DRAFT Resolution of the

Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee

Official Comments on the Following Timber Harvest Plans:

Mitchell Creek THP 1-20-00193-MEN

Little North Fork Big River 1-20-00173-MEN

[1] **WHEREAS**, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) plans to harvest nearly five square miles of high quality second-growth forest on the Mendocino Coast in the next few years.

[2] **WHEREAS**, the 5,000+ acres slated for logging have some of the highest concentrations of large trees remaining in the state forest system, and most of these forests have not been logged in 50-100 years.

[3] **WHEREAS,** Coast Redwood trees can sequester up to 250 times more carbon than the average tree during a typical tree lifetime. Dryw and O'hara found in their analysis "*Carbon Storage in Young Growth Coast Redwood Stands*" that mature Redwood sequestered more carbon than young Redwood and that both sequestered more carbon than historical default values used in carbon budgeting.

[4] **WHEREAS**, Jackson Demonstration State Forest is well positioned to help implement Governor Newsom's October 7, 2020 executive order that directs state policymakers to conserve 30% of the state's land and coastal water by 2030, in order to curb the loss of species and ecosystems. The Governor envisions carbon sequestration projects on farms and other landscapes as a major part of preventing the climate crisis from worsening.

[5] **WHEREAS,** Jackson Demonstration State Forest is an excellent location to demonstrate forest conservation and carbon sequestration.

[6] **WHEREAS,** Jackson Demonstration State Forest should seek to use the proposed THP areas to demonstrate carbon sequestration.

[7] **WHEREAS,** logging is one of the greatest contributors to climate change. A group of 200 forestry and climate scientists sent a letter to the US Congress last May, stating that:

> "Logging in U.S. forests emits 617 million tons of CO_2 annually. Further, logging involves transportation of trucks and machinery across long distances between the forest and the mill. For every ton of carbon emitted from logging, an additional 17.2% (106 million tons of CO_2) is emitted from fossil fuel consumption to support transportation, extraction, and processing of wood. In fact, annual CO_2 emissions from logging in U.S. forests are comparable to yearly U.S. emissions from the residential and commercial sectors combined (EPA Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory). The cumulative climate change impact of logging in the U.S. is even higher, since logging causes substantial reductions in carbon sequestration and storage potential in forests due to soil compaction and nutrient removal, and these combined impacts can often reduce forest carbon storage potential by 30% or more."

[8] **WHEREAS,** the Dec 2020, report by California Air Resources Board entitled: "Wildfire, Prescribed Fire, and Forest Management Activities" analyzed carbon flows in and out of all California's forest lands. The report concludes that in the past 20 years there has been an average annual new net carbon outflow from forests totaling 10.9 MMT (Million Metric Tons) of carbon or about 39.24 MMT of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO2e). The is 9.2% of the total annual 2018 net emissions from GHG emitting activities statewide (425 million MMTCO2e). Clearly forest practices (natural and manmade) play a significant role in our overall statewide contributions to climate change. See details below:

- **Forestry Process Outflows**: "The 2002–2019 average annual amount of carbon transformed by forest management (including prescribed fire) is 4.6 MMT of carbon. This carbon quantity represents the amount of CO_2 that was previously sequestered as biomass carbon."
- **Proscribed Fire Outflows**: "Prescribed fire emissions in the 2000–2019 period range from 0.16 MMT CO2 in 2016 to 1.9 MMT CO_2 in 2006, with a statewide annual average of 0.68 MMT CO_2."
- **Wildfire Outflows:** "Annual emissions range from 1 MMT of CO2 in 2010 to 39 MMT of CO2 in 2018….averaging approximately 14 MMT/year. For almost all years, forests and woodlands represent the largest contributors to annual wildfire CO_2 emissions."
- **Natural Process Gross Inflows**: "Estimation of carbon flows resulting from photosynthesis and other life cycle of plants has high uncertainty and is expected to vary from year to year depending on temperature, precipitation, and sunlight availability of the year. CARB estimated an annual average of 9.9 MMT C / year of gross stock change (excluding impacts from disturbance). CAL FIRE's Forestry Carbon Inventory estimates an annual average of 7.1 MMT C / year."

[9] **WHEREAS,** according to "Wildfire, Prescribed Fire, and Forest Management Activities" the current Bank of Carbon in California's forests is 5,340 MMT, and over the past 20 years that bank of carbon was reduced by a net 218 MMT or 4%, (based on an average net-10.9 MMT of Carbon per year).

[10] **WHEREAS**, Jackson Demonstration State Forest's Management Plan specifically states that:

> "efforts will be made to limit the extent of harvest… in areas that currently have at least 10 trees/acre greater than 30" in diameter,"
>
> However, almost every acre of the proposed Timber Harvest Plans have at least 10 trees/acre with greater than 30" in diameter, illustrating that Calfire is not following its own Forest Management Plan.

[11] **WHEREAS,** CALFIRE denied climate change in cumulative effects section of the proposed THP. The THP states "exactly how and to what extent human activity plays a role in global climate change appears to be unknown" (p. 150). This statement contradicts overwhelming scientific evidence and a worldwide consensus among climate scientists that climate change is the direct result of excess carbon emission due to human activities.

[12] **WHEREAS**, the forested areas that are proposed for logging currently offer miles of beautiful hiking and biking trails in Mendocino, Caspar, and Fort Bragg's back yards.

[13] **WHEREAS**, the areas proposed for logging are close to hundreds of residences, border three State Parks, and are visited by tens of thousands of people annually.

[14] **WHEREAS,** the implementation of the proposed timber harvest plans have the potential to increase fire risk adjacent to populated areas on the Coast such as East Caspar, Little Lake Road and Simpson Lane. Timber Harvests compact soils, result in significant slash which become highly flammable as it dries out, spread highly flammable invasive plants and diseases such as sudden oak death, and create more open space for the winds which whip fires into coastal homes and towns.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee does hereby recommend that Jackson Demonstration Forest should:

1. Examine the cumulative and individual impacts of all proposed Timber Harvest Plans on achieving the State's Goals for carbon emission reductions; and
2. Market one or both of the proposed Timber Harvest Plans on the carbon market to demonstrate the viability of, and market for, carbon sequestration in Northern California for late stage second growth redwood forest; and
3. Cancel one or both of the proposed Timber Harvest Plans to meet the requirements of Governor Newsom's Executive Order.

This foregoing Resolution introduced by Committee Member _____, seconded by Committee Member _____, and carried this ____ day of _____, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

_____ Date_____

Certified: Secretary of the Mendocino County Climate Advisory Committee