



## DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Jackson Demonstration State Forest  
 802 North Main Street  
 Fort Bragg, CA 95437  
 (707) 964-5674 fax: (707) 964-0941  
 Website: [www.fire.ca.gov/resource\\_mgt/resource\\_mgt\\_stateforests\\_jackson.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_stateforests_jackson.php)



May 22, 2014

Amy Wynn  
 Blair Foster  
 Jesse Stafford  
 Mendocino Bike Sprite, LLC  
 703 North Main Street  
 Fort Bragg, CA 95437

RE: Response to 4/23/14 Letter for Regular, Non-event Special Use Permit  
 (MTB Guide Concession)

Dear Ms. Wynn, Ms. Foster and Mr. Stafford,

This letter is in response to your letter dated April 23, 2014, in which you request a Special use Permit from CAL FIRE to operate a mountain bike guiding concession on Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) on a regular, non-event basis. I share your interest and enthusiasm for mountain biking opportunities on Jackson Demonstration State Forest and believe that, to some extent, guided mountain biking visits provide a demonstration/educational opportunity. As such, event-based or limited Special Use Permits will continue to be issued.

The Special Use Permits that we have issued to you (*i.e.*, two per year) and other bike entities assists us in attaining our management goals. Issuance of specific, event-based permits rather than a general use non-event permit is key to avoiding conflicts with our primary mandated programs pursuant to Board of Forestry and Fire Protection policy 0351.6<sup>1</sup>. Consistent with policies of the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection<sup>1</sup>, recreation at JDSF is dispersed, informal and not heavily regulated. There are

<sup>1</sup> SPECIAL USES OF STATE FORESTS 0351.6

Special uses of State forests will be permitted only when there is a clear benefit to the citizens of the State and when such uses do not conflict with primary (uses) programs of timber management, demonstration, research, and recreation. Such concessions must be consistent with this policy and receive written permission of the Forest Manager. The Forest Manager may require mitigations to any concession to ameliorate potential impacts on the forest or its operations.

- A. Use of State forests for mining, grazing, and commercial concessions is discouraged. Concessions on State Forestlands means:
- a. The privilege of maintaining a subsidiary business within the forest, or
  - b. The space allotted for such a business, or
  - c. The business itself.

Examples of concessions that are discouraged:

1. Those that require permanent structures.

good reasons for this. This kind of recreation is compatible with the other two mandated land uses on JDSF, research and timber production, and it allows us to maintain a compatible balance between these three land uses.

Significant conflicts that are likely to occur in allowing a concession on JDSF include:

- 1). Administrative workload increase beyond budget and staff capability.
  - a. Ensuring equal access to all interested parties (e.g. other business requests).
    - (1). Advertisement, competitive bidding, legal review, etc.
    - (2). Allocating/identifying location, timing, scheduling, etc.
  - b. Environmental and hazard assessment associated with approved trails, routes.
  - c. Identifying alternative access when temporary closures are required for primary program project implementation.
  - d. Audits and enforcement.
- 2). Recreation program planning on JDSF includes the use of volunteers and volunteer organizations to maintain trails. It is not appropriate for a business to benefit from this volunteer work.
- 3). Once a business is established, vested interest and expectations increase. This will affect budget and staffing as identified above and will detract from our ability to manage the overall recreation program on the Forest.
  - a. Specific management requests along trails which may reduce ability to implement research and demonstration projects.
  - b. Reducing options while considering the least environmental impact for a project.
  - c. Preferred trails/routes will be identified, thus increasing pressure to keep them open.
- 4). Increased use by commercial recreationists may lead to more conflicts with individual recreationists.

Since JDSF has created a Recreation User Task Force, many, if not all of the items that you have identified in your proposal are in the process of being implemented without any specific monetary benefit to an individual business. Commercial activities are not precluded on the forest, but concessions are discouraged as stated in Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Policy 0351.6<sup>1</sup>. That said, Special Use Permits are issued to the extent feasible and within the aforementioned policy.

I believe we share a common goal of fostering mountain bike recreation at JDSF. I hope I have managed to convey the message that we welcome the participation of your mountain bike guiding business in helping to achieve this goal with a Special Use Permit.

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2. Those that are commercial in nature, i.e. the operation is tied primarily to commercial revenue generation (e.g., vendors that sell souvenirs or food) instead of a symbiotic relationship with one of the mandated uses of the State Forests.

3. Mining

4. Grazing, except where such use has been traditionally recognized on the property, or an there is an existing agreement, or where necessary for research or management (e.g., herbivory to reduce hazardous fuels)

5. Those that have no clear connection to the role of the forest in timber management, demonstration, research, and recreation.

JDSF will continue to allow limited mountain bike guiding, with a Special Use Permit and will continue to reassess annually the number of permits we can support. We value your partnership and enthusiasm and I hope we can continue to work together to enhance recreational use of JDSF by mountain biking enthusiasts.

CHRISTOPHER P. ROWNEY  
Mendocino Unit Chief



By: Pam Linstedt  
State Forest Manager

Cc: U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Chairman Dan Hamburg, Fort Bragg Mayor Dave Turner; Helge Eng