

Land Stewardship Proposal for the Blue Lakes Planning Unit of the  
Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Area by the Eldorado National  
Forest

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The Eldorado National Forest is managed by the USDA Forest Service, a federal government agency in the Department of Agriculture.

## **Executive Summary**

The Forest Service is a Federal Agency in the Department of Agriculture and was established in 1905. The Forest Service manages 193 million acres of public lands, known collectively as the National Forest System and consisting of 155 National Forests and 20 National Grasslands, located in 44 States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The lands comprise 8.5 percent of the total land area in the United States. The natural resources on these lands are some of the Nation's greatest assets and have major economic, environmental, and social significance for all Americans.

The Eldorado National Forest (ENF), established in 1910, is located in the central Sierra Nevada. Portions of Alpine, Amador, El Dorado, and Placer counties lie within the Forest Boundary. The forest is bordered on the north by the Tahoe National Forest, on the east by the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, on the southeast by the Toiyabe National Forest, and to the south by the Stanislaus National Forest. The Forest ranges in elevation from 1,000 feet in the foothills to more than 10,000 feet above sea level along the Sierra crest. The mountainous topography is broken by the steep canyons of the Mokelumne, Cosumnes, American, and Rubicon rivers.

The Forest Service is interested in gaining fee title to all available parcels in the Blue Lakes Planning Unit. Acquisition of the parcels would allow for consolidated, consistent management of the ecological, recreational, cultural, and historical resources contained in the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed. Many visitors to this area are unaware that they are traveling through both public and private lands. Therefore, it is essential that baseline management activities continue in the seamless fashion developed through years of collaboration between the ENF and PG&E. The management direction for the adjacent National Forest lands is consistent with the management objectives of the Volume II Planning Unit Recommended Concepts of the Stewardship Council's Land Conservation Plan

The ENF proposes to manage the Blue Lakes Planning Unit parcels holistically with the adjacent National Forest lands within the entire Blue Lakes, Mokelumne Wilderness, Indian Valley landscape. This landscape would become the Blue Lakes Management Area. The Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) would be amended to incorporate this management area and specific management direction, standards, and guidelines would be developed that incorporate the BPVs developed by the Stewardship Council. This management area would emphasize that, to the extent allowed by law, management and decision making will strive for a balance of the natural, cultural, social and economic values within this landscape. Additionally, all management decisions would be developed in cooperation with the public, Alpine County, the Washoe Tribe, PG&E, and the surrounding National Forests to ensure that the views of all interested parties are considered. The following Forest Goals and Management Emphasis contained in the Forest Plan would apply.

**Diversity**—Maintain or increase diversity of plants and animals, with a balance of vegetation types currently represented on the Forest which best provide for meeting the resource goals and objectives of the Forest Plan.

**Fish and Wildlife**—Provide habitat for viable populations of all native and desired nonnative wildlife, fish and plants. Maintain and improve habitat for Threatened and Endangered species

and give special attention to sensitive species to see that they do not become Federally listed as Threatened or Endangered.

**Riparian**—Manage riparian areas to protect or improve riparian area-dependent resources while allowing for management of other compatible uses.

**Sensitive Plants**—Manage sensitive plants to ensure continued population viability and prevent them from becoming Federally listed as Threatened or Endangered.

**Recreation** – Recreation uses and activities would be managed to preserve traditional uses and the transitional experience that currently exists as visitors move from the developed facilities (campgrounds, parking areas, and boat ramps) into the undeveloped primitive experience offered by the Mokelumne Wilderness, the Pacific Crest Trail and the Deer Valley OHV trail.

The ENF has a great capacity to manage the resources associated with the parcels in the Blue Lakes Planning Unit. The ENF employs around 225 permanent employees and 75-100 additional temporary employees that are typically hired during the summer months. The Forest maintains a base of professional, technical and administrative expertise and is also able to draw on the experience and expertise of over 1000 Forest Service professionals within California. Employee expertise includes biologists, botanists, fuels planners, firefighters, foresters, archeologists, hydrologists, soils scientists, geologists, entomologists, ecologists, range conservationists, recreation specialists, landscape architects, public affairs specialists, interpretive/conservation education specialists, geographic information specialists, and engineers.

The Eldorado National Forest, with an annual budget of around \$49 Million, receives funding from a variety of sources, including appropriated dollars from Congress, grants, public/private partnerships and timber receipts. The funding is allocated to projects based on Forest priorities, funding stipulations, and the availability of staff and partners to accomplish the work. The ENF prides itself on the efficient management of Forest resources with individual staff managers collaborating and sharing funds to accomplish multiple goals through a single project.

## **Rationale for Applying**

The Blue Lakes Planning Unit parcels are wholly contained within the boundary of the Eldorado National Forest (ENF). Acquisition of the parcels would allow for consolidated, consistent management of the ecological, recreational, cultural, and historical resources contained in the proposed Blue Lakes Management Area. The management direction for the adjacent National Forest lands is consistent with the management objectives of the Volume II Planning Unit Recommended Concepts of the Stewardship Council's Land Conservation Plan for all three planning areas. Additionally, proposed recreation uses are consistent with uses the ENF would authorize.

The lands in the Blue Lakes Planning Unit border and provide access to the Mokelumne Wilderness and the Pacific Crest Trail. The Eldorado Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) requires us to maintain a roaded natural type setting that provides a range of recreation opportunities and experiences. That designation directs us to accommodate both motorized and non-motorized travel and make it compatible with the protection of wildlife, water, and soil resources. Acquiring these lands would allow the ENF to provide quality recreation opportunities to the American people while still protecting the integrity of the Wilderness, as mandated by Congress.

On August 2, 2010, the Stewardship Council announced that they are recommending to their Board of Directors that certain PG&E lands be awarded to the Forest Service and BLM. The announcement stated that lands to be donated to the two agencies "include those properties where watershed lands available for donation are bordered on two sides or more by lands currently owned and managed by the USFS or BLM, and where introduction of a new landowner would potentially complicate land management with the potential for little or no assurance of increased preservation or enhancement of the beneficial public values of the donated lands". All of the lands that are available for donation in the Blue Lakes management area meet those criteria for donation to the Forest Service. We concur that introduction of an additional landowner would complicate management without any apparent benefit to the affected resources.

The ENF has the resources and the expertise to protect the resource values of the above parcels and provide a seamless transition to managing the campgrounds and trails that would leave the public unaffected. Acquisition would allow for greater biological and physical connectivity through consistent management with adjacent lands managed by the ENF.

## **Organization Mission**

Established in 1905, the USDA Forest Service manages 193 million acres of public lands in national forests and grasslands. The mission of the Forest Service (FS) is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Congress directs the FS to manage national forests for multiple uses and benefits and for the sustained yield of renewable resources such as water, forage, wildlife, wood and recreation. The Eldorado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan direction for national forest land surrounding the available parcels in the Mokelumne River Watershed Area (available upon request) provides management direction and goals that closely mirror the Stewardship Council Public Values.

**Recreation** – Provide a wide range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities that meet projected demand. Stress simpler, more natural recreation experiences over dense sophisticated developments.

**Species Viability** – Maintain and restore habitat to support viable populations of native and desired non-native plant, invertebrate and vertebrate riparian-dependent species. Prevent new introductions of invasive species. Where invasive species are adversely affecting the viability of native species, work cooperatively with appropriate State and Federal wildlife agencies to reduce impacts to native populations

**Plant and Animal Diversity** – Maintain and restore the species composition and structural diversity of plant and animal communities in riparian areas, wetlands, and meadows to provide desired habitats and ecological functions.

**Fire and Fuels Management** – Strategically place fuels treatments across the landscape to interrupt fire spread and achieve conditions that: (1) reduce the size and severity of wildfire and (2) result in stand densities necessary for healthy forests during drought conditions.

**Water Quality** – Maintain and restore water quality to meet the goals of the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act, providing water that is fishable, swimmable, and suitable for drinking after normal treatment.

**Cultural Resources** – Locate, preserve and enhance representative historical and archaeological properties that typify the social and economic evolution of Forest lands and cultures.

**Streamflow Patterns and Sediment Regimes** – Maintain and restore in-stream flows sufficient to sustain desired conditions of riparian, aquatic, wetland, and meadow habitats and keep sediment regimes as close as possible to those with which aquatic and riparian biota evolved.

**Wilderness** – Maintain a lasting system of quality Wilderness for public use and appreciation of the unique characteristics of wilderness, consistent with preserving its values.

**Stream Banks and Shorelines:** Maintain and restore the physical structure and condition of stream banks and shorelines to minimize erosion and sustain desired habitat diversity.

## **Geographic Focus**

The planning units of interest are surrounded by public lands administered by the Amador Ranger District of the Eldorado National Forest (ENF). The Amador Ranger District manages approximately 165,000 acres of the 600,000 acre ENF. This year the ENF is proud to celebrate 100 years of managing these adjacent lands. ENF staff have a demonstrated history of quality land resource management for a broad range of ecological, economic and social benefits, including such services and activities as: developed and dispersed recreation opportunities; wilderness and wild and scenic rivers management; archeological and historical resource protection and management; wildland fire protection, prevention and suppression; interpretive and conservation education; motorized and non-motorized recreation experiences; law enforcement; special use permitted activities (resorts, organization camps, recreation residences, communication sites, events, outfitting and guiding services, etc.); mining, grazing and vegetation management; wildlife and aquatic species habitat protection and enhancement; protection of sensitive botanical resources; and trail and road construction and maintenance.

The ENF receives an estimated 2,115,000 recreation visits annually (Source: National Visitor Use Monitoring data). The majority of those visitors are coming from the local surrounding counties and Sacramento. The most popular activities reported by Forest visitors are viewing natural features, relaxing, hiking, downhill skiing, viewing wildlife, driving for pleasure and fishing. The Amador Ranger District is also home to the 104,461 acre Mokelumne Wilderness, 59,865 acres of which are in the ENF. Visitation to much of the Mokelumne Wilderness is generally light because of its ruggedness and remoteness. Annual use of the ENF portion of the Mokelumne Wilderness is estimated at about 2,000 overnight visitors and 25,000 day use visitors. Highway 88 serves as the primary access for visitors to Mokelumne Wilderness trailheads. This type of data collecting allows the ENF to tailor recreation activities and facilities to best serve the visiting public.

The ENF is located within Alpine, Amador, El Dorado, and Placer counties. Each District Ranger and the Forest Supervisor regularly communicate and interact with a variety of governmental and non-governmental organizations, including the Tribes, elected officials (County, State and Federal), user groups, environmental groups, permit holders, in short, anybody interested in the management of their public lands. The Forest is not only a major employer, but also contributes to the local economies through the delivery of goods and services that support local and regional businesses and through contracts and permits issued for a wide range of goods and services.

## **Organizational Experience and Capacity**

The ENF has a great capacity to manage the resources associated with the parcels in the Blue Lakes Area. The ENF employs around 225 permanent employees and 75-100 additional temporary employees that are typically hired during the summer months. The Forest maintains a base of professional, technical and administrative expertise and is also able to draw on the experience and expertise of over 1000 Forest Service professionals within California. Employee expertise includes biologists, botanists, fuels planners, firefighters, foresters, archeologists, hydrologists, soils scientists, geologists, entomologists, ecologists, range conservationists, recreation specialists, landscape architects, public affairs specialists, interpretive/conservation education specialists, geographic information specialists, and engineers.

Provided below are three specific projects that illustrate the ENF's capacity to manage and enhance resource values associated with the above parcels, as well as collaborate with a diverse group of stakeholders:

**Mokelumne River Hydroelectric Project Relicensing:** In June 1999, the Forest Service participated in a diverse group of federal and state agencies, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E, licensee for the Mokelumne River Hydroelectric Project), and several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that entered into a one-year collaborative process to attempt to reach settlement on issues related to streamflows for the Mokelumne River Hydroelectric Project relicensing.

Renewal of the Project's license had been on an annual basis for more than two decades, partly because of disagreement among the agencies, the NGOs, and PG&E on license terms related to differing opinions on the amount of information needed to establish new streamflow requirements. The Forest Service was a key participant in the negotiations to yield an overall agreement and provided aquatic and recreation expertise that were important in reaching a Settlement, the measures of which were included in the new license issued in 2001. The Forest Service has continued to participate as a liaison to an Ecological Resources Committee, which was established as part of the Settlement and license. Implementation of an extensive monitoring program and adaptive management measures were key features that led to the Settlement, and the Forest Service continues to provide technical expertise as these programs are implemented. Trust and personal and professional respect that were developed during the yearlong effort was important to the resolution of the key differences during the collaborative process and continues to be important today as the license is implemented.

**Oski Bear Fuels Reduction Project:** The Oski Bear Project (Project) area is located on the Amador Ranger District, in close proximity or adjacent to the Bear River Recreational Residence Tract, several campgrounds, organizational camps, and the Bear River Resort; all which are occupied during the summer months on a near continuous basis. The Project location was first determined during the Mokelumne Stewardship and Firedshed Assessment, an interdisciplinary and collaborative process for designing and scheduling fuel treatment opportunities. The initial project meeting was attended by representatives of the East Bay Municipal Water District, the Foothill Conservancy, PG&E, the Central Sierra Resource and Conservation District, and Amador Ranger District staff. During the Project design and public scoping phase, presentations were made at several quarterly ENF collaborative monitoring meetings attended by members of

the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council, the Amador County Fire Safe Council, the American Forest Resource Council, the California Forestry Association, members from local industry, representatives from the California Department of Forestry, and representatives from the ENF.

The Project was put into place to reduce the spread and intensity of wildland fire and reduce overstocked stands by thinning the understory. During the design phase of the Project, the Amador District looked at Deer Valley Meadow and saw that the meadow has been reduced in size by roughly 50% since 1940 and plant vigor within the meadow was unhealthy. Recognizing that montane meadows such as Dear Valley support distinctive plant and animal communities, provide habitat and summer forage for wildlife and offer unique recreational opportunities, the enhancement of the meadow was made part of the Project. A design criterion for the meadow enhancement specifically addresses the accelerated run-off from a nearby road, unauthorized vehicle traffic into the meadow, and conifer encroachment at the meadow's edge. The holistic and transparent approach that the ENF and the Amador Ranger District applied to the Oski Bear Fuel Reduction and Forest Health Project is a reliable indicator that the proposed parcels in the Upper Mokelumne River Area, including the Cole Creek Unit, will be evaluated and cared for in a similar manner.

**Travel Management Project:** In 2005, the Forest Service published the Travel Management Rule which required all National Forests to designate a system of roads and trails open to motor vehicle use. Motorized travel off of designated routes would be prohibited. The regulations were developed in recognition of the impacts from unmanaged motor vehicle use on National Forests, and their associated resource impact concerns. This project was controversial by its very nature, with motorized recreationists pushing for more routes, while conservationists pushed for fewer routes. Concurrently, the ENF was under a Federal Court order from a previous attempt to designate a motorized route system that required us to publish a decision by the end of 2007.

As a result of the aggressive court timeline set for the ENF, a public involvement schedule and process was developed to ensure ample opportunity for public involvement throughout the NEPA process. The process focused on being open, honest, and transparent. The primary objectives of this level of involvement were to: (1) engage and involve the public to every extent possible; (2) provide insight to internal decision-making processes to help build understanding and trust; (3) help the public learn, understand, and build knowledge about the process so that they could be effective participants; and (4) have proactive outreach and innovative public meetings to provide additional opportunity for public input to and discussion with agency officials.

Due to the thousands of people that attended meetings, conference calls, and field trips; the large number of comments submitted during all phases of the project; and the use of email, snail mail, web sites, field trips, open houses, biweekly conference calls, and one on one meetings, the ENF was able to reach a decision that protected Forest resources, such as meadows and sensitive plants, yet provided over 1,800 miles of motorized routes for visitor's enjoyment. In the end not everyone was happy, as is often the case with compromise, but this project is a prime example of the capacity of the ENF to balance the often conflicting goals of protecting natural resources while providing a plethora of recreation opportunities.

## **Location, size, length of time held, uses, and current management practices for National Forest System Land**

The Forest Service is a Federal Agency in the Department of Agriculture and was established in 1905. The Forest Service manages 193 million acres of public lands, known collectively as the National Forest System and consisting of 155 National Forests and 20 National Grasslands, located in 44 States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The lands comprise 8.5 percent of the total land area in the United States. The natural resources on these lands are some of the Nation's greatest assets and have major economic, environmental, and social significance for all Americans.

With a national headquarters in Washington, D.C., the Forest Service operates through nine geographical regions around the country. The Pacific Southwest Region consists of the eighteen National Forests in California and manages 20 million acres. The Eldorado National Forest is located in the central Sierra Nevada and is about 600,000 acres in size. Portions of Alpine, Amador, El Dorado, and Placer counties lie within the Forest Boundary. The forest is bordered on the north by the Tahoe National Forest, on the east by the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, on the southeast by the Toiyabe National Forest, and to the south by the Stanislaus National Forest.

The mission of the Forest Service is “to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.” In short, it’s “caring for the land and serving people.” Congress directs the Forest Service to manage national forests for multiple uses and benefits and for the sustained yield of renewable resources such as water, forage, wildlife, wood and recreation.

The National Forest Management Act of 1976 required the Secretary of Agriculture to assess forest lands and develop and implement a resource management plan for each unit of the National Forest System. The Eldorado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was completed in 1989. The Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision, completed in 2005, provide additional analysis and management direction for a wide range of activities, including old growth forest ecosystems, aquatic, riparian and meadow ecosystems, fire and fuel management, noxious weeds, and Sierran mixed conifer ecosystems.

Forest Plan direction, in conjunction with the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment, for national forest land surrounding land in the Blue Lakes Planning Unit provides management direction and goals that we believe are consistent with the Stewardship Council’s Beneficial Public Values (BPV). A complete copy of the Eldorado Forest Plan Direction is available at [www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/) and upon request. A copy of the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment is also available upon request.

Law, policy, and regulation governing the management of public lands by the Forest Service, along with the Forest Plan provides significant protection and assurances for the sustainability and enhancement of the ecological and socioeconomic values on all Eldorado National Forest lands for the use and enjoyment of the American people for present and future generations.

## **Organizational Finances**

The Eldorado National Forest receives funding from a variety of sources, including appropriated dollars from Congress, grants, public/private partnerships and timber receipts. The funding is allocated to projects based on Forest priorities, funding stipulations, and the availability of staff and partners to accomplish the work. The ENF prides itself on the efficient management of Forest resources with individual staff managers collaborating and sharing funds to accomplish multiple goals through a single project.

Appendix B provides the following financial information:

- Eldorado National Forest Fiscal Year 2010 budget allocation (1 spreadsheet)
- Eldorado National Forest expenses for fiscal years 2007-2009 (3 spreadsheets).

The multiple use mandate of the Forest Service requires that all land management activities be undertaken in a holistic manner. Therefore, land management planning is accomplished using an interdisciplinary team approach. Depending on the project, these teams can include terrestrial and aquatic wildlife biologists, botanists, hydrologists, recreation specialists, wildland firefighters, and other disciplines as needed. Because of our interdisciplinary team approach, management according to the guidance of the Forest Plan is assured. The lands would become the National Forest land, protected in perpetuity for all Americans to enjoy, with their management entrusted to the entire staff of the ENF.

The only restrictions to funds provided by the Stewardship Council on donated lands would be if the funded activities are prohibited by laws, regulations, policy, or the LRMP. The ENF would work closely with the Stewardship Council early on to ensure that any proposed activities to be funded by the Stewardship Council are allowed.

## **Key Personnel**

The National Forest System, one arm of the USDA Forest Service, consists of a hierarchy of four levels of organization: from the Washington Office, Regional Offices, Forest Supervisor Office and Ranger Districts. In general, Washington and Regional Offices set overall vision and policy, and the Forest and Ranger District accomplish specific projects to that meet agency goals. The history and culture of the Forest Service, which sets it apart from many other agencies, emphasizes decision making at the Forest and Ranger District level so that management can be tailored to local conditions.

The top level of management for the Forest Service is located in the Washington Office and managed by the Chief of the Forest Service, Tom Tidwell. Next, there are nine Regions across the United States which are managed by a Regional Forester. The Pacific Southwest Region includes the National Forests in California and the Pacific Islands; managed by Regional Forest Randy Moore. There are 18 National Forests in California, each of which is managed by a Forest Supervisor. Each National Forest is composed of Ranger Districts, managed by a District Ranger, who has the closest connection to the actions occurring on the National Forest land under their direction.

The parcels in the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Area are located with the Amador Ranger District of the Eldorado National Forest. The Amador Ranger District encompasses 165,000 acres and is under the direction of District Ranger Doug Barber. Doug, who would serve as the lead personnel for the requested parcels, has worked for the Federal Government for over 35 years. Twenty seven of those have been with the Forest Service. Overall management of the Eldorado National Forest is under the direction of Forest Supervisor Ramiro Villalvazo. Ramiro has worked for the Forest Service for 29 years and would fulfill the role of Executive Director.

Due to the large number of staff that could serve key roles in the management of the requested parcels, only the resumes of the District Ranger and Forest Supervisor are attached. However, the roles and responsibilities of staff members generally involved in program management and project planning are described below.

**District Ranger** – The district ranger administers a complex ranger district characterized by a number of significant multiple-use resource values in the areas of budget, human resources, administration, procurement, and resources. The ranger participates with the forest supervisor, primary forest staff, and other district rangers in developing and organizing forest policies and programs; develops, organizes, and implements functional long-range planning and short-range action plans; revises program operations for consistency with strategies and program emphasis; and coordinates inter- and intra-agency resource management planning efforts.

**Archeologist** – The district archeologist plans, coordinates, and directs the heritage program for the ranger district. This includes providing technical support in inventory and management of cultural resources under jurisdiction of the Forest Service. The archeologist provides advice on identification and management of cultural resources and designs inventory strategies as part of the land use planning process based on protocols, priorities and needs. This person prepares and reviews archeological reports as part of project planning to evaluate the quality of the inventory, the completeness of the report, and the significance of cultural sites found. This includes internal

reports as well as third party contract reports. The archeologist determines eligibility of historical properties for the National Register of Historic Places, provides cultural resource management orientation to Forest Service personnel on statutes, regulations and purpose of work to be performed, and interprets cultural resources to the public and professional contacts through presentations at visitor facilities, professional journals, etc.

**Recreation Officer** – The district recreation officer administers all recreation activities on the forest, including hiking, camping, picnicking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, wood gathering, motorized recreation, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.

**Timber Officer** – The timber officer is responsible for the planning and implementation of the vegetation management program for the forest. This includes overseeing the development, planning, and implementation of stewardship contracts, leading a forest wide reforestation program focused on reforesting areas burned by wildfire.

**Fuels Officer** – The district fuels officer supports a large fuels management program responsible for developing fuels reduction projects and prescribed burn plans, and ensuring safe ignitions are performed under proper conditions.

**Wildlife Biologist** – The district wildlife biologist provides technical advice and assistance in the implementation and evaluation of wildlife resource management programs and projects. Consultations involve assessment of wildlife resources, species, habitats, environmental impacts, biological evaluations, and related regulatory requirements and compliance guidelines. This staff member manages, coordinates, or provides technical support to wildlife, vegetation and biological resource programs and projects; develops or participates in the development of policy and planning for the organization, and participates in the conduct of scientific studies and projects, in management investigations, and/or in wildlife resource surveys.

## **Community Engagement and Collaboration**

The Eldorado National Forest has a long history of partnering with volunteers, local governments, youth groups, conservation groups, and tribes on projects in which we share a common goal. These projects have centered on all aspects of land management, including trail maintenance, habitat restoration, interpretation, and cultural resource maintenance and enhancement. In addition, the National Environmental Policy Act requires the Forest Service to involve all interested parties when planning projects that may negatively impact National Forest lands. The National Forest Management Act requires each National Forest to develop a Land and Resource Management plan prepared with public involvement. The ENF is open to meeting with any and all groups interested in partnering on projects located in the Lower Bear area. The following are two examples of collaborative efforts in which the ENF is currently engaged.

**Amador – Calaveras Consensus Group** The Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG) is a diverse community based collaborative effort working to create healthy forests and watersheds, fire-safe communities, and sustainable local economies. The Group operates within California's Amador and Calaveras Counties in and adjacent to the Upper Mokelumne River watershed. The ENF is a charter member of this model of grass roots collaboration. The ACCG consists of federal, state, and local government representatives; environmental groups; local business people; and concerned citizens. The group formed in response to faltering local economies, heightened threat of catastrophic wildfires, and increased litigation on fuel reduction projects. Some of the guiding principles of the ACCG include:

- Make decisions primarily by consensus and include local forest and upper watershed stakeholders in project development, deliberations, and implementation.
- Design and implement activities that protect and restore forest ecosystem resiliency, structures, processes and functions within local watersheds.
- Reduce forest fuel loads to manageable levels using all site appropriate methods: including but not limited to mechanical and/or prescribed burning methods.
- Foster cooperative partnerships that maximize effectiveness and regional competitiveness of the local workforce and businesses.

**Amador County Resource Advisory Committee** A Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) provides advice and recommendations to the Forest Service on the development and implementation of special projects on federal lands as authorized under the Secure Rural Schools Act and Community Self-Determination Act. The ENF collaborates with both the El Dorado County and Amador County RACs, established by the Secretary of Agriculture in May 2010. Each RAC consists of 15 people representing varied interests and areas of expertise, who work collaboratively to improve working relationships among community members and national forest personnel. The Amador County RAC is responsible for distributing \$150,000 to fund projects that benefit the ENF. Although in its infancy, the Amador County RAC is already providing an avenue for people with different, and often conflicting, interests to work together and find common ground on projects that sustain local economies and increase the resiliency of the National Forest.

**Describe your organization's experience in soliciting stakeholder input on projects involving the transfer and permanent protection of land.**

Land purchases and exchanges both require solicitation of stakeholder input as part of the transaction process. For purchases, the Forest in which the property is located prepares a letter briefly describing the lands proposed for acquisition and their amenities. This letter is sent, along with a map, to the appropriate Congressional, State, and local government officials (i.e. U.S. Senators and Representative; State Senator and Assemblyperson; County planner and Board of Supervisors). They are requested to provide any comments or concerns they have regarding the acquisition.

Land exchanges require extensive notification and public involvement. One of the first steps in an exchange is to prepare a Notification of Exchange Proposal which identifies the parties involved, the authority under which the exchange would be conducted, and the locations of the properties proposed for exchange. This Notification is published once per week for four weeks in the primary newspaper serving the Counties within which the exchange parcels are located. At the same time, letters detailing much of the same info are sent (along with maps) to: the appropriate Congressional, State, local, and tribal government contacts; the State Clearinghouse and its associated Councils of Government; landowners adjacent to the Federal parcels; holders of any permits, easements, or other rights on the Federal lands; and other interested or potentially affected parties. The Notification and the letters each request the reader to provide any comments or concerns they may have about the proposed exchange.

Land exchanges must also be analyzed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. This requires an initial public scoping, in which letters describing the proposed transaction and soliciting input are sent to potentially interested individuals and organizations. The Forest may also hold public meetings to discuss the project. The draft Environmental Analysis or Environment Impact Statement are sent to interested parties for review, and their comments are addressed in the final document. The Forest publishes notices of availability of the document and decision in local newspapers of record.

The Forests in northern and central California complete 4-5 purchases and exchanges (on average) each year.

Once the lands are in public ownership, they are managed according to each Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan, and the Forest must seek public input regarding any proposed projects involving the lands. Four times a year, the ENF publishes a Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) on the ENF website (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/projects/>). The SOPA describes all projects being considered on the Forest and is designed to provide the public with information, and invite their input, on ongoing Forest environmental analyses. Projects are separated by Forest unit and include a description of the project, the location, pertinent dates, analysis status and a contact person. The ENF also maintains a mailing list of interested parties for the different project types in which we frequently engage. The list consists of other Federal agencies, state and local governments, tribes, interest groups, potentially affected parties, and citizens that have requested notification.

The main vehicle for soliciting public input on proposed activities for the management of Federal lands is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA requires Federal agencies to consider the environmental effects of planned management activities, including the impacts on social, cultural, and economic resources, as well as natural resources. Two major purposes of the environmental review process are better informed decisions and citizen involvement, both of which should lead to implementation of NEPA's policies.

The NEPA regulations ensure the public has a voice in Forest Service decisions about its on-the-ground activities and that those decisions are well documented and fully disclosed to the public. The regulations:

- Maintain the long-standing practice of requiring public scoping for all NEPA proposals and encourage public participation throughout project planning.
- Allow the responsible official to modify a proposed action or alternatives as the analysis progresses and requires such modifications to be made in an open and transparent process obvious to all interested parties.
- Allow “adaptive management” proposals and alternatives so that Forest Service decisions are more responsive to the uncertainties of natural resource management.

The Council on Environmental Quality has put together a guide that provides an explanation of NEPA, how it is implemented, and how people outside the Federal government — individual citizens, private sector applicants, members of organized groups, or representatives of Tribal, State, or local government agencies — can better participate in the assessment of environmental impacts conducted by Federal agencies. A *Citizen's Guide to the NEPA* is available on CEQ's website ([http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/Citizens\\_Guide\\_Dec07.pdf](http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/Citizens_Guide_Dec07.pdf)).

## **Legal Compliance and Best Practices**

### **Forest Service Vision**

- We are recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in caring for the land and serving people.
- We are a multicultural and diverse organization.
- Employees work in a caring and nurturing environment where leadership is shared.
- All employees are respected, accepted, and appreciated for their unique and important contribution to the mission.
- The work is interesting, challenging, rewarding, and fun—more than just a job!
- We are an efficient and productive organization that excels in achieving its mission.
- Responsibility and accountability for excellence are shared by employees and partners.
- The American people can count on the Forest Service to perform.

"Caring for the Land and Serving People," captures the essence of the Forest Service mission. As set forth in law, the mission is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people. It includes:

- Advocating a conservation ethic in promoting the health, productivity, diversity, and beauty of forests and associated lands.
- Listening to people and responding to their diverse needs in making decisions.
- Protecting and managing the National Forests and Grasslands so they best demonstrate the sustainable multiple-use management concept.
- Developing and providing scientific and technical knowledge aimed at improving our capability to protect, manage, and use forests and rangelands.
- Providing work, training, and education to the unemployed, underemployed, elderly, youth, and disadvantaged in pursuit of our mission.

To realize our mission and vision, the Forest Service follows 13 guiding principles:

- We use an ecological approach to the multiple-use management of the National Forests and Grasslands.
- We use the best scientific knowledge in making decisions and select the most appropriate technologies in the management of resources.
- We are good neighbors who respect private property rights.
- We strive for quality and excellence in everything we do and are sensitive to the effects of our decisions on people and resources.
- We strive to meet the needs of our customers in fair, friendly, and open ways.
- We form partnerships to achieve shared goals.
- We promote grassroots participation in our decisions and activities.
- We value and trust one another and share leadership.
- We value a multicultural organization as essential to our success.
- We maintain high professional and ethical standards.
- We are responsible and accountable for what we do.
- We recognize and accept that some conflict is natural and we strive to deal with it professionally.
- We follow laws, regulations, executive direction, and congressional intent.

## **Conservation Covenant**

The Stewardship Council requires that the donated parcels be administered under a Conservation Easement or another form of assurance provided by agencies that cannot accept conservation easements by policy or law. The Forest Service has provided PG&E and Stewardship Council attorneys with an example of a Conservation Covenant (Appendix A). This Covenant is our proposal to ensure that any lands donated to the ENF will be managed in accordance with the Stewardship Council's BPVs in perpetuity.

The Covenant reiterates that the management of the lands conveyed to the Forest Service will be subject to a number of federal statutes that will specifically protect and enhance the meadow resources and the six beneficial public values. These include the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Wilderness Act (where appropriate), and the Archeological Resources Protection Act. In addition, the ENF will amend the LRMP and incorporate language into the management area prescriptions describing that the lands were donated to ensure the permanent protection of their natural resources. The amendment will include Stewardship Council's management objectives. The amendment will reference this covenant and require that all future LRMP revisions reference the Covenant.

The holder of the Covenant is the land donor. However, PG&E may transfer the Covenant, and the right to monitor and enforce the conditions stated within, to a third party. The ENF proposes that the Covenant be transferred to Alpine County as a good faith gesture to ensure that all management decisions related to the donated parcels be developed in collaboration with the County Board of Supervisors.

Additional assurances contained in the Covenant include:

- The lands will be managed for public recreation such as hiking, camping, hunting, and fishing, subject to ENF regulations and state fish and game laws.
- The Covenant will be recorded with the County and a signed original copy will be retained by the ENF and the Covenant holder.
- The ENF will provide written notice to the holder of any proposals to modify the Forest Plan or land management activities to provide the holder the opportunity to participate in the planning process as an interested party.
- In any public proceedings regarding the modification of the Forest Plan or proposed land management activities, the Forest Service must disclose the existence of the Covenant and the intention of the holder to effect permanent protection of the conservation values.
- If the title is ever transferred out of the federal government's hands, the government would place equivalent deed restrictions on the lands to ensure permanent preservation of the conservation values.

### **Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

The Forest Service is a non-voting member of the Stewardship Council and is represented by Christine Nota. Several staff of the Eldorado National Forest are personally and professionally acquainted with Ms Nota. Therefore, she will neither represent the Forest Service during any aspect of application for fee title of the requested lands nor will she serve as a consultant or provide information to the Eldorado National Forest.

The leadership of the ENF is not aware of any other personal, professional, or financial relationship between ENF staff and a member of the Stewardship Council's board, his or her family members, or the board member's constituent organization.

## **Land Interests Sought**

The Eldorado National Forest is interested in gaining fee title to all available parcels in the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed that are wholly within the administrative boundary of the Eldorado and Stanislaus National Forests. This includes all lands available for donation in the Blue Lakes planning unit, all lands available for donation in the Lower Bear planning unit, and parcels 959, 960, 961, and 982 in the North Fork Mokelumne planning unit. This Land Stewardship Proposal is to acquire the 1,028 acres available for donation in the Blue Lakes Planning Unit. The ID Numbers and corresponding acreage are:

Parcel ID Number	Total Acreage	Acreage for Donation
937	45	45
938	78	78
939	80	80
941	40	37
942	313	187
943	225	61
944	373	161
945	140	69
946	151	55
947	412	255
Total	1,857	1,028

The above referenced parcels lie within the contiguous boundary of the Eldorado National Forest. The transfer of these lands from private to public ownership, under the management of the ENF, would not require a lot line adjustment, boundary survey, or legal parcel split. The Mokelumne River FERC Project license agreement between PG&E and the Forest Service provides descriptions of the FERC boundary that would suffice for fee title donation. However, boundary surveys may be necessary during site specific project implementation, depending on the closeness of the project to the FERC boundary. Any boundary surveys related to ENF projects would be included in the project cost and no Stewardship Council funding would be necessary.

On August 2, 2010, the Stewardship Council announced that they are recommending to their Board of Directors that certain PG&E lands be awarded to the Forest Service and BLM. The announcement stated that lands to be donated to the two agencies “include those properties where watershed lands available for donation are bordered on two sides or more by lands currently owned and managed by the USFS or BLM, and where introduction of a new landowner would potentially complicate land management with the potential for little or no assurance of increased preservation or enhancement of the beneficial public values of the donated lands”. All of the lands that are available for donation in the Blue Lakes management area meet those criteria for donation to the Forest Service. We concur that introduction of an additional landowner would complicate management without any apparent benefit to the resources. We believe that the best way to preserve the beneficial public values of these fragile, high elevation lands is to integrate them into the Eldorado National Forest.

## **USFS's internal process for approving the acquisition of, and completing the transaction associated with, real property.**

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) can acquire lands by a number of means, all of which must be authorized by Congressional legislation. The three primary authorized means of acquisition are donation, purchase, and land-for-land exchange. Following are brief summaries of each process.

**Donation:** This type of transaction usually starts with a landowner contacting the Forest Service and offering to donate their land. If the Forest containing or adjacent to the property determines that acquisition of the property would serve to meet objectives in its Forest Plan, then the landowner will be requested to provide a written offer of donation, in which the donor describes the location of the property, provides information on any known outstanding rights, details any intended reservations by the landowner, and acknowledges the owner's responsibility to clear title defects and tax liens. The Forest will prepare a public benefit determination addressing the suitability of the land for National Forest purposes, proposed use of the property, benefits/amenities, and any potential problems. The Forest will also obtain a preliminary title commitment, conduct a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (for hazardous materials), verify the legal description, and prepare the deed along with other necessary documents for the transaction. The Forest requests formal approval from the USFS Regional Office to proceed with the donation. All documents are then submitted to our Office of General Counsel for attorney review and preliminary title approval. Once received, the Forest will record the deed to the United States and complete the donation process. The Forest Service usually pays many of the costs, but the Phase I ESA and any survey work may be shared with or paid by the landowner. Any necessary hazmat remediation must be paid for by the landowner.

**Purchase:** Like donations, a purchase usually starts with an offer to sell from the landowner, and a determination by the Forest that acquisition of the land would serve to meet its Land and Resource Management Plan objectives and would be in the public interest. To proceed with a purchase proposal, however, the Forest must know that funds are available for the acquisition. Such funds may come from Congressional appropriations (i.e. Land and Water Conservation Fund), or from other authorized sources (i.e. Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act; special receipts acts). The process begins with an agreement between the landowner and the Forest on how the costs of the transaction will be shared. The Forest will then do the basic groundwork—i.e. obtain a preliminary title report and chain of title, conduct a Phase I ESA, verify legal description, and investigate water/mineral rights and access—and request an appraisal for the property. A qualified appraiser will determine a market value, which must be approved by a Forest Service appraiser. A Purchase Option is prepared which sets forth the appraised value, and other terms and conditions of the purchase. Following Office of General Counsel review/approval of this and other transaction documents, the Purchase Option is executed by both parties and the deed to the United States is recorded.

**Land-for-Land Exchanges:** These may start with either party recognizing an opportunity to resolve certain management issues via an exchange of lands. Unless legislated, exchanges are discretionary transactions. The exchange process is usually time-consuming, complex, and expensive, so each party must be thoroughly committed to the process. The Forest must make a determination that the exchange is in the public interest and conduct a Feasibility Analysis to

ascertain whether the exchange should proceed. If the exchange “makes sense”, then the parties will enter into an Agreement to Initiate, which describes the lands involved, encumbrances, proposed reservations, and cost/performance responsibility for each step of the exchange. A Phase I ESA and an appraisal will be completed for all the parcels involved. The market value of the Federal and non-Federal lands must be equal, or equalized with cash not-to-exceed 25% of the Federal land value. The terms of the exchange are set forth in a contractually-binding Exchange Agreement. Following OGC review/approval, the exchange may proceed toward completion. Due to the complexity of the process, exchanges usually take 2-3 years to complete.

## **Baseline and Enhanced Land Management**

The Blue Lakes area is one of those special places that, once visited, makes an impression that lasts a lifetime. It is a place where memories are made and families, friends, and individuals reconnect with nature. It is a place where people come to hike, camp, fish, photograph nature, and use off highway vehicles. People come from near and far, and for most, the hours or days they spend on and around Blue Lakes allow them to refresh and revitalize from their day-to-day busy lives. A continuing challenge for the Eldorado National Forest (ENF) is managing the “sense of place” that the Blue Lakes area provides reminiscent of the nineteenth century, while meeting the needs of citizens of the twenty-first century and protecting the priceless resources of the lakes and surrounding wilderness.

The ENF desires to engage in the oversight of the Blue Lakes parcels so that the Beneficial Public Values are preserved and enhanced in perpetuity. It is obvious that this area is special. However, managing the Blue Lakes area is not solely about the 1,857 acres owned by PG&E, but also how it serves to accentuate and integrate with the existing access and uses in the surrounding National Forest lands, including the Mokelumne Wilderness, the Pacific Crest Trail, and the Deer Valley OHV trail. Many visitors to this area are unaware that they are traveling through both public and private lands. Therefore, it is essential that baseline management activities continue in the seamless fashion developed through years of collaboration between the ENF and PG&E.

The ENF proposes to manage the Blue Lakes area holistically with the adjacent National Forest lands within the entire Blue Lakes, Mokelumne Wilderness, Indian Valley landscape. This landscape would become the Blue Lakes Management Area. The Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) would be amended to incorporate this management area and specific management direction, standards, and guidelines would be developed that incorporate the BPVs developed by the Stewardship Council. This management area would emphasize that, to the extent allowed by law, management and decision making will strive for a balance of the natural, cultural, social and economic values within this landscape. Additionally, all management decisions would be developed in cooperation with the public, Alpine County, PG&E, and the surrounding National Forests to ensure that the views of all interested parties are considered. The following Forest Goals and Management Emphasis contained in the Forest Plan would apply.

**Diversity**—Maintain or increase diversity of plants and animals, with a balance of vegetation types currently represented on the Forest which best provide for meeting the resource goals and objectives of the Forest Plan.

**Fish and Wildlife**—Provide habitat for viable populations of all native and desired nonnative wildlife, fish and plants. Maintain and improve habitat for Threatened and Endangered species and give special attention to sensitive species to see that they do not become Federally listed as Threatened or Endangered.

**Riparian**—Manage riparian areas to protect or improve riparian area-dependent resources while allowing for management of other compatible uses.

**Sensitive Plants**—Manage sensitive plants to ensure continued population viability and prevent them from becoming Federally listed as Threatened or Endangered.

**Recreation** – Recreation uses and activities would be managed to preserve traditional uses and the transitional experience that currently exists as visitors move from the developed facilities (campgrounds, parking areas, and boat ramps) into the undeveloped primitive experience offered by the Mokelumne Wilderness, the Pacific Crest Trail and the Deer Valley OHV trail.

**Beneficial Public Value: Protection of the Natural Habitat of Fish, Wildlife, and Plants**

Objective: Preserve and enhance habitat in order to protect special biological resources.

- A Management Plan for the area would be completed within 2 years. This plan will include an analysis of the existing natural resource conditions and desired conditions, identify management actions and opportunities to move towards or to achieve desired conditions, and will establish an implementation schedule and monitoring plan. The Management Plan will include a full range of ecological resources including: wildlife (terrestrial and aquatic), botany, noxious weeds, hydrology, soils, vegetation, water quality, etc. This plan would become incorporated as an amendment to the Forest Plan and would serve to guide future management of the Blue Lakes Management Area. The Stewardship Council BPVs in LCP Volume II would be incorporated.
- Aquatic wildlife, terrestrial wildlife, and sensitive plant surveys will be completed in order to incorporate wildlife and sensitive plant management guidelines into the management plan.
- A noxious weed risk assessment will be conducted and the results, including any mitigation measures, will be incorporated into the management plan.
- Vehicle travel on the ENF is limited to roads and trails designated for motor vehicle use and identified on the Motor Vehicle Use Map. Cross country travel, including vehicle access to lake shores and dispersed camping areas, is prohibited. These regulations would apply to all lands acquired by the ENF and be referenced in the Blue Lakes Management Plan.
- The ENF is currently working on a Travel Analysis Plan that has the identification of access to dispersed camping areas as one of its objectives. Using the results of the TAP, the forest would analyze and potentially designate motorized access to dispersed camping areas on some of the donated parcels. This would provide safe, contained, no fee camping areas for visitors and protect the natural and cultural resources of the parcels by not allowing motorized access to dispersed camping in undesignated areas.
- The ENF will seek partners and volunteers to implement restoration and habitat enhancement projects. The Mokelumne Wilderness volunteers have expressed interest in educating visitors to the Blue Lakes area about wilderness stewardship and Leave No Trace recreation practices. Additional opportunities for land enhancement, trail maintenance, and noxious weed eradication projects exist. Many of these types of projects are conducive to participation by youth groups such as Boy/Girl Scouts, High School Ecology Clubs, Youth Conservation Corps, etc.

**Beneficial Public Value: Preservation of Open Space**

Objective: Preserve open space in order to protect natural and cultural resources, viewsheds, the recreation setting, and the adjacent wilderness character.

- A conservation covenant would be developed to limit future development to only that necessary to protect, support or enhance resource conditions and recreational uses, improvements and services. Any new development (infrastructure) would need to be consistent with the land management objectives in the Forest Plan for the Blue Lakes Management Area.

### **Beneficial Public Value: Outdoor Recreation by the General Public**

Objective: Enhance recreation facilities in order to provide additional education and recreation opportunities consistent with the carrying capacity of the land.

- A recreation management plan for the Blue Lakes management area would be prepared and incorporated into the Blue Lakes Management Plan discussed above. The overall recreation management theme for this area would be to preserve and enhance traditional recreation experiences and values consistent with historic uses of the area. Opportunities for improvements in signing, trail access and condition improvements, day use opportunities, interpretive and conservation opportunities, etc. would be incorporated in the plan to enhance visitor experiences and opportunities consistent with the overall theme.
- The Forest Service proposes development of interpretive literature unique to the social, cultural and ecologic features and character of the Blue Lakes area. Strategically located interpretive signing, specific to historic uses of the area, hydropower generation, local flora and fauna, and the wilderness, is also proposed.
- The ENF proposes to analyze the feasibility of a non-motorized trail that would provide access between the four lakes and tie into the Pacific Crest Trail north of Upper Blue Lake and the Grouse Lake trail between Upper and Lower Blue Lake.
- Annual trail work would be done to a standard that preserves the natural and primitive visual feel of the area. This work could be performed by the either the Youth Conservation Corps or Student Conservation Association crews that the ENF hosts each summer.
- The Forest Service is a national leader in developing and supporting programs and activities that encourage kids to get outdoors and discover nature, such as Kids in the Woods and Discover the Forest. The ENF would incorporate the concepts of these programs into the recreation management plan and continue to seek additional youth program opportunities.

### **Beneficial Public Value: Sustainable Forestry**

Objective: Develop and implement forestry practices in order to contribute to a sustainable forest, preserve and enhance habitat, as well as to ensure appropriate fuel load management.

- The Blue Lakes Management Plan discussed above, would include an analysis of desired and existing vegetation conditions in this parcel. This plan would identify management needs and opportunities to ensure long-term forest health, including, protection from insect and disease, reducing fuel loading, and improving meadow and riparian health. Timber harvesting is compatible and appropriate as a means to achieve long term health

and provide public safety, such as fuels reduction and salvage of diseased trees and hazard tree removal, but would not be employed to provide a sustainable supply of wood.

### **Beneficial Public Value: Preservation of Historic Values**

Objective: Identify and manage cultural resources in order to ensure their protection.

- The Forest Service has a Government-to-Government relationship with the Washoe Indians and a requirement to consult with all local tribes on projects that are related to or may affect cultural resources. For lands donated to the ENF, a cultural resource inventory would be completed in the first year. Based on the results of the inventory, the Tribe and Forest Service will develop a Cultural Resources Management Plan, including a public education program, for the protection and conservation of all resources within the Unit.
- Vehicle travel on the ENF is limited to roads and trails designated for motor vehicle use and identified on the Motor Vehicle Use Map. Cross country travel, including vehicle access to lake shores and dispersed camping areas, is prohibited. These regulations would apply to all lands acquired by the ENF and be referenced in the Blue Lakes Management Plan.
- The ENF is currently working on a Travel Analysis Plan that has the identification of access to dispersed camping areas as one of its objectives. Using the results of the TAP, the forest would analyze and potentially designate motorized access to dispersed camping areas on some of the donated parcels. This would provide safe, contained, no fee camping areas for visitors and protect the natural and cultural resources of the parcels by not allowing motorized access to dispersed camping in undesignated areas.

Acquisition of the Blue Lakes parcels would allow the ENF to provide consolidated management of the ecological, cultural, historical, and recreational resources within the Upper North Fork Mokelumne River watershed for the American public. Blue Lakes is an integral component to the lands managed by the ENF, not only complementing ecological resources located on the adjacent National Forest lands but also providing key recreational access to the Mokelumne Wilderness and Deer Valley OHV trail.

### **Physical Enhancements/Capital Improvements**

No significant capital improvements are envisioned within the proposed Blue Lakes Management Area. Current management direction, and the Stewardship Council's Beneficial Public Values stress retention of open space. The existing infrastructure, including roads and campgrounds, provides sufficient development within the carrying capacity of the fragile, high elevation environment. Potential recreation improvements, consistent with the management direction for the area, have been discussed previously.

The analysis of the feasibility for these improvements would be completed within two years of acquiring fee title. This analysis would include a detailed cost estimate that is much more accurate than any "back of the envelope" calculations provided here.

## **Land Conservation Partners and Youth Opportunities**

The Eldorado National Forest has a long history of partnering with volunteers, local governments, youth groups, conservation groups, and tribes on projects in which we share a common goal. These projects have centered on all aspects of land management, including trail maintenance, habitat restoration, interpretation, and cultural resource maintenance and enhancement. In addition, the National Environmental Policy Act requires the Forest Service to involve all interested parties when planning projects that may negatively impact National Forest lands. The National Forest Management Act requires each National Forest to develop a Land and Resource Management plan prepared with public involvement. The ENF is open to meeting with any and all groups interested in partnering on projects located in the Blue Lakes area. We have identified the following potential partners to be involved in the activities discussed in the Baseline and Enhanced Land Management section.

**Alpine County** — With 96% of land in Alpine County under public ownership, the County Board of Supervisors are heavily engaged in the management decisions that affect public lands in their districts. The ENF works closely with the BOS through informal consultations and formal presentations during County Board meetings. Since the Forest Service cannot accept lands covered by a conservation easement, we are offering a conservation covenant in order to promote the perpetual use of these donated lands for scenic and natural purposes, including open space, resource utilization, and recreation. The conditions of the covenant are to benefit PG&E. However, the ENF proposes that PG&E transfers the covenant and conditions, and the right to monitor and enforce them, to Alpine County. This would formalize the partnership between the ENF and Alpine County for management of these lands.

**Student Conservation Association** – The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is a non-profit group in the United States whose mission is to build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of our environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land through service opportunities, outdoor skills, and leadership training. Each summer the ENF hosts one to three SCA crews consisting of six to eight students and two crew leaders. SCA crews could assist in constructing the proposed trail that would provide access between the four lakes and tie into the Pacific Crest Trail north of Upper Blue Lake and the Grouse Lake trail between Upper and Lower Blue Lake. The crews are capable of installing interpretive signing, rehabilitating areas damaged by unauthorized vehicle use, routine trail maintenance, and presenting natural resource education programs to children camping in the area.

**Washoe Tribe** – The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California is a federally recognized Indian Tribe. The Tribe has three communities in Nevada and one in California, has jurisdiction over trust allotments in both states, and has tribal trust parcels in Alpine, Sierra, Placer, Douglas, and Washoe counties. The ENF has a long history of partnering with local Native American groups in order to protect and conserve areas and resources of importance to each group. The ENF proposes a partnership with the Washoe Tribe to develop the cultural resource management plan for donated lands not covered by the FERC cultural resources study area. This partnership would include the identification of areas requiring protection, joint development of mitigation measures to reduce damage by visitors to historic sites, and a public steward program to educate

visitors to the Blue Lakes area about the sensitivity of the area and its importance to the Washoe Tribe.

**Eldorado National Forest Interpretive Association** – The Eldorado National Forest Interpretive Association is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to helping the Eldorado National Forest serve the public by promoting the educational, historical, scientific, and other values of the National Forest. Since 1988, ENFIA has developed projects which help inform docents, visitors and the membership about the history, the natural history, and the many special features of the Forest. ENFIA has offered to work with the forest on a number of activities proposed in the Baseline and Enhanced Management section. For example, ENFIA has years of experience developing, and seeking grant money for funding, interpretive signs. These signs could be placed along the proposed trail connecting the four lakes. Proposed topics are the history of the area related to both Native Americans and 49ers, descriptions of the natural surroundings, and the infrastructure behind hydropower and its importance as a non-greenhouse gas emitting energy source.

## **Public Input**

The ENF only received three public comments related to the Blue Lakes Planning Unit, two directly and one through the Stewardship Council. Throughout this process we were cognizant of trying to address any input we received both in this proposal and through direct communication, when possible, with the concerned parties.

Doug Barber, Amador District Ranger, was directly approached by the Alpine County Board of Supervisors regarding their concern of additional public land in the County. Doug met with the concerned supervisors and with Brian Peters, Alpine County Planning Director, to better understand their concerns and discuss any possible solutions. In addition to their concern about the loss of additional private land in the County, the underlying issue is that the County BOS would like to be involved in discussions regarding the management of the Blue Lakes parcels, regardless of the Agency receiving fee title. A possible solution that Doug presented to the BOS and we outlined in this proposal is the transfer of the conservation covenant from PG&E to Amador County. By design, the holder of the covenant is the land donor. However, PG&E may transfer the covenant, and the right to monitor and enforce the conditions stated within, to a third party. The ENF proposes that the covenant be transferred to Alpine County as a good faith gesture to ensure that all management decisions related to the donated parcels be developed in collaboration with the County Board of Supervisors.

Doug Barber was also approached by representatives of the Washoe Tribe. The Tribe's main concern is that parcel 939 may contain an area of cultural importance that the tribe would like to see protected from public use and ground disturbing management activities. Doug has met with tribal representatives and agreed that, should the ENF gain fee title to parcel 939, a cultural resource management plan would be prepared in close consultation with them. Additionally, a field trip to the area was conducted on August 5, 2010. Again, tribal representatives stated that if the Blue Lakes parcels became a National Forest land, they would like to be consulted in the development of the management plan.

Jason Nedlo, a project manager for the ENF working on this proposal, received a phone call from Vanessa Parker-Geisman of the Stewardship Council. Vanessa stated that the Stewardship Council was contacted by a citizen concerned about the loss of off highway vehicle opportunities if any land is donated to the Forest Service. The ENF understands this concern and contends that off highway vehicle use is a legitimate use of the National Forest where conditions permit. We are not aware of potential off highway opportunities contained within the Blue Lakes parcels eligible for donation, but we are willing to entertain appropriate, legitimate proposals brought to our attention.

## **Budget and Funding Plan**

The ENF is reluctant to complete the Budget and Funding Plan spreadsheet. Our funding is more related to specific programs, which are then directed to overall administration and site specific projects, and less to specific areas of the Forest. With our funding allocated to the management of the entire 600,000 acres, we are unable to estimate a meaningful baseline management cost for the 1,028 acres available for donation contained in the Blue Lakes area. Were the ENF to receive fee title to these parcels, we expect the transaction costs to be minimal. Additionally, the Forest Service has a policy of covering all transaction costs associated with donated lands.

The ENF also expects the revenue generated on these parcels to be minimal. As explained in this proposal, the ENF would utilize stewardship contracts to ensure that any revenue generated from timber receipts would be reinvested into the Blue Lakes Management Area.

Since the stated purpose of the budget and funding plan is to evaluate the funding needs and financial capacity of potential donees, the ENF budget for the past three fiscal years is attached. The current year budget, estimated at around \$49,200,000, and expenditures through June 30 is also attached. Please direct any questions concerning the financial capacity of the ENF to Amador District Ranger Doug Barber at (209) 295-5910 or the ENF Budget Officer John Carr at (530) 621-5277.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Eldorado National Forest

100 Forni Road  
Placerville, CA 95667  
(530) 622-5061 (Voice)  
(530) 642-5122 (TTY)

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**File Code:** 1500  
**Date:** August 19, 2010

Vanessa Parker-Geisman  
Regional Land Conservation Manager  
Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship  
Council  
1107 9th Street  
Suite 501  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Parker-Geisman

I am pleased to submit a Land Stewardship Proposal for Lower Bear Area Planning Unit. Acquisition of this land would provide consolidated management of the ecological, cultural, historical, and recreational resources within the Upper North Fork Mokelumne River watershed. Should the Eldorado National Forest, on behalf of the American people, gain fee title to these lands, you have my assurance that they will be managed in accordance with the Beneficial Public Values identified by the Stewardship Council.

If you need additional information or clarification on anything contained in this proposal, please contact Amador District Ranger Doug Barber at (209) 295-5910.

Sincerely,

/s/Ramiro Villalvazo  
RAMIRO VILLALVAZO  
Forest Supervisor



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## FY 2007 Eldorado National Forest Expenses

Program	Program Name	Actual Authority	Obligations	Unpaid	Paid	Spent-to-Date	Remaining	% Spent
BDBD	Brush Disposal	\$163,000	\$0	\$40	\$162,740	\$162,780	\$219	100%
CMFC	Facilities	\$114,000	\$11,419	\$6,456	\$101,207	\$119,083	(\$5,083)	104%
CMRD	Roads	\$1,135,300	\$43,228	\$1,888	\$1,128,455	\$1,173,571	(\$38,271)	103%
CMTL	Trails	\$161,600	\$1,530	\$8,705	\$139,081	\$149,316	\$12,284	92%
CWF2	Cooperative Work Non-Agreement Based	\$700,000	\$1,507	\$7,811	\$146,782	\$156,101	\$543,898	22%
CWFS	Cooperative Work, Other	\$1,644,680	\$144,312	\$41,510	\$816,964	\$1,002,787	\$641,893	61%
CWKV	Cooperative Work, KV	\$1,514,000	\$49,349	\$88,620	\$983,255	\$1,121,224	\$392,775	74%
CP09	Facilities Assessment	\$253,000	\$26,030	\$12,994	\$226,540	\$265,565	(\$12,565)	105%
FDCL	Fee Demo Collection Support	\$24,993	\$0	\$1,859	\$20,481	\$22,340	\$2,652	89%
FDDS	Fee Demo Site Specific	\$444,700	\$8,989	\$8,503	\$168,824	\$186,316	\$258,383	42%
HTAE	Fed Highway Admin Expense	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,977	\$5,977	\$23	100%
HTER	Fed Highway Emergency Relief	\$448,954	\$133,453	\$35,973	\$108,734	\$278,161	\$170,792	62%
HTRP	Fed Highway Public Roads	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
MVIS	Maps for Visitors	\$2,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
NFXF	NFS Federal External Reimb	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,424	\$30,424	(\$30,424)	0%
NXFN	NFS Non-Federal External Reimb	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$71,442	\$71,442	(\$71,442)	0%
NFIM	Inventory & Monitoring	\$295,100	\$43,000	\$26,163	\$219,475	\$288,638	\$6,461	98%
NFLM	Landownership Management	\$339,500	\$0	\$12,426	\$299,637	\$312,063	\$27,436	92%
NFMG	Minerals and Geology Management	\$205,400	\$18,093	\$12,740	\$211,950	\$242,784	(\$37,384)	118%
NFN3	Rehabilitation and Restoration	\$10,000	\$0	\$1,197	\$6,852	\$8,049	\$1,950	80%
NFPN	Planning	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$49,369	\$49,369	\$630	99%
NFRG	Grazing Management	\$59,000	\$0	\$1,298	\$57,718	\$59,017	(\$17)	100%
NFRW	Recreation, Heritage & Wilderness	\$933,000	\$3,155	\$18,846	\$918,239	\$940,241	(\$7,241)	101%
NFTM	Forest Products	\$1,435,000	\$52,756	\$80,255	\$1,368,073	\$1,501,086	(\$66,086)	105%
NFVW	Vegetation and Watershed Management	\$512,373	\$26,234	\$15,390	\$437,392	\$479,017	\$33,355	93%
NFWF	Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	\$204,000	\$6,000	\$7,939	\$169,007	\$182,946	\$21,053	90%
QMQM	Operations and Maintenance of Quarters	\$280,000	\$0	\$54,922	\$19,921	\$74,844	\$205,155	27%
RBRB	Range Betterment Fund	\$2,700	\$0	\$0	\$1,362	\$1,362	\$1,337	50%
RIRI	Restoration of Forest Lands	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
RTRT	Reforestation Trust Fund	\$332,127	\$0	\$15,783	\$281,286	\$297,069	\$35,057	89%
SSSS	Salvage Sales	\$1,314,000	\$9,921	\$20,713	\$703,481	\$734,115	\$579,884	56%
TRTR	Roads and Trails for States	\$1,001,000	\$621,239	\$120,711	\$301,157	\$1,043,108	(\$42,109)	104%
URMJ	Cost Recovery Lands - Major Proj	\$35,000	\$0	\$451	\$20,215	\$20,667	\$14,332	59%

URMN	Cost Recovery Lands - Minor Proj	\$1,655	\$0	\$0	\$1,575	\$1,575	\$79	95%
URCP	Organizational Camps	\$20,000	\$0	\$622	\$17,358	\$17,981	\$2,018	90%
URFF	Commercial Film - Collection Cost	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$265	\$265	\$734	27%
URFM	Commercial Film - Local Admin Unit	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,687	\$3,687	\$2,312	61%
WFSU	Emergency Supression & Rehab	\$30,000	\$24,696	\$109,283	\$1,133,776	\$1,267,757	(\$1,237,757)	4226%
WFHF	Hazardous Fuels Reduction	\$1,945,000	\$19,882	\$6,256	\$1,978,186	\$2,004,325	\$59,325	103%
WFPR	Preparedness	\$5,695,292	\$236,077	\$240,319	\$5,020,782	\$5,497,179	\$198,112	97%

### FY 2008 Eldorado National Forest Expenses

Program	Program Name	Actual Authority	Obligations	Unpaid	Paid	Spent-to-Date	Remaining	% Spent
BDBD	Brush Disposal	\$250,000	\$0	\$8,163	\$184,869	\$193,033	\$56,966	77%
CMFC	Facilities	\$117,980	\$1,440	\$5,395	\$81,323	\$88,159	\$29,820	75%
CMLG	Legacy Roads and Trails	\$189,500	\$128,522	\$2,471	\$62,850	\$193,843	(\$4,343)	102%
CMRD	Roads	\$1,323,000	\$542,784	\$15,371	\$767,272	\$1,325,429	(\$2,429)	100%
CMTL	Trails	\$198,105	\$0	\$24,061	\$213,674	\$237,736	(\$39,631)	120%
CMXN	Construction Non-Fed Reimb	\$0	\$0	\$20	\$290,516	\$290,536	(\$290,536)	0%
CWF2	Cooperative Work Non-Agreement Based	\$661,000	\$0	\$2,558	\$549,287	\$551,846	\$109,153	83%
CWFS	Cooperative Work, Other	\$3,585,593	\$1,191,685	\$101,040	\$740,252	\$2,032,978	\$1,552,614	57%
CWK2	Regional Projects, KV	\$59,335	\$0	\$47,838	\$555,064	\$602,903	(\$9,868)	102%
CWKV	Cooperative Work, KV	\$774,000	\$352	\$29,433	\$699,323	\$729,109	\$44,890	94%
CP09	Facilities Assessment	\$332,800	\$92,318	\$6,787	\$254,192	\$353,298	(\$30,498)	109%
FDCL	Fee Demo Collection Support	\$20,000	\$0	\$2,835	\$18,575	\$21,411	(\$1,411)	107%
FDDS	Fee Demo Site Specific	\$245,000	\$62,327	\$14,984	\$170,587	\$247,899	(\$2,899)	101%
HTAE	Fed Highway Admin Expense	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,056	\$2,056	\$2,943	41%
HTER	Fed Highway Emergency Relief	\$268,500	\$48,738	\$0	\$134,833	\$183,571	\$84,929	68%
HTRP	Fed Highway Public Roads	\$17,925	\$0	\$0	\$9,300	\$9,300	\$8,624	52%
MVIS	Maps for Visitors	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	0%
NFXF	NFS Federal External Reimb	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$29,915	\$29,915	(\$29,915)	0%
NXFN	NFS Non-Federal External Reimb	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$41,030	\$41,030	(\$41,030)	0%
NFIM	Inventory & Monitoring	\$237,000	\$0	\$2,034	\$243,586	\$245,620	(\$8,620)	104%
NFLM	Landownership Management	\$321,012	\$0	\$25,739	\$318,620	\$344,359	(\$23,347)	107%
NFMG	Minerals and Geology Management	\$197,300	\$1,468	\$11,700	\$194,339	\$207,507	(\$10,207)	105%
NFN3	Rehabilitation and Restoration	\$46,651	\$0	\$0	\$60,168	\$60,168	(\$13,517)	129%
NFPN	Planning	\$56,500	\$0	\$1,913	\$59,322	\$61,236	(\$4,736)	108%
NFRG	Grazing Management	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$60,291	\$60,291	(\$291)	100%
NFRW	Recreation, Heritage & Wilderness	\$1,059,706	\$2,016	\$10,518	\$980,946	\$993,481	\$63,224	94%

NFTM	Forest Products	\$751,965	\$0	\$3,016	\$755,518	\$758,534	(\$6,569)	101%
NFVW	Vegetation and Watershed Management	\$698,500	\$6,100	\$6,536	\$628,217	\$640,853	\$57,646	92%
NFWF	Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	\$175,000	\$0	\$4,397	\$143,313	\$147,710	\$27,289	84%
QMQM	Operations and Maintenance of Quarters	\$122,000	\$7,235	\$287	\$114,347	\$121,869	\$130	100%
RBRB	Range Betterment Fund	\$4,032	\$0	\$0	\$3,510	\$3,510	\$521	87%
RIRI	Restoration of Forest Lands	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	0%
RTRT	Reforestation Trust Fund	\$46,000	\$15,925	\$0	\$33,249	\$49,174	(\$3,174)	107%
SSSS	Salvage Sales	\$1,481,000	\$0	\$12,262	\$762,040	\$774,302	\$706,697	52%
SPCH	Coop Lands - Forest Health	\$80,000	\$60,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$80,000	\$0	100%
SPS4	Federal Lands - Forest Health	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,313	\$10,313	\$4,686	69%
SSCC	Stewardship Contracting Prod Sales	\$445,000	\$198,692	\$27,881	\$139,759	\$336,332	\$78,667	82%
TRTR	Roads and Trails for States	\$44,700	\$0	\$0	\$44,334	\$44,334	\$365	99%
URMJ	Cost Recovery Lands - Major Proj	\$28,000	\$0	\$4,672	\$23,376	\$28,049	(\$49)	100%
URMN	Cost Recovery Lands - Minor Proj	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,560	\$1,560	\$439	78%
URCP	Organizational Camps	\$20,000	\$0	\$1,174	\$9,002	\$10,176	\$9,823	51%
URFF	Commercial Film - Collection Cost	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$149	\$149	\$850	15%
URFM	Commercial Film - Local Admin Unit	\$3,000	\$0	\$396	\$1,851	\$2,248	\$751	75%
WFSU	Emergency Supression & Rehab	\$0	\$11,447	\$83,472	\$1,771,062	\$1,865,982	(\$1,865,982)	0%
WFHF	Hazardous Fuels Reduction	\$2,520,000	\$95,625	\$77,851	\$247,810	\$2,645,286	(\$125,286)	105%
WFPR	Preparedness	\$5,664,107	\$80,222	\$246,779	\$5,501,891	\$5,828,894	(\$164,787)	103%

### FY 2009 Eldorado National Forest Expenses

Program	Program Name	Actual Authority	Obligations	Unpaid	Paid	Spent-to-Date	Remaining	% Spent
BDBD	BRUSH DISPOSAL	\$265,000	\$0	\$0	\$265,741	\$265,741	-\$741	100%
CP01	COST POOL 1 - GENERAL MANAGEMENT	\$915,000	\$5,310	\$43,018	\$914,310	\$962,637	-\$47,637	105%
CP02	COST POOL 2 - DIRECT PROJECT APPROVED ACTIVITIES	\$19,000	\$0	\$666	\$16,876	\$17,542	\$1,458	92%
CP03	COST POOL 3 - LEGIS & PUBLIC COMMUNICATION	\$389,000	\$0	\$13,157	\$355,328	\$368,486	\$20,514	95%
CP04	COST POOL 4 - ONGOING BUSINESS SERVICES	\$875,000	\$70	\$31,207	\$780,527	\$811,804	\$63,196	93%
CP05	COST POOL 5 - COMMON SERVICES	\$948,000	\$12,436	\$11,622	\$927,609	\$951,666	-\$3,666	100%
CMFC	FACILITIES CAPITAL IMPRO/MTCE	\$360,490	\$204,759	\$4,830	\$82,923	\$292,512	\$67,978	81%
CMLG	LEGACY ROADS & TRAILS	\$3,100	\$0	\$0	\$3,162	\$3,162	-\$62	102%
CMRD	ROADS CAPITAL IMPROVS/MAINTCE	\$828,077	\$20,320	\$35,027	\$889,555	\$944,902	-\$116,825	114%

CMTL	TRAILS CAPITAL IMPROVS/MTCE	\$315,725	\$45,299	\$34,424	\$232,427	\$312,151	\$3,574	99%
CMXN	CONSTR NONFED EXTERNAL REIMB	\$0	\$26,200	\$300	\$317,700	\$344,200	-\$344,200	0%
CP09	FACILITIES MAIN COST POOL	\$380,000	\$48,782	\$19,172	\$326,546	\$394,500	-\$14,500	104%
CRFR	FACILITIES IMP/MTC RENOVATION	\$966,847	\$29,991	\$0	\$370,014	\$400,005	\$566,842	41%
CRRD	ROAD MAINT & DECOMMISSION	\$3,737,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,737,000	0%
CRTR	TRAIL MAINT & DECOMMISSION	\$105,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$105,000	0%
CWF2	COOP WORK, NONAGT BASED	\$400,000	\$22,846	\$8,166	\$173,862	\$204,874	\$195,126	51%
CWFS	COOPERATIVE WORK, OTHER	\$2,224,010	\$574,879	\$57,135	\$1,110,947	\$1,742,961	\$481,049	78%
CWKV	K-V SALE AREA PROJECTS	\$823,000	\$89,507	\$43,466	\$603,354	\$736,327	\$86,673	89%
FDDS	UNIT RECREATION ENHANCEMENT	\$275,000	\$18,579	\$18,285	\$225,160	\$262,024	\$12,976	95%
FDRF	RECR FACILITIES DEFERRED MAINT	\$652,500	\$622,127	\$3,904	\$22,825	\$648,855	\$3,645	99%
NFIM	INVENTORY AND MONITORING	\$327,000	\$42,140	\$21,985	\$279,875	\$344,000	-\$17,000	105%
NFLM	LANDOWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT	\$419,000	\$0	\$36,010	\$397,553	\$433,562	-\$14,562	103%
NFMG	MINERALS MANAGEMENT	\$255,100	\$26,733	\$15,038	\$218,499	\$260,270	-\$5,170	102%
NFN3	REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION	\$36,000	\$0	\$32,990	\$3,195	\$36,185	-\$185	101%
NFPN	LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$165	\$38,700	\$63,865	\$11,135	85%
NFRG	GRAZING MANAGEMENT	\$72,000	\$16,009	\$3,635	\$51,587	\$71,231	\$769	99%
NFRW	RECREATION/HERITAGE/WILDERNESS	\$1,357,160	\$110,669	\$32,235	\$1,191,815	\$1,334,720	\$22,440	98%
NFTM	FOREST PRODUCTS	\$1,635,000	\$49,416	\$80,290	\$1,478,935	\$1,608,641	\$26,359	98%
NFWW	VEGETATION & WATERSHED MGT	\$1,377,034	\$14,262	\$69,291	\$1,121,104	\$1,204,657	\$172,377	87%
NFWF	WILDLIFE/FISHERIES HABITAT MGT	\$245,000	\$27,223	\$13,477	\$207,396	\$248,096	-\$3,096	101%
QMQM	QUARTERS MAINTENANCE	\$116,000	\$2,480	\$492	\$72,382	\$75,353	\$40,647	65%
RBRB	RANGE BETTERMENT FUND	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,938	\$2,938	\$62	98%
RIRI	RESTORATION OF IMPROVEMENTS	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	0%
RTRT	RFORESTATION TRUST FUND	\$334,000	\$82,211	\$23,599	\$171,596	\$277,406	\$56,594	83%
SSSS	TIMBER SALVAGE SALES	\$648,000	\$0	\$15,538	\$445,975	\$461,512	\$186,488	71%
SPCH	COOP LANDS FOREST HEALTH MGMT	\$16,000	\$0	\$0	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$0	100%
SPS4	FOREST HEALTH - FEDERAL LANDS	\$163,500	\$15,621	\$9,547	\$132,266	\$157,433	\$6,067	96%
SPS5	FOREST HEALTH - STATE LANDS	\$64,000	\$0	\$0	\$68,267	\$68,267	-\$4,267	107%
SRS2	PMTS STATES TITL 2	\$348,040	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$348,040	0%
SSCC	STEWARDSHP CONTRG PROD SALES	\$220,000	\$208,540	\$0	\$8,528	\$217,069	\$2,931	99%
URMJ	COST RECOV LANDS MAJOR PROJ	\$183,606	\$0	\$0	\$41,565	\$41,565	\$142,041	23%
URMN	COST RECOV LANDS MINOR PROJ	\$2,000	\$0	\$229	\$1,468	\$1,698	\$302	85%
URCP	ORGANIZATIONAL CAMPS	\$20,000	\$0	\$1,681	\$18,849	\$20,530	-\$530	103%
WFSU	EMERGENCY SUPPRESSION & REHAB	\$0	\$68	\$165,929	\$1,182,668	\$1,348,665	\$1,348,665	0%
WFHF	HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION	\$3,831,000	\$346,885	\$121,430	\$3,339,259	\$3,807,574	\$23,426	99%
WFPR	PRESUPPRESSION AND FUELS	\$6,769,000	\$185,303	\$292,018	\$6,783,485	\$7,260,805	-\$491,805	107%
WFW3	NFP - REHAB AND RESTORATION	\$16,197,000	\$59,422	\$16,060	\$16,118,000	\$16,193,482	\$3,518	100%

## FY 2010 Eldorado National Forest Expenses

Program	Program Name	Actual Authority	Obligations	Unpaid	Paid	Spent-to-Date (Thru 6/30/10)	Remaining	% Spent
BDBD	BRUSH DISPOSAL	\$175,000	\$0	\$105	\$98,695	\$99,988	\$75,012	57.14%
CMFC	FACILITIES CAPITAL IMPRO/MTCE	\$237,000	\$60,565	\$1,531	\$57,275	\$183,146	\$53,854	77.28%
CMLG	LEGACY ROADS & TRAILS	\$0	\$0	\$2,607	\$15,573	\$18,180	-\$18,180	#DIV/0!
CMRD	ROADS CAPITAL IMPROVS/MTCE	\$720,200	\$5,843	\$18,852	\$761,841	\$811,382	-\$91,182	112.66%
CMTL	TRAILS CAPITAL IMPROVS/MTCE	\$179,000	\$0	\$334	\$93,530	\$99,029	\$79,971	55.32%
Cost Pools	ADMIN COST POOLS	\$3,160,642	\$175,476	\$76,143	\$2,199,789	\$2,464,396	\$696,246	77.97%
CP09	FACILITIES MAIN COST POOL	\$473,000	\$1,845	\$4,230	\$187,376	\$288,718	\$184,282	61.04%
CRFR	FACILITIES IMP/MTC RENOVATION	\$1,156,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,156,000	0.00%
CWF2	COOP WORK, NONAGT BASED	\$250,000	\$35,797	\$0	\$69,983	\$114,193	\$135,807	45.68%
CWFS	COOPERATIVE WORK, OTHER	\$584,417	\$46,193	\$3,485	\$572,493	\$627,450	-\$43,033	107.36%
CWK2	K-V SALE REGIONAL PROJECTS	\$362,000	\$0	\$0	\$106,603	\$106,603	\$255,397	29.45%
CWKV	K-V SALE AREA PROJECTS	\$342,000	\$0	-\$61	\$90,074	\$94,115	\$247,885	27.52%
FDDS	UNIT RECREATION ENHANCEMENT	\$275,000	\$52,748	\$7,501	\$76,413	\$176,766	\$98,234	64.28%
FDRF	RECR FACILITIES DEFERRED MAINT	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$72,045	\$329,863	-\$269,863	549.77%
NFCC		\$242,427	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$242,427	0.00%
NFIM	INVENTORY AND MONITORING	\$570,000	\$3,981	\$15,589	\$297,928	\$318,422	\$251,578	55.86%
NFLM	LANDOWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT	\$404,000	\$200	\$16,366	\$304,577	\$323,737	\$80,263	80.13%
NFMG	MINERALS MANAGEMENT	\$838,000	\$462	\$22,461	\$484,933	\$511,171	\$326,829	61.00%
NFN3	REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	0.00%
NFPN	LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING	\$25,000	\$0	\$1,038	\$28,231	\$29,270	-\$4,270	117.08%
NFRG	GRAZING MANAGEMENT	\$73,000	\$0	\$2,800	\$49,546	\$52,922	\$20,078	72.50%
NFRW	RECREATION/HERITAGE/WILDERNESS	\$1,300,000	\$6,556	\$44,868	\$1,085,994	\$1,149,146	\$150,854	88.40%
NFTM	FOREST PRODUCTS	\$1,459,000	\$71,257	\$45,557	\$1,236,450	\$1,367,469	\$91,531	93.73%
NFWV	VEGETATION & WATERSHED MGT	\$1,302,000	\$73,975	\$26,554	\$891,139	\$1,021,577	\$280,423	78.46%
NFWF	WILDLIFE/FISHERIES HABITAT MGT	\$251,000	\$5,298	\$8,260	\$146,059	\$162,256	\$88,744	64.64%
QMQM	QUARTERS MAINTENANCE	\$165,000	\$3,300	\$1,459	\$43,182	\$47,941	\$117,059	29.06%
RBRB	RANGE BETTERMENT FUND	\$2,262	\$0	\$0	\$98	\$98	\$2,164	4.33%
RIRI	RESTORATION OF IMPROVEMENTS	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	0.00%
RTRT	RFORESTATION TRUST FUND	\$175,000	\$0	\$0	\$47,170	\$168,994	\$6,006	96.57%
SSSS	TIMBER SALVAGE SALES	\$751,000	\$0	\$25,671	\$158,734	\$184,405	\$566,595	24.55%
SPCF	COOP LANDS COMMUNITY FORESTRY	\$28,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$28,000	0.00%
SPFH	COOP LANDS FOREST HEALTH MGMT	\$135,000	\$0	\$0	\$158,580	\$158,580	-\$23,580	117.47%
SPS4	FOREST HEALTH - FEDERAL LANDS	\$52,000	\$0	\$9,400	\$19,345	\$28,744	\$23,256	55.28%

SPS5	FOREST HEALTH - STATE LANDS	\$64,000	\$0	\$2,190	\$21,068	\$23,258	\$40,742	36.34%
SRS2	PMTS STATES TITL 2	\$661,276	\$0	\$0	\$329	\$329	\$660,947	0.05%
SSCC	STEWARDSHP CONTRG PROD SALES	\$540,000	\$233,574	\$23,299	\$18,574	\$275,447	\$264,553	51.01%
URMJ	COST RECOV LANDS MAJOR PROJ	\$146,498	\$0	\$0	\$52,497	\$52,497	\$94,001	35.83%
URMN	COST RECOV LANDS MINOR PROJ	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,393	\$1,393	\$607	69.64%
URCP	ORGANIZATIONAL CAMPS	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,324	\$10,324	\$29,676	25.81%
WFHF	HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION	\$1,550,000	\$1,415	\$8,831	\$1,501,235	\$1,527,610	\$22,390	98.56%
WFPR	PRESUPPRESSION AND FUELS	\$8,059,000	\$110,976	\$303,139	\$6,203,148	\$6,775,041	\$1,283,959	84.07%

## Conservation Covenant

*Covenants and Conditions:* In order to promote the perpetual use of the lands herein conveyed for scenic and natural purposes including, where appropriate, provisions for open space and resource utilization, it is agreed that such lands:

- (1) Shall be managed for public uses and protection of natural resources as a component of the National Forest System and subject to the laws and regulations applicable thereto;
- (2) Shall be managed in conformity with a land and resource management plan ("LRMP") prepared with public involvement pursuant to the National Forest Management Act (90 Stat. 2949) and other applicable laws, including full compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (83 Stat. 852) and the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act (74 Stat. 215).
- (3) Shall be open to public outdoor recreation such as hiking, camping, hunting and fishing, subject to reasonable regulations and state fish and game laws;
- (4) Shall be managed for wildlife and fish purposes consistent with other multiple uses, including full compliance with the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884);
- (5) May be utilized for grazing and forest management insofar as done on a sustained yield basis without impairment of the overall productivity of the National Forest;
- (6) Shall be managed to protect historic, cultural and archaeological resources in conformity with the National Historic Preservation Act (80 Stat. 915), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (93 Stat. 721);
- (7) Shall have acquired status under the Weeks Act of 1911 (36 Stat. 961) and, therefore, shall not be open to location and entry under the mining laws of the United States;
- (8) Shall be subject to the above referenced laws, and others generally applicable to the National Forest System, as such laws may be amended by Congress from time to time.

In order to promote open space and further consolidation of public land ownerships, any future disposition of such lands by exchange or interchange shall be for other lands within the boundaries of the National Forest System in the State of California unless otherwise specifically authorized by an Act of Congress. Lands so acquired by exchange shall be managed for the same purposes and under the same laws as apply to the exchanged parcels. At the time of any exchange or other disposal the United States will place covenants upon the lands to insure the perpetual use of the lands for scenic and natural purposes, equivalent to the above protections.

These covenants and conditions are to the benefit of Pacific Gas & Electric though the United States agrees that PG&E may transfer these covenants and conditions, and the right to monitor and enforce them, to ..... No further transfer of these covenants is permissible without the written consent of the United States.

This covenant may be enforced in the appropriate Federal Court having jurisdiction over the lands, provided that the covenant holder shall first utilize existing administrative remedies provided by law and regulation.

#### Maintenance of Covenant

The USFS shall amend the existing LRMP and incorporate language into the management area descriptions that states that the properties were donated to ensure the permanent protection of the property's natural resources. The amendment will include the Stewardship Council objectives for the land and reference the Covenant. The language will also require notification as addressed below and require that all future revisions of the LRMP (and any successor management plan thereto) provide reference to this Covenant. This document's recording information shall be included in the LRMP revision (and applicable amendments) to assure perpetual access to the intent of this donation.

This Covenant will be recorded in the county that the property is located in along with the deed. Two duplicate original copies of this agreement will be executed. Each signatory will receive one original for their records.

The covenant holder will monitor and complete a written annual monitoring report which it will provide to the Forest Service.

#### Notice Provision

USFS shall provide the Covenant Holder reasonable advance written notice of any proposals to amend or revise the LRMP or any other management plans or documents relating to the management or use of the Property and shall provide the Covenant Holder with the opportunity to fully participate in such planning process as an interested party. In any public proceedings respecting any proposed modification to the LRMP or any other management plan or document relating to the management or use of the Property, USFS shall fully disclose and describe the existence of this Covenant and the intentions of the Stewardship Council to effect the permanent protection of the natural resources relating to the Property in connection with PG&E's donation of the Property to the United States.

## **Covenant**

### **For Wilderness Inholdings**

*Covenants and Conditions:* In order to promote the perpetual use of the lands herein conveyed for scenic and natural purposes, it is agreed that such lands:

- (1) Shall be managed for public uses and protection of natural resources as a component of the National Forest System and subject to the laws and regulations applicable thereto;
- (2) Shall be managed in conformity with a land and resource management plan ("LRMP") prepared with public involvement pursuant to the National Forest Management Act (90 Stat. 2949) and other applicable laws, including full compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (83 Stat. 852) and the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884). Without limiting the foregoing, it is understood and agreed that no modification to the LRMP shall be made unless and until USFS (a) has provided advance written notice to the Stewardship Council or its designee of any proposal to modify the LRMP; (b) has permitted the Stewardship Council or its designee to fully participate in the LRMP amendment process as an interested party; (c) has publicly disclosed the intention of the donor to effect the permanent protection of the lands herein conveyed, and (d) has used reasonable efforts to make any modification to the LRMP consistent with the purposes of this covenant;
- (3) Shall be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 890), including the requirements that there shall be no commercial enterprise and no permanent roads except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for wilderness including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area; and no temporary roads; no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats; no landing of aircraft; no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation;
- (4) Shall be managed to protect historic, cultural and archaeological resources in conformity with the National Historic Preservation Act (80 Stat. 915), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (93 Stat. 721);
- (5) Shall have acquired status under the Weeks Act of 1911 (36 Stat. 961) and, therefore, shall not be open to location and entry under the mining laws of the United States;
- (6) Shall be subject to the above referenced laws, and others generally applicable to the National Forest System, as such laws may be amended by Congress from time to time.

These covenants and conditions are to the benefit of the covenant holder, and may be enforced in the appropriate Federal Court having jurisdiction over the lands, provided that the covenant holder shall first utilize existing administrative remedies provided by law and regulation.

