



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Discussion of Jackson Demonstration State
Forest Advisory Group Recommendations for
Modifications to 2008 Management Plan

March 1, 2011



Overarching Themes: JAG Vision

As excerpted from Chapter 1 of the JAG Report:

- Creating a “world-class forest research and demonstration center.”
- Developing older forest conditions across much of the landscape, including growing trees to “natural ages” in some portions of the forest.
- Maintaining future options to shift land to different structural development goals.
- Expanding public opportunities for camping, hiking, and outdoor education.
- Maintaining and increasing timber harvests over time to support the local economy and to fund operations of the forest. The funding will support forest management, restoration of land and stream habitats, expanded recreation opportunities, forest research and demonstration programs, and enhanced public safety and resource protection.



Key Questions for the Board

“World Class Research and Demonstration Forest”

“Centers of Excellence” concept and tiered research governance structure that is proposed to work outside of Department chain of command—“Redwood Research Group” and “Redwood Regional Consortium”

- How would the “centers of excellence” and proposed research governance structure be integrated with Board’s Research and Science Committee?
- Are the two approaches to informing research at Demonstration Forests compatible or mutually exclusive? Is separation from the Department’s authority and chain of command appropriate or even possible?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of complex research governance structure vs. less complex ad hoc approach to conducting research?
- What are the funding and staffing levels necessary to create and implement the proposed tiered research governance structure? Are there examples of this kind of structure elsewhere that could inform the discussion?
- Is implementation of the proposed governance structure absolutely necessary in order to commence new research opportunities and continue current research efforts?



Key Questions for the Board

The Proposed Allocations of Forest Vegetation Types from Older Forest Development to Matrix Silviculture

How do the JAG Allocations influence research objectives and timber production?

1. How do the allocations for single tree and limited group selection in the matrix area as well as areas designated for development of older forest conditions influence the ability to conduct research? Do the allocations provide for the broadest representation of forest types such that researchers are able to test hypotheses from A-Z at any given time?
2. Do the allocations, particularly for the older forest development areas, reach objectives not currently achieved by State and National Park lands? Do the allocations preserve our ability to test management actions outside the bounds of what is permitted to occur in State and National Parks?
3. What are the social and economic risks associated with growing larger, older trees?
4. Would researchers be permitted to conduct “system breaking” research in the older forest development as well as the matrix allocations?
5. How could implementation of the proposed research governance structure alter the current allocations? Does the Redwood Research Group ultimately determine the final allocations as envisioned in the JAG Report?
6. Is it possible to adaptively designate allocations based upon research needs over time? Is that what the JAG intended by its vision statement, *Maintaining future options to shift land to different structural development goals?*



Key Questions for the Board

The Least Answered Question in the History of the Professional Foresters Examination:

ECONOMICS! (Not to mention the related topic of Forest administration)

1. **What is the level of annual harvest necessary to sustain break-even, marginally profitable, and profitable operation of the Forest in all sectors (i.e. timber production, recreation, research, educational outreach, access, resource protection)?**
2. **How do the constraints imposed in the JAG's recommendations alter the level of income necessary to sustain operation of the Forest in all sectors?**
3. **What is a realistic annual harvest level under current and prospective Forest staffing levels? Is current staffing a limiting factor for operation of the Forest? What are the best and worst case long term staffing levels for JDSF? What are the effects of Unit vs. Program direction of JDSF?**
4. **Would an adaptive approach to implementation of JAG's recommendations minimize the potential for budgeting nightmares?**
5. **Is it possible to establish a "prudent reserve" through amendment of Public Resources Code Section 4799.13? What is the legislative history—is modification of the statute a likely possibility in the short or long term?**



Key Questions for the Board

Other Big Picture Questions

- 1. Are the JAG recommendations consistent with the environmental analysis provided in the EIR certified by the Board? Will a supplemental EIR or amendment of the original be necessary to effect JAG recommendations?**
- 2. To what extent would an adaptive approach to implementation of the JAG's recommendations be practical and resolve any outstanding short-term conflicts over management direction?**
- 3. The *JAG Experiment* – has the JAG's process achieved what was originally envisioned when it was appointed? What are the lessons learned over the course of the 3 year initial implementation period? To what extent were non-JAG Member stakeholders involved in the process? Were the goals and interests of forest managers and landowners well considered in the JAG process?**