

Supplement to Land Stewardship Proposal
Humbug Valley Planning Unit

Joint Submittal by the Maidu Summit Consortium and the
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

July 2013

The Maidu Summit Consortium (“Summit”) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (“CDFW”) have prepared the following supplement to the land stewardship proposals that were previously submitted to the Stewardship Council. The purpose of this supplement is to describe the proposed collaboration between the Summit, CDFW, and the Feather River Land Trust (FRLT) (collectively the “Parties”). The site-specific and conservation partnership between the Summit and the CDFW at Humbug Valley is a historic opportunity to learn from each other and to build a legacy alliance for the protection and enhancement of the Humbug Valley using Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) as well as the best modern science to meet management goals.

This collaboration will contribute to the achievement of the following four goals for the Parties:

- Re-establishing a site within the ancestral territory of the Mountain Maidu Homeland dedicated to the demonstration of Maidu traditional ecology through education, healing, protection, and ecosystem management. This re-establishes and ensures the Summit has permanent access to Humbug Valley to achieve these goals.
- Integrating TEK and modern science in management, restoration, enhancement and protection of the natural habitat and species associated with the site. Indigenous scholars and the scientific community can benefit by mutual exchange of information, interpreting the information collaboratively and educating one another and the public.
- Permanently preserving and enhancing the six beneficial public values prescribed by the Stewardship Council principles and the collective principles of the Parties.
- Sharing resources and leverage funding opportunities to accomplish the goals described herein and in the land management plan.

Statement of Purpose

1. Please describe the proposed structure of the collaboration and roles and responsibilities of the parties with respect to fee title ownership, the conservation easement, and management and enhancement activities at the site.

The Summit desires to be fee title owner of the Humbug Valley parcels. Humbug Valley represents a very important place for the Maidu people, that promises to provide the missing place to carry on our traditional ways. Humbug Valley is the final remaining pristine valley in the Maidu territory and ownership would provide certain access and opportunity to preserve it and re-establish the health of the Maidu community and a place for ceremony. CDFW desires to be sole grantee (or co-grantee with FRLT) to a conservation and access easement over the Humbug Valley parcels and to partner with the Summit (and FRLT, if it is a co-grantee) as described in the goals above. Such an easement(s) would capture the Parties’ goals and intentions for working together cooperatively to identify and implement management and restoration projects. As conservation easement grantee, CDFW would monitor and ensure preservation and enhancement of the beneficial public values. This partnership would also demonstrate the Summit’s ability to manage and restore the Humbug Valley property and would provide CDFW’s natural resource and land management experience, providing support for the Summit as appropriate. CDFW would provide science and research guidance, develop enhancement projects, grant proposals

and budgets and arrange or conduct baseline assessments prior to developing and implementing projects. The FRLT may (TBD).

Proposed Management and/or Enhancement Activities

2. Please describe, at least conceptually, the proposed management and enhancement activities (including any capital improvements) at the site, and who will be involved in performing these activities.

The Summit and CDFW have collectively identified capital outlay and enhancement projects that are desirable with the Summit fee title ownership of the property and the collaborative relationship between the Parties.

Specifically:

- a) How would proposed management and enhancement activities contribute to the protection of the beneficial public values on the site?
 - i. Protection of the natural habitat of fish, wildlife, and plants: Meadow restoration projects such as bank stabilization and re-vegetation of the upper meadow are needed to restore natural vegetation and recover the system from past grazing practices. The Summit supports introduction of beaver to the site as a natural way to improve the meadow health. CDFW will revise its fishery management plan based on fisheries surveys and recommend stream improvement projects to enhance habitat for fisheries. CDFW and the Summit are both interested in restoring a native fishery consistent with the Wild Trout status of Yellow Creek. CDFW wildlife biologists will conduct enhanced surveys of rare and game wildlife species specific to Humbug Valley on a seasonal basis to inform management. Surveys for rare plants and invasive weeds will be conducted as resources allow and results of these surveys will contribute to protection of wildlife populations and their habitat. Deer habitat will be enhanced through logging and fuels reduction projects. Deer fawning habitat could be improved through meadow enhancement and aspen regeneration projects. An invasive plant species eradication/management plan will be developed and implemented by the Summit and CDFW.
 - ii. Agricultural uses: Cultivation and collection of culturally significant plant and animal resources specific to the Maidu traditions will be implemented. The Summit may consider the implementation of limited and managed grazing to maintain meadow plant communities and control invasive weeds. Lease measures such as yields, animal unit month or animal days per acre estimates will be based on vegetation response outcomes relative to objectives.
 - iii. Historic values: Investigations and Maidu Traditional Narratives, surveys and documented historical uses will be used to identify and protect culturally sensitive areas as well as to create interpretive Maidu dwellings and a

roundhouse for ceremonial use. Some culturally sensitive areas will be identified, fenced or protected by other means, and the Summit will monitor these sites. The historic building near Humbug Road, in the middle of the valley, will be restored and improved. It shall be used as an interpretive site open to the public.

- iv. Preservation of open space: By the conservation easement and implementation of the management plan goals open space values will be protected. The Summit and CDFW will monitor and enforce the area for prohibited uses identified in the conservation easement to protect this and other beneficial public values.
- v. Outdoor recreation by the general public: baseline – The Summit will provide health and wellness projects, educational tourism and interpretive services. Public education on Maidu culture, habitats, species, invasive plants, climate change, regulations and trails will be provided at informational kiosks, the proposed amphitheater, and at other sites, such as the mineral springs and at the campground. CDFW will continue its creel surveys and angler surveys to enhance the angling experience. CDFW will enhance angler survey boxes in the area to accomplish collecting the data. Outdoor recreation may be enhanced by CDFW providing special managed hunts for game species as the Summit, as landowner, determines appropriate. CDFW wildlife interpreters will be available to conduct tours in concert with the Summit to highlight natural and cultural resources.
- vi. Sustainable forestry: The Summit may conduct TEKguided timber harvesting subject to state law for ecosystem health and to enhance the occurrence of traditional species consistent with habitat conditions and requirements for wildlife species and to reduce fuels for wildfire. TEK guided timber harvesting may also be conducted to promote oak and aspen regeneration.

b) What capital improvements at the site are anticipated in the first five years following fee title transfer?

Installation of gates. It may be necessary to install gates on two ancillary sections of road within the site in order to control or restrict vehicular access and prevent damage to sensitive cultural and ecological sites.

Angling Signage. CDFW will post angling regulation signs at heavily used areas and major access points. Angler signage will be inspected annually and replaced as signs are vandalized or age, or in the case of a change in angling regulations.

Angler Survey Boxes. CDFW will construct and install additional angler survey boxes in high use areas and access points to gain additional information on catch rates and use of Yellow Creek by the angling public.

Graphic Interpretive Signage. The Summit will contract design and construction of graphic interpretive signage that will introduce the public to the area and the biological and cultural resource values. Graphic interpretive signs may also contain historical, cultural and regulatory information specific to the Humbug Valley property.

Fencing of Property. The split rail fencing surrounding the Big Springs needs to be repaired. Should grazing be reinstated, the campground perimeter will need to be fenced. It may also be desirable to fence a riparian corridor along the stream, depending on the intensity of grazing prescribed.

Parking areas and road/trail networks will be improved and new trails will be established to direct foot traffic to developed trails and abandon undesirable trails to minimize public use impacts.

Cultural resources threatened by off road vehicle use or vandalism will be fenced to protect them, where MSC deems advisable, and an encumbrance will be constructed to prevent off-road access at Maidu Cemetery. Several sites around Humbug Valley hold significant cultural and religious value to the Maidu and these specific areas will be safeguarded, either by fence or reduced means of public access.

Yellow Creek Campground enhancements. Capital improvements to the existing Yellow Creek Campground in Humbug Valley will include: a) installation of alternative energy production/storage capacity, probably solar power, b) construction of a new public restroom building with flush toilets with septic tank, c) construction of an outdoor kitchen facility with tie-in to existing water source and new grey water leach system, with cooking area that can utilize portable propane tanks, as well as a large pit style cooking area and, d) addition of new campsites.

Amphitheater near Yellow Creek Campground. A basic stage structure located near the forest edge, that would face out into the meadow with a semi-circumference audience area shaped with earth. This site would become a vital part of the education programs to be held in Humbug Valley. The stage could be used for a small production summer concert series, as well as a conference area for various outreach programs. The site could be rented to visitors and partner organizations for similar uses when unused by the Summit and when those uses are compatible with the conservation goals. This component of the capital investment portion of the Summit Proposal will be a key factor in our developing self-sustaining economic opportunity in Humbug Valley.

Kiosk installation. Design plans that were produced through the agreement made between the Summit and the Lands Stewardship Council in 2012 will be used to construct the interpretive kiosk in Humbug Valley. This project will carry a one-time capital improvement expense, with a modest maintenance cost to be afforded by the annual operating budget.

Historic building restoration. Fortification of the historically significant outpost for cattle ranch laborers shall be undertaken by construction services contracted with the Summit, by the same company and at the same time that the interpretive kiosk is erected. The sites are quite near to each other. Adequate fortification for public access into the building for interpretive purposes is the goal.

c) Would the proposed management and enhancement activities impact current public use of the site and/or existing economic uses? To what extent and how?

It is anticipated that baseline and enhancement land management activities will impact public use through creation of outdoor recreation options such as ecotourism, and educational opportunities. These options will likely increase the level of public use from existing use. Public access may be further impacted during capital outlay and enhancement project implementation phases. Public use will be limited for the purposes of ensuring public safety. We anticipate these impacts will be limited to the project areas and will be temporary and minimal impacts. It is anticipated that existing economic uses will be affected where those uses are tourism based. Enhanced ecosystem function and the unique character of these lands (dedicated to Traditional Ecology) will likely improve economic outcomes in the area. Negative effects to existing economic uses are not expected.

d) Please attach the proposed outline of the conceptual land management plan that would be developed and implemented for the site.

3. Please include a proposed timeline for the development and implementation of the proposed management and enhancement activities.

The Summit, CDFW and, if applicable, the FRLT will develop the initial management plan including developing the goals, objectives, access, management activities and enhancement projects. The Parties are interested in initiating development of this plan after the Stewardship Council makes its recommendation and prior to fee title transfer actually occurring. The Parties believe the plan could be completed within 12 to 18 months of initiation.

CDFW will assist the Summit in conducting baseline assessments and resources surveys over a 12-month period following completion of the initial management plan. The results of these surveys will be used to inform development of a more detailed final management plan which will be finalized within 12 to 18 months of completing the baseline assessments.

Several enhancement activities anticipated to occur within the first five years include:

1) A fuels reduction project at the Miller site. The area adjacent to the Miller Home-place Historic Site shall be thinned of the overly forested area of young conifer trees. Using principles prescribed in TEK forest management, the Summit shall direct and undertake necessary tasks involved with tree reduction and related wood material chipping.

2) An invasive plant species assessment and control and/or eradication. Bull thistle has been identified on the site in discrete locations and will be the initial and more immediate target to prevent spread. Baseline assessment data will be used to develop an invasive species management plan to address managing introduction and spread.

3) An education series, led by the Summit that will provide the public with regular presentations on TEK interpretation. Other facets of modern approaches to resource management and enhancement will be topics covered in presentations given at that time. This series will often be a collaborative effort by Summit and CDFW personnel.

4) A primary objective for the Summit is to perform five cultural site protection projects within the first several years of managing Humbug Valley. The sites in question are not adequately protected. The locations are modest in size and are not in regular public use zones. These areas will become limited access sites.

Preliminary Proposed Project Budget

4. Please provide a preliminary project budget with an estimate of the costs associated with the transfer of fee title and the proposed management and enhancement activities identified above. The budget should indicate how much funding the parties would seek from the Stewardship Council, and if alternative sources of funding have been identified or would be sought for any of the estimated costs. Please identify any in-kind contributions anticipated.

The Summit anticipates assistance from many community volunteers on several of the capital outlay and enhancement projects. CDFW plans to contribute staff time and resources described herein. Minimal funds are requested from the Stewardship Council by CDFW.

Attachments

- A letter of commitment from each organization involved in the collaboration.
- An outline of the proposed management plan.
- Any relevant update to the organizational information that was provided in Part 1 of original Land Stewardship Proposals submitted to the Stewardship Council (e.g., organizational experience, staffing).

Conceptual Land Management Proposal for Humbug Valley
Attachment for Stewardship Supplement Item 2 (d)

1. Purpose of Acquisition and Conservation
2. Purpose of Land Stewardship Plan
 - a. Describe existing beneficial public values
3. Property Description
 - a. Geography
 - b. Access –existing private and public
 - c. Boundaries
 - d. Adjacent ownership and land use
 - e. Easements, encumbrances and rights – existing
4. Physical Characteristics
 - a. Geology and topography
 - b. Soils
 - c. Climate
 - d. Hydrology
5. Fire and Land Use History
6. Prehistory and Ethnographic Land Use (Cultural Resources)
 - a. Investigations and Maidu Traditional Narratives
 - b. Overview of cultural resources
7. Existing Land Use and Facilities
 - a. Public Use Allowed
 - b. Existing Facilities
 - c. Closed Areas/Periods
8. Habitat and Species Descriptions
 - a. Vegetation communities
 - b. Wildlife
 - c. Species of conservation need
 - d. Non-natives
 - e. Diseases
 - f. Habitat linkages/corridors
9. Public Benefit Values Management and Enhancement
 - a. Sustainable Forestry
 - i. Fire and Vegetation Management
 - ii. Traditional Species Management
 - b. Outdoor Recreation/Public Use
 - i. Permitted and non-permitted (prohibited) public use

- ii. Future access
- iii. Educational tourism
- iv. Hunting and fishing
- c. Agriculture
- d. Historic Values and Cultural Resources
 - i. Landscape level for ecosystem function
 - ii. Individual and community based for cultural perpetuation
 - iii. Implementation for economics
- e. Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation
- f. Preservation of Open Space

10. Management Objectives, Strategies/Best Management Practices and Environmental Impacts

11. Baseline Assessments

12. Compatible Economic Uses Element

13. Facilities Element

14. Monitoring and Adaptive Management

15. Management Coordination

16. Collaborative Opportunities, Projects and Roles and Responsibilities

- a. Land owner(s)
- b. Adjacent land owners
- c. Agencies (FS, CDFW, etc)
- d. Easement holders
- e. Land Conservation Partners (CDFW and FRLT)
- f. PG&E
- g. NALTA (Native American Land Trust Alliance)
- h. FR Land Trust (Feather River)
- i. Educational Institutions
- j. Feather River College
- k. Lassen College
- l. Butte College
- m. Chico State
- n. UN Reno
- o. UC Davis

17. Implications of Climate Change

18. Ecosystem Heterogeneity (TEK maximum species diversity and health) = adaptability

19. Applicable laws for projects

20. Attachments

Maps –
parcels, acreage, roads, infrastructure
historical and cultural resources
natural resource values (plants, wildlife, habitats)
outdoor recreation
agriculture
forestry
open space
Conservation Easement



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Director's Office
1416 9th Street, Rm 1205
Sacramento, CA 95814
www.wildlife.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



July 16, 2013

Art Baggett, Jr.
President, Stewardship Council Board of Directors
15 North Ellsworth, Suite 100
San Mateo, CA 94401-2831

Dear Mr. Baggett:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has been working collaboratively with the Maidu Summit Consortium (Summit) on a joint proposal for transfer of fee title of the Humbug Valley parcels. We realized we have similar goals for the area that prompted us to develop a joint proposal that envisions an ongoing collaboration for management and enhancement of the parcels. While the Department originally sought fee title interest in the Humbug Valley lands, we have developed a deep respect for the Summit's desire to re-establish some of its ancestral territory and to manage the land in their traditional ways and we are excited to be a part of the transaction and future activities. This collaboration between the Summit and the Department at Humbug Valley is an historic opportunity to learn from each other and to build a legacy alliance for the protection and enhancement of the Humbug Valley using Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) as well as the best modern science to meet management goals. The final goal of our close partnership with the Summit includes the Summit as fee title owner of the parcels, part of the Mountain Maidu's ancestral homeland.

Both the Summit and the Department contemplate Feather River Land Trust (FRLT), as co-easement holder with the Department and a partner in beneficial public values enhancement projects. The Department views the goal of the Summit as fee title owner, with the Department and FRLT as co-easement holders as the best arrangement for conserving and enhancing the unique habitat and cultural values of Humbug Valley and Yellow Creek in perpetuity.

The Department wishes to express its commitment to a long-term collaboration with the Summit and support for the Stewardship Council's consideration of our joint proposal, and ask that full consideration be given to the proposal for the Maidu Summit to become fee title owner, with the Department and Feather River Land Trust as co-easement holders.

Sincerely,

Charlton Bonham
Director



MAIDU SUMMIT CONSORTIUM

P.O. Box 1122, Greenville, CA 95947

www.maidusummit.org

530.375.0779

lrgorbet@hotmail.com

July 14th, 2013

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Grants Coordinator

Trina Cunningham
Maidu
Feather River Land Trust Rep.

Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council
1107 Ninth Street, Suite 705
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Bagget and Stewardship Council Board

This letter of commitment is written on behalf of the Maidu Summit Consortium and all its member organizations.

We are pleased to submit to the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council the attached proposal, which has been produced as a collaborative effort between the Maidu Summit Consortium (MSC) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Services (CDFW).

The proposal represents our appeal for assuming fee-title to the planning unit at Humbug Valley, of Plumas County, California. It also establishes a mutual agreement between the two aforementioned parties, which identifies MSC as the best candidate for owning Humbug Valley, while maintaining that a conservation easement for the site should be administered by CDFW and their pending partnership with Feather River Land Trust.

Our groups share interests in the sustained protection and enhancement of resources and public access in Humbug Valley. Whereas, this proposal provides MSC and the Maidu people a significant opportunity by assuming ownership of this property, measured in the Maidu's perpetual access to necessary resources for cultural practice, and MSC's unique ability to provide the public a source of new conservation and resource enhancement models through Traditional Ecological Knowledge education and application; CDFW would also be assuming, through conservation easement, the capacity to sustain and promote public access to the area and to carry out fish and wildlife protection. Together, we feel this is the best method for protecting and enhancing Beneficial Public Values in Humbug Valley.

These goals are of great importance to both entities. This collaboration would introduce a new scenario for groups like ours in other regions and would be seen as a key development in land conservation practice.

In regards to our respective goals for Humbug Valley and the elements contained within the attached proposal, our organization is honored by and committed to carrying out the duties and responsibilities, as described.

Sincerely,

Farrell Cunningham
Chairperson
Maidu Summit Consortium

Mr. Art Baggett, Jr.

July 16, 2013

Page 2 of 2

cc: Allene Zanger, Executive Director
Stewardship Council
15 North Ellsworth, Suite 100
San Mateo, CA 94401-2831

Farrell Cunningham, Executive Director
Maidu Summit Consortium
P.O Box 1122, Greenville, CA 95947

Paul Hardy, Executive Director
Feather River Land Trust
75 Court Street
Quincy, CA 95971

cc: Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kevin Hunting, Chief Deputy Director
Steven Ingram, Senior Staff Counsel and Tribal Liaison
Dan Yparraguirre, Deputy Director

North Central Region

Tina Bartlett, Regional Manager
Katherine Hill, Environmental Program Manager
Kevin Thomas, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)
William Somer, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)



LAND TRUST

Protecting the Places that Make the Feather River Country Special

PO Box 1826
Quincy, CA 95971
TEL: 530.283.5758
FAX: 530.283.5745
Email: frlt@frlt.org
Web: www.frlt.org

Mission Statement

To conserve land in the Feather River region and steward its ecological and cultural values for current and future generations.

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Vanessa Vasquez
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September 24, 2013

Art Baggett, Jr.
President, Stewardship Council Board of Directors
15 North Ellsworth, Suite 100
San Mateo, CA 94401-2831

Dear Mr. Baggett,

The Feather River Land Trust (FRLT) has been working in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) and the Maidu Summit Consortium (Summit) on a joint proposal for transfer of fee title of the PG&E-owned Humbug Valley parcels, along with associated conservation easement(s). As a local, Plumas-County-based nonprofit organization, FRLT is very supportive of the Summit's desire to re-establish some of its ancestral lands and to manage Humbug Valley using Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). We are also very supportive of co-holding an easement over these lands with the Department and collaborating on projects with both the Summit and the Department.

The permanent conservation of Humbug Valley and its beneficial public values has been a top priority for FRLT since its inception and the FRLT Board and I greatly value the opportunity to play a role in achieving this goal. We feel that collaboration among the Summit, the Department, and FRLT represents an historic opportunity to learn from each other and build a long-term partnership for the conservation and restoration of Humbug Valley using both TEK and the best science to meet management goals.

FRLT thanks the Stewardship Council for your courage and innovation in working to conserve and enhance Humbug Valley and Yellow Creek, while concomitantly helping the Summit rebuild the health and sustainability of Maidu culture and resources within the Feather River region. FRLT shares your commitment to Humbug Valley and to a long-term partnership among FRLT, the Department, and the Summit, and asks for the Stewardship Council's support of the Summit as fee title holder, with FRLT and the Department as co-easement holders.

Sincerely,

Paul Hardy
Executive Director