

Redwood Nation Earth First!

Dear supporters,

Here we go again! After three years of no logging, CalFire has filed a new Timber Harvest Plan (THP)—the first since widespread public protests in 2020-21 that effectively halted all THPs in Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF).

There has been no new commercial tree cutting since early 2022, when a “pause” was put in place by the California Natural Resources Department following two seasons of nonviolent direct actions to protect old growth and second growth redwoods in the nearly 50,000 acre State-owned People’s Forest. CalFire had committed to halting new THPs until the Forest Management Plan (FMP) was updated, including a Co-management Agreement with Tribal governments.

State Representative Jim Wood and Senator Mike McGuire have each stated in writing their support for no new THPs before a new Tribal Co-Management plan is in place. Our new North Coast Assembly Member Chris Rogers has signaled support for continuing the hiatus as well.

Maintaining the “pause” is crucial, because logging changes the forest fundamentally, impacting the land, water, wildlife and cultural sites and circumventing required tribal agreement.

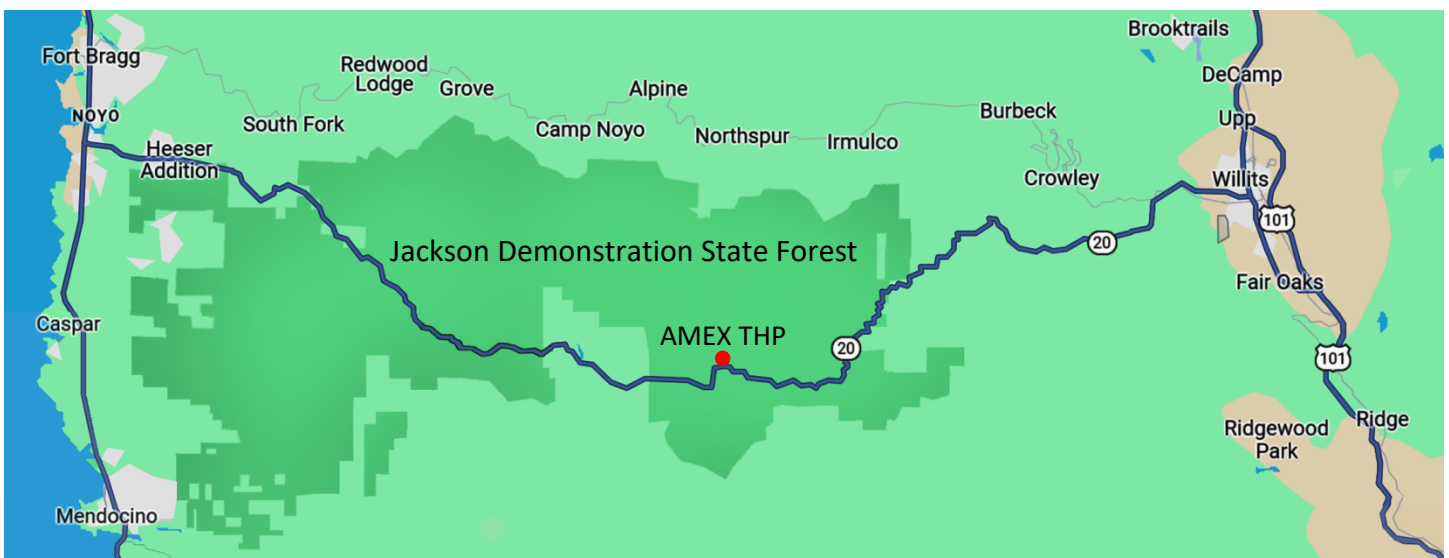
Yet, despite having no finalized Management Plan, and no established Co-management framework with Tribal governments, CalFire is pushing ahead with a THP! Known as “AMEX,” the proposed plan targets 484 acres near Chamberlain Creek in JDSF, using a method called ‘group selection harvesting’ aka a patchwork of clear-cuts.

According to analysis from EPIC (Environmental Protection Information Center) the AMEX THP is based on an outdated FMP that does not reflect current ecological science, does not include Tribal Co-governance principles nor address climate change. The THP itself is a betrayal of CalFire’s commitment, out of line with community sentiment, and riddled with flaws. For example, the size or type of trees to be cut are not specified, there is no clear limit on diameter, and no criteria for preserving large trees (oops!). While claiming to have “no impact,” the THP proposes using heavy equipment on steep slopes near major waterways, potentially harming aquatic life and water quality with sediment.

Logging close to hiking and biking trails would disturb visitors and scare away wildlife and birds, including Spotted Owls and Marbled Murrelets, both listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act. You can see the full THP at <https://caltreesplans.resources.ca.gov/Caltrees/customization/ca/caltrees.aspx>

Enter the THP number 1-25-00044-MEN to submit a comment letter to

SantaRosaReviewTeam@fire.ca.gov



Currently, the State Mandate for JDSF prioritizes commercial timber production. We've collected thousands of signatures on a petition to change that requirement, prioritizing biological and cultural restoration and light recreation instead.

We continue to address the Board of Forestry in Sacramento and the Jackson Advisory Group (the JAG) in Fort Bragg, our only local forum for community comment on Jackson, to oppose new THPs and advocate for a new FMP based on Tribal Ecological Knowledge, protecting trees, and cultural sites.

What's so special about this forest besides its beauty and diversity? Jackson is the largest repository of Indigenous cultural and sacred sites in California, constituting a "cultural landscape," crisscrossed by trails connecting ancient village sites, now often covered over by logging roads.

Recently, Governor Newsom's earlier policy declarations on Tribal Co-management Plans of State lands returned to Indigenous descendants have been codified into law. AB 1284 encourages the State to consult with Tribes on Co-management and Co-governance Agreements and land returns.

Another important new California law, AB 52, requires Tribal Government-to-Government consultation under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), on all forest management activities within Jackson Forest. AB 52 increases protections for heritage landscapes, offering much more extensive mitigation measures than previously provided.

Last year, CalFire hired contractors, not the JAG or the Tribal Advisory Council, to begin drafting a new FMP for Jackson. However, CalFire's contractors have not applied CEQA, including AB 52, to the development of the new plan. They have not completed a Tribal Co-management Plan and refuse to do an Environmental Impact Review! Instead, CalFire is receiving public input and drafting the FMP through an informal, unregulated process which does not require the public comments needed to mount a legal challenge. The Draft FMP may be released as soon as July.

In December 2024, CalFire held a series of tightly controlled meetings, ostensibly to solicit public input on the draft FMP. The meetings were dominated by CalFire personnel and the hired contractors who squelched public testimony, intimidated speakers, and threatened to remove anyone who spoke out! No recording equipment was used and unsigned comments were written on post-its, so it was unclear how the public input would be preserved or processed. This stifling of public comment is becoming ubiquitous throughout the land.

The National Forest closures this summer are most likely harbingers of intensified logging under rolled back regulations, including copycat increases on private corporate forestlands. A full scale assault is underway on our public lands and monuments, even places we thought were already saved.

Nonviolence trainings will be held this summer to familiarize new (and old) forest protectors with Jackson Forest and prepare for action everywhere!

Sadly, we recently lost Pomo elder and tribal leader Priscilla Hunter of Coyote Valley, who joined the ancestors in November of 2024, and Earth First!er Bill Heil of Albion, who left us in March this year. Both Priscilla and Bill are sorely missed by their fellow forest protectors and families. Their vision and wisdom will continue to inspire and guide us.

Please help us keep going by supporting this work to educate, train, and stay ready to protect our precious forests and Tribal heritage – nonviolently of course! As ever, your support and contributions are mightily appreciated. To donate, please go to our website at redwoodnationearthfirst.org

For the Earth,



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