

Resolution of the
Mendocino County Board of Education
No. 22.2.5

**Requesting Scientific Review of
Jackson Demonstration State Forest**

WHEREAS, the science is convincing that our existential fight against climate change demands expanded effort to store carbon in the State's natural and working lands to remove it from the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, the Mendocino County Board of Education embraces the responsibility to mitigate the systemic risks climate change poses to humans and natural systems; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom, through an executive order, committed the State of California to a goal of protecting 30% of California's land and coastal waters by 2030; and

WHEREAS, in November of 2021, leaders of more than 100 countries, including the United States, held climate talks in Glasgow and President Biden pledged to end deforestation by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's executive order directs the State's Natural Resources Agency to draw up a plan by February 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the County of Mendocino has an integral role to play in helping the State achieve its 30 by 30 climate goal encouraged by California's Climate Change Scoping Plan for local governments to adopt goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15% below 1990's levels by 2020, 40% below 1990's levels by 2030 and 80% below 1990's levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has adopted commercial Timber Harvest Plans for Jackson Demonstration State Forest based on goals not yet refreshed to reflect the State's recent climate commitments and has commenced logging; and

WHEREAS, science-based forest management is vital to bolstering long term forest health, improving forest resiliency from wildfire, protecting wildlife habitat and riparian corridors; and

WHEREAS, the County of Mendocino respects the guidance of Mendocino's indigenous people, many of whom are calling to prioritize carbon sequestration and in-forest storage,

preservation and protection of Native American cultural heritage, equitable access to public lands, and the protection of California's rare and endangered species; and

WHEREAS, the State of California should ensure there is not inconsistency between Jackson Demonstration State Forest management goals and the adopted State of California climate change commitments.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Mendocino County Board of Education urges Governor Newsom and the State's Natural Resources Agency to include any climate impacts of commercial logging on State lands in drawing up the plan to protect 30% of California's land use and coastal waters by 2030, and to publish a science-based report that evaluates carbon sequestration capacity and wildfire resiliency of current management practices, as well as alternate management scenarios, of Jackson Demonstration State Forest; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Mendocino County Board of Education strongly urges Governor Newsom to align Jackson Demonstration State Forest management goals with the adopted State of California climate change commitments, and to do so in a way that enhances the wide-ranging scientific, recreational and economic opportunities offered by Jackson Demonstration State Forest.

By Order of the Mendocino County Board of Education

Dated: February 14, 2022

Michelle Hutchins, Ex Officio Secretary
County Superintendent of Schools

Larry Olson, President
Mendocino County Board of Education