

Redwood Nation Earth First!

What's happening in Jackson Demonstration Forest, you may be wondering? On the surface, not a lot, and that's the good news. No logging is occurring in the nearly 50,000 acre People's Forest this season due to the ongoing "pause" decreed by the Board of Forestry in 2022, after the People protested, took part in nonviolent direct action, and got arrested to keep old and not-so-old redwoods from falling to the chainsaws. The pause is still in force, but for how long?

On a recent summer's day in Jackson, the forest is quiet, yet full of sound: the calls of birds, the scurry of small animals, the cautious tread of browsing deer, a trickle of water in a creek, perhaps even a whiff of black bear in the wind rustling the tall treetops. No whining chainsaws, no groan and earth-shaking thud of falling trees, no incessant beep-beep-beep of the yarder, can be heard. If only it would stay this way!

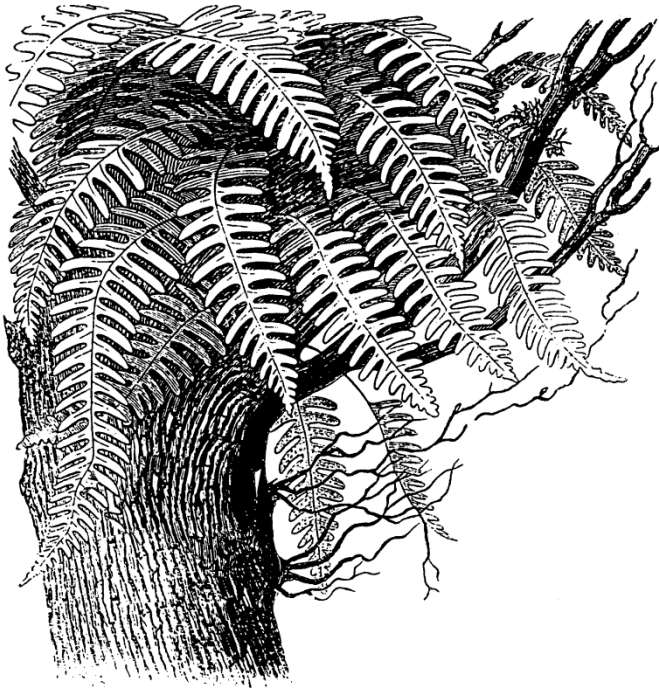
But behind the scenes, Big Timber is thirsty for the resumption of profits and control flowing from private logging on public lands. Behind them, CalFire, the managing agency for JDSF, stands ready to help the industry that pays its salaries get back to business as usual, A.S.A.P. This means getting Timber Harvest Plans (THPs) approved and getting out the cut, again.

But first, to fulfill Governor Newsom's policies, CalFire is supposed to agree on a Co-management Plan with Indigenous Tribes whose ancestral territories were historically within what is now called Jackson Forest. As well, State Law AB 52 requires State agencies to consult early and often with Tribes on all projects that impact Indigenous lands on State properties, like THPs in Jackson. CalFire routinely sidesteps these requirements, creating a "Tribal Advisory

Council" with no real power, whereas, Tribes have Sovereign Nation status and are not merely "advisory".

When timber companies file a THP with CalFire, the plan is reviewed by the Jackson Advisory Group (the JAG), a twelve member panel appointed by the Board of Forestry that meets in Mendocino County and is open to the public. We attend many JAG meetings in Mendocino County and Board of Forestry meetings in Sacramento to monitor developments and make our voices heard.





Despite our objections, three new THPs are moving forward in Jackson, called “Camp One”, “Pyro-siviculture” and “AMEX”. On Aug. 14th, the JAG approved the “AMEX” THP, a “selection” logging plan that includes three plots testing for “resistance, resilience and transition”, under conditions designed to mimic projected warming. Each experimental plot involves cutting down trees and burning the land to figure out which technique works best for continued timber production.

One Earth First!er called the AMEX THP “ the same old, same old, with an overlay of pseudo science, to see if they can still grow merchantable timber in the future. Maybe they’ll need to import trees from farther south?” If the plan is approved by the Board of Forestry, we will need to hold nonviolence trainings to prepare for Direct Action, once the public comment period ends. We believe no new THPs should be approved before a State required Co-management Plan is agreed upon by all Tribes claiming ancestral territory in Jackson. Both California State Representative Woods and Senator McGuire are on record favoring this approach.

As part of the Coalition to Save Jackson, Redwood Nation Earth First! is honored to work with members of the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians and Round Valley Indian Tribes towards equal co-management of the forest. Recent Native-led meetings have introduced the Board of Forestry to the concepts of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK). However, the outdated 2016 JDSF management plan still mandates logging. We are helping to gather signatures on a petition to the Governor to change this requirement, allowing consideration of other management models based on TEK, restoration, and respectful recreation.

We’re super out of money and need about \$1,000 for a minimum bulk order of Earth First T-shirts. These classic T’s are popular and in demand. When we have T-shirts, we table and when we table, people fill our jar with money. Tabling gets more than finances. Tabling spreads the word about our campaign, keeps us visible in our communities, finds volunteers, and helps pay for gas to get to nonviolence trainings, action camps, and actions. Thank you as always for your support.

For the Forest,

Naomi Wagner
Redwood Nation EF!

P.S. We also email now. By including your email, we will update you occasionally, not too often.

