughandle Staircase pygmy area into Jackson Forest.
- Several control areas in the Caspar Creek experimental watershed. These were already designated as controls by the research group, and the designation as reserves only provides more permanent protection. This designation was made with the approval of the manager of the Caspar Creek Watershed Study.

A small reserve in Camp 3 (approximately 120 acres) was designated as part of a negotiated settlement.

These are the only reserves currently planned outside of the old growth stands, all of which are small and together total just 450 acres.

## ***Conclusion***

The proposed Indian Springs Reserve would provide a small but valuable supplement to Jackson Forest reserves. It would be viewed by the public as a valuable recreational and spiritual resource. It would also have high scientific value for comparing the recovery from forest fire in the preserve to the recovery in actively managed areas.