

Appendix B - Full Application Checklist

SNC Reference#: _____

Project Name: The Butte Forest Thin – Doe Ridge Mills Watershed Project

Applicant: Terra Fuego Resource Foundation

Please mark each box: check if item is included in the application; mark “N/A” if not applicable to the project. “N/A” identifications must be explained in the application. Please consult with SNC staff prior to submission if you have any questions about the applicability to your project of any items on the checklist. All applications must include a CD including an electronic file of each checklist item, if applicable. The naming convention for each electronic file is listed after each item on the checklist. (Electronic File Name = EFN: “naming convention”. file extension choices)

Submission requirements for all Category One and Category Two Grant Applications

1. Completed Application Checklist (EFN: *Checklist.doc, .docx, or .pdf*)
2. Table of Contents (EFN: *TOC.doc, .docx, or .pdf*)
3. Full Application Project Information Form (EFN: *Siform.doc, .docx, or .pdf*)
4. CCC/Local Conservation Corps Document (EFN: *CCC.pdf*)
5. Authorization to Apply or Resolution (EFN: *authorization.doc, .docx, or .pdf*)
6. Narrative Descriptions (EFN: *Narrative.doc or .docx*)
 - a. Detailed Project Description (5,000 character maximum for section 5a only)
 - Project Description including Goals/Results, Scope of Work, Location, Purpose, etc.
 - b. Workplan and Schedule
 - c. Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements
 - Restrictions / Agreements (EFN: *RestAgree.pdf*)
 - Regulatory Requirements / Permits (EFN: *RegPermit.pdf*)
 - d. Organizational Capacity
 - e. Cooperation and Community Support
 - Letters of Support (EFN: *LOS.pdf*)
 - f. Tribal Consultation Narrative (EFN: *tribal.doc, docx*)
 - g. Long Term Management and Sustainability
 - Long-Term Management Plan (EFN: *LTMP.pdf*)
 - h. Performance Measures
7. Budget documents
 - a. Detailed Budget Form (EFN: *Budget.xls, .xlsx*)
8. Supplementary Documents
 - a. Environmental Documentation
 - California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation (EFN: *CEQA.pdf*)
 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation (EFN: *NEPA.pdf*)
 - b. Maps and Photos
 - Project Location Map (EFN: *LocMap.pdf*)
 - Parcel Map showing County Assessor’s Parcel Number(s) (EFN: *ParcelMap.pdf*)

- Topographic Map (EFN: *Topo.pdf*)
- Photos of the Project Site (10 maximum) (EFN: *Photo.jpg, .gif*)
- c. Additional submission requirements for Fee Title Acquisition applications only
 - Acquisition Schedule (EFN: *acqSched.doc, .docx or .pdf*)
 - Willing Seller Letter (EFN: *WillSell.pdf*)
 - Real Estate Appraisal (EFN: *Appraisal.pdf*)
- d. Additional submission requirements for Site Improvement / Restoration Project applications only
 - Land Tenure Documents (EFN: *Tenure.pdf*)
 - Site Plan (EFN: *SitePlan.pdf*)
 - Leases or Agreements (EFN: *LeaseAgmnt.pdf*)

I certify that the information contained in the Application, including required attachments, is accurate, and that I have been authorized to apply for this grant.

Signed (Authorized Representative)

9/1/15

Date

Mike Peevers, Executive Director

Name and Title (print or type)

**Terra Fuego Resource Foundation
Proposition 1 – Watershed Improvement Program
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
September 1, 2015**

Table of Contents

Section	Page #
Project Information Form	1
CCC Document	3
Authorization to Apply	4
Narrative	5
Work Plan and Schedule	6
Restrictions	8
Organizational Capacity	8
Cooperation and Community Support	
• Letters of Support	9
Tribal Support Narrative	14
Long Term Management Plan	14
Performance Measures	14
Budget and Budget Detail	15
Supplementary Documents	17
• CEQA	
• NEPA	
• Location Map	
• Parcel Map (N/A Federal Land)	
• Topographic Maps	
• Photos	
Additional Submission Requirements	54
• Land Tenure Documents	
• Site Plan	
• Lease/Agreements (N/A, tenure documents provided.)	

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY	
PROPOSITION 1 – Watershed Improvement Program Project Information Form	
SNC REFERENCE #	
PROJECT NAME Butte Forest Thin - Doe Ridge Mills Watershed Project	
APPLICANT NAME <i>(Legal name, address, and zip code)</i> Terra Fuego Resource Foundation 1100 Fortress Street, Suite 2 Chico, CA 95973	
AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUEST \$491,561.00	
TOTAL PROJECT COST \$10,000,000.00 Est.	
PROJECT LOCATION <i>(County with approx. lat/long, center of project area)</i> <small>Butte County MDM T24N R3E S27, 35 Spring City and Cohasset, CA</small>	
SENATE DISTRICT NUMBER 4	ASSEMBLY DISTRICT NUMBER 1 and 3
PERSON WITH MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANT CONTRACT	
<i>Name and title</i>	<i>Phone</i>
<i>Email Address</i>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Mike Peevers, Executive Dir.	530-899-8399
<input type="checkbox"/> Ms.	mike@terrafuego.org
TRIBAL CONSULTATION CONTACT(S) INFORMATION	
<i>Name:</i>	<i>Phone Number:</i>
Kyle McHenry, Mechoopda Maidu Tribe	530-899-8922
<i>Email address:</i> kmac31@gmail.com	
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR PLANNING DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION	
<i>Name:</i>	<i>Phone Number:</i>
Paul Hahn, Butte County CAO	530.538.7631
<i>Email address:</i> Phahn@buttecounty.net	
NEAREST PUBLIC WATER AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION	
<i>Name:</i>	<i>Phone Number:</i>
Paul Gosselin, Director	530.538.4343
<i>Email address:</i> Pgosselin@buttecounty.net	

Please identify the appropriate project category below and provide the associated details (*Choose One*)

Category One Site Improvement

Category Two Pre-Project Activities

Category One Acquisition

Site Improvement/ Acquisition Project Area

Project Area: Border between Butte Cree⁺

Total Acres: 30,000

SNC Portion (if different): 144

Acquisition Projects Only For Acquisitions Only

Appraisal Included

Select one primary Pre-Project deliverable

Permit

CEQA/NEPA Compliance

Appraisal

Condition Assessment

Biological Survey

Environmental Site Assessment

Plan

**California Conservation Corps
Proposition 1 - Water Bond
Consultation Review Document**

Applicant has submitted the required information by email to the California Conservation Corps (CCC):

- ✓ Yes (applicant has submitted all necessary information to CCC)

After consulting with the project applicant, the CCC has determined the following:

- ✓ It is feasible for the CCC to be used on the project and the following aspects of the project can be accomplished (deemed compliant).

CCC Chico crews could do almost all of the hand crew work:

- Cutting and piling brush for burn piles;
- Piling logging slash;
- Cutting and chipping woody debris, brush and invasives within 50 feet of the road;
- Limbing up trees that are allowed to remain to break up the ladder fuels; and
- Burning off piles of woody debris when BLM determines it to be burn days.

APPLICANT WILL INCLUDE THIS DOCUMENT AS PART OF THE PROJECT APPLICATION.

BOARD RESOLUTION
1-2015

At the meeting of the Board of Directors of Terra Fuego Resource Foundation on July 29, 2015, the following resolution was proposed and approved by the board:

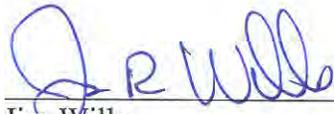
Resolved:

WHEREAS the mission of the Terra Fuego Resource Foundation is to advocate the creation and maintenance of healthy forests, grasslands and open space through accepted land management practices, including prescribed burning, mechanical manipulation of fuels and control and eradication of invasive species.;

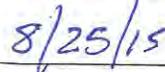
WHEREAS the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 1 Grant Funds supports the mission of Terra Fuego Resource Foundation;

WHEREAS the Terra Fuego Resource Foundation Board is in full support of a implementing grant proposal in the amount of \$500,000.00 to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Watershed Improvement Program.

Signed:



Jim Wills
President



Date

Members Present:

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

6A.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: (Limit 5,000 characters including spaces)

Terra Fuego Resource Foundation, in partnership with both public and private partners leads a group of organizations and private landowners in the process of developing methodologies and practices to protect and improve the watershed between Big Chico Creek and Butte Creek, in Butte County California. The entire watershed consists of over 30,000 acres of which Terra Fuego Resource Foundation and their partners plan to implement an initial project on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) property, with an initial target of improving 144 acres within the watershed and along the Creekside trail ways. This project will be the beginning of a 50 year plan in which Terra Fuego Resource Foundation will take the unique approach of leading, training, and ensuring that the communities within the watershed area have the tools in which to continue to enhance the watershed restoration over multiple generations after the initial project has been completed.

Furthermore, Terra Fuego Resource Foundation and their partners have also undertaken the unique approach to include in this project job training and creating a layer of community health components that will address not only assisting those who may have been long-term unemployed and/or faced barriers in the life which prevented them from being employed and but also contributing to their community. This, conjoined with their CCC partners, will create a cohesive and effective team of both those who are being trained and those with extensive experience in forest restoration and watershed improvement.

The initial project planned for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy funding will be used over a period of three years to conduct fuels treatment, thin and pile untreated areas, and conduct a prescribed burn at the end of the project tenure.

As noted in the SNC Watershed Improvement Program Grant, “forest health is a primary goal,” as is the goal for Terra Fuego Resource Foundation. Terra Fuego, along with their community partners have identified Forest Ranch along with the Doe Mill Ridge areas of within the Butte Creek ACEC as a high need area to conduct activities that address the following:

- Implement fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect the watershed tributary and promote watershed health.
- Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, and greenhouse gas reduction.
- Implement watershed adaptation project in order to reduce the impacts of climate changes on California’s communities and ecosystems.

The 2002 Healthy Forest Initiative and Health Forest Restoration Act directs land management agencies to restore healthy forest conditions on federal lands near communities in the wildland interface. The 2001 National Fire Plan, 2004 BLM Redding Fire Management Plan, and the 2006 Butte County Community Wildfire Protection Plan place a high priority on reducing hazardous fuels near communities at risk and in the forest vegetation types with fire Condition Classes of 2 or 3 (moderate to high altered vegetation ecosystems due to fire exclusion and moderate to high risk of losing key ecosystem components.) Currently, this area is ranked at a 3, high risk.

This project area is located along the upper slopes of Doe Mill Ridge of Butte Creek in the Sierra Nevada Foothills. Butte Creek flows in a southwesterly direction and the canyon runs parallel to Doe Mill Ridge. The western unit is situated on an east facing aspect of Doe Mill Ridge and the eastern unit is less than one mile southeast across Butte Creek on a west facing aspect. Slopes are 0 -60% and elevation range from 2,400' – 3,200'. Steeper slopes < 40-60% that are along seasonal stream corridors will not be treated.

Forest thinning, removing cut vegetation, and pile burning would effectively reduce existing hazardous fuel loads, promote forest succession, and improve the overall quality and health of the remaining forest. If dense forests are not thinned or treated with low-intensity fire, the potential for future high severity wildfires to convert the area back to the beginning stages of forest succession (brush and young trees) would remain.

Also, forest thinning plays an important role in the 2013 California Water Plan Update completed by the Department of Water Resources. By not thinning the forest and removing vegetation, would continue to create a threat to both Northern and Southern California's water supply due the potential for damaging fires from overgrown forests, as well as air quality resulting from a mega fire.

Terra Fuego Resource Foundation has become the leader in eliminating this threat in Butte County and the communities lying within its boundaries. Their collective experience, as well as that of their partners, adds to over 100+ years of practice in forest and watershed restoration.

6B. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT WORKPLAN AND SCHEDULE

The Butte Forest Thin – Doe Ridge Mills Watershed Project is the anchor of a larger scale project that will encompass approximately 30,000 acres within the borders of the Chico Creek Watershed in Butte County. The project extends from Garland Road south to Doe Mill Road to the southern end of Schott Road. The project will provide protection from wildfire for the Little Chico Creek and the main stem of Butte Creek, as well as the communities of Forest Ranch, Paradise,

and Magalia. Currently, Terra Fuego Resource Foundation has tenure agreements with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Sierra Pacific Industries. This project will only include BLM and SPI property as part of the initial phase of the project. While BLM is federal land, SPI is privately owned land, but is a critical partner in the overall project. They have undertaken many of the necessary preliminary steps of forest thinning and brush reduction. In addition, they are willing to commit to fire line construction, brush clearing, man power and equipment for prescribed burning. This in-kind contribution enhances the project to create an effective public/private partnership, with the overall benefit of protecting local citizens and their property, as well as enhancing the watershed.

The overall benefits of implementing this project include wildlife habitat improvement, cultural resource enhancement, and community health, in addition to the expected grant outcomes of forest health and improve water quality and volume. In addition, by including the fuels treatment along roads and trails will assist in the event of both natural and man caused fires. Treating these areas will have the ability to either slow or stop fires and serve as an anchor point in the event of a mega fire.

This initial project is expected to take 36 months to complete, with the majority of the work being completed within the first 12 months, depending on weather conditions and windows of opportunity to implement fuels treatment and prescribed burning. The CCC has indicated that they will plan to participate in the hand crew work. The chart below provides a listing of deliverables and the expected date of completion.

Deliverables	Date
Administrative:	
1. Approval of SNC Grant Application	December 2015
2. Convene Quarterly Consortia Meeting a. Review Fuel Treatment Plan b. Review Consortia Membership c. Review crew and supervisor recruitment	December 2015
3. Contract Negotiation	January – February 2016
4. Contract Start	March 1, 2016
5. Hire Crew/Partner with CCC	March 1 – 15, 2016
6. Develop Tracking System for Performance Measures	March 1 – 30, 2016
7. Quarterly Consortia Meeting	March 15, 2016
8. Quarterly Consortia Meeting	June 14, 2016
9. Bi-Annual Report Due	June 30, 2016
10. Quarterly Consortia Meeting	September 13, 2016
11. Quarterly Consortia Meeting	December 13, 2016
12. Bi-Annual Report Due	December 30, 2016

13. Quarterly Consortia Meeting	March 2017
14. Quarterly Consortia Meeting	June 2017
15. Bi-Annual Report Due	June 30, 2017
16. Quarterly Consortia Meeting	September 2017
17. Quarterly Consortia Meeting	December 2017
18. Bi-Annual Report Due	December 30, 2017
19. Quarterly Consortia Meeting	March 2018
20. Quarterly Consortia Meeting	June 2018
21. Bi-Annual Report Due	June 30, 2018
22. Quarterly Consortia Meeting	September 2018
23. Quarterly Consortia Meeting	December 2018
24. Final Report Due	December 30, 2018
Site Restoration:	
1. Thin and pile roadside and trail shaded fuel breaks.	March 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017
2. Hand pile post treatment areas (12 acres)	March 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017
3. Thin and pile untreated areas (40 acres)	March 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017
4. Hand line construction	March 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017
5. Pile Burn (40 acres)	March 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017
6. Roadside cut and pile (165 acres)	March 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017
7. Roadside chipping	March 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017
8. Lop and scatter (84 acres)	March 1, 2017 – February 28, 2018
9. Mop up and patrol	March 1, 2017 – February 28, 2018
10. Roadside pile burning	March 1, 2017 – February 28, 2018
11. Broadcast burn (84 acres)	March 1, 2017 – February 28, 2018
12. Prescribed burn	March 1, 2018 – December 2018

6C. RESTRICTIONS

There are no restrictions placed on these properties at this time.

6D. DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Jim Wills, former CEO of Firestorm Fire Suppression, a for-profit contract firefighting agency and who now leads Terra Fuego Resource Foundation as

their Board Chair and Advisor. Jim has 40 plus years of experience in wildland fire. He has been training and deploying wildland fire fighters and is a qualified Type I Burn Boss, Operations Section Chief for The Nature Conservancies TREX programs, instructor for Shasta Community College in Fire Science, and is a current steering committee board member for the NorCal Prescribed Fire Council. In addition, Jim Wills has provided project planning and implementation on 10,000 acres on National Forest lands. This has included Bio Mass removal, thinning, piling, prescribed burn planning, and implementation. He has played a major role in the following projects: Plumas National Forest Antelope Border DFPZ, Last Chance DFPZ, Stoney Harvest, Poison DFPZ, Red Mountain Arkansas RXB, Brush Creek RXB, as well as many others. He has been a fire boss for many projects with the National Park Service. Furthermore, he has acted as the Operations Section Chief and Burn Boss on multiple Training Exchanges (TREN) for TNC.

Mike Peevers, Executive Director of Terra Fuego Resource Foundation has over thirty years of experience working within the fire industry, starting out as a wildland forest fighter. He has moved into the role of bringing together community partners through multiple sectors that make up the consortia that currently exists to develop and implement a vital watershed improvement program in Butte Creek Canyon.

Over the last 40 years, conventional practices and evidence-based science has remained consistent. Fire adapted environments need managing to avoid the excessive fuels build-up that create mega-fires. Terra Fuego Resource Foundation, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit, was formed to take on the consideration of these needs from their for-profit partner, Firestorm. As noted in the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Guidelines, Terra Fuego has taken on the role of developing projects that address the need to eliminate substantial growth in our forest to tackle the ongoing

6E. DESCRIPTION OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Doe Mill Ridge is part of the larger Butte Creek Watershed Consortium that has been convening to address concerns of both the smaller project, as well as the assessment and development of a larger scale project thought the Butte Creek Corridor. The community partners and their representatives who have convened as part of this consortia include: The County of Butte, City of Chico, California State University Chico, Federal Bureau of Land Management, Sierra Pacific Industries, Cal FIRE, Butte County Fire, Forest Ranch Volunteer Fire, Firestorm Fire Suppression, Terra Fuego Resource Foundation, and four private land owners whose land abates to this property and is in the Butte Creek Watershed.

The overall plan of this consortium is that once work has begun and over the course of 25 years, the community will take on the role of maintaining the property that is being cleared as part of this project.

6F. STATUS OF TRIBAL INVOLVEMENT AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Local federal and non-federally recognized tribes including the Pakan-Yani Maidu, Mooretown Rancheria, Indian's of Enterprise #1, Berry Creek Rancheria, Enterprise Rancheria Chico Rancheria/Mechoopda Indian Tribe, Greenville Rancheria, and KonKow Valley Band of Maidu. The Chico Rancheria/Mechoopda Indian Tribe responded with no primary concerns and the Enterprise Rancheria was not attended by the Rancheria and no further interest was demonstrated by the Rancheria.

Contact Information: Kyle McHenry, 530-899-8922

6G. DESCRIPTION OF LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT PLAN

All of the partners are long-time Butte County agencies and land owners, whose primary purpose along with the initial development of the plan, will be to ensure that project continues and is managed appropriately.

Terra Fuego Resource Foundation has entered into this project with the projection and long-term plan of once the community has been trained, that the project will be turned over to them to sustain as part of a 50 year plan. The community will be included in all aspects of the development of the plan and implementation as part of outreach efforts and to build momentum and educate on the importance of the maintaining the work that has been completed as part of the initial project outcomes.

In addition, Sierra Pacific Industries has committed through their letter included in this application.

6H. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Terra Fuego Resource Foundation plans to undertake the four required performance measures as well as two additional performance measures which include:

- Measureable Changes in Knowledge and Behavior
- Percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation

Mission: “to provide education, exchange information, foster fire prevention and fire safety within the County of Butte”.

FOREST RANCH FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Sept. 27th, 2015

Dear Sierra Nevada Conservancy,

This letter is in support of the Forest Ranch Doe Mill Ridge Fuel Break project. I recently took on the coordination position of the local Forest Ranch Fire Safe Council. During my 2 year commitment, our group has been in support of this project. It is my understanding that the Doe Mill Ridge Project was submitted as a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), to CAL Fire in 2011 and approved by them as a recognized project.

Some history of the area that I am familiar with, back in 1994 CAL Fire did a fuels reduction project in this area and along the ridge to the south. Like many fuels reduction projects, there seems to be a challenge in maintaining and affectively applying all aspects of fuels reduction.

The current Doe Mill Ridge Project has several homeowners who have a good grasp of what will be required to help maintain the privately owned lands in the area, and the community is coming together in recognizing the importance of bringing prescribed fire into the area.

This year Forest Ranch achieved Firewise recognition, this accomplishment reinforces the education and support needed by a community to move forward and take responsibility in helping to keep their community fire safe.

I would like to acknowledge our support in having Terra Fuego Resource Foundation take on the coordination and implementation of the Doe Mill Ridge Fuel Break Project. They have showed their commitment through coordinating numerous meetings with local residents. In addition to working with all the governmental agencies responsible for various land components in the area.

Respectfully,

Marlene Fune

Forest Ranch Fire Safe Coordinator

marlenefune@gmail.com

530-592-6613



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



Redding Field Office
355 Hemsted Drive
Redding, CA 96002
www.blm.gov/ca/redding
AUG 21 2015

9210 (CAN06) P

Terra Fuego Resource Foundation
1100 Fortress Street
Suite 2
Chico, CA 95973

Subject: Collaboration on Forest Ranch Area Hazardous Fuels Treatment

This letter documents our agreement to collaborate with the Terra Fuego Resource Foundation in the completion of hazardous fuels reduction treatment in the greater Forest Ranch area of Butte County. Specific actions covered in this agreement will be consistent with existing approved NEPA documents and will comply with California BLM policy as it applies to the use of prescribed fire, including but not limited to all requirements as identified in PMS 484, FAIM-2015-003 and CA-2014-027.

This collaboration recognizes the adverse impact that unwanted fire can have on local communities and the role that hazardous fuels treatments play in reducing fire intensity, structure ignition and fire extent. The juxtaposition of BLM lands adjacent to dozens of homes, egress routes and recreation areas in the Forest Ranch area is a recognized threat that presents challenges to the BLM given limited staff and financial resources. This collaboration will provide an avenue to address many of these recognized issues and aid in preparing the community for future wild land fire.

For any questions relating to this subject please contact Tim Bradley, Redding Field Office Fire Management Officer, at (530) 224-2124.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Mata
Field Manager



Sierra Pacific Industries

2849 Northgate Dr • Chico, California 95973 • (530) 345-0025

August 25, 2015

James Wills
Terra Fuego Resource Foundation
1100 Fortress St. Ste. 2 Airport Road
Chico, Ca. 95973

Subject: Forest Ranch Area Hazardous Fuels Treatment:

This letter is to serve as support and consideration between Terra Fuego Resource Foundation and Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI). We have completed timber harvest along Doe Mill Road that is supportive of the Doe Mill fuel break. SPI understands that the integrity of these landscape scale fuel breaks depends on continuity of the fuel break across all land ownerships. This collaboration will provide an avenue to address many of these recognized issues and aid in preparing the community for future wildland fire.

Specific actions covered in any agreement between SPI and Terra Fuego Resource Foundation will be consistent with existing approved CQUA documents and will comply with California policy as it applies to forestry practices.

SPI Fully supports these proposed treatments and believes it is a direct benefit to the community and forest health.

Once the details of the agreement have been presented to SPI, and the document has met our and the communities objectives, SPI is willing to commit to fire line construction, brush clearing and man power and equipment for prescribed burning. The cost of such work will be borne by SPI or with in kind contributions, once the project scope and design has been finalized and costs of such work can be determined.

Any questions regarding this agreement please contact Steve Roberts, Stirling District Manager at 530-345-0025 Extension 2101

Sincerely,


Steve Roberts

Stirling District Manager
Sierra Pacific Industries

August 25, 2015

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

To whom it may concern,

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support for Jim Wills and the team at Terra Fuego on behalf of the Fire Learning Network.

The Fire Learning Network (FLN), a cooperative partnership between the United States Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy, has worked with Jim Wills on numerous prescribed fire, wildfire and fire training projects in the past 6 years including more than 20 weeks of prescribed fire implementation in California, Nebraska and Utah. Most recently, Jim and the team at Terra Fuego have been leading our prescribed fire training program with the Yurok Tribe on the Klamath River near Weitchpec, California. Partnering with the FLN, Terra Fuego is helping us advance the three goals of the Cohesive Strategy; resilient landscapes, fire adapted communities, and safe and effective wildfire response.

The leadership, dedication, innovation and can-do-attitude displayed by Jim and his team has consistently helped the FLN accomplish our goals of building local capacity by training municipal and tribal fire departments, working with local land owners and federal and state agencies, as well as providing mentorship to the next generation of fire managers by working closely with the Student Association of Fire Ecology members and faculty.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Bailey
Associate Director, Fire Learning Network
The Nature Conservancy

Terra Fuego Resource Foundation – Watershed Improvement Grant

6F. STATUS OF TRIBAL INVOLVEMENT AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Local federal and non-federally recognized tribes including the Pakan-Yani Maidu, Mooretown Rancheria, Indian's of Enterprise #1, Berry Creek Rancheria, Enterprise Rancheria Chico Rancheria/Mechoopda Indian Tribe, Greenville Rancheria, and KonKow Valley Band of Maidu. The Chico Rancheria/Mechoopda Indian Tribe responded with no primary concerns and the Enterprise Rancheria was not attended by the Rancheria and no further interest was demonstrated by the Rancheria.

Contact Information: Kyle McHenry, 530-899-8922

Terra Fuego Resource Foundation – Watershed Improvement Plan

6G. DESCRIPTION OF LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT PLAN

All of the partners are long-time Butte County agencies and land owners, whose primary purpose along with the initial development of the plan, will be to ensure that project continues and is managed appropriately.

Terra Fuego Resource Foundation has entered into this project with the projection and long-term plan of once the community has been trained, that the project will be turned over to them to sustain as part of a 50 year plan. The community will be included in all aspects of the development of the plan and implementation as part of outreach efforts and to build momentum and educate on the importance of the maintaining the work that has been completed as part of the initial project outcomes.

In addition, Sierra Pacific Industries has committed through their letter included in this application.

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY
SNC Watershed Improvement Program - DETAILED BUDGET FORM

Project Name: The Butte Forest Thin – Doe Ridge Mills Watershed Project
Applicant: Terra Fuego Resource Foundation

SECTION ONE DIRECT COSTS	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
<i>Project Manager</i>	\$17,500.00	\$20,000.00	\$22,500.00			\$60,000.00
<i>Site Restoration Work Costs</i>	\$210,633.00	\$59,791.00	\$24,100.00			\$294,524.00
<i>Project Equipment, Building, Land purchase</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00
<i>Project Materials & Supplies Purchased</i>	\$19,914.00	\$4,023.00	\$0.00			\$23,937.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
DIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:	\$248,047.00	\$83,814.00	\$46,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$378,461.00

SECTION TWO PARTIAL INDIRECT COSTS	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
<i>Monitoring</i>						\$0.00
<i>Publications, Printing, Public Relations</i>						\$0.00
<i>Reporting, Perf Measures, Invoice Billing</i>	\$22,700.00	\$22,700.00	\$22,700.00			\$68,100.00
						\$0.00
INDIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:	\$22,700.00	\$22,700.00	\$22,700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$68,100.00
PROJECT TOTAL:	\$270,747.00	\$106,514.00	\$69,300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$446,561.00

SECTION THREE Administrative Costs (Costs may not exceed 15% of the above listed Project costs) : 10						Total
<i>*Organization operating/overhead costs</i>	\$27,075.00	\$10,651.00	\$6,930.00			\$44,656.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL:	\$27,075.00	\$10,651.00	\$6,930.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$44,656.00
SNC TOTAL GRANT REQUEST:	\$297,822.00	\$117,165.00	\$76,230.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$491,217.00

SECTION FOUR OTHER PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
<i>List other funding or in-kind contributors to project (i.e. Sierra Business Council, Department of Water Resources, etc.)</i>						
Sierra Pacific Industries In-Kind (est)	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00			\$240,000.00
Firestorm	\$52,500.00	\$60,000.00	\$67,500.00			\$180,000.00
Alliance for Workforce Development	\$44,259.00	\$22,129.00				\$66,388.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
Total Other Contributions:	\$176,759.00	\$162,129.00	\$147,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$486,388.00

NOTE: The categories listed on this form are examples and may or may not be an expense related to the project. Rows may be added or deleted on the form as needed. Applicants should contact the SNC if questions arise.

Project Name: The Butte Forest Thin – Doe Ridge Mills Watershed Project
Applicant: Terra Fuego Resource Foundation

SNC Watershed Improvement Program – Budget Detail

Direct Costs:

Project Manager: The project will include one project manager, who is the Executive Director of Terra Fuego Resource Foundation. The budget consists of .25 FTE of his time, which starts at \$35 per hour x 10 hours x 50 weeks. Each year, the hourly rate is increased by \$5 per hour.

Site Restoration Work Costs: These costs are figured at an average hourly rate of \$22 per hour for the labor for the site work.

Project Materials and Supplies: These costs include the purchase of chain saws, power pole saws, hand tools, pile covering, chain rolls, chaps, bar covers, burn fuel, saw fuel, and bar oil.

Partial Indirect Costs:

Performance Measures: The costs of developing, collecting, and analyzing the five separate performance measures that are included in the implementation of the grant. The cost is figured at \$65 per hour for 80 hours each year of work related to collecting, analyzing, and writing annual funding report.

Invoicing/Billing: The project will have one staff at .10 FTE @ \$35 per hour, who will be responsible for payroll of all employees associated with implementing the grant, as well as other invoicing and human resource needs.

Administrative Costs:

This is figured at 10% of the annual budget to cover shared office expenses that include rent, phone, insurance, office cleaning, and computer services.

In-Kind:

Terra Fuego Resource Foundation has acquired in-kind funding from partners to off-set and support the entire project. The amount that has been accessed to date is \$486,388.00. It is expected that once the project is underway and more partners are brought into the consortia, that more in-kind funds will be available.

FOR ADMIN. USE ONLY
Amendments-date & S or M

TIMBER HARVESTING PLAN
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
AND FIRE PROTECTION
RM-63 (02-03)

FOR ADMIN. USE ONLY

- 1. BTU 7. CGS
- 2. FS-M 8. RT
- 3. FG2 9. McDaniel
- 4. WQS 10. _____
- 5. LNF 11. _____
- 6. CP-BUTTE 12. _____

THP Name: **Bear**
(In the CDF FPS, this is "THP Description")

If this is a Modified THP, check box: []

THP # **2-11-047-BUT (1)**

Dates Rec'd **SEP 23 2011**

Date Filed **OCT 03 2011**

Date Approved **FEB 22 2012**

Date Expires **FEB 21 2015**

Extensions 1) [] 2) []

This Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) form, when properly completed, is designed to comply with the Forest Practice Act (FPA) and Board of Forestry and Fire Protection rules. See separate instructions for information on completing this form. NOTE: The form must be printed legibly in ink or typewritten. The THP is divided into six sections. If more space is necessary to answer a question, continue the answer at the end of the appropriate section of your THP. If writing an electronic version, insert additional space for your answer. Please distinguish answers from questions by *font change* bold or underline.

SECTION I - GENERAL INFORMATION

This THP conforms to my/our plan and upon approval, I/we agree to conduct harvesting in accordance therewith. Consent is hereby given to the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection, and his or her agents and employees, to enter the premises to inspect timber operations for compliance with the Forest Practice Act and Forest Practice Rules.

1. TIMBER OWNER(S) OF RECORD: Name Sierra Pacific Industries

Address P. O. Box 496014

City Redding State CA Zip 96049-6014 Phone (530) 378-8000

Signature [Signature] Date 9-21-11

NOTE: The timber owner is responsible for payment of a yield tax. Timber Yield Tax information may be obtained at the Timber Tax Section, MIC: 60, State Board of Equalization, P.O. Box 942879, Sacramento, California 94279-0060; phone 1-800-400-7115; BOE Web Page at <http://www.boe.ca.gov>.

2. TIMBERLAND OWNER(S) OF RECORD: Name Sierra Pacific Industries

Address P. O. Box 496014

City Redding State CA Zip 96049-6014 Phone (530) 378-8000

Signature [Signature] Date 9-21-11

3. LICENSED TIMBER OPERATOR(S): Name Unknown Lic. No. _____

(If unknown, so state. You must notify CDF of LTO prior to start of operations)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Signature _____ Date _____

4. PLAN SUBMITTER(S): Name Sierra Pacific Industries

Address P.O. Box 496014

City Redding State CA Zip 96049-6014 Phone (530) 378-8000

(Submitter must be from 1, 2, or 3 above. He/she must sign below. Ref. Title 14 CCR 1032.7 (a))

Signature [Signature] Date 9-21-11

RECEIVED

SEP 23 2011

REDDING
FOREST PRACTICE

5. a. List person to contact on-site who is responsible for the conduct of the operation. If unknown, so state and name must be provided for inclusion in the THP prior to start of timber operations.

Name Greg W. Roberson c/o Sierra Pacific Industries

Address P.O. Box 39

City Stirling City State CA Zip 95978 Phone (530) 873-0530

- b. Yes No Will the timber operator be employed for the construction and maintenance of roads and landings during conduct of timber operations? If no, who is responsible?

- c. Who is responsible for erosion control maintenance after timber operations have ceased and until certification of the Work Completion Report? If not the LTO, then a written agreement must be provided per 14 CCR 1050 (c).

LTO

6. a. Expected date of commencement of timber operations:

date of THP conformance, or _____ (date)

- b. Expected date of completion of timber operations:

3 years from date of THP conformance, or _____ (date)

7. The timber operation will occur within the:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> COAST FOREST DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> The Tahoe Regional Planning Authority Jurisdiction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Subdistrict of the Coast F. D. | <input type="checkbox"/> A County with Special Regulations, identify: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SOUTHERN FOREST DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Zone, no Special Treatment Area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High use subdistrict of the Southern F. D. | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Treatment Area(s), type and identify: |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NORTHERN FOREST DISTRICT | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

8. Location of the timber operation by legal description:

Base and Meridian: Mount Diablo Humboldt San Bernardino

Section	Township	Range	Acreage	County	Assessor's Parcel Number (Optional)
32	T25N	R3E	3	Butte	060040003
33	T25N	R3E	20	Butte	060040007
4	T24 N	R3E	80	Butte	056200067
5	T24 N	R3E	62	Butte	056200004
8	T24 N	R3E	22	Butte	056200010
9	T24 N	R3E	83	Butte	056200061
16	T24 N	R3E	40	Butte	056210043
17	T24 N	R3E	47	Butte	056201012
20	T24 N	R3E	64	Butte	056210019
29	T24 N	R3E	100	Butte	056240039
33	T24 N	R3E	103	Butte	056240028

TOTAL ACREAGE 624

Planning Watershed: CALWATER Version, Identification Number, and Name:

Version 2.2, 5509.140202, Bear Lake;
Version 2.2, 5521.200004, Upper Little Chico Creek;
Version 2.2, 5521.300203, Forks of Butte

U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) Quadrangle name(s) and date(s):

Cohasset, 1979

- 9. Yes No Has a Timberland Conversion been submitted? If yes, list expected approval date or permit number and expiration date if already approved.
- 10. Yes No Is there an approved Sustained Yield Plan for this property? Number _____ Date app. _____
 Yes No Has a Sustained Yield Plan been submitted but not approved? Number _____ Date sub _____
- 11. Yes No Is there a THP or NTMP on file with CDF for any portion of the plan area for which a Report of Satisfactory Stocking has not been issued by CDF?
If yes, identify the THP or NTMP number(s): _____
 Yes No Is there a contiguous even aged unit with regeneration less than five years old or less than five feet tall? If yes, explain. Ref. Title 14 CCR 913.1 (933.1, 953.1) (a)(4).
- 12. Yes No Is a Notice of Intent necessary for this THP?
 Yes No If yes, was the Notice of Intent posted as required by 14 CCR 1032.7 (g)?

13. RPF preparing the THP: Name Greg W. Roberson Lic. No. 2692

Address P.O. Box 39

City Stirling City State CA Zip 95978 Phone (530) 873-0530

a. Yes No I have notified the plan submitter(s), in writing, of their responsibilities pursuant to 14 CCR 1035 of the Forest Practice Rules.

No letters have been sent. Plan submitter and timberland owner are represented by Dennis Thibeault, a RPF and District Manager for Sierra Pacific Industries on the Stirling District with authority to obligate and sign for the Company.

Yes No I have notified the timber owner and the timberland owner of their responsibilities for compliance with the Forest Practice Act and rules, specifically the stocking requirements of the rules and the maintenance of erosion control structures of the rules.

No letters have been sent. Plan submitter and timberland owner are represented by Dennis Thibeault, a RPF and District Manager for Sierra Pacific Industries on the Stirling District with authority to obligate and sign for the Company.

b. Yes No I will provide the timber operator with a copy of the portions of the approved THP as listed in 14 CCR 1035 (e). If "no", who will provide the LTO a copy of the approved THP?

Yes No I or my supervised designee will meet with the LTO prior to commencement of operations to advise of sensitive conditions and provisions of the plan pursuant to 14 CCR 1035.2.

c. I have the following authority and responsibilities for preparation and administration of the THP and timber operation. (Include both work completed and work remaining to be done):

I am responsible for the accuracy and administration of this plan. I am responsible for identifying and marking Harvest Unit Boundaries, Watercourse Protection Zones and New Road locations.

c. Additional required work requiring an RPF, which I do not have the authority or responsibility to perform:

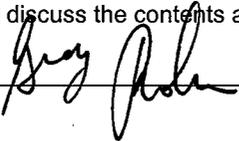
Administration of site preparation operations and amending LTO responsible for site prep operations on to the approved THP. See Section II, Item 14 i.

e. After considering the rules of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and the mitigation measures incorporated in this THP, I have determined that the timber operation:

will have a significant adverse impact on the environment. (Statement of reasons for overriding considerations contained in Section III).

will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

Registered Professional Forester: I certify that I, or my supervised designee, personally inspected the THP area, and this plan complies with the Forest Practice Act, the Forest Practice Rules and the Professional Foresters Law. If this is a Modified THP, I also, certify that: 1) the conditions or facts stated in 14 CCR 1051 (a) (1) - (16) exist on the THP area at the time of submission, preparation, mitigation, and analysis of the THP and no identified potential significant effects remain undisclosed; and 2) I, or my supervised designee, will meet with the LTO at the THP site, before timber operations commence, to review and discuss the contents and implementation of the Modified THP.

Signature  Date 5-17-11

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

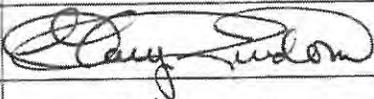
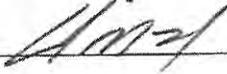
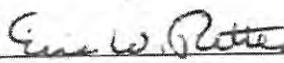
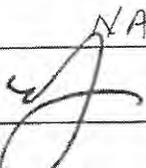
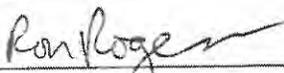
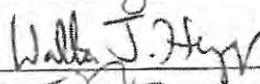
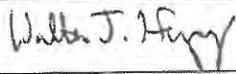
REDDING FIELD OFFICE
355 Hemsted Drive, Redding, CA 96002

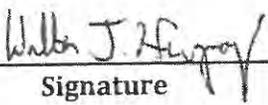
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: BUTTE FOREST THIN

EA Number: DOI-BLM-CA-N060-2012-017

LIST OF PREPARERS:

POSITION -	SIGNATURE
WILDLIFE -	 5/7/12
BOTANY/RANGE -	 5/9/12
CULTURAL RESOURCES -	 5/7/12
MINERALS -	NA
RECREATION - (Wilderness Characteristics, VRM)	 5-10-12
LANDS - (Use Authorizations, Land Tenure Adjustments)	n/a
AIR, SOIL, & WATER -	 5/9/12
FORESTRY-	 5-9-12
FIRE/FUELS MANAGEMENT -	 5-9-12
PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR -	 5-10-12

Project Leader: WALTER HERZOG  5-10-12
 (Name) Signature Date

Project Location: The project area consists of two separate units along the east and west canyon rim BLM property boundaries for the Forks of Butte Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The ACEC is approximately 1.5 miles northwest of Magalia, CA in Butte County.

Legal Location: MDM T24N R3E S27, 35

Map Locations: Stirling City & Cohasset, CA 7.5' topo quads. See attached project map.

Land Use Classification: BLM public lands are managed as an ACEC with limited multiple use. Public use is moderate with dispersed recreation such as recreational gold panning, camping, hiking, and hunting.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The 2002 Healthy Forest Initiative and Health Forest Restoration Act directs land management agencies to restore healthy forest conditions on federal lands near communities in the wildland interface.

The 2001 National Fire Plan, 2004 BLM Redding Fire Management Plan, and 2006 Butte County Community Wildfire Protection Plan place a high priority on reducing hazardous fuels near communities at risk and in forest vegetation types with fire Condition Classes of 2 or 3 (moderate to high altered vegetation ecosystems due to fire exclusion and moderate to high risk of losing key ecosystem components). The Forks of Butte area, with steep slopes and dense forested vegetation has a high risk of human fire starts due to camping and other recreation activities occurring along Butte Creek. Both units in the project area are directly adjacent to private rural residential property and the outlying communities of Magalia and Forest Ranch, CA.

1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

The Forks of Butte ACEC and other BLM forested lands in Butte County contain a mixture of dense brush and oak woodlands intermixed with middle aged mixed-conifer forests. Lack of large wildland fires have led to increased tree and brush densities with a build-up of surface fuels. Tree spacing is now too dense and combined with the competing brush vegetation, has created a fire hazard and an unnatural, unhealthy forest. The desired future conditions for BLM forested land in this area are to have a moderately open-spaced and multi-aged mixed conifer-hardwood forest.

Forest thinning, removing cut vegetation, and pile burning would effectively reduce existing hazardous fuel loads, promote forest succession, and improve the overall quality and health of the remaining forest. If dense forests are not thinned or treated with low intensity fire, the potential for future high severity wildfires to convert the area back to the beginning stages of forest succession (brush and young trees) would remain.



Dense forest would be thinned to reduce fire hazard and promote mature and more healthy forest.

1.3 CONFORMANCE WITH BLM LAND USE PLANS

The 1993 Redding Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision outlines the following resource condition objectives: maintain the long-term sustained yield of forest products from available commercial forest land outside of the Butte Creek Canyon and protect and enhance the scenic quality of the canyon, and maintain the fisheries habitat.

1.4 RELATIONSHIP TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PLANS

The primary goal of the 2004 BLM Redding Field Office Fire Management Plan is to use prescribed fire, mechanical, and biological treatments to improve and maintain flora and fauna species diversity and reduce hazardous fuels for fire adapted ecosystems on both watershed and landscape levels. The 2001 National Fire Plan and has guiding principles to restore and maintain fire resilient landscapes across all jurisdictions and create fire adapted communities.

The 1990 Forks of Butte Creek Recreation Area Management Plan has objectives to manage forested lands for sustained yield forest products while maintaining view sheds with all age classes of trees.

The 2003 Healthy Forest Restoration Act contains provisions for expedited environmental analysis of projects implemented under its authority if projects lie within 1.5 miles of an at-risk community (town of Magalia is 1.2 miles away) and the Butte County Community Wildfire Protection Plan recommends the proposed hazard fuels reduction treatment methods. This expedited environmental analysis will analyze the proposed action and a 'No Action' alternative.

1.5 SCOPING, PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AND ISSUES

The proposed project has been discussed with various adjacent landowners and the Butte County Fire Safe Council. A letter describing the proposed project and soliciting comments was sent in January, 2012 to all adjacent landowners, local special interest groups, and eight local federal and non-federally recognized tribes including; Pakan-Yani Maidu, Mooretown Rancheria, Indian's of Enterprise #1, Berry Creek Rancheria, Enterprise Rancheria Chico Rancheria/Mechoopda Indian Tribe, Greenville Rancheria, and Konkow Valley Band of Maidu. The Chico Rancheria/Mechoopda tribe responded with no primary concerns and the Enterprise Rancheria responded stating they wanted to meet about the project. A planned on site meeting with the Enterprise Rancheria was not attended by the Rancheria and no further interest was demonstrated by the Rancheria.

Internal scoping occurred through the use of an interdisciplinary team made up of recreation, natural and cultural resources management, fire management, and forest management BLM staff. Numerous field trips to the project area and informal staff meetings were conducted in 2011 and 2012 to evaluate on-site conditions, discuss proposed land management actions, and coordinate any proposed actions with other ongoing and planned land management activities.

The following issues are either not present or not affected and will not be further considered in this analysis: air quality, recreation, Native American religious concerns, rights of way, wild & scenic rivers, and wilderness. Six issues were identified for full analysis within this document including:

- Vegetation & Invasive Species
- Cultural Resources
- Wildlife and Fisheries
- Soils
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- Special Status Plants



Small understory trees in this intermediate aged forest along Garland Rd. would be thinned to improve forest health.

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 ALTERNATIVE ONE- PROPOSED ACTION

Conduct pre-commercial and commercial forest thinning and burning project.

The BLM would utilize mechanical and prescribed fire treatment methods to facilitate forest succession, improve forest health, and reduce fire hazard to residual forest along the flatter lands on each side of the Forks of Butte canyon rim. In addition, about 20 merchantable trees would be cut along the Ditch Grade road berm to provide better access for future road maintenance and improvement. The project would be implemented as an advertised timber & biomass sale using mechanized ground equipment. Prescribed fire pile burning would be completed by BLM staff with an approved prescribed fire burn plan.

Commercial and Pre-Commercial Thinning Project Specifications:

The treatment would involve thinning 131 acres of commercial and non-commercial trees in two separate units to create 50-60% canopy closure and 140' square feet/acre basal area. Approximately 75% of small diameter trees (4"-7" DBH) and 60% of large diameter trees (8"-28" DBH) would be cut and thinned to create a residual average over story tree spacing of 30' between boles. Approximately 800 thousand board feet and 1,400 tons of biomass would be removed. All trees would be cut and removed by tractor skidders according to the following specifications:

- Healthy, vigorous dominate or co-dominate oaks and conifers would be the priority leave trees.
- Primary cut trees would be diseased, suppressed, have low crown ratio, or poor form. Primary cut species would be Douglas fir and tan oak. Favor leaving incense cedar, sugar pine, ponderosa pine and black oak.
- Do not cut uncommon species such as California bay and California nutmeg.
- Cut trees would be whole tree yarded using tractor logging on slopes less than 40 %.
- All non-commercial material that is cut including branches, tops, and unmerchantable logs would be chipped and removed as biomass or piled at landings for burning.
- All existing roads within the project area would be watered for dust abatement and graded to maintain or improve existing condition.

Prescribed Fire Pile Burn Specifications:

BLM fire staff would subsequently burn landing piles and any other hand piles created from cut vegetation during the non-fire season in accordance with a burn plan using the following burn objectives:

- Burn 60-95% of all piles within two years of creating the piles.
- Ensure average of 75% consumption of all slash piles immediate post burn.

2.2 PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES

All treatment work would be conducted subject to the following stipulations:

Wildlife

- To effectively provide for life requisites for Pacific fisher, and maintain habitat features associated with suitable CSO habitat, all dominant (i.e., legacy) conifers would be retained (≥ 28 " dbh) with the exclusion of those that occur within the ditch grade road berm. Conifers between 24"-28" dbh may be selectively removed based upon project specifications however; removal will maintain habitat suitability criteria (average stand conifer d.b.h.)
- Residual crown closure retention would average approximately 50% to 60 % throughout project area.
- Leave occasional multi-stemmed oak trees (1-2 per acre) where their canopy form is a dominant or co-

dominant component. No treatment clumps 30' x 30' (1-2 per 2 acres) will be focused on structural elements (e.g., large live trees with mistletoe brooms, broken and forked tops with umbrella spires, heart rot, tree bole cavities, large branches, rodent nests; large snags with cavities; and logs with cavities, or piles of logs). These structural features are important habitat features associated with Pacific fisher and California (CSO) spotted owl. These elements provide for nesting habitat, reproductive dens and resting, shelter from predators and inclement weather, and contribute to prey habitat (Lofroth *et al.* 2010, 2011, Thomas *et al.* 1990).

- Retain existing LWD and snags within the project area unless deemed a roadside hazard, as determined by an authorized officer. Where downed LWD occurs, approximately one hundred and twenty (120) linear feet of down logs per acre will be retained. Logs shall be greater than or equal to sixteen (16) inches in diameter and sixteen (16) feet long. When available, leave trees immediately surrounding large (greater than 16" dbh and 16' in length) pieces of LWD. Retention of trees adjacent to LWD and snags minimizes disturbance and maintains the functional integrity of such habitat features. Removal of these elements will be minimized and limited to where they present a safety concern.
- A limited operating period of Sep 15-Jan 31 will be established if a Northern goshawk or CSO nest tree is established prior to the implementation of the project within the project area. Additionally, a 500' no cut buffer will be established around the nest tree to protect it from disturbance during until the juvenile is fledged. If surveys indicate that no nest trees are established within the project area, the LOP for Northern goshawk or CSO will not be implemented.
- One slash pile per acre, strategically placed, will be left within the project area to supply refuge for wildlife cover.

Erosion and Soil Impacts

- Best management practices for control of erosion will be implemented, where necessary, as part of the project specifications. These measures shall include, but not limited to, the stabilization of disturbed soils, use of weed-free straw to cover disturbed areas, use of sediment berms and/or curtains to reduce storm water erosion.
- Utilize existing road systems and old skid trails running through each unit. Any temporary new skid trails and landings would be ripped and /or covered with slash following treatment.
- All operations would be completed outside of wet winter months.
- No mechanized vehicle or harvesting equipment (except chainsaws) allowed within 50' of seasonal creek drainages and/or on slopes over 40%. 1-2 temporary skid trail crossings would be allowed across seasonal drainages. The skid trail crossing across the drainage would be completely rehabbed and storm proofed prior to the rainy season.

Invasive and Non-native species

- To minimize risk of sudden oak death or other invasive species, contractors would be required to have all contractor equipment and vehicles washed prior to entering Butte County and no work allowed during cold and wet months (November 20 – March 31).
- Cover burn pile areas with 1-3" mulch of adjacent litter and duff native vegetation.

PGE Canal Protection

- No trees may be felled across the Butte Creek canal (along eastern boundary of the Ditch Grade unit).

Air Quality

- All pile burning would only be conducted on favorable air quality Butte County burn days.

Recreation

- To comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations, dispersed recreation use would be restricted within the proposed units during timber harvest operations in order to protect recreationists.

Post Treatment Monitoring

- Monitor the project area 1-3 years following treatment for erosion, invasive and non-invasive species, and unauthorized OHV use. Mitigate adverse impacts by mulching, covering with slash, or installing OHV barriers.

2.3 ALTERNATIVE TWO- NO ACTION

A decision to not complete any vegetation management work in the Forks of Butte area would not address land management plans, activity plans, and federal policy that give specific direction to actively manage forest lands and watersheds to maintain or improve their overall health and condition and provide improved recreation opportunities for the public.

Risk of wildfire and insect epidemics would continue to be a threat to the increasingly dense forested lands and overall watershed health. With no action and continued fire suppression, an insect epidemic and/or wildfire would eventually occur and potentially create open exposed slopes with unstable soils. Habitat and sub-watershed conditions would remain static in the short term but could be significantly degraded in the event of a wildfire that kills the oak and mixed conifer forests.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The project area is located along the upper slopes of Forks of Butte Creek in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Butte Creek flows in a southwesterly direction and the canyon runs parallel to Doe Mill Ridge. The western unit (84-acres) is situated on an east facing aspect of Dow Mill Ridge and the eastern unit (47-acres) is less than one mile to the southeast across Butte Creek on a west facing aspect. Slopes are 0-60% and elevations range from 2,400' – 3,200'. Steeper slopes < 40-60% that are along seasonal stream corridors will not be treated.

Primary access roads for the area run through each unit. The eastern unit along Ditch Grade Road was acquired from Sierra Pacific Industries in 1998. Adjacent private lands consist of rural residential property with forest and/or oak woodland/brush vegetation. Adjacent private timberlands contain mostly even-aged young forest and tree plantations. Since both units are within one mile of each other and contain similar vegetation, they will be described together.

Vegetation and Invasive Species

Vegetation consists of a 30-200 year old multi-aged mixed conifer and oak forest. Trees range from 40'-140' tall with 6"- 34" DBH and 80-100% canopy closure. Tree species include Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, tan oak, sugar pine, incense cedar, gray pine, pacific madrone, California black oak, California nutmeg, interior live oak. Understory species include white-leaf manzanita, green-leaf manzanita, California bay, and tan oak.

The Ditch Grade Road unit contains older trees and a larger percentage of tan oak, probably the result of past logging activity focused on removing the high value conifers and leaving tan oak. Marginal riparian vegetation along some of the seasonal stream corridors consists of maple, dogwood, and alders.

The project area has been identified by the California Oak Mortality Task Force as potential habitat for the spread of sudden oak death. Sudden oak death is a forest pathogen that has caused high mortality of several oak species along the California coastal mountains and Oregon. There is no known occurrence of the disease in Butte County but hazard risk maps show a moderate to low risk for it to spread into the moister canyon areas of Butte County.

Some scattered invasive and non-invasive species such as mullein and bull thistle occur on adjoining private lands and BLM lands within the project area. Weeds are generally restricted to disturbed and exposed soil areas and do not occur under shaded forest and brush land vegetation with natural litter and duff.

Cultural Resources

The proposed project area is within Konkow Maidu territory. These people were relatively affluent hunters and gatherers at the time of contact in the 1830s-40s. By the 1850s the area witnessed a Gold Rush-era boom with towns and supporting infrastructure developing within Butte Creek Canyon and on the adjoining ridges. Indian people were soon re-located or forced to move to other locations. Agriculture enterprises in nearby Paradise and the need for water at various mines necessitated the building of flume/canal systems. Roads continued to be constructed into the early 20th century including the famous Ponderosa Way, built along the Sierra-Cascade foothills to serve in fire-fighting. Archaeological sites related to historic developments can be found within or near the subject project area as described below.

Both areas of the proposed project have been intensively surveyed. The Garland Road parcel was previously inventoried for a BLM timber sale in 1975 by Dr. Peter Jensen (report on file with BLM). Follow-up spot inventory was completed by BLM cultural resource specialists in 2011-2012. No archaeological sites have been discovered in the subject parcel or within an area of .5 miles surrounding the parcel based on a 2011 records' search at the Chico State Northeast Information Center.

The eastern project area just north of DeSabra was intensively inventoried by the Redding Field Office archaeologist with the assistance of one Archaeological Technician. A spacing between 15 and 30 m was employed and soil was periodically exposed with a hoe and examined. Roads were also walked with cut-bank and road bed exposures. Nearby areas have been previously inventoried based on Information Center records with no sites discovered.

The archaeological inventory and search of historic records including GLO plats reveals a number of cultural resources within the DeSabra parcel. Resources include the Butte Creek Canal (CA-BUT-874-H) still in use but built in 1871 and modified thereafter (including large conifers along the ditch bank or immediately adjoining the ditch with telephone cable pieces and stringing loops); the Ponderosa Way built in the mid -1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps; and a small side-ditch labeled the Butte Creek Canal Ditch (CA-030-1943) of unknown age. This small ditch may have served placer mines downhill outside the subject parcel. The Ditch Grade Road does not show up on the 1953 USGS 15' Paradise Quadrangle and is likely "modern historic."

Work undertaken in 2008-2012 for the FERC re-licensing of the DeSabra-Centerville Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 803) indicates that the Butte Creek Canal is a contributing feature of the larger hydroelectric system. The Ponderosa Way, despite some surface alterations, is clearly National Register of Historic Places eligible based on its associations with the New Deal, CCCs, early fire control, engineering feats, etc. The Ditch Grade Road is relatively modern and commonplace. The small ditch off of the Butte Creek Canal is of low integrity based on past logging and home/road construction and is not distinctive in terms of its size and configuration. Its association with the Butte Creek Canal seems secondary to the hydroelectric complex. Someone tapped some water from the ditch likely for a short period of time for a small operation down the American Ravine.

An examination of Kari L. Forbes' *An Ethnographic Study of the Contemporary Values of the Foothill Konkow, Butte County, California* (1990 on file with BLM) revealed no Traditional Cultural Properties within the project area. Likewise, letters sent to the various tribes with territorial claims revealed no Traditional Cultural Properties within the project area.

Wildlife and Fisheries

Characterization of the project area included searching the office wildlife records, CNDDDB historic records, GIS mapping data and wildlife range maps. Based upon the project's location, no aquatic wildlife and fish species occur or have the potential to occur within the project area. The primary vegetation type within the project area is Sierran mixed conifer consisting primarily of Douglas fir, Ponderosa pine with montane hardwood, oak woodlands and chaparral components. See the attached Wildlife and Fisheries Resource Assessment memorandum for a detailed assessment of wildlife and fisheries resources.

No federally threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat is present within the project area with the exception of Pacific fisher, a federal candidate species, and BLM sensitive species. BLM sensitive species that have the potential to occur within the project area include Northern goshawk, California spotted owl, Pacific fisher, and multiple bat species.

Multiple avian species, protected by the migratory bird treaty act, have the potential to occur within the project area. Further additional species identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in "Birds of Conservation Concern 2008" (USDI 2008) and the Coniferous Forest Bird Conservation Plan (CalPIF 2002) have the potential to occur within this project area. These species include the brown creeper, downy woodpecker, and red-breasted nuthatch. Additional species that may occur based upon range maps and professional knowledge includes the pileated woodpecker, and acorn woodpecker. With the exclusion of the Northern goshawk, which is a Bureau sensitive species, the remaining species will be collectively referred to as, "bird species of special concern".

Multiple other common wildlife species use the area year round. Some of these species include bear, black-tailed deer, grey fox, and various other bird, mammalian, reptile and amphibian species.

Soils

Soils in the project area are of the Cohasset-McCarthy association and the Neuns series. Soils of the association are moderately deep, or deep and moderately steep or steep and stony, and are underlain by volcanic rock. They support thick vegetative cover and are very productive soils for timber. The majority of the soils are fairly stable with a slight to moderate erosion hazard in the undisturbed state. There is a moderate to heavy conifer and hardwood litter and duff load (2"-10" deep) that is covering most of the soils on both units. Both units are over ½ mile from Butte Creek.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

The Forks of Butte ACEC was designated to promote the scenic quality of the canyon, maintain fisheries habitat, protect the historic values of the canyon, manage as a visual resource management Class II (retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low) and maintain long term sustained yield of forest products outside of Butte Creek Canyon. The Redding RMP states that available commercial forest land within the ACEC should be managed for the enhancement of other resource values.

Special Status Plants

Searches of the CDFG California Natural Diversity Database, the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants, and past special status plant reports for the project area have been conducted. It has been determined that four special status plant species have potential to occur within the unit. White-stemmed clarkia (*Clarkia gracilis* ssp. *albicaulis*), Ahart's buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *ahartii*), Butte County morning-glory (*Calystegia atriplicifolia* ssp. *buttensis*), and Butte County fritillary (*Fritillaria eastwoodiae*) have suitable

habitat within the unit. Additionally, the Butte County morning-glory has a known population that may cross into the southeastern portion of the East Unit. The other species all have known occurrence that are located outside of, but within a mile of the project area units. No identifiable specimens of the special status species in question have been found during preliminary surveys of the units within the project area, but additional surveys are required due to the flowering times of these species. Additional surveys will be conducted from May through August.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

4.1 DIRECT AND INDIRECT EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Vegetation and Invasive Species

Removing cut vegetation as forest products and/or burning piled un-merchantable material would remove available forest fuels and reduce hazardous fuel loads. This action would directly help protect the remaining residual forest and adjacent private lands. Burning piles over portions of the project area would achieve beneficial ecological effects of mimicking natural fire regimes.

If any invasive or non-invasive plant species are found in disturbed soils following the Proposed Action, the BLM would map and treat these areas using BLM best management practices (BMP's). Activities associated with the Proposed Action that are prone to invasive species will be monitored for the introduction of new occurrences.

Cultural Resources

No impacts from the project are expected to occur to the Butte Creek Canal and Ponderosa Way due to avoidance of activity. Likewise, no impacts are expected to the Ditch Grade Road and to the Butte Creek Canal Ditch due to flagging and avoidance. Workers will be alerted to the sensitivity of heritage resources present within the project area and the need to avoid these resources. A BLM Archaeological Technician will be monitoring the project to ensure that archaeological sites are not damaged and that any undiscovered heritage resources will be avoided or minimally damaged with operations ceased in that location until the resources can be assessed by the Field Office Archaeologist.

Wildlife and Fisheries

Birds Species of Special Concern

There would likely be a short-term disturbance from the proposed action with the removal of habitat features within the project area and potential displacement of those avian species which seek the dense cover provided by the overstocked forest stands. However, the proposed action would have some long-term benefit by reducing the density of small trees and providing more openings and foraging opportunities while still maintaining nesting structure through snag retention and LWD requirements provided by project conservation measures.

California Spotted Owl (CSO)

Examination of aerial imaging data combined with field visits indicates that portions of the project area contains suitable habitat (nesting, roosting and foraging). Habitat suitability however is further constrained within the project area based upon slope position, aspect, and by the fragmented nature of the habitat bordering the project area due to water developments, roads, rural residential infrastructure and associated development and timber

harvest on private lands. Based upon the above information it is likely that the existing habitat within the project area is marginal to unsuitable and serves as foraging and dispersal habitat.

Modification (thinning) of this habitat will likely improve and degrade the habitat in the short-term. Modification of the structural elements which includes thinning the densely packed small diameter trees improves habitat, providing an open canopy and understory permitting owls to fly and forage within and beneath it. Degradation of the habitat includes reduction in canopy closure, lower snag recruitment, reduced LWD, and reduced understory vegetation immediately following the proposed action, but should provide for some long-term benefits by promoting and accelerating growth of larger trees, larger snags and recruitment of LWD needed for owls and their prey. Fuels treatments (prescribed fire) following immediately after the proposed thinning may further reduce components necessary for owl habitat. However, these treatments would have a beneficial impact by reducing hazardous fuels.

Owls rely heavily on small mammal populations. It is expected the no-touch islands, patch cuts (landings), and hardwood stands will help provide for habitat heterogeneity, maintain a diversity food, and cover resources for small mammalian species. This diversity in vegetation composition provided for across the landscape in conjunction with the herbaceous plant species and shrubs, which would remain, will provide food and cover resources in addition to necessary habitat structure, which will buffer small mammal populations and reduce the overall impacts to the prey base.

Project design features and potentially a limited operating period (LOP) have been incorporated into the proposed project to protect and improve habitat for the species as well as minimize potential effects. Additionally, if a CSO nest tree is established prior to the implementation of the project within the project area, a LOP will be established and a 500' no cut buffer will be established around the nest tree to protect it from disturbance. If surveys indicate that no nest trees are established within the project area, the LOP for CSO will not be implemented. Guidelines for snag retention and LWD requirements, in addition to structural element retention, canopy closure retention guidelines, and retention of legacy and large conifers will minimize those short-term impacts.

Northern Goshawk

In general, impacts to potential northern goshawk habitat would be similar to that of the northern spotted owl. A LOP and protection buffer would be implemented near active nest sites during times of goshawk nesting activity coinciding with the LOP and protection buffer distance for CSO.

Pacific Fisher

Short term habitat degradation includes reduction in canopy closure, lower snag recruitment, reduced LWD, and reduced understory vegetation, but should provide for some long-term benefits by promoting and accelerating growth of larger green trees, larger snags and recruitment of LWD needed fisher and their prey. Guidelines for snag retention and LWD requirements, in addition to structural element retention, canopy closure retention guidelines, and retention of legacy and large conifer and hardwoods will minimize those short-term impacts. Fuels treatments following immediately after the proposed thinning may further reduce components necessary for owl habitat. However, these treatments would have a beneficial impact by reducing hazardous fuels. Stand structure (multistory stand, LWD and snags) is an important characteristic within the owl habitat to maintain nesting and foraging habitat. Removing these features of the stand structure may limit habitat suitability for owls. Project Design Features (PDFs) maintain a diversity of snags, LWD, understory trees and shrubs would minimize impacts, maintain the habitat as suitable, and reduce hazardous fuels.

Fisher rely heavily on small mammal populations. It is expected the no-touch islands, small patch cuts established at landings, and the presence of hardwood stands will help provide for habitat heterogeneity and

maintain a diversity food and cover resources for small mammalian species. This diversity in vegetation composition provided for across the landscape in conjunction with the herbaceous plant species and shrubs, which would remain, will provide food and cover resources in addition to necessary habitat structure, which will buffer small mammal populations and reduce the overall impacts to the prey base.

Bats

Habitat within the project area serves as foraging and roosting habitat. Although there will likely be a reduction in roosting and foraging opportunities in the short term while the project commences, project specifications and conservation measures maintain foraging habitat in the long term.

For those species that roost in snags, limited cavity roosts may be lost through project activities if a snag has to be removed for operational safety concerns, however, snag retention guideline will maintain sufficient snags to provide for roosting structure. There would likely be some short-term disturbance to these species within the project but this would end at the completion of project activities.

General Wildlife

Although fragmented and modified, the continuity of vegetation adjacent to the project area and within the project area will be maintained. It is anticipated that project impacts will be minimal and consist of a short-term avoidance of wildlife to the area while work occurs. This temporary disturbance does not constitute impacts that affect the ecologically sustainability of wildlife occurring in either the project or action area.

Soils

Cut vegetation and temporary skid roads to landings could create some soil compaction or exposed soil. This could create some short term erosion and sediment transport to seasonal drainages but residual vegetation along with branches, and leaf litter would quickly cover most treated areas within 1-3 months of treatment. This effect is expected to be minimal and not result in an overall reduction to soil productivity or soil loss due to the small area expected to be impacted.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Positive impacts of the treatment would improve overall forest health, and promote a more open fire resilient forest that would be less prone to stand replacing fires and increased soil erosion.

Selectively cutting and removing trees could result in some short term visual impacts of post logging skid trails, pushed over small trees, and stumps from recently cut trees. These impacts would not be visible within the Forks of Butte ACEC canyon since both units are on the top outer flat edges of the canyon rim.

Special Status Plants

Of the four special status plant species with potential to occur within the project area, Butte County morning-glory (*Calystegia atriplicifolia* ssp. *buttensis*) and Butte County fritillary (*Fritillaria eastwoodiae*) have been noted to be potentially threatened by logging and road maintenance type activities. To minimize impacts to any special status plant species, special status plant populations that are located during surveys will be flagged for avoidance. If populations are located and flagged, then no road maintenance or logging activities will occur within a buffer zone to be determined by the staff Botanist.

4.2 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Similar projects have been completed on both private and BLM public lands. Treated forested areas to date are less than 10% of the approximately 1,500-acres of BLM public lands in the Forks of Butte area. This project would mimic structural effects of fire and therefore result in a positive effect of creating a more open forest that is resistant to high severity wildfire.

Once this project is completed, there would be no plans for other treatments within the same project area for another ten to twenty years. Similar treatments could occur on nearby BLM lands over the next four to ten years but would be less than 25% of the total project planning area around the Forks of Butte ACEC.

5.0 CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Project collaboration has been done with local tribes, organizations, and various Butte County citizens such as:

- Butte County Fire Safe Council
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- Pacific Gas & Electric Co.
- Native American Groups: Pagan-Yani Maidu, Mooretown Rancheria, Indian's of Enterprise #1, Berry Creek Rancheria, Enterprise Rancheria, and Chico Rancheria/Mechoopda Indian Tribe.

Cultural Resources Section 106 Compliance

Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act under the guidance of the 2007 National Programmatic Agreements and a "No Effect" determination was made. It has been determined that there will be no effect to scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

LIST OF SPECIALISTS CONSULTED

Eric Ritter	BLM Archeologist
Gary Diridoni	BLM Wildlife Biologist
Chase Lentz	BLM Botanist
John Ribinsky	BLM Civil Engineering Technician
Sean Ryon	BLM Engineering Equipment Operator
Tim Bradley	BLM Fire Management Officer
Kiren Oleary	Sierra Pacific Industries, Forester
Brent Lincicum	PG&E Generation Supervisor, Magalia, CA

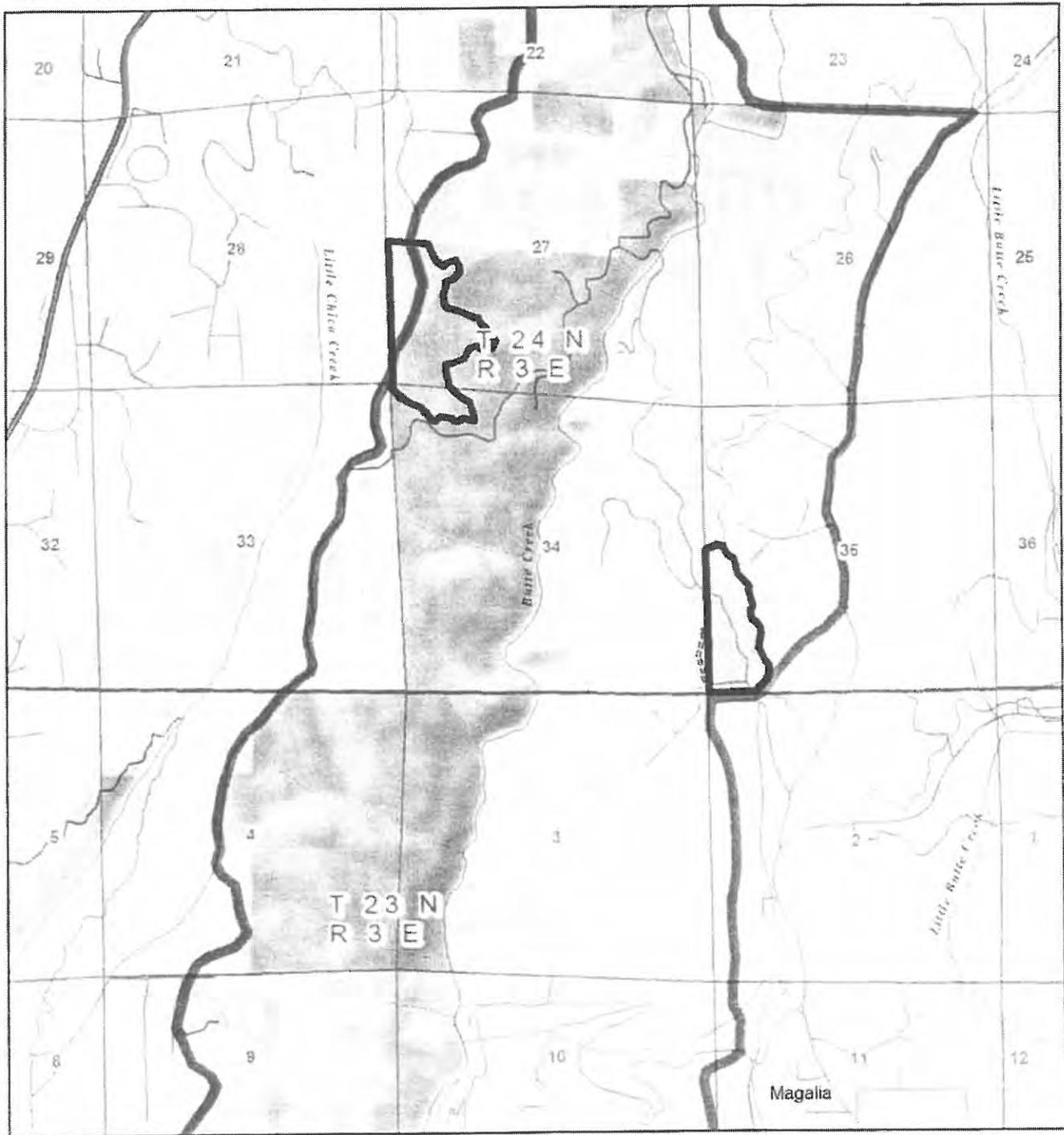
Prepared By: Walter Herzog, BLM Forester

6.0 REFERENCES

- Redding Resource Management Plan, 1993
- National Fire Plan, 2000
- Healthy Forest Restoration Act, 2003
- BLM Redding Fire Management Plan, 2004
- BLM Forks of Butte Creek Recreation Area Management Plan, 1990
- Forks of Butte Salvage Sale Environmental Assessment, CA-030-EA-0-20, 1979
- Butte County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, 2006
- Sudden Oak Death Guidelines for Forestry, CA Oak Mortality Task Force, 2010
- BLM Integrated Vegetation Management Handbook H-1740-2, 2008

VICINITY MAP: Butte Forest Thin

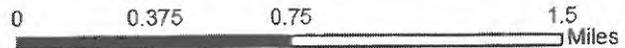
CONTRACT #:



T24N, R3E, S,27,34,35
Elevation: 2,400' - 3,200'
Stirling City and Cohasset 7.5' topo quads
Contour Interval: 40'

Unit 1 (East Unit): 49-acres
Unit 2 (West Unit): 84-acres
Total Size: 133-acres

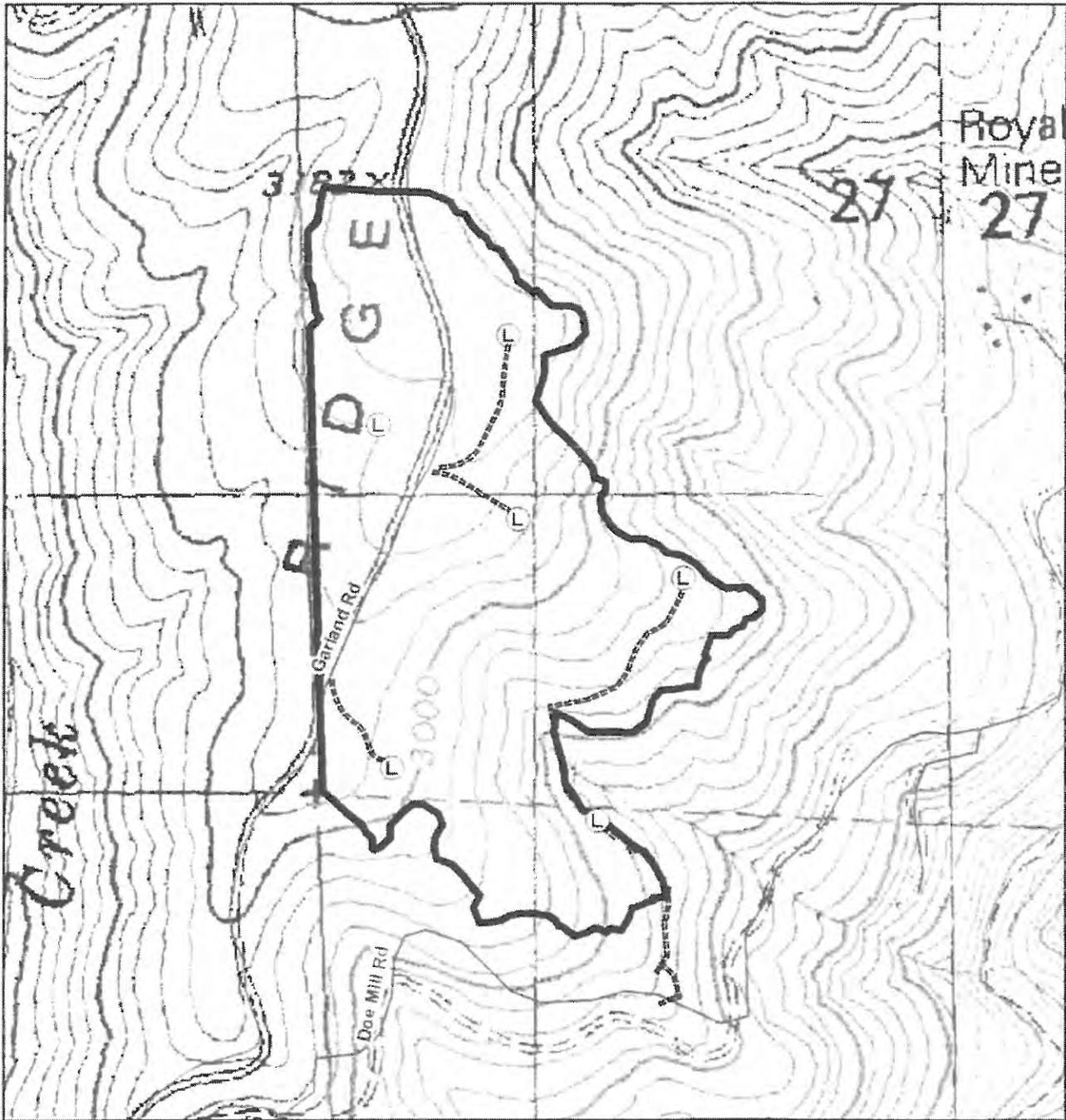
-  Butte Thin Units
-  Forks of Butte ACEC Boundary
-  BLM Lands
-  Private Lands



WH 1/2012

PROJECT MAP: Butte Forest Thin (West Unit)

Contract #:



T24N, R3E, S34

Elevation: 2,760' - 3,200'
Contour Interval: 40'
Cohasset 7.5' topo quad

Unit 2 (West Unit): 84-acres

- Old BLM Road
- ▭ Butte Thin Units
- BLM Lands

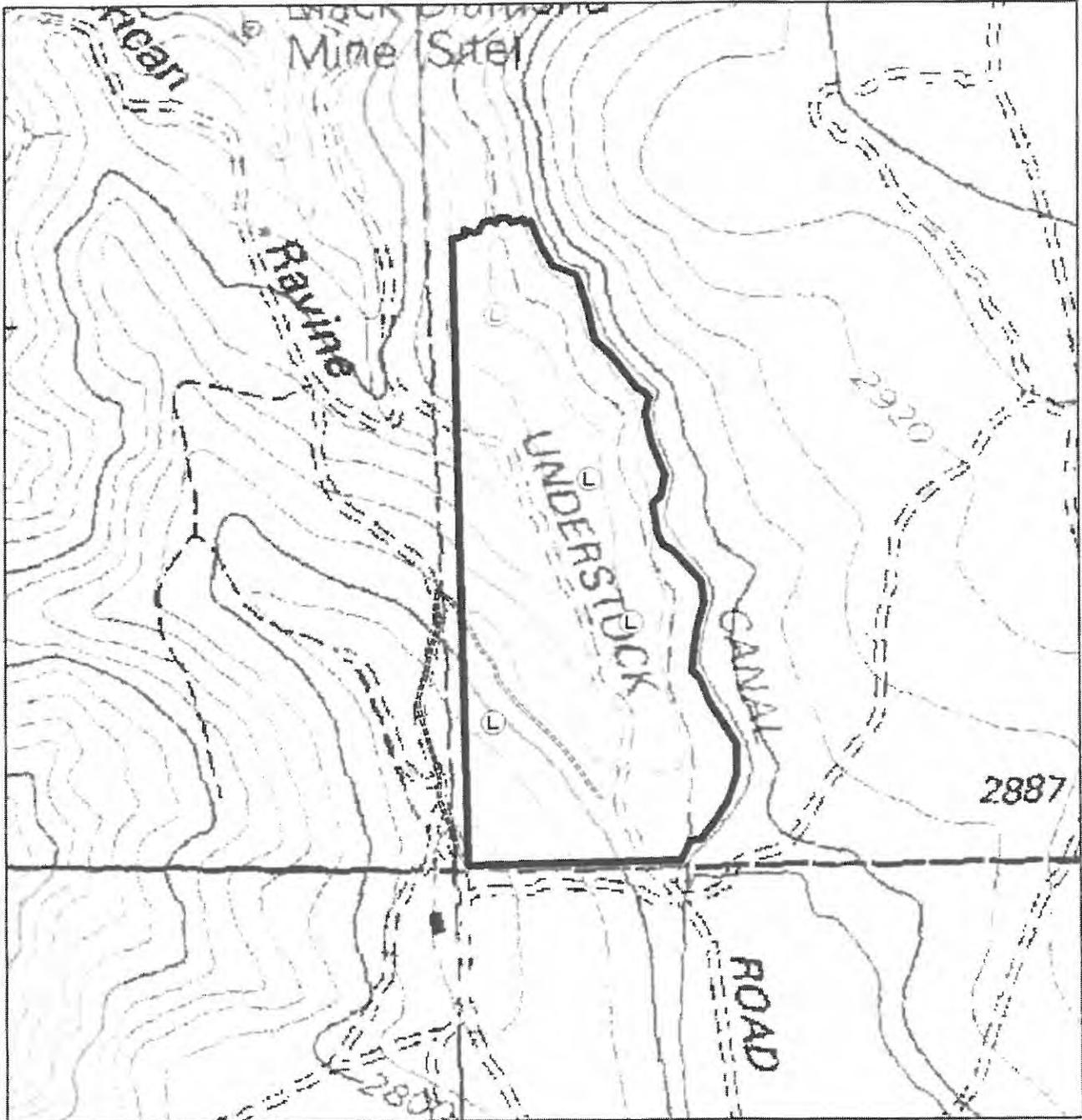
0 375 750 1,500 Feet



WH 05/2012

PROJECT MAP: Butte Forest Thin (East Unit)

CONTRACT #:



T24N, R3E, S,35

Elevation: 2,400' - 2,800'
Contour Interval: 40'
Stirling City 7.5' topo quad

Unit 1: 49-acres

-  Butte Thin Units
-  Stream Protection Zone
-  BLM Lands
-  Billups Lane

0 380 760 1,520 Feet



WH 4/2012

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
REDDING FIELD OFFICE

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

BUTTE FOREST THIN
EA Number: DOI-BLM-CA-N060-2012-017

BACKGROUND

This project is proposed to selectively thin approximately 130-acres of dense forest to create a more natural open and fire resilient forest along the flatter lands on each side of the Fork of Butte canyon rim. The project would involve thinning commercial and non-commercial trees using mechanized ground equipment and prescribed fire for pile burning.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the information contained in the EA, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that: (1) the implementation of the Proposed Action will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in [1993 *Redding RMP and EIS*]; (2) the Proposed Action is in conformance with the Resource Management Plan; and (3) the Proposed Action does not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement or a supplement to the existing environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

This finding is based on my consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR '1508.27), both with regard to the context and to the intensity of the impacts described in the EA or as articulated in the letters of comment.

CONTEXT

The project area contains two units which are located along the upper slopes of Forks of Butte Creek in eastern Butte County approximately two miles northwest of Magalia, CA. The western unit (84-acres) is situated on an east facing aspect of Dow Mill Ridge and the eastern unit (47-acres) is less than one mile to the southeast across Butte Creek on the west facing aspect. Slopes are 0-40% and elevations range from 2,400' – 3,200'.

INTENSITY

I have considered the potential intensity/severity of the impacts anticipated from the project decision relative to each of the ten areas suggested for consideration by the CEQ. With regard to each:

1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.

Potential impacts are insignificant to minor at the local scale or cumulatively because of the small scale of the project and project design features that would reduce sensitive plant, wildlife, cultural, soil erosion, and visual impacts to immeasurable levels.

2. The degree to which the proposed action affects public health and safety.

The project has the potential to positively improve public safety by creating a more fire resilient forested landscape and reduce fire hazards along access and egress roads for the area.

3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity of historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.

BLM lands in the Forks of Butte area are designated as an ACEC for its scenic quality, historic value, and fisheries habitat.

Nearby historic mining sites were associated with placer gold mining, however, no cultural or historic sites were found or recorded in the project vicinity.

4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.

No anticipated effects have been identified that are scientifically controversial. As a factor for determining within the meaning of 40 C.F.R. § 1508.27(b)(4) whether or not to prepare a detailed environmental impact statement, "controversy" is not equated with "the existence of opposition to a use." Northwest Environmental Defense Center v. Bonneville Power Administration, 117 F.3d 1520, 1536 (9th Cir. 1997). "The term 'highly controversial' refers to instances in which 'a substantial dispute exists as to the size, nature, or effect of the major federal action rather than the mere existence of opposition to a use.'" Hells Canyon Preservation Council v. Jacoby, 9 F.Supp.2d 1216, 1242 (D. Or. 1998).

5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

The analysis does not show that this action would involve any unique or unknown risks.

6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.

The proposed forest thinning and pile burning are common land management activities with standard outcomes of improved land condition and recreation opportunities.

7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.

No significant site specific or cumulative impacts have been identified. The project is consistent with the actions and impacts anticipated in the Redding RMP.

8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources.

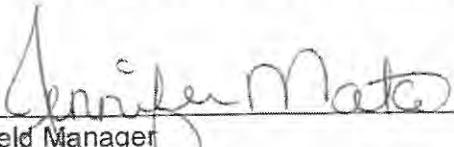
The project area includes sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places or sites known to be eligible. These sites will be avoided by project activities.

9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

No ESA listed species (or their habitat) are known to occur in the project area.

10. Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

There is no indication that this decision will result in actions that will threaten such a violation.



Field Manager
Redding Field Office

5/21/12

Date

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
REDDING FIELD OFFICE

DECISION RECORD

BUTTE FOREST THIN
EA Number: DOI-BLM-CA-N060-2012-017

Introduction

This project is proposed to selectively thin approximately 130-acres of dense forest to create a more natural open and fire resilient forest along the flatter lands on each side of the Fork of Butte canyon rim. The project would involve thinning commercial and non-commercial trees using mechanized ground equipment and prescribed fire for pile burning.

Decision

It is my decision to approve the proposed action as described in environmental assessment (EA) number DOI-BLM-CA-N060-2012-017. Compliance with the design features identified in the EA is hereby required and is incorporated into this decision record as stipulations by reference.

Alternatives Considered but not Selected

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act contains provisions for expedited environmental analysis of projects implemented under its authority if projects lie within 1.5 miles of an at-risk community and a County Community Wildfire Protection Plan recommends the proposed hazard fuels reduction treatment methods. Only the proposed action and No Action alternatives were analyzed in this environmental analysis.

Decision Rationale

Based on the analysis documented in the aforementioned EA which has been reviewed by an interdisciplinary team, I conclude that the approved action will not result in any unnecessary or undue degradation of the Federal lands. The approved action is in conformance with the approved land use plan.

Consultation and Coordination

Surveys for sensitive and special status wildlife and botanical species were conducted and will be continued to be monitored throughout project implementation.

Fragmented habitat for the Northern Goshawk, California spotted owl, and Pacific Fisher occur within the project area and project design features will be incorporated into the proposed action to maintain habitat. No populations were found within the project area.

Of the four special status plant species with potential to occur within the project area, Butte County morning-glory (*Calystegia atriplicifolia* ssp. *buttensis*) and Butte County fritillary (*Fritillaria eastwoodiae*) have been noted to be potentially threatened by logging and road maintenance type activities. To minimize impacts to any special status plant species, special status plant populations that are located during surveys will be flagged for avoidance. If populations are located and flagged, then no road maintenance or logging activities will occur within a buffer zone to be determined by the staff Botanist

I agree that all necessary steps were taken by a qualified staff specialist(s) to identify, record, and determine effects on cultural properties. These steps comply with all standards and guidelines of the Protocol Agreement of 2007 between BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer. Based on the design features identified in this environmental analysis, there will be no adverse impacts to any cultural and historic resources including those Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Public Involvement

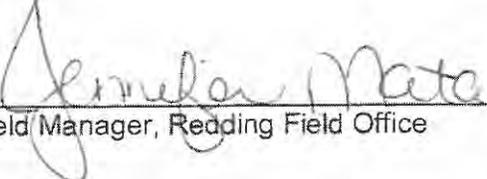
The project has been discussed with various adjacent landowners, the Butte County Fire Safe Council, Forks of Butte Watershed Group, Sierra Pacific Industries, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Internal scoping has occurred through the use of an interdisciplinary team made up of recreation, natural and cultural resources management, fire management, and forest management BLM staff. Numerous field trips to the project area and informal staff meetings were conducted in 2011 and 2012 to evaluate on-site conditions, discuss selected land management actions, and coordinate any proposed actions with other ongoing and planned land management activities.

Plan Consistency

Based on information in the EA, the project record, and recommendations from BLM specialists, I conclude that this decision is consistent with the 1993 Redding Resource Management Plan, 2003 Healthy Forest Restoration Act, the National Fire Plan, the 10-year Comprehensive Strategy for Implementing the National Fire Plan, and the BLM Redding Fire Management Plan, 2004, the Endangered Species Act; the Native American Religious Freedom Act; other cultural resource management laws and regulations; Executive Order 12898 regarding Environmental Justice; and Executive Order 13212 regarding potential adverse impacts to energy development, production, supply and/or distribution.

Administrative Remedies

Administrative remedies may be available to those who believe they will be adversely affected by this decision. Protests may be made to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior, Board of Land Appeals (Board) in strict compliance with the regulations in 43 CFR Subpart 5003. If a protest is taken, an original, signed hard copy must be received by this office by close of business (4:30 p.m.) within 15 days of the date the Decision Record is posted on BLM's internet site. Postmark does not qualify as meeting the deadline.

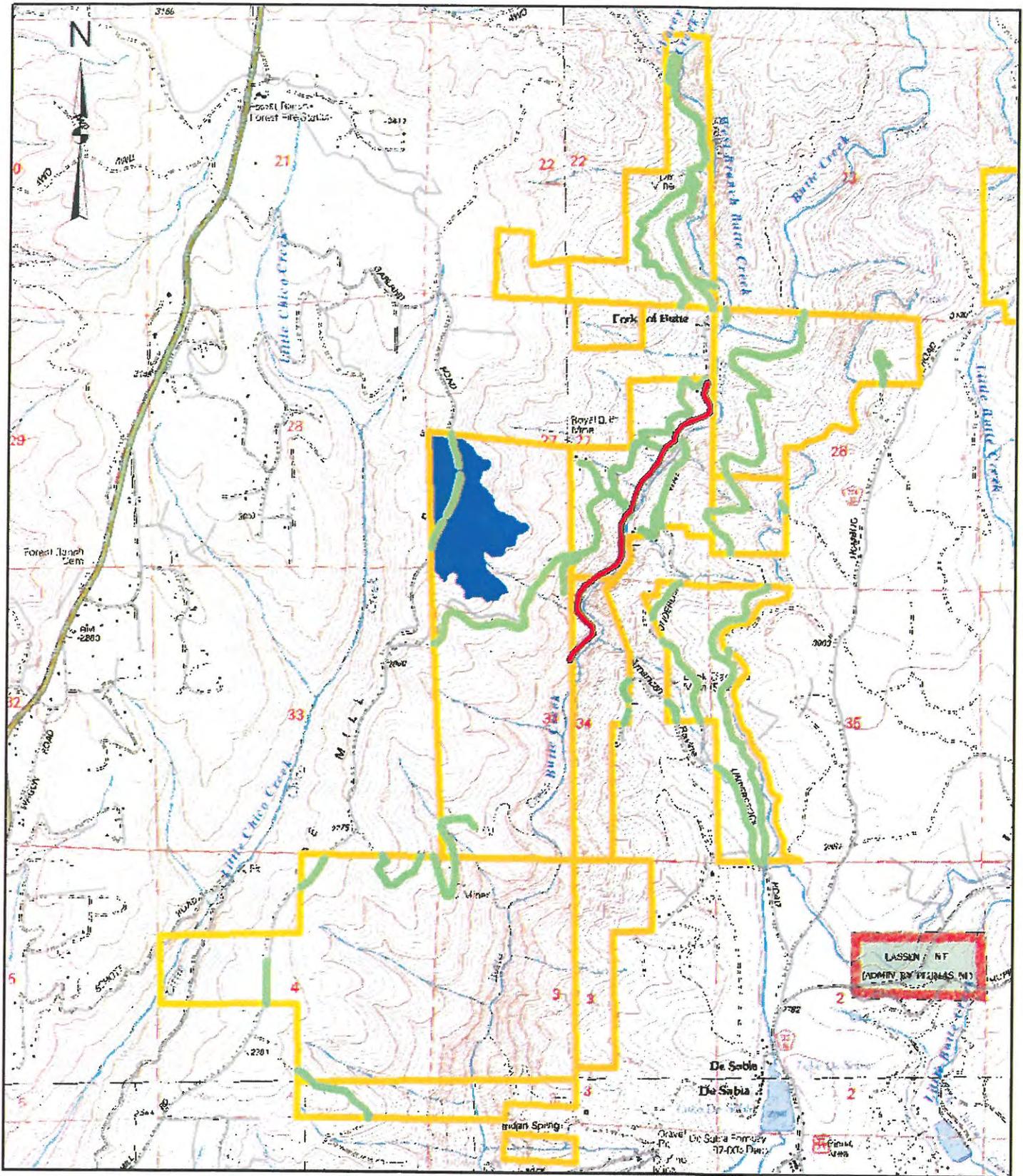


Field Manager, Redding Field Office



Date

Butte Creek - Forest Ranch BLM Hazardous Fuel Reduction Zone



- Trail Shaded Fuelbreak
- Butte Creek BLM Ownership
- Road Shaded Fuelbreak
- Area Shaded Fuelbreak



US Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 Redding Field Office
 Redding, California
 (530) 224-2100
www.ca.blm.gov/redding
 Date Prepared: 02/20/2015
 Project: fuels

Terra Fuego Resource Foundation – Watershed Improvement Plan

SITE PLAN

1. Treat fuels in post logging area 50'/100' along the inside perimeter.
2. Treat fuels and thin stand 50' to 100' into the untreated area along perimeter.
3. Treat fuels along south end of project area from previous treatment area to Doe Mill rd.
4. Hand pile Down and dead materials 1" in diameter to 10" in diameter.
5. Hand pile areas where concentrations of fuels are near control lines.

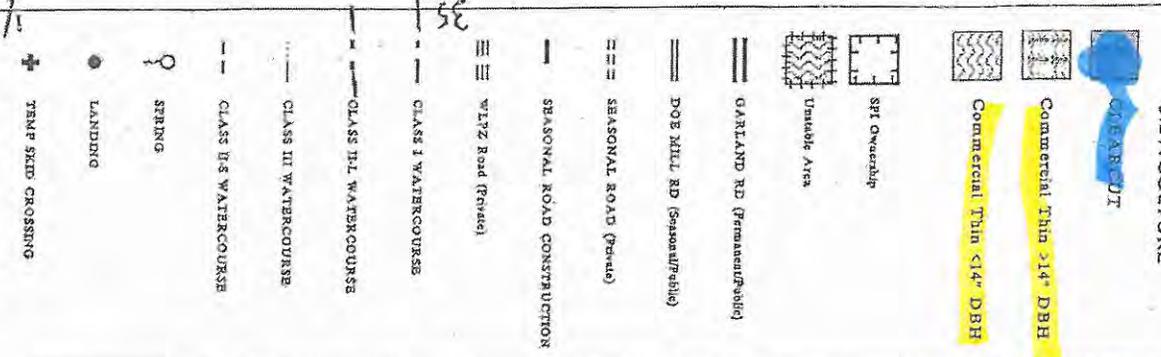
6. Thin to conifers to 10" diameter at 20' spacing, Hand pile slash.
7. Pile all down and dead to 10" in untreated area.
8. Thin oaks to 8" diameter and 20' spacing, Hand pile slash. Construct Fire Lines around entire unit.
9. Construct Fire Line around Hand piles or groups of piles.
10. Lop and scatter brush and conifer regeneration through-out unit.
11. Pull back fuels from around leave trees throughout unit. (reduce scorch)

Production: unit thinning and road side thin and pile.

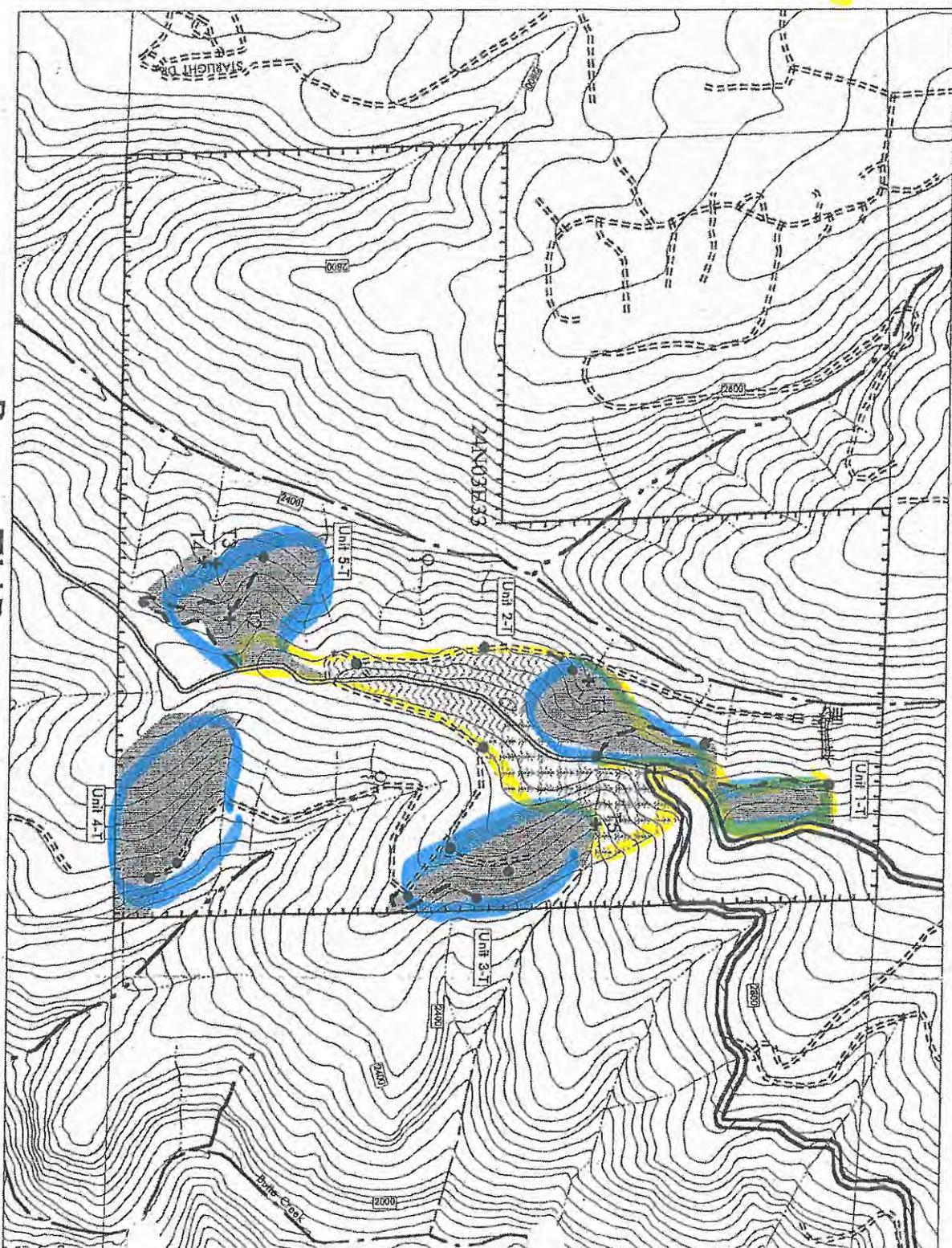
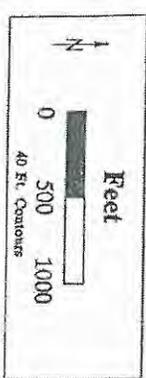
Prescribe burn Hand piles: This will include ignition of piles Chunking (Throwing burnt ends to consume 75% of the material. Construct hand line as needed to contain piles. Mop Up (Extinguish all burning material) Patrol unit until all piles are 100% extinguished.

Prescribed burn broadcast unit: Units will be prepared by constructing fire lines, Falling all Snags (Dead Hazard trees). Ignite units using hand firing technique with Drip Torch. Units will be ignited from highest elevation to lowest elevation using a strip firing technique. This will be a primarily a backing fire with some short duration low intensity head fires will occur on steeper slopes. During igniting holding resources Engines and crews will patrol lines and address any areas of concern. Mop Up will start as soon as burn down occurs. Mop up will continue until perimeter is mopped up 100' 100%. The unit will be patrolled until all threats are extinguished.

SILVICULTURE



1/2/12
 1" = 1000'



Bear THP
 T24N, R3E, Sections 33, MDBM
 THP Map 1

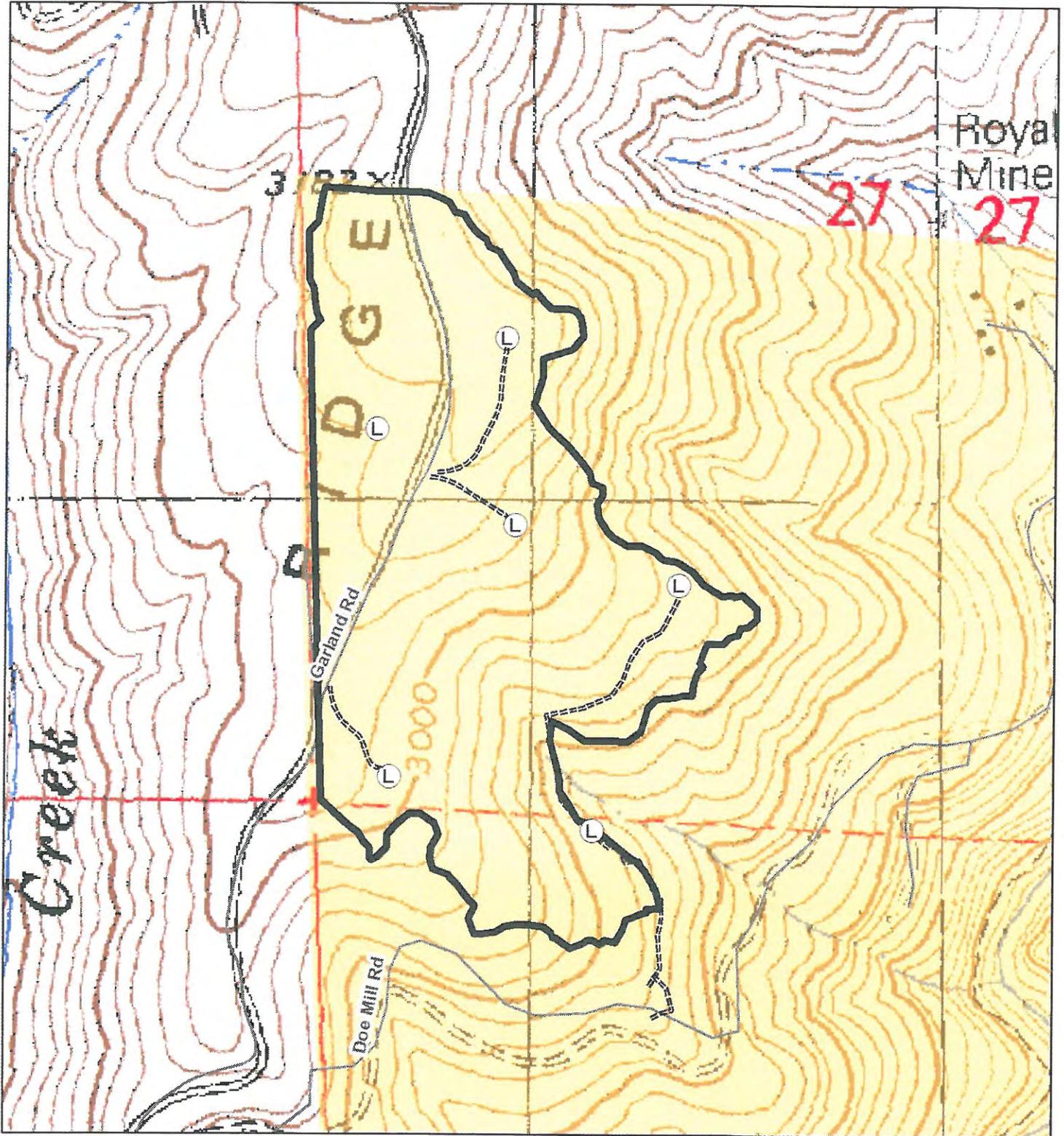
All Units are Site III and Moderate EHR
 All Units are Tractor Yarding

Cohasset, 1979 USGS
 40 Foot contours

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 GIS Source: Sierra Pacific Ind. Proprietary GIS

PROJECT MAP: Butte Forest Thin (West Unit)

Contract #:

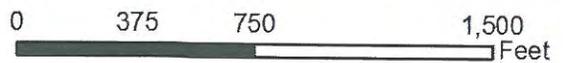


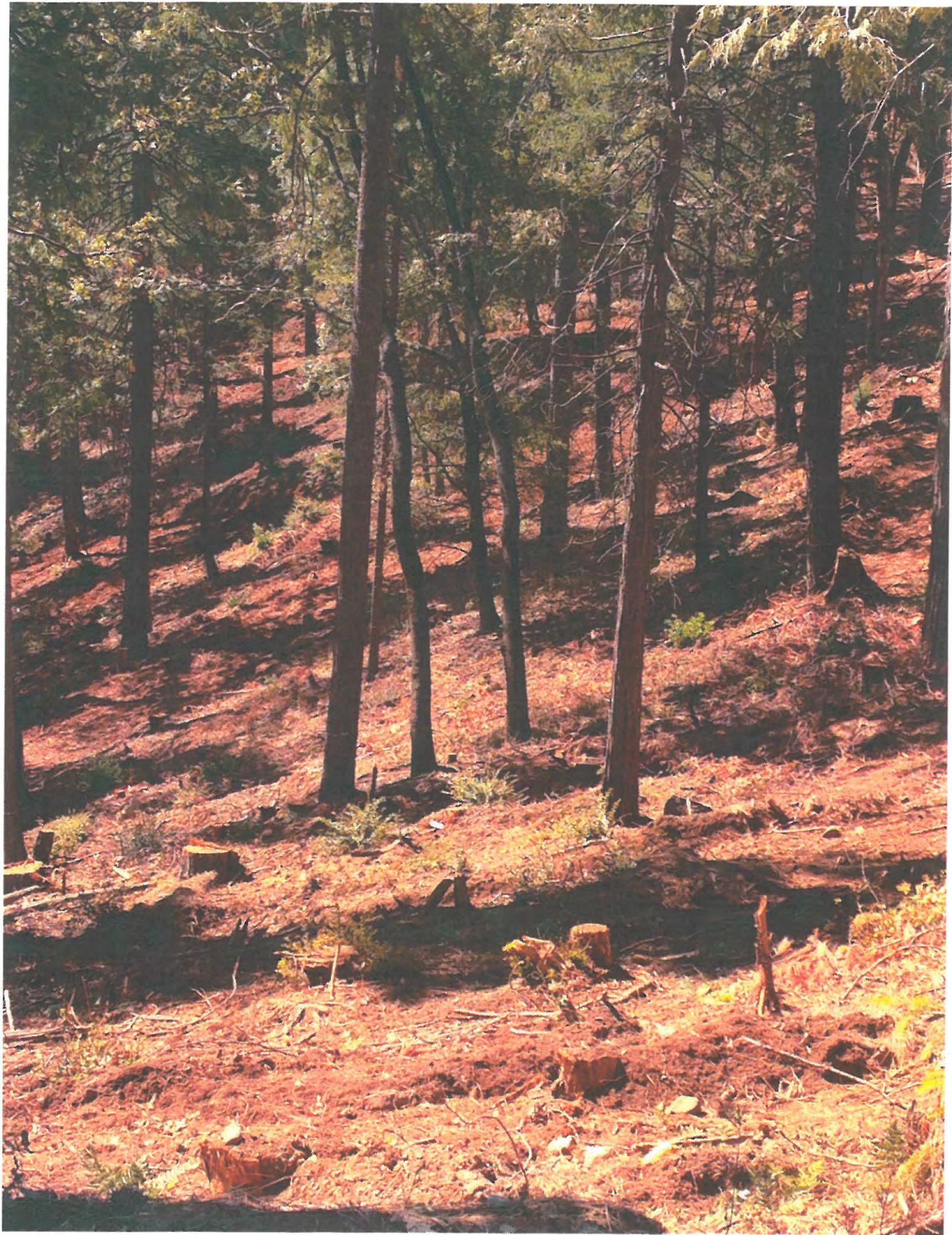
T24N, R3E, S34

Elevation: 2,760' - 3,200'
Contour Interval: 40'
Cohasset 7.5' topo quad

Unit 2 (West Unit): 84-acres

- Old BLM Road
- ▭ Butte Thin Units
- BLM Lands









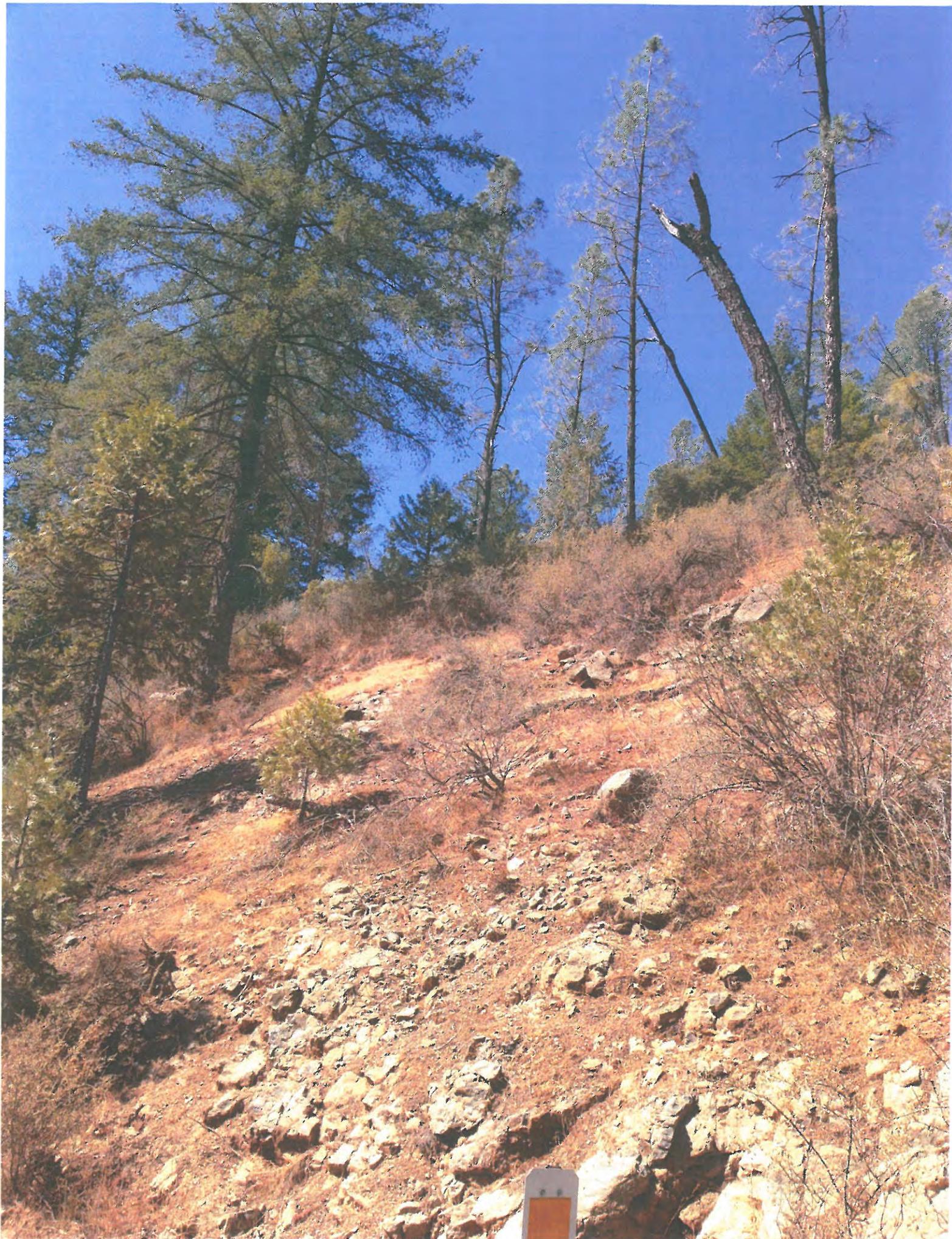














United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Redding Field Office
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Redding, CA 96002
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AUG 26 2015

9210 (CAN06) P

Rerra Fuego Resource Foundation
1100 Fortress ST. Ste. 2
Chico, CA 95973

Subject: Long-Term Management and Tenure of BLM lands in Tierra Fuego Resource Foundation grant proposal for hazardous fuels reduction in the greater Forest Ranch area.

The Redding Field Office, Bureau of Lands Management (BLM) acknowledges the Terra Fuego Resource Foundation and its partners, including the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, are providing labor, funding or other support for the purpose of improving status of BLM lands in the greater Forest Ranch Project area.

The BLM understands that funds granted by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy require project operation and maintenance including monitoring for a time period of up to 25 years on the site.

The greater Forest Ranch fuels treatment area is located within the Forks of Butte Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The 1993 Redding Resource Management Plan identifies several specific resource management condition objectives for the ACEC including the protection of historic values, maintenance of fisheries habitat and protection and enhancement of the areas scenic quality. Public lands in the Management Area are managed for these purposes unless there is a statutory mandate to convey such lands out of federal ownership.

Under current and anticipated future land use plan allocations, and absent a statutory directive to dispose of such lands, the BLM anticipates that the land upon which the project improvement would be made under the grant covering hazardous fuels work in the greater Forest Ranch area will be operated and maintained indefinitely well beyond the period addressed above with full access granted to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and other project cooperators.

For any questions relating to this subject please contact Tim Bradley, Redding Field Office Fire Management Officer, at (530) 224-2124.

Sincerely,

ACTING FOR:

Jennifer Mata
Field Manager