



**Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program
Proposition 1
SCOTTS FLAT RESERVOIR FUELS TREATMENT PHASE 3
SNC Reference #873**



March 1, 2016

Appendix B - Full Application Checklist

SNC Reference#: 873

Project Name: Scotts Flat Reservoir Fire Fuels Treatment Phase 3

Applicant: Nevada Irrigation District

Please mark each box if item is included 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 6a 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

2/29/2016

 Date

Timothy Crough, P.E. Assistant General Manager

 Name and Title (print or type)

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SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY	
PROPOSITION 1 – Watershed Improvement Program Project Information Form	
SNC REFERENCE #	
PROJECT NAME	
APPLICANT NAME (<i>Legal name, address, and zip code</i>)	
AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUEST	
TOTAL PROJECT COST	
PROJECT LOCATION (<i>County with approx. lat/long, center of project area</i>)	
SENATE DISTRICT NUMBER	ASSEMBLY DISTRICT NUMBER
PERSON WITH MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANT CONTRACT	
<i>Name and title:</i> _____ <i>Phone:</i> _____ <i>Email Address:</i> _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ms.	
TRIBAL CONTACT(S) INFORMATION	
<i>Name:</i> _____ <i>Phone Number:</i> _____	
<i>Email address:</i> _____	
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR PLANNING DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION	
<i>Name:</i> _____ <i>Phone Number:</i> _____	
<i>Email address:</i> _____	
NEAREST PUBLIC WATER AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION	
<i>Name:</i> _____ <i>Phone Number:</i> _____	
<i>Email address:</i> _____	

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 (for Category One Projects Only)

Total Acres:

SNC Portion (if different):

Acquisition Projects Only For Acquisitions Only

Appraisal Included

Select one deliverable (for Category Two Projects Only)

Permit

CEQA/NEPA Compliance

Appraisal

Condition Assessment

Biological Survey

Environmental Site Assessment

Plan

Eidman, Patrick@SNC

From: Neysa King <kingn@nidwater.com>
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 2:19 PM
To: Eidman, Patrick@SNC
Subject: FW: NID Prop 1 Consultation for SNC Watershed Improvement Program

Hi Patrick,

Does this satisfy your needs?

Thank you!!!

Neysa King
Watershed Resources Planner
Nevada Irrigation District
1036 W. Main Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Phone: 530.273.6185 x281
Fax: 530.271.6838
Email: kingn@nidwater.com
www.nidwater.com

From: Prop 1@CCC [mailto:Prop1@CCC.CA.GOV]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 4:15 PM
To: Neysa King
Subject: FW: NID Prop 1 Consultation for SNC Watershed Improvement Program

This email was for Neysa, not Rachael.

Please accept my apology for the error.

Nick Martinez
Region II Analyst
California Conservation Corps
Office (916) 341-3157
Nicholas.Martinez@ccc.ca.gov



From: Prop 1@CCC
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 4:04 PM
To: 'Neysa King' <kingn@nidwater.com>; Prop 1@CCC <Prop1@CCC.CA.GOV>; inquiry@prop1communitycorps.org
Subject: RE: NID Prop 1 Consultation for SNC Watershed Improvement Program

Hello Rachael.

Carrie Monroe, the Conservation Supervisor at our CCC Placer location has responded to the partnership for your project: Scotts Flat Reservoir Fuels Treatment Phase 3 Project. CCC can assist with the thinning of smaller fuels and the

removal of some of the larger trees depending on the size and location. We can also assist in chipping but do not have mastication capabilities.

Please include this email with your project application as proof that you reached out to the CCC. Feel free to contact Keith Welch at Carrie.Monroe@ccc.ca.gov directly if you have project-specific questions and when your project receives funding.

Thanks,

Nick Martinez
Region II Analyst
California Conservation Corps
Office (916) 341-3157
Nicholas.Martinez@ccc.ca.gov



From: Neysa King [<mailto:kingn@nidwater.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 11:03 AM
To: Prop 1@CCC <Prop1@CCC.CA.GOV>; inquiry@prop1communitycorps.org
Subject: NID Prop 1 Consultation for SNC Watershed Improvement Program

Dear CCC Prop 1 Coordinator and Ms. Crystal Muhlenkamp,

Attached please find a summary of our project being proposed to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (due March 1, 2016): Scotts Flat Reservoir Fuels Treatment Phase 3.

The summary includes our project title, description, and implementation schedule on the first page, and a map on the second. If you have any questions about this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration,
Neysa King
Watershed Resources Planner
Nevada Irrigation District
1036 W. Main Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Phone: 530.273.6185 x281
Fax: 530.271.6838
Email: kingn@nidwater.com
www.nidwater.com

Hello Neysa,

Baldeo of the Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps has responded that they are able to assist with the Scotts Flat Reservoir Fuels Treatment Phase 3 project if it receives funding. Please include this email with your application as proof that you reached out to the Local Conservation Corps.

Additionally, please feel free to contact Baldeo Singh (bsingh@saccorps.org) directly if your project receives funding.

Thank you,

Dominique

California Association of Local Conservation Corps

Proposition 1 – Water Bond

Consultation Review Document

Applicant has submitted the required information by email to the Local Conservation Corps (CALCC):

✓ Yes (applicant has submitted all necessary information to CALCC)

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

✓ It is feasible for CALCC to be used on the project (deemed compliant)

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

On Tue, Feb 16, 2016 at 11:03 AM, Neysa King <kingn@nidwater.com> wrote:

Dear CCC Prop 1 Coordinator and Ms. Crystal Muhlenkamp,

Attached please find a summary of our project being proposed to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (due March 1, 2016): Scotts Flat Reservoir Fuels Treatment Phase 3.

The summary includes our project title, description, and implementation schedule on the first page, and a map on the second. If you have any questions about this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration,

Neysa King

Watershed Resources Planner

Nevada Irrigation District

Good Morning Neysa,

Our hourly rate is \$20.00 per hour per crew member and there are usually about 15 crew members to a crew. This price includes the Supervisor, standard equipment, safety gear, transportation, and workers comp insurance. We have chippers (if needed) and they would run \$200.00 per day.

We do not have any significant equipment or tree shredders, so yes you would probably need to contract with Robinson.

Typically we can clear between an acre and an acre and half a day, maybe more depending on fuel load.

Most of our Supervisors are qualified to fall trees up to a 24" DBH.

Hope this information is what you are looking for. If you have any other questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Carie





RESOLUTION No. 2016-05

OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

**APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR
THE SIERRA NEVADA WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
(PROPOSITION 1) UNDER THE WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND
INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014**

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program (Proposition 1 Water Bond); and

WHEREAS, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (the "SNC") has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of a portion of these funds through a local assistance grants program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the governing board of each applicant before submission of said application(s) to the SNC; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada Irrigation District (the "District") has identified the Scotts Flat Reservoir Fuels Treatment – Phase 3 (the "Project") as valuable toward meeting its mission and goals.

WHEREAS, the District intends to submit an application to SNC for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the District, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the SNC to carry out the Project; and

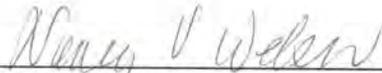
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Irrigation District that it does find as follows:

1. The above recitals are true and correct.
2. Approves the submittal of an application for the Project.
3. Certifies that District understands the assurances and certification requirements in the application.

4. Certifies that District will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the resource(s) consistent with the long-term benefits described in support of the application; or will secure the resources to do so.
5. Certifies that District will comply with all legal requirements as determined during the application process.
6. Appoints its General Manager, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to: applications, agreements, payment requests, and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project(s).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Irrigation District at a regular meeting held on the 24th day of February 2016, by the following vote:

AYES: Drew, Miller, Morebeck, Wilcox, Weber
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAINS: None



President of the Board of Directors

Attest:



Board Secretary

Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program

Scotts Flat Reservoir Fire Fuels Treatment Phase 3

6. Narrative Descriptions

a. Detailed Project Description

PROJECT GOALS:

- **Protection of forest and watershed health by reducing catastrophic fire risk in the Sierra Nevada, and**
- **Protection of water storage, quality, and supply for provision to California residents.**

This project will significantly reduce catastrophic fire risk on forested lands owned by Nevada Irrigation District (NID or District) near Scotts Flat Reservoir and adjacent residential communities by treating fire fuels and dense understory vegetation to promote long-term forest health. This project will employ treatment methods that include cutting, chipping and spreading dense understory vegetation and small to medium diameter trees. The project area is owned and managed by the Nevada Irrigation District for water storage and supply, recreational and forested watershed values. We propose to treat 82 acres to protect forest health, water quality, air quality and to reduce fire risk to this area. Our objective is to continue ongoing work to protect an existing water storage facility to meet statewide goals as per the California Water Action Plan, 2013. The Scotts Flat Fire Fuels Reduction Project Phase 3 is located on the shore of the Scotts Flat Reservoir between the community of Cascade Shores and NID's dam and powerhouse (see map), near Nevada City and Grass Valley in Nevada County, California. This reservoir is part of the water supply infrastructure that NID manages for communities in Western Nevada County. The project area is characterized by overly dense forests due to more than 60 years of fire suppression. As a result, catastrophic fire is a very real threat to the health of this forested area, which encompasses the reservoir, powerhouse, private residential properties, and both public and private roads for ingress and egress. The project area also has numerous small stream crossings and drainages that flow directly to one of NID's most important water supply reservoirs supporting the communities of Nevada City, Grass Valley, and North Auburn.

Purpose and need. The purpose of this project is to reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfire and associated damage in the project area and on adjacent lands. Presently, dense forests cover the property creating a hazardous fuel loading situation. With the potential of a major fire very high in this area, vegetation control for fire prevention is extremely important. Excess vegetation, trees, brush, and sprouting hardwoods will be removed to decrease the property's hazardous fuel loading, which provides a corresponding decrease in fire danger. As we have witnessed, catastrophic fire is at a crisis level in the Sierra Nevada region and this

project will provide significant benefits to our ongoing efforts to reduce this risk in Nevada County.

Desired Forest Condition. Our goal is to reduce catastrophic fire risk by completing a cross-canyon treatment area to protect long-term watershed health in the Sierra Nevada. With a properly maintained forest, it is possible to keep the fire danger to a minimum. This can be done by thinning the overstory and understory, removing fuel ladders, and reducing the density of brush vegetation. A healthy forest will also act as a fuelbreak/defensible space for the area, however it is impossible to eliminate fire potential entirely. This treatment will lessen the fire hazard with proper vegetation control, which would result in a lower-intensity light ground fire. Heavy fuels in the understory can create sufficient heat to ignite a “crown-fire” that is uncontrollable, and the site photos illustrate that this is the current condition (see attached).

Project objectives include cutting, chipping and spreading wood chips in the project area to provide immediate fire risk reduction and short-term benefits of soil and erosion protection, and delayed understory regrowth. As part of the project, we will establish 10 plots to evaluate understory regrowth rates with modification of treatment by manipulating mulch depth from 2” to 6”. The project will also include community outreach and education, and opportunities to partner with local organizations to promote wildfire and fire risk education. This project is aligned with the vision of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and its Strategic Plan, and the Nevada County Community Wildfire Protection Plan developed by the Fire Safe Council. This project advances the California Water Action Plan by protecting and restoring important ecosystems, expanding and protecting water storage capacity, and managing and preparing for dry periods. This reservoir provides source water for treatment and distribution to the Disadvantaged Communities of Grass Valley and North Auburn, which addresses the Human Right to Water policy requirements.

Specific benefits include the following:

- Immediate and long-term improvements in overall forest health and diversity.
- Scotts Flat Reservoirs (both upper and lower) are domestic water supplies and will receive immediate and long-term fire reduction benefits from fire fuels reduction. The community of Cascade Shore lies immediately adjacent to this project area, and will receive long-term fire risk reduction as NID implements this required maintenance across a forested landscape. This project will also enhance regional efforts to construct a shaded fuel break.
- The hydro-power generation facility at the reservoir dam will be further protected to realize our commitment to clean energy.
- The watershed will benefit by protecting soil resources from a high intensity fire, and will result in protection of watershed run-off and sedimentation at normal levels.

- Local wildlife and their habitats will be protected from catastrophic fire, and long-term monitoring will further scientific understanding of the relationship between mulching and understory regrowth rates to provide lasting habitat and watershed benefits.

b. Workplan and Schedule

This project proposes to implement the existing Timber Harvest Plan No. 2-13-031-NEV, approved Oct. 4, 2013) for Scotts Flat and will prioritize fuel treatment areas based on fuel load, topography, access and costs to ensure the most cost effective, strategic design. Treatment will include “thinning from below” using the most appropriate techniques that NID has employed successfully in the past, including: cutting, chipping and spreading by crews provided by the California Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC has responded favorably that they want to do the project and can reasonably satisfy our project objectives for fire fuels reduction. In the budget we have assumed that they can treat the entire project area and if it is determined that they cannot due to topography or steepness, a private Licensed Timber Operator will be utilized to complete the project.

NID will send letters to the residents of Cascade Shores to inform them of the project and to encourage them to bring green waste during active project days, and we will chip their material with the harvested trees and bushes from District lands. We will host at least one community meeting, and will also develop educational materials and 2 signs to be displayed at NID facilities on Scotts Flat Reservoir (e.g. at the campground, education center, etc.). NID will authorize all work, establish contracts, provide information as needed throughout project administration, and fund its share of grant-related activities.

The expected benefits of the proposed more intensive fuel reduction efforts include: increased resistance to catastrophic crown fires; retention and sequestration of carbon through time; improved habitat conditions for plants and animals, and reduced risk of sedimentation and degradation of small creeks and the Scotts Flat water supply reservoir. This project will also complete a cross-canyon shaded fuel break between the reservoir and Nevada City, which will benefit both communities in the case of a catastrophic wildfire. Education and outreach will promote community knowledge about wildfire risk and participation in fire prevention programs; and monitoring will help to define best management practices for fire fuels treatment in the Sierra Nevada.

Our proposed timeline is based on anticipated funding award in June 2016, and Grant Agreement execution by Sept. 1, 2016. The project area is accessible via a public paved road and a gravel road on NID lands, and the project implementation season can extend into late fall depending on precipitation patterns in the area (the project is at 3,000’ to 3,400’ in elevation).

Detailed Project Deliverables	Schedule
<p>Task 1 Project Management: NID will negotiate contract execution with SNC, and then initiate planning with the California Conservation Corps to design their participation in the project. Initial outreach to Cascade Shores will be completed via a mailing to local residents.</p>	June 1, 2016-Oct. 15, 2016
<p>Task 1.1 Project Bidding: Conduct Professional Registered Forester and Licensed Timber Operator contract bidding as needed.</p> <p>Task 1.2 Contracting with the CCC: NID will contract with California Conservation Corps to define their role and involvement in the project.</p>	Oct. 16, 2016-Dec. 31, 2016
<p>Task 2: Grant Reporting by NID to SNC (first 6 month progress report initiated)</p> <p>Task 2.1 1st Progress Report Due to SNC</p>	Jan. 15, 2017
<p>Task 3: Pre-project fieldwork and Public Education and Outreach: Task 3.1 NID to oversee all pre-implementation fieldwork, including surveying, flagging, plot definition, baseline monitoring, etc. Task 3.2 Initiate community meeting to continue community outreach. Task 3.3 Educational materials drafted.</p>	Jan. 1, 2017-May 31, 2017
<p>Task 2.2: 2nd Progress Report Due to SNC</p>	June 30, 2017
<p>Task 3.4: Education and Outreach Program materials finalized, and interpretation signs re: wildfire, forest and watershed health, and associated projects to be installed on District lands at campground and the education center.</p>	Oct. 1, 2017-Nov. 30, 2017
<p>Task 4: Project Implementation Implementation of practices by the CCC, Registered Professional Forester(s), and if needed a Licensed Timber Operator with ongoing oversight by NID staff</p>	April 1, 2017- Oct. 31, 2017
<p>Task 2.3: Final reporting to SNC and grant closure initiated including completion of all documents.</p>	Nov. 1, 2017-Dec. 31, 2017
<p>Task 5: Grant Closure Final Closure Report Due to SNC</p>	Jan. 31, 2018

Measurable outcomes:

This project will treat approximately 82 acres, and result in the spreading, bucking and piling of small to medium diameter trees and shrubs on District lands. The project will increase the height to live crown ratio, and decrease crown density. These practices will result in a healthier, more fire and pathogen resistant stand. The project will also result in positive community outreach and education via one community meeting, and posting of 2 interpretive signs on NID land adjacent to Scotts Flat Reservoir to educate the public about fire ecology, wildfire risk, and watershed health.

Description of harvest treatments: The smaller trees will be selected for harvest to reduce the understory, and to create a defensible space. We will also increase the ground to crown ratio to reduce the potential for a wildfire to become a conflagration. Reducing tree spacing is the primary objective, while leaving healthy regeneration to provide for larger trees in the future. While surface and ladder fuel treatment standards will vary based upon site specific conditions, post-treatment total surface fuel loading shall not exceed an average of 10-20 bone dry tons per acre. These standards shall be verified by a post-harvest walkthrough of the stand. Visual estimation will be used to determine the remaining surface fuel loading. The estimations will be based on the United State Forest Service “Natural Fuels Photos Series” (rev. April 2011, available at http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/fera/publications/photo_series_pubs.shtml).

The residual stand will have a target tree spacing of 16’ X 16’ (or approximately 170 trees per acre) up to 20’ X 20’ (or approximately 109 trees per acre). Hardwood clumps may be counted as one tree. Conifers and/or black oak will be the preferred leave trees. The leave trees will be chosen to promote the best forest health based on: species, health, size, age and spacing.

Description of operations: The forest vegetation will be thinned using a fire fuels treatment practice to result in improved forest health and fire protection. The CCC will use hand crews to cut, limb, chip, buck and stack, or pile wood in the project area. We will spread chips in a layer not to exceed 6 in. throughout the project area. Mulch will be applied at a 2” depth in certain plot areas. All operations will meet the specifications of the California Forest Practice rules for providing protection to the resources.

Description of stand before harvest: The stands are mixed conifer stands comprised of ponderosa and sugar pine, Douglas-fir, a small amount of white fir, incense-cedar, and hardwoods in a medium to heavy overstory. The overstory tree diameters range from 12 in. to 50 in. with heights up to 150 ft. tall. Snags are variable with 0-2 per acre. The hardwoods include black oak, live oak, madrone, tan oak, alder, and dogwood. The understory is mostly conifer and hardwood regeneration (0 in. to 12 in. DBH), and some brush. Current stocking: basal area of the stand ranges from 10 to 350 sq.ft. of conifer timber.

Project Effectiveness Monitoring: Effectiveness monitoring will be based on pre and post-treatment measurements to assess the effectiveness of the fuel treatments. As part of this project,

a Registered Forester will establish 10 permanently marked (fixed) 1/10 acre plots during the Site Preparation phase, and in such plots document forest stand conditions before and after the forest thinning operation. These plots will be used to compare understory regrowth rates, and effectiveness of modifying mulch depth from 2” to 6”. Using the pre-treatment data as the baseline data on fuel loadings and stand densities, a post treatment comparison should provide for a useful and comprehensive study of how the forest condition has changed. Also, the depth of the chips will be modified to provide a comparison study of understory regrowth rates. The results of this study will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of treatments over time.

Photo point monitoring: Long-term photo monitoring points will be established for the purpose of characterizing the project treatments. The purpose of these photos is to compare the pre- and post-harvest stand conditions and treatments. Photo points shall be mapped using GPS, and designated on the ground by stake, post, or other equivalent semi-permanent method. Photo monitoring will be included in all Progress and Final Reports to SNC.

c. Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements

NID owns the land that is proposed for forest health improvements and fire fuels reduction actions. Pasquale Rd. (a county maintained public road) runs through the middle of the project, and NID owns a private road from Pasquale Rd. to the dam. The approved Timber Harvest Plan for Scotts Flat Reservoir satisfies all permit and CEQA requirements for the project area.

d. Organizational Capacity

Recently, in 2015, Nevada Irrigation District (NID) successfully completed Phase 1 of the Scott’s Flat Fire Fuels Reduction Program with the assistance of CAL FIRE. This project required partial grant funding to offset treatment implementation and transportation costs associated with harvesting and bringing biomass to the SPI plant in Lincoln, CA. Phase 2 to continue fire fuels reduction on NID lands is currently pending to CAL FIRE to treat the area between the dam and community of Scotts Flat, including the NID owned and managed campground. Additionally, NID is currently administering an \$8.1 million Proposition 84 Drought Grant from the Department of Water Resources for the Consumnes, American, Bear, Yuba (CABY) Integrated Regional Watershed Planning group. In this program, NID is responsible for both project related tasks and overall grant reporting and invoicing. Other pertinent projects include: pipeline and reservoir improvement projects, fish passage projects, mercury and sediment removal demonstration projects, ongoing public education and conservation program, Forest Management Plan development, and hydroelectric FERC relicensing. NID has the expertise and experience necessary to function as the fiscal lead and project manager, with staff and equipment needed to complete this project. NID is an independent special district operated by and for the people who own land within its 287,000-acre boundaries. Current tenure of capital improvement programs includes \$250 million, with an average of \$12 million per year.

Participants in the project include NID (the landowner), Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the California Conservation Corps, Registered Professional Foresters (RFPs), possibly a Licensed Timber Operator (LTO), the local community, the Nevada County Resource Conservation District, and local tribes as interested. As the Grantee, NID will authorize all work, establish contracts, provide information as needed throughout project administration, and fund its share of grant-related activities. The contract with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy will be administered by NID staff who will provide regular progress reports, invoices, grant reports and oversight for the successful completion of all deliverables associated with this grant agreement. Specifically:

- Tim Crough, P.E. Assistant General Manager, will negotiate contracts, and provide ongoing involvement and oversight of all NID forestry-related activities; and NID staff, including the Watershed Resources Planner, will supervise all contractors and process all invoices necessary to provide accurate reporting and records as required for the receipt and disbursement of public funding;
- A Registered Professional Forester(s) will provide supervision and technical guidance to satisfy requirements of the Timber Harvest Plan in the field, and to ensure compliance with the Forest Practice Rules and all other applicable rules in California.
- The California Conservation Corps will assist with implementation of treatment practices.
- A Licensed Timber Operator will be involved if needed.

Under the ongoing supervision of NID, a Registered Professional Forester (RPF), the CCC and as needed a Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) will implement practices to remove hazardous trees, other vegetation, and fuels to create a shaded fuel break and/or defensible space by reducing the hazardous fuel loading. These fuel reduction operations have been approved and encouraged by CAL FIRE. The area around Scotts Flat Reservoir was chosen to protect the neighboring properties and structures, and surrounding resources as part of a community protection plan. This area has been harvested in the past and a natural forest stand now occupies the site. The last major harvest on this property was in the 1970's by NID.

e. Cooperation and Community Support

The District has been working collaboratively with CAL FIRE, US Forest Service, the Nevada County Resource Conservation District, The Sierra Fund, and the University of California, Berkeley to expand its ongoing forestry and watershed program. As part of this commitment, we will continue to partner in regional efforts to treat forested areas in the Sierra Nevada that critically need maintenance. We will employ fire fuels reduction practices while striving to advance our statewide goals for water supply, fire risk reduction, carbon sequestration, and air quality.

As part of this application we have reached out to various partners in the community and have attached pertinent Letters of Support from: CAL FIRE, the Nevada County Resource

Conservation District and The Sierra Fund to demonstrate their support for our project and interest in working collaboratively to address catastrophic fire risk in the region.

NID will work with the community of Cascade Shores, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the Nevada County Resource Conservation District, CAL FIRE and other local groups to promote project coordination and regional goals for wildfire risk reduction. This project is also directly aligned with priorities of the State of California as expressed in the California Water Action Plan, USFS Western Nevada County Community Defense Project- Deer Creek, and the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. As part of broader community support we will work with CAL FIRE and facilitate implementation of the California Fire Plan (2010) by responding to wildland fire issues in our area in the following ways:

1. Land use planning: The project will reduce fire risk in an area that continues to support residential development, and is a high-priority, short-term action in the Draft Forest Management Plan that NID is currently developing.
2. Creation of defensible space: Existing homes and structures will significantly benefit from the fire fuels removal and expansion of defensible space in this area.
3. Fuel hazard reduction: Treatment of 82 acres for fire fuels and promotion of healthier forests.
4. NID is working with local agency partners to develop more accurate local data and planning tools to better respond to pre-fire risk and fire management in the region.

f. Tribal Consultation Narrative

This project is part of the District's ongoing implementation of the Scotts Flat Timber Harvest Plan (THP No. 2-13-031-NEV, approved Oct. 4, 2013). Harvest Plan development requires a thorough archeological records search and review for the project area, as well as a formal public comment period. The District completed this task in addition to all requirements of the Forest Practice Rules. Additionally, as part of the project development process, we have contacted five local tribal representatives, addressing cultural resource managers as available. A letter of introduction containing a project description and map was sent on Feb. 17, 2016 to the following (this is included in the Supplemental Information section):

1. Mr. Rob Wood, Native American Heritage Commission
2. Mr. Marco Guerrero and Mr. Jason Camp, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria
3. Mr. Darrel Cruz, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
4. Ms. Shelly Covert, Nevada City Rancheria
5. Mr. Don Ryberg, Tsi Akim Maidu in Grass Valley

This outreach and invitation to join in the project resulted in only one interested reply from Mr. Darrel Cruz of the Washoe Tribe. This project appears to be beyond his area of interest, but we will continue to include him in project updates in the case that this changes.

g. Long Term Management and Sustainability

As part of an ongoing forestry program on District lands, NID initiated fire fuels reduction along the northeast shore of Scotts Flat Reservoir in 2015. This region has beetles, disease, and overgrowth associated with fire suppression, drought stress, and ongoing residential development. The US Forest Service, Fire Safe Council and Nevada County RCD have initiated fire reduction practices around Scotts Flat Reservoir and Highway 20 as part of the community Shaded Fuel Break. In order to address these needs and opportunities, NID is committed to long-term forest health and watershed protection that will require innovative and regular implementation of forest practices, and Phase 3 will help to realize this goal.

NID currently monitors the Phase 1 project area, and will monitor the proposed area for long-term management goals of fire fuels reduction and forest health as understory species regrow, including surveys for the presence of broom, blackberry, and other species that require ongoing monitoring that utilizes mastication and vegetation control techniques.

NID is keenly aware of the ongoing drought and associated water supply issues and threats to this system due to catastrophic fire, and is actively addressing the potential for its land to become a potential ignition source due to current and ever increasing recreational use. NID will continue to monitor this project area and all of its forested lands to address future forest management needs well beyond the next 10-years, and SNC will have ongoing access to monitor the project area for at least 25-years. NID is currently working with a local forestry expert, Mr. Whitlock (Under the Trees, Nevada City), to evaluate and inventory its forested lands in the development of a Forest Management & Maintenance Plan, and ongoing maintenance and monitoring will be part of this process. In this plan we will evaluate current forest condition, past forest management, and prescribe long-term fire fuels and timber best management practices to achieve our goals for forest health, water supply, watershed and habitat protection. This plan will be completed in 2016.

h. Performance Measures

NID will use the following performance measures to track and report project progress to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy throughout the term of the project.

1. Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada
2. Number of People Reached
3. Number and Type of Jobs Created
4. Acres of Land Improved or Restored
5. Number and Value of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities

7. Budget Documents

A detailed budget is attached. The SNC Grant fund request is \$250,700, and the project total cost is \$278,700. Of this, the District will provide Project Management as in-kind support in the form of dedicated project staff to design, implement, report and complete this workplan successfully and on time. The total leveraged funding is \$28,000 (which is 10% of the project total).

8. Supplementary Documents

a. Environmental Documentation

CEQA has been satisfied for this project as we have an approved Timber Harvest Plan for Scotts Flat (THP No. 2-13-031-Nevada Co., Approved Oct. 4, 2013), and will work with a Registered Professional Forester, the California Conservation Corps, and a Licensed Timber Operator as per requirements of the Forest Practices Rules and the State of California for implementation of Proposition 1 funding. Please see Section IV.

b. Maps and Photos- Please see attached maps and site photos. Please see Section IV.

c. Additional Submission requirements for Fee Title Acquisition applications only- NOT APPLICABLE

d. Additional submission requirements for Site Improvement/Restoration Project applicants only. Please See Section IV.

- Land Tenure Documents- Please see attached letter.
- Site Plan- Please see attached map.
- Leases or Agreements- Not Applicable.

**SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY
SNC Watershed Improvement Program - DETAILED BUDGET FORM**

**Project Name: Scotts Flat Reservoir Fuels Treatment Phase 3
Applicant: Nevada Irrigation District**

SECTION ONE DIRECT COSTS	Year One	Year Two	Total
<i>Project Management by NID to be provided as an inkind, cash contribution (see below)</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<i>Cosulting Registered Professional Forester(s)</i>	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00
DIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00

SECTION TWO PARTIAL INDIRECT COSTS	Year One	Year Two	Total
Public Education Workshops and Signage	\$3,500.00	\$4,000.00	\$7,500.00
Reg. Professional Forester: site preparation, stream protection, project delineation, establishment of plots, etc.	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00
California Conservation Corp treatment of 82 ac. @\$2,600 per ac.	\$213,200.00	\$0.00	\$213,200.00
INDIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:	\$226,700.00	\$9,000.00	\$235,700.00
PROJECT TOTAL:	\$236,700.00	\$14,000.00	\$250,700.00

SECTION THREE Administrative Costs (Costs may not exceed 15% of the above listed Project costs) :			Total
There are no Administrative Costs included in this budget			\$0.00
ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
SNC TOTAL GRANT REQUEST:	\$236,700.00	\$14,000.00	\$250,700.00

SECTION FOUR OTHER PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS	Year One	Year Two	Total
Project Management by Nevada Irrigation District to be provided as an inkind contribution	\$18,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$28,000.00
Total Other Contributions:	\$18,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$28,000.00

Appendix F - CEQA/NEPA Compliance Form

(California Environmental Quality Act & National Environmental Policy Act)

Instructions: All applicants must complete the CEQA compliance section. Check the box that describes the CEQA status of the proposed project. You must also complete the documentation component and submit any surveys, and/or reports that support the checked CEQA status.

If NEPA is applicable to your project, you must complete the NEPA section in addition to the CEQA section. Check the box that describes the NEPA status of the proposed project. Submit any surveys, and/or reports that support the NEPA status. For both CEQA and NEPA, submittal of permits is only necessary if they contain conditions providing information regarding potential environmental impacts.

NOTE: Effective July 1, 2015, AB52 compliance is required.

CEQA STATUS

(All applicants must complete this section)

Check the box that corresponds with the CEQA compliance for your project. The proposed action is either Categorical Exempt from CEQA, requires a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or an Environmental Impact Report per CEQA.

Categorical Exemption or Statutory Exemption

If a project is exempt from CEQA, all applicants, including public agencies that provide a filed Notice of Exemption, are required to provide a clear and comprehensive description of the physical attributes of the project site, including potential and known special-status species and habitat, in order for the SNC to make a determination that the project is exempt. A particular project that ordinarily would fall under a specific category of exemption may require further CEQA review due to individual circumstances, i.e., it is within a sensitive location, has a cumulative impact, has a significant effect on the environment, is within a scenic highway, impacts an historical resource, or is on a hazardous waste site. Potential cultural/archaeological resources must be noted, but do not need to be specifically listed or mapped at the time of application submittal. Backup data informing the exemption decision, such as biological surveys, Cultural Information Center requests, research papers, etc. should accompany the full application. Applicants anticipating the SNC to file an exemption should conduct the appropriate surveys and submit an information request to an office of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS).

1. Describe how your project complies with the requirements for claiming a Categorical or Statutory Exemption per CEQA:

2. If your organization is a state or local governmental agency, submit a signed, approved Notice of Exemption (NOE) documenting the use of the Categorical Exemption or Statutory Exemption, along with any permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this CEQA status. The Notice of Exemption must bear a date stamp to show that it has been filed with the State Clearinghouse and/or County Clerk, as required by CEQA.
3. If your organization is a nonprofit, there is no other California public agency having discretionary authority over your project, and you would like the SNC to prepare a NOE for your project, let us know that and list any permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support the CEQA status. All supplementary documentation must be provided to the SNC before the NOE can be prepared.

-
- Negative Declaration OR**
 Mitigated Negative Declaration

If a project requires a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration, then applicants must work with a qualified public agency, i.e., one that has discretionary authority over project approval or permitting, to complete the CEQA process.

1. Describe how your project complies with the requirements for the use of a Negative Declaration or a Mitigated Negative Declaration per CEQA:

2. Submit the approved Initial Study and Negative Declaration/Mitigated Negative Declaration along with any Mitigation Monitoring or Reporting Plans, permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this CEQA status. The IS/ND/MND must be accompanied by a signed, approved Notice of Determination, which must bear a date stamp to show that it has been filed with the State Clearinghouse and/or County Clerk, as required by CEQA.

Environmental Impact Report

If a project requires an Environmental Impact Report, then applicants must work with a qualified public agency, i.e., one that has discretionary authority over project approval or permitting, to complete the CEQA process.

1. Describe how your project complies with the requirements for the use of an Environmental Impact Report per CEQA:

2. Submit the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Report along with any Mitigation Monitoring or Reporting Plans, permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this CEQA status. The EIR documentation must be accompanied by a signed, approved Notice of Determination, which must bear a date stamp to show that it has been filed with the State Clearinghouse and/or County Clerk, as required by CEQA.
-

NEPA STATUS

Check the box that corresponds with the NEPA compliance for your project.

Categorical Exclusion

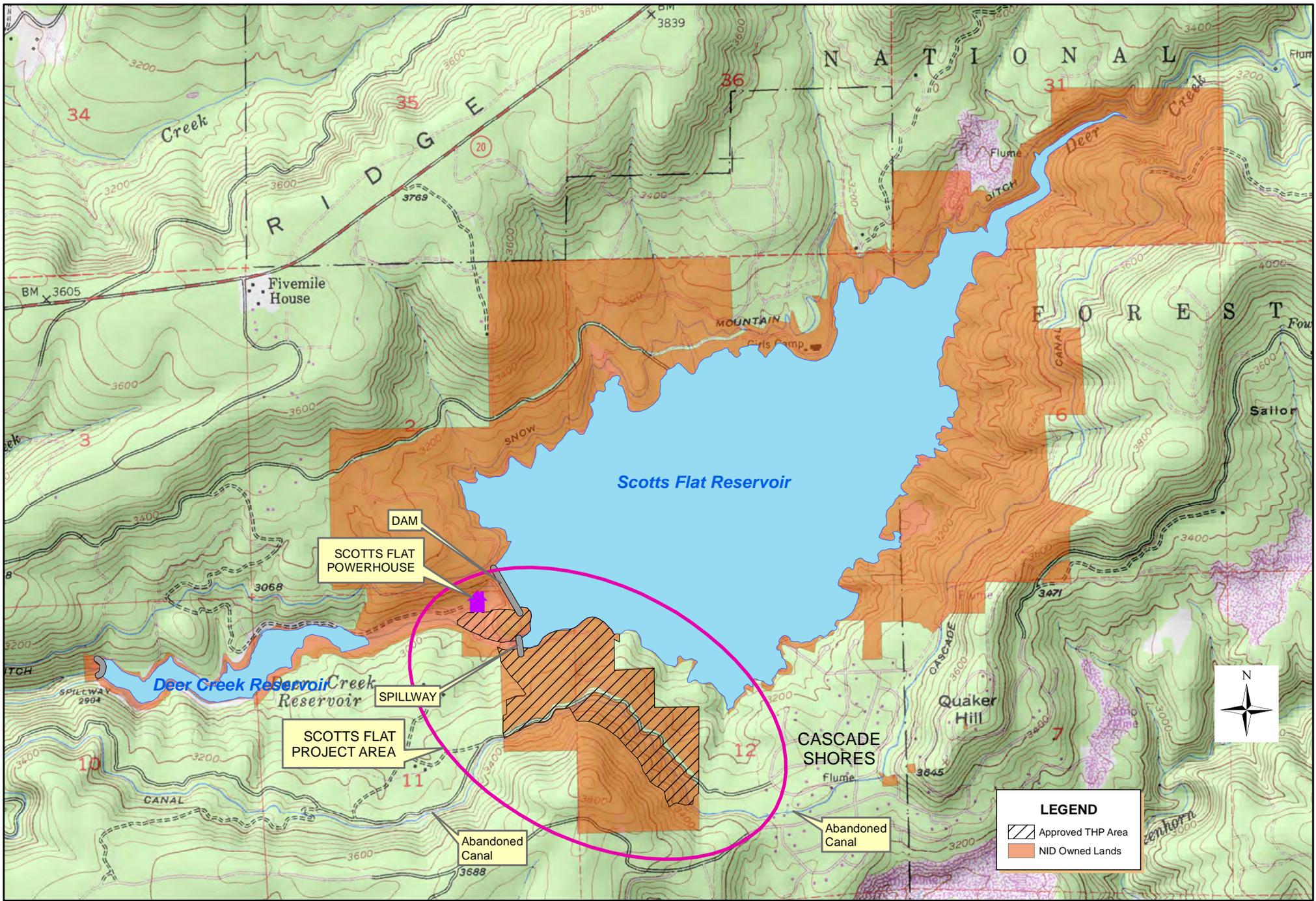
Submit the signed, approved Decision Memo and Categorical Exclusion, as well as documentation to support the Categorical Exclusion, including any permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this NEPA status.

Environmental Assessment & Finding of No Significant Impact

Submit the signed, approved Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact along with any permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this NEPA status.

Environmental Impact Statement

Submit the Draft and approved, Final Environmental Impact Statement, along with the Record of Decision and any permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this NEPA status.



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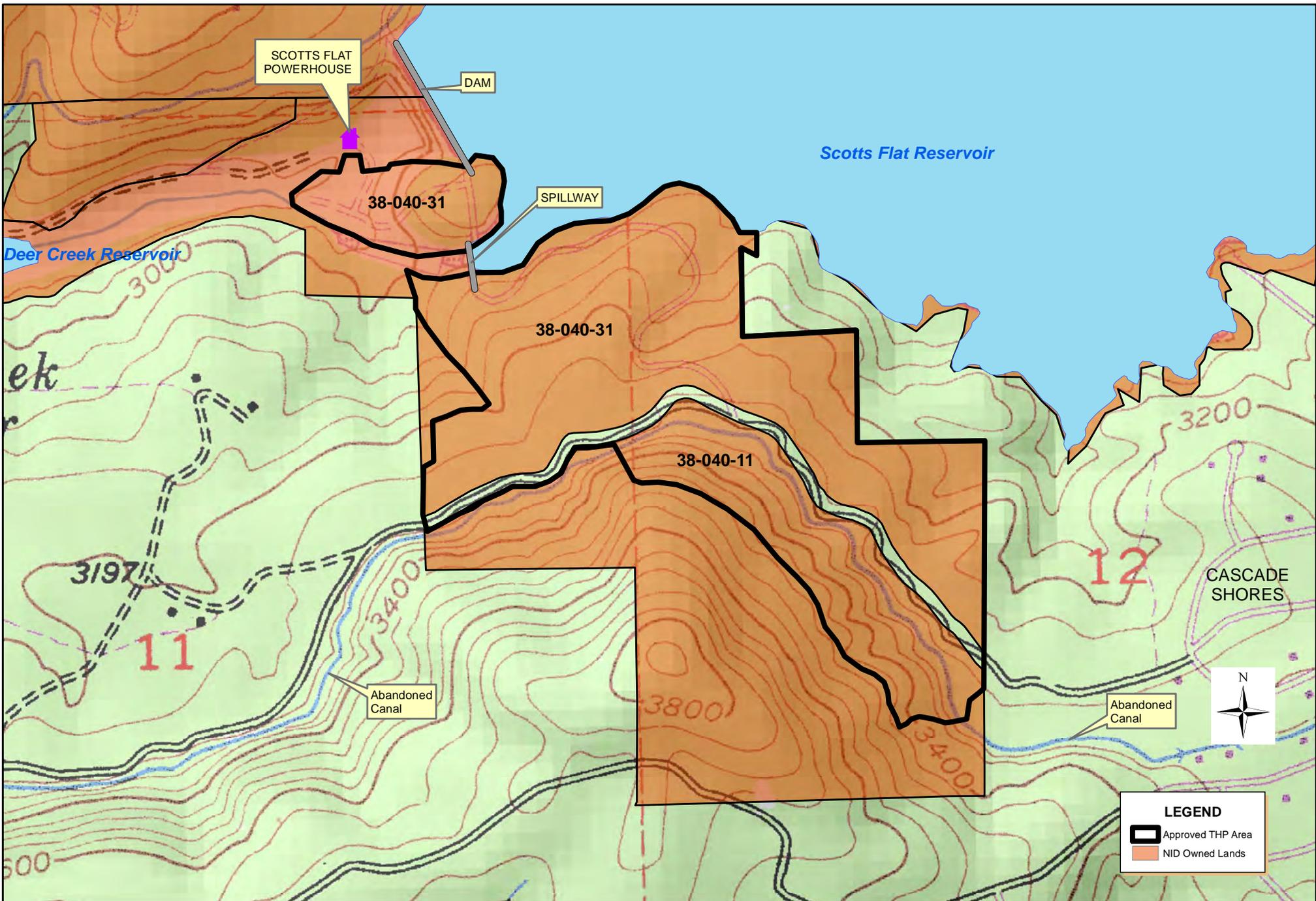


NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT
 NEVADA COUNTY -- PLACER COUNTY
 GRASS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

SCOTT'S FLAT RESERVOIR FUELS TREATMENT PHASE 3
SNC REFERENCE #873 - PROJECT LOCATION

Drawn By: D. HUNT Date: 2/24/2016 Scale: 1" = 2000' @ 8-1/2x11 Sheet: 1 of 1

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NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

NEVADA COUNTY -- PLACER COUNTY
GRASS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

SCOTTS FLAT RESERVOIR FUELS TREATMENT PHASE 3 SNC REFERENCE #873 - APN DESIGNATION

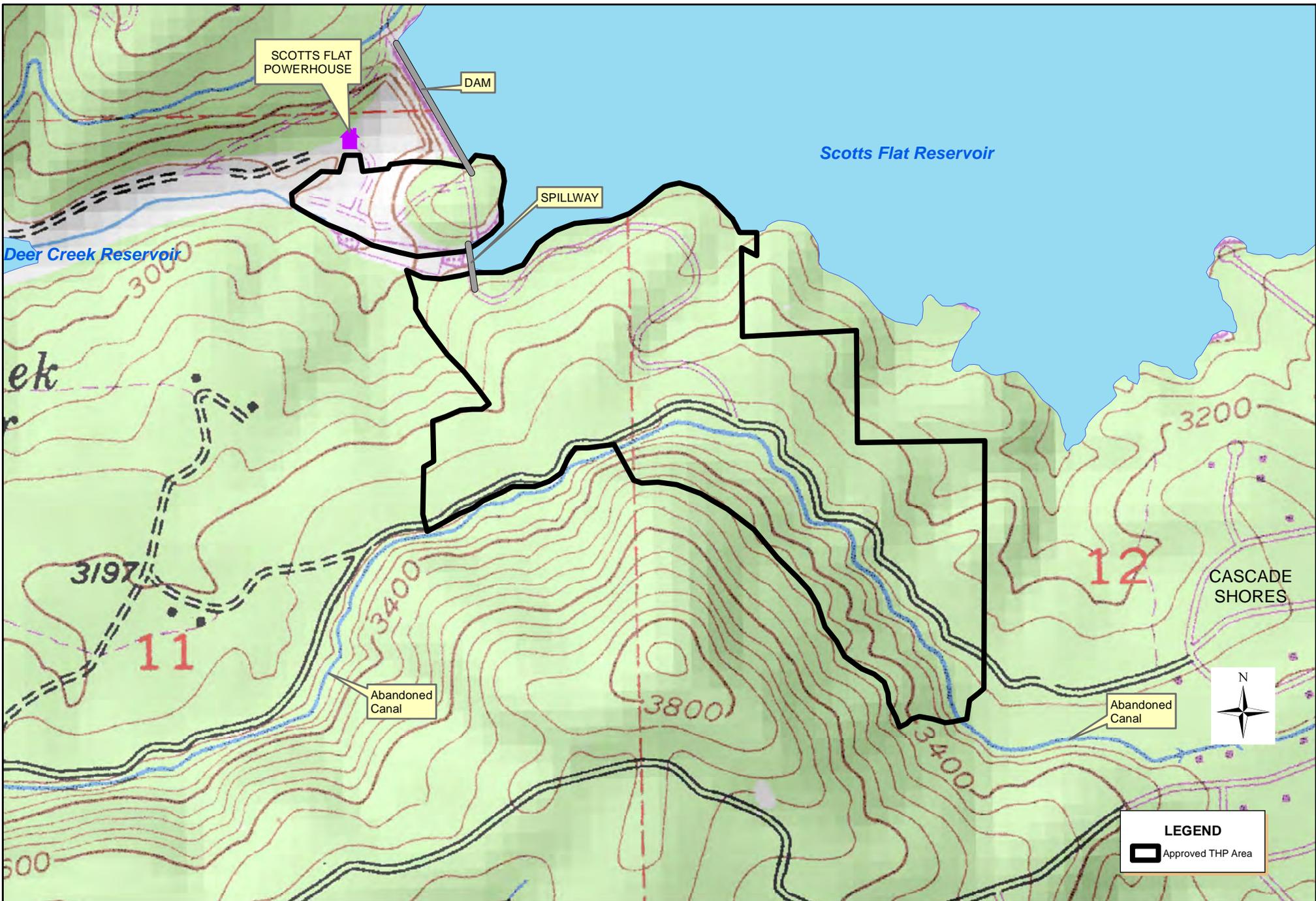
Drawn By: D. HUNT

Date: 2/24/2016

Scale: 1" = 700' @ 8-1/2x11

Sheet: 1 of 1

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NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

NEVADA COUNTY -- PLACER COUNTY
GRASS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

**SCOTTS FLAT RESERVOIR FUELS TREATMENT PHASE 3
SNC REFERENCE #873 - TOPOGRAPHY**

Drawn By: D. HUNT

Date: 2/24/2016

Scale: 1" = 700' @ 8-1/2x11

Sheet: 1 of 1

**Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program
SCOTTS FLAT RESERVOIR FUELS TREATMENT PHASE 3
SNC REFERENCE #873**

Project Site Photographs

Photo 1: Top of NID road at gate at intersection with Pasquale Rd. (APN 38-040-031)



Photo 2: Forest condition in project area between NID road and Scotts Flat Reservoir (APN 38-040-031).



Photo 3: Forest condition in project area between NID road and Scotts Flat Reservoir (APN 38-040-31)



Photo 4: Photo on south side of Pasquale Rd. in the project area (APN 38-040-11)



Photo 5: Understory forest with car for scale adjacent to Pasquale Rd. (APN 38-040-31)



Scotts Flat Reservoir, Nevada County





NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945-5424
(530) 273-6185 ~ Fax: (530) 477-2646 ~ www.nidwater.com

February 23, 2016

Mr. Chris Dallas, SNC Area Representative
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste. 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program, SNC Grant Application #873,
Land Tenure Guarantee

Dear Mr. Dallas,

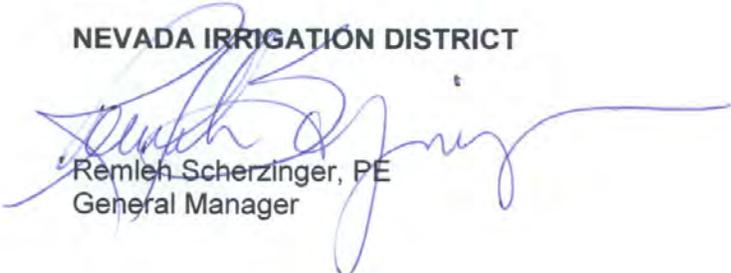
The Nevada Irrigation District (District) is pleased to propose the Scotts Flat Fire Fuels Treatment Project Phase 3 to you for funding as part of the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program.

The District owns and operates all lands referenced within this proposal. We have ownership and control over all aspects of the project site, and are committed to the long-term management and maintenance of the proposed project to protect forest health and water supply. The District will provide a minimum of 10 years of site management including annual visual surveys of forest condition to identify any emerging issues. The District also guarantees the Sierra Nevada Conservancy 25 years of access as needed to allow for site visitation and long-term monitoring of your investment to verify pertinent conditions.

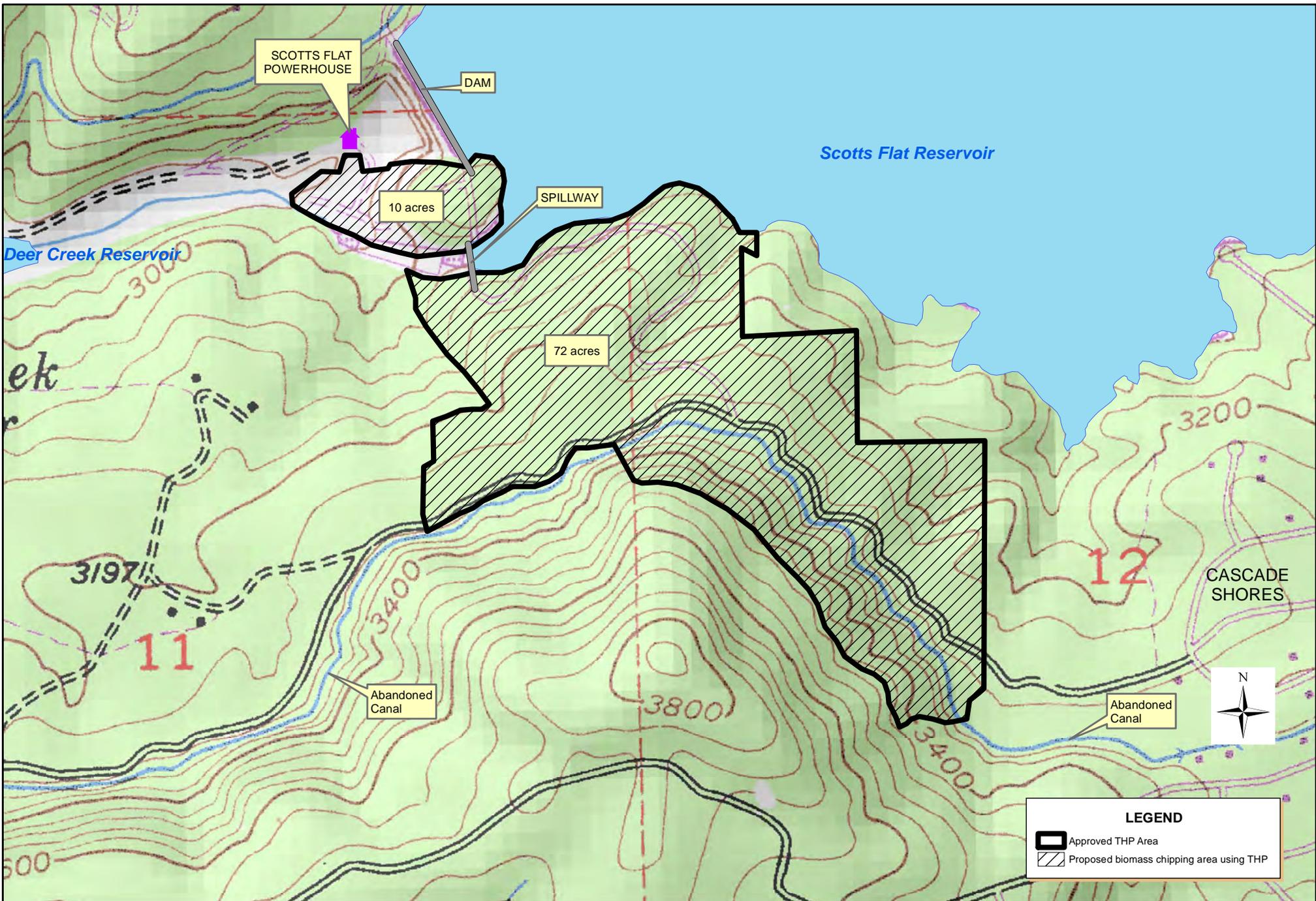
As you are aware, the District is very committed to natural resource management in the Deer Creek and Scotts Flat Reservoir Watersheds. We look forward to continuing our work together to address the current and emerging needs of our region as stewards of water resources in the Sierra Nevada.

Sincerely,

NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT


Remleh Scherzinger, PE
General Manager

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LEGEND

-  Approved THP Area
-  Proposed biomass chipping area using THP



NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT
 NEVADA COUNTY -- PLACER COUNTY
 GRASS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

**SCOTTS FLAT RESERVOIR FUELS TREATMENT PHASE 3
 SNC REFERENCE #873 - SITE MAP**

Drawn By: D. HUNT Date: 2/29/2016 Scale: 1" = 700' @ 8-1/2x11 Sheet: 1 of 1

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program
Proposition 1
SCOTTS FLAT RESERVOIR FUELS TREATMENT PHASE 3
SNC Reference #873**

Letters of Support

1. Nevada County Resource Conservation District
2. CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit
3. The Sierra Fund



Nevada County
Resource Conservation District

113 Presley Way, Suite One, Grass Valley, CA 95945 530.272.3417 fax 530.477.8055 www.ncrcd.org

February 22, 2016

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Watershed Improvement Program
Attn: Chris Dallas
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste. 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Mr. Dallas:

We wish to express our support for the **Scotts Flat Fire Fuels Treatment Project Phase 3** that is being proposed to you for funding by the Nevada Irrigation District. As you are aware, decades of fire suppression, beetle infestation, drought conditions and residential development pose a significant challenge to local communities and our capacity to address wildfire in Nevada County. The need to work on private and public lands to address forest health and deferred maintenance issues is a paramount issue facing natural resource management in this region. The issue is compounded over time, and as catastrophic fires continue in the Sierra Nevada, we will be challenged to work together to address this reality.

Scotts Flat Reservoir is a focal area for ongoing fire risk reduction activities in our region. In 2008 the Nevada County Resource Conservation District received a grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to work with private landowners to promote education about fire risk, and to construct portions of the Community Shaded Fuels Break adjacent to Scotts Flat Reservoir. We support continued attention to address catastrophic wildfire in Nevada County, and this project would provide significant benefits to our shared goals for fire risk reduction near the communities of Cascade Shores, Nevada City and Grass Valley.

We encourage you to continue to partner with groups and organizations to address forest health and fire risk in Nevada County. This project will have the added benefit of further protecting the watershed and water supply resources in Scotts Flat Reservoir.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jan Blake".

Jan Blake
Nevada County Resource Conservation District
Executive Director

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

13760 Lincoln Way
AUBURN, CA 95639
(530) 889-0111
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



July 3, 2013

Pete Walden
Registered Professional Forester
16178 Greenhorn Rd.
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 272- 8242

Dear Mr. Walden:

The CAL FIRE, Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit supports the Nevada Irrigation District's, Scotts Flat Fuel Reduction Biomass Project. The project is located on areas surrounding Scotts Flat Reservoir in Nevada County, California. The property is currently being used for water storage, recreation and forestland. There are two commercially developed campgrounds on the property. The rest of the property is forestland used for growing trees, hiking, and watershed. There are numerous scattered residential structures adjacent to the property, and in the general vicinity. The parcels are bordered on most sides by private landowners.

CAL FIRE is supporting the project with a grant to offsetting the high cost of biomass hauling. A Timber Harvest Plan is being developed for the operation in which the fuelbreak/ defensible space silvicultural prescription is being used. The project will reduce fuels and lessen the fire danger in the area.

Sincerely,

MATTHEW REISCHMAN
Unit Forester
CAL FIRE
Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit

February 24, 2016

Mr. Chris Dallas
Nevada County Representative
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Watershed Improvement Program
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste. 205
Auburn, CA 95603

**RE: Letter of Support for Nevada Irrigation District Project
"Scotts Flat Fire Fuels Treatment"**

Dear Mr. Dallas:

The Sierra Fund strongly supports the Nevada Irrigation District's **proposed** project **"Scotts Flat Fire Fuels Treatment Phase 3."** As you are aware, decades of fire suppression, beetle infestation, drought conditions and residential development pose a significant challenge to local communities and our capacity to address wildfire in Nevada County. The need to work on private and public lands to address forest health and deferred maintenance issues is a paramount issue facing natural resource management in this region. The issue is compounded over time, and as catastrophic fires continue in the Sierra Nevada, we will be challenged to work together to address this reality.

The Sierra Fund is a nonprofit organization based in Nevada City, California. Our mission is to increase and organize investment in protecting and restoring the natural resources and communities of the Sierra Nevada region. We have worked with NID for years on many collaborative projects and are proud to support their efforts to bring funding to our local area that will improve the resilience of the lands around Scotts Flat dam and reservoir.

We encourage continued attention to address catastrophic wildfire in Nevada County, and this project would provide significant benefits for fire risk reduction to protect the watershed near the community of Cascade Shores, Nevada City and Grass Valley.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Martin
CEO



206 Sacramento Street
Suite 101
Nevada City, CA 95959
P: 530.265.8454
F: 530.265.8176
E: info@sierrafund.org
www.sierrafund.org



NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945-5424
(530) 273-6185 ~ Fax: (530) 477-2646 ~ www.nidwater.com

Feb. 17, 2016

Dear Cultural Resources Representative:

I am writing to invite you to participate in our planning process as we prepare a grant proposal to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Watershed Improvement Program that is due March 1, 2016. The Nevada Irrigation District (NID) is seeking funding to remove crowded understory trees and shrubs and accumulated fire fuels on 100-acres adjacent to Scotts Flat Reservoir, in Nevada County, California. We will implement an existing Timber Harvest Plan, (#2-13-031-NEV 3, Approved Oct. 4, 2013) that was developed with CAL FIRE to complete needed forest maintenance while improving the long-term health of the forests in the area. Scotts Flat Reservoir watershed has remarkably high fire potential and our project will aid in constructing a cross-canyon treatment area that compliments the Western Nevada County Community Defense Project Area, including the Nevada County Community Shaded Fuels Break. By providing a treatment area of this scale, we are significantly improving the regional capacity to strategically fight a wildfire and hopefully avoid a catastrophic event that has long-term watershed, soil, biological, economic and societal implications.

As you may already know, Timber Harvest Plans oftentimes include the construction of skid trails, roads, and log landing areas in addition to tree cutting over a period of time. Our THP complied with all of the California State Forest Practice Rules, including notification and involvement with local tribal representatives to provide an opportunity to disclose the existence of any known or suspected Native American archaeological or cultural sites that may be located within the project area, and to advise them of the opportunity to comment on the plan. This notification provides you a second opportunity to identify the existence of Native American archaeological or cultural sites that could potentially be affected by the project and the opportunity to submit other comments regarding this project.

Please see the enclosed project summary and map that depicts the precise location of our fire fuels treatment project. This map displays the approximate boundary of the plan area and includes a map legend and scale.

In 2014, the NID completed Phase 1 of the Scotts Flat biomass utilization project, which included understory thinning along the northern shore of the Reservoir. Currently, Phase 2 is pending as a grant proposal to CAL FIRE for our lands around the campground on the west shore. At this time we are developing Phase 3 to treat the southern shore between the dam and the residential community of Cascade Shores. As you are aware, Timber Harvest Plans require a

complete records search and investigation into archeological records as part of the approved planning process that goes into a project of this nature. We are inviting your participation in the case that this project is of interest to you.

If additional Native American archaeological or cultural sites are identified within the project area during the project planning process, you will receive a second written notification from NID that includes both site description and protection information. This second notification will describe the proposed measures taken to protect the site during timber operations and provide you with the opportunity to submit comments to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy concerning the adequacy of those protection measures.

The following three articles, available on the CALFIRE Archaeology Program Web Site, provide information concerning Native American consultation procedures for THPs.

1. Forest Practice Rules for the Protection of Archaeological, Historical, and Cultural Sites
http://www.calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/archaeology/downloads/rules.pdf
2. Native American Guide to Timber Harvesting
http://www.calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/archaeology-timber_guide.php
3. Native American Consultation Procedures for THPs and other CALFIRE Projects
http://www.calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/archaeology-consultation_procedures.php

Please feel free to contact me directly at (530) 271-6881 if you have any questions concerning this proposed project or what is being requested in this letter.

Sincerely,

NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT



Neysa King
Watershed Resources Planner

Project Title: Scotts Flat Reservoir Fuels Treatment Phase 3

Funding Agency: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Watershed Improvement Program (Prop 1)

Budget: Request amount \$315,000, NID cost share/match \$35,000. Total budget = \$350,000

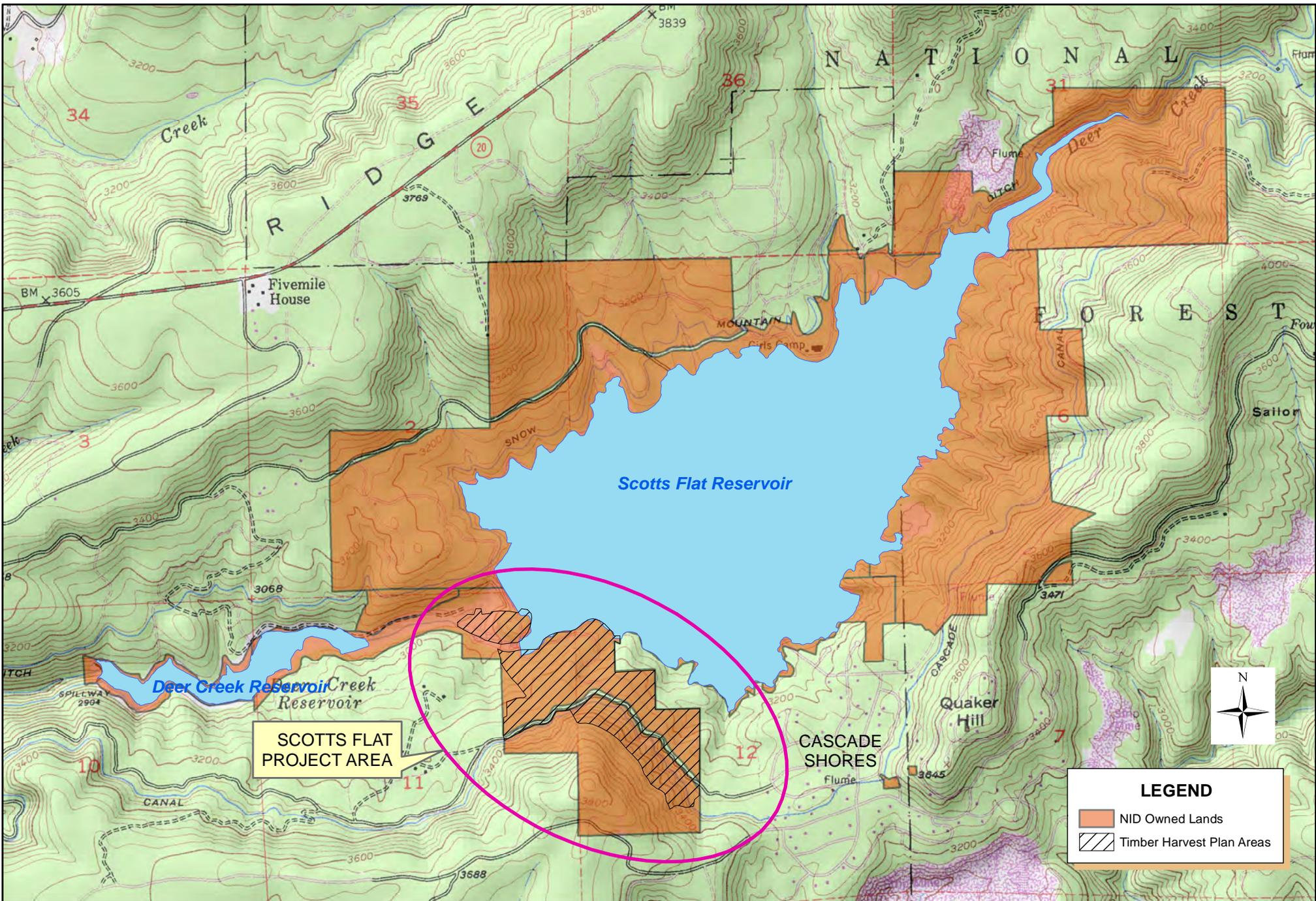
Project Timeline: Jan. 1, 2017 pre-project work initiated; May 1 – Oct. 31, 2017 Project Implementation; Nov. 1-Dec. 31, 2017 Project Reporting and Closure

Project Description:

The Nevada Irrigation District (NID) proposes to treat approximately 100 acres on the shore of Scotts Flat Reservoir, between the community of Cascade Shores and NID's dam and powerhouse (see map), in Nevada County, California. This area includes numerous residential structures, a reservoir, powerhouse and associated powerlines, and public and private roads for ingress and egress. The area experiences increasing residential development and expansion each year, and as a result the wildland-urban interface and associated wildfire issues continue to grow and threaten the future of this region. The project area has numerous small stream crossings and drainages that flow through steep terrain directly to one of NID's most important water supply reservoirs. This reservoir provides source water that currently supports the communities of Nevada City, Grass Valley, and North Auburn.

The properties on which the project is proposed are along the south shore of the Reservoir. The community of Cascade shores is adjacent to the project area and is designated as a "Very High" Fire Hazard Severity Zone as determined by California Department of Forestry And Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). This project will remove hazardous fuel to create a shaded fuelbreak. By removing and thinning ladder fuel, this will help to keep a wildfire from becoming a stand-replacing crown fire, thereby making control more feasible.

The goal of this project is to implement the third phase of the Scotts Flat Fire Fuels Reduction Program, which follows on NID's biomass utilization project completed nearby in 2015. We will primarily focus on harvesting, chipping and if possible, hauling biomass vegetative material from the site to produce biofuels that can be used for energy, mulch or other similar products. This project requires tree thinning from below, and removal of downed woody debris and ladder fuels on approximately 100 acres, and projects removal of 2,000 bone dry tons (BDT) of material. As per the existing Timber Harvest Plan, larger diameter trees may also be removed to create an effective shaded fuels break. If possible, the biomass will be trucked to a nearby biomass generation plant. If this is not possible, we will masticate and spread these chips in the project area. Some parts of the project are within an area that requires security protocols and supervision relative to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The project will also include community outreach and education, and opportunities to partner with local organizations to promote wildfire and fire risk education.



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NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

NEVADA COUNTY -- PLACER COUNTY
GRASS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

SCOTTS FLAT RESERVOIR PROJECT LOCATION

Drawn By: D. HUNT Date: 2/4/2016 Scale: 1" = 2000' @ 8-1/2x11 Sheet: 1 of 1

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

- 1. NEU 7. CP-NEV
- 2. FS-NC 8. CGS
- 3. FG2 9. RT
- 4. WQSA 10. Carr
- 5. TNF 11. _____
- 6. P+R 12. _____

TIMBER HARVESTING PLAN
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
AND FIRE PROTECTION
RM-63 (01-00)

If this is a modified THP, check box
[XX]
This is a Modified THP for Fuel Hazard
Reduction

FOR ADMIN. USE ONLY

THP NO. 13-031-NEV (3)
Dates Rec'd AUG 01 2013
Date Filed AUG 09 2013
Date Approved OCT - 4 2013
Date Expires OCT - 3 2018
Extension 1) [] 2) []

Scotts Flat THP

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: **Nevada Irrigation District**
1036 West Main Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945 phone: (530) 273-6185

Signature [Signature], Assist. G.M. Date 7-8-13

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, PO 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: **Nevada Irrigation District**
1036 West Main Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945 phone: (530) 273-6185

Signature [Signature], Assist. G.M. Date 7-8-13

3. LICENSED TIMBER OPERATOR : **Unknown at this time. When the LTO is determined, the LTO will be amended into the plan.**

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

4. PLAN SUBMITTER(S): **Nevada Irrigation District**
1036 West Main Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945 phone: (530) 273-6185

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

As of January 1 2001, I have read and understand my responsibility as Plan Submitter as described under 14 CCR 1035. I certify that I have fulfilled my legal obligation as stated in the forest practice rules, and agree to fulfill my responsibility as the plan submitter as it pertains to this plan.

[X] Yes [] No I have retained the services of an RPF to provide professional advice to the LTO and timberland owner upon request throughout the timber operations regarding (1) the plan, (2) the forest practice rules, (3) and other associated regulations pertaining to timber operations.

Signature [Signature], Assist. G.M. Date 7-8-13

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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.

Unknown at this time. When the LTO is determined, the person will be amended into the plan.

- 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?

The LTO will determine the necessary measures for proper road maintenance.

- 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). **The LTO**

6. a) Expected date of commencement of timber operations: date of conformance,
 b) Expected date of completion of timber operations: 5 years from date of conformance

7. The timber operation will occur within the:

- COAST FOREST DISTRICT Tahoe Regional Planning Authority Jurisdiction
 Southern Subdistrict of the Coast F.D. A County with Special Regulation, identify
 SOUTHERN FOREST DISTRICT Coastal Zone, no Special Treatment Area
 High use subdistrict of Southern F.D. Special Treatment Area(s), type and identity:
 NORTHERN FOREST DISTRICT Other

8. Location of the timber operation by legal description:

Base and Meridian: Mount Diablo Humboldt San Bernardino

Section (s)	Township	Range	Acreage	County
1, 2, 11 & 12	16N	09E		Nevada
6	16N	10E		Nevada
36	17N	09E		Nevada
31	17N	10E		Nevada
TOTAL ACREAGE (Logging Area Only)			299	

Property is located on the USGS 7 1/2" North Bloomfield - an undated electronic version.

CALWATER ver. 2.2 - # 5517.200101 - Scotts Flat Reservoir and # 5517.200102 - Little Deer Creek.

9. Yes No Has a Timberland Conversion Permit been submitted? If yes, list the 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 _____

- Yes No Has a Sustained Yield Plan been submitted but not approved? Number _____; Date _____

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 numbers(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: **Peter A. Walden** RPF # 2001 ✓
16178 Greenhorn Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945 phone: (530) 272-8242

- a) Yes No I have notified the plan submitter(s), in writing, of their responsibilities pursuant to Title 14 CCR 1035 of the Forest Practice Rules.
- 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.
- 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 Title 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 THP preparation - field work (all flagging required for the THP and marking requirements), document work and content/accuracy and completeness of the THP. All the timber marking requirements are not 100% completed at time of THP submittal. The RPF has the authority (with the Plan Submitter's concurrence) to amend the plan.

Nevada Irrigation District (NID), the timberland owner, is responsible for the accuracy of the property lines and will hold the RPF harmless in case of a timber trespass.

The RPF will be retained to provide professional advice throughout timber operations.

- d) Additional required work requiring an RPF which I do not have the authority or responsibility to perform: **None**
- 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 7/31/13
Peter Walden

SECTION II - PLAN OF TIMBER OPERATIONS

NOTE: If a provision of this THP is proposed that is different than the standard rule, the explanation and justification required must be included in Section III of the THP.

SILVICULTURE

14. a. Check the Silvicultural methods or treatments allowed by the rules that are to be applied under this THP. Specify the option chosen to demonstrate Maximum Sustained Production (MSP) according to 14 CCR 913.11 (933.11, 953.11). If more than one method or treatment will be used show boundaries on map and list approximate acreage for each.

<input type="checkbox"/> Clearcutting _____ ac	<input type="checkbox"/> Shelterwood Prep _____ ac	<input type="checkbox"/> Seed Tree Seed Step _____ ac
	<input type="checkbox"/> Shelterwood Seed _____ ac	<input type="checkbox"/> Seed Tree Removal Step _____ ac
	<input type="checkbox"/> Shelterwood Removal _____ ac	
<input type="checkbox"/> Selection _____ ac	<input type="checkbox"/> Group Selection _____ ac	<input type="checkbox"/> Transition _____ ac
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Thinning _____ ac	<input type="checkbox"/> Road Right of Way _____ ac	<input type="checkbox"/> Sanitation Salvage _____ ac
<input type="checkbox"/> Special Treatment Area _____ ac	<input type="checkbox"/> Rehab. of Understocked Area _____ ac	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fuelbreak/Defensible space 299 ac
<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative _____ ac	<input type="checkbox"/> Conversion _____ ac	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-timbered areas* _____ ac
Total acreage: <u>299</u> ac		MSP Option Chosen (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/> (c) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

b. If Selection, Group Selection, Commercial Thinning, Sanitation Salvage or Alternative methods are selected the post harvest stocking levels (differentiated by site if applicable) must be stated. Note mapping requirements of 1034 (x) (12).

The area is all site 1. The following table shows the minimum post harvest stocking standards of Group A species to meet. Stocking will be met immediately after completion of operations.

Silviculture type	Site I
Fuelbreak/Defensible space	<p>300 point count. An average of at least 40% of the existing overstory tree canopy shall be retained. The canopy retained shall be well distributed over the harvest area.</p> <p>Where present prior to operations, the following habitat elements shall be retained as an average across the project area: (1) A minimum of 2 large live cull (green) conifer trees 24" DBH or larger per acre; (2) A minimum of two hardwood trees 24" DBH or larger per acre; (3) A minimum of two downed logs 20" diameter outside bark as measured at the midpoint of the total length of the log or larger per acre; and (4) 2% shall be left as untreated habitat retention surrounding or in direct proximity to the habitat elements identified in 1, 2, and 3 above.</p>

c. Yes No Will even-age regeneration step units be larger than those specified in the rules (20 acre tractor, 30 acre cable)? If yes, provide substantial evidence that the THP contains measures to accomplish any of subsections (A) - (E) of 14 CCR 913 (933, 953).1(a) (2) in Section III of the THP. List below any instructions to the LTO necessary to meet (A) - (E) not found elsewhere in the THP. These units must be designated on map and listed by size.

d. Trees to be harvested or retained must be marked by or marked under the supervision of the RPF. Specify how the trees will be marked and whether harvested or retained.

The sawlog harvest trees will be marked with paint, with a stripe at DBH, and a mark at the butt.

Yes No Is a waiver of marking by the RPF requirement requested? If yes, how will LTO determine which trees will be harvested or retained? If yes and more than one silvicultural method, or Group Selection is to be used, how will the LTO determine boundaries or different methods or groups?

The waiver is only for the marking of the biomass material. A sample mark of the biomass material to be harvested will be done before operations. The RPF will work with the LTO in selecting the biomass harvesting material.

e. Forest Products to be Harvested: **Biomass chips, fuelwood, and sawlogs.**

- f. Yes No Are group B species proposed for management?
 Yes No Are group B or non-indigenous A species to be used to meet stocking standards?
 Yes No Will group B species need to be reduced to maintain relative site occupancy of A species.

If any answer is yes, list the species, describe treatment, and provide the LTO with necessary felling and slash treatment guidance. Explain who is responsible and what additional follow-up measures of manual treatment or herbicide treatment are to be expected to maintain relative site occupancy of A species. Explain when a licensed Pest Control Advisor shall be involved in this process.

Hardwoods will be harvested during the operation. Black oak, madrone, and tan oak will be harvested. The trees will be felled skidded and chipped. The same requirements for harvesting conifers as detailed in this THP, will apply to the hardwoods. The LTO shall be responsible. No herbicide treatments are planned as part of this operation.

g. Other instructions to LTO concerning felling operations.

To take care in: falling, yarding/skidding and general logging to minimize breakage and damage to the residual stand and other resources.

Protect all the powerlines, utilities, structures, campsites, picnic tables, utilities, water pipes and spigots, and paved roads (improvements). Trees will be fell away from the improvements as much as practical. Care will be taken with all harvesting operations near the improvements and power pole guylines - not to hit and/or damage them. In case of a powerline emergency call PG&E @ 800/743-5000.

- h. Yes No Will artificial regeneration be required to meet stocking standards?
i. Yes No Will site preparation be used to meet stocking standards? If yes, provide the information required for a site preparation addendum, as per 14 CCR 915.4 (935.4, 955.4).
j. If the rehabilitation method is chosen provide a regeneration plan as required by 14 CCR 913 (933, 953) .4 (b).

PESTS

- a. Yes No Is this THP within an area that the Board of Forestry has declared a Zone of Infestation or Infection pursuant to PRC 4712-4718? If yes, identify feasible measures being taken to mitigate adverse infestation or infection impacts from the timber operation. See 917 (937, 957), 9 (a).
b. Yes No Is outside a declared zone, are there any insect, disease or pest problems of significance in the THP area? If yes, describe the proposed measures to improve the health, vigor and productivity of the stand.

HARVESTING PRACTICES

16. Indicate type of yarding system and equipment to be used:

<u>GROUND BASED*</u>	<u>CABLE</u>	<u>SPECIAL</u>
a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tractor, including end/long lining)	d) <input type="checkbox"/> Cable, ground lead	g) <input type="checkbox"/> Animal
b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rubber tired skidder, Forwarder	e) <input type="checkbox"/> Cable, high lead	h) <input type="checkbox"/> Helicopter
c) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feller buncher	f) <input type="checkbox"/> Cable, Skyline	i) <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

* All tractor operations restrictions apply to ground based equipment.

The LTO to determine and be responsible for all fire safety requirements if/when feller bunchers are used to minimize any fire danger with the use of these machines.

17. Erosion Hazard Rating: Indicate Erosion Hazard Ratings present on THP, (Must match EHR worksheets)

Low Moderate High Extreme

If more than one rating is checked, areas must be delineated on map to 20 acres in size (10 acres for high and extreme EHRs in the Coast District).

18. Soil Stabilization:

In addition to the standard waterbreak requirements describe soil stabilization measures or additional erosion control measures to be implemented and the location of their application. See requirements of 14 CCR 916.7 (936.7, 956.7), and 923.2 (943.2, 963.2) (m), and 923.5 (943.5, 963.5) (f).

	<u>EHR</u>	<u>Road or trail gradient</u>			
		<u>0 - 10%</u>	<u>11% - 25%</u>	<u>26% - 49%</u>	<u>50% and greater</u>
<u>Max waterbar spacing</u>	<u>High</u>	150 ft	100 ft	75 ft	50 ft

Operationally and/or for site specific measures, these spacings are often tightened as standard practice. All tractor/skid roads will be waterbarred to the above EHR (High) specifications. All truck roads will be waterbarred to the above EHR specifications (where the road is not paved).

All areas of continuous bare mineral soil exposed during operations greater than 800 sq. ft. within the WLPZ, will be mulched with straw to a minimum depth of 2" at 90% coverage, and seeded. The seed will be a mixture of native grass seed mixture at the rate of 30 lbs per acre. Treatment shall be done prior to October 15th of the year of operations, except that such bare areas created after October 15th shall be so treated within 10 days.

Dirt, slash and/or other material generated from timber operations, shall be moved and/or deposited in areas so it will not enter into any watercourse. Landings near and/or adjacent to the WLPZs will have the landing slash spread over the landing (not piled and burned) to minimize soil movement.

General road erosion control: roads to be outsloped upon completion with berms removed where possible (except over fills); and rolling dips installed on applicable native surface roads.

Roads to be hydrologically disconnected from watercourses to the extent feasible through the placement of drainage structures on the approaches to watercourse crossings. The hydrological disconnection of roads from watercourses is a critical step in preventing sediment discharge to waters of the State, thereby protecting the beneficial uses of water.

The following specifications shall be met upon completion of timber operations for the year or prior to October 15, whichever occurs first:

Any obstructed ditches and culverts shall be cleaned.

Landings shall be sloped or ditched to prevent water from accumulating on the landings - discharge points shall be located and designed to reduce erosion.

Sidecast or fill material extending more than 20 feet in slope distance from the outside edge of the landing and which has access to a watercourse or lake shall be seeded, planted, mulched or removed to adequately reduce soil erosion. Seed and mulch as specified above.

Where mineral soil has been exposed by timber operations on approaches to watercourse crossings of class III waters if an ELZ is required, the disturbed area shall be stabilized to the extent necessary to prevent the discharge of soil into the watercourses in amounts deleterious to the quality and beneficial uses of water.

During timber operations the LTO shall be responsible for treating road running surfaces in the logging area as necessary to prevent excessive loss of road surface materials. Treatment shall be by rocking and/or watering - no oils or chemicals.

All temporary crossing(s) of creeks will utilize the following standards: upon completion of operations and/or prior to the winter period; the fills shall be excavated to form a channel which is as close as feasible to the natural watercourse grade and orientation and is wider than the natural channel; and the excavated material and resulting cut bank shall be sloped back from the channel and stabilized to prevent slumping and to minimize soil erosion. If there is a chance of the stream escaping it's banks and running down the skid trail or truck road, a secondary "critical" waterbar shall be placed at an appropriate distance down hill from the crossing. The LTO shall determine the location of this critical dip.

19. Yes No Are tractor or skidder constructed layouts to be used? If yes, specify the location and extent of use:
20. Yes No Will ground based equipment be used within the area(s) designated for cable yarding? If yes, specify the location and for what purpose the equipment will be used? See 14 CCR 914.3 (934.3, 954.3) (e).
21. Within the THP area will ground based equipment be used on:
- a) Yes No Unstable soils or slide areas? Only allowed if unavoidable.
 - b) Yes No Slopes over 65%?
 - c) Yes No Slopes over 50% with high or extreme EHR?
 - d) Yes No Slopes between 50% and 65% with moderate EHR where heavy equipment use will not be restricted to the limits described in 14 CCR 914 (934, 954).2 (f) 2 (i) or (ii)?
 - e) Yes No Slopes over 50% which lead without flattening to sufficiently dissipate water flow and trap sediment before it reaches a watercourse or lake?

If a. is yes, provide site specific measures to minimize effect of operations on slope stability and provide explanation and justification as required per 14 CCR 914 (934, 954).2 (d). CDF requests the RPF consider flagging tractor road locations.

If b., c., d., or e. is yes: 1) the location of tractor roads must be flagged on the ground prior to the PHI or start of operations if a PHI is not required, and 2) you must clearly explain the proposed exception and justify why the standard rule is not feasible or would not comply with 914 (934, 954).

The location of heavy equipment operation on unstable areas or any use beyond the limits of the standard rules must be shown on the map. List specific instructions to the LTO below.

There is a small slide/slump just above Pasquale Road as shown on the THP map. I believe this slide was caused from the old water ditch washing away toe of the hillside. No operations will occur on this slide. A Equipment Exclusion Zone will be flagged around the perimeter. No trees will be harvested from within the slide site.

22. Yes No Are any alternative practices to the standard harvesting or erosion control rules proposed for this plan? If yes, provide all the information as required by 14 CCR 914 (934, 954).9 in section III. list specific instructions to the LTO below.

WINTER OPERATIONS

23. a. Yes No Will timber operations occur during the winter period? If yes, complete b), c) or d). State in space provide if exempt because yarding method will be cable, helicopter or balloon.
- b. Yes No Will mechanical site preparation be conducted during the winter period? If yes, complete d).
- c. I chose the in-lieu option as allowed 14 CCR 914 (934, 954).7 (c). Specify below the procedures listed in subsections (1) and (2), and list the site specific measures for operations in the WLPZ and unstable areas as required by subsection (3), if there will be no winter operations in these areas so state.

PART OF PLAN

d. [X] I choose to prepare a winter operating plan per 14 CCR 914 (934, 954).7 (b).

Winter operating plan - site specific measures are:

- 1) Erosion hazard rating for this THP is moderate.
- 2) No site preparation.
- 3) Yarding system: tractor yarding and the construction of skid trails and/or tractor roads preparation shall be done during dry rainless periods where soils are not saturated*.
- 4) Operating period shall be only during dry rainless periods when the soils are not saturated*.
- 5) Installation of drainage facilities and structures, is required from October 15 to May 1 on all constructed skid trails and tractor roads prior to the end of the day if the U.S. Weather Service forecast is a "chance" (30% or more) of rain before the next day, and prior to weekend or other shutdown periods.
- 6) The LTO shall determine if the precipitation that occurs is of sufficient intensity to cease operations and begin erosion control activities.
- 7) Ground conditions that are saturated* or snow covered shall not be operated on to: prevent soil compaction, soil movement into the watercourses, and maintain site productivity.
- 8) The silvicultural system is Fuelbreak/Defensible space. The ground cover consists of bare dirt, organic litter, small trees, brush, and berries.
- 9) No operations, except falling and ending the trees in any WLPZ.
- 10) Slopes range from between 0% to 45%. Operating on these slopes shall be only during dry rainless periods when the soils are not saturated*.
- 11) There is one known unstable areas. No operations will occur on this area.

NOTE: ALL WATER BREAKS, AND ROLLING DIPS MUST BE INSTALLED BY OCTOBER 15 OR AS PRESCRIBED ABOVE. FOR THE PURPOSES OF INSTALLING DRAINAGE FACILITIES AND STRUCTURES, WATER BREAKS, AND ROLLING DIPS, THE WINTER PERIOD IS FROM OCTOBER 15 TO MAY 1.

NOTE: "Winter period" means the period between November 15 and April 1, except as noted under special County Rules at Title 14 CCR 925.1, 926.18, 927.1, and 965.5... (a) except as otherwise provided in the rules: (1) All waterbreaks shall be installed no later than the beginning of the winter period of the current year of timber operations. (2) Installation of drainage facilities and structures is required from October 15 to November 15 and April 1 to May 1 on all constructed skid trails and tractor roads prior to sunset if the National Weather Service forecast is a "chance" (30% or more) of rain within the next 24 hours.

Saturated soil conditions means that soil and/or surface material pore spaces are filled with water to such an extent that runoff is likely to occur. Indicators of saturated soil conditions may include, but are not limited to: (1) areas of ponded water, (2) pumping of fines from the soil or road surfacing material during timber operations, (3) loss of bearing strength resulting in the deflection of soil or road surfaces under a load, such as the creation of wheel ruts, (4) spinning or churning of wheels or tracks that produces a wet slurry, or (5) inadequate traction without blading wet soil or surfacing materials.

Stable operating surface means a road or landing surface that can support vehicular traffic and has a structurally sound road base appropriate for the type, intensity and timing of intended use.

Roads to be used for log hauling during the winter period shall be, where necessary, surfaced with rock in depth and quantity sufficient to maintain a stable road surface that does not produce sediment in quantities that may cause a visible increase in turbidity of downstream waters in receiving Class I, II, III or IV waters or would violate Water Quality Requirements throughout the period of use.

ROADS AND LANDINGS

24. Will any roads be constructed Yes No, or reconstructed Yes No. If yes, check items a through g.
Will any landings be constructed Yes No, or reconstructed Yes No. If yes, check items h through k.
- a. Yes No Will new or reconstructed roads be wider than single lane with turnouts?
- b. Yes No Are logging roads or landings proposed in areas of unstable soils or known slide-prone areas?
- c. Yes No Will new roads exceed a grade of 15% or have pitches of up to 20% for distances greater than 500 feet? Map must identify any new or reconstructed road segments that exceed an average 15% grade for over 200 feet.
- d. Yes No Are roads to be constructed or reconstructed, other than crossings, within the WLPZ of a watercourse? If yes, completion of THP item 27 a. Will satisfy required documentation.
- e. Yes No Will roads or landings longer than 100 feet in length be located on slopes over 65%, or on slopes over 50% which are within 100 feet of the boundary of a WLPZ?
- f. Yes No Will any roads or watercourse crossings be abandoned?
- g. Yes No Are exceptions proposed for flagging or otherwise identifying the location of roads to be constructed?
- h. Yes No Will any landings exceed one half acre in size? If any landing exceeds on quarter acre in size or requires substantial excavation the location must be shown on the map.
- i. Yes No Are any landings proposed in areas of unstable soils or known slide-prone areas?
- j. Yes No Will any landings be located on slopes over 65%, or on slopes over 50% which are within 100 feet of the boundary of a WLPZ?
- k. Yes No Will any landings be abandoned?

The following standards are to be used for road construction/reconstruction: roads to be constructed with a crawler tractor equipped with a blade; roads to be 10' to 14' wide; slash to be piled and stabilized at the toe of the fill to help catch sidcasted material; the organic layer to be substantially disturbed or removed prior to fill placement; and sidcast material extending more than 20' which has access to a watercourse shall be seeded and mulched.

The new road construction is needed to provide access to new landings for better accessing the property and timber. This will lessen the skidding distance especially for skidding the biomass material.

No road construction shall occur under saturated soil conditions that may produce sediment in quantities sufficient to cause a visible increase in turbidity of downstream waters in receiving Class I, II, III or IV waters or that violate Water Quality Requirements, except that construction may occur on isolated wet spots arising from localized ground water such as springs, provided measures are taken to prevent material from significantly damaging water quality.

No landing construction shall occur under saturated soil conditions that may produce sediment in quantities sufficient to cause a visible increase in turbidity of downstream waters in receiving Class I, II, III or IV waters or that violate Water Quality Requirements.

There has been some sediment entering the creeks from the roads, mainly from the inside ditches on the paved roads. Standard road ditch cleaning as required under this THP will be used to minimize this impact.

25. If any section in item 24 is answered yes, specify site-specific measures to reduce adverse impacts and list any additional or special information concerning the construction, maintenance and/or abandonment of roads or landings as required by 14 CCR Article 12. Include required explanation and justification in THP Section III.

WATERCOURSE AND LAKE PROTECTION ZONE (WLPZ) AND DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION MEASURES:

26. a. Yes No Are there any watercourse or lakes which contain Class I through IV waters on or adjacent to the plan area? If yes, list the class, WLPZ or ELZ width, and protective measures determined from Table I and/or 14 CCR 916.4 (c) [936.4 (c), 956.4 (c)] of the WLPZ rules for each watercourse. Specify if Class III or IV watercourses have WLPZ, ELZ or both.
- b. Yes No Are there any watercourse crossings that require mapping per 14 CCR 1034 (x) (7)?

Please see the table below for type of crossing and crossing specifications page at the end of Section II for additional specifications.

Crossing #	Crossing type	drainage structure type and size
1	temporary skid crossing of a <u>dry</u> class III stream	temporary skid crossing.
2	N/A	
3	temporary skid crossing of a <u>dry</u> class III stream	temporary skid crossing.
4	temporary skid crossing of a <u>dry</u> class III stream	temporary skid crossing.
5	temporary skid crossing of a <u>dry</u> class III stream	temporary skid crossing.
6	Permanent road crossing	Existing permanent 18" CMP
7	Permanent road crossing	Existing permanent 24" CMP
8	Permanent road crossing	Existing permanent 18" CMP
9	Permanent road crossing	Existing permanent 36" CMP
10	temporary skid crossing of a <u>dry</u> class III stream	temporary skid crossing.
11	temporary skid crossing of a <u>dry</u> class III stream	temporary skid crossing.
12	Permanent road crossing	Bridge across the spillway
13	Permanent road crossing	Existing permanent 72" CMP
14	Permanent road crossing	Existing permanent 48" CMP
15	Permanent road crossing	Existing permanent 18" CMP
16	Permanent road crossing	Existing permanent 18" CMP
17	temporary skid crossing of a <u>dry</u> class III stream	temporary skid crossing.
18	temporary skid crossing of a <u>dry</u> class III stream	temporary skid crossing.
19	Permanent road crossing	Two existing permanent 36" CMPs

All temporary crossing of creeks will utilize the following standards: Upon completion of operations and/or prior to the winter period: the fills shall be excavated to form a channel which is as close as feasible to the natural watercourse grade and orientation and is wider than the natural channel; and the excavated material and resulting cut bank shall be sloped back from the channel and stabilized to prevent slumping and to minimize soil erosion.

Any temporary crossings structures will be removed prior to the winter period.

c. Yes No Will tractor road watercourse crossings involve the use of a culvert? If yes, state the minimum diameter for each culvert (may be shown on map).

d. Yes No Is this THP Review Process to be used to meet Department of Fish and Game CEQA review requirements? If yes, attach the 1603 Addendum below or at the end of this Section II; provide the background information and analysis in Section III; list instructions for LTO below for the installation, protection measures, and mitigation measures;

in Section III; list instructions for LTO below for the installation, protection measures, and mitigation measures; as per THP Form Instructions or CDF Mass Mailing, 07/02/1999, "Fish and Game Code 1603 Agreements and THP Documentation".

WATERCOURSE PROTECTIVE MEASURES

<u>WATERCOURSE TYPE</u>	<u>ZONE TYPE</u>	<u>ZONE WIDTHS</u>
all Class I watercourses	WLPZ	Less than 30% slope - 75' width
		30% to 50% slope - 100' width
all Class II watercourses	WLPZ	Less than 30% slope - 50' width
		30% to 50% slope - 75' width
		Greater than 50% - 100' width
all Class III watercourses	ELZ	Less than 30% slope - 25' width
		30% to 50% slope - 50' width
		Greater than 50% - 50' width

Class I Watercourses

- WLPZ shall be clearly identified on the ground by an RPF or supervised designee, with paint, flagging, or other suitable means, prior to the start of timber operations.
- Harvest timber within the zones will be fully marked (including a butt mark) prior to operations.
- Only dead, dying and diseased trees will be harvested from within the zone.
- Harvest timber within the zone shall be felled away from the watercourse.
- All slash and material deposited in watercourses or wet areas shall be removed immediately.
- Logs shall be end-lined or yarded from zones.
- At least 50% of the overstory and 50% of the understory canopy covering the ground and adjacent waters shall be left in a well distributed multi-storied stand composed of a diversity of species similar to that found before the start of operations.
- The residual overstory canopy shall be composed of at least 25% of existing overstory conifers.
- At least 2 (two) 16" DBH and 50' tall living conifers per acre will be left standing within the zone.
- Within the WLPZ, at least 75% surface cover and undisturbed area shall be retained to act as a filter strip for raindrop energy dissipation and wildlife habitat.

Class II watercourses

- WLPZ shall be clearly identified on the ground by an RPF or supervised designee, with paint, flagging, or other suitable means, prior to the start of timber operations.
- No operations within the zone.

Class III watercourses

- The centerline of the stream channel, and/or the zone boundary will be flagged with blue/white striped flagging prior to operations in that area.
- Harvest timber within the zone shall be felled away from the watercourse and endlined from zone.
- All slash and material deposited in watercourses shall be removed prior to October 15.
- Equipment shall not operate within the zone except for endlining, and at existing dry skid crossing(s) designated in the THP.

27. Are site specific practices proposed in-lieu of the following standard WLPZ practices?

- a. Yes No Prohibition of the construction or reconstruction of roads, construction or use of tractor roads or landings in Class I, II, III, or IV watercourses, WLPZs, marshes, wet meadows, and other wet areas except as follows:
(1) At prepared tractor road crossings.
(2) Crossings of class III watercourse which are dry at the time of timber operations.
(3) At existing road crossings.
(4) At new tractor and road crossings approved by Department of Fish and Game.
- b. Yes No Retention of non-commercial vegetation bordering and covering meadows and wet areas?
- c. Yes No Directional felling of trees within the WLPZ away from the watercourse or lake?
- d. Yes No Decrease of width(s) of the WLPZ(s)?
- e. Yes No Protection of watercourses which conduct class IV waters?
- f. Yes No Exclusion of heavy equipment from the WLPZ except as follows:
(1) At prepared tractor road crossings.
(2) Crossings of class III watercourse which are dry at the time of timber operations.
(3) At existing road crossings.
(4) At new tractor and road crossings approved by Department of Fish and Game.
- g. Yes No Establishment of an ELZ for Class III unless side slopes are <30% and EHR is low?
- h. Yes No Retention of 50% of the overstory canopy in the WLPZ?
- i. Yes No Retention of 50% of the understory in the WLPZ?
- j. Yes No Are any additional in-lieu or any alternative practices proposed for watercourse or lake protection?

NOTE: A yes answer to any of items a. through j. constitutes an in-lieu practice. If any item is answered yes, refer to 14 CCR 916 (936, 956) .1 and address the following for each item checked yes: 1) The RPF shall state the standard rule; 2) Explain and describe each proposed practice; 3) Explain how the proposed practice differs from the standard practice; 4) The specific location where it shall be applied, see map requirements of 14 CCR 1034 (x) (15) and (16); 5) Provide in THP Section III an explanation and justification as to how the protection provided is equal to the standard rule and provides for the protection of the beneficial uses of water per 14 CCR 916 (936, 956).1 (a). Reference the in-lieu and location to the specific watercourse to which it will be applied.

The existing rocked road is within the WLPZ for the lake at drainage structures numbers 15 to 16. There will only be hauling on the road in this area - no skidding. This is not an in-lieu practice.

28. a. Yes No Are there any landowners within 1000 feet downstream of the THP boundary whose ownership adjoins or includes a class I, II or IV watercourse(s) which receives surface drainage from the proposed timber operations? If yes, the requirements of 14 CCR 1032.10 apply. Proof of notice by letter and newspaper should be included in THP Section V. If no, 28b. need not be answered.
- b. Yes No Is an exemption requested of the notification requirements of 14 CCR 1032.10? If yes, explanation and justification for the exemption must appear in THP Section III. Specify if requesting an exemption from the letter, the newspaper or both. **Exemption for newspaper publication.**
- c. Yes No Was any information received on domestic water supplies that required additional mitigation beyond that required by standard Watercourse and Lake Protection rules? If yes, list site specific measures to be implemented by the LTO.

No information was received as of the date of the plan submittal.

29. Yes No Is any part of the THP area within a Sensitive Watershed as designated by the Board of Forestry? If yes, identify the watershed and list any special rules, operating procedures or mitigation that will be used to protect the resources identified at risk?

HAZARD REDUCTION:

30. a. Yes No Are there roads or improvements which require slash treatment adjacent to them? If yes, specify the type of improvement, treatment distance, and treatment method.

Within 100' of the edge of traveled surfaces of public roads and 50' of the edge of traveled surfaces of permanent private roads open for public use, slash created and/or trees knocked down by road construction or timber operations shall be treated for fire hazard reduction by: lopping, pile and burning, chipping, burying and/or removal from site.

All woody debris created by timber operations, greater than 1" but less than 8" in diameter within 100 ft of permanently located structures maintained for human habitation shall be removed, or piled and burned. All slash created between 100' - 200' of permanently located structures maintained for human habitation shall be treated by: lopping, pile and burning, chipping, and/or removal from site.

Slash to be treated by piling and burning shall be treated not later than April 1 of the year following its creation, or within 30 days following climatic access.

All "tops and slash" generated from the logging operation that are not chipped and left in the woods will be lopped down to 30" for visual and fire danger benefits.

Lopping is defined as severing and spreading slash so that no part of it generally remains more than 30 inches above the ground.

b. Yes No Are any alternatives to the rules for slash treatment along roads and within 200 feet of structures requested? If yes, RPF must explain and justify how alternative equals fire protection. Include a description of the alternative and where it will be utilized below.

31. Yes No Will piling and burning be used for hazard reduction? See 14 CCR 917.1-.11, 937.1-.10, or 957.1-.10, for specific requirements. Note: LTO is responsible for slash disposal. This responsibility cannot be transferred.

Piles and concentrations shall be sufficiently free of soil and other noncombustible material for effective burning. The piles and concentrations shall be burned at a safe time during the first wet fall or winter weather or other safe period following piling and according to laws and regulations. Piles and concentrations that fail to burn sufficiently to remove the fire hazard shall be further treated to eliminate that hazard. All necessary precautions shall be taken to confine such burning to the piled slash. The local representative of the Director shall be notified in advance of the time and place of any burning of logging slash.

As this operation is planned as a chipping operation, burning will be kept to a minimum.

BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

32. a. Yes No Are any plant or animal species, including their habitat, which are rare, threatened or endangered under federal or state law, or a sensitive species by the Board, associated with the THP area? If yes, identify the species and the provisions to be taken for the protection of the species.

NOTE: See "CDF Guidelines for Species Surveys and Mitigations" to complete these questions.

During the THP layout time during April, May and June of 2013, I visually inspected the plan area for biological impacts using random transects and the whole "on the ground time" during THP preparation. I examined trees and vegetation for nests and/or specific species; and the vegetation for rare, threatened, endangered and sensitive species as defined by the Board. No species were found.

The California Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity Data Base was queried for the 9 quad search centered around the property was done in May of 2013. No endangered, Threatened or Board Sensitive species were identified that this operation would significantly impact. There was a sighting of a Great Blue heron on the southern shore of Scotts Flat lake. I have sighted Bald Eagles and Ospreys flying over the lake.

During the life of the THP, if any Federal, State and/or Board of Forestry threatened, endangered and/or sensitive listed wildlife species is discovered by visual detection during the critical period (February 15 - August 15), or by direct physical evidence of nesting/denning: operations within 0.25 miles shall be stopped; nest tree(s), designated perch trees(s), screening tree(s), and replacement trees(s), shall be left standing and unharmed (protected); timber operations shall be planned and operated to commence as far as possible from occupied nest trees(s); and DFG and CDF shall be immediately contacted to initiate a consultation. After the inspection, appropriate protection measures and/or mitigations shall be applied, and mitigations amended into the THP.

A formal survey for the following species will not be accomplished (unless otherwise noted in the THP). Depending on the time of year - prior to operations, a walk-through may be performed on the area to be operated on to inspect the area for biological impacts. The person shall be qualified to determine activity/presence of animals or birds.

Goshawk. If this species is found nesting or roosting (March to August) within the harvest unit, or within ¼ mile of the boundary, operations will be immediately suspended, and notification will be made immediately to CDF and DFG. The THP will be amended for protection measures as necessary. If an active nest is found, a buffer zone of a minimum of 5 acres shall be established and flagged by the RPF around the nest site.

Townsend's Big-eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*). Requires caves, mines, tunnels, buildings, or other human-made structures for roosting. Maternity roosts are found in caves, tunnels, mines, and buildings. If this species is found nesting or roosting (March 15 to July 15) within the harvest unit, or within ¼ mile of the boundary, operations will be immediately suspended, and notification will be made immediately to CDF and DFG. The THP will be amended for protection measures as necessary.

Sierra Red Fox, Wolverine and Pacific Fisher. If a "den site" of this species is found (March to August) within the harvest unit, or within ¼ mile of the boundary, operations will be immediately suspended, and notification will be made immediately to the pertinent CDF and DFG personnel. The THP will be amended for protection measures as necessary. If an active den site is found, a buffer zone of a minimum of 5 acres shall be established and flagged by the RPF around the site.

Great Blue Heron. If this species is found nesting or roosting (March 15 to July 15) within the harvest unit, or within ¼ mile of the boundary, operations will be immediately suspended, and notification will be made immediately to CDF and DFG. The THP will be amended for protection measures as necessary. If an active nest is found, the buffer zone shall consist of the area within a 300-foot radius of a tree or trees containing a group of five or more active nests in close proximity as determined by the Department of Fish and Game.

Bald Eagle. If this species is found nesting or roosting within the harvest unit, or within ½ mile of the boundary, operations will be immediately suspended, and notification will be made immediately to CDF and DFG. The THP will be amended for protection measures as necessary. If an active nest is found, a buffer zone of a minimum of 10 acres shall be established around the nest site.

Great grey owl. If this species is found nesting or roosting (March to August) within the harvest unit, or within ¼ mile of the boundary, operations will be immediately suspended, and notification will be made immediately to CDF and DFG. The THP will be amended for protection measures as necessary. If an active nest is found, a buffer zone of a minimum of 5 acres shall be established and flagged by the RPF around the nest site.

Osprey. If this species is found nesting or roosting (March to August) within the harvest unit, or within ¼ mile of the boundary, operations will be immediately suspended, and notification will be made immediately to CDF and DFG. The THP will be amended for protection measures as necessary. If an active nest is found, a buffer zone of a minimum of 5 acres shall be established and flagged by the RPF around the nest site.

California Red-legged frog (CRLF). This THP is just on the edge of the historic CRLF range according to current literature (CDF maps). This THP is outside the current CRLF range according to current literature (CDF maps). However, before operations commence, a knowledgeable and qualified person shall conduct a breeding habitat assessment by to determine if any breeding habitat exists within the THP boundaries. The results of the survey shall be submitted to CDF and DFG at least 10 days prior to operations.

If this species is found within the harvest unit, or within ½ mile of the boundary, operations will be immediately suspended, and notification will be made immediately to CDF and DFG. The THP will be amended for protection measures as necessary. If suitable breeding habitat is found below are the following restrictions:

- 1) The wet season starts with the first frontal rain system depositing a minimum of .25 inches of rain after October 15 and extends to April 15.
- 2) The dry Season starts April 16 and ends with the first frontal rain system depositing a minimum of 0.25 inches of rain after October 15.
- 3) For suitable habitat within 2 miles of harvest units or in units and harvest activities planned within 300 feet of suitable habitat during the wet season, a no take is estimated only under the following conditions:

For Class III watercourses, when dry, maintain a 30-foot no cut buffer, trees felled away from watercourse

For Class II watercourses and intermittent ponds/wetlands that meet the definition of suitable habitat, where water is present, 300 foot no cut buffer; where dry, 30-foot no cut buffer, no equipment within 75 feet of annual high water mark, trees felled away from suitable habitat.

Class I watercourses and permanent ponds/wetlands that meet the definition of suitable habitat- no cutting and no equipment within 300 feet of this suitable habitat

4) For suitable habitat within 2 miles of harvest units or in units and harvest activities planned within 300 feet of suitable habitat during the dry season, a no take is estimated only under the following conditions:

All suitable habitat must maintain a 30-foot no-cut buffer; no equipment within the no-cut buffer; trees felled away from suitable habitat.

5) Water drafting from suitable habitat will utilize a bucket with one inch mesh screen and the hose must be covered with a ¼ inch mesh screen. In areas of potential breeding habitat, before drafting, a visual evaluation of the drafting site for clusters of eggs in the pool shall occur. If eggs are present, no drafting from the site shall occur.

6) Slash pile and broadcast burning shall be done outside the 300 foot-foot buffer of suitable habitat.

7) No herbicide use is planned for this operation.

b. Yes No Are there any non-listed species which will be significantly impacted by the operation? If yes, identify the species and the provisions to be taken for the protection of the species.

During the THP layout time during April, May and June of 2013, I visually inspected the harvest area for biological impacts using random transects and general observation technics. I examined creeks, trees and vegetation for nests and/or specific species and for other non-listed species. No species were found to be significantly impacted.

Non-listed Raptors (Sharp-shinned hawk, Coopers hawk, Red-tailed hawk, California Spotted Owl, etc.)

Specific protection measures. Trees identified with active/occupied nests of unlisted species, may be marked "nest" with paint, and will not be felled or damaged - this will provide protection for roosting birds, nests and eggs. The nest tree, perch tree replacement trees and screening trees shall be protected. If an active raptor (non-listed) nest is discovered during timber operations, the Timber Operator shall cease operations within 500 feet of the discovery and contact the RPF. A 500 foot buffer of no-operations within this buffer will be established around the active nest.

33. Yes No Are there any snags which must be felled for fire protection or safety reasons? If yes, describe which snags are going to be felled and why.

Snags will be left except for safety and merchantability considerations. Snags posing hazards to people, improvements, and equipment will be felled. Merchantable snags may also be felled. All falling of snags will be subject to the provisions to protect wildlife as stated in the THP.

34. Yes No Are any Late Succession Forest Stands proposed for harvest? If yes, describe the measures to be implemented by the LTO that avoid long-term significant adverse effects on fish, wildlife and listed species known to be primarily associated with late succession forests.

35. Yes No Are any other provisions for wildlife protection required by the rules? If yes, describe.

Specific protection measures. Sawlog trees identified with active/occupied nests of unlisted species, will be marked "nest" with paint, and will not be felled or damaged - this will provide protection for roosting birds, nests and eggs.

Retaining most snags (except as specified in item 33), some live standing cull trees, some standing cull and deformed trees, and some large down woody debris, will help to minimize impacts to wildlife.

After the harvest, there will still be large hardwood trees on the property. This will provide habitat for larger hardwood tree desirous wildlife.

After the harvest, there may still be down large woody debris on the property. This will provide habitat for such material desirous wildlife.

36. a. Yes No Has an archaeological survey been made of the THP area?
- b. Yes No Has an archaeological records check been conducted for the THP area?
- c. Yes No Are there any archaeological or historical sites located in the THP area? Specific site locations and protection measures are contained in the Confidential Archeological Addendum in Section VI of the THP, which is not available for general public review.
37. Yes No Has any inventory or growth and yield information designated "trade secret" been submitted in a separate confidential envelope in Section VI of this THP?
38. Describe any special instructions or constraints that are not listed elsewhere in Section II.

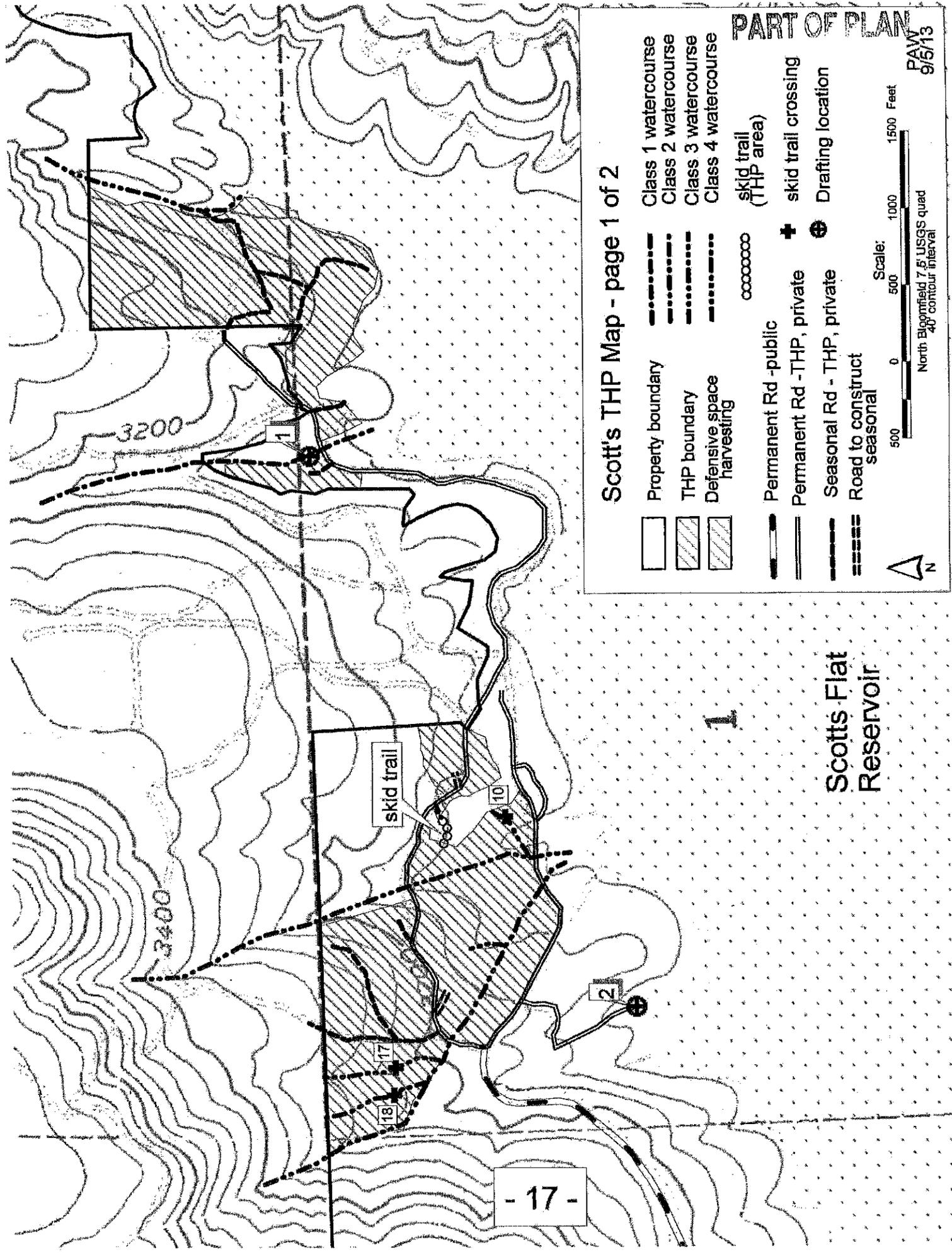
If during logging operations any additional archeological site be discovered, the person who made the discovery shall immediately notify the: (a) Director, LTO, RPF, or timberland owner of record. The person first notified in (a) shall immediately notify the remaining parties in (a). No timber operations shall occur within 100 feet of the identified boundaries of the new site until the plan submitter proposes, and the Director agrees to, protection measures pursuant to 14 CCR § 929.2 (949.2, 969.2). A minor deviation shall be filed to the plan.

The Plan Submitter shall notify CDF @ (530) 889-0111 ext. 139 prior to start of operations each calendar year of operations.

Because of proximity to residential areas, the hours of operations will be limited from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday - Saturday.

The LTO shall work closely with NID in operating times and seasons to minimize any impacts to the recreational activities in the campgrounds at Scotts Flat Lake. NID owns the campgrounds and actively manage them. The campgrounds and lake is highly used during the active camping season and is an important local resource. The campgrounds and impacts to the campgrounds and recreation activities are of great concern to NID.

If logging roads will be used from the period of October 15 to May 1, hauling shall not occur when saturated soil conditions exist on the road that may produce sediment in quantities sufficient to cause a visible increase in turbidity of downstream waters in receiving Class I, II, III or IV waters or that violate Water Quality Requirements.



Scott's THP Map - page 1 of 2

PART OF PLAN

	Property boundary		Class 1 watercourse
	THP boundary		Class 2 watercourse
	Defensive space harvesting		Class 3 watercourse
	Permanent Rd - public		Class 4 watercourse
	Permanent Rd - THP, private		skid trail (THP area)
	Seasonal Rd - THP, private		skid trail crossing
	Road to construct seasonal		Drafting location

Scale: 0 500 1000 1500 Feet

North Blomfield 7.5' USGS quad
40' contour interval

PAW
9/5/13

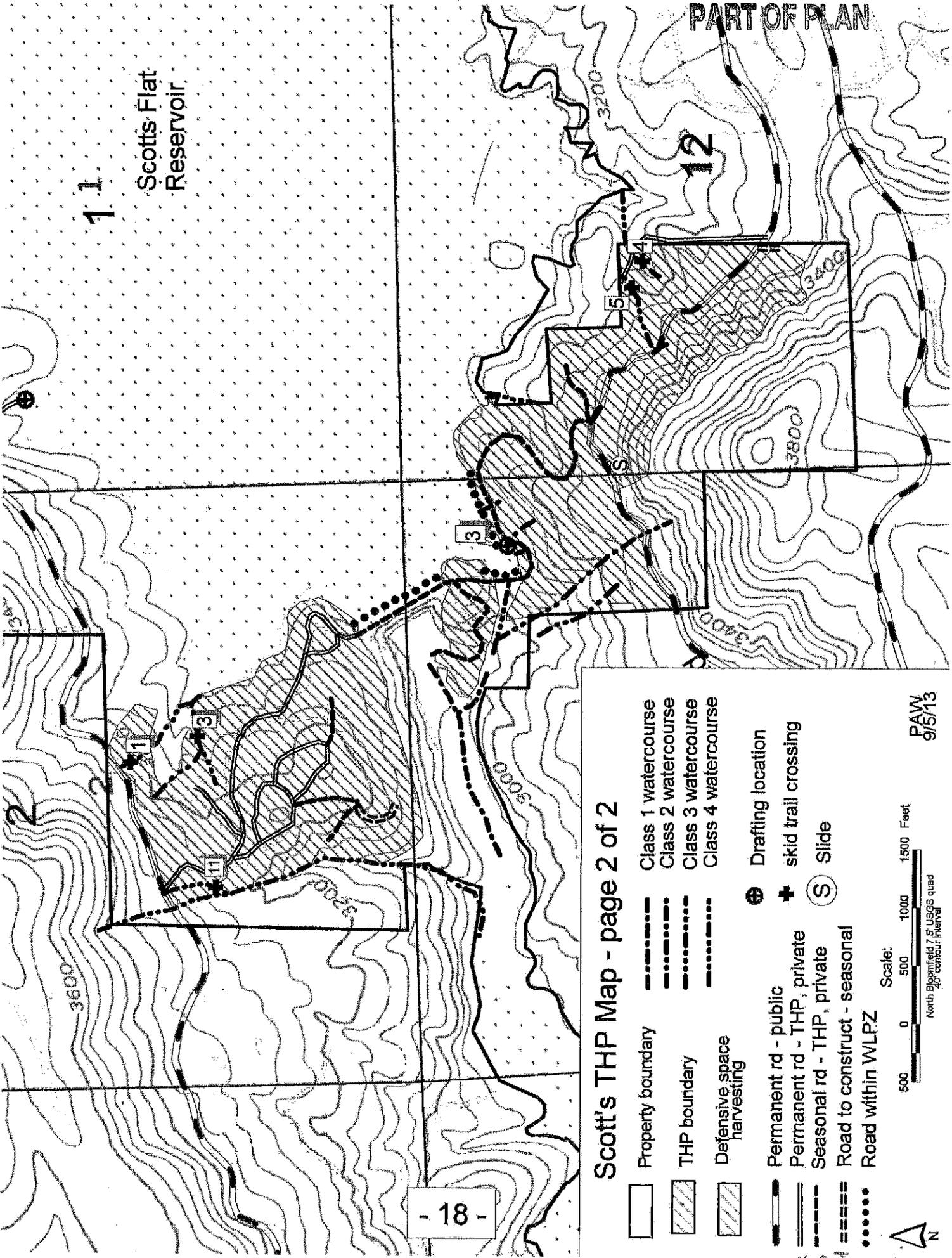
Scotts Flat Reservoir

1

- 17 -

11

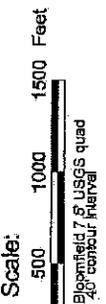
Scotts Flat Reservoir



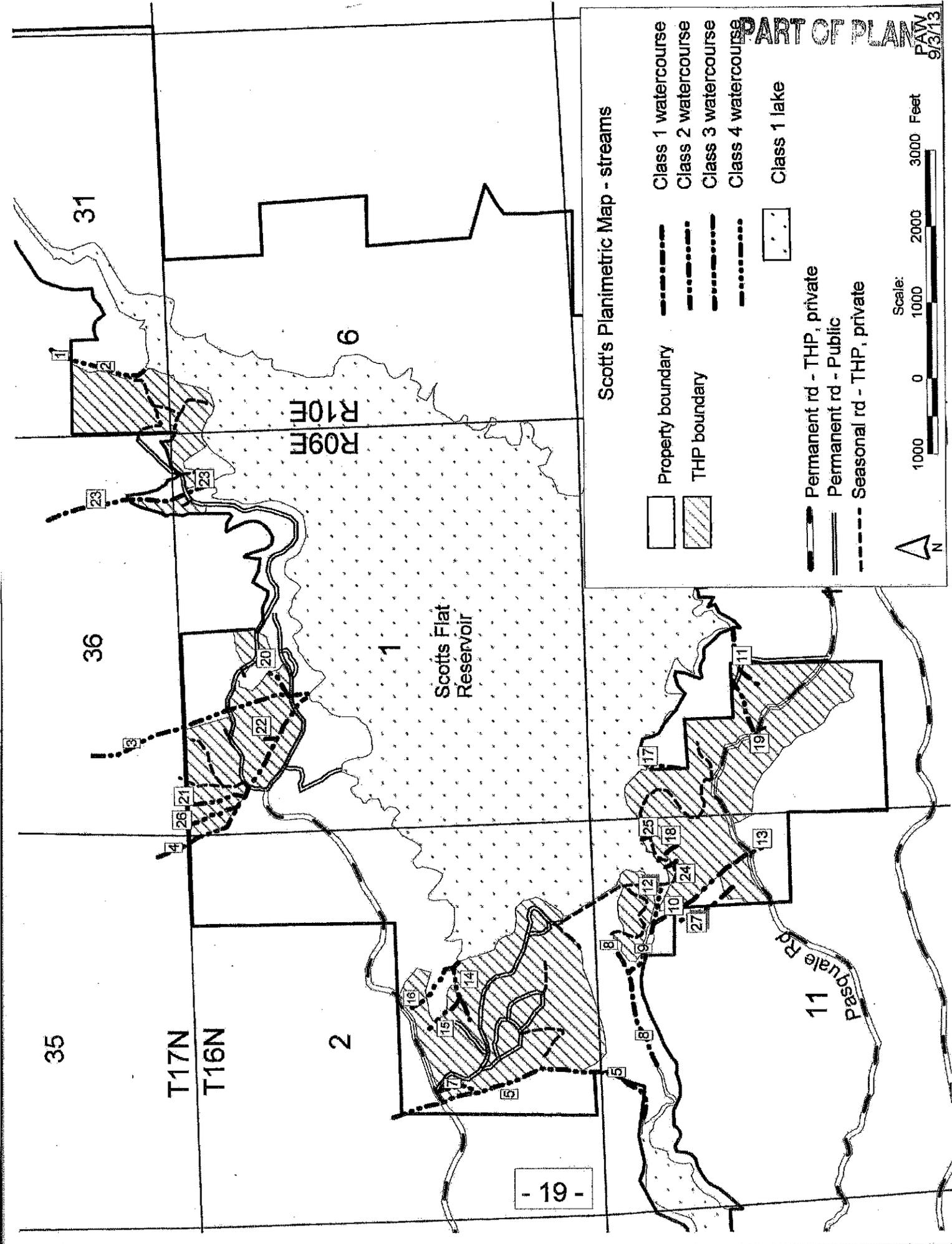
- 18 -

Scott's THP Map - page 2 of 2

-  Property boundary
-  THP boundary
-  Defensive space harvesting
-  Permanent rd - public
-  Permanent rd - THP, private
-  Seasonal rd - THP, private
-  Road to construct - seasonal
-  Road within WLPZ
-  Drafting location
-  skid trail crossing
-  Slide
-  Class 1 watercourse
-  Class 2 watercourse
-  Class 3 watercourse
-  Class 4 watercourse



PAW
9/5/13



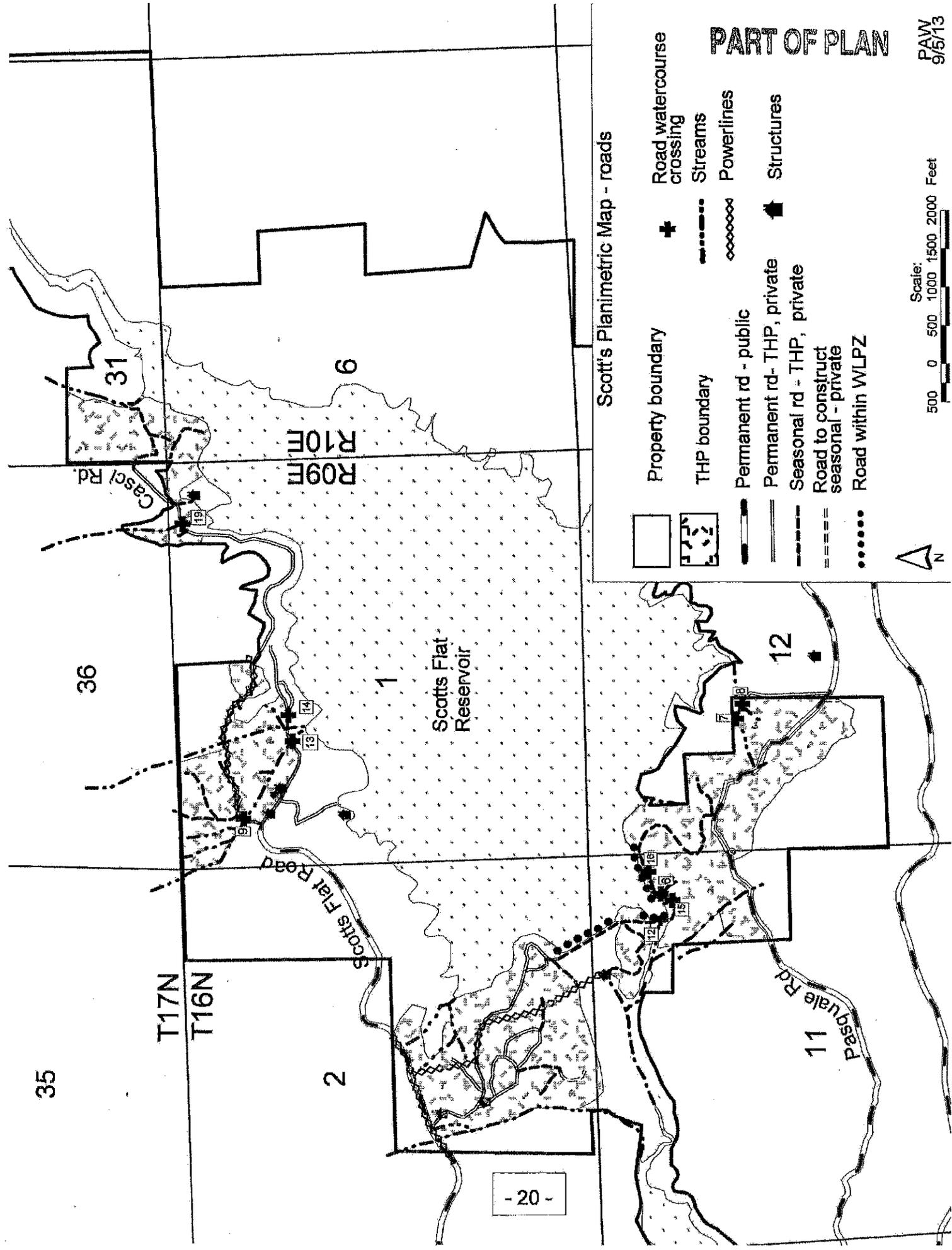
Scott's Planimetric Map - streams

	Property boundary		Class 1 watercourse
	THP boundary		Class 2 watercourse
	Permanent rd - THP, private		Class 3 watercourse
	Permanent rd - Public		Class 4 watercourse
	Seasonal rd - THP, private		Class 1 lake



Scale: 0 1000 2000 3000 Feet

PART OF PLAN
PAW 9/3/13



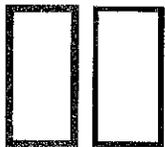
Scott's Planimetric Map - roads

- PART OF PLAN**
- Property boundary
 - THP boundary
 - Permanent rd - public
 - Permanent rd - THP, private
 - Seasonal rd - THP, private
 - Road to construct seasonal - private
 - Road within WLPZ
 - Road watercourse crossing
 - Streams
 - Powerlines
 - Structures



PAW
9/5/13

Scott's THP - Soils Map



Soil series boundary

Property ownership

All area is moderate EHR
All area is site 1



Scale: 0 1000 1000 Feet

PAW
7/2/2013

Scotts Flat
Reservoir

MnE MnE

CmD CmD

AgD

MPE2

CoE

CoD

CmD

CoD

A/E

HrD

HrD

CmD

MSE

CoD

AgD

CoD

HrD

SECTION III- SUPPORT INFORMATION

Alternatives to the proposed harvest as presented in this Timber Harvest Plan

Purpose and need: The purpose of this project is to harvest the biomass and some trees at this point in time to: decrease fuel loading, utilize a cost-share agreement to help finance the biomass operation, and capture tree mortality.

Harvest of the biomass will significantly help lower the fire danger in this area. This will help in protecting the forest, camping, wildlife, and watershed resources. This will also help in protecting neighboring structures in the area. This protection is a significant objective of the area residents, local and state governments, and NID.

The flow of timber products to mills in the area is essential in order to provide jobs for loggers, truckers and mill workers. Harvesting of biomass offsets some of the need for using non-renewable resources for energy generation.

Potential Alternatives

1. **THE PROJECT AS PROPOSED:** This project would remove a portion of the overstocked forest understory as biomass, and some dead and dying trees as sawlogs.
2. **NO PROJECT:** The NO PROJECT alternative would not allow for the harvesting of material.
3. **ALTERNATIVE LAND USES:** The property could be developed for additional housing or recreational development in the future.
4. **TIMING OF THE PROJECT:** This project could be conducted at a later date.
5. **ALTERNATIVE SITES:** If an alternative site exists, switching to another site may mitigate concerns of the use of this site for the project as proposed.
6. **PUBLIC ACQUISITION:** If the landowner wished to sell and there was a willing buyer in a conservation organization, the project could be curtailed, changed or otherwise postponed.

Discussion of Alternatives

1. The Project As Proposed.

The project as proposed allows for the removal of a portion of the overstocked understory, and some of the diseased, damaged trees in the overstory. The harvest will provide for an improvement in the fire resistance of the forest stand, and possibly increase the growth on the remaining trees.

The harvest will reduce the fuels continuity. This operation will reduce the wildfire potential by removing many high risk trees from the property. Reduction of fuels and their potential threat to the property is a prime concern with the landowner as well as adjacent landowners, and public and private agencies in this area.

This project will also provide for employment opportunities for a variety of field and power generation personnel.

2. No Project:

The alternatives #2 and #4 either significantly delay the management objectives or preclude it entirely. The NO PROJECT alternative would not reduce the amount of ladder fuels within the units or generate income.

The competition from overstocked, slow growing, poorly formed biomass will continue to reduce growth potential. This is contrary to good forest management and fails to meet State mandated "MSP".

As a reduction of fuels and the protection of the watershed are goals of the owner, this alternative fails to meet the objective. It also fails to provide any revenues for the landowner, associated contractors, sub-contractors and their employees or the government to pay for roads, schools, etc.

3. Alternative Land Uses:

Housing, mining and recreation are alternative land uses. The property already has a heavy recreation use on it. This use is compatible with the timber production uses. Timber production and harvesting is also compatible with the neighboring residential properties. Mining is not a viable option.

4. Timing Of The Project:

Delaying the project, will preclude the cost-share money available as it is on a limited time span. Fire danger may be increased as overstory and understory trees that are in poor health, deteriorate and die leaving standing fuel.

5. Alternative Sites:

The owner has no other sites where this type of operation is viable. These sites have been determined to be the highest priority in fuel reduction areas.

6. Public Acquisition:

This property is held by a public agency.

Conclusion: Upon comparison of the Alternatives to the project, it is the RPF's opinion that the project should continue as presented and without undue delay. The project as proposed may increase productivity by concentrating growth on the remaining trees. The project will reduce the ladder fuels thereby reducing the potential for a "stand replacing" wildfire.

General Project Description

The property is located on areas surrounding Scotts Flat Reservoir in Nevada County, California. The property is currently being used as water storage, recreational and forestland property. There are two commercially developed campgrounds on the property, with associated commercial, camping and residential structures and improvements. The rest of the property is forestland used for growing trees, hiking, and watershed. There are numerous scattered residential structures adjacent to the property, and in the general vicinity. The parcels are bordered on most sides by private owners. There is a small piece of USFS land adjacent to the project area on the north edge.

The property is variable in slope and vegetation. There are numerous watercourses on the property and a major lake adjacent to the projects. Generally speaking, this is a beautiful area, and very nice property. It is a highly used recreation area.

NID highly desires to manage the forestland responsibly, giving thought and proper management to the forest, water, recreation, wildlife and air resources.

NID has a grant from CDF to help offset the high cost of a biomass harvesting operation. The biomass operation will remove fuels from the understory to create a fuel break and defensible spaces. By removing these fuels this will lessen the fire danger in these areas. This will create a fuel break/defensible space where a possible wildfire can be better controlled and fought.

The units are designed for a fuelbreak for a wildfire possibly starting at the campground/lake and moving outward toward neighboring properties, and vice-versa.

Topography

The plan area lies on the moderately forested slopes of Nevada County in the Scotts Flat Reservoir area. All of the area drains into Scotts Flat Reservoir or Deer Creek, which eventually flows into the South Yuba River after flowing into 2 other reservoirs. The reservoirs all have large dams providing a barrier to anadromous fish.

The slopes are variable ranging from gentle to moderate (0% to 40%), slopes that will be logged with ground based equipment.

All slope aspects are represented.

The elevation ranges from approximately 3,100 to 3,800 feet.

Soils

The property is within the productive forest soils on the west slopes of the Sierras. The average annual precipitation is 50 to 70 inches of rain and snow.

There are numerous soil complexes on the property according to the Nevada County soils book.

Basically most of the property have well-drained soils underlain by weathered andesite of moderate erodibility.

AfE and AgD - Aiken loam - The soils consist of well-drained soils underlain by cobbly andesitic tuff and conglomerate. The average precipitation is between 48 and 58 inches. These soils are moderately deep, moderately slow permeability, have rapid water runoff, are well drained productive forest soils with an effective rooting depth of 48 to 60 inches or more.

Description of the soil profile

A	0" to 21".	a dark-brown and yellowish-red loam and heavy loam.
B	12" to 64"	a yellowish-red and reddish-yellow heavy loam to heavy clay loam and clay.
C	65" +	weathered andesitic tuff and conglomerate.

MnE - McCarthy sandy loam. McCarthy soils consist of well-drained soils underlain by weathered andesitic conglomerate. The average precipitation is between 48 and 58 inches. These soils are moderately deep, moderately rapid permeability, have rapid water runoff, and are well drained productive forest soils with an effective rooting depth of 18 to 32 inches or more.

McCarthy soils are used for timber production, grazing, watershed and as wildlife habitat.

Description of the McCarthy soil profile

0 - 10"	brown cobbly loam.
10 - 31"	brown very cobbly loam.
31" +	andesitic conglomerate.

HrD - Horseshoe gravelly loam. The soils consist of well-drained soils underlain by stratified sand and gravel. The average precipitation is between 40 and 60 inches. These soils are moderately deep, moderately permeability, have medium to rapid water runoff, are well drained productive forest soils with an effective rooting depth of 48 to 60 inches or more.

Description of the soil profile

0" to 10"	a gravelly loam.
10" to 50"	gravelly clay loam
50" to 59"	very gravelly loam.

MoE - McCarthy cobbly loam. McCarthy soils consist of well-drained soils underlain by weathered andesitic conglomerate. The average precipitation is between 48 and 58 inches. These soils are moderately deep, moderately slow permeability, have rapid water runoff, and are well drained productive forest soils with an effective rooting depth of 18 to 32 inches or more. McCarthy cobbly loam soils are described below.

McCarthy soils are used for timber production, grazing, watershed and as wildlife habitat.

Description of the McCarthy soil profile

0 - 10"	brown cobbly loam.
10 - 31"	brown very cobbly loam.
31" +	andesitic conglomerate

CmD - Cohasset loam. The soils consist of well-drained soils underlain by cobbly andesitic conglomerate. The average precipitation is between 48 and 58 inches. These soils are moderately deep, moderately slow permeability, have rapid water runoff, are well drained productive forest soils with an effective rooting depth of 42 to 60 inches or more.

Description of the soil profile

0" to 15".	a brown cobbly loam.
15" to 96"	reddish-brown cobbly heavy loam and cobbly clay loam
96" +	weathered andesitic conglomerate.

CoD, CoE - Cohasset cobbly loam. The soils consist of well-drained soils underlain by cobbly andesitic conglomerate. The average precipitation is between 48 and 58 inches. These soils are moderately deep, moderately slow permeability, have rapid water runoff, are well drained productive forest soils with an effective rooting depth of 42 to 60 inches or more.

Description of the soil profile

0" to 15".	a brown cobbly loam.
15" to 96"	reddish-brown cobbly heavy loam and cobbly clay loam
96" +	weathered andesitic conglomerate.

JrE2 - Josephine-Mariposa complex, eroded - Nevada County soils book. Mariposa soils consists of well-drained soils underlain by slightly weathered slate and shale. The average rainfall is 40 to 60 inches. Effective rooting depth of 15 to 31 inches with moderate permeability.

Description of the soil profile

0 - 3"	brown gravelly loam
3" - 20"	yellowish-brown gravelly heavy loam
20" +	fractured and weathered metasedimentary rocks.

For this THP, the EHR is classified as moderate.

Vegetation

The area is typical mid-elevation Sierra mixed-conifer forest vegetation. All of the harvesting area is “heavily forested”, although the forest is made up of smaller patches. Most of the area is composed of moderately heavily stocked forests with moderate amounts of small poles and regeneration; there are small areas of a mixture of light forest with moderate regeneration in, around and under the forest overstory. Ponderosa pine, incense-cedar and Douglas-fir make up the bulk of the conifer forest, although there are a few sugar pines and white firs around. The hardwood component is made up of California black oak, madrone and tan oak. The variable understory is comprised of conifer regeneration, hardwood regeneration, manzanita, poison oak, dogwood, deerbrush, berries, and other miscellaneous brush species. The brush component of the stand also varies as a result of the overstory. The heavier the overstory the lighter the understory brush and vice-versa.

Watershed and stream conditions

I have walked the watercourses in May and June of 2013 and found the conditions are generally good. The major impact to the creeks are sediment washing into them from the existing roads. There had been mining in this area in years past which impacted the creeks. The following table briefly describes each stream. Most of the creeks drain directly into Scotts Flat Reservoir.

The following table give a brief discussion of watercourse conditions. Watercourses numbers are mapped and the stream # shown on the Stream map.

Watercourse Table

stream #	stream class	stream name	stream description
	1	Scotts Flat Reservoir	Made-made class 1 lake of approximately 700 acres. Supports many type of native and introduced fish.
1	3	unnamed	A intermittent class 3 stream. The channel is 1 to 2 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle to moderately steep. The streambed shows washing from previous mining activity. The canopy is approximately 50% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush.
2	2	unnamed	A intermittent to perennial class 2 stream. The channel is 2 to 3 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle to moderate with overhanging banks, small pools, and flowing water. The canopy is approximately 60% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush.
3	2	unnamed	A intermittent to perennial class 2 stream. The channel is 2 to 3 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle to moderate with overhanging banks, small pools, and flowing water. The canopy is approximately 70% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush.

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stream #	stream class	stream name	stream description
4	2	unnamed	A intermittent to perennial class 2 stream. The channel is 2 to 3 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle to moderate with overhanging banks, small pools, and flowing water. The canopy is approximately 80% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush.
5	2	unnamed	A intermittent to perennial class 2 stream. The channel is 2 to 3 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle to moderate with overhanging banks, small pools, and flowing water. The canopy is approximately 80% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush.
6	N/A	N/A	N/A
7	3	unnamed	A intermittent class 3 stream. The channel is 1 to 2 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle to moderately steep. The canopy is approximately 40% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush.
8	1	Deer Creek	The outflow from the Power plant at the bottom of Scotts Flat Reservoir before it goes into Lower Scotts Flat Lake.
9	1	unnamed	A perennial class 1 stream. The channel is 3 to 5 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle. With overhanging banks, pools and flowing water. The canopy is approximately 60% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush.
10	2	unnamed	A intermittent to perennial class 2 stream. The channel is 2 to 3 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle to moderate with overhanging banks, small pools, and flowing water. The streambed shows severe downcutting from previous mining activity. The canopy is approximately 80% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush.
11	3	unnamed	A intermittent class 3 stream. The channel is 1 to 2 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle. The streambed shows some washing from drainage from a trail that goes down part of the streambed. The canopy is approximately 80% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush.
12	4	unnamed	Concrete overflow spillway
13	3	unnamed	A intermittent class 3 stream. The channel is 1 to 2 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle to moderately steep. The streambed shows severe downcutting from previous mining activity. The canopy is approximately 50% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush.
14	3	unnamed	A intermittent class 3 stream. The channel is 1 to 2 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle to moderately steep. The canopy is approximately 80% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush.

stream #	stream class	stream name	stream description
15	3	unnamed	A intermittent class 3 stream. The channel is 1 to 2 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle to moderately steep. The canopy is approximately 80% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush.
16	3	unnamed	A intermittent class 3 stream. The channel is 1 to 2 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle to moderately steep. The canopy is approximately 40% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush.
17	3	unnamed	A intermittent class 3 stream. The channel is 1 to 2 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle. The canopy is approximately 60% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush.
18	3	unnamed	A intermittent class 3 stream. The channel is 1 to 2 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle. The canopy is approximately 50% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush.
19	3	unnamed	A intermittent class 3 stream. The channel is 1 to 3 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle to moderately steep. The canopy is approximately 80% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush.
20	3	unnamed	A short intermittent class 3 stream. The channel is 1 to 2 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle. The canopy is approximately 80% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush.
21	3	unnamed	A intermittent class 3 stream. The channel is 1 to 2 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle to moderately steep. The canopy is approximately 80% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush.
22	3	unnamed	A short intermittent class 3 stream. The channel is 1 to 2 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle. The streams starts in a small meadow. The canopy is approximately 80% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush
23	1	unnamed	A perennial class 1 stream. The channel is 2 to 4 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle. With overhanging banks, pools and flowing water. The canopy is approximately 80% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush.
24	3	unnamed	A short class 3 stream. Barely capable of transporting sediment.
25	3	unnamed	A short intermittent class 3 stream. The channel is 1 to 2 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle. The streams starts in a berry patch. The canopy is approximately 60% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush
26	3	unnamed	A intermittent class 3 stream. The channel is 1 to 2 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle to moderately steep. The canopy is approximately 80% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush.

stream #	stream class	stream name	stream description
26	3	unnamed	A intermittent class 3 stream. The channel is 1 to 2 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle to moderately steep. The canopy is approximately 80% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush.
			An intermittent to perennial class 2 stream. The channel is 1 to 2 feet across. The bed is composed of rocks and native material. The gradient is gentle to moderate with flowing water. The canopy is approximately 80% composed of a mixture of hardwoods, conifers and riparian brush.

Other

Fire danger is **high** throughout this whole area with the mixture of roads, camping, hiking, recreation, houses, development, brush, timber and heavy fuel loading conditions.

Silvicultural Information.

As in many forests, this property is somewhat patchy as far as the forest stands are concerned. Forest health is generally not a problem. The trees are generally healthy except for overstocking, and some light bark beetle activity.

Fuelbreak/Defensible space

The area will be harvested under this silvicultural system. The objective is to remove some trees and other vegetation and fuels to create a shaded fuel break and/or defensible space in the harvest areas to reduce the potential for wildfires and the damage they might cause.

The area has been harvested in the past and a natural forest stand now occupies the site. The last major harvest was in the late 1970's, as per NID. Currently, there is a mixture of age classes of trees of approximately 10 to 365 sq. ft. of basal area, that have been left from previous harvesting, of which part are to be harvested.

The harvest units and operations were chosen and designed to reduce the fuels, have enough harvest material to practically operate on, and protect resources. The resources include conifer timber, vegetation, hardwoods, wildlife, water, recreation, soil, and visual resources.

This Silvicultural prescription has been approved by a local fire agency - CDF. Please see the attach letter in Section 5 of the plan. This operation conforms with the cost-share grant for biomass harvest that NID has with CDF to reduce fuels. This area around Scotts Flat Lake was chosen to protect the lake, camping areas, neighboring properties and structures, and surrounding resources as part of a community protection plan.

Fuelbreak/Defensible space is an Special Prescription silvicultural prescription system. The objective is to remove some trees and other vegetation and fuels to create a shaded fuel break and/or defensible space in the areas to reduce the potential for wildfires and the damage they might cause. The stands are currently well stocked. During harvesting and stand management activities the stands should be "opened-up" as much as possible without damaging the resources, keeping in line with silvicultural management objectives, the stocking requirements, and other requirements and recommendations in the THP.

As planned under this operation, primarily only the smaller trees will be harvested and removed as biomass chips. This material will include both conifers and hardwoods. A minimal amount of conifer sawlogs may be harvested for road and landing construction/reconstruction. Some smaller sized sawlog conifer trees will be harvested and chipped if they are dead, dying, diseased, crooked, deformed or severely suppressed. Hardwoods up to 18" may be also harvested for the chips.

The biomass operation will remove as much of this small material as practical/possible. Small vegetation ie. stump sprouts, brush and very small trees is not possible to harvest and chip, although as much of it as possible/practical will be reduced by running over it with equipment. The amount and type of stocking to leave will be based on the future forest needs, the health of the regeneration, stocking considerations, wildlife concerns, watershed concerns, and visual concerns.

Description of stand before harvest:

Species composition: The stands are extremely variable in species composition. They are basically mixed conifer stands and comprised of ponderosa and sugar pine, Douglas-fir, a small amount of white fir, incense-cedar, and hardwoods in a medium to heavy overstory. The majority (100% to 70%) of the overstory is in conifers. The DBH's range from, 12' to 50" with heights up to 150'. Snags are variable with 0 to 2 per acre. The hardwoods include black oak, live oak, madrone, tan oak, alder, and dogwood. The understory is mostly conifer and hardwood regeneration (0" to 12" DBH), and some brush.

Current stocking: basal area of the stand ranges from 10 to 350 square feet of conifer timber. Point count is 350 to 1200 points per acre of conifers.

Description of harvest:

The smaller trees will be selected for harvest to reduce the understory, to create a defensible space. Reducing tree spacing is the primary objective, while leaving healthy regeneration to provide for larger trees for the future.

Basal area to be removed: approx 40 sq. ft.

Description of stand after harvest:

Will be roughly the same as current stand - the % of fir, cedar, and hardwoods will decrease, while the % of pine will slightly increase.

Other specific requirements for harvesting:

(A) Harvesting will not reduce the amount of timberland occupied by late succession forest stands.

(B) Where present prior to operations, the following habitat elements shall be retained as an average across the project area:

1. A minimum of 2 large live cull (green) conifer trees 24" DBH or larger per acre;
2. A minimum of two hardwood trees 24" DBH or larger per acre;
3. A minimum of two downed logs 20" diameter outside bark as measured at the midpoint of the total length of the log or larger per acre; and
4. 2% shall be left as untreated habitat retention surrounding or in direct proximity to the habitat elements identified in 1, 2, and 3 above.

Minimum stocking standards within the timber operating area shall be met immediately after harvest and shall be those found in 14 CCR 912.7 [932.7, 952.7].

Maximum Sustained Yield (MSP)

The harvest under this THP will meet the MSP requirements. The parcel currently is experiencing a slight net growth. This net growth is lower than the potential due to some of the overstocked stand conditions and heavy vegetation understory. The biomass harvesting will remove the some of the slower growing understory to allow the more than adequately stocked overstory to grow more freely, and will also remove some of the smaller saw log trees to improve growth on the remaining trees. This will not decrease the long term MSP of the parcel.

Item 28b. An Exemption for the newspaper notification is requested. All the drainage from applicable streams from the harvesting area is limited to NID property, except for two class 2 streams. These two streams only cross a portion of two private ownerships. I sent both these two ownerships letters and maps asking for any domestic water use information. This Exemption will give the same protection as the standard rules.

I personally spoke on the phone to one landowner (the Rebecca Smith property) and he assured me they have no domestic use from this stream on their property. I also walked this stream and visibly inspected it and found no domestic use from this stream.

Although I did not talk to the other landowner (the Michael K & Eileen Mayes property), I personally walked this stream and visibly inspected it and found no domestic use from this stream.

Scoping for wildlife/plant species that may be present in the area and/or that might be impacted by the operation was primarily from the CNDDDB. Also several past harvest plans in the area were examined. Professional knowledge of vegetation types and what species that may be found in these types were also used.

Specific Requirements for a Modified Timber Harvest Plan for Fuel Hazard Reduction (MTHP-FHR)

An average of at least 40% of the existing overstory tree canopy shall be retained. The canopy retained shall be well distributed over the harvest area.

No operations shall occur in areas having average slopes greater than 50% based upon sample areas that are 20 acres in size, and no tractor operations in areas with high or extreme erosion hazard ratings.

No construction of new skid trails shall occur on slopes over 40%.

No timber operations shall occur on slide areas or unstable areas.

No timber operations shall occur in the Class 2 watercourse.

This certifies that the conditions or facts stated in items 14 CCR § 1051.4(a)(1)-(13) exist on the MTHP-FHR area at the time of submission, and that in the preparation, mitigation, and analysis of the MTHP-FHR document, no identified potential significant effects remain undisclosed.

This certifies that a meeting will be held at the MTHP-FHR site before timber operations commence with the RPF responsible for the plan, or supervised designee, and the licensed timber operator who will be operating on the MTHP-FHR area where the contents and implementation of the plan have been reviewed and discussed.

This certifies that in developing the MTHP-FHR, the RPF has completed a cumulative impacts assessment. An alternate cumulative effects analysis has been conducted and it is this forester's determination that there will be no significant cumulative effects from these operations as proposed.

According to the 2010 303(d) list, This portion of Deer Creek and Scotts Flat Reservoir are listed as impaired because of mercury. Mercury may be found in old mine tailings and mining ore processing areas and facilities. There are no operations on either of these areas. This harvest will not contribute any additional mercury to the water bodies in any amount detrimental to the beneficial uses of water.

The assets that these defensible space units are designed to protect are: the area surrounding Scotts Flat Lake, camping/recreation areas, neighboring properties and structures on the north and south side of the lake, Cascade Shores, and the surrounding resources (forest, watershed, wildlife, visual and recreation) as part of a community protection plan.

Many of the neighboring properties have had fuel reduction operations accomplished on them through various cost-share programs. These proposed units will complement some of this past work.

Timing of the operations. Operations will occur when soil, water and recreational resources will not be significantly impacted. Generally this is before and/or after the camping season for the areas surrounding the campgrounds. The applicable trees and vegetation will be harvested and bunched with feller/bunchers. Some hand falling of material may also be used. This material will then be skidded and chipped within a 3 week period of being cut. The chips will be hauled to a local biomass fuel plant.

As planned under this operation, primarily the smaller trees, ladder fuels and other material will be harvested and removed as biomass chips. This material will include both conifers and hardwoods. Some smaller sized

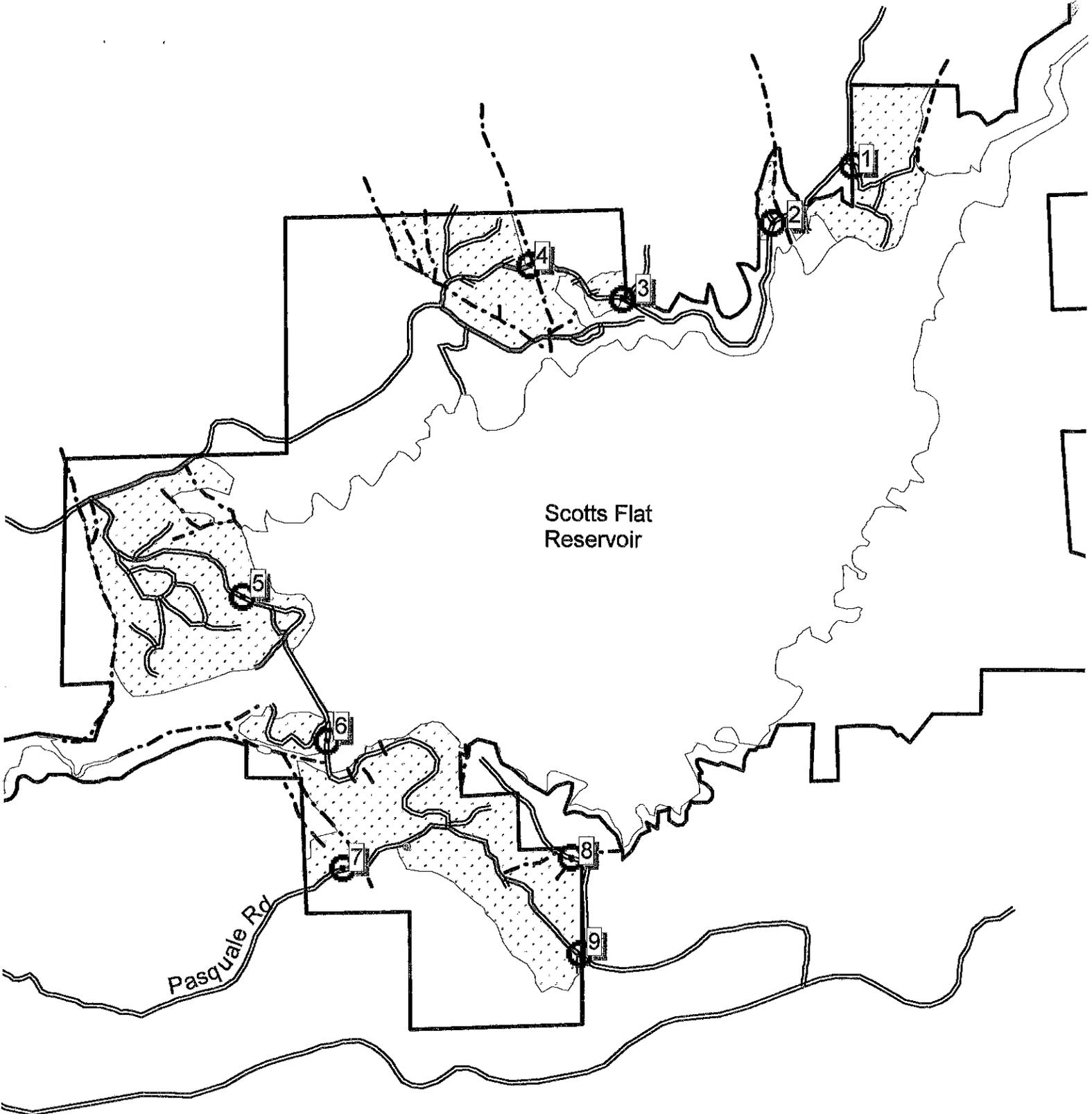
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sawlog conifer trees will be harvested and chipped if they are dead, dying, diseased, crooked, deformed or severely suppressed. Hardwoods up to 20" may be also harvested for the chips or fuelwood.

Small (less than 3") standing vegetation may not be ideal to harvest and chip, although the biomass operation will remove as much of this practical/possible. Small vegetation ie. stump sprouts, brush and very small trees is not possible to harvest and chip. Decomposing small material laying on the ground may also not be ideal to skid and chip. To help "clean up the area" and reduce the amount of fuels remaining, as much of this material as possible/practical may be treated by running over it with equipment .

While surface and ladder fuel treatment standards will vary based upon site specific conditions, post-treatment total surface fuel loading shall not exceed an average of 25 bone dry tons per acre. This amount does not include the sawlogs that are left as an overstory. These standards shall be verified by a post harvest walkthrough of the stand. Visual estimation will be used to determine the remaining fuel loading. The estimations will be based on the United States Forest Service "Natural Fuels Photo Series" (rev. April 2011, available at http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/fera/publications/photo_series_pubs.shtml), incorporated by reference herein, and, in particular, photo series "General Technical Report (GTR) PNW-5 1 (rev. 1976), PNW-52 (rev. 1976), PNW-56 (rev. 1981), and PNW-95" (rev. 1979) incorporated by reference herein, for visual demonstration of pre and post-treatment stand conditions in this description. The visual estimations will be based on the Mixed Conifer Size Class 4 Partial Cut photo series and descriptions. These photos may not generally accurately represent the stand conditions as there are minimal (if any at all) hardwoods included in this data set.

A photo point monitoring for the purpose of characterizing the project treatment effects shall be developed. The purpose of these photos are to show and compare the pre and post harvest stand conditions/treatment. The Photo points shall be mapped and designated on the ground by stake, post, or other equivalent semi-permanent methods. Photos shall be taken with a digital camera prior to operations to show a sample of pre-harvest stand conditions. Photos shall be taken with a digital camera after to operations to show the same stand in a post-treatment condition. Post-treatment photo points will be at the same point as the pre-harvest point. Post-treatment photo point monitoring shall occur prior to expiration of the MTHP-FHR. Post-treatment photos shall be included with the submission of a final report of stocking and work completion. Please see the attached "Scott's photo Points Map" for photo point locations.

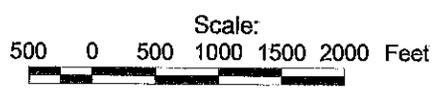


Scotts Flat Reservoir

Pasquale Rd

Scott's Photo Points Map

-  Property boundary
-  THP boundary
-  Existing roads
-  Photo points
-  Streams



-34,1-

SECTION IV- CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

(1) Do the assessment areas of resources that may be affected by the proposed project contain any past, present, or reasonably foreseeable probable future project?

Yes XX No

(2) Are there any continuing, significant adverse impacts from past land use activities that may add to the impacts of the proposed project?

Yes No XX

(3) Will the proposed project, as presented, in combination with past, present, or reasonably foreseeable probable future projects identified in (1) and (2) above, have a reasonable potential to cause or add to significant cumulative impacts in any of the following resource subjects?

<u>Resource</u>	<u>Yes after mitigation (a)</u>	<u>No after mitigation (b)</u>	<u>No reasonably potential significant effects (c)</u>
1. Watershed	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>XX</u>
2. Soil productivity	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>XX</u>
3. Biological	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>XX</u>
4. Recreation	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>XX</u>
5. Visual	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>XX</u>
6. Traffic	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>XX</u>
7. Other	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>XX</u>

If column (a) is checked in (3) above, describe why the expected impacts cannot be feasibly mitigated or avoided and what mitigation measures or alternatives were considered to reach this determination. If column (b) is checked in (3) above, describe what mitigation measures have been selected which will substantially reduce or avoid reasonably potential cumulative impacts except for those mitigation measures or alternatives mandated by application of the rules of the Board of Forestry.

(4) If column (a) is checked in (3) above describe why the expected impacts cannot be feasibly mitigated or avoided and what mitigation measures or alternatives were considered to reach this determination. If column (b) is checked in (3) above describe what mitigation measures have been selected which will substantially reduce or avoid reasonably potential significant cumulative impacts except for those mitigation measures or alternatives mandated by application of the rules of the Board.

(5) Provide a brief description of the assessment area used for each resource subject.

(6) List and briefly describe the individuals, organizations, and records consulted in the assessment of cumulative impacts for each resource subject. Records of the information used in the assessment shall be provided to the Director upon request.

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The Watershed Assessment Area (WAA) is selected to evaluate the water resources that this plan may effect. These water resources are contained within the watershed that this plan resides in - the water that flows through and/or around the project area. The WAA was determined from: the watershed of order 3 stream drainage patterns as located on the USGS topographic map(s), CALWATER watershed locations, and professional judgement of what water resources that this project may impact. There are two CALWATER watershed effected by this plan: Scotts Flat lake and Deer Creek.

The Soil Productivity Assessment Area is: within the THP boundary plus an area 100' around the outside perimeter of it. This area was determined by the fact that the proposed operations will only effect the soil resources inside of this area.

The Biological Assessment Area (BAA) is the same as the WAA. This includes some of the same general forest type of the project area to help in evaluating potential plant, animal and habitat impacts. This assessment area, I believe, is sufficient to evaluate both plants and animals that are in risk of being substantially impacted by the proposed project. The reason for this area is the similar vegetative types, land ownership patterns, professional judgement and topographic areas within the surrounding area.

The recreation assessment area is within the THP boundary, and an area 300' around the outside perimeter of it, as per Board of Forestry Technical Rule Addendum #2. Mitigations to any impacts to the recreational use and activities are built into the plan.

The visual assessment area is the local area or "the viewshed" or from where the property can be viewed from with any detail, basically from the roads, houses and adjacent area.

The traffic assessment area is the general vicinity, the Scotts Flat Road, Pasquale Road, Cascade Shores and Red Dog Road.

Sources of Information

Landowners: NID

Nevada County Offices: Assessor - Adjacent landowners, property maps.

CDF past projects Data Base.

CDF GIS THP database

California Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity Data Base.

Nevada County Soil Survey

United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Plumas National Forest 2000. *Quincy Library Group Environmental Impact Statement* - Biological Evaluations for wildlife and plants

Niehaus, Theodore F., Charles Ripper 1976 *Pacific States Wildflowers*, Peterson Field Guide. Boston, Massachusetts.

Munz, Philip A., 1973 *A California Flora*. London England

United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Plumas National Forest 1999. *Rare Plant Handbook*

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service digital Ortho Photo mosaic

This is a modified THP, and it is this forester's determination that there will be no significant cumulative effects from these operations as proposed. An alternate cumulative effects analysis has been conducted.

SECTION V- MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Letter sent to downstream landowners. - See attached pages.

Names and addresses of downstream landowners notified:

Michael K & Eileen Mayes
10800 Mill Springs Dr
Nevada City, CA 95959

Rebecca Smith
PO Box 340
Nevada City, CA 95959

Sample letter sent to the downstream landowners



June 20, 2013

Rebecca Smith
PO Box 340
Nevada City, CA 95959

Hello, I am preparing a Timber Harvest Plan (THP) in the Scotts Flat Reservoir area. The THP is located in portions of Sections 11, Twp. 16N, Rge. 09E, MDBM. The area is in Nevada county. The proposed harvest effects run off into: tributaries to Lower Scotts Flat Lake and a portion of Deer Creek. As required by Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 1032.10, all landowners within 1000 feet downstream of a proposed THP and whose ownership adjoins, or includes Class I, II or IV watercourses (streams) that receives drainage from the proposed THP must be notified. This notification is to determine if any domestic water use will be effected by this THP.

As planned now, the THP will be primarily for hazardous fuel reduction activities.

Your ownership is within 1000 ft downstream of the proposed timber operation and adjoining the watercourse flowing from this THP. Please advise me if there is any domestic water use from the watercourse. Your response is needed within 10 days of the postmark of the envelope, for you to have your information and any mitigating measures included in the THP. The THP will be submitted to the California Department of Forestry for their review and approval. The THP needs to contain mitigation for protection of identified domestic water supplies.

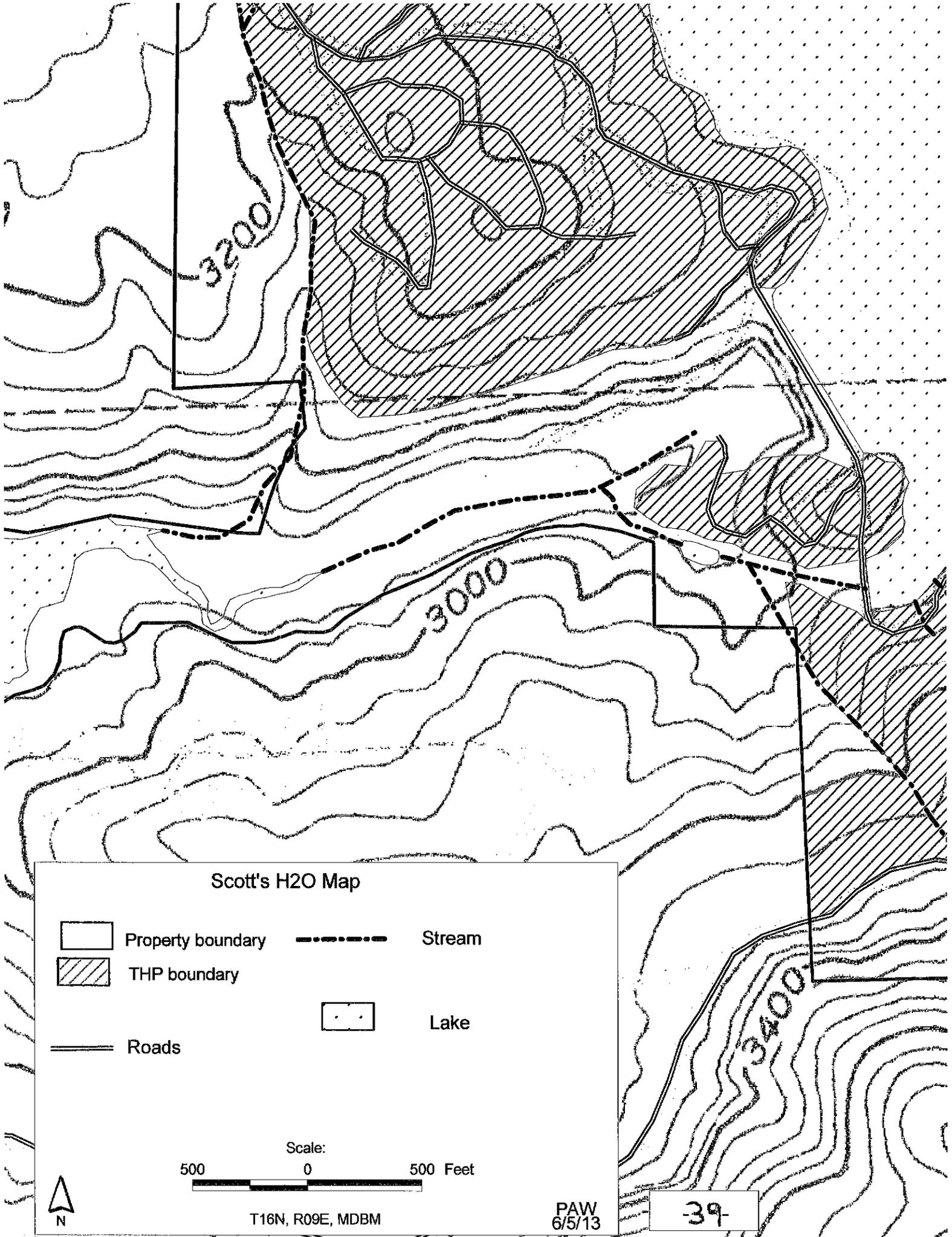
Please contact me at the above address if you have any information. Thanks!

Please see attached map for locations.

Sincerely,

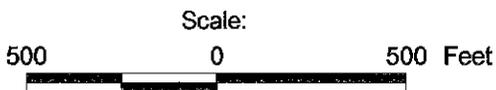
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Walden", written over a horizontal line.

Pete Walden
RPF #2001



Scott's H2O Map

- Property boundary
- THP boundary
- Roads
- Stream
- Lake



T16N, R09E, MDBM

PAW
6/5/13

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Letter sent to Timberland owner



June 6, 2013

Mr. Tim Crough
Nevada Irrigation District
1036 West Main Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Dear Tim,

I have prepared at NID's request, a Timber Harvest Plan (THP), for portions of NID's land surrounding Scotts Flat Lake in Nevada County, California. NID is designated as the Timberland Owner, Timber Owner and the Plan Submitter.

In signing the THP, come certain responsibilities for the Timberland Owner as described in Forest Practice Rules as examples below:

- The harvest area must meet minimum stocking standards upon completion of operations. The harvesting prescription will meet stocking requirements upon completion of a good logging job. Please see the THP for the specific requirements.
- Erosion control structures must be maintained for at least 1 year upon completion of operations. This period may be extended up to 2 additional years by CDF at their discretion.
- Final work completion and stocking reports have to be filed with CDF upon completion of operations by the Timberland or Timber Owner.
- A plan for pre and post-treatment photo point monitoring for the purpose of characterizing the project treatment effects shall be developed prior to operations. Post-treatment photos shall be included with the submission of a final report of stocking and work completion.

In signing the THP, come certain responsibilities for the Plan Submitter as described in PRC 14 CCR 1035:

- Ensure that a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) conducts any activities which require an RPF. An example is: marking the harvest trees, being available for administration of the THP and/or harvesting operation.
- Provide the RPF preparing the plan or amendments with complete and correct information

regarding pertinent legal rights to, interests in, and responsibilities for land, timber, and access as these affect the planning and conduct of timber operations.

- Sign the THP certifying knowledge of the plan contents and the requirements of this section.
- Within five working days of change in RPF responsibilities for THP implementation or substitution of another RPF, file with the Director a notice which states the RPF's name and registration number, address, and subsequent responsibilities for any RPF required field work, amendment preparation, or operation supervision.
- Provide a copy of the portions of the approved THP and any approved operational amendments to the Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) containing the General Information, Plan of Operations, THP Map, Yarding System Map, Erosion Hazard Rating Map and any other information deemed by the RPF to be necessary for timber operations.
- The plan submitter shall notify the Director prior to commencement of site preparation operations. Receipt of a burning permit is sufficient notice. There are no site preparation plans proposed on this THP.
- The Plan Submitter will meet with the LTO prior to operations to advise the LTO of sensitive conditions and the provisions of the plan.
- There are new rules for the plan submitter responsibilities passed, that took effect on Jan.1, 2001. Please review these new rules for new clarification of the submitter's responsibility. They specify that the plan submitter designate a RPF or the landowner to administer the harvest operation. I have specified in this THP that it will be the Plan Submitter's RPF's responsibility to be available to provide professional advice to the LTO and timberland owner upon request throughout the timber operations regarding (1) the plan, (2) the forest practice rules, (3) and other associated regulations pertaining to timber operations.

Additional requirements may be stated in the THP and the Forest Practice Rules.

Thank you for allowing me to be your RPF writing this plan. I hope this plan works well for you. If you have any questions please feel free to give me a call. Thanks!

Sincerely,



Pete Walden
RPF #2001



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

13760 Lincoln Way
AUBURN, CA 95639
(530) 889-0111
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



July 3, 2013

Pete Walden
Registered Professional Forester
16178 Greenhorn Rd.
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 272- 8242

Dear Mr. Walden:

The CAL FIRE, Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit supports the Nevada Irrigation District's, Scotts Flat Fuel Reduction Biomass Project. The project is located on areas surrounding Scotts Flat Reservoir in Nevada County, California. The property is currently being used for water storage, recreation and forestland. There are two commercially developed campgrounds on the property. The rest of the property is forestland used for growing trees, hiking, and watershed. There are numerous scattered residential structures adjacent to the property, and in the general vicinity. The parcels are bordered on most sides by private landowners.

CAL FIRE is supporting the project with a grant to offsetting the high cost of biomass hauling. A Timber Harvest Plan is being developed for the operation in which the fuelbreak/ defensible space silvicultural prescription is being used. The project will reduce fuels and lessen the fire danger in the area.

Sincerely,

MATTHEW REISCHMAN
Unit Forester
CAL FIRE
Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit

— 41.1 —

CONSERVATION IS WISE-KEEP CALIFORNIA GREEN AND GOLDEN

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CONSERVE ENERGY. FOR TIPS AND INFORMATION, VISIT "FLEX YOUR POWER" AT WWW.CA.GOV.

I. SOIL FACTORS RATING				RATING BY AREA			
A. SOIL TEXTURE	Fine	Medium	Coarse	A	B	C	D
1. DETACHABILITY	Low	Moderate	High				
Rating	1-9	10-18	19-30	11			
2. PERMEABILITY	Slow	Moderate	Rapid				
Rating	5-4	3-2	1	3			
B. DEPTH TO RESTRICTIVE LAYER OR BEDROCK							
	Shallow	Moderate	Deep				
	1"-19"	20"-39"	40"-60"+				
Rating	15-9	8-4	3-1	7			
C. PERCENT SURFACE COARSE FRAGMENTS < 2 MM IN SIZE INCLUDING ROCKS OR TONES							
	Low	Moderate	High				
	10-39%	40-70%	71-100%				
Rating	10-6	5-3	2-1	8			
Factor Rating by Area Subtotal =>				29	0	0	0

II. SLOPE FACTOR

Slope	5-15%	6-30%	31-40%	41-50%	51-70%	70% +				
Rating	1 - 3	4 - 6	7 - 10	11 - 15	16-25	26-35	7			

III. PROTECTIVE VEGETATION COVER REMAINING AFTER DISTURBANCE

	Low	Moderate	High				
	0-40%	41-80%	81-100%				
Rating	15-8	7-4	3-1	6			

IV. TWO-YEAR, ONE-HOUR RAINFALL INTENSITY (Hundredths Inch)

	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme				
	30-39	40-59	60-69	70-80+				
Rating	1-3	4-7	8-11	12-15	14			
TOTAL SUM OF FACTORS					56	0	0	0

DETERMINATION OF EROSION HAZARD RATING

	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme				
Rating	0-49	50 - 65	66 - 75	75 +	M			

ATTENTION

I. THE FOLLOWING ADDENDUM(S), AND INFORMATION IS REQUIRED BY LAW TO BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL AND IS NOT FOR PUBLIC VIEWING:

ARCHEOLOGY:

(GOV. CODE 6254.10) & 14 CCR 929.1(a) (2))

PAGE 43 THROUGH PAGE 72

OPTION "A" TRADE SECRETS:

(GOV. CODE 6254.7(a))

PAGE _____ THROUGH PAGE _____

NTMP - TRADE SECRETS:

(GOV. CODE 6254.7(a))

PAGE _____ THROUGH PAGE _____

II. THE FOLLOWING NON-CONFIDENTIAL PAGES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THIS THP/NTMP. THESE PAGES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION, 6105 AIRPORT RD., REDDING, CA 96002, OR CALL 530-224-2445.

OTHER(S) _____

PAGE _____ THROUGH PAGE _____



July 31, 2013

California Department of Forestry
Forest Practice
6105 Airport Road
Redding, CA 96002

Re: THP 2-13-031-NEV - Scotts Flat

Dear Mr. Director,

This THP is being re-submitted. Please replace, add and/or remove the attached pages to this THP as requested by CDF question(s).

<u>Item</u>	<u>THP Change</u>
A.	Pages 2, 4, 5, maps, 32 and NOI. Removed Rehab. harvesting, added, changed, and/or deleted language.
B.	Pages 33 and 34: added, changed, and/or deleted language.
C.	Page 32, item28b: added, changed, and/or deleted language.
RT#1	Page 5, item 14f. Added, changed, and/or deleted language.
RT#2	NOI: added, changed, and/or deleted language.
RT#3	Page 3, item I3c: added, changed, and/or deleted language.
RT#4	Page 9, item 24: added, changed, and/or deleted language.
RT#5	Page 9, item 24: added, changed, and/or deleted language.
RT#6	Page 11, Protection measures: added, changed, and/or deleted language.
RT#7	Page 13, item 30: added, changed, and/or deleted language.
RT#8	Page 20: added, changed, and/or deleted language/fonts.
RT#9	Page 13, 6, item 32a: added, changed, and/or deleted language.
RT#10	Page 13 and 14, item 32a: added, changed, and/or deleted language.

- RT#11 Page 13 and 14, item 32a: added, changed, and/or deleted language.
- RT#12 Page 9, item 21e: added, changed, and/or deleted language.
- RT#13 Page 33, middle of page: added, changed, and/or deleted language.
- RT#14 Page 33, middle of page: added, changed, and/or deleted language.
- RT#15 Page 4, item 14b: added, changed, and/or deleted language.
- RT#16 I included what I received - 3 page of text, maps and sight records. I don't think there was a site description page.
- RT#17 There is no site P-29-00081. There is a site P-29-000811 shown on the I.C. map. This site is a ditch and is the same as ditch site CA-NEV-683-H and is included in site CA-NEV-683.
- RT#18 There is no site P-29-00081. There is a site P-29-000811 shown on the I.C. map. This site is a ditch and is the same as ditch site CA-NEV-683-H and is included in site CA-NEV-683.
- RT#19 Page 50: added, changed, and/or deleted language/fonts.
- RT#20 Page 11, Protection measures: added, changed, and/or deleted language.
- RT#21 Page 9, item 24: added, changed, and/or deleted language. Nothing can be done with the downcut streams.

If you have any questions please feel free to call.

Sincerely,



Pete Walden
RPF 2001



RECEIVED

AUG 19 2013

REDDING FOREST PRACTICE

August 14, 2013

California Department of Forestry
Forest Practice
6105 Airport Road
Redding, CA 96002

Re: THP 2-13-031-NEV - Scotts Flat

Dear Mr. Director,

Requested by:	_____
Dist. Date:	8/18/13
RU	PS
FB	TO
WG	TLO
ARCH	LTO
HPE	DMG
INSP	BOE
OTHER:	_____
FPS	POP
Status:	_____

Please replace, add and/or remove the attached pages to this THP as requested by CDF RT question(s).

- | <u>Item</u> | <u>THP Change</u> |
|-------------|---|
| RT#1 | Page 9, item 24. Added, changed, and/or deleted language. |
| RT#2 | Page 18: removed font. |
| RT#3 | Page 20: added road names. |
| RT#4 | Page 32, at the bottom: added language. |
| RT#5 | Page 13, item 32a at the bottom: added, changed and/or deleted language. |
| RT#6 | Page 15, item 32a: added, changed and/or deleted language. |
| RT#7 | Page 33, in the middle: added, changed, and/or deleted language. |
| RT#8 | Page 34: second paragraph: added, changed, and/or deleted language/fonts. |
| RT#9 | Page 50: added, changed, and/or deleted fonts. |

If you have any questions please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

 Pete Walden
 RPF 2001



RECEIVED
 AUG 28 2013
 REDDING
 FOREST PRACTICE

August 28, 2013

California Department of Forestry
 Forest Practice
 6105 Airport Road
 Redding, CA 96002

Re: THP 2-13-031-NEV - Scotts Flat

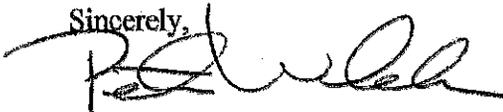
Dear Mr. Director,

Reviewed by:	<i>[Signature]</i>
Dist. by:	<i>[Signature]</i>
Dist. Date:	8/28/13
RU _____	PS _____
FG _____	TO _____
WQ _____	LTO _____
ARCH _____	LTO _____
RPF _____	DMG _____
<u>INSP</u> _____	BOE _____
OTHER:	_____
FPS _____	
Status:	POP

Please replace, add and/or remove the attached pages to this THP as requested by CDF RT question(s).

- | <u>Item</u> | <u>THP Change</u> |
|-------------|--|
| PHI#1 | Pages 28 and 29: deleted language. |
| PHI#2 | Pages 17 - 20: added, changed and/or deleted font. |
| PHI#3 | Pages 17 - 20: added font. |
| PHI#4 | Page 6, item 18: deleted language. |

If you have any questions please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

 Pete Walden
 RPF 2001



Reviewed by:	
Dist. by:	JG
Dist. Date:	9/6
FU _____	PS
FG _____	TO
WQ _____	TLO
ARCH _____	LTO
RPF _____	DMG
INSP. _____	BOE
OTHER:	
FPS _____	
Status:	POP

September 6, 2013

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
 Forest Practice
 6105 Airport Road
 Redding, CA 96002

RECORDED
 SEP 06 2013
 REDDING
 FOREST PRACTICE

Re: THP 2-13-031-NEV - Scotts Flat

Dear Mr. Director,

Please replace, add and/or remove the attached pages to this THP as requested by CDF question(s).

- | <u>Item</u> | <u>THP Change</u> |
|-------------|---|
| IRT#8 | Page 34: second paragraph: added, changed, and/or deleted language. |
| PHI#2 | Page 17, 18, 19 & 20: changed fonts. |
| RT#3 | Page 20: added road names. |
| ARCH#5 | Page 72, item P3a: added language. |
| 2RT#1 | Page 18, first paragraph: added, changed and/or deleted language. |
| 2RT#2 | Page 6, winter operating plan: deleted language. |
| 2RT#3 | Page 10: crossing #2 is N/A. |
| 2RT#4 | Page 35, item #35: changed language. |
| 2RT#5 | Page 31, third paragraph: changed language. |
| 2RT#6 | Page 31, third paragraph: changed language. |
| 2RT#7 | Page 36, Soil Productivity: changed/deleted language. |

If you have any questions please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

Pete Walden
 RPF 2001

Meese, Dale@CALFIRE

From: Donald Rivenes <rivenes@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2013 11:38 AM
To: Redding Public Comment@CALFIRE
Subject: Scotts Flat Timber Harvest Plan (THP) No. 2 13 031 NEV(3)
Attachments: FIG Scotts Flat letter.doc



August 26, 2013

RECEIVED
AUG 27 2013
REDDING
FOREST PRACTICE

Forest Issues Group
12826 Newtown Rd
Nevada City, CA 95959

Reviewed by:	<i>[Signature]</i>
Dist by:	
Dist. Date:	
RU	NEV PS
EP 2	<i>[initials]</i>
WQA	TLO
ARCH	LTO
RFP	UMG
MSD	BOE
OTHER:	
FPS	
Status:	ZOC

By Email

Forest Practice Program manager
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE)
6105 Airport Road
Redding, CA 96002
reddingpubliccomment@fire.ca.gov

RE: Comments on THP No. 2-13-031-NEV(3) (Scotts Flat)

To Whom it May Concern:

I am submitting these comments on behalf of Forest Issues Group (FIG) on the Scotts Flat Timber Harvest Plan (THP) No. 2-13-031-NEV(3), proposed by Nevada Irrigation District (NID).

General Comments

FIG is concerned about the impacts on wildlife and other forest resources from the proposed Timber Harvest Plan including proposed guidelines as to conifers left, hardwoods left, downed logs left, percentage of land untouched and canopy reduction.

Purpose and Need

Paragraph 1 in Section III of the THP titled "Purpose and Need" states: "The purpose of this project is to harvest the biomass and some trees at this point in time to: decrease fuel loading, utilize a cost-share agreement to help finance the biomass operation, and capture tree mortality."

This paragraph has multiple points. FIG supports the goal of "decreasing fuel load". But we have some concern on how that is proposed to be implemented.

We are not sure exactly what the terms of the cost-share agreement are, since there is no information provided. This should be included so we can tell if there are any special conditions required by CDF for implementing this project.

We are definitely concerned about the goal of capturing "tree mortality", given the specifications as to the number of trees that at a minimum will be retained. We will provide specific comments in a later section.

Paragraph 2 states: "Harvest of the biomass will significantly help lower the fire danger in this area. This will help in protecting the forest, camping, wildlife, and watershed resources. This will also help in protecting neighboring structures in the area. This protection is a significant objective of the area residents, local and state governments, and NID."

Reducing excess fuel loads is definitely a beneficial goal for the community. However, it is important to focus on what part of the biomass is removed. Large trees are quite fire resistant, so surface fuels and ladder fuels are probably 85% of the material that needs to be removed.

Paragraph 3 states: "The flow of timber products to mills in the area is essential in order to provide jobs for loggers, truckers and mill workers. Harvesting of biomass offsets some of the need for using non-renewable resources for energy generation."

Harvesting biomass does nothing to offset some of the need for using non-renewable resources for energy generation, unless the biomass is transported to a biomass energy facility. FIG sees nothing in the project that guarantees any material will be sent to a facility that will burn the material for energy production.

Those working on creating biomass facilities in Nevada County define a biomass energy project as one which will use **excess** woody biomass from hazard reduction, forest restoration, watershed restoration projects on both public and private lands to reduce onsite burning that produces pollutants. The excess biomass would be used for energy production offsite to reduce fossil fuel use (using trees under 10 inches and surface fuels).

Thus it should be made clear that this is not a biomass project, just because it is "harvesting biomass". It is really a logging project described as "Fuelbreak /Defensible space" that will remove healthy/diseased trees to open up the canopy, along with removal of ladder fuels of various sizes. In the description of alternatives to the project there is no alternative that is strictly a fuel reduction project. Since apparently there is a grant to fund the fuel reduction, then why is there a need to harvest the larger trees?

Specific Comments on Proposed Guidelines

Page 32 of Section III of the THP states:

"(B) Where present prior to operations, the following habitat elements shall be retained as an average across the project area:

1. A minimum of 2 large live cull (green) conifer trees 24" DBH or larger per acre;
2. A minimum of two hardwood trees 24" DBH or larger per acre;
3. A minimum of two downed logs 20" diameter outside bark as measured at the midpoint of the total length of the log or larger per acre; and
4. 2% shall be left as untreated habitat retention surrounding or in direct proximity to the habitat elements identified in 1, 2, and 3 above."

Point 1: A minimum of 2 large live cull (green) conifer trees 24" DBH or larger per acre.

Leaving a minimum of 2 large live cull (green) conifer trees 24" DBH or larger per acre is a very minimal requirement. For example, nearby Forest Service land management is required to leave **all** conifer trees greater than 30" unless a hazardous condition such as trail safety is present.

Page 31 of section III states: "The majority (100% to 70%) of the overstory is in conifers. The DBH's range from, 12' to 50" with heights up to 150'." This requirement could mean that all trees from 25" to 50" would be removed, leaving only 2 trees of 24". It is hard to see how a 40% canopy would be retained. In addition, the plan would be removing the larger, most fire resistant trees that are most likely to be wildlife trees for birds such as California Spotted Owl. The north east parcel largely in T17N, R10E, sec 31 currently is part of a Home Range Core Area for a spotted owl.

Point 2: A minimum of two hardwood trees 24" DBH or larger per acre.

Leaving a minimum of two hardwood trees 24" DBH or larger per acre is an extremely low requirement. For example, from the U.S. Forest Service 2004 Record of Decision (ROD): "During mechanical vegetation treatments, prescribed fire, and salvage operations, retain all large hardwoods on the westside except where: (1) large trees pose an immediate threat to human life or property or (2) losses of large trees are incurred due to prescribed or wildland fire. Large montane hardwoods are trees with a dbh of 12 inches or greater. Large blue oak woodland hardwoods are trees with a dbh of 8 inches or greater. Allow removal of larger hardwood trees (up to 20 inches dbh) if research supports the need to remove larger trees to maintain and enhance the hardwood stand."

Further comment: "Large plants are generally less prone to damage or mortality than small ones. Western conifers like Douglas-fir or Ponderosa pine may grow to over 200 feet and, depending upon stand density, their crowns may be 50 to over 100 feet from the ground. Thus, even relatively intense fires may not damage their crowns. Also, large trees have thick bark that increases resistance to fire, and large hardwood trees sprout more vigorously than small trees when their tops are killed by fire. Large trees are also more likely to produce seed following fire and, thus, provide new seedlings to replace trees killed by fire. Large hardwood trees and shrubs produce larger and more numerous sprouts than small trees and shrubs. Small clones may be killed by intense fire, but large ones are not likely to be killed." *John C. Tappeiner II Professor Emeritus in the Forest Resources Department at Oregon State University.*

Therefore, FIG recommends to leave all large, montane hardwood trees over 12" dbh to help recover this forest component and to provide a base for forest recovery in case of fire.

Point 3: A minimum of two downed logs 20" diameter outside bark as measured at the midpoint of the total length of the log or larger per acre.

A minimum of two downed logs 20" diameter or larger per acre is too low. Page 31 of section III states: "Snags are variable with 0 to 2 per acre." This would indicate that there is a low supply of snags that can be recruited as future downed logs. Further, nothing is said about number of snags per acre to be retained. On page 15 there is a statement (sec33) that "snags will be left except for safety and merchantability considerations". This should be amended to remove "merchantability". A merchantable snag today will become suitable as a downed log in the future.

For comparison, the U.S. Forest Service ROD states: "General guidelines for large-snag retention are for westside mixed conifer and ponderosa pine types - four of the largest snags per acre. Also, Riparian Conservation Objective #3: Ensure a renewable supply of large down logs that: (1) can reach the stream channel and (2) provide suitable habitat within and adjacent to the RCA. Within westside vegetation types, generally retain an average over the treatment unit of 10-15 tons of large down wood per acre."

FIG recommends that NID retain some mid- and large diameter live trees that are currently in decline, have substantial wood defect, or that have desirable characteristics (teakettle branches, large

diameter broken top, large cavities in the bole) to serve as future replacement snags and to provide nesting structure.

Point 4: 2% shall be left as untreated habitat retention surrounding or in direct proximity to the habitat elements identified in 1, 2, and 3 above. This amounts to 6 acres that will be left untouched. Given the presence of streams and current bare land, it would appear that all of the rest of the area will be treated. FIG recommends that areas with sensitive wildlife (spotted owl HRCA) avoid treatment. 10% or 30 untreated acres would be a recommended percent.

California Spotted Owl

As mentioned previously there is a HRCA set up by the Forest Service adjacent to the parcel in T17N, R10E, sec31 of the project. The HRCA and PAC on forest service land appear to be deficient in suitable habitat. Consultation with the FS as to how the NID parcels might contribute to the habitat suitability should be considered.

U.S. Forest Service 2004 ROD states: "Within California spotted owl Home Range Core Areas: Where existing vegetative conditions permit, design projects to retain at least 50 percent canopy cover averaged within the treatment unit."

Brush and shrub patches

FIG recommends the following guideline from the U.S. 2004 Forest Service ROD: "Design mechanical treatments in brush and shrub patches to remove the material necessary to achieve the following outcomes from wildland fire under 90th percentile fire weather conditions: (1) wildland fires would burn with an average flame length of 4 feet or less and (2) fire line production rates would be doubled. Treatments should be effective for more than 5 to 10 years."

Winter operation

Winter operation is scheduled for this harvest. On page 31 of the plan it is indicated that to reduce fuel loading, "small fluffy vegetation" will be reduced by running over it with equipment. This type of activity must be prohibited during winter operation.

Conclusion

The U.S. Forest Service issued a publication in 2009 called "An Ecosystem Management Strategy for Sierran Mixed-Conifer Forests" (PSW GTR-220). It is worth quoting from Page 24 - Managing the Intermediate Size Class:

"What is achieved by thinning intermediate sized (20- to 30-in d.b.h.) trees? Some research suggests that for managing fuels, most of the reduction in fire severity is achieved by reducing surface fuels and thinning smaller ladder-fuel trees (see summaries in Agee et al. 2000, Agee and Skinner 2005, Stephens et al. 2009). What is considered a ladder fuel differs from stand to stand, but typically these are trees in the 10- to 16-in d.b.h. classes. If trees larger than this are thinned, it is important to provide reasons other than for ladder-fuel treatment. These may include additional fuel reduction such as thinning canopy bulk density in strategic locations. Or it could be other ecological objectives such as restoration of an active-fire stand structure, managing for open habitat that includes shrubs, or accelerating the development of large leave trees. Although large trees are often old, studies have found diameter growth increases significantly when high densities of adjacent small stems are removed (Das et al. 2008, Latham and Tappeiner 2002, McDowell et al. 2003, Ritchie et al. 2008,

Skov et.al. 2004). There may be socioeconomic purposes for harvesting intermediate-sized trees such as generating revenue to help pay for fuel treatment or providing merchantable wood for local sawmills (Hartsough et al. 2008). Clear statement of the objectives for thinning intermediate-sized trees will help clarify management intentions. **In conclusion, we feel that the fuel load reduction goals can be met by removal of the smaller ladder fuel trees and brush, removal of white fir and incense cedar to promote the fire resistant pines, and retention of elements such as large conifers and hardwoods, wildlife trees (misshapen/diseased), downed logs, and large snags."**

We feel this clearly supports our recommendations for this THP. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Donald L Rivenes

Donald L Rivenes
Executive Director
Forest Issues Group
12826 Newtown Rd
Nevada City, CA 95959
530-477-7502

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

NORTHERN REGION HEADQUARTERS REDDING

8105 Airport Road
Redding, CA 96002
(530) 224-2445
Website: www.fire.ca.gov

OFFICIAL RESPONSE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
TO SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL POINTS RAISED DURING THE
TIMBER HARVESTING PLAN EVALUATION PROCESS

THP NUMBER: 2-13-031-NEV(3), Scotts Flat THPSUBMITTER: Nevada Irrigation DistrictCOUNTY: NevadaEND OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: September 26, 2013DATE OF OFFICIAL RESPONSE/DATE OF APPROVAL: October 4, 2013

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has prepared the following response to significant environmental points raised during the evaluation of the above-referenced plan. Comments made on like topics were grouped together and addressed in a single response. Where a comment raised a unique topic, a separate response is made. Remarks concerning the validity of the review process for timber operations, questions of law, or topics or concerns so remote or speculative that they could not be reasonably assessed or related to the outcome of a timber operation, have not been addressed.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michael J. Bacca in black ink.

Michael J. Bacca, RPF #2236
Forester III, Cascade, Sierra & Southern
Regions Forest Practice Manager

cc:
Unit Chief NEU
Peter A. Walden, RPF
Nevada Irrigation District, Plan Submitter
Dept. of Fish & Game, Reg. 2
Water Quality, Reg. 5A
Forest Issues Group
Don Seferovich

CONSERVATION IS WISE-KEEP CALIFORNIA GREEN AND GOLDEN

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CONSERVE ENERGY. FOR TIPS AND INFORMATION, VISIT "FLEX YOUR POWER" AT WWW.CA.GOV.

COMMON FOREST PRACTICE ABBREVIATIONS

CAL FIRE	Department of Forestry & Fire Protection	FPR	Forest Practice Rules
CAA	Confidential Archaeological Addendum	LTO	Licensed Timber Operator
CESA	California Endangered Species Act	NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act	PHI	Pre-Harvest Inspection
CIA	Cumulative Impacts Assessment	RPF	Registered Professional Forester
CGS	California Geological Survey	THP	Timber Harvest Plan
CSO	California Spotted Owl	USFS	United States Forest Service
DBH	Diameter at Breast Height	WLPZ	Watercourse/Lake Protection Zone
DFG	Department of Fish & Game	WQ	California Regional Water Quality Control Board
DPR	Department of Pesticide Regulation	PCA	Pest Control Advisor
NSO	Northern Spotted Owl	[SIC]	Word used verbatim as originally printed in another document. May indicate a misspelling or uncommon word usage.
CDFW/DFW	California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife		

NOTIFICATION PROCESS

In order to notify the public of the proposed timber harvesting, and to ascertain whether there are any concerns with the plan, the following actions are automatically taken on each THP submitted to CAL FIRE:

- Notice of the timber operation is sent to all adjacent landowners if the boundary is within 300 feet of the proposed harvesting, (As per 14 CCR § 1032.7(e))
- Notice of the Plan is submitted to the county clerk for posting with the other environmental notices. (14 CCR § 1032.8(a))
- Notice of the plan is posted at the Department's local office and in Cascade Area office in Redding. (14 CCR § 1032))
- Notice is posted with the Secretary for Resources in Sacramento. (14 CCR § 1032.8(c))
- Notice of the THP is sent to those organizations and individuals on the Department's current list for notification of the plans in the county. (14 CCR § 1032.9(b))
- A notice of the proposed timber operation is posted at a conspicuous location on the public road nearest the plan site. (14 CCR § 1032.7(g))

THP REVIEW PROCESS

The laws and regulations that govern the timber harvesting plan (THP) review process are found in Statute law in the form of the Forest Practice Act which is contained in the Public Resources Code (PRC), and Administrative law in the rules of the Board of Forestry (rules) which are contained in the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

The rules are lengthy in scope and detail and provide explicit instructions for permissible and prohibited actions that govern the conduct of timber operations in the field. The major categories covered by the rules include:

- *THP contents and the THP review process
- *Silvicultural methods
- *Harvesting practices and erosion control
- *Site preparation
- *Watercourse and Lake Protection
- *Hazard Reduction
- *Fire Protection
- *Forest insect and disease protection practices
- *Logging roads and landing

When a THP is submitted to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) a multidisciplinary review team conducts the first review team meeting to assess the THP. The review team normally consists of, but is not necessarily limited to, representatives of CAL FIRE, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (WQ). The California Geological Survey (CGS) also reviews THP's for indications of potential slope instability. The purpose of the first review team meeting is to assess the logging plan and determine on a preliminary basis whether it conforms to the rules of the Board of Forestry. Additionally, questions are formulated which are to be answered by a field inspection team.

Next, a preharvest inspection (PHI) is normally conducted to examine the THP area and the logging plan. All review team members may attend, as well as other experts and agency personnel whom CAL FIRE may request. As a result of the PHI, additional recommendations may be formulated to provide greater environmental protection.

After a PHI, a second review team meeting is conducted to examine the field inspection reports and to finalize any additional recommendations or changes in the THP. The review team transmits these recommendations to the RPF, who must respond to each one. The director's representative considers public comment, the adequacy of the registered professional forester's (RPF's) response, and the recommendations of the review team chair before reaching a decision to approve or deny a THP. If a THP is approved, logging may commence. The THP is valid for up to five years, and may be extended under special circumstances for a maximum of 2 years more for a total of 7 years.

Before commencing operations, the plan submitter must notify CAL FIRE. During operations, CAL FIRE periodically inspects the logging area for THP and rule compliance. The number of the inspections will depend upon the plan size, duration, complexity, regeneration method, and the potential for impacts. The contents of the THP and the rules provide the criteria CAL FIRE inspectors use to determine compliance. While CAL FIRE cannot guarantee that a violation will not occur, it is CAL FIRE's policy to pursue vigorously the prompt and positive enforcement of the Forest Practice Act, the forest practice rules, related laws and regulations, and environmental protection measures applying to timber operations on the non-Federally owned lands of the State. This enforcement policy is directed primarily at preventing and deterring forest practice violations, and secondarily at prompt and adequate correction of violations when they occur.

The general means of enforcement of the Forest Practice Act, forest practice rules, and the other related regulations range from the use of violation notices which require corrective

actions, to criminal proceedings through the court system. Timber operator and RPF licensing actions can also be taken.

THP review and assessment is based on the assumption that there will be no violations that will adversely affect water quality or watershed values significantly. Most forest practice violations are correctable and CAL FIRE's enforcement program assures correction. Where non-correctable violations occur, criminal action is usually taken against the offender. Depending on the outcome of the case and the court in which the case is heard, some sort of environmental corrective work is usually done. This is intended to offset non-correctable adverse impacts. Once a THP is completed, a completion report must be submitted certifying that the area meets the requirements of the rules. CAL FIRE inspects the completed area to verify that all the rules have been followed including erosion control work.

Depending on the silvicultural system used, the stocking standards of the rules must be met immediately or in certain cases within five years. A stocking report must be filed to certify that the requirements have been met. If the stocking standards have not been met, the area must be planted annually until it is restored. If the landowner fails to restock the land, CAL FIRE may hire a contractor to complete the work and seek recovery of the cost from the landowner.

The following issues/concerns were raised during the public comment period and are addressed as follows:

Concern #1: FIG is concerned about the impacts on wildlife and other forest resources from the proposed Timber Harvest Plan including proposed guidelines as to conifers left, hardwoods left, downed logs left, percentage of land untouched and canopy reduction.

Response #1: The approved Modified THP complies with the requirements of 14 CCR 1051.3, 1051.4, and 1051.5 (Modified THP for Fuel Hazard Reduction). The approved Modified THP was reviewed by CAL FIRE, DFW, WQ, and CGS. Operations, as proposed in the approved Modified THP, are consistent with the rules and intent of the FPRs and CEQA.

14 CCR 1051.4(a)(10) states; *"No listed species will be directly or indirectly adversely impacted by proposed timber operations. Except as modified herein, all other habitat protection and retention requirements identified in Articles 6 and 9 of the Forest Practice Rules shall apply. Where the Director has determined that timber operations as proposed are likely to adversely affect a state listed species or its habitat, the consultation process with DFG pursuant to California Fish & Game Code § 2081 shall be completed before the MTHP-FHR may be approved."*

The review team members/agencies have determined that no significant impacts shall occur as a result of implementation of the proposed Modified THP.

Concern #2: We are not sure exactly what the terms of the cost-share agreement are, since there is no information provided. This should be included so we can tell if there are any special conditions required by CDF for implementing this project.

Response #2: Issues regarding the legality of cost-share agreements are beyond the purview of the CFPR's. CAL FIRE regulates the harvest of timber on private lands and road use on roads located within the THP boundary which are owned by the subject timberland owner and roads considered appurtenant to the plan. Appurtenant roads are considered those which are appurtenant to the timber operations where such roads are under the ownership or control of the timber owner, timberland owner, timber operator, or submitter of the plan. Issues regarding cost-share agreements are purely Civil in nature and beyond CAL FIRE jurisdiction.

Concern #3 FIG sees nothing in the project that guarantees any material will be sent to a facility that will burn the material for energy production.

Response #3: Issues regarding the destination of forest products harvested from the approved Modified THP are beyond the purview of the CFPR's. CAL FIRE regulates the harvest of timber on private lands and road use on roads located within the THP boundary which are owned by the subject timberland owner and roads considered appurtenant to the plan. Appurtenant roads are considered those which are appurtenant to the timber operations where such roads are under the ownership or control of the timber owner, timberland owner, timber operator, or submitter of the plan. Issues regarding the destination of forest products harvested are beyond CAL FIRE jurisdiction.

Concern #4: In the description of alternatives to the project there is no alternative that is strictly a fuel reduction project. Since apparently there is a grant to fund the fuel reduction, then why is there a need to harvest the larger trees?

Response #4: 14CCR 897(a) states that the RPF shall "consider the range of feasible silvicultural system[s]... provided in these rules in seeking to avoid or substantially lessen significant adverse effects on the environment from timber harvesting." The THP provides the basis for the choice of feasible silvicultural systems. In addition, since CEQA requires the RPF to describe "...a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or to the location of the project which would feasibly obtain most of the basic objectives of the project, or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project..." the discussion constitutes a valid alternatives analysis.

Additionally, 14 CCR 1051.3 states the following: *"The purpose of 14 CCR §§ 1051.3-1051.7 is to encourage forest landowners to consistently manage vegetation to create fire resilient conditions, and reduce the threat, and potentially deleterious effects of unmanaged fire. These fire resilient conditions are to be achieved through the prescribed reduction and spatial rearrangement of surface and ladder fuels as well as thinning to reduce stocking levels and increase vertical and horizontal spacing between standing stems. Operations pursuant to 14 CCR §§ 1051.3-1051.7 are expected to result in project area conditions that reduce the rate of fire spread, duration and intensity of a fire, fuel ignitability, and ignition of tree crowns."*

To meet the above fire resilient conditions as described above the RPF has determined that there a need to harvest some the larger trees. The review team members/agencies have determined that no significant impacts shall occur as a result of implementation of the proposed Modified THP.

Concern #5: FIG recommends to leave all large, montane hardwood trees over 12" dbh to help recover this forest component and to provide a base for forest recovery in case of fire.

FIG recommends that NID retain some mid- and large diameter live trees that are currently in decline, have substantial wood defect, or that have desirable characteristics (teakettle branches, large diameter broken top, large cavities in the bole) to serve as future replacement snags and to provide nesting structure.

FIG recommends the following guideline from the U.S. 2004 Forest Service ROD: "Design mechanical treatments in brush and shrub patches to remove the material necessary to achieve the following outcomes from wildland fire under 90th percentile fire weather conditions: (1) wildland fires would burn with an average flame length of 4 feet or less and (2) fire line production rates would be doubled. Treatments should be effective for more than 5 to 10 years."

In conclusion, we feel that the fuel load reduction goals can be met by removal of the smaller ladder fuel trees and brush, removal of white fir and incense cedar to promote the fire resistant pines, and retention of elements such as large conifers and hardwoods, wildlife trees (misshapen/diseased), downed logs, and large snags."

Response #5: The proposed silvicultural practice applied to this THP has been prescribed as a result of compliance with 14 CCR § 897 (a) and 14 CCR 1051.4(a)(11) (B):

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(a) RPFs who prepare plans shall consider the range of feasible silvicultural system, operating methods and procedures provided in these rules in seeking to avoid or substantially lessen significant adverse effects on the environment from timber harvesting. RPFs shall use these rules for guidance as to which are the most appropriate feasible silvicultural systems, operating methods and procedures which will carry out the intent of the Act.

While giving consideration to measures proposed to reduce or avoid significant adverse impacts of THPs on lands zoned TPZ, the RPF and Director shall include the following legal consideration regarding feasibility:

The Timberland Productivity Act restricts use of lands zoned Timberland Production Zone to growing and harvesting timber and compatible uses and establishes a presumption that timber harvesting is expected to and will occur on such lands.

The Z'Berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 declares under PRC § 4512(c) that "it is the policy of this state to encourage prudent and responsible forest resource management calculated to serve the public's need for timber and other forest products, while giving consideration to the public's need for watershed protection, fisheries and wildlife, and recreational opportunities alike in this and future generations." It further states under PRC § 4513 "Intent of the Legislature" that "(a) Where feasible, the productivity of timberlands is

restored, enhanced, and maintained" and (b) The goal of maximum sustained production of high-quality timber products is achieved while giving consideration to values relating to recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, fisheries, regional economic vitality, employment, and aesthetic enjoyment". This plan complies with the intent of the Forest Practice Act by adhering to the forest practice rules and incorporating additional mitigations for other forest values when and where necessary as appropriate.

Additionally the plan complies with 14 CCR 1051.4(a)(11) (B) that states; *"Where present prior to operations, the following habitat elements shall be retained as an average across the project area:*

- 1. A minimum of 2 large live cull (green) conifer trees 24" dbh or larger per acre;*
- 2. A minimum of two hardwood trees 24" dbh or larger per acre;*
- 3. A minimum of two downed logs 20" diameter outside bark as measured at the midpoint of the total length of the log or larger per acre; and*
- 4. 2% shall be left as untreated habitat retention surrounding or in direct proximity to the habitat elements identified in 1, 2, and 3 above."*

As already stated, the approved Modified THP complies with the requirements and or intent of 14 CCR 1051.3, 1051.4, and 1051.5 (Modified THP for Fuel Hazard Reduction). The review team members/agencies have determined that no significant impacts shall occur as a result of implementation of the proposed Modified THP.

Concern #6 California Spotted Owl: As mentioned previously there is a HRCA set up by the Forest Service adjacent to the parcel in T17N, R10E, sec31 of the project. The HRCA and PAC on forest service land appear to be deficient in suitable habitat. Consultation with the FS as to how the NID parcels might contribute to the habitat suitability should be considered.

U.S. Forest Service 2004 ROD states: "Within California spotted owl Home Range Core Areas: Where existing vegetative conditions permit, design projects to retain at least 50 percent canopy cover averaged within the treatment unit."

Response #6: : When considering potential impacts to the CSO, CAL FIRE has taken into consideration a broad range of information sources, including federal, state and in-house resources.

A new study conducted by the USFWS determined the following:

"Spotted owls in the Sierra Nevada have shown increased survival during the past 16 years, and with the exception of one study area which showed a decline that was not statistically significant, spotted owl populations in the Sierras are not declining. This indicates that, in general, spotted owls in the Sierras have not been greatly impacted by private timber harvesting, and there is sufficient quality and quantity of habitat to allow for essential life history functions." (USDI 2006 Pages 29900-29901) [Emphasis Added]

As it relates to the potential for harvests on private timberlands to impact the species, USFWS also said the following:

"To summarize, the best-available data indicate that timber harvest as conducted on private lands includes adequate safeguards to protect spotted owls and their habitat. Such safeguards include pre-harvest surveys to detect owls that may be present in the area, a no-cut unit around spotted owl territory-centers, retention of snags and downed wood, and a policy that protects forest units with nesting owls in the foreseeable future. Therefore, we do not anticipate that private lands practices will threaten the continued existence of the California spotted owl in the foreseeable future." (USDI 2006 Page 29898) [Emphasis Added]

The USFWS made the following findings relative to the need for listing of the CSO:

"We have carefully assessed the best scientific and commercial information available regarding the past, present, and future threats faced by the California spotted owl. On the basis of this review, we find that the listing of the California spotted owl is not warranted at this time because:

- (1) The best-available data indicate that California spotted owl populations are stationary throughout the Sierras, which contain 81% of known California spotted owl territories. In fact, there was no strong evidence for decreasing linear trends in the finite rate of population growth (λ) on any of the four Sierra Nevada study areas, adult survival showed an increasing trend throughout the Sierras, and modeling of realized population change for the four Sierra Nevada study areas combined indicated that total spotted owl numbers did not decrease over time. Additionally, the best available data for southern California owls (the San Bernardino study area) showed that the population was statistically stationary.
- (2) We anticipate that planned and currently implemented fuels-reduction activities in the Sierras and in southern California will have a long-term benefit to California spotted owls by reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire. As stated above, a primary threat to spotted owls is loss of habitat and subsequent population losses of spotted owls due to stand-replacing fire in unnaturally dense forest stands (USFS 2004a; 2005a).
- (3) Although survey data for spotted owls in southern California are incomplete, the best-available data do not show statistically significant declines. Barred owls have not been detected in the mountains of southern California, and they have moved into the Sierras at much slower rates than they did in other parts of western North America. Moreover, numbers of barred owls are only about 2 percent of California spotted owl numbers in the Sierras.
- (4) The largest private landholder, SPI, offers protection of spotted owls on their lands (Murphy in litt. 2006). SPI conducts surveys for spotted owls prior to harvest, establishes 6.5–11 ha (16–28 ac) no-cut unit buffers around each territory-center, and protects forest units with nesting spotted owls from harvest altogether. Moreover, during the next 100 years, SPI estimates that, as their forests mature, habitat with nest-site characteristics will more than double from 25 to 53 percent of all California spotted owl habitat on SPI land.

We conclude that impacts from fires, fuels treatments, timber harvest, and other activities are not at a scale, magnitude, or intensity that warrants listing, and that the overall magnitude of threats to the California spotted owl does not rise to the level that requires the protections of the Act."

It is important to point out that the CSO is not a listed species and does not receive the same protections as those afforded the Northern Spotted Owl (NSO). THP page 15 contains language for the protection of non-listed raptors, should one be located in the THP area.

CAL FIRE, after careful review of the information provided both in the record and obtained through additional research, has determined that operations as proposed are not likely to create significant adverse impacts to the CSO.

Concern #7 Winter operation is scheduled for this harvest. On page 31 of the plan it is indicated that to reduce fuel loading, "small fluffy vegetation" will be reduced by running over it with equipment. This type of activity must be prohibited during winter operation.

Response #7: The Forest Practice Rules allow for winter operations including the use of haul roads on THP's with a hazard rating other than low. However, specific measures are to be taken during winter timber operations and must be included in the plan, as per 14 CCR § 934.7. A full winter operation plan was chosen for this THP. The winter operations plan as required per 14 CCR 934.7(b) is located on THP pages 7-8. This plan addresses all the subjects required. CAL FIRE inspections ensure that timber operations comply with all provisions specified in the plan, including winter operations.

According to pages 7-8 of the THP, timber operations may take place within the winter period if appropriate conditions exist. Harvest activities which may occur during the winter period include felling timber, skidding, loading, and hauling. Proposed winter operations were evaluated during the PHI by CAL FIRE and WQ. It is not the landowners intent to conduct full scale operations during the winter period but to provide flexibility should extended dry periods exist in the fall operating season.

The Department makes periodic field inspections to check for THP and rule compliance. The number of inspections depends upon the plan size, duration, complexity, and the potential for adverse impacts. Inspections include but are not limited to inspections during operations pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) section 4604, inspections of completed work pursuant to PRC section 4586, erosion control monitoring as per PRC section 4585(a), and stocking inspection as per PRC section 4588.

The contents of the THP, the Forest Practice Act, and rules provide the criteria which CAL FIRE inspectors use to determine compliance. While the Department cannot guarantee that there will be no violations, it is the Department's policy to vigorously pursue the prompt and positive enforcement of the Forest Practice Act, the Forest Practice Rules, related laws and regulations, and environmental protection measures that apply to timber operations on non-federal land in California. This enforcement is directed primarily at preventing forest practice violations, and secondarily at prompt and adequate correction of violations if they occur.

Concern #8: An adjacent landowner submitted a letter of concern about the personal safety, wear and tear, and outright damage to a common road way that is utilized by the adjacent landowners for public access to their homes and property. This road is about a 2 mile stretch of Casci Ranch Road extending from the Marina entrance at Scotts Flat Road to just beyond the end of the asphalt portion of Casci. This is on the Hwy 20 side of the Lake.

Response #8: Issues regarding the legality of easements and road use on non-appurtenant roads are beyond the purview of the CFPR's. CAL FIRE regulates the harvest of timber on private lands and road use on roads located within the THP boundary which are owned by the subject timberland owner and roads considered appurtenant to the plan. Appurtenant roads are considered those which are appurtenant to the timber operations where such roads are under the ownership or control of the timber owner, timberland owner, timber operator, or submitter of the plan. Issues regarding the use of non-appurtenant roads located outside of the THP boundary are purely Civil in nature and beyond CAL FIRE jurisdiction.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The Department recognizes its responsibility under the Forest Practice Act (FPA) and CEQA to determine whether environmental impacts will be significant and adverse. In the case of the management regime which is part of the THP, significant adverse impacts associated with the proposed application over the 100-year planning horizon are not anticipated. Furthermore, the Department has concluded that the impacts from implementation of this management regime will have a net benefit from a climate perspective.

CAL FIRE has considered that, if the stands were left unmanaged they would return to the "old growth" state and in that state would be sequestering more carbon. In isolation this argument may have some validity. However, timber management is not a closed system. Timber is harvested to meet a demand. In California the demand for wood products results in 5 to 7 billion board feet of lumber imports into the state each year. The impact of taking timberlands out of production in California simply shifts the harvest to another state or country. Assuming a similar carbon balance for the stands where the imported products are grown and manufactured, this would add additional use of fossil fuel for the transportation of the wood products into the state.

CAL FIRE has reviewed the potential impacts from the harvest and reviewed concerns from the public and finds that there will be no expected significant adverse environmental impacts from timber harvesting as described in the Official Response above. Mitigation measures contained in the plan and in the Forest Practice Rules adequately address potential significant adverse environmental effects.

CAL FIRE has considered all pertinent evidence and has determined that no significant adverse cumulative impacts are likely to result from implementing this THP. Pertinent evidence includes, but is not limited to the assessment done by the plan submitter in the watershed and biological assessment area and the knowledge that CAL FIRE has regarding activities that have occurred in the assessment area and surrounding areas where activities could potentially combine to create a significant cumulative impact. This determination is based on the

framework provided by the FPA, CCR's, and additional mitigation measures specific to this THP.

CAL FIRE has supplemented the information contained in this THP in conformance with Title 14 CCR § 898, by considering and making known the data and reports which have been submitted from other agencies that reviewed the plan; by considering pertinent information from other timber harvesting documents including THP's, emergency notices, exemption notices, management plans, etc. and including project review documents from other non-CAL FIRE state, local and federal agencies where appropriate; by considering information from aerial photos and GIS databases and by considering information from the CAL FIRE maintained timber harvesting database; by technical knowledge of unit foresters who have reviewed numerous other timber harvesting operations; by reviewing technical publications and participating in research gathering efforts, and participating in training related to the effects of timber harvesting on forest values; by considering and making available to the RPF who prepares THP's, information submitted by the public.

CAL FIRE further finds that all pertinent issues and substantial questions raised by the public and submitted in writing are addressed in this Official Response. Copies of this response are mailed to those who submitted comments in writing with a return address.

ALL CONCERNS RAISED WERE REVIEWED AND ADDRESSED. ALONG WITH THE FRAMEWORK PROVIDED BY THE FOREST PRACTICE ACT AND THE RULES OF THE BOARD OF FORESTRY, AND THE ADDITION OF THE MITIGATION MEASURES SPECIFIC TO THIS THP, THE DEPARTMENT HAS DETERMINED THAT THERE WILL BE NO SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACTS RESULTING FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS THP.