

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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Following months of discussions and a new vision, previously planned operations on the Jackson Demonstration State Forest set to resume in coming weeks

(Mendocino County, CA) Following months of collaborative discussions with local Native American tribes, community members, and stakeholders, work on previously approved and contracted timber operations will resume in the Jackson Demonstration State Forest starting this week and throughout the year.

After nearly an eight-month pause, work will resume with modifications guiding how these operations continue. A few of these notable modifications include:

- Focusing operations on smaller trees and halting any removal of trees over 48 inches in diameter. This retains large trees and provides an outline for updating the overall Jackson Demonstration State Forest Management Plan.
- Ensuring slash piles are removed across Timber Harvest Plan (THP) areas and areas of high use and visibility.
- Permanently protecting large trees through Potential Elder Tree retention to enhance future carbon sequestration from the forest and increasing the number of large trees in Mendocino County redwood forests.
- Modifying current THPs to enhance existing protections of culturally sensitive sites.

These modifications are part of broader discussions focusing on the future vision and direction for management of the state forest, including co-management with tribal partners, furthering fire resiliency and restoration ecology, and other restoration and conservation projects.

“Working with local Native American tribes, forest stakeholders, timber operators, conservation organizations and the local community has brought us to a reasonable place for resuming sustainable operations in the Jackson Demonstration State Forest,” said Deputy Director for Resource Management, Matthew Reischman. “These key modifications reflect our shared values while following through on previous contractual commitments. The productive conversations that have led us to this point provides an important step for the future of the Jackson Demonstration State Forest and stewarding its many values. It also supports local communities that have been impacted by paused activities in the forest.”

Resuming operations will occur in phases, where previously paused operations will re-start by completing smaller segments of incomplete work. Because of scheduling and logistical challenges for forest operators, work will also happen based on equipment and crew availability at different times throughout the year.

Building on this approach, CAL FIRE shared a vision for future management of the forest at the August Jackson Advisory Group meeting. There, an update was shared that outlined steps for revisiting the forest's long-term management plan four years early, given accelerating climate change and increasing catastrophic wildfire risks to coastal redwood ecosystems. In coming months, the Jackson Advisory Group will continue to facilitate input from local communities and stakeholders to inform this work.

"We are committed to working with tribal governments, local communities, the regional forestry sector and conservation organizations to ensure the forest is managed as an environmentally sustainable forest based on science and protects natural landscapes and watersheds, enables ecologically appropriate timber harvest for supporting local communities, and provides one-of-a-kind recreation opportunities," said Reischman.

CAL FIRE's nine demonstration state forests, including the Jackson, serve as a living laboratory for how to care for and manage California's forest lands for multiple benefits, including ecological and watershed protection, wood products and timber production, recreation, and habitat restoration. The Jackson Forest provides unique research and demonstration opportunities in a coastal redwood forest where environmental scientists, foresters, and other researchers can study the effects of various forest management and restoration techniques. Potential Elder Tree (PET) retention, road abandonment for improved instream fisheries habitat, forest thinning to increase forest resilience to fire, and regeneration studies are a few examples of research practices underway at Jackson Demonstration State Forest.

- For more information about the Jackson Demonstration State Forest, visit: [Jackson \(ca.gov\)](#)
- For more information about California's demonstration state forests, visit: [Demonstration State Forests \(ca.gov\)](#)

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