

# Redwood Nation Earth First!

I asked The CHP officer at the Caspar 500 timber harvest plan gate blockade: "What do we have to do around here to get arrested?" he told me "You'd have to do something violent, so I guess that counts your group out."

The Campaign to Save Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF), nearly 50,000 acres of publicly owned land, has blossomed like a mini-Headwaters and, like the Timber Wars of the 90's, has engulfed us in non-stop direct action. We have succeeded in stopping all logging for the past six months, installing a de facto People's Moratorium without a single arrest, as Calfire dodges responsibility and avoids media attention.

Nonviolence trainings started in April, then rallies, early morning blockades, treesits and press releases ensued.

Saddling both sides of highway 20 between Willits and the Mendocino

County Coast, "the Jackson" is neither Park nor Reserve, but was designed to accommodate recreation, wildlife, and the "demonstration" of timber production, aka logging. Although JDSF is located on ancestral and un-ceded Pomo Indian territory, the protection of cultural and sacred sites was never given more than lip service. Indeed, many of the roads now crisscrossing the forest are built over a network of Indigenous trails traditionally used to connect those sites, now compacted by heavy equipment

and often covered with enormous piles of flammable logging debris and slash.

Coyote Valley tribal elder Priscilla Hunter and her son Tribal Council Chair Michael Hunter addressed a large crowd about this in July at a Ft. Bragg rally. They described the history of genocide endured by the Pomo people, who fled into these same forests pursued by white settlers. The Hunters propose a new mission for JDSF focused on cultural and environmental restoration, carbon sequestration, and recreation.

Joining with the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians and other allied organizations, we formed the Coalition to Save Jackson Forest which has circulated a statewide petition calling for the immediate cessation of Indigenous site destruction, Indigenous co-management, and inclusion in the Governor's 30 x 30 policy of protecting 30% of California's lands by 2030. Until then, we are calling for an official moratorium on logging.



Set aside by the State of California in 1947 in an effort to demonstrate improved forest management, the mixed hardwood, redwood and fir forest had been previously brutalized by decades of unregulated logging practices. Thanks to temporarily lighter touch logging and the amazing vitality of the remaining old and second growth redwoods, the forest did indeed recover substantially. It is a treasured nature observatory and recreation destination holding many of the last remaining large old redwoods left on Earth.

Past efforts by public citizens to rein in Timber's appetite for public trees halted logging through court actions from 2000-08 and rewrote the JDSF Management Plan. However since then, the Timber Industry has been making up for lost time, revved up under Trump and accelerated during Covid. The industry filed a plethora of timber harvest



plans and Calfire helped rush approvals. As logging operations crept closer to recreation trails visitors began to notice silted streams and some mighty big trees marked for cut. Beyond locked gates, gory clearcuts could be glimpsed.

All summer long, citizens on bikes and on foot have monitored the forest, ferreting out logging activities and stopping them by going on site

during operations, blowing whistles, and refusing to leave. After an early dramatic confrontation in Caspar 500 during active logging in June, workers have mostly stopped work peacefully when activists arrived, except in Soda Gulch in October, where loggers tried stage a fight at the foreman's behest. This only provoked a larger than usual nonviolent blockade next morning. With that, the rains began and the season ended. Or did it? Taking no chances, daily citizen patrols are still checking out any action in Jackson.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors just unanimously passed a Resolution calling for a Scientific Review of JDSF's Management Plan, to determine its alignment with the Governor's goals of addressing climate change, boosting our chances for an official moratorium considerably. Before the hearing, the Supervisors received a record 800 comments in favor of the Resolution. One high school student said it best at the Supes' Zoom meeting, declaring: "Redwood is a luxury product and we cannot sacrifice our future for a luxury" emphasizing that "Climate change is real."

Even Governor Newsom responded, directing Calfire and other public lands agencies in September 2021, to "support California tribes' co-management of and access to natural lands that are within a California tribe's ancestral land..."

This is the time we ask you to send a check so we have money for gas, activist chow, banners, and printing. There is so much more to do.

We are still at: Redwood Nation Earth First  
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Solidarity,

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