

September 25, 2009

Dear Forestry Practitioner,

The Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group is considering the draft proposal of its Landscape Committee to apply a particular default silviculture at Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) when timber harvest will occur outside of the framework of a defined research or demonstration project, or outside of an area designated for other specific management purposes. The method currently being discussed, Natural Forest Management (AKA Restoration Management or Natural Forestry), has as its goal the sustainable harvest of large, high-value trees while creating multiple-aged stands and complex structures similar to those found in older uneven-aged forests within the range of the coast redwood/Douglas-fir forest type. You have been identified as a practitioner of the type of silviculture we are considering.

A brief, draft summary of Natural Forest Management is attached. To better understand the range of possibilities, benefits, limitations, advantages and disadvantages of such a designation, we are putting together a roundtable discussion and would like for you to participate. The primary emphasis will be to compare different approaches to this goal and the types of growth and yield that could be anticipated on JDSF. We also would like to hear from you about research and demonstration projects that you have found helpful and the sort of research and demonstration you think would be beneficial going forward.

We anticipate that another future meeting will be held to discuss a wider range of silvicultural goals and practices and other kinds of potential research and demonstration projects at JDSF.

The date for the Natural Forest Management Roundtable is October 24 in the Fort Bragg area (specific location to be determined) from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Part of the day is planned to be spent in the field. At your earliest convenience, please let Russ Henly at CAL FIRE (russ.henly@fire.ca.gov; 916-653-9447) know whether you are willing and able to participate in this discussion.

We value your input in this discussion. If you have any question, I can be reached at helms@nature.berkeley.edu or (925) 254-0395.

Regards,

John Helms
Chairman
Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group