

FEE TITLE DONEE RECOMMENDATION PIT RIVER PLANNING UNIT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Stewardship Council was created to oversee Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E) Land Conservation Commitment, as set forth in the Settlement and Stipulation,¹ to protect over 140,000 acres of land and to preserve and enhance, on an overall basis, the following six beneficial public values (BPVs): protection of the natural habitat of fish, wildlife, and plants; preservation of open space; outdoor recreation by the general public; sustainable forestry²; agricultural uses; and historic values. The Stewardship Council is responsible for developing a land conservation plan and recommending qualified organizations to become involved in the future stewardship of these lands.

The Pit River planning unit, located in Shasta County, consists of 60 legal parcels encompassing approximately 12,478 acres. Approximately 10,787 acres have been identified by PG&E as lands outside of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) project boundaries and not necessary for current and future utility operations. Therefore, these 10,787 acres of land have been made available for fee title donation. Stewardship Council received and evaluated three land stewardship proposals (LSPs) from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), and the University of California Center for Forestry (UC) seeking fee title to either a portion or all of the lands available for donation in this planning unit. Based on an evaluation of these proposals, follow-up discussions with the prospective donees, and consultation with members of the Watershed Planning Committee (Planning Committee), Stewardship Council staff developed the following recommendation which was endorsed by the Planning Committee:

Collectively, **CAL FIRE and UC** to become the prospective recipients of fee title to approximately 8,320 acres available for donation. CAL FIRE is recommended for approximately 5,220 acres available for donation within 27 parcels (Parcels 43-48, 50-56, 65, 67, 68, 83-92, and a portion of Parcel 74). UC is recommended for approximately 3,100 acres available for donation within two parcels (Parcel 75 and a portion of Parcel 74).

PG&E to retain fee title to approximately 2,466 acres of land originally identified as available for donation, but constrained. This acreage is in addition to the 1,691 acres originally designated by PG&E for retention in this planning unit.

If this recommendation is adopted by the Stewardship Council Board (Board), Stewardship Council staff would work with the prospective donees on the development of management and funding agreements. These agreements would be developed in coordination with the

¹ California Public Utilities Commission Decision 03-12-035, December 18, 2003 (the "Settlement") and the Stipulation Resolving Issues Regarding the Land Conservation Commitment dated September 25, 2003 (the "Stipulation").

² The Stewardship Council has adopted the following definition of "Sustainable Forestry": The practice of managing dynamic forest ecosystems to provide ecological, economic, social, and cultural benefits for present and future generations.

development of a Land Conservation and Conveyance Plan (LCCP). The proposed management and funding agreements and proposed LCCP would then be presented to the Board for consideration and approval.

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

a. Planning Unit Description

The Pit River planning unit is one of the largest of the 47 planning units described in the Stewardship Council's Land Conservation Plan. The planning unit is located in Shasta County near the community of Big Bend. Lands associated with the McCloud-Pit Project include those along the Pit River from the James B. Black powerhouse (located upstream of the Pit 5 Powerhouse) south past the Pit 6 Reservoir to the beginning of the Pit 7 Reservoir. Hydropower infrastructure within the McCloud-Pit Project area includes the James B. Black Powerhouse, Pit 6 Dam, and Pit 6 Powerhouse. The planning unit is surrounded by private and industrial forest lands to the east and US Forest Service lands in a checkerboard pattern (Shasta-Trinity National Forest) to the west.

There are extensive terrestrial and aquatic resources within this planning unit. The ten-mile long, 268-surface-acre Pit 6 Reservoir provides habitat for fish species such as Sacramento sucker, tule perch, Sacramento pike minnow, tui chub, smallmouth bass, rainbow trout, and hardhead. This reservoir is very steep-sided with limited shoreline habitat. Similar fish species can be found in the Pit River.

The planning unit is within critical deer winter range and the US Fish and Wildlife Service designated northern spotted owl habitat area. Three special status plants have been identified along the Pit 5 Powerhouse Road and near the Pit 6 Reservoir and Cape Horn Creek. Due to a lack of development, steepness of the Pit River Canyon, and primary use of the planning unit for timber production, open space values can be found throughout the planning unit.

There is very little existing recreational use and few recreational facilities in this planning unit. Most of the existing recreation use occurs in the Pit 5 bypass reach area. The Pit 5 bypass reach is accessible by trail only and also provides fishing and whitewater boating opportunities. There are also trails in the Bush Bar area and along Miners Creek that are mostly used by anglers. Both the Bush Bar and James B. Black Powerhouse informal recreation areas are accessible by vehicle.

The entire planning unit is heavily forested. Black oak forest is common on the west side of the Pit River with Sierra mixed conifer forest common on the east side. Some of the Flatwoods area is mixed conifer forest, and part of the area resembles westside ponderosa pine forest that is dominated by ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir and, to a lesser degree, incense-cedar. There are some plantations within the area, primarily in the Flatwoods. The planning unit contains 17 PG&E Timber Management Units (TMUs), totaling 10,274 timbered acres, almost 20% of all of PG&E's timberlands. Fourteen of the TMUs are currently managed by PG&E for sustainable timber production. The remaining three TMUs currently have no timber management and are generally located along the Pit River from the Pit 5 Powerhouse area south to the beginning of the Pit 7 Reservoir. The planning unit has highly productive soils and has been referred to as some of the best forest land in Shasta County.

Grazing does not occur within the planning unit due to a lack of forage. Moreover, grazing was eliminated in the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project area in the late 1980s to protect sensitive resources and water quality.

PG&E currently manages a license agreement for a private dirt road located on lands being recommended for donation to UC. The licensor's interest in this agreement would be assigned to the new fee owner at closing.

The Pit River planning unit is located within the ancestral territory of the Pit River Tribe. FERC Relicensing studies documented 47 sites within the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project cultural resource study area consisting of shell middens, lithic scatters, housepits, cairns, and historic residential camps, fences, construction camps, road, and rock alignments. Ethnographic studies documented about 100 ethnographic locations within the cultural resource study area. During FERC relicensing, the Pit 3, 4, 5 Hydroelectric System was determined to be eligible for listing in the National Registry of Historic Places as an historic district.

b. Donee Evaluation Process

The Stewardship Council received statements of qualifications (SOQs) from six organizations interested in acquiring fee title to lands available for donation within this planning unit. A list of organizations that submitted SOQs is attached. Based on a review of the SOQs, all six organizations were invited to submit an LSP. Of these organizations, the following three submitted LSPs for the Pit River planning unit:

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
- The University of California, Center for Forestry (UC)

In evaluating each of the LSPs, the following factors were considered:

- The potential donee's programmatic, financial, and legal capacity to maintain the property interest so as to preserve and/or enhance the beneficial public values of the planning unit;
- Anticipated funding needs of the potential donee;
- The management objectives for the Pit River planning unit as set forth in Volume II of the Land Conservation Plan (LCP);
- Public comments received regarding the desired qualifications of potential donees and the future stewardship of the planning unit;
- The requirements of the Settlement and Stipulation; and,
- Other relevant policies, procedures, and goals adopted by the Stewardship Council.

II. EVALUATION

CAL FIRE and UC are being recommended to receive a donation of fee title to lands within the Pit River planning unit as follows, subject to compliance with all of the requirements of the Land Conservation Commitment:

Collectively, **CAL FIRE and UC** to become the prospective recipients of fee title to approximately 8,320 acres available for donation. CAL FIRE is recommended for approximately 5,220 acres available for donation within 27 parcels (Parcels 43-48, 50-56, 65, 67, 68, 83-92, and a portion of Parcel 74). UC is recommended for approximately 3,100 acres available for donation within two parcels (Parcel 75 and a portion of Parcel 74).

If the recommendation of CAL FIRE and UC as prospective fee title recipients is approved by the Board, the final configuration and actual acreage amounts to be donated to CAL FIRE and UC would be subject to further joint discussions with CAL FIRE and UC.

Additionally, PG&E is recommended to retain approximately 2,466 acres of land originally identified as available for donation, but constrained. This acreage is in addition to the 1,691 acres originally designated by PG&E for retention in this planning unit.

This recommendation is based on a determination that CAL FIRE and UC Center for Forestry appear to have sufficient financial and organizational capacity to hold and maintain fee title interests on these lands, and that the addition of these lands to the Demonstration State Forest and UC systems would result in the preservation and/or enhancement of the BPVs. Evaluation of CAL FIRE, UC and their LSPs is further described below.

a. Donee Organizational Capacity

CAL FIRE

CAL FIRE is a major resource management, protection, and emergency response department within the California Natural Resources Agency. CAL FIRE's mission is to serve and safeguard the people and protect the property and resources of California through its offices of Fire Protection, Resources Management, and State Fire Marshal. CAL FIRE has a wide breadth and depth of expertise in land management, archaeology, forestry, and other natural resource sciences, fire protection, law enforcement and recreation. With 4,700 permanent and 3,100 seasonal employees, including over 100 Registered Professional Foresters, CAL FIRE is responsible for protecting over 31 million acres of California's privately-owned wildlands, providing emergency services within 35 of California's 58 counties, and managing the Demonstration State Forest system.

CAL FIRE manages a network of eight Demonstration State Forests across California that encompasses a total of 71,000 acres. This network includes the high elevation 9,033 acre LaTour Demonstration State Forest in eastern Shasta County. The eight Demonstration State Forests are managed for sustainable forestry, applied research and demonstration projects on forest management, public recreation, education, fish and wildlife habitat, and watershed protection. The lands in this planning unit of interest to CAL FIRE would expand and complement the network of existing Demonstration State Forests across the State of California.

CAL FIRE has a wide range of existing research partners to collaborate with on the Pit River planning unit. These organizations include: the University of California, Humboldt State University, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, California Department of Fish and Game, California Energy Commission, USDA Forest Service, US Department of Energy, NOAA/Scripps, The Nature Conservancy, and others.

At each of the Demonstration State Forests, CAL FIRE works in cooperation with a variety of entities to implement research, fuels management, and fire protection activities. CAL FIRE research partners include private and public universities such as the University of California and State Universities systems, and the Research Stations of the US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. In Shasta County, CAL FIRE maintains an active role in research and professional forestry. CAL FIRE is a member of the Sierra-Cascade Intensive Forest Management Research Cooperative, maintains a close working relationship with the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station in Redding, and hosts several of their study installations at LaTour Demonstration State Forests. CAL FIRE maintains a close working relationship with the Department of Fish and Game and cooperates on joint wildlife studies at LaTour Demonstration State Forest. CAL FIRE maintains an active presence in local government, community, professional, conservation and recreation organizations in this area. CAL FIRE currently works with a large number of groups in Shasta County, including the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District and the Cow Creek Watershed Management Group, where CAL FIRE holds a seat on the Board.

CAL FIRE supported and participated in the development of the Cow Creek Watershed Fuel Reduction Plan, the Lakehead Area Strategic Fuel Reduction Plan, and the Fire Safe Plan for the Shingletown Community. CAL FIRE's Shasta Trinity Unit (SHU) Vegetation Management Program implements cost-share projects for wildlife habitat improvement, noxious weed control, range improvement and wildfire hazard reduction, primarily through prescribed burning and Conservation Camp inmate labor. In Shasta County, Vegetation Management Program (VMP) projects include an 850 acre wildlife habitat enhancement project in McArthur Swamp to improve waterfowl habitat. SHU has also participated in Defensible Space Residential Chipping Programs in the Community of Shingletown, which provided free chipping services to help clear vegetation around residential homes in compliance with fire safe clearance codes and fuelbreak projects.

CAL FIRE collaborates with archaeology departments and programs at state universities to assist in protecting historic and prehistoric archaeological resources. The universities conduct surveys and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis to protect archaeological resources on CAL FIRE properties and facilities (e.g., Demonstration State Forests, fire stations, conservation camps, and Unit headquarters) and on private or state lands where CAL FIRE implements its Vegetation Management Program and California Forest Improvement Program projects. This mutually beneficial collaboration has existed for 23 years, providing training opportunities for the universities and their students, while offering low-cost archaeological and environmental review services to CAL FIRE.

UC

Located in the College of Natural Resources on the UC Berkeley Campus, the Center for Forestry serves as part of the University of California's system wide Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. It assembles interdisciplinary teams of campus faculty, Cooperative

Extension specialists and advisors, students, and staff from various agencies and organizations to develop research projects, outreach and public education activities, and policy analysis on issues affecting the state's forested lands.

The mission of UC Center for Forestry is to sustain forested ecosystems through scientific inquiry. To this end, UC seeks to create and disseminate knowledge concerning ecosystem processes, human interactions and value systems, and restoration and operational management practices. UC Center for Forestry functions as a hub where multidisciplinary research teams are organized, financial support is developed, and science-based outreach is coordinated.

UC's research forests provide opportunities for field experiments, applied science and hands-on learning opportunities. According to UC's LSP, the University of California has conducted a successful basic and applied program that has materially contributed to the sustainable management of forested lands since 1910. Several hundred peer-reviewed journal publications and 76 dissertations have involved research at UC's Blodgett Research Forest. Research has covered disciplines including silviculture, wildlife management, stream ecology, fire science, plant demography, carbon dynamics, insect and disease interactions, and air pollution.

UC Center for Forestry believes that the forces of global changes (climate warming, air pollution, and invasive species) pose unprecedented threats and society must develop better strategies for the natural resource management in a world of ongoing global change. UC Center for Forestry's primary responsibility is to manage the forests owned in fee title by the Regents of the University of California. These forests are an integral part of the system of wildlands maintained by the University of California's Natural Reserve System, which includes 36 sites and over 135,000 acres. UC maintains forest inventory databases and related data, as well as a full library of articles and reports that are publicly accessible.

UC Center for Forestry's four research stations have an explicit focus on understanding the science and stewardship of working forests. These four forests range in size from the 80 acre Baker Forest/Summer Camp in Plumas County to Blodgett Forest, which is 4,270 acres in El Dorado County. The two other forests – Russell Research Station and Whitaker Forest - are 283 and 320 acres in size, respectively.

UC Center for Forestry is headquartered at the Blodgett Forest Research Station owned by the University of California since 1933. The Blodgett Forest Research Station is located at approximately 4,000' elevation in the mixed conifer vegetation type. This research forest is UC Center for Forestry's largest, at approximately 4,270 acres in size and contains large public meeting spaces, housing for researchers, and heavy equipment.

Blodgett is used for research, outreach and education. The current management involves research and demonstration into sustainable forest management practices to produce forest products over the long term while minimizing impacts to water quality, wildlife habitat, fire risk and other environmental benefits. Management is accomplished using a mix of even aged (40% of area) and uneven-aged (40%) silvicultural systems, and 20% reserve stands for comparison. The goal is to inform the broader public about the pros and cons of different treatments rather than to promote a single preferred approach.

There are between four and seven experienced full-time staff at Blodgett, which varies annually depending on funding and research needs. Seasonal staff also fluctuates. Currently UC has three

Registered Professional Foresters who implement THPs and provide logistical and technical support to researchers; maintain a comprehensive forest inventory and environmental monitoring program; archive data and geospatial information; conduct applied research; and open other forest sites that have been snowed in all winter.

UC staff has indicated that their forestry standards generally exceed the Forest Practice Rules and include the following measures (except when a specific research goals dictates otherwise):

- maintaining higher than required minimum stocking levels on partial cut harvests (selection, thinning, shelterwood seed cuts, etc.)
- maintaining higher numbers and larger diameter seed trees than required for selection and seed/shelterwood methods
- often extending watercourse protection zones beyond the minimum distances required by the rules
- maintaining roads at a high standard even between harvest operations (according to the Forest Practice Rules, in most cases, road maintenance is only required up to three years following the completion of a THP)

In addition, ongoing programs supported by UC facilities include the Forestry Institute for Teachers, the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Program, and UC Forestry Camp. Public education is offered through existing partnerships with K-12 educational institutions and county-based 4H programs.

b. Donee Financial Capacity

The financial capacity of UC Center for Forestry (a research unit which reports to the College of Natural Resources at the University of California, Berkeley) was evaluated based on a review of its operating budget for the current year, as well as financial statements for the three most recent fiscal years for the Center for Forestry and UC Berkeley. CAL FIRE's financial capacity was evaluated based on a review of its operating budget for the current year, as well as financial statements for the three most recent fiscal years. Based on a review of financial statements submitted, both CAL FIRE and UC Center for Forestry appear to possess the financial capacity to own and manage the lands being recommended to each entity for donation in the Pit River planning unit.

c. Management Objectives

Volume II of the LCP established certain management objectives for the Pit River planning unit (see attached Volume II Planning Unit Report). As described below, CAL FIRE and UC are seeking fee title to lands within the planning unit to achieve a number of proposed management activities, which are consistent with the established management objectives.

CAL FIRE

CAL FIRE is seeking a fee title to lands available for donation in the Pit River planning unit to establish a new Demonstration State Forest. This Demonstration State Forest would be incorporated into the existing Demonstration State Forest system which supports monitoring, adaptive management, and research on best forest management practices. The management of

the lands donated to CAL FIRE and incorporated into the Demonstration State Forest system would be subject to oversight by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. This oversight would include review and approval of a management plan to guide the management of the lands.

Development of a Demonstration State Forest at the planning unit would achieve several of the recommended potential measures identified under the sustainable forestry objective for the planning unit and would align with the overall management objectives identified under the sustainable forestry BPV. The Pit River planning unit provides a representative site for monitoring, adaptive management, research, and demonstration on best management practices to support privately owned forestry enterprises that are both ecologically and financially sustainable.

Additionally, Demonstration State Forests are managed for a variety of recreation and habitat management objectives consistent with the BPVs. CAL FIRE proposes to undertake the following objectives and activities on lands conveyed to it in the Pit River planning unit:

- Establish a Demonstration State Forest that would encompass all the donated lands within the planning unit with a part-time forest manager and other staff as needed.
- Implement a sustainable forestry research program focused on demonstrating best management practices for watershed protection. An important part of sustainable forestry for the planning unit would be the implementation and demonstration of forest management practices to maintain forest cover and protect soils, and reduce fuels and wildfire hazard.
- Develop a comprehensive, multi-resource management and sustained yield plan. The management plan would address biological resources, recreation, and cultural values.
- Promote opportunities to study, mitigate, and adapt to climate change through management, research, and demonstration.
- Seek public input on the development of the management plan through requests to the public for comments, public meetings, as well as via the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection plan review and approval process and California Environmental Quality Act.
- Implement an ecosystem monitoring and adaptive management program that includes a forest-wide, multi-resource inventory and monitoring system.
- Implement habitat protection and restoration in the context of an actively managed forest. Activities would be aimed at developing a robust forest ecosystem with a wide range of wildlife habitat features, providing for habitat resilience to wildfire and implementing habitat restoration projects.
- Implement educational and recreational activities such as a rustic campground, public tours and hikes, displays, self-guided tours and/or science camps similar to activities implemented on other Demonstration State Forests. Activities would be intended to demonstrate best practices for forest management.

- Implement a program to protect cultural and historic resources. CAL FIRE has a department-wide cultural resources management plan that details measures for protection of cultural resources, which applies to all the Demonstration State Forests. The Pit River planning unit, if donated to CAL FIRE, would also be covered by this management plan. The Demonstration State Forests and the department's archeology staff have extensive experience with protecting cultural resources, accommodating tribal land use, and providing education opportunities where appropriate.

UC

UC's proposal revolves around one key question: *How can California's working forests located in key watersheds above major water supply systems be managed to sustainably provide essential ecosystem and climate benefits over the next century?*

In order to address this question, UC proposes a "UC Sierran Forest Global Change Network". UC is proposing to install a research and monitoring network specifically designed to measure emerging stressors to develop adaptive management strategies; measure energy and water balances to understand the role of forested watersheds and water supply; monitor air pollution and its affect on trees and plants; and monitor invasive species.

UC's proposal indicates that acquiring parcels in the Pit River planning unit will provide them with an opportunity to build an infrastructure needed to address challenges of California's actively managed forests. These lands, together with existing research forests, would permit UC to test approaches to mitigate and adapt to the manifold effects of a changing climate across the gradient in order to ensure insights gained are broadly applicable. The goal is to develop a research, education, and outreach program using field-based empirical studies that are guided by good experimental design. This foundation will provide valuable insights on how best to steward the Sierra Nevada forests now and in the future.

UC proposes to implement a diverse array of experimental forest stands to learn which structures will be most resilient over the coming decades. UC's interest in the lands at the Pit River planning unit is to advance sustainable forestry practices that are appropriate for watersheds in California, enhance the diversity of natural habitats, and protect cultural resources while accounting for the changes and uncertainty introduced by the forces of global change. From an operational perspective, UC wants to explore and develop a range of approaches that meet the common mixture of demands on actively managed forests in California.

More specifically, UC is proposing the following:

- Develop a research forest that would be split into three primary management categories (reserves, even-aged, and uneven-aged) which would then be further split among specific silviculture systems. UC would implement treatments that would include all methods of silviculture allowed under the California Forest Practice Act to ensure relevance to working forests in the state. Other non-commercial regimes would be studied such as different methods of site preparation to ensure regeneration, different levels of vegetation control to minimize competition and limit spread of invasive species, and different intensities of thinning to promote wood production and the growth of big trees. The performance of all of these management strategies would be evaluated using treatments replicated across latitudinal gradients to understand effects of climate change.

- Conduct research-level inventories of forest stands, wildlife, stream, and archaeological/cultural resources during the first summer field season after fee transfer. Permanent fixed plots will also be developed and marked.
- Design and test protocols for invasive species monitoring.
- Survey existing roads and address any illegal activities.
- Install year-round weather stations at each site that measure air temperature, precipitation, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, incoming radiation, snow melt timing, and soil moisture. In addition, install passive ozone monitors during the snow free months. Other sensor arrays for other pollutants (e.g., nitrogen) could be added as conditions warrant.

Together, the proposed donation of lands to CAL FIRE and UC would result in the establishment of a major new research and demonstration project centered at the Pit River planning unit. The co-location of CAL FIRE and UC would leverage the knowledge and resources of both organizations and create synergies that would advance their research missions. Moreover, it is envisioned that the proposed new research and demonstration forest would result in the establishment of a cooperative agreements involving CAL FIRE, UC, California Department of Fish and Game, US Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station, Humboldt State University, Shasta College, and other organizations that would further promote research, education and outreach.

d. Funding

Consistent with the Stewardship Council's Land Conservation Funding Policy, the Stewardship Council may elect to fund certain costs related to the transfer of fee title, satisfaction of property tax neutrality requirements, and/or costs of enhancements to the beneficial public values on watershed lands. Any costs to be funded by the Stewardship Council would be identified in management and funding agreements to be developed by the Stewardship Council in coordination with UC and CALFIRE, the prospective donees.

e. Requirements of the Settlement and Stipulation

The Stewardship Council's recommendation that CAL FIRE and UC receive fee title to certain lands available for donation within this planning unit is subject to compliance with all the requirements of the Land Conservation Commitment. Several of these requirements are highlighted below.

The Stewardship Council would work with PG&E and Shasta County to ensure the land conveyance of these parcels achieves property tax neutrality.

A conservation easement will be established on the lands within the planning unit. The conservation easement for lands that are donated will include an express reservation of rights for continued operation and maintenance of hydroelectric facilities and associated water delivery facilities, including project replacements and improvements required to meet existing and future water delivery requirements for power generation and consumptive water use by existing users, and compliance with any FERC license, FERC license renewal, or other regulatory requirements

on lands to be retained by PG&E. On lands to be conveyed to CAL FIRE and UC, the grant deed would reserve to PG&E similar rights for operation and maintenance of hydroelectric facilities and associated water delivery facilities.

Consistent with the Settlement Agreement, any existing agreements for economic uses must also be honored.

f. Conservation Partners

The permanent protection of the Pit River planning unit and the future preservation and enhancement of the BPVs may benefit from the participation of land conservation partners. For the purposes of this recommendation, land conservation partners are defined as organizations, other than the prospective fee title donee or conservation easement holder, involved in future activities on the donated lands that contribute to the preservation and enhancement of the BPVs. Land conservation partners may be identified in the LSPs submitted by organizations interested in a fee title donation, or during or after the development of the LCCP. Such organizations and activities may be eligible for Stewardship Council funding, depending on the type of organization, proposed activities, availability of funds, and other factors. Staff would work with the prospective organizations recommended for donation of fee title and conservation easements in this planning unit and evaluate opportunities for land conservation partners. The results of this effort would be reflected in the management and funding agreements and LCCP.

CAL FIRE has identified potential partnerships for management and enhancement activities with the University of California, the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District, USDA Forest Service Pacific Forest Southwest Research Station, and the California Department of Fish and Game. Letters of support from many of these organizations was included in CAL FIRE's LSP.

The LaTour Demonstration State Forest has a memorandum of understanding with the California Department of Fish and Game that formalizes a cooperative research and monitoring program to study the effects of different silvicultural practices on wildlife habitat. This agreement would extend to the Pit River planning unit, if donated. Moreover, CAL FIRE is a leading member of the California Growth and Yield Model Cooperative, an organization dedicated to improving existing models to project forest growth and development under different management treatments. CAL FIRE also contributes to the Sierra-Cascade Intensive Forest Management Research Cooperative, a group of research organizations, landowners, and agencies dedicated to advancing applied silvicultural research. CAL FIRE would work with these same entities to conduct and promote research on the Pit River planning unit.

CAL FIRE collaborates with many community organizations on fire prevention and fire hazard reduction activities. CAL FIRE partnered with Shasta County Fire Safe Council to develop shaded fuel breaks at Rock Creek, Walker Mine, and Lower Springs using conservation camp inmate labor. Similar projects have also been implemented in partnership with the Trinity County Resource Conservation District, Shasta-Trinity and Lassen National Forests, and private timberland owners. CAL FIRE also partnered with the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District on fuel break installation and maintenance in the communities of Old Shasta, Shasta Lake, Ingot, Centerville, Whitmore, and Shingletown. CAL FIRE expects to cooperate with most of these entities on fuels management projects and potentially recreation and habitat management activities for the Pit River planning unit.

In follow up discussions, UC identified CAL FIRE as a key land conservation partner for the Pit River planning unit. Building on the existing relationship between the two organizations and working off each other's strengths, UC has identified numerous benefits that would arise from both organizations being involved at the planning unit. UC also proposes to explore extending public programs that are currently being offered at other UC facilities, including the Forestry Institute for Teachers, UC Forestry Camp, and partnerships with K-12 educational institutions and county-based 4H programs.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Stewardship Council has implemented a public outreach program to engage stakeholders and solicit public input on the development and implementation of the land conservation plan. A summary of key public outreach activities and public comments associated with the Pit River planning unit is attached. Additional public comments received concerning this recommendation will be provided to the Board for consideration.

IV. RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

CAL FIRE

Staff is recommending that fee title to approximately 5,220 acres of lands available for donation within 27 parcels be donated to CAL FIRE for the following reasons:

- Donation of these lands would further one of the key goals of the Land Conservation Commitment of donating lands to a qualified organization with the financial and organizational capacity to preserve and enhance the BPVs.
- CAL FIRE has significant capacity and interest in preserving and/or enhancing the BPVs associated with these lands based on their years of experience managing the Demonstration State Forest lands for similar resource values.
- Lands donated to CAL FIRE would become part of the Demonstration State Forest system and subject to oversight by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, including policies and procedures requiring public review and input of CAL FIRE's management activities.
- Donation of these lands to CAL FIRE would increase the likelihood that the BPVs would be enhanced in the future. CAL FIRE has proposed the following actions and activities that would contribute to the preservation and/or enhancement of BPVs:
 - Enhance management to create a diverse forest stand structure across the landscape.
 - Enhance fuels management beyond current practices.
 - Create a research and demonstration program where one has not existed before.
 - Support recreation and education including activities such as science camps, tours and hikes, displays, and self-guided trails.
 - Enhance public education by adding signs, and hosting public and private tours to demonstrate research and best management practices.

- Enhance protection of biological resources through comprehensive surveys, inventory, management, and monitoring and sharing this information with government agencies, landowners, and the general public through CAL FIRE’s forest resources information system.
- Enhance opportunities for education and preservation of historical and cultural values through surveys and inventory of historical resources and cultural sites, as required by law and Governor’s Executive Order, and incorporating this information into the Management Plan for Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites.
- Donation of these lands to CAL FIRE would advance the burgeoning field of sustainable forestry and climate change research by providing CAL FIRE with additional lands for research and demonstration, with benefits that would extend well beyond the watershed lands.

UC

Staff is recommending that fee title to 3,100 acres of lands within two parcels be donated to UC for the following reasons:

- Donation of these lands would further one of the key goals of the Land Conservation Commitment of donating lands to a qualified organization with the financial and organizational capacity to preserve and enhance the BPVs.
- UC is committed to preserving the BPVs.
- UC has proposed the following actions and activities that would contribute to the preservation and/or enhancement of BPVs:
 - Enhance management to create a diversity of forest stand structural conditions across the landscape, and in turn create a more sustainably managed forest.
 - Create a research and demonstration program where one has not existed before.
 - Conduct forest, wildlife, stream, and archaeological/cultural resource inventories.
 - Design and test protocols for invasive species monitoring.
 - Install year-round weather stations at each site that measure air temperature, precipitation, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, incoming radiation, snow melt timing, and soil moisture. In addition UC proposes installation of passive ozone monitors during the snow free months at all the research forests. Other sensor arrays for other pollutants (e.g., nitrogen) could be added as conditions warrant.
- Donation of these lands to UC would advance the burgeoning field of sustainable forestry and climate change research by providing UC with additional lands for research and demonstration, with benefits that would extend well beyond the watershed lands.

Staff recommends that the final configuration and actual acreage amounts to be donated to CAL FIRE and UC be subject to further joint discussions with CAL FIRE and UC.

V. NEXT STEPS

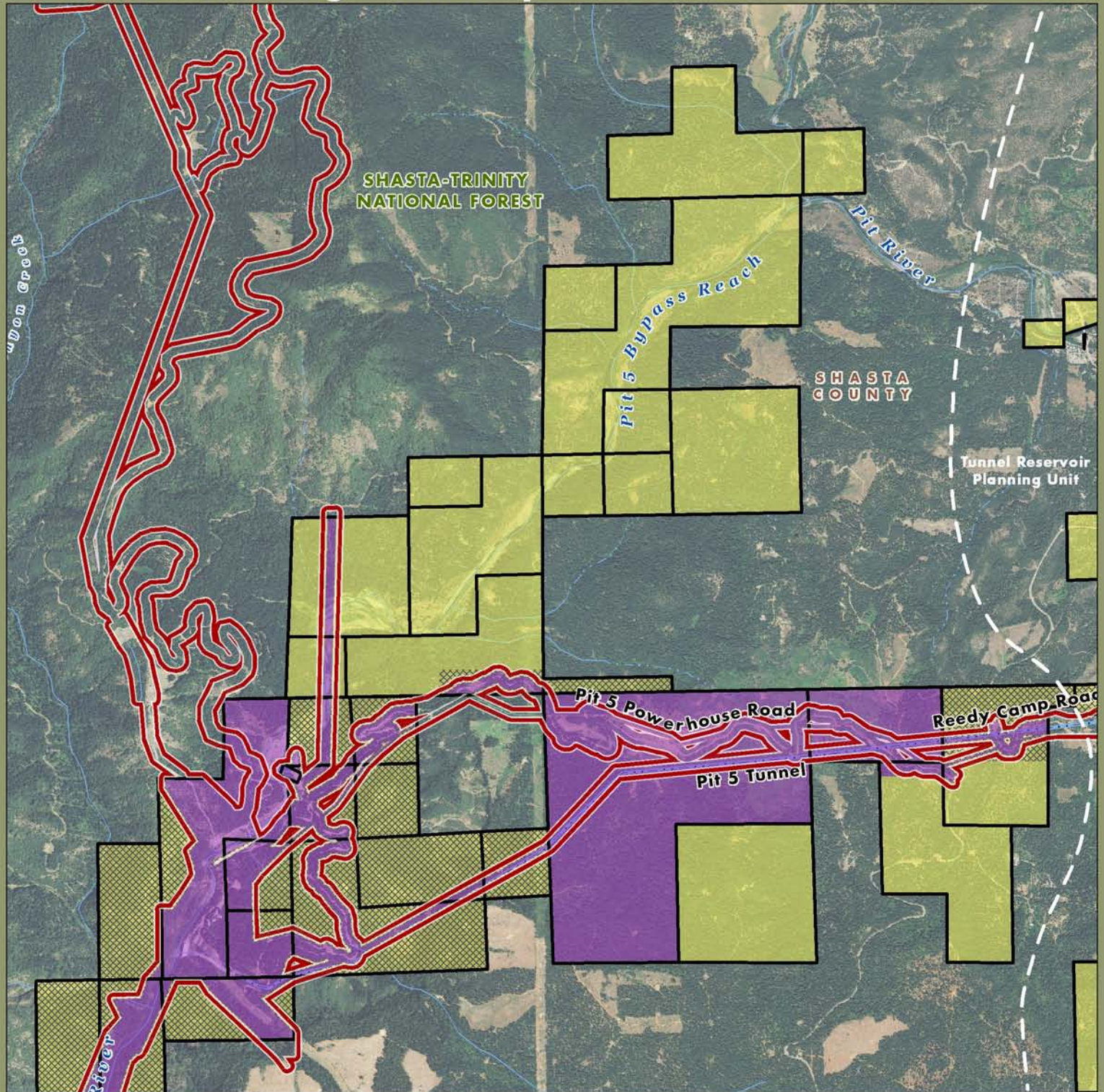
If this recommendation is adopted by the Board, staff would invite CAL FIRE and UC to negotiate specific terms of the transactions with PG&E and would work with CAL FIRE and UC to develop management and funding agreements. The development of management and funding agreements would be coordinated with the development of an LCCP.

Adoption of the LCCP by the Board would be the final step in the Stewardship Council's process for selecting donees. The proposed LCCP would be made available for public review and comment before it is approved by the Board.

ATTACHMENTS AND REFERENCE MATERIAL


- Pit River Planning Unit Map
- LCP Volume II Planning Unit Report for the Pit River Planning Unit
- List of Registered Organizations that Submitted SOQs for Lands Available in the Pit River Planning Unit
- Summary of Key Public Outreach Activities and Public Comments Associated with the Pit River Planning Unit

Pit River Planning Unit: Map 1



 PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Donation

 PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Retention

 Certain Considerations May Make Donation Inadvisable

 FERC Boundary

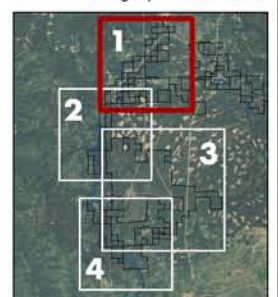
Acreage and location of lands preliminarily designated for retention by PG&E outside the FERC boundary are approximate. FERC boundary is approximate and may change over time.



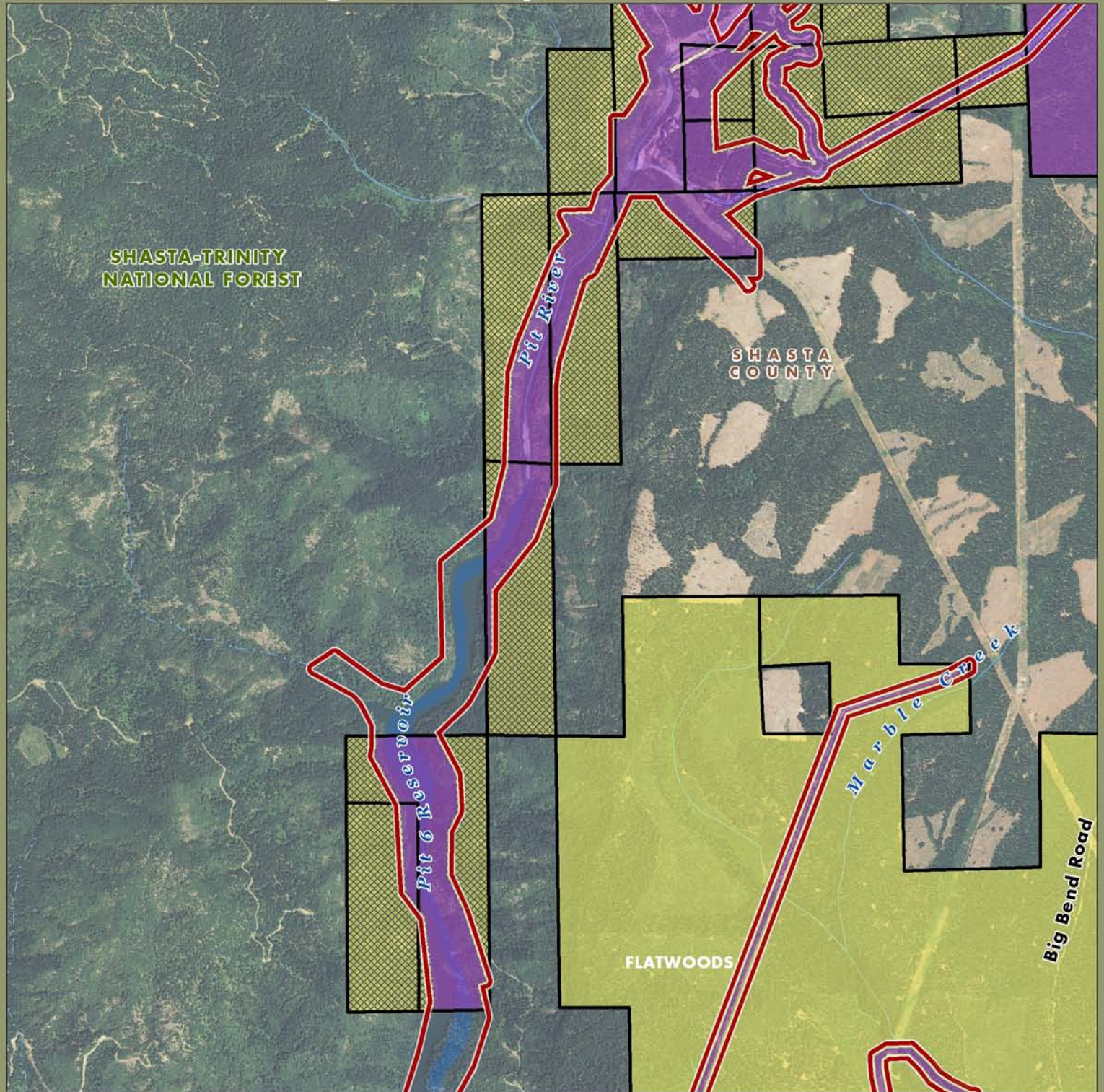
0 0.5 1 Miles

October 2010
AECOM



Imagery: NIAP 2009



Pit River Planning Unit: Map 2



-  PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Donation
-  PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Retention

-  Certain Considerations May Make Donation Inadvisable
-  FERC Boundary

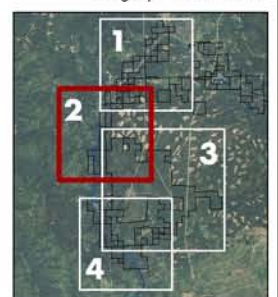
Acreage and location of lands preliminarily designated for retention by PG&E outside the FERC boundary are approximate. FERC boundary is approximate and may change over time.



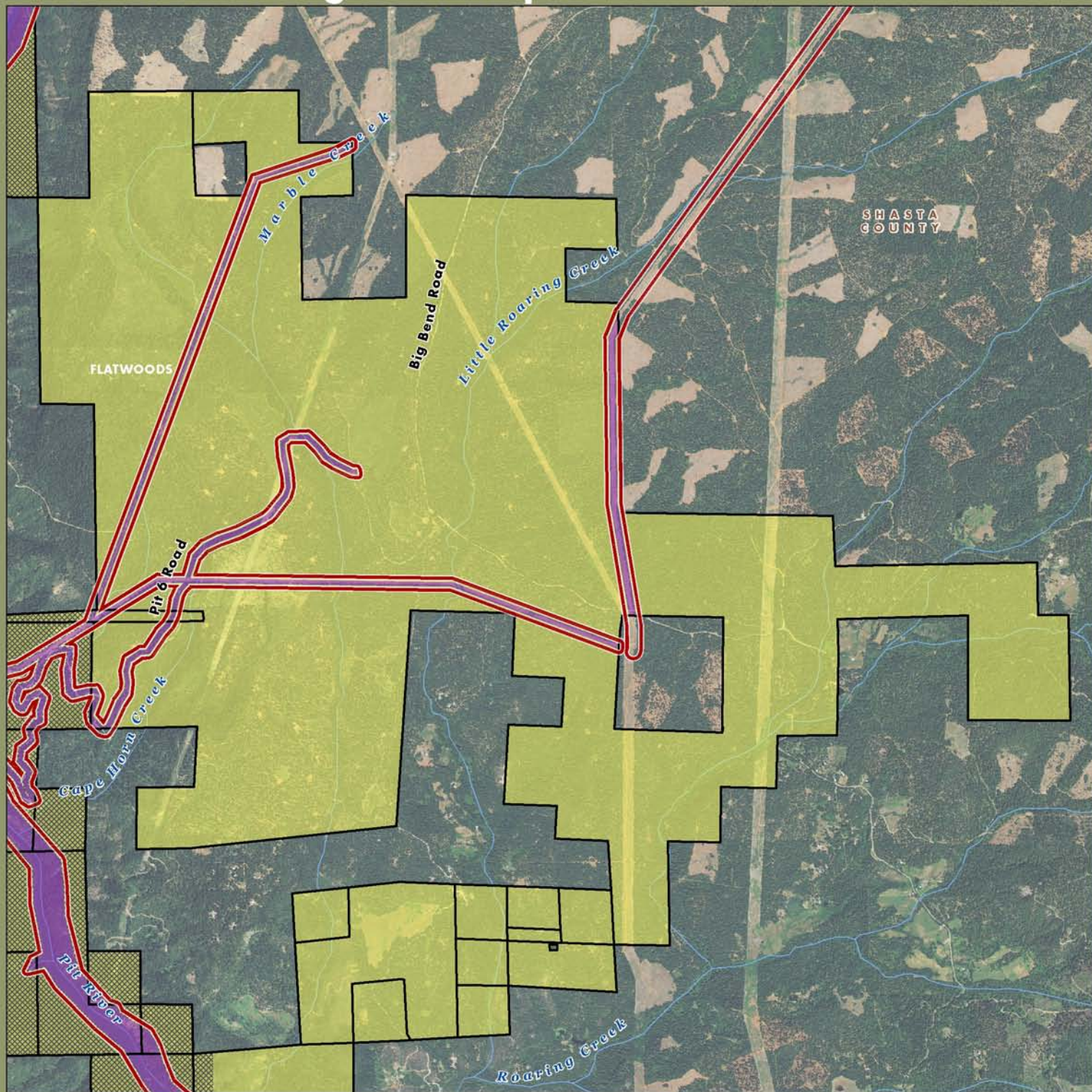
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October 2010
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Imagery: NIAP 2009



Pit River Planning Unit: Map 3



PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Donation

Certain Considerations May Make Donation Inadvisable

PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Retention

FERC Boundary

Acreage and location of lands preliminarily designated for retention by PG&E outside the FERC boundary are approximate. FERC boundary is approximate and may change over time.



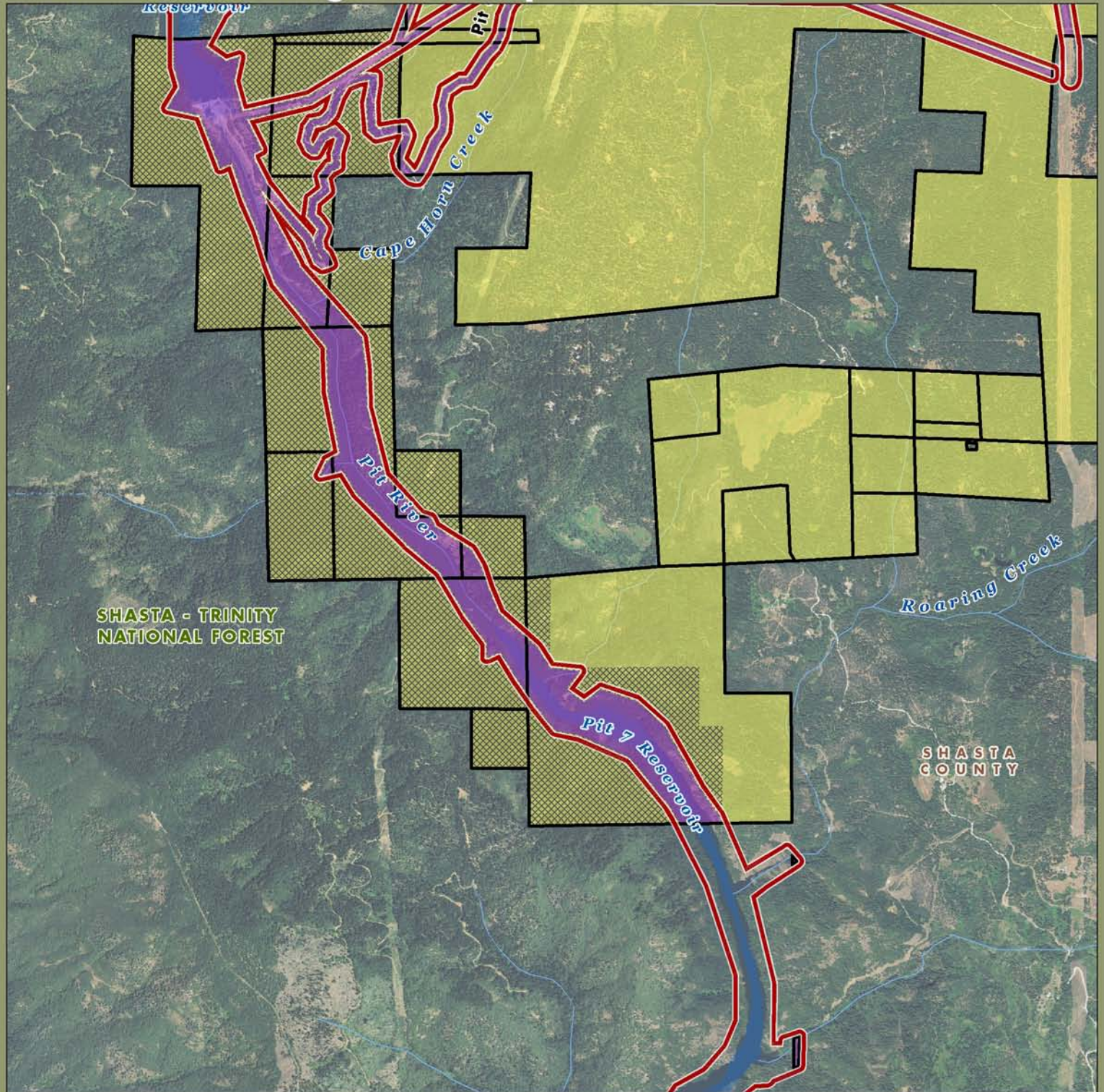
0 0.5 1 Miles

Imagery: NIAP 2009





October 2010
AECOM

Pit River Planning Unit: Map 4



-  PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Donation
-  PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Retention

-  Certain Considerations May Make Donation Inadvisable
-  FERC Boundary

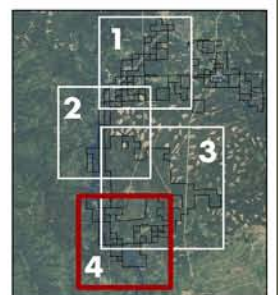
Acreage and location of lands preliminarily designated for retention by PG&E outside the FERC boundary are approximate. FERC boundary is approximate and may change over time.



0 0.5 1 Miles

October 2010
AECOM

Imagery: NIAP 2009



Pit River Planning Unit: Map 1

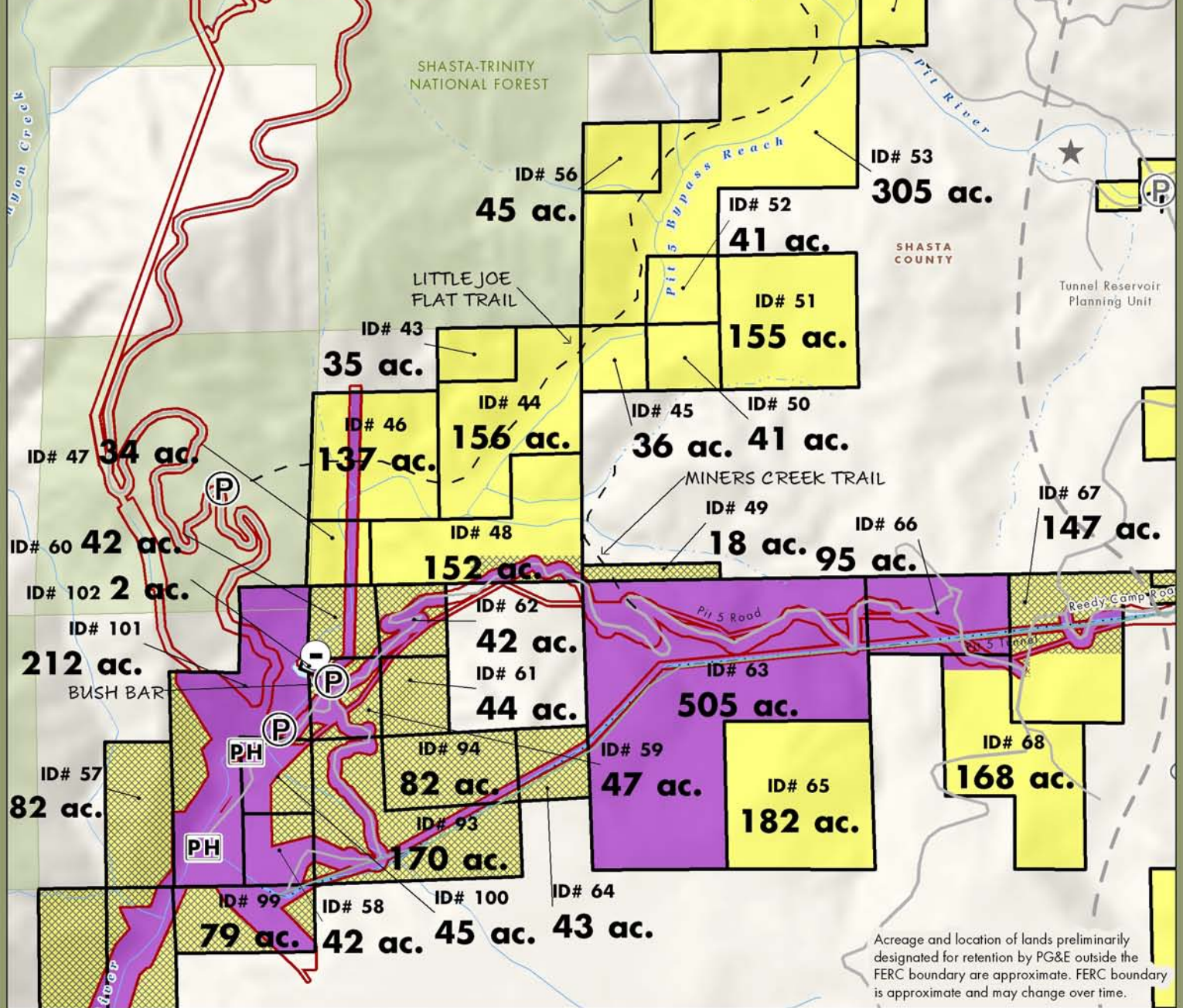
FERC Project: Pit 3, 4 & 5 (#233)

& McCloud-Pit (#2106)

12,478 Total Acres (12,279 acres land)

1,099 Acres Within FERC (9%)

17 TMUs: 10,313 Timbered Acres



PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Donation

PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Retention

Certain Considerations May Make Donation Inadvisable

Legal Parcel Boundary and Id Number

PG&E Lands Under Water

FERC Boundary

BIA

BLM

Private

USFS

Dam

OHV Road

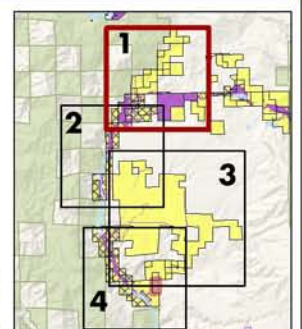
P Parking

PH Powerhouse

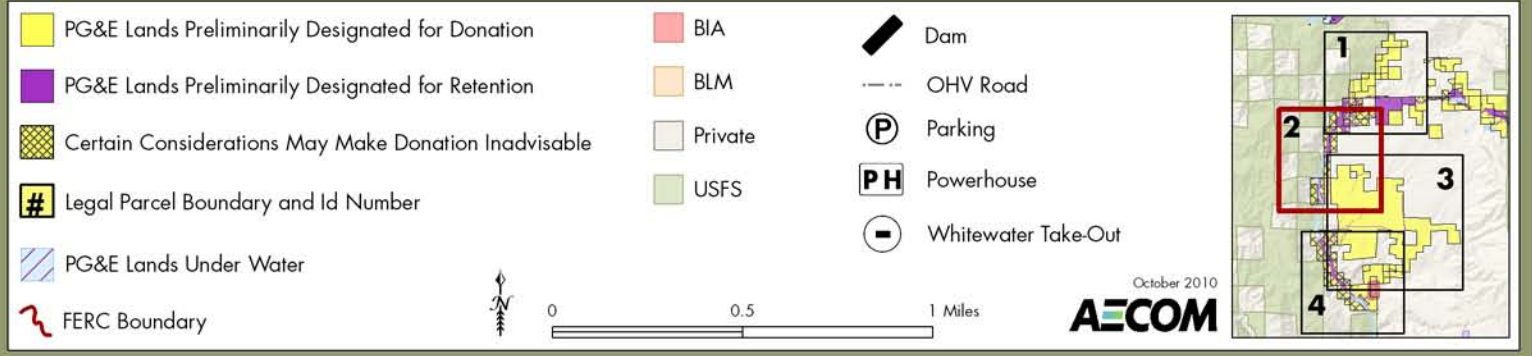
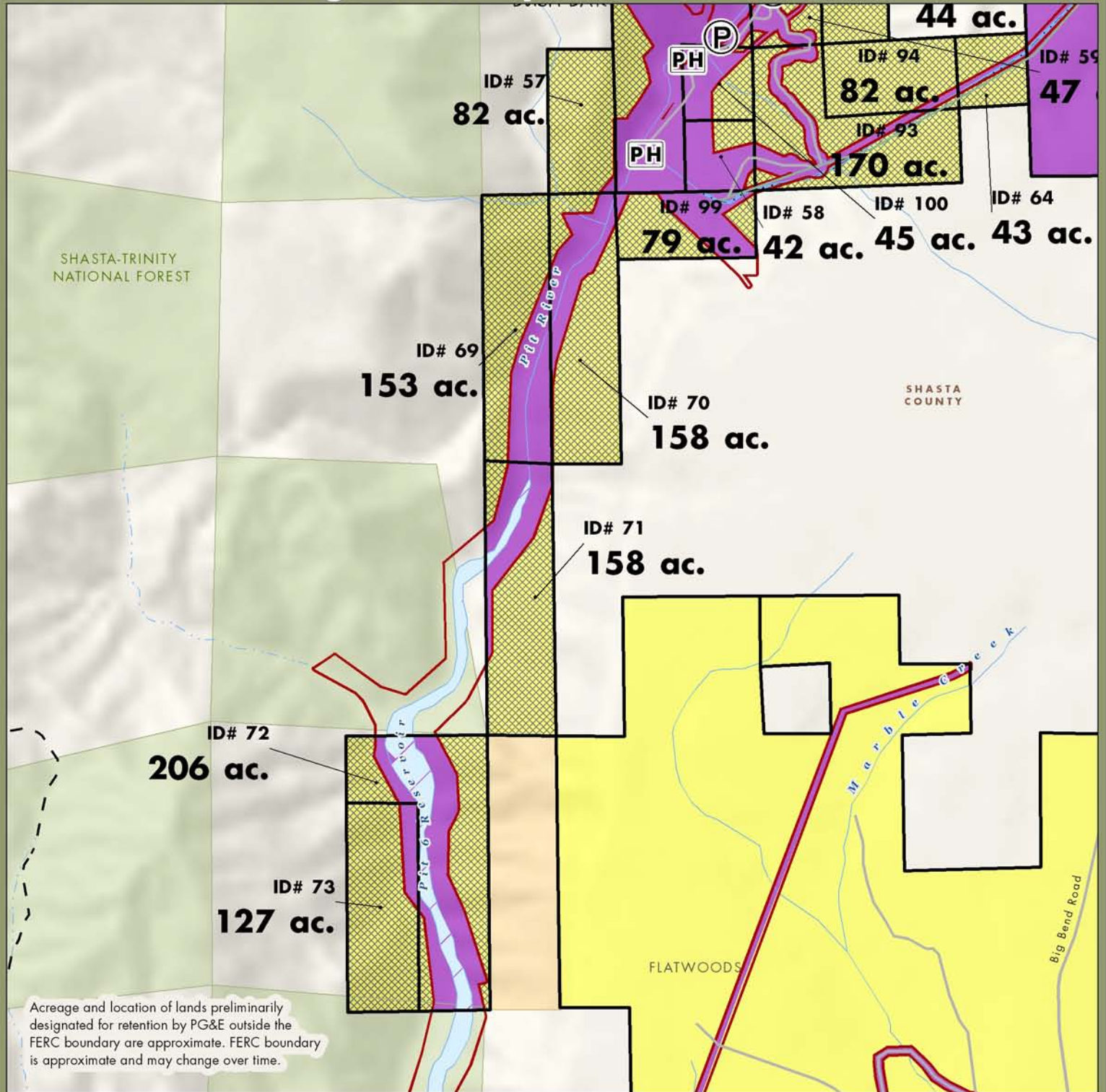
Whitewater Take-Out

October 2010

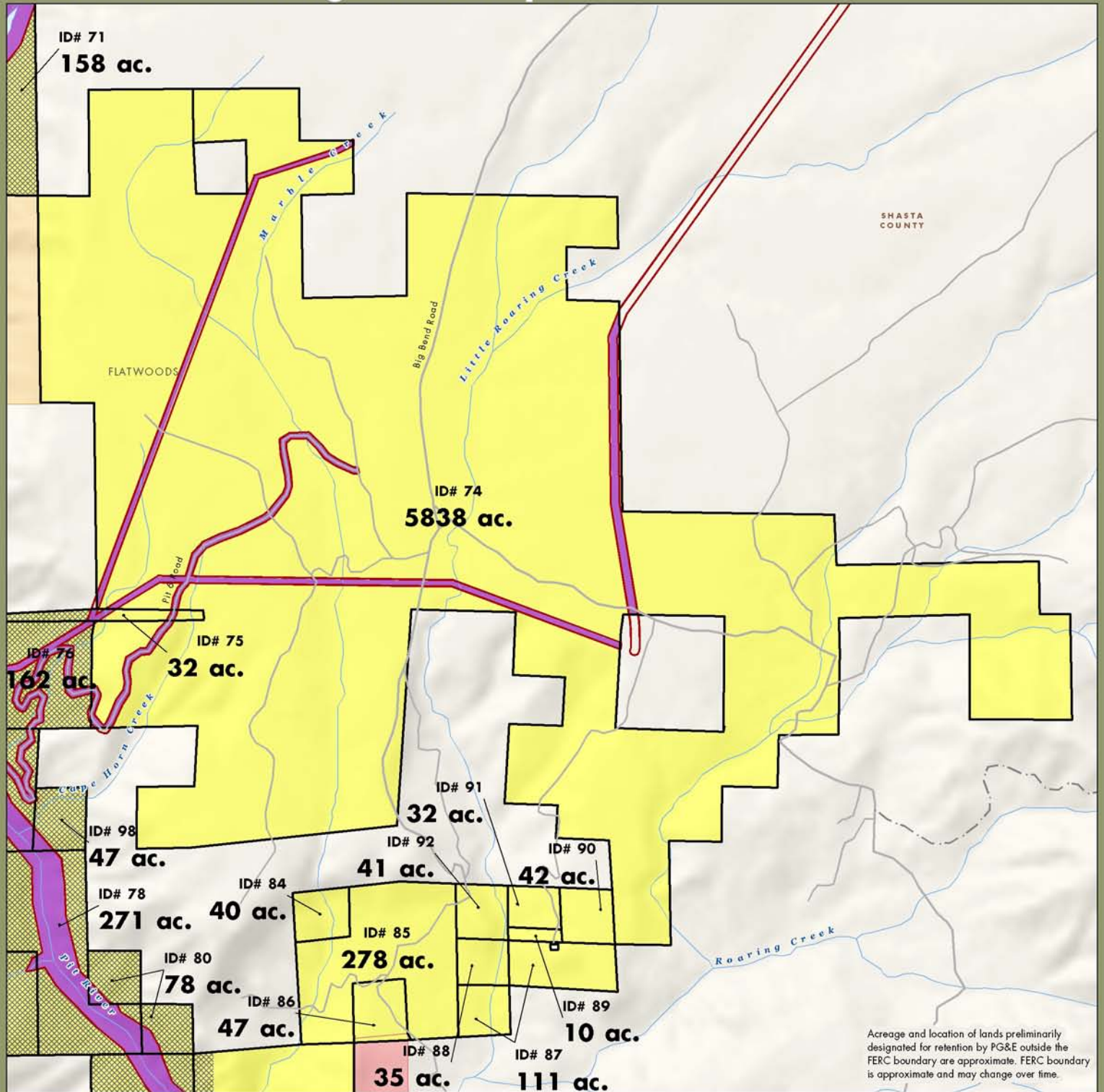
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Pit River Planning Unit: Map 2



Pit River Planning Unit: Map3



Acreage and location of lands preliminarily designated for retention by PG&E outside the FERC boundary are approximate. FERC boundary is approximate and may change over time.

- PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Donation
- PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Retention
- Certain Considerations May Make Donation Inadvisable
- Legal Parcel Boundary and Id Number
- PG&E Lands Under Water
- FERC Boundary

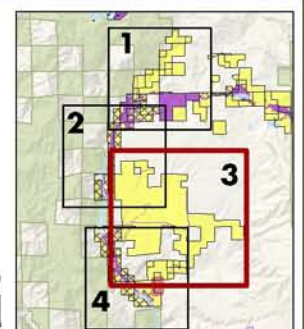
- BIA
- BLM
- Private
- USFS

- Dam
- OHV Road
- P Parking
- PH Powerhouse
- Whitewater Take-Out

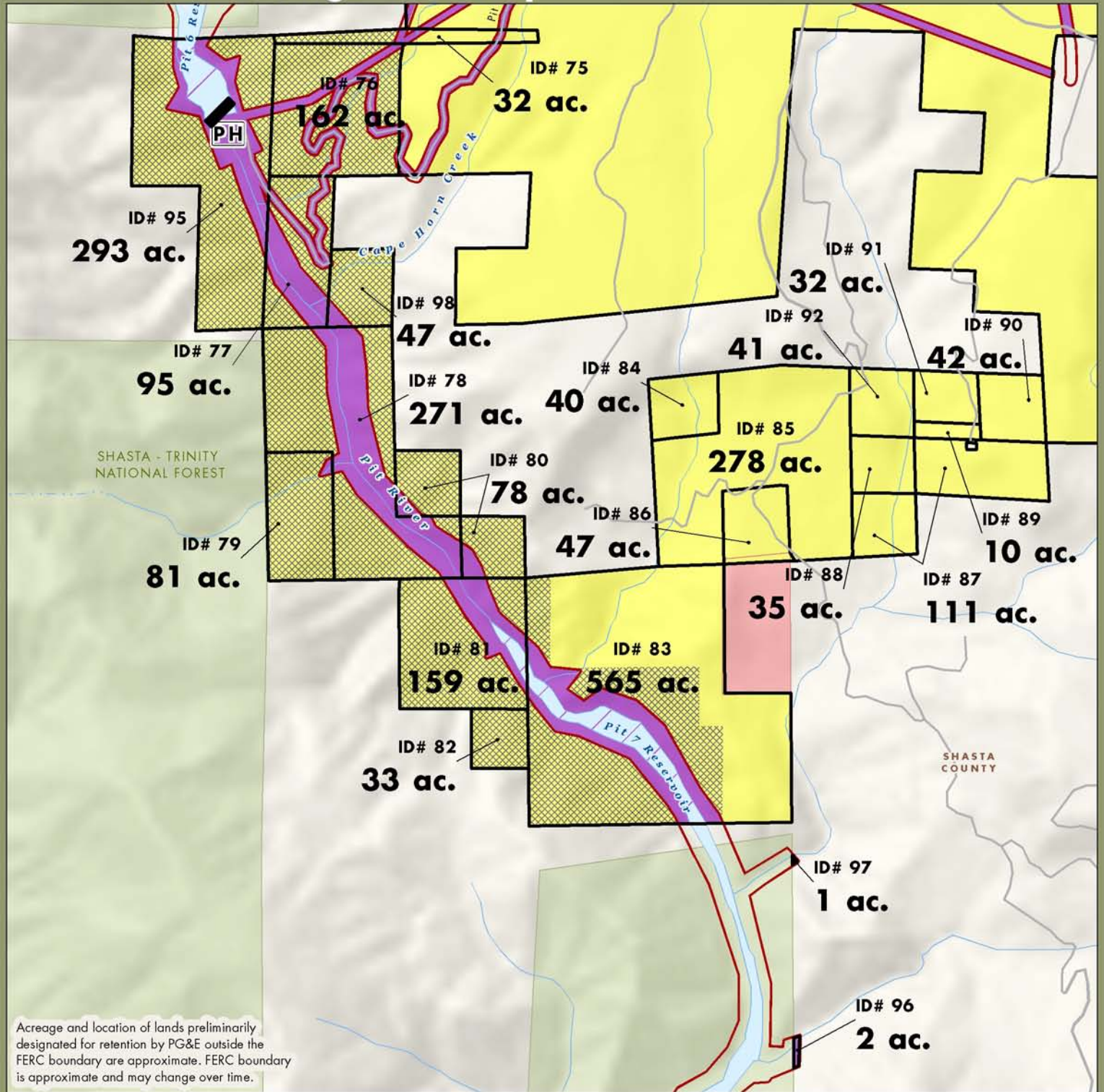


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October 2010
AECOM



Pit River Planning Unit: Map4



Acreage and location of lands preliminarily designated for retention by PG&E outside the FERC boundary are approximate. FERC boundary is approximate and may change over time.

- PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Donation
- PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Retention
- Certain Considerations May Make Donation Inadvisable
- Legal Parcel Boundary and Id Number
- PG&E Lands Under Water
- FERC Boundary

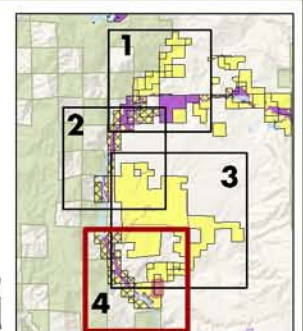
- BIA
- BLM
- Private
- USFS

- Dam
- OHV Road
- Parking
- Powerhouse
- Whitewater Take-Out



0 0.5 1 Miles

October 2010
AECOM



PIT RIVER PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed

Existing Conditions & Uses

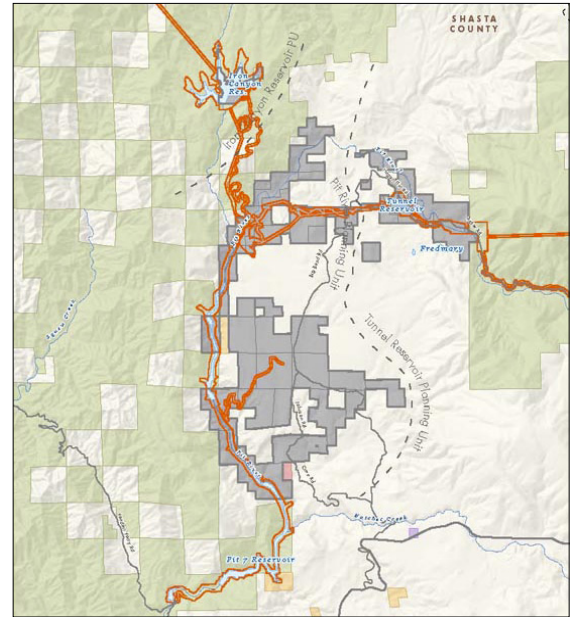
Overview

- Large, heavily forested area along the Pit River with valuable timber and biological resources
- 12,393 acres in Shasta County; 11,294 acres outside FERC boundaries and 1,099 acres inside FERC boundaries
- Part of the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project (FERC #233), New License issued July 2007, as well as the McCloud-Pit Project (FERC #2106) currently undergoing relicensing (License expires in 2011)

The Pit River Planning Unit is one of the largest planning units in terms of land acreage. The planning unit is located in Shasta County near the community of Big Bend (see Figure PM-13). The planning unit contains lands that are part of the Pit 3, 4, 5 FERC Project (#233) and the McCloud-Pit FERC Project (#2106). Lands that are part of the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project include those along the Pit River from Kosk Creek to the Pit 5 Powerhouse (4.4 miles). This section of the Pit River is part of the Pit 5 bypass reach because water is diverted at the Pit 5 Dam through the Pit 5 Tunnel (in the Tunnel Reservoir Planning



Forest canopy



Pit River Planning Unit
Shasta County

Unit) into the Pit 5 Powerhouse. Hydropower infrastructure within the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project area includes the Pit 5 Tunnel and Pit 5 Powerhouse.

Lands associated with the McCloud-Pit Project include those along the Pit River from the James B. Black Powerhouse (located just upstream of the Pit 5 Powerhouse) south past the Pit 6 Reservoir to the beginning of the Pit 7 Reservoir. Hydropower infrastructure within the McCloud-Pit Project area includes the James B. Black Powerhouse, Pit 6 Dam, and Pit 6 Powerhouse. The planning unit is surrounded by private and industrial forest lands to the east and checkerboard USFS lands (Shasta-Trinity National Forest) to the west.

Many of the lands, especially along the Pit River, are very steep except for an area east of the Pit 6 Powerhouse called the Flatwoods. The Flatwoods area is not associated with a FERC Project. PG&E was issued a New License for the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project on July 2, 2007. The McCloud-Pit FERC Project is currently undergoing relicensing. There is one lease in the planning unit for a mini power plant and associated power transmission facilities.



Pit River Planning Unit Existing Conditions

- PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Retention
 - PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Disposition
 - BIA
 - BLM
 - BOR
 - DOD
 - NPS
 - Other/NGO
 - State
 - USFS
 - Federal Wilderness
 - Boat Launch
 - Campground
 - Dam
 - Day Use
 - Feature of Importance
 - Fishing
 - Fish Barrier Dam
 - Gate
 - Lodging
 - Non-Motorized Boating
 - Parking
 - Powerhouse
 - Private Camp
 - Ranch
 - Trailhead
 - Whitewater Put-In/Take-Out
 - FERC Boundary
 - Stream / River
 - Canal / Ditch
 - Pipeline
 - Highly Valued Stream
 - Primary Roads
 - Secondary Roads
 - OHV Roads
 - Trail
- All symbols may not appear on the map

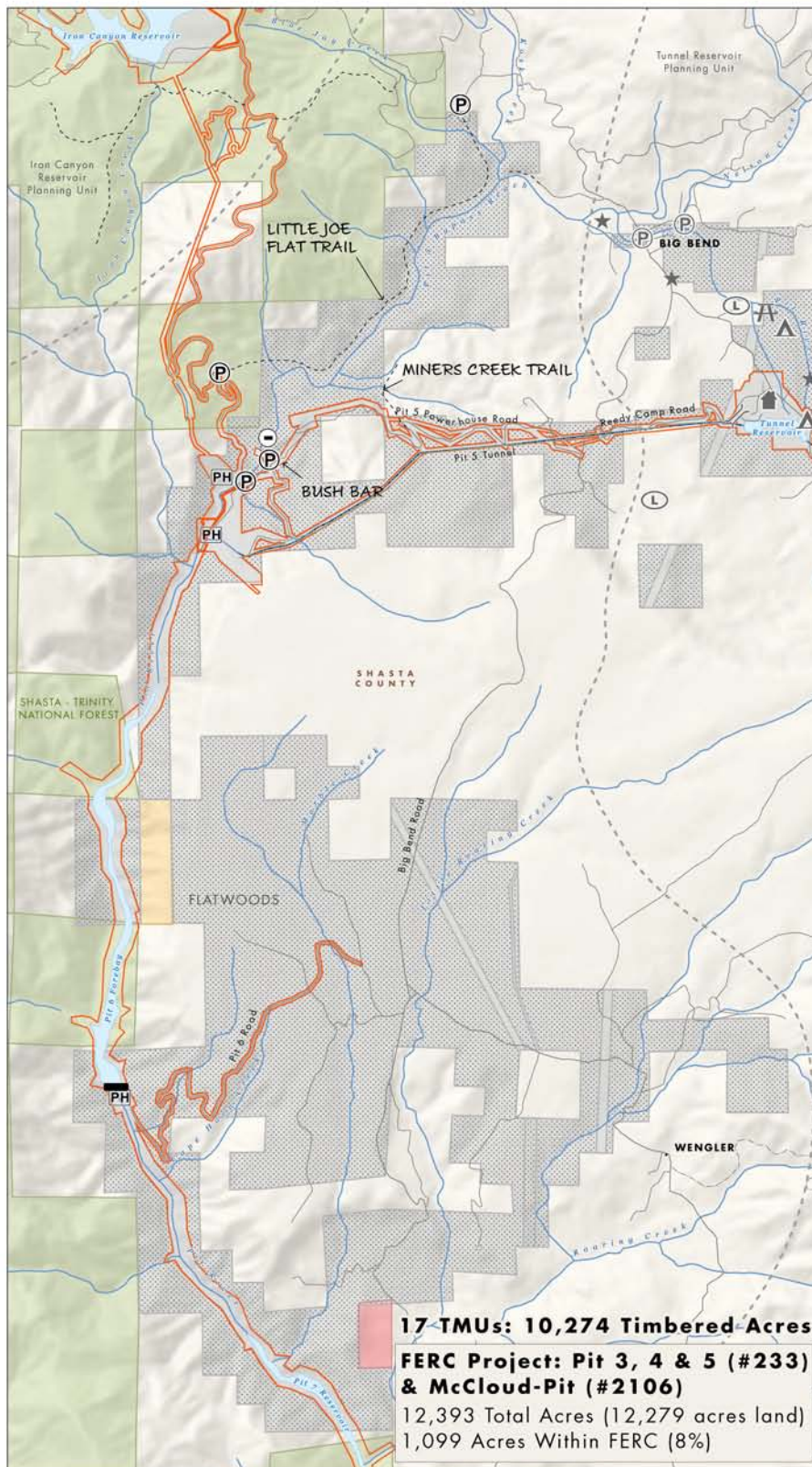


Figure PM-13

PIT RIVER PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed

Fish, Plant, and Wildlife Habitat

There are extensive terrestrial and aquatic resources within this planning unit. The ten-mile long, 268-surface-acre Pit 6 Reservoir provides habitat for fish species such as Sacramento sucker, tule perch, Sacramento pikeminnow, tui chub, smallmouth bass, rainbow trout, and hardhead. This reservoir is very steep-sided with limited shoreline habitat. Similar fish species can be found in the Pit River.

The Pit 5 bypass reach provides a substantial native rainbow trout fishery, and Kosk Creek in the northern portion of the planning unit provides spawning and rearing habitat for trout. Species composition and habitat available within other creeks throughout the rest of the planning unit are unknown. Currently, there is no stocking of the Pit River or Pit 6 Reservoir. Several special status aquatic species were found within the Pit 5 bypass reach during relicensing studies for the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project including four aquatic gastropods and northwestern pond turtles. McCloud-Pit Project relicensing will study fish species and the Pit 3, 4, 5 New License requires several aquatic habitat measures.¹

Terrestrial resources within the planning unit provide nesting and foraging habitat for a pair of bald eagles along the Pit 5 bypass reach. The Pit 6 bald eagle breeding territory has been unused for the last six years. The presence of avian and other terrestrial species within the rest of the planning unit is unknown. The planning unit is within critical deer winter range and the USFWS-designated northern spotted owl habitat area. No special status plants were found within the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project area along the Pit 5 bypass reach; however, three special status plants have been identified along the Pit 5 Powerhouse Road and near the Pit 6 Reservoir and Cape Horn Creek. Presence of special status plants within the Flatwoods area is unknown, although occurrences of special status plants have been mapped adjacent to these parcels.

Several noxious weeds such as spotted knapweed, yellow starthistle, Klamathweed, and bouncing

bet, have been found in the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project area within the planning unit² along with many spoil piles. Several terrestrial resource-related measures are required in the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project New License.³ Proposed relicensing studies for the McCloud-Pit Project will survey for special status species, classify and map vegetation community types, and map and assess noxious weeds.

Open Space

Due to a lack of development, steepness of the Pit River Canyon, and primary use of the planning unit for timber production, open space values can be found throughout the planning unit. The Shasta County General Plan recognizes that rivers, creeks and associated riparian corridors, and floodplains within the county are major open space resources. Lands within the planning unit also provide a scenic viewshed for the Big Bend Road, an important local thoroughfare.

Outdoor Recreation

There is very little existing recreational use and few recreational facilities in this planning unit. Most of the existing recreation use occurs in the Pit 5 bypass reach area. The Pit 5 bypass reach is accessible by trail only and also provides fishing and whitewater boating opportunities. The Shasta-Trinity National Forest-designated Little



Logging road

PIT RIVER PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed



James B. Black Powerhouse

Joe Flat Trail is the main trail in the planning unit along the Pit 5 bypass reach, running 2.8 miles from James B. Black Powerhouse to Blue Jay Creek. The trail provides opportunities for wildlife viewing and fishing access along with equestrian, mountain biking, and hiking opportunities and currently receives little use.

There are also trails in the Bush Bar area and along Miners Creek that are mostly used by anglers. Both the Bush Bar and James B. Black Powerhouse informal recreation areas are accessible by vehicle; however, the Pit 5 Powerhouse area is closed to public access for safety reasons. The Pit River is very popular for fishing with over 90% of visitors to the Pit River Canyon reporting fishing as their primary activity as stated in the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project License Application.

Whitewater boating opportunities (Class IV/V) are also available on the Pit 5 bypass reach. The put-in for the reach is located just west of the Pit 5 Dam (in the Tunnel Reservoir Planning Unit) and the take-out is at Bush Bar. The Bush Bar site will be improved as part of the FERC license required recreation management plan under the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project New License.⁴ Study of whitewater flows in the Pit 5 bypass reach is also required in the New License, along with several other recreation-related measures.⁵

Several studies for the McCloud-Pit Project regarding recreation are proposed in relicensing.⁶ Currently, there is minimal boating use on the

Pit 6 Reservoir due to safety reasons and limited access. Dispersed use, mainly hunting, is the primary recreation use within the Flatwoods area.

Forest Resources

The entire planning unit is heavily forested. Black oak forest is common on the west side of the Pit River with Sierra mixed conifer forest common on the east side. Some of the Flatwoods area is mixed conifer forest, and part of the area resembles westside ponderosa pine forest that is dominated by ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir and, to a lesser degree, incense-cedar.⁷ There are some plantations within the area, primarily in the Flatwoods. Currently, the planning unit contains 17 PG&E Timber Management Units (TMUs), totaling 10,274 timbered acres, almost 20% of all of PG&E's timberlands. Fourteen of the TMUs are currently managed by PG&E for sustainable timber production. The remaining three TMUs currently have no timber management and are generally located along the Pit River from the Pit 5 Powerhouse area south to the beginning of the Pit 7 Reservoir. The planning unit has highly productive soils for timber and has been referred to as some of the best timber in Shasta County.

Harvesting is proposed by PG&E for the Bush Bar and Pit 5 Powerhouse areas to reduce fire hazards and remove diseased trees. Part of this area was last harvested in the 1970s and the Pit 5 Powerhouse area has never been harvested.



Forested ridgeline

PIT RIVER PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed

Regarding fire history within the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project area, 28% of small fires were recorded in the Pit 5 bypass reach, generally more frequently around Big Bend and along highways and less frequently in recreation areas and within the Pit River Canyon. Fire history within the Flatwoods and Pit River area downstream of the Pit 5 Powerhouse is unknown. A fire management and response plan is required in the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project New License.

Agricultural Uses

Grazing does not occur within the planning unit and there is low potential for grazing due to a lack of forage. Grazing was eliminated in the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project area in the late 1980s to protect sensitive resources and water quality. In the Final EIS for the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project, FERC commented that grazing should not be reinstated.

Historic Resources

The Pit River Planning Unit is located within the ancestral territory of the Pit River Tribe. Relicensing studies documented 47 sites within the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project cultural resource study area consisting of shell middens, lithic scatters, housepits, cairns and historic residential camps, fences, construction camps, road, rock alignment, debris, and the foundation of the Bush Bar School (which has been moved to a new location in Big Bend). Ethnographic studies documented about 100 ethnographic locations within the cultural resource study area. In relicensing, the Pit 3, 4, 5 Hydroelectric System was determined to be eligible for listing in the NRHP as an historic district. Some system components within the planning unit are also individually eligible for inclusion on the NRHP, including the Pit 5 Powerhouse.

Ethnobotanical resources have been identified in the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project area such as hazel and redbud, which are of special importance to Native Americans for art, medicine, basketry, and cultural use. Some cultural sites have been vandalized within the planning unit. In an effort



Recently logged area

to protect valuable cultural resources, a final historic properties management plan (HPMP), including monitoring and protection measures for sites is required in the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project New License.

Little is known about the cultural constituents and early settlement of the McCloud-Pit FERC Project area, with less than 40% of the total McCloud-Pit Project cultural resource study area (currently all lands within the FERC boundary) having undergone some cultural resource identification effort in the past. Previous identification efforts have yielded 74 sites within or adjacent to the study area. Many of the previous surveys are more than 10 years old and do not meet current standards. Two relicensing studies are proposed that would survey and assess archaeological and historic-era properties as well as identify and document traditional cultural properties.⁸ There is no cultural resource information available for the Flatwoods area.

Stewardship Council Recommendations

The Stewardship Council recommends that the land and land uses at the Pit River Planning Unit be preserved and enhanced by focusing on sustainable forestry, biological and cultural resource protection, and monitoring of recreation use. In presenting the Recommended Concept

PIT RIVER PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed

provided here, our objective is to preserve and enhance habitat and cultural resources while also protecting and preserving important forest resources. We recommend this effort be conducted in close coordination with PG&E and the two current FERC relicensing efforts for the area.

Objective: Preserve and enhance biological and cultural resources and enhance sustainable forestry management.

As shown on Table PM-7, the Stewardship Council has identified a number of preservation and/or enhancement measures that may contribute to the conservation management program for the Pit River Planning Unit. Additional detail and background regarding these potential measures can be found in the Supporting Analysis for Recommendations, provided under separate cover. These measures are intended to be illustrative in nature, not prescriptive, and will be amended, deleted, or augmented over time in coordination with future land owners and managers to best meet the objective for this planning unit.

Fish, Plant, and Wildlife Habitat

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

The Pit River Planning Unit offers diverse and high value terrestrial and aquatic habitat within its forestlands and along the Pit River. In order to preserve and enhance the habitat and resources found here, the Stewardship Council recommends that baseline studies and plans be developed to gain a clear understanding of the resources (particularly outside the FERC boundaries where little information is currently available or will be provided by relicensing studies). These studies will likely be followed by management plans to ensure implementation of preservation and enhancement measures for specific resources. Management of the

property to preserve and enhance habitat will also include addressing noxious weeds and abiding by the USFWS Biological Opinion for the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project where applicable outside the FERC boundary. An evaluation of trails in the Pit 5 bypass reach for erosion impacts and potential restoration opportunities is also recommended. We encourage close coordination with the USFS, USFWS, and other resource-focused organizations working in the region. All planning should be considered in conjunction with the fuels and forest management plans, as well as relevant FERC license required plans.

Open Space

Objective: Preserve open space in order to protect natural and cultural resources and the recreation setting.

This concept would preserve open space by limiting new construction to interpretive signage, as well as through permanent conservation easements. Conservation easements would describe all prohibited uses to maintain open space values, including the level of uses allowed, and the requirement to maintain scenic qualities.



Deerbrush community with mixed conifers

PIT RIVER PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed

Outdoor Recreation

Objective: Enhance recreational facilities in order to provide appropriate recreation management and enhance the recreation experience.

Recreation within the planning unit is limited to trail, fishing, and whitewater boating opportunities in a semi-primitive forested setting. Various recreation enhancements are required in the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project New License and additional enhancements could be proposed in the future as part of McCloud-Pit Project relicensing efforts. As shown in Figure PM-14, the Stewardship Council looks to enhance recreational opportunities by recommending additional directional signage and monitoring of recreation use at Bush Bar if both measures are not included in relevant FERC license required plans. These measures would enhance the recreation experience and ensure appropriate recreation management and facilities are provided at the Bush Bar area.



View across Pit River Canyon in coordination with adjacent landowners and USFS management and practices as appropriate.

Preservation of Historic Values

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

A variety of prehistoric, historic, and ethnographic cultural resources have been found within the Pit River Planning Unit, and more potentially exist, but have yet to be identified. The Stewardship Council aims to support an increased understanding of these resources and ensure they are appropriately protected. To meet this objective, we recommend that cultural studies be conducted to understand the resources found in the Pit River Planning Unit (particularly outside the FERC Project cultural resource study areas where less information is available or will be provided by relicensing studies). We also recommend that appropriate management plans be developed and implemented. Throughout this effort, the Stewardship Council recommends close coordination with Native American entities. Development of the cultural resources management plan should be consistent with relevant FERC license required plans.

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 Pit River Planning Unit is heavily forested with more than 10,000 acres of timber, reputed to be among the best timber in Shasta County. The Stewardship Council recommends that future care and management of the property include developing a long-term vision for forest management, addressing silvicultural practices, holistic watershed management, plantation management, and fuels management. The fuels and forest management plans should be developed in conjunction with the noxious weed and wildlife and habitat management plans, as well as relevant FERC license required plans. We expect that all of these plans would be developed

PIT RIVER PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed

Endnotes

¹ Aquatic resource-related measures in the New License for the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project include: a gravel management plan, a large woody debris management plan, a western pond turtle management plan, and fish population trend and condition monitoring in project river reaches. A proposed relicensing study for the McCloud-Pit Project will characterize fish populations within the project reservoirs (including the Pit 6 Reservoir) and project-affected stream reaches to provide a better understanding of the fish communities present.

² Noxious weeds were identified in relicensing for the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project. Large areas of noxious weeds were found near the bald eagle nesting area at Little Joe Flat, and several infestations were documented along the Pit 5 Powerhouse Road. Noxious weed information for the rest of the planning unit is not available.

³ Terrestrial resource-related measures required in the New License for the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project include: updating the Interagency Bald Eagle Management Plan, a vegetation and invasive weed management plan, a terrestrial wildlife mitigation and monitoring plan, a Biological Resource Program Technical Review, Group a northern spotted owl protection plan, and a spoil pile management plan.

⁴ Improvements will consist of restrooms and parking.

⁵ Recreation measures required in the New License for the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project include: enhancing whitewater access locations; a sign plan; a visual management plan; a road and facility management plan; a recreation management plan; an information, education, and interpretation plan; and a recreation monitoring and reporting plan.

⁶ Proposed McCloud-Pit Project relicensing studies include assessing existing and future recreation demand, assessing recreation supply and recreation

use impacts, as well as determining if recreation management, access, or development improvements are needed.

⁷ This may be a deviation from the original species composition due to logging activities.

⁸ Unless required by the Forest Service on National Forest Lands, PG&E does not propose to conduct eligibility evaluations for previously unevaluated sites. Instead, PG&E proposes to treat all unevaluated sites as if they are eligible for NRHP listing unless avoidance or elimination of potential adverse effects to a particular site is not feasible.



Pit River near James B. Black Powerhouse



Pit River Planning Unit

Organizations That Submitted a Statement of Qualifications for Fee-Title Interests

Bureau of Land Management
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Pit River Tribe
Shasta County
University of California
Western Shasta Resource Conservation District

SUMMARY OF KEY PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC COMMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PIT RIVER PLANNING UNIT

PUBLIC REVIEW OF VOLUMES I AND II OF THE LCP

The Draft Land Conservation Plan (LCP) Volumes I and II were released in June 2007 for a 60-day public comment period. During this time, the Stewardship Council held ten public meetings to publicize the availability of the Draft LCP and to encourage public comment. During public review of Volumes I and II of the LCP, two entities submitted comments concerning the Pit River planning unit. Comments were received via email, the Stewardship Council website, and hardcopy letters. The comments were reviewed and responded to individually, and the text in the Draft LCP was revised as appropriate.

Public comments emphasized the following regarding the future management of the property:

- Support for lands available for donation to be transferred to the US Forest Service
- The conservation easement should ensure that the Little Joe Flat Trail is maintained for public access.
- The conservation easement should secure public access to rivers and trails for recreation, including access for whitewater rafting.
- Manage timber to protect fish and wildlife habitat, scenic values, and recreation.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING FOR THE PIT RIVER PLANNING UNIT

A public information meeting was hosted by the Stewardship Council on March 24, 2011 at the Millville Grange Hall in Palo Cedro, California. The meeting concerned the following eight planning units: Battle Creek, Burney Gardens, Cow Creek, Iron Canyon Reservoir, Kilarc, Lake McCloud, Pit River, and Tunnel Reservoir. A total of 49 people attended and participated in the meeting, representing a wide variety of interests, including local and federal governments, community organizations, and community members. The meeting was advertised via an e-mail sent to contacts in our database, an announcement posted on the Stewardship Council's web site, a press release in the local newspaper, and a postcard sent to all landowners on record that reside within one mile of any PG&E parcel associated with the eight planning units that were the focus of the meeting.

The purpose of this meeting was to: (1) provide a review and update on the Stewardship Council's Land Conservation Program; and, (2) solicit additional public input on future stewardship of the eight planning units. During the meeting, participants were invited to ask questions and provide comments on the eight planning units. Stations were set up with maps, other pertinent information, and easels with blank paper. Below is a summary of comments for the Pit River planning unit and Pit-McCloud watershed area that were recorded on the easels and provided on comment cards.

Pit River Planning Unit

- Promote fisheries management to preserve species for all the people of California as well as recreational opportunities

General Comments Concerning the Pit-McCloud Watershed Area

- Concern expressed about an organization's financial capacity to own and manage the lands available for donation
- Timely updates should be posted on the Stewardship Council's website
- Support for lands available for donation to be transferred to CAL FIRE and/or Shasta County
- Concern expressed about transferring forested lands to the US Forest Service or Pit River Tribe
- Forested lands should be managed for long-term productivity

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE SUBMITTED

The Stewardship Council also received other public comments and letters from individuals and organizations regarding the future management of the Pit River planning unit, as summarized below:

- Assess and develop educational opportunities for the public and youth to learn about the Pit River Indian culture, such as signage, cultural resource center, and model villages
- Protect cultural resources including, traditional and medicinal plants, sacred sites, and human remains.
- Support for the lands available for donation to be transferred to the Pit River Tribe.
- Prohibit OHV use due to potential impacts on wildlife habitat and soils.
- Preserve fish and wildlife habitat, which provides world class trout fishing and a large resident population of bald eagles.