

# **Land Stewardship Proposal**

**for the**

**Pit River  
Tunnel Reservoir  
Battle Creek  
Cow Creek  
Lake Spaulding  
Bear River  
Lyons Reservoir**

**Planning Units**



**California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection**

**May 13, 2011**

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## ***PART 1 – ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION***

### ***1. Contact Information***

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Sacramento, CA 94244-2460  
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b) Secondary proposal contact: Cathy Bleier, Climate Action Program Manager  
Same location and mailing address as above  
Phone: 916-657-0561 or 916-718-6258  
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c) Executive Contact: Bill Snyder, Deputy Director  
Same location and mailing address as above  
Phone: 916-653-7772  
Email: Bill.Snyder@fire.ca.gov

### ***2. Executive Summary***

This Land Stewardship Proposal describes CAL FIRE's application for seven planning units:

Pit River  
Tunnel Reservoir  
Battle Creek  
Cow Creek  
Bear River  
Lake Spaulding  
Lyons Reservoir

The primary objective of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in seeking fee title to these seven planning units is to enhance the existing network of Demonstration State Forests in order to fulfill our mission of sustainable forestry, research, demonstration and recreation. The enabling legislation for the Demonstration State Forest system requires that each major forest type in the State be represented in the Demonstration State Forests system. The addition of these planning units will broaden our ability to practice sustainable forestry, conduct research and demonstration across a range of key California forest types, conduct monitoring of resource conditions and climate change and provide recreation opportunities.

We propose to create demonstration forests for sustainable forestry research and management, with appropriate levels of staffing for the size and location of the lands we receive from these planning units. We envision these demonstration forests as destinations for monitoring, adaptive management, technology transfer and research on best management practices to support privately owned forestry enterprises that are both ecologically and financially sustainable.

CAL FIRE's proposed land management activities on these seven planning units would focus on sustainable forestry, research and demonstration, habitat maintenance and restoration, cultural resources protection, and recreation. Specifically, CAL FIRE would implement the following enhanced management activities:

- A sustainable forestry program of research, demonstration and implementation of best management practices. Essential elements of this program would include building increasing inventories of timber and biomass over time, reducing the risk from catastrophic wildfire and enhancing watershed protection, maintaining an ecologically diverse range of forest types with an overall emphasis on closed-canopy forest, and keeping future management options open by developing a variety of forest stand conditions across the landscape, ranging from early to late seral forest conditions.
- A comprehensive, sustainable multi-resource Forest Management Plan. The management plan would include all resource values. A long term sustained yield plan would establish an annual harvest level that supports long term goals, is sustainable in perpetuity, maintains forest health and resistance to catastrophic fires, provides for a variety of research and demonstration opportunities, and supports a wide range of ecosystem benefits.
- A program of ecosystem monitoring and adaptive management, including a multi-resource inventory system of permanently monumented monitoring plots.
- Habitat protection and restoration in the context of a working forest landscape, with special attention to species that are State or federally listed as endangered, threatened or of special concern.
- Recreation and education. These activities would take advantage of the features of a working forest to demonstrate the effects of different types of management on forest structure and function. Typical recreation facilities include trails, rustic campgrounds, and interpretive installations.
- A program to protect and where appropriate, demonstrate historical and cultural resource management.

CAL FIRE has 125 years of experience in forest management and fire protection. We have successfully operated our existing Demonstration State Forests since their inception in the late 1940s. The mandates for the Demonstration State Forests—emphasizing sustainable forestry, public access and recreation, and protection of ecosystem and

cultural resources—are wholly consistent with the Beneficial Public Values identified as mandates for the Stewardship Council lands.

CAL FIRE has experience with numerous additional programs throughout the state that are consistent with the Stewardship Council's objectives to protect habitat and cultural resources, to enhance sustainable forestry, agricultural uses and recreation opportunities, and to preserve open space. For example, all archaeological and cultural resources on lands we may receive will be included in our management plans and protected. Our archaeology program ensures that plans, projects, permits and grants protect archaeological, cultural, and historical resources. Our forest practice program regulates timber harvest activities on non-federal timberlands statewide, requiring on-the-ground staff experience with forest management, forest improvement, and environmental protection of habitat, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species, forest soils, long-term forest productivity, watersheds, and water quality. CAL FIRE also administers landowner assistance programs, providing expertise, funding and oversight for forest improvement, reforestation, fuels reduction, vegetation management of brush and rangelands, and watershed and habitat improvements. Our department is well known for delivering fire suppression, fire prevention and fuel hazard plans and projects, and works closely with federal, state and local agencies, landowners, Fire Safe Councils, and stakeholder groups to implement them. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's authorities, mission, policies and programs are entirely consistent with achieving these objectives and protecting or enhancing the six Stewardship Council beneficial public values.

CAL FIRE proposes to manage the lands sought in these seven planning units as part of the Demonstration State Forests system with the goal of folding these properties into a larger financially self-sufficient system of working forests. Sustainable revenues from timber sales on Demonstration State Forest system lands will be sufficient to support a program of fiscally prudent research, demonstration and management.

Integrating these lands into our Demonstration State Forest system will take maximum advantage of the economies of scale afforded by CAL FIRE's deep pool of staff and equipment. We have highly trained staff both locally and statewide with experience in fire protection, forestry, biology, hydrology, archaeology and other disciplines. Additionally, California Geological Survey (CGS) Professional Geologists are under contract to assist CAL FIRE when needed. We commonly leverage CAL FIRE's fire protection resources, such as conservation inmate crews and heavy equipment, to perform maintenance work on the Demonstration State Forests outside of the fire season.

### ***3. Organizational Information***

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, also known as CAL FIRE, is a State agency.

### ***4. Organization's Tax Exempt Status***

CAL FIRE is a State agency. Its Federal Employer Identification Number is: 68-0306069

***5. Organization's Legal Name***

Our legal name is the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

***6. Organization's Common Name***

Our common name is the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. We are also known as CAL FIRE.

***7. Letter From the Executive Director***

A letter from our director, approving the submittal of this Land Stewardship Proposal, and our participation in the Stewardship Council's land conservation process, is enclosed.



## DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460  
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Website: [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)



R2

May 12, 2011

Ms. Allene Zanger  
Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council  
15 North Ellsworth Avenue, Suite 100  
San Mateo, CA 94401

Dear Ms. Zanger:

On behalf of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), I am pleased to approve and hereby submit for your consideration the CAL FIRE Land Stewardship Proposal for the following planning units:

Pit River	Tunnel Reservoir
Battle Creek	Cow Creek
Lake Spaulding	Bear River
Lyons Reservoir	

I fully support CAL FIRE's participation in the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council's land conservation process for these planning units.

CAL FIRE administers numerous programs that demonstrate consistency with the Stewardship Council's objectives to protect habitat and cultural resources, enhance sustainable forestry, agricultural uses and recreation opportunities and preserve open space. CAL FIRE also administers assistance programs for forest improvement, reforestation, fuels reduction, vegetation management of brush and rangelands, pest management, and watershed and habitat improvements. CAL FIRE's statutory authorities, mission, policies and programs are entirely consistent with achieving these objectives in protecting and enhancing the six beneficial public values.

CAL FIRE has the full support of the Natural Resources Agency and the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) to seek acquisition of these lands. The Board passed a resolution to this effect on June 9, 2010. A copy of their resolution is attached.

Please give our Land Stewardship Proposal your full consideration. My staff and I are available to provide any additional information that you may need during your reviews of the proposal. CAL FIRE's lead contact is Helge Eng, State Forest Program Manager, phone (916) 653-5000, E-mail: [helge.eng@fire.ca.gov](mailto:helge.eng@fire.ca.gov)

Sincerely,

KEN PIMLOTT  
Acting Director

Attachment

CONSERVATION IS WISE-KEEP CALIFORNIA GREEN AND GOLDEN

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CONSERVE ENERGY. FOR TIPS AND INFORMATION, VISIT "FLEX YOUR POWER" AT [WWW.CA.GOV](http://WWW.CA.GOV).



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
RESOLUTION

**Resolution of Support for Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Acquisition of Lands  
from the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council**

*Whereas*, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (hereafter "Board") has authorities and responsibilities relevant to the disposition of State Forests, including Public Resources Code sections 740 and 4648 and Board Policies 0311, 0316, 0312, and 0319; and

*Whereas*, acquisition of forest land to be designated as State Forests shall be made only upon the approval of the Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (hereafter "Department") on the advice of the Board; and

*Whereas*, the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council (hereafter "Stewardship Council"), a private foundation established as part of Pacific Gas & Electric Company's bankruptcy settlement, has responsibility for the conservation of over 140,000 acres of "Watershed Lands" in California; and

*Whereas*, the Stewardship Council has identified protection of the natural habitat of fish, wildlife, and plants; preservation of open space; outdoor recreation by the general public; sustainable forestry; agricultural uses; and historic values as the six "Beneficial Public Values" to be preserved and enhanced across these Watershed Lands; and

*Whereas*, the Stewardship Council is directed to achieve these Beneficial Public Values through donation of conservation easements, or donation of lands in fee to one or more public entities or qualified non-profits, whose ownership would be consistent with these Values; and

*Whereas*, the Department is a public agency with statutory responsibility for the management, protection, and reforestation of State Forest lands, consistent with the Stewardship Council's Beneficial Public Values; and

*Whereas*, the Department has identified an interest in Watershed Lands in the Stewardship Council planning units of "Tilt River," "Battle Creek," "Cow Creek," "Burney Gardens," "Lake Spaulding," "Bear River," "North Fork Mokelumne River," and "Lyons Reservoir" that would be suitable for inclusion in the Department's Demonstration State Forests Program; and

*Whereas*, the addition of these Stewardship Council lands would satisfy a significant public need for demonstrational, experimental, and educational activities in forest types presently underrepresented in the Demonstration State Forests Program, in conjunction with promotion of the Stewardship Council's six Beneficial Public Values; and

*Whereas*, future revenue generation from Stewardship Council lands transferred to Department ownership would support ongoing management and administration of those lands and the Demonstration State Forests Program in general;

*Now Therefore Be It Resolved*, that the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection offers its support for the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection seeking transfer of Stewardship Council Watershed Lands, and recommends that the Director approve this transfer upon the offer of fee title by the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council, the California Public Utilities Commission and the Pacific Gas & Electric Company;

APPROVED:

  
Stan L. Dixon  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
George D. Gentry  
Executive Officer

Dated at Sacramento, California this 9th Day of June 2010

## ***8. Rationale for Applying***

The primary objective of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in obtaining fee title to these seven Planning Units is to enhance the existing network of Demonstration State Forests in order to fulfill its mission of sustainable forestry, research and demonstration and recreation. The enabling legislation for the Demonstration State Forest system requires that each major forest type in the State be represented in the Demonstration State Forests system. The addition of these planning units to the Demonstration State Forest system will help fill the gap for research and demonstration of sustainable forestry practices in California. CAL FIRE's specific objectives for seeking these Planning Units are to implement, study, and demonstrate sustainable forestry, to protect recreation and open space resources and work with partners to enhance them, and to protect and enhance habitats and cultural and historical resources.

One of the key research objectives for adding these seven planning units to the Demonstration State Forest Program is to expand the State's capacity to monitor and study large scale, long term forest change, including the effects of climate change. Studies indicate increasing wildfire activity and vulnerability to insect and disease, changes in vegetation such as decreased conifer cover, and potential increases in erosion from changing precipitation regimes. Basic and applied forest research is urgently needed to track, understand and adapt to climate change with actions that promote forest health, reduce the risk of stand-replacing wildfires, avoid or minimize adverse impacts and take advantage of potential beneficial effects where possible.

Since its establishment in 1946, CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forest System has been a center for long-term monitoring activities, where access is guaranteed and expensive monitoring infrastructure (equipment and installations) is protected and maintained by CAL FIRE law enforcement staff and resource specialists. CAL FIRE's long history of research partnerships with academic institutions and other agencies (e.g., USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station, California Department of Fish and Game) effectively leverages our research capabilities on the Demonstration State Forests and will enhance our ability to study climate change. As part of this focus, we will investigate adaptive management strategies for making forests more resilient to climate change, potentially exploring alternatives and demonstration opportunities for regeneration, stand improvement, fire hazard reduction, watershed protection and other forest health management activities.

CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forests make significant contributions to rural recreation and cultural resource protection and education. We would continue this commitment in the requested seven planning units by protecting recreational opportunities, historic and prehistoric sites, and working with stakeholders and adjacent landowners to meet watershed-wide recreation needs and to promote education on cultural history.

## ***9. Organization's Mission***

CAL FIRE's mission is to serve and safeguard the people and protect the property and resources of California through the offices of its Fire Protection, Resource Management, and State Fire Marshal programs. The Resource Management Program includes the Demonstration State Forest Program, which currently manages eight Demonstration State Forests covering approximately 71,000 acres. The mission of the Demonstration State Forest Program is to conduct research and demonstration on forests, forest management and forest improvement, while providing recreational use and taking into consideration watershed, wildlife and fisheries, range use and aesthetic values.

The authorities and mandates for the Demonstration State Forest Program are clearly consistent with and will ensure protection and appropriate enhancements of the six Stewardship Council beneficial public values (BPV) on the requested planning units. Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 4631 and 4631.5 provide for the creation and retention of Demonstration State Forest lands, which is consistent with preserving open space. PRC 4639 and 4651 provide for sustained production of forest products, recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, fisheries and aesthetic values. PRC 4656 allows specifically for grazing permits and irrigation development. California Statutes also recognize priorities or special concerns for individual Demonstration State Forests, such as multiple-use and recreation at Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest, and watershed protection, public education and protection of old growth redwood trees at Soquel Demonstration State Forest. PRC 4648 addresses other issues relevant to successful stewardship mentioned such as multiple use and economical administration, management and utilization.

California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection policies provide additional support, clarification and guidance for the goals stated above. For example, Policy 0351.5 provides for development of primarily rustic recreational infrastructure, which is consistent with objectives of many Stewardship Council Planning Units.

Other CAL FIRE programs also demonstrate consistency with Beneficial Public Values. CAL FIRE regulates timber harvest on non-federal lands to ensure sustained long-term timber production and resource protection, and administers grant and assistance programs for reforestation and forest improvement, forestland preservation, fuels reduction and vegetation management for range, watershed and habitat improvement. Our archaeology program ensures that plans, projects, permits and grants protect archaeological and historical resources.

## ***10. Geographic Focus***

### **Shasta County Region**

LaTour Demonstration State Forest is a 9,033 acres forest located in eastern Shasta County, approximately forty-five miles east of Redding. Board of Forestry and Fire Protection policy states that the primary purpose of the Demonstration State Forest program is to conduct innovative demonstrations, experiments, and education in forest

management. LaTour is managed as a working forest property in order to research and demonstrate best management practices in sustainable forestry. Recreation, wildlife habitat, open space preservation and cultural resources are other important resource values on LaTour Demonstration State Forest.

CAL FIRE's Shasta-Trinity Unit (SHU) is the Department lead for conducting fire protection and resource management activities in the Pit, Cow, and Battle Creek watersheds and the counties of Shasta and Trinity. SHU also manages the Shasta County Fire Department (SCFD) through a Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement with Shasta County. SCFD is composed of 19 Volunteer Fire Companies and 21 Fire Stations. SHU manages its own lands and facilities and partners with landowners, local agencies and community stakeholder groups to protect beneficial public values through its Fire Protection and Resources Management Programs.

CAL FIRE owns 13 Fire Stations, 2 Conservation Camps, a Joint Agency Air Attack Base, a Headquarters facility and LaTour and Ellen Pickett Demonstration State Forests within the Unit. CAL FIRE manages these properties and implements improvements as needed, conducting and preparing environmental analyses and securing all required permits to identify and mitigate potential impacts in compliance with state and federal laws. Recent activities completed by SHU include Timber Harvesting Plans (THP) and wildlife research projects on LaTour Demonstration State Forest, an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the replacement of Fawn Lodge Forest Fire Station and Notice of Exemptions for barracks replacement at Buckhorn and Whitmore Fire Stations.

We maintain an active role in research and professional forestry in this area. CAL FIRE is a member of the Sierra-Cascade Intensive Forest Management Research Cooperative. We maintain a close working relationship with the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station in Redding, and host several of their study installations at LaTour Demonstration State Forests. We also maintain a close working relationship with the Department of Fish and Game and continue to cooperate on joint wildlife studies at LaTour Demonstration State Forests. We maintain an active presence in local government, community, professional, conservation and recreation organizations in this area. Additionally, CAL FIRE is represented on the Board of the Cow Creek Watershed Management Group.

We work with local organizations, agencies and landowners to conduct vegetation management projects for the purposes of fuels reduction and fire management. CAL FIRE supported and participated in the development of the Cow Creek Watershed Fuel Reduction Plan, Lakehead Area Strategic Fuel Reduction Plan, and the Fire Safe Plan for the Shingletown Community. SHU's 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 participated in Defensible Space

Residential Chipping Programs in the Community of Shingletown which provided free chipping services to homeowners clearing vegetation around their structures in compliance with Fire Safe clearance codes (PRC 4291) and to fuelbreak projects throughout the Unit.

### **Nevada and Placer County Region**

CAL FIRE's Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit (NEU) is the Department lead for conducting fire protection and resource management activities in the Yuba-Bear watershed and the counties of Nevada, Yuba and Placer. NEU manages its own lands and facilities and partners with landowners, local agencies and community stakeholder groups to protect beneficial public values through its Fire Protection and Resources Management Programs.

CAL FIRE owns 14 Fire Stations and facilities within the Unit. CAL FIRE manages these properties and implements improvements as needed, conducting and preparing environmental analyses and securing all required permits to identify and mitigate potential impacts in compliance with state and federal laws. Recent activities completed by NEU include an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the New Higgins Forest Fire Station, a joint venture with the local Fire Protection District to develop a new replacement facility that allows continued co-location; rebuilding the Nevada City and Colfax Forest Fire Station, including timber harvest for firewood or fencing uses; and the Banner Mountain Lookout Maintenance Project which included removal of trees obscuring the sight-line and operations and provided logs for use by Growlersberg Conservation Camp.

NEU has allocated \$3 million of Proposition 40 Community Assistance Grants over the past five years, completing 38 projects to improve community protection from catastrophic wildland fire. Activities include forest enhancement, fuel breaks, and projects to assist small landowners to reduce and dispose of hazardous vegetation. In Nevada County, CAL FIRE is working with homeowners, small landowners and the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County (FSCNC) on fuel breaks and forest vegetation waste disposal. In Placer County CAL FIRE will fund the Northstar Forest Enhancement Project to restore fire-resilient forest conditions, reduce forest fuels and reestablish pine and riparian vegetation. This high priority treatment area, identified in the Northstar Community Wildfire Protection Plan, is heavily used for recreation, wildlife viewing and outdoor education. CAL FIRE will also support the Auburn Shaded Fuel Break as part of the 2002 Greater Community Fire Safe Plan collaboration with the Sierra Economic Development District, the Auburn Fire District, homeowners, conservation camp crews and others.

NEU's Vegetation Management Program implements cost-share projects for wildlife habitat improvement, noxious weed control, range improvement and wildfire hazard reduction, primarily through prescribed burning. In Nevada County, VMP is creating a shaded fuelbreak covering thousands of acres by linking projects on private and State Park lands, including the Reader Ranch, Bunker Hill, French Corral and Malakoff Diggins projects. Placer County projects include fuel hazard reduction and wildlife

habitat enhancement, such as the 20-acre Chinquapin-Kingswood West project, a collaboration with the North Tahoe Fire protection District and other local fire agencies, and the 23-acre Donner State Park project. NEU is also conducting a 1,040 acre project at the UC Field Station in Yuba County to control and study noxious weeds in oak woodlands.

In cooperation with the Placer County Resource Conservation District, NEU has also completed 110 California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) projects allocating \$2.7 million of State Proposition 40 grants funds to private landowners to improve forest health and create more fire resistant forested landscapes while providing for wildlife and water quality protection. Other projects include Defensible Space Residential Chipping Programs which provide free chipping services to homeowners clearing vegetation around their structures in compliance with Fire Safe clearance codes (PRC 4291) and to fuelbreak projects throughout the Unit.

We maintain an active presence in local government, community, professional, conservation and recreation organizations in this area. The current Vice Chair of the Placer County Resource Conservation District is a CAL FIRE employee.

### **Tuolumne County Region**

CAL FIRE's Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit (TCU) is the department lead for conducting fire protection and resource management activities on over one million acres of land in Tuolumne and Calaveras counties, including the Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit in the Stanislaus River watershed. TCU manages its own lands and facilities and partners with landowners, local agencies and community stakeholder groups to protect beneficial public values through its Fire Protection and Resources Management Programs.

CAL FIRE's Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit owns 15 forest fire stations, two conservation camps, one air base, and various facilities within the unit. The two conservation camps would undoubtedly provide crew labor to assist in the management of the Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit. TCU manages these properties and implements improvements as needed, conducting and preparing environmental analyses and securing all required permits to identify and mitigate potential impacts in compliance with state and federal laws. Currently TCU has several facilities in various stages of replacement.

TCU foresters regulate timber harvesting on private lands ensuring that water, soils archaeological, and biological resources are protected in conformance with current laws and regulations. TCU also enforces PRC 4291 (Defensible Space) to ensure that homeowners treat fuel around their homes and PRC 4290 to ensure that homes and commercial buildings are built with fire resistant materials and that properties have safe access and a sufficient water supply to fight fire.

TCU has a very active fuel treatment program throughout Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties which includes the Lyons Reservoir area. In the past five years, under the State Proposition 40 Grant, TCU has treated over 4,200 acres in Community Assistance Grants (CAG's) and California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) grants with a total

expenditure of over three million dollars. The Proposition 40 CFIP projects are designed to improve fuel loads in treated forested landscapes so they can better withstand the damaging effects of wildfire, increase timber productivity where appropriate and improve ecosystem health and resiliency. Projects vary in size and scope but the underlying goal is to treat fuels to protect communities and natural resources from the devastating effects of wildfire. TCU also received ten active Federal Supplemental Fuel Treatment Grants totaling \$95,000 to conduct 672 acres of forest enhancement and fuel breaks. The Tuolumne County Fire Evacuation Publication provided written and pictorial information to help Tuolumne County residents prepare for and evacuate in case of wildfire.

TCU's Vegetation Management Program (VMP) implements cost-share projects for wildlife habitat improvement, noxious weed control, range improvement and wildfire hazard reduction, primarily through prescribed burning. Approximately 100 acres are treated each year in strategically important areas.

TCU staff maintain an active presence in local government, community, professional, conservation and recreation organizations in this area.

## ***11. Organizational Experience and Capacity***

CAL FIRE's experience and capacity for land ownership and management of properties with values comparable to the Beneficial Public Values in Round 2 applications are demonstrated by the following three examples.

### **1. Sunset Point Interpretive Trail**

Sunset Point at Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest is a beautiful area that provides the public with an opportunity to walk through a former Indian Village, see rock basins, bedrock mortars, midden and artifacts, and to learn about the people who once lived there. The Sunset Point archaeological site was excavated by professional archaeologists so as to determine its scientific significance. The investigation confirmed house pits and artifacts dating possibly as early as the Early Archaic period. As this site lies at 6,000 feet elevation in the Sierra Nevada and is currently snowbound for extended periods each year, we interpret this site as probably resulting from many repeat visits (albeit of short duration) over a long period of time. Based on the archaeologists' recommendation, Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest personnel constructed an Interpretive Trail through the archaeological site at Sunset Point, including interpretive signs. This educational facility, incorporating a self-guided tour, not only provides a unique forum for public education but underlines the need to preserve intact archaeological sites wherever and whenever they are found. The Sunset Point self-guided tour also focuses attention away from other, less easily protected archaeological sites at the Forest. Local Native Americans contributed information for the Interpretive Trail.

### **2. Fish Ladders**

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station are partners in long-term watershed research at Jackson Demonstration State Forest. Watershed research is critical to understanding how forest

management affects habitat for State and federally listed anadromous salmonids, such as coho salmon. The Caspar Creek Watershed study is unique because of its 49 years devoted to the study of managed redwood ecosystems. The former Caspar Creek fish ladders were ineffective and in need of extensive repair. The California Department of Fish and Game, CAL FIRE and the Redwood Sciences Lab recognized the problem and worked together to find a solution.

Additional partners in developing the design were the California Department of Fish and Game, the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program, and NOAA Fisheries. A grant from the California Coastal Conservancy with funds from the Parks and Water Act, mitigation funds from Caltrans, funds and support from CAL FIRE and the Pacific Southwest Research Station all helped finance the project.

To preserve the scientific value of the Caspar Creek measurement weirs built in 1962, a unique fish ladder design was needed. The ladders' one of a kind design includes key features. To facilitate the movement of juvenile salmon, removable weirs are installed in the summer. An observation chamber has been incorporated in the passage way so that fish movement through the structure can be studied closely. CAL FIRE and DFG staff have shared their operational experience through their membership in local watershed councils. The ladders are a tangible symbol to the partners' commitment to recovery of coho and steelhead that are native to these streams. Numerous field visits have included scientists as well as government, restoration and educational groups. The fish ladders have won several engineering design awards.

### **3. Sustainable Forestry, Wildlife Habitat and Carbon Sequestration**

Since 2006, CAL FIRE has been undertaking a long-term project on LaTour Demonstration State Forest in which we are implementing several different silvicultural regimes to evaluate their effects on the net carbon balance of the stands, and wildlife habitats associated with the stands over time.

We have done several different site preparation treatments on an area that was subject to wildfire in the 1980s, including different methods of brush removal. We have planted trees at several different densities. We will continue to monitor the development of stands over time to evaluate how much biomass and carbon is accumulating under different treatments. We are planning different variants of the group selection silvicultural method in order to evaluate its effects on wildlife habitat. In cooperation with biologists from the Department of Fish and Game's Redding office we will implement and monitor different opening sizes and juxtaposition of openings to determine the resulting habitat characteristics for a suite of wildlife species, including both edge-dependent and interior species. We expect the results of this project will give us detailed information on practices aspects associated with sustainable forestry that produce high levels of carbon sequestration and improved wildlife habitat.



## ***12. Description of CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forests***

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection manages approximately 70,000 acres of Demonstration State Forests on behalf of the public. These can be summarized as follows:

Jackson Demonstration State Forest is a 48,658 acre coast redwood/Douglas-fir forest located in western Mendocino County, between Willits and Fort Bragg. Initial acquisition began in 1949. Primary land uses are sustainable forestry, research and demonstration and recreation. Current management practices include:

- Silvicultural practices to encourage late seral stands.
- Demonstration and research projects. Examples include the Caspar Creek watershed study, fisheries and terrestrial wildlife research, fire ecology studies and stand response to different silvicultural methods.
- Recreation management, including campground, road maintenance and building and maintaining new trails.

Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest is a 4,807 acre mixed conifer/giant sequoia forest located on the west slopes of the southern Sierra Nevada in eastern Tulare County, 30 miles northeast of Porterville. It was acquired in 1946. The legislatively mandated primary land use is recreation. Sustainable forestry is a secondary priority, after recreation. Current management practices include recreation, demonstration and research projects, including effects of thinning and burning on young growth giant sequoia regeneration, silvicultural methods to reduce fire risk, foster regeneration and growth of young giant sequoia, and recruiting old growth giant sequoia from second growth trees.

LaTour Demonstration State Forest is a 9,033 acre Sierra mixed conifer/true fir forest in northeastern Shasta County. It was acquired in 1946. Primary land uses are sustainable forestry, research and demonstration and recreation. Current management practices include silvicultural practices to encourage a historical species mix with pine as a significant part of the Forest, demonstration and research projects such as carbon sequestration in managed forests and wildlife response to silvicultural practices, and recreation management including campground, road and trail maintenance.

Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest is a 3,493 acre mixed conifer forest in Lake County. It was acquired in 1949, after the entire property had been clear cut. Primary land uses are sustainable forestry, research and demonstration and recreation. Current management practices include silvicultural practices to encourage a natural species mix with pine as a significant part of the Forest, increase fire resilience and recreation management including campgrounds and trail maintenance.

Soquel Demonstration State Forest is a 2,681 acre coast redwood forest located in the Santa Cruz mountains, 20 miles north of Capitola. The property became a Demonstration State Forest in 1990 as part of a debt for nature swap with the Bank of America. The property is managed by the State under a 25-year lease. At the end of the lease in 2015, the property will be transferred permanently to the State. Primary land uses include recreation, sustainable forestry and research and demonstration. Current management

practices, consistent with the enabling legislation, emphasize protection of old growth redwood trees, watershed protection and research on interactions between forest management, watersheds and urban areas.

Las Posadas Demonstration State Forest is a 796 acre mixed conifer forest in Napa County, 15 miles northeast of Saint Helena. It was donated to the State in 1925. Primary land uses are conservation, restoration, research and some recreation. Current management practices include primarily vegetation management activities. Las Posadas contains unique stands of coastal redwood occurring at the extreme easternmost natural range of this species. Las Posadas is managed in part to preserve the genetic heritage of these rare coastal redwood stands.

Mount Zion Demonstration State Forest is a 164 acre mixed conifer forest in Amador County. It was acquired in stages, starting in 1926. The fire control lookout tower, built in the late 1920's, is still in use. The forest is currently surrounded on three sides by subdivisions. Primary land uses are research and demonstration, recreation and conservation. Current management practices include primarily fire prevention and vegetation management activities.

Ellen Pickett Demonstration State Forest is a 160 acre property located in Trinity County. The property was donated to the State in 1939 by Minnie Ellen Pickett for research and demonstration in forestry, botany and experimental planting. The property has no deeded access. Primary land uses are conservation, restoration and research. Current management practices include primarily vegetation management activities.

### ***13. CAL FIRE's Operating Budget for the Current Year***

The Stewardship Council Director of Finance has requested that CAL FIRE submit three years of budget information and financial statements for the Demonstration State Forest Program, rather than resubmitting the audited financial statements provided for the Department at large, from the Statement of Qualifications. The following program budgets consolidate all operations and staffing for all Demonstration State Forests for fiscal years 2008/2009, 2009/2010 and 2010/2011. The current fiscal year's figures are broken down by individual Demonstration State Forests.

Additional in-kind support from inmate labor and other non-Demonstration State Forest staff is not included here. Differences in budget figures between the three fiscal years shown here do not reflect meaningful changes in funding commitments. Because the Demonstration State Forests are self-funded largely from timber sale revenues, these differences reflect changes in market prices and the flexibility of contractors to implement timber harvest plans over several years.

Table 1. Itemized Demonstration State Forests budget for fiscal year 2010/2011.

<b><u>CAL FIRE Demonstration State Forests Program Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Budget</u></b>				
Operations and Expenses			Personnel Salaries and Benefits	
Object Code	Activity		Program/Positions	Amount
201	General Expense	\$80,568	1 Deputy Chief	\$189,106
241	Printing	\$14,529	1 Forester III	68,374
251	Communications	\$7,264	9 Forester II	\$1,100,498
261	Postage	\$291	8 Forester I	\$802,214
291	Travel In-State	\$7,264	4 Forestry Assistant I/II	\$258,317
331	Training	\$14,529	RPS II (GIS)	\$56,412
341	Facilities Operation	\$43,586	2 HFEO	\$231,182
361	Utilities	\$29,058	Fire Capt. Specialist	\$52,603
382	Consult/Prof.-Interdept.	\$14,529	Accounting Clerk II	\$31,673
402	Consult/Prof.-External	\$410,583	Wildlife Biologist	\$98,953
431	Data Processing	\$8,717	AGPA	\$42,989
472	Equipment	\$17,435	OT--Typing	\$52,480
502	Subsistence/Pers Care	\$8,717	Temp. Help	\$330,600
520	Uniform Allowance	\$5,812		
524	Vehicle Operations	\$8,717		
	Property Tax	\$128,000		
<b>Subtotals</b>		<b>\$799,598</b>		<b>\$3,315,401</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,115,009</b>			
<b><u>CAL FIRE Jackson Demonstration State Forest Program Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Budget</u></b>				
Operations and Expenses			Personnel Salaries and Benefits	
Object Code	Activity		Program/Positions	Amount
201	General Expense	\$32,832	1 Forester III	\$68,374
241	Printing	\$5,921	3 Forester II	\$401,316
251	Communications	\$2,960	5 Forester I	\$500,196
261	Postage	\$118	2 Forester Assistant II	\$139,233
291	Travel In-State	\$2,960	1 RPS II (GIS)	\$56,412
331	Training	\$5,921	2 HFEO	\$231,182
341	Facilities Operation	\$17,762	Fire Capt. Specialist	\$52,603
361	Utilities	\$11,841	Accounting Clerk II	\$31,673
382	Consult/Prof.-Interdept.	\$5,921	OT—Typing	\$26,240
402	Consult/Prof.-External	\$167,317	Wildlife biologist	\$98,953
431	Data Processing	\$3,552	Temp Help	\$209,000
472	Equipment	\$7,105		
502	Subsistence/Pers Care	\$3,552		
520	Uniform Allowance	\$2,368		
524	Vehicle Operations	\$3,552		
<b>Subtotals</b>		<b>\$273,684</b>		<b>\$1,815,182</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,088,866</b>			

<b><u>CAL FIRE LaTour Demonstration State Forest Program Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Budget</u></b>				
Operations and Expenses			Personnel Salaries and Benefits	
Object Code	Activity		Program/Positions	Amount
201	General Expense	\$13,403	Forester II	\$129,584
241	Printing	\$2,417	Forester I	\$102,824
251	Communications	\$1,209	Forestry Assistant II	\$39,877
261	Postage	\$48		
291	Travel In-State	\$1,209		
331	Training	\$2,417		
341	Facilities Operation	\$7,251		
361	Utilities	\$4,834		
382	Consult/Prof.-Interdept.	\$2,417		
402	Consult/Prof.-External	\$68,305		
431	Data Processing	\$1,450		
472	Equipment	\$2,900		
502	Subsistence/Pers Care	\$1,450		
520	Uniform Allowance	\$967		
524	Vehicle Operations	\$1,450		
<b>Subtotals</b>		<b>\$111,728</b>		<b>\$272,285</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$384,013</b>			

<b><u>CAL FIRE Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest Program Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Budget</u></b>				
Operations and Expenses			Personnel Salaries and Benefits	
Object Code	Activity		Program/Positions	Amount
201	General Expense	\$5,470.13	Forester II	\$121,698
241	Printing	\$986.43	Forestry Assistant I/II	\$79,207
251	Communications	\$493.21	Temp. Help	\$45,600
261	Postage	\$19.73		
291	Travel In-State	\$493.21		
331	Training	\$986.43		
341	Facilities Operation	\$2,959.28		
361	Utilities	\$1,972.85		
382	Consult/Prof.-Interdept.	\$986.43		
402	Consult/Prof.-External	\$27,876.44		
431	Data Processing	\$591.86		
472	Equipment	\$1,183.71		
502	Subsistence/Pers Care	\$591.86		
520	Uniform Allowance	\$394.57		
524	Vehicle Operations	\$591.86		
<b>Subtotals</b>		<b>\$45,598.00</b>		<b>\$246,505</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$292,103</b>			

<u>CAL FIRE Soquel Demonstration State Forest Program Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Budget</u>				
Operations and Expenses			Personnel Salaries and Benefits	
Object Code	Activity		Program/Positions	Amount
201	General Expense	\$4,864	Forester II	\$67,034
241	Printing	\$877	Forester I	\$102,824
251	Communications	\$439	OT--Typing	\$26,240
261	Postage	\$18	Temp. Help	\$22,800
291	Travel In-State	\$439		
331	Training	\$877		
341	Facilities Operation	\$2,631		
361	Utilities	\$1,754		
382	Consult/Prof.-Interdept.	\$877		
402	Consult/Prof.-External	\$24,787		
431	Data Processing	\$526		
472	Equipment	\$1,053		
502	Subsistence/Pers Care	\$526		
520	Uniform Allowance	\$351		
524	Vehicle Operations	\$526		
Subtotals		\$40,545		\$218,898
TOTAL	\$259,443			

<u>CAL FIRE Boggs Demonstration State Forest Program Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Budget</u>				
Operations and Expenses			Personnel Salaries and Benefits	
Object Code	Activity		Program/Positions	Amount
201	General Expense	\$5,441	Forester II	\$129,584
241	Printing	\$981	Forester I	\$0
251	Communications	\$491	Temp. Help	\$34,200
261	Postage	\$20		
291	Travel In-State	\$491		
331	Training	\$981		
341	Facilities Operation	\$2,944		
361	Utilities	\$1,962		
382	Consult/Prof.-Interdept.	\$981		
402	Consult/Prof.-External	\$27,728		
431	Data Processing	\$589		
472	Equipment	\$1,177		
502	Subsistence/Pers Care	\$589		
520	Uniform Allowance	\$392		
524	Vehicle Operations	\$589		
Subtotals		\$45,356		\$163,784
TOTAL	\$209,140			

<b><u>CAL FIRE Sac HQ Demonstration State Forests Program Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Budget</u></b>				
Operations and Expenses			Personnel Salaries and Benefits	
Object Code	Activity		Program/Positions	Amount
201	General Expense	\$18,557	Deputy Chief	\$189,106
241	Printing	\$3,346	Forester II	\$121,698
251	Communications	\$1,673	Forester II	\$129,584
261	Postage	\$67	Forester I	\$96,370
291	Travel In-State	\$1,673	AGPA	\$42,989
331	Training	\$3,346	Temp. Help	\$19,000
341	Facilities Operation	\$10,039		
361	Utilities	\$6,693		
382	Consult/Prof.-Interdept.	\$3,346		
402	Consult/Prof.-External	\$94,568		
431	Data Processing	\$2,008		
472	Equipment	\$4,016		
502	Subsistence/Pers Care	\$2,008		
520	Uniform Allowance	\$1,339		
524	Vehicle Operations	\$2,008		
	In Lieu Property Tax	\$128,000		
<b>Subtotals</b>		<b>\$282,687</b>		<b>\$598,747</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$881,434</b>			

Table 2. Itemized Demonstration State Forests budget for fiscal year 2009/2010.

<b><u>CAL FIRE Demonstration State Forests Program Fiscal Year 2009/2010 Budget</u></b>				
Operations and Expenses			Personnel Salaries and Benefits	
Object Code	Activity		Program/Positions	Amount
201	General Expense	\$53,570	2 Deputy Chief	\$328,251
241	Printing	\$15,070	9 Forester II	\$918,642
251	Communications	\$7,535	9 Forester I	\$718,697
261	Postage	\$301	3 Forestry Assistant I/II	\$215,598
291	Travel In-State	\$7,535	RPS II (GIS)	\$92,036
331	Training	\$15,070	2 HFEO	\$169,610
341	Facilities Operation	\$45,210	Fire Capt. Specialist	\$79,770
361	Utilities	\$30,140	Accounting Clerk II	\$22,527
382	Consult/Prof.-Interdept.	\$15,070	Wildlife Biologist	\$98,240
402	Consult/Prof.-External	\$332,103	AGPA	\$16,691
431	Data Processing	\$9,042	OT--Typing	\$24,451
472	Equipment	\$18,084	Temp. Help	\$247,864
502	Subsistence/Pers Care	\$9,042		
520	Uniform Allowance	\$6,028		
524	Vehicle Operations	\$9,042		
	Property Tax	\$123,779		
<b>Subtotals</b>		<b>\$696,623</b>		<b>\$2,932,376</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,629,000</b>			

Table 3. Itemized Demonstration State Forests budget for fiscal year 2008/2009.

<b><u>CAL FIRE Demonstration State Forests Program Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Budget</u></b>				
Operations and Expenses			Personnel Salaries and Benefits	
Code	Activity	Amount	Positions	Amount
201	General Expense	\$58,672	2 Deputy Chief	\$380,818
241	Printing	\$21,400	9 Forester II	\$1,076,793
251	Communications	\$10,700	9 Forester I	\$900,358
261	Postage	\$428	3 Forestry Assistant I/II	\$231,437
291	Travel In-State	\$10,700	RPS II (GIS)	\$98,771
331	Training	\$21,400	2 Heavy Equip. Operator	\$137,232
341	Facilities Operation	\$64,200	1 Fire Captain Specialist	\$85,607
361	Utilities	\$42,800	2 Accounting Clerk II	\$48,351
382	Consult/Internal	\$21,400	2 OT--Typing	\$81,114
402	Consult/External	\$541,552	Wildlife Biologist	\$105,428
431	Data Processing	\$12,840	AGPA	\$42,989
472	Equipment	\$25,680	Temporary help, 48 mos.	\$530,393
502	Subsistence	\$12,840		
520	Uniform Allowance	\$8,560		
524	Vehicle Operations	\$12,840		
	Property Tax	\$123,217		
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$989,231</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$3,719,290</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,708,521</b>			

#### ***14. Your Organization's Sources of Funding***

This section applies to non-governmental organizations only, and is therefore not applicable.

#### ***15. Potential or Pending Grant Funds***

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection works closely with local, state and federal agencies and with citizens, landowners and stakeholder groups in the performance of its statewide responsibilities. As a result of these collaborations, our department has been successful at securing grant funds from federal and state agencies for all its Resource Management, Fire Protection and State Fire Marshal programs. For example, the Resource Management Program, which includes the Demonstration State Forests, currently receives several million dollars per year in federal grants for Forest Stewardship, Forest Legacy, Hazardous Fuels Reduction, and Urban Forestry programs to assist private landowners with activities such as reforestation, forestland conservation and easements, forest health improvement, timber stand improvement, habitat enhancement, watershed restoration, post fire recovery, and fuels reduction.



The Demonstration State Forests program, which has long-standing research and monitoring collaborations with the University of California and State Universities, federal agencies such as the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station, and the Department of Fish and Game, has also participated in numerous grant programs. Demonstration State Forests, often in cooperation with local conservation partners, have successfully applied for and received grants for on-the-ground enhancement projects as well as research. They generally have adopted a strategy of seeking grants in areas where there is a significant need or a demonstration value, such as road maintenance, fuel reduction and carbon sequestration projects. Table 4 summarizes grant activity for Jackson Demonstration State Forest.

Table 4. Recent grant awards and pending applications for Jackson Demonstration State Forest.

Award year	Project	Grant Amount	JDSF cash cost share	JDSF In-Kind share	Total project cost	Awarder	Awardee	Expiration date
<i>Applications Pending</i>								
2012	Improve 2 miles SFNF Noyo River					DFG FRGP	CCC	2014
2012	Improve 3 miles SF Noyo River	\$42,675	\$73,690		\$121,386	DFG FRGP	TU	2014
2012	Water Gulch Dam					DFG FRGP	MLT	2014
<i>Successful Awards: projects completed or in planning and implementation stages</i>								
2011	Improve 2 miles Berry Gulch	\$52,014	\$13,900		\$98,825	DFG FRGP*	CCC	2014
2011	Improve 2 miles NFSF Noyo	\$40,415	\$11,900	\$1,200 (logs)	\$80,414	DFG FRGP	CCC	2014
2011	Assess 2 miles Rd 120 -121	\$16,886	\$0	\$0	\$24,886	DFG FRGP	MLT	2013
2011	Decommission 1 mile Ziemer Rd	\$21,572	\$57,947	\$9,875	\$93,994	DFG FRGP	JDSF	2013
2011	Build Walton Gulch Crossing	\$109,473	\$34,475	\$ 0	\$ 143,948	DFG FRGP	JDSF	2013
2010	Decommission 3 miles of Rd 550	\$233,907	\$40,000	\$3,500	\$295,407	DFG FRGP	MCRCD	2012
2010	Assess 6.5 miles of Railroad Gulch Rds	\$15,737	\$6,500	\$7,090	\$31,850	DFG FRGP	MLT	2012
2007	Build Caspar Fish Ladders (2)	\$400,000			\$1,095,300	Cal Trans	JDSF	2009
2007	Build Caspar Fish Ladders (2)	\$600,000			\$1,095,300	Coastal Conservancy	JDSF	2009
2007	Build Walton Gulch Bridge	\$110,000	\$0	\$20,545	\$130,545	DFG FRGP	JDSF	2011
2007	Decommission 1.3 miles Rd 610	\$26,063	\$5,000	\$22,836	\$53,899	DFG FRGP	JDSF	2011
2003	Decommission 3.5 miles Rd 630	\$105,025		\$27,511	\$132,536	DFG FRGP	JDSF	2007
DFG FRGP=Department of Fish and Game, Fisheries Restoration Grant Program CCC=California Conservation Corps MLT= Mendocino Land Trust MCRCD= Mendocino County Resource Conservation District						TU=Trout Unlimited JDSF=Jackson Demonstration State Forest		

The Demonstration State Forests also received a \$200,000 grant from the US Department of Energy's West Coast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership (WESTCARB) to demonstrate the use of carbon protocols, developed by the California Climate Action Registry, for measuring carbon sequestration benefits of reforestation and forest management projects. This cost-share project was conducted at LaTour Demonstration State Forest and has been completed.

Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest has received a grant from the US Forest Service for \$180,000 to conduct fuels reduction on 700 acres, and reduce fire hazards and risks associated with public use and access. Inmates from CAL FIRE's Mountain Home

Conservation Camp are removing brush and ladder fuels by hand. This work is to be completed during 2011.

## ***16. Fee Title Holder and Revenue Disposition***

The department that would acquire fee title to donated lands would be the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, also known as CAL FIRE.

CAL FIRE agrees with restricting the use of any lease revenues and funding provided by the Stewardship Council for specific land management objectives to use on the specific donated lands. There are however, very compelling benefits to be able to pool timber harvest revenues from all the Demonstration State Forests, including any PG&E watershed lands we may receive, into a common account such as the FRIF fund. These include:

1. Under a sustainable forestry management regime, harvests do not occur every year on smaller planning units, typically 5,000 acres or less. Harvests can be periodic and irregular depending on a multitude of ecological and logistic factors. Costs such as maintenance and personnel however, do accrue continuously and have to be paid every year. An effective solution to this problem is to pool a number of smaller tracts into a sustained yield unit of sufficient size to be able to achieve a stable and predictable annual balance of costs and revenues.
2. If CAL FIRE were to receive PG&E watershed lands, no revenue would be available in the first one to three years during the ownership transition phase until inventories, planning documents and timber harvest plans have been completed. On properties recently harvested by PG&E, additional timber revenues may not occur for up to a decade, however significant expenses associated with up front planning and inventories would be incurred. We plan to subsidize these start-up costs on any PG&E watershed lands we may receive with FRIF revenues from existing Demonstration State Forests. It logically follows that within a 5-10 year pay back period, an approximately equivalent revenue would flow from PG&E watershed lands back to the donor Demonstration State Forests.

CAL FIRE has a demonstrated history of sustainable forestry, of harvesting conservatively and of restocking and enhancing forest land. Long term sustained yield (Option A) plans, management plans with associated CEQA analyses, public and Board review, legal mandates for the Demonstration State Forests and conservation easements all provide a high level of assurance against over-harvesting. This redundancy of checks and balances provides a very effective barrier against unsustainably over-harvesting any one Forest in order to subsidize activities elsewhere.

We therefore strongly recommend allowing the ability to manage any PG&E watershed lands we may receive as a part of a larger sustained yield unit, with free flow of timber harvest revenues between the tracts within the sustained yield unit. This is an important factor in achieving the working forest Beneficial Public Value on any donated lands. We

recommend against but would comply with a strict requirement that timber harvest revenues be returned to the specific tracts of land that produced the revenue.

## ***17. Key Personnel***

CAL FIRE has 125 years of experience practicing land management and sustainable forestry, and shares the Stewardship Council's priorities for land management, notably tax neutrality, sustainable forestry, outdoor recreation and protection of historic and cultural resources. The following is a summary of key personnel with experience relevant to the management of the respective Planning Units:

### **Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit Staff:**

Brad Harris is the Nevada-Yuba-Placer (NEU) Unit Chief. Chief Harris has over 30 years of experience with fire protection, fire prevention and resource management programs and has served 5 years in NEU as the Unit Chief. He works closely with local Boards of Supervisors, federal agencies (Forest Service, BLM and Bureau of Reclamation), other local government agencies and a diverse array of stakeholders.

Randy Smith is a Deputy Chief for Fire Protection Operations. Chief Smith has lived and worked in Placer County for over 45 years. He is responsible for all fire control operation in NEU including the Washington Ridge Conservation Camp, which could provide inmate labor for maintenance and improvement activities on the Planning Unit. Chief Smith works closely with fire protection agencies in Placer County and with local entities such as the Board of Supervisors.

Matthew Reischman is the Unit Forester for CAL FIRE's Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit. He has an undergraduate degree in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University. He is also a law enforcement Public Officer. Matthew is responsible for implementing the State forest practice rules, forest improvement and Pre-fire programs. Matthew has over 15 years experience in resource management in California, has worked in the private sector as a wildlife Biologist and for the State as an Environmental Scientist and a Registered Professional Forester. He and his staff work closely with the California Department of Fish and Game, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, University of California, Placer County Resource Conservation District, BLM and the Forest Service.

Steve Garcia is a Supervising Forester with the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit. Steve has an undergraduate degree in Forest Management from Humboldt State University and is a Registered Professional Forester. Steve has worked in forestry in California for over 20 years, owning a tree farm, as a licensed timber operator and operating a saw mill. Steve is a California Peace Officer and is immediately responsible for all Forest Practice activities in NEU.

Rick Carr is a Nevada City Area Forester within CAL FIRE's Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit. He has a 2002 undergraduate degree in Forestry from Humboldt State University. Rick

has 17 years of experience in forestry, including CAL FIRE, the private sector and a family tree farm.

Jeff Dowling is Forester with CAL FIRE's Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit. Jeff has an undergraduate degree in Resource Management, Forestry and a Masters degree in Economics from the University of Nevada, Reno. Jeff has over 25 years of forestry experience in California, that in addition to CAL FIRE includes owning a private tree service and working as a forester for a private timber company. Jeff is a law enforcement officer and Forest Practice inspector.

Jack Harvey is a Registered Professional Forest and Forest Practice Inspector with the CAL FIRE, Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit. Jack has an undergraduate degree in Forestry from Humboldt State University and has worked in forestry in California for over 10 years in both the private sector and for the State.

Elsa Hucks is Vegetation Management forester with CAL FIRE's Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit and a Registered Professional Forester. Elsa has an undergraduate degree in Biogeography from the University of California, Riverside and a Masters in Fire Ecology from the University of California, Davis. Elsa works closely with local, state and federal government agencies as well as private cooperators to implement the various CAL FIRE fuels management programs including grants, prescribed fire and pre-fire engineering.

Edward Crans is a Forester with CAL FIRE's Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit. He has an undergraduate degree in Forestry from Humboldt State University. Ed has 37 years of experience in forestry, including the private sector and CAL FIRE. His work focuses on cost share programs for vegetation management, fire prevention programs and public assistance. He has experience with contract development, administration and all phases of forest management.

#### **Shasta-Trinity Unit Staff:**

Rick Kyle is the Shasta-Trinity (SHU) Unit Chief and serves as the Shasta County Fire Warden. Chief Kyle has over 28 years of experience with fire protection, fire prevention and resource management programs. He is in his first year as the SHU Unit Chief. Prior to Unit Chief he was Central Division Chief for Fire Protection Operations in the Unit. He works closely with local Boards of Supervisors, federal agencies (Forest Service, BLM and National Park Service), other local government agencies and a diverse array of stakeholders.

Fred Tulley is the Deputy Chief for Fire Protection Operations. Chief Tulley has an undergraduate degree in Range and Wildlands Science from the University of California, Davis and postgraduate work in Forest Management at Humboldt State University. Chief Tulley has over 23 years of experience and is responsible for all fire control operation in SHU including Sugar Pine and Trinity River Conservation Camps, which would provide inmate labor for maintenance and improvement activities on the Planning Units. Chief Tulley works closely with fire protection agencies in Shasta County and with local entities such as the Board of Supervisors.

Bruce W. Beck is the Unit Forester for CAL FIRE's Shasta-Trinity Unit. He has an AA degree in Forestry Engineering from College of the Redwoods. He has over 31 years of forestry experience. He is also Public Officer. Bruce provides management, direction and control of all resource management programs in Shasta and Trinity Counties. The resource management programs include the Forest Practice Program, LaTour Demonstration State Forest, Vegetation Management Program, Forest Advisory Services, Urban and Community Forestry, Environmental Review and other resource-related programs developed or assigned to the Resource Manager position. He and his staff work with the BLM, the Forest Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, industrial and non-industrial private landowners.

Gabriel Schultz is an Area Forester with CAL FIRE's Shasta-Trinity Unit. He has an undergraduate degree in Forestry from Humboldt State University. Gabriel has over 10 years of experience in forestry, with the private sector and CAL FIRE. He is responsible for the implementation of resource management programs including Forest Practice, Forest Advisory Services, Urban and Community Forestry, Environmental Review and other resource-related programs. Gabriel also conducts professional forestry duties for the Unit as a Registered Professional Forester.

Dave Loveless is the Forest Manager at LaTour Demonstration State Forest. Dave has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Production from Humboldt State University and is a Registered Professional Forester. Formerly CAL FIRE Forest Practice Review Team Chair in Redding, Dave has over 35 years of experience working in both private industry and the public sector, including 23 years as Inventory Forester with W.M. Beaty & Associates, Inc.. His early career background includes numerous seasonal positions including logging, marking crew foreman with the Forest Service, Assistant Forester with PG&E, Forestry Aide at LaTour, and forestry companies including Southern Pacific Land Company, Mason, Bruce, & Girard and Shasta Land Management.

Benjamin Rowe is the Assistant Manager of LaTour Demonstration State Forest. Ben has a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Management from California State University Humboldt and obtained his Registered Professional Forester's License in 2000. Ben has 16 years of professional experience in forestry and wildlife management. His experience has been with the USFS, private sector and CAL FIRE since 2005.

Shannon Johnson is Forestry Assistant II on LaTour Demonstration State Forest. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Conservation Biology from California State University Sacramento and has been working with CAL FIRE since 2004. Her career with CAL FIRE started as a student assistant in Resource Management and a seasonal Forestry Aide at LaTour Demonstration State Forest while working on her degree. After graduating she accepted a permanent position with CAL FIRE as a Forestry Assistant II in the San Diego Unit where she worked on Forest Health and Hazardous Fuel Reduction Programs and Vegetation Management Plans.

**Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit Staff:**

Mike Noonan is the Tuolumne-Calaveras (TCU) Unit Chief. Chief Noonan has over 30 years of experience with fire protection, fire prevention and resource management programs and has served for 13 years in TCU as a Battalion Chief, Division Chief and Unit Chief. Chief Noonan has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Management from Fresno Pacific University. He works closely with local Boards of Supervisors, federal agencies (Forest Service, BLM and Bureau of Reclamation), other local government agencies and a diverse array of stakeholders.

Julie Henriques is a Deputy Chief for Fire Protection Operations. Chief Henriques has over 26 years of experience with fire protection, fire prevention and resource management programs and has served for 13 years in TCU as a Battalion Chief, Division Chief and Deputy Chief. Chief Henriques is responsible for all fire control operations in TCU including the Baseline Conservation Camp, which could provide inmate labor for maintenance and improvement activities on the Planning Unit. Prior to her role as the unit's Chief of Operations, Chief Henriques managed the Tuolumne County Fire Department under contract with CAL FIRE. Her work there will be invaluable in developing strong relationships with Tuolumne County including the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors.

Steven Hollett is the Unit Forester for CAL FIRE's Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit. He has an undergraduate degree in Forest Management from Humboldt State University and is a California State Peace Officer. Chief Hollett is responsible for implementing the State forest practice rules, forest improvement, pre-fire programs and the unit's prevention program. Steven has over 30 years experience in resource management in California and is a Registered Professional Forester. He and his staff work closely with the California Department of Fish and Game, State, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, University of California, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Central Sierra RCD, the BLM and the Forest Service.

Adam Frese is the Tuolumne County Area Forester for TCU. Adam has over 25 years experience in resource management in California both in the private timber industry and with CAL FIRE. Adam has an undergraduate degree in Forest Management from the University of Montana, is a Registered Professional Forester and a California State Peace Officer. Adam was raised in Tuolumne County.

**Sacramento Headquarters and Region Staff:**

Bill Snyder is Deputy Director for Resource Management, overseeing the Department's forest practice, environmental protection, and resource protection program areas. Bill has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Management from Humboldt State University. He has forty years experience in forestry and fire protection, working for CAL FIRE and the private sector. Bill also served on the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection from 1995-98.

Russ Henly is the Assistant Deputy Director for Resource Protection and Improvement, overseeing the department's Demonstration State Forests, Vegetation Management,

Forest Landowner Assistance, Forest Legacy, Pest Management, Nursery, and Urban Forestry Programs. Russ has a PhD in Wildland Resource Science from the University of California, Berkeley; an MS in Forest Policy and Economics from the University of Minnesota; and a BS in Forest Science, also from the University of Minnesota. He has approximately 19 years of experience in managing and implementing CAL FIRE's forest, rangeland and watershed assessment programs and resource protection and improvement programs. Previous to service with CAL FIRE, he was a Research Specialist in the Department of Forest Resources at the University of Minnesota.

Kelly Dreesmann is the Staff Chief for Resource Management for the Northern Region. He also provides oversight for the Vegetation Management Program and is the Regional Environmental Coordinator. He is a Registered Professional Forester and has an undergraduate degree in Forest Management from Humboldt State University. He has over 25 years experience in resource management in California including enforcing State forest practice rules, Demonstration State Forest management, forest improvement programs, and vegetation management. He works closely with the California Department of Fish and Game, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Western Shasta Resource Conservation District, the BLM and the Forest Service.

Cathy Bleier is Climate Action Program Manager for CAL FIRE. She has a Masters of Science in Range Management from UC Berkeley. Cathy has 25 years experience in forestry, range management, watershed protection and climate program management and policy development with CAL FIRE, California Natural Resources Agency, California Dept. of Conservation, and as a consultant for PG&E's Environmental Services and Research and Development Programs. Her work with PG&E included development of a range management handbook and grazing lease fee structure.

Jeff Leddy is the State Forests Biometrician. He has an undergraduate degree in Conservation Resource Studies and a Masters degree in Wildland Resource Science, both from the University of California, Berkeley. Jeff is a California Registered Professional Forester with over 20 years of forestry experience in both the public and private sectors, including research, inventory, and regeneration forestry

Helge Eng is the Demonstration State Forest Program Manager for CAL FIRE. He has an undergraduate degree in Forestry from the University of British Columbia, a Masters degree in Forestry, a Masters degree in Statistics and a PhD in Forestry, all from Oregon State University. A California Registered Professional Forester and an SAF-Certified Forester, Helge has 30-plus years of experience in forest resources inventory, forest planning and research.

CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forest program commonly pool staff from different Demonstration State Forests and divisions to implement large projects such as management plan development. In addition to the personnel listed above, a wide range of CAL FIRE staff specialists including biologists, hydrologists, archaeologists and foresters will be brought to bear on the development of management plans, CEQA documents, long term sustained yield (Option A) plans and research projects for the



planning units. Some of these specialists and their areas of expertise are listed in table 5 below:

Table 5. List of additional CAL FIRE resource specialists and their area of expertise.

Name	Area of Expertise
Pete Cafferata	Forest hydrology
Clay Brandow	Hydrology
Tina Fabula	Wildlife biology
Lynn Webb	Botany
Pam Linstedt	Silviculture
Ed Orre	Silviculture
Jim Kral	Silviculture
Dave Loveless	Biometrics, statistics
Jeff Leddy	Biometrics, statistics
Michael Huyette (CGS <sup>1</sup> )	Engineering geology
Tom Spittler (CGS)	Engineering geology
Julie Bawcom (CGS)	Engineering geology
Dave Sapsis	Fire science
Mark Rosenberg	GIS, statistics
Mary Klaas-Schultz	Economics, statistics
Rich Jenkins	Archaeology
Chuck Whatford	Archaeology
Linda Pollack	Archaeology
Tom Smith	Forest pests and disease
Don Owen	Forest pathology
Kim Camilli (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo)	Forests pests
Tony Mediati	Vegetation and fuels management
Jeff Calvert	Forest landowner assistance
Jill Butler	Forest landowner assistance
John Melvin	Urban forestry
Allen Robertson	CEQA
Dan Foster	CEQA and archaeology
Kay Antunez	Youth outdoor recreation
Dave Derby	Reforestation

The Demonstration State Forests provide opportunities for firefighter and crew training and experimentation with vegetation management, brush control and controlled burning techniques. This synergy between the forestry and fire protection side of our organization provides significant benefits to the Demonstration State Forests, both in terms of work accomplished and opportunities to demonstrate best management practices for fuel treatments.

<sup>1</sup> California Geological Survey, under contract to CAL FIRE.

Fire fighting equipment such as bulldozers that are stationed at CAL FIRE facilities nearby Demonstration State Forests are commonly used outside the fire season for maintenance and construction work on the Forests, at nominal cost.

### **Volunteers and Their Function:**

Campground hosts on the Demonstration State Forests are typically unpaid volunteers. In addition, several Demonstration State Forests have volunteer groups who work cooperatively with Forest staff. These are typically recreation user groups. The Friends of Boggs Mountain and The Stewards of Soquel formed spontaneously in the communities near these Forests. They represent primarily hiking and mountain bike users. They commonly participate in trail building and maintenance projects with Forest staff. The Jackson Demonstration State Forest Recreation Task Force, representing a broad spectrum of user groups, works closely with Forest staff to identify recreation priorities and select projects for implementation. These projects are subsequently implemented by CAL FIRE staff subject to resource availability.

Inmates from Conservation Camps perform a considerable amount of work on the Demonstration State Forests at nominal cost (although the “volunteer” label may not be entirely applicable). CAL FIRE has an agreement with the California Department of Corrections to cooperatively manage Conservation Camps that house low risk inmates, who are used primarily as a labor force for fire fighting hand crews. Outside of fire season, these inmate crews perform important conservation and silvicultural work on the Demonstration State Forests, such as brush clearing and fuel reduction, at nominal cost to the Forests. Conservation camps are located on or near most of the Demonstration State Forests.

We have a good working relationship with our sister agency, the Department of Fish and Game. Resource specialists from the Department of Fish and Game including Jennifer Carlson, Rhianna Lee and Terris Kastner worked collaboratively with our staff on creating the latest update of the management plans for LaTour, Mountain Home and Soquel Demonstration State Forests.

### ***18. CAL FIRE Collaborative Efforts with Organizations and Stakeholders***

CAL FIRE’s LaTour Demonstration State Forest is located in Shasta County. LaTour has a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Fish and Game that formalizes a cooperative program of research and monitoring of the wildlife habitat effects of different silvicultural practices on the Forest. CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forest program is a leading member of the California Growth and Yield Model Cooperative, an organization dedicated to improving existing models for the projection of forest growth and development under different management treatments. The Demonstration State Forest Program is also a member of 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 other Planning Units in the county.

CAL FIRE's Shasta Trinity Unit (SHU) collaborates with many members of the community on fire prevention and fire hazard reduction activities. SHU is working with the Shasta County Fire Safe Council (SCFSC) and has assisted with the implementation of the Rock Creek, Walker Mine, and Lower Springs shaded fuel breaks using conservation camp inmate labor. Other SHU project partnerships include the Trinity County Resource Conservation District, Shasta-Trinity and Lassen National Forests and private timberland owners such as Sierra Pacific Industries, Roseburg Resources, and W.B. Beatty and Associates. Both Conservation Camps in the Unit have 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 same entities on fuels management projects and potentially recreation and habitat activities for the Planning Units in Shasta that we are requesting.

In Nevada County, CAL FIRE works with local groups, landowners and agencies to reduce wildfire hazards and improve forest health. CAL FIRE's Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit (NEU) is working with subdivision homeowners in Pine Forest and Alder Hill estates to build a 75 acre community fire break, and with the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County (FSCNC) to maintain and expand the 128 acre Columbia Hill Shaded Fuel Break, using State conservation camp crews. CAL FIRE will also support the Fire Safe Council's Land Stewardship Assistance Program to provide cost-shared services for mastication and disposal of hazardous forest fuels to landowners who own more than two acres but are not involved in timber production and thus lack equipment and resources to treat waste materials. Other NEU project partnerships include the High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Area, the Tahoe National Forest and private timberland owners such as Sierra Pacific Industries. Similar to Shasta County, CAL FIRE would work with local communities around Lake Spaulding and Bear River Planning Units to manage fuels and fire risk associated with these properties, as well as with National Forests. We would also use the Forests for demonstration, education and training on forest and fuels management.

Similarly, CAL FIRE's Tuolumne Calaveras Unit is also very engaged with local communities on forest improvement and fuels management, including projects in the Lyons Reservoir area. The recently completed Highway 108 Twain Harte Fuel Break, approximately five miles northeast of the Lyons Reservoir, treated four miles of vegetation along State Highway 108 to prevent roadside fires and to allow the residents of Twain Harte an escape route in case of wildfire. TCU fuel grants included two near the Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit (Cattle Drive Fuel Break and the Mt. Havalia Fuel Break). TCU also works closely with all three Fire Safe Councils, providing grant funding and technical advice for several fuel reduction and community educational projects.

Statewide, the Demonstration State Forest Program has engaged in many collaborative projects to protect beneficial public values in other parts of the State. The Jackson Demonstration State Forest Recreation Task Force, a citizen and local stakeholder group,

has just released their preliminary recreation recommendations for improving recreational values and uses at Jackson Demonstration State Forest. CAL FIRE will work cooperatively with the Task Force to implement these recommendations, which include:

- Active promotion of Jackson Demonstration State Forest as a recreation destination by updating maps of recreational facilities and improvements, and development and strategic distribution of informational materials, on-line and a physical location for information access.
- Enhanced education related to cultural resources by providing an area for demonstrating to visitors the use of forest materials by Native Americans and early settlers.
- Improved access for recreation use, including purchase of trail right of ways through private property, improved signage, improved parking access, decommissioned road maintenance for trail use, and review of reservation and permit fee policies.
- Maintenance of existing structures, trails and facilities, including vegetation and infrastructure inspections and repair as needed, and more educational signage for historical sites and restoration of the Little Red Schoolhouse, a historical site located along Highway 20.
- Development of a strategy for trail building, including an update of the 2008 trail inventory, recommendations and guidelines for developing new trails, projection of costs, and plans for trail maintenance and trail building.
- Overall trail system strategy for addressing multiple uses, equestrian watering needs, wheelchair accessibility, and compatibility with adjacent landowner uses.
- New camp grounds or campground enhancements to expand uses.
- Additional educational opportunities, including promoting Jackson Demonstration State Forest use by county school districts and developing new kiosks or bulletin boards.
- Agreements with tribes to allow plant collection for traditional uses.

CAL FIRE also collaborates with archaeology departments and programs at state universities to assist us in protecting historic and prehistoric archaeological resources. The universities conduct excavations, 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, 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.

### ***19. CAL FIRE's Experience Soliciting Stakeholder Input***

CAL FIRE has experience soliciting stakeholder input on transfer and permanent protection of land similar to the Stewardship Council process. CAL FIRE was a key player in the establishment of Sequoia Demonstration State Forest in 1990, which was made available to the State as part of a debt for nature swap with the Bank of America. CAL FIRE played a lead role in public meetings, consensus building, public education, information and field tours. CAL FIRE took lead responsibility for establishing the Sequoia Demonstration State Forest Advisory Committee.

CAL FIRE's experience in soliciting stakeholder input on the establishment and management of other Demonstration State Forests provides the template for adding other Units, including the following:

- We utilize recreation three user groups and three advisory groups associated with the Demonstration State Forests in order to solicit public input. These gatherings are advertised well in advance and are open to the public. In addition to the two Forest-specific advisory groups, we also have the Statewide Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group, which provides input on overarching issues that affect all the Demonstration State Forests. These advisory groups operate under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Government Code sections 11120-11132).
- We use public meetings and presentations to community groups to obtain public input on proposals.
- We contact interested individuals directly.
- Public comment periods for CEQA documents such as forest management plans and timber harvest plans gives the public an opportunity to provide detailed input to CAL FIRE.

We distribute information to the public on planned management and projects in a variety of ways:

- Management plans are developed for each Demonstration State Forest, under guidance from the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. They are developed and discussed in an open public process at Board meetings. Associated CEQA documents are made available to the public.
- Newspaper notification.
- Posting information on the CAL FIRE web site on upcoming Demonstration State Forest projects and planned management activities.
- Hosting of public meetings to provide information about planned projects and activities.
- Presentations to Demonstration State Forest user groups and community organizations about planned projects and activities.
- Publishing of California Forestry Notes which are technical papers published by the Demonstration State Forest program. They are mailed to universities and a list of interested individuals and posted on our website.

- Publishing of Demonstration State Forest Newsletters which are sent to a list of interested individuals and posted on our website.
- Presentations and posters at conferences and workshops.

## ***20. Best Practices, Standards or Guiding Principles***

As a public agency, CAL FIRE is subject to a host of legal, policy, and ethical standards for its activities. Numerous statutes, regulations, and policies establish the public interests to be protected in the management of the Demonstration State Forests, including those directly related to the Demonstration State Forests or more generally addressing public interests in natural resources (e.g., Forest Practice Act and Rules, California and Federal Endangered Species Acts, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, Clean Water Act, California Environmental Quality Act).

California law requires state employees to complete an ethics training course within six months of their hiring, and every two years thereafter (<http://ag.ca.gov/ethics/>). A critical conflict of interest measure, the Political Reform Act (Government Code §§ 81000-91014) requires most state government officials and employees to publicly disclose their personal assets and income through the Fair Political Practices Commission Form 700 filings. They also must disqualify themselves from participating in decisions which may affect their personal economic interests.

CAL FIRE has a Program Accountability Officer responsible for oversight of department ethical standards, audits, and conflicts of interest ([http://www.fire.ca.gov/about/about\\_executive\\_staff\\_Favro.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/about/about_executive_staff_Favro.php)). The Office of Program Accountability (OPA) assists CAL FIRE management in fulfilling its responsibilities to the public by offering guidance in developing, maintaining, and enhancing accountability. OPA is an independent appraisal entity established to conduct reviews of internal controls, to report opportunities for improvement, and to make recommendations to the programs, management, and the Director. Under the authority of the Director, the OPA conducts a variety of audits and provides audit-related services requiring adherence to professional standards.

CAL FIRE also is subject to audits by the Department of Finance Office of State Audits and Evaluations, the Bureau of State Audits, and the California Office of the Inspector General. As a recipient of federal grants, CAL FIRE is subject to audits by the federal agency inspectors general.

Protection of the public interest is in part assured through the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, a nine-member governor-appointed body that has policy oversight over CAL FIRE. The Board is responsible for reviewing the management plan for each of the Demonstration State Forests every five years and providing direction as to whether the plan should be maintained, modified, or rewritten. The Board is responsible for approving Demonstration State Forest management plans and is the lead agency for CEQA for these plans. The Board's management plan review and CEQA process

provide ample opportunity for public disclosure, review, and comment on CAL FIRE's management of the Demonstration State Forests.

For two of our Demonstration State Forests, (Jackson and Soquel), there are advisory groups that help to provide public input and accountability for forest management. There also is a statewide Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group. The Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group members are appointed by the director and subject to confirmation by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. The other two advisory groups are appointed by the director without Board confirmation. These advisory entities operate under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

All of our professional staff at the Forester I level or higher are required to hold a valid California Registered Professional Forester license. As such we are required to comply with the Foresters Licensing Law, and adhere to the legal and ethical standards of this legislation.

We endorse and encourage our employees to follow the code of ethics of their respective professional organizations. An example is the Society of American Foresters' code of ethics. Although it does not carry the force of law, there are clear accountability standards. Consequences of violations can include termination of membership.

All employees are required to follow CAL FIRE's Employee Rules of Conduct.

## ***21. Transfer of Ownership to Another Organization***

We have not made provisions for another organization to assume ownership and management responsibilities for our assets in the event that we should be unable to continue operations. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has been in existence since 1885 and has 125 years of experience managing forest lands. The Demonstration State Forests program has maintained all donated and acquired land as open space for their original intended research and recreation uses. We are the fifth largest State agency in California. We employ more licensed professional foresters than any other public entity in California. The probability that Cal FIRE should be unable to continue operations of its Demonstration State Forests for all practical purposes is nil.

## ***22. Violations of Law Associated with CAL FIRE***

We know of no relevant violation of law during the requested time period that may involve our organization in any way.

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has approximately 4,700 permanent employees and 2,200 seasonal employees, and oversees the activities of up to 10,000 other volunteers and inmates during the fire season. CAL FIRE investigates all reports of employee misconduct or malfeasance under rules established by the Department of Personnel Administration.

CAL FIRE is the lead agency charged with enforcing the California Forest Practice Act and the associated California Forest Practice Rules. As a regulatory agency, we enforce and prosecute violations from an array of regulations related to timber harvesting, land use and conversion of timberland, fire safe regulations, and State Fire Marshal codes including building standards, particularly within high Fire Severity Hazard Zones. At any given time CAL FIRE may be defending challenges to its regulatory decisions.

### ***23. Barriers to Conservation Easements***

We know of no law or policy that precludes us from accepting a conservation easement. Easements or other mechanisms are available to ensure that the objectives of the Stewardship Council are met and implemented for the long term.

CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forests are in fact already managed under a range of de facto conservation easements and restrictions. There are statutory prohibitions on development, inconsistent uses and selling Demonstration State Forests. Statutory constraints on the Soquel Demonstration State Forest in the Public Resources Code specify that a modest amount of timber harvest shall be permitted, not to exceed the costs of operating and maintaining that individual Forest. Legislation was also enacted to protect old growth giant sequoia trees on Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest. Board of Forestry and Fire Protection policy incorporates requirements for management of CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forests.

Each Demonstration State Forest is required to develop a management plan that is reviewed and approved by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. These management plans must be updated and reaffirmed by the Board every five years. Each Demonstration State Forest also develops a long term sustained yield planning document (usually an Option A plan) as required by the forest practice rules.

The Demonstration State Forest system was established in 1946. All properties have been managed and maintained according to the original intended uses and objectives for which they were established.

The Demonstration State Forest Program accepts donated lands with a range of deed restrictions per request by the donor. An example of this would be the donor-specified deed restriction on recreation uses on Las Posadas Demonstration State Forest. The deed for the Ellen Pickett Demonstration State Forest specifies that the tract shall be used for research purposes.

### ***24. Conflict of Interest Disclosure***

We are not aware of any personal or financial relationships between any of the Key Personnel described in this proposal and members of the Stewardship Council Board, their family members or the Board member's constituent organization. Our employees are also subject to the Political Reform Act which requires positions specified in conflict-of-interest codes to publicly disclose personal assets and income through California Form



700 and to disqualify themselves from participating in decisions which may affect their personal economic interests.

## ***PART 2 –LAND STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION***

### ***25. Parcels CAL FIRE is Interested in Receiving in Fee Title***

CAL FIRE is interested in receiving the following parcels in fee title, by Planning Unit:

Pit River Planning Unit: all lands designated for donation, excluding constrained lands<sup>2</sup>.

Tunnel Reservoir Planning Unit: all lands designated for donation, excluding constrained lands.

Battle Creek Planning Unit: all lands designated for donation and constrained lands within the following parcels:

302	326
303	336
304	337
305	338
306	339
307	343
310	344
311	345
312	346
313	347
314	348
325	

Cow Creek Planning Unit: all lands designated for donation, excluding constrained lands.

Lake Spaulding Planning Unit: all lands designated for donation and constrained lands.

Bear River Planning Unit: all lands designated for donation and constrained lands.

Lyons Reservoir: all lands designated for donation and constrained lands within the following parcels:

1017
1024
1025
1026
1027

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<sup>2</sup> The maps in the Background Information Packages for each Planning Unit define constrained lands as lands where “certain considerations may make donation inadvisable”.

CAL FIRE registered interest in the Burney Gardens Planning Unit on the Stewardship Council Donee Registry. Subsequent information revealed that the rights to harvest most of the forested lands on this Planning Unit are owned by a third party, and these rights will remain with the third party after fee title donation. We concluded that not having control over silvicultural methods or other elements of land stewardship and management of the property, would make the operation of a Demonstration State Forest very difficult. We therefore chose not to include the Burney Gardens Planning Unit in this Land Stewardship Proposal. If the situation surrounding the timber harvest rights should change, we are open to revisiting our Land Stewardship Proposal and possibly including the Burney Gardens Planning Unit.

## ***26. Lot line Adjustment, Boundary Survey or Legal Parcel Split***

The State, including CAL FIRE, is exempt from the Subdivision Map Act. This means that transfer of property to the State can be done by preparing and recording a proper Grant Deed, with FERC project areas denoted as excluded portions of the transfer. Subdivision and associated surveys are not necessary.

For many of the FERC facilities, such as dams, reservoirs, canals, roads and power lines, minimal surveying is required because the facility itself can serve as a physical monument. A legal description can refer to the width along the monument. A full metes style description is not necessary. For other areas, such as equipment yards and lay down areas, surveys need to be performed as a basis for creating a legal description.

Exact boundary survey costs are difficult to estimate without more detailed information about the extent of FERC boundaries, availability of access and terrain limitations. Our estimates of boundary survey costs for each planning unit are provided in the budget and funding plan accompanying this document. Because we are applying for some areas that are delineated as constrained due to extensive survey and subdivision costs, CAL FIRE is prepared to cover an appropriate share of the costs of surveying and preparing title documents for these constrained areas. Boundary surveys can be performed by CAL FIRE's Technical Services Lands Unit.

## ***27. CAL FIRE's Internal Process for Approving the Acquisition***

The State's land acquisition process is estimated to take one to two years. The major issues in land acquisitions are usually determined during the due diligence process and include environmental concerns, title issues, valuation, etc. CAL FIRE would bear the State's administrative costs for processing the acquisitions. Below are the major steps we normally go through in acquiring land by purchase (PG&E watershed lands would be gifts of land, and we expect the process would take less time than a purchase):

1. Preliminary notification and approval of land acquisition by Department of Finance .
2. Site Investigation: includes site visits, environmental review, obtaining title report, review legal description, identify title issues, obtain appraisal (if the property is gifted no

appraisal is needed but a land valuation should be provided) and identify project funding for overhead, escrow costs and land costs.

3. Detailed Site Studies by CAL FIRE: Plot legal description/exceptions, identify and resolve entitlement issues, if any, environmental clearance (CEQA documents), prepare to clear unwanted exceptions to title (quitclaims, partial reconveyance, etc.)
4. Submission of all due diligence information related to title, property and transfer to the Department of General Services for review and approval.
5. Negotiation: Prepare Purchase Agreement, Deeds and escrow documents.
6. State Public Works Board approval: Submit agenda item, cost funding summary documents to Department of Finance for approval by the State Public Works Board. The State Public Works Board has monthly meetings where proposed projects are submitted for their approval.
7. Escrow and Close Out: Submit all fully executed documents with escrow instructions to title company, review title insurance, tax cancellation letter (unless already tax exempt).

## ***28. Baseline and Enhanced Land Management***

### **Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir Planning Units**

CAL FIRE is combining the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir Planning Units for response to this question, since they are immediately adjacent, are overlain by the Pit 3, 4, 5 FERC Project, and are very similar. If both units were granted to CAL FIRE, we would manage them as a single Demonstration State Forest.

CAL FIRE's proposed land management activities on the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir watershed lands would focus on sustainable forestry, research, habitat maintenance and restoration, cultural resources protection and recreation. A first step in the management of the property would be the appointment of existing staff to maintain and manage the property in the near term, and resource assessments and management plan development. Over time, CAL FIRE would establish a new forest management structure and staff. The Forest Manager would be responsible for patrol, safety, vegetation management and planning, protection of cultural resources, management and coordination of other activities on the Forest. Overall CAL FIRE staffing to be assigned would depend, in part, upon the total amount of PG&E lands transferred to CAL FIRE in Shasta County. We anticipate that any PG&E lands in Shasta County that may be transferred to CAL FIRE would be managed by staff from the Department's Shasta-Trinity Unit, which is based in Redding, and currently is responsible for the management of LaTour Demonstration State Forest.

### **a) Proposed Activities: Baseline and Enhanced Management**

There is some degree of overlap between the baseline and enhanced management activities that CAL FIRE would commit to undertake on the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir watershed lands. Generally however, baseline management would consist of road maintenance, patrol, recreation management, trash removal, and enforcement, and payment of property taxes.

Categories of enhanced management activities would include items 1 through 7 below. For all of these activities, the frequency of activities would be continuous. Duration of activities would be permanent.

1. Establishment of a Demonstration State Forest that would encompass all the donated lands. We envision this Demonstration State Forest as a Northern California destination for monitoring, adaptive management, research, and demonstration of best management practices to support privately owned forestry enterprises that are both ecologically and financially sustainable. If we become a donee, we plan to dedicate staff to manage the Forest, commensurate with the size and location of the tract.

2. Development of the following:

a) A comprehensive, sustainable multi-resource management plan which is consistent with the BPVs identified by the Stewardship Council. This is a critical step in implementing and maintaining a Demonstration State Forest. The management plan would include all resources, including but not limited to forest, flora and fauna, habitat, water quality and watershed function, recreation, and cultural resources. Key infrastructure elements such as road construction, maintenance, and decommissioning are also addressed in our Forest management plans.

b) A long-term sustained yield plan prepared in conformance with the requirements of 14 CCR 933.11(a) ("Option A") of the Forest Practice regulations. The Option A plan would establish a sustainable annual harvest level that is in harmony with management plan objectives relative to water quality, watershed protection, wildlife, cultural resource, recreation, research and other goals and objectives. Management would be coordinated with neighboring lands using a landscape approach, including FERC and other lands retained by PG&E, federal and private lands.

There is substantial opportunity for public input into the development of Demonstration State Forest management plans and Option A plans, through requests to the public for comments, public meetings, CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's management plan review and approval process, and the associated CEQA process.

3. Development of a sustainable forestry program of research, demonstration and implementation of best management practices focused on:

- a. Watershed protection through appropriate resource management practices and fuels reduction. An important part of such a program will be an active fuels and fire hazard reduction and vegetation management program. Fire plays an important ecological role in California mixed conifer forests. Large, intense wildfires however, often have a negative effect on water quality and beneficial uses as a result of increased erosion and sedimentation, and increased runoff and peak flows.
- b. Application of silvicultural methods that maintain or increase landscape biodiversity and inventories of trees, biomass and timber over time. This includes the full range of silvicultural methods, from techniques aimed at creating canopy gaps and openings large enough to achieve regeneration of shade intolerant species like pine, to techniques that are aimed at maintaining a variety of stand conditions including a large component of younger and older stands in a closed canopy condition.
- c. Commitment to a management objective to create a diversity of forest stand structural conditions across the landscape, ranging from early seral to late seral forest conditions. The objective would be to mimic the variety of conditions one can expect to encounter in a natural forest, create viable conditions for a range of research projects and provide flexibility for evaluating new management strategies to address climate change. A variety of forest stand conditions also maintains the largest possible suite of flora and fauna.
- d. Promotion of opportunities to address climate change research needs and addressing mitigation and adaptation through management, research and demonstration. The availability of multiple Demonstration State Forests along diverse spatial and elevation gradients in the Sierra Nevada and elsewhere in the State strengthens the value of the Demonstration State Forests for these purposes. CAL FIRE has developed a Demonstration State Forest system-wide research strategy on climate change and other key factors affecting forest sustainability.

CAL FIRE defines sustainable forestry here as a suite of management practices that are consistent with the Stewardship Council definition of sustainable forestry, comply with all statutory requirements (e.g. the California Forest Practices Act and Forest Practice Rules, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, etc.) and adhere to Demonstration State Forest guidelines for forest management.

The Council defines sustainable forestry as: "the practice of managing dynamic forest ecosystems to provide ecological, economic, social, and cultural benefits for present and future generations." The California Forest Practice Act (Public Resources Code § 4511 et seq.) is established to "ensure high quality timber products while considering recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, fisheries, regional economic vitality, employment and aesthetic enjoyment" (PRC § 4513(b)). The Forest Practice Rules (14 California Code of Regulations § 895.1 et seq.), which implement the Act, regulate forest harvest to ensure that it does not exceed forest growth and that it provides watercourse and lake protection, fire hazard reduction and fire protection, wildlife protection, and archaeology and historic resource protection. Public Resources Code section 4645 requires that when Demonstration State Forests manage for forest products, they consider

recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, range and forage, watershed, wildlife, and fisheries values.

CAL FIRE has a wide range of existing research partners to bring to bear on any PG&E watershed lands we may receive, based on our extensive experience with our other Demonstration State Forests: 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.

4. Development of a program of ecosystem monitoring and adaptive management. An important part of this program will be a forest-wide, multi-resource monitoring inventory system, consisting in part of a grid of permanently monumented plots that will be periodically remeasured. This system will include cultural, floral and faunal surveys. Objective measurements of forest development over time under different management regimes will provide information about which management regimes are most sustainable and robust against a wide range of possible future climate and fire scenarios.

5. Commitment to habitat protection and restoration in the context of a working forest landscape. These 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 where needed. Examples of such management practices include density control, retention of structural habitat features such as snags and downed woody debris, and fuels management to reduce habitat loss and the likelihood of adverse impacts to sensitive species. The development of information and guidance to address trade-offs between reduction of fuel loads for fire resiliency and maintenance of habitat structural elements for wildlife habitat will be a key area for research and demonstration of best management practices.

6. Support of recreation and education. These activities would take advantage of the features of a working forest to demonstrate the effects of different types of management on forest structure and function. Activities could take the form of science camps, tours and hikes, displays and self-guided trails. We will evaluate the feasibility of constructing a rustic campground facility in an appropriate location.

7. Development of a program to protect and, where appropriate, demonstrate historical and current cultural resources. Given the significant extent of cultural resources, traditional cultural resource use, and tribal interest in these planning units, CAL FIRE would reach out to and collaborate with local tribes on the management of these resources. CAL FIRE already has a department-wide cultural resources management plan that spells out detailed measures for protection of cultural resources, which applies to all the Demonstration State Forests. These lands, 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.

## **b) Enhancement Contributions to Management Objectives**

The Land Conservation Plan Volume II identifies five management objectives and related recommended measures for the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir Planning Units (Tables PM-7 and PM-6, respectively). These objectives, which are very similar for the two planning units, correspond to five of the six overall Beneficial Public Values identified by the Stewardship Council. The main difference in the Land Conservation Plan objectives for the two planning units is slightly more emphasis on restoration and recreation for the Tunnel Reservoir Unit than for the Pit River Unit.

The Land Conservation Plan recommended concept for the Pit River Planning Unit is “Preserve and enhance biological and cultural resources and enhance sustainable forestry management.”

The Land Conservation Plan recommended concept for the Tunnel Reservoir Planning Unit is “Preserve and enhance biological and cultural resources, and enhance recreational opportunities and sustainable forestry management.”

CAL FIRE’s proposed management of the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir Planning Units would make significant contributions towards these overall planning unit objectives. These contributions are detailed under each of the more specific objectives below.

### **Preserve and Enhance Habitat in Order to Protect Special Biological Resources (Pit River)/ Preserve and Enhance Habitat in Order to Protect and Restore Special Biological Resources (Tunnel Reservoir):**

Enhanced management category 5 above directly addresses this objective and recommended concept. As a preliminary scoping measure, CAL FIRE conducted a California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) query for the planning units, which revealed several fish and plant species of concern. Complementary survey efforts relative to the presence of sensitive biological resources and generally outside of the FERC project area would result in a more complete description of sensitive biological resources and foster improved protection and management. CAL FIRE would abide by the Biological Opinion for the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project outside of the FERC boundary, where applicable. For example, CAL FIRE would be willing to cooperate with PG&E on annual bald eagle surveys. Some of the biological opinion requirements are relative to the aquatic environment which largely lies within the FERC boundary and the constrained lands, which CAL FIRE is not seeking. We would evaluate how to manage upland areas held by us to ensure that there would be no indirect adverse impacts on PG&E’s ability to meet the biological opinion’s aquatic requirements.

CAL FIRE develops tailored management plans for each of the units within its Demonstration State Forest system. Including these two planning units as part of the Demonstration State Forest system would provide an opportunity to specifically address noxious weed and fuels management as well as recreation management issues unique to the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir Planning Units. CAL FIRE utilizes an integrated weed management approach to address noxious weeds and addresses fuels management at both the management plan and project levels.

Biological resource surveys completed within as well as outside of the FERC project area would provide the basis for fish, wildlife, and habitat management efforts as part of a State Forest management plan specific to the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir Planning Units. In addition, and as completed or underway for other Demonstration State Forests, close coordination with other federal and state agencies and non-governmental organizations with an interest in this region is a key to successful management plan development and implementation.

CAL FIRE will conduct surveys for biological resources on its Demonstration State Forest lands as a part of forest management plan development and during the planning and design of individual management, maintenance, research, recreation, timber harvest and other types of projects. CAL FIRE typically utilizes a project-specific scoping process to identify those special status species likely to occur in the affected environment of a project area and the potential habitat impacts (either individual or cumulative) from the activity. Sources of information that are typically consulted to predict species occurrence and contribute to the planning process include CNDDDB (<http://dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/>) for known species occurrence, the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System (<http://dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cwhr/>), and previous surveys associated with other projects that have been done in the watershed. This information will be used to develop forest- and project-level measures to protect and enhance biological resources.

Sustainable forest management can support the Pit River Planning Unit's critical winter deer range by providing for high quality cover and foraging habitat. It also can address the varied habitat needs (nesting, roosting, foraging) of the northern spotted owl.

Recreational uses or enhancements would be managed to avoid areas, seasons or specific types of activities to reduce disturbance to the species if needed. As needed, recreational impacts, such as trail erosion and unauthorized off-highway vehicle (OHV) use south of Tunnel Reservoir would be addressed through restoration of damaged areas and law enforcement. Compliance with CEQA processes for Forest management plans and individual projects further helps to ensure that biological resources are protected.

CAL FIRE is willing to participate with interested parties in assessing the potential for a native plant nursery south of Tunnel Reservoir. CAL FIRE has significant experience with operating a native tree reforestation nursery. Under a special use agreement, we currently provide a site for a non-profit restoration organization's native plant nursery at our LA Moran Reforestation Center in Davis.

CAL FIRE is also committed to working on its existing Demonstration State Forests and in multi-landowner efforts to ensure watershed protection and enhance aquatic habitats. Examples include the design of Demonstration State Forest management measures for watercourse and lake protection zones that exceed the Forest Practice Rules<sup>3</sup>. The

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<sup>3</sup> Class I watercourses at Soquel Demonstration State Forest are buffered by 300 feet wide late seral forest development zones.



research and demonstration activities carried out on the Demonstration State Forests will increase our knowledge of how to protect and enhance biological resources as a part of sustainable forest management.

**Preserve Open Space in Order to Protect Natural and Cultural Resources and the Recreation Setting:**

Enhanced management category 1 above directly addresses this objective. The Demonstration State Forests conduct research and demonstrate best management practices that are both ecologically and financially sustainable. This information helps provide an economic basis for landownership, especially on smaller properties, that can help the land to “pay its way,” so that landowners do not have to look to other, more intensive economic uses that result in land conversion and the loss of open space.

CAL FIRE would accept Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir Planning Units parcels with conservation easements that ensure preservation of open space. With the exception of two Conservation Camps located within Jackson Demonstration State Forest, CAL FIRE does not develop its Demonstration State Forests beyond limited facilities for forest management, research and demonstration, and recreation. Development of property is contrary to the purposes of the Demonstration State Forests. CAL FIRE considers and protects natural and cultural resources and viewsheds as a part of its forest- and project-level planning, including CEQA processes.

CAL FIRE recognizes that there can be short-term impacts to viewsheds from timber harvesting. These can be managed by using lighter-touch selection harvesting, layout of harvest units in irregular, natural shapes, and careful treatment of logging slash. Viewshed sensitivity in the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir Planning Units will be particularly important for views from the river and other water features and from the Big Bend Road. At the same time, “hiding” all timber harvesting activity (for example, behind dense vegetative screening) decreases the potential for demonstrating some of the principles of sustainable forest management to the public.

**Enhance Recreational Facilities in Order to Provide Appropriate Recreation Management and Enhance Recreation Experience (Pit River)/Enhance Recreational Facilities in Order to Provide Additional Public Access, Educational Opportunities and Recreation Management, and to Enhance Recreation Experience (Tunnel Reservoir):**

Enhanced management category 6 above directly addresses this objective and recommended concept. Public access is a universal priority on all the Demonstration State Forests, and is only restricted for reasons of safety, environmental protection, or historical and cultural resource protection reasons. CAL FIRE has substantial experience with collaborative management of recreation opportunities across property boundaries, and will work accordingly with the PG&E and the Forest Service on the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir Planning Units. We understand the important cultural resource values present on these two planning units and will take measures to protect them from potential recreation/recreationist related impacts.

Recreation needs would best be addressed by development of a comprehensive recreation plan for the two planning units. This planning process will require assessment of recreation use, the need for additional recreation facilities, recreation area vegetation management and erosion control. The recreation plan should include a monitoring component.

Based on current information, the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir Planning Units present opportunities to enhance recreation through trail improvements, better trail signage, addition of limited recreation facilities in appropriate areas (e.g., trails, perhaps creation of a small rustic campground in the Flatwoods area), interpretation and education. There appear to be opportunities to collaborate with PG&E to enhance whitewater recreation opportunities (e.g., at Bush Bar) that are mostly present on FERC and constrained areas of the planning unit. There also are opportunities to collaborate with the Shasta-Trinity National Forest on trails that cross both ownerships.

The Tunnel Reservoir Planning Unit currently has more recreation facilities in place than the Pit River Planning Unit. CAL FIRE is sensitive to the needs for careful planning for management, maintenance, and restoration of recreation areas such as campgrounds.

Hunting is a popular activity on current Demonstration State Forests, and particularly so at LaTour Demonstration State Forest in eastern Shasta County. Thus, CAL FIRE is experienced in managing hunting as a recreation activity and would support continuation of current hunting activities on these planning units.

CAL FIRE addresses unauthorized uses through its planning, management, and law enforcement staff. Physical measures such as locked gates on roads, signage, staff presence, information from members of the public, and law enforcement actions are all used to control unauthorized uses, and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for law-abiding recreationists. CAL FIRE restricts OHV use on its Demonstration State Forests to public roads. We would similarly manage OHV use on the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir Planning Units. CAL FIRE is committed to using its substantial available resources (funding and staff) to maintain, improve, and expand recreation opportunities on both existing and new Demonstration State Forests.

Management of the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir Planning Units' recreational potential would be done in a way that would protect historic and cultural resources, while also providing for related interpretive opportunities, where appropriate. For example, at the Sunset Point prehistoric site at Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest, where CAL FIRE conducted an excavation and developed an interpretive trail, the local tribe contributed the interpretation and signage.

We recognize the importance of public input and participation on recreation matters. On Jackson Demonstration State Forest we have a standing Recreation Task Force, which meets monthly and provides input on recreation management on the Forest. On Sequoia Demonstration State Forest, we work closely with the members of the nonprofit Stewards of Sequoia Forest. The Friends of Boggs Mountain similarly work with staff on the Boggs

Mountain Demonstration State Forest to identify recreation priorities and implement projects such as trail building and maintenance. We would support similar recreation and general public interest groups interacting with us in the management of the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir lands.

**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 (Pit River)/ 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 and Fire Management (Tunnel Reservoir):**

Enhanced management categories 1-5 above directly address this objective and recommended concept. CAL FIRE has a long history of Demonstration State Forest management, research and restoration projects that contribute to and promote sustainable forests, protect and enhance habitat and address fuel loads. We would continue this pattern on the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir watershed lands.

A key element in sustainable forest management is maintaining or increasing standing timber volumes over time. All of our existing Demonstration State Forests are managed to increase timber volumes over time, and we would manage the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir Planning Units in the same fashion. The highly productive Flatwoods tract will be an outstanding area for research and demonstration on sustainable forest management. We also have experience in transitioning even aged stands, such as plantations, into multi-aged stands that are more reflective of typical mixed conifer natural stands. We also manage our Demonstration State Forests to provide for recruitment or maintenance of a meaningful component of the landscape in older forest conditions that can provide important habitat characteristics for species such as the northern spotted owl.

CAL FIRE will develop a Forest management plan and sustained yield plan for the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir Planning Units that maintains a diversity of natural stand conditions for long-term ecological, economic, social, and cultural benefits. Forest conditions will be evaluated over time using the widely accepted Wildlife Habitat Relationships (WHR) system. Forest structural elements such as multi-canopy stands, snags, down woody debris, and hardwood stand components will be identified for management and protection. The management plan will provide quantitative goals for these stand structure elements.

CAL FIRE has established a goal of attaining third-party sustainable forest management certification for all of its Demonstration State Forests and would extend this goal to the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir Planning Units.

Fire protection and fuels management in fire prone areas is an important component of sustainable forestry and of Demonstration State Forest management plans. CAL FIRE is already engaged in many fuels management and fire hazard reduction projects in Shasta County. Fuels management is a key component of operations at LaTour Demonstration State Forest in eastern Shasta County. The department has extensive experience in planning and implementing fuels management projects across ownership boundaries and

would be very interested in collaborating on such plans and projects with PG&E, the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, and other adjacent landowners. CAL FIRE also recognizes how fuels management can positively or negatively affect plant species (e.g., redbud, hazel) used by native gatherers for traditional cultural uses. The department is interested in working with these traditional resource users to protect and enhance their gathering opportunities through appropriate management actions.

Noxious weed control is also a concern for sustainable forestry. CAL FIRE addresses noxious weeds as a part of its Forest management plan development and planning for individual management projects. We utilize an integrated weed management approach. Our experience working with partners on regional efforts to address noxious weeds includes Jackson Demonstration State Forest membership in the Mendocino Weed Management Area and invasive species control research at Jackson Demonstration State Forest.

CAL FIRE is experienced in collaborating with public and private neighbors of our Demonstration State Forests to ensure compatibility of sustainable management across ownership boundaries. For example, management at Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest involves collaboration with the Giant Sequoia National Monument and a county park. Management at Jackson and Soquel Demonstration State Forest involves collaboration with adjacent state park units, industrial forest landowners, and residential forest landowners. Management of LaTour Demonstration State Forest includes collaborative snowmobile trail management with the Lassen National Forest. Likewise, on the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir Planning Units, CAL FIRE would collaborate willingly with the adjacent PG&E, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, and private forest land managers.

#### **Identify and Manage Cultural Resources in Order to Ensure their Protection:**

Enhanced management category 7 above directly addresses this objective and recommended concept. The Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir Planning Units have significant historic and prehistoric cultural resources, as well as traditional Native American gathering sites. CAL FIRE management of these planning units would support increasing the known information about these resources and sites, and take steps to ensure their protection. We recognize that this progress will require close coordination with Native American entities, including in particular the Pit River Tribe. CAL FIRE met with Pit River Tribe representatives as a part of preparing this land stewardship proposal.

A CAL FIRE archaeologist has reviewed much of the available cultural and historic resource information for the Pit River and Tunnel Planning Units. Archaeological information for the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir Planning Units was obtained by a CAL FIRE staff archeologist from the Northeast Information Center office in Chico. The Records Checks for the subject parcels consisted of a review of USGS quadrangles that depict past archaeological survey coverage and the locations of recorded archaeological sites within the subject Planning Unit parcels. The information gathered is summarized below:

Pit River Planning Unit North (Near the community of Big Bend)

Estimated Percent of Unit Previously Surveyed: 65%

Number of Recorded Prehistoric/Historic Archaeological Sites: 40

Comments: All parcels considered to have a high likelihood for containing archaeological sites (proximity to water resources and/or forest openings) have been previously surveyed.

Pit River Planning Unit South (Flatwoods area)

Estimated Percent of Unit Previously Surveyed: 40%

Number of Recorded Prehistoric/Historic Archaeological Sites: 26

Comments: Many areas considered to have a high likelihood for containing archaeological sites (proximity to water resources and/or forest openings) have not yet been surveyed for archaeological resources.

Tunnel Reservoir Planning Unit

Estimated Percent of Unit Previously Surveyed: 40%

Number of Recorded Prehistoric/Historic Archaeological Sites: 24

Comments: All parcels considered to have a high likelihood for containing archaeological sites (proximity to water resources and/or forest openings) have been previously surveyed. Some of the parcels shown as unsurveyed on Information Center maps are shown as having had Records Checks performed in 2004 and therefore may actually have been surveyed by PG&E.

CAL FIRE is committed to the identification, management and protection of cultural resources on the properties that it manages. Public Resources Code Section 5024 requires state agencies to inventory archaeological resources under their jurisdiction and develop policies to preserve and maintain them. Governor Executive Order W-26-92 required State agencies to prepare inventories and develop management plans for cultural and historical properties under their ownership and control.

Interpretation of cultural resources is a part of CAL FIRE's research and demonstration mission, and also fits with its recreation role. CAL FIRE's overall commitment to cultural resources is demonstrated by the comprehensive cultural and historic resource management plan for all CAL FIRE properties that was completed in 2001 and is currently being updated. CAL FIRE has a staff of six professional archeologists, who dedicate a portion of their time to the Demonstration State Forests. Cultural resources will be researched, identified, and addressed as a part of our Forest management plan development process. Cultural resources are further surveyed and addressed at the project level. CEQA provides review opportunities at the management plan and project level. CAL FIRE's archaeology staff has established relationships with a number of Native American entities. Further, CAL FIRE is willing to collaborate with tribal entities and other interested parties to investigate the potential for conducting ethnographic studies in the area of the two planning units.

One example of CAL FIRE collaboration with tribal entities is the Sunset Point prehistoric site at Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest. Here, CAL FIRE conducted an excavation and developed an interpretive trail, and the local tribe contributed the interpretation and signage.

CAL FIRE cultural resource enhancements to the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir Units will include creating a confidential cultural resource data base for the area acquired. Information sources will include: (1) formal consultation with the local tribes listed on the CAL FIRE/NAHC Native American contact list, (2) the PG&E archaeological staff, (3) the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) Information Centers, and (4) the NAHC Sacred Lands Files. The assembled data base for each parcel would be routinely consulted for every project that involves ground-disturbing activities. We will collaborate with the Pit River Tribe, and any other relevant tribal entities, and support traditional tribal activities on lands we may receive.

#### **c) Proposed Enhancement vs. Current Management**

Perhaps the most significant enhancement is that CAL FIRE would create a research and demonstration program where one has not existed before. This program will have great value for demonstration and development of new information regarding sustainable forest management. The seven categories of enhanced management activities detailed at the outset of Question 28 clearly describe the management enhancement that would be provided by a Demonstration State Forest.

We estimate that our proposed sustainable forestry program for the Pit River and Tunnel Planning Units would be somewhat less intensive than historical harvest levels. We expect that public access and recreation opportunities will be enhanced if the Planning Units are managed as a CAL FIRE Demonstration State Forest. Our proposed monitoring and adaptive management program will be more comprehensive and detailed than current inventory data. CAL FIRE would update and expand on PG&E's timber resource inventory data and incorporate it into our more comprehensive forest resources information system.

We expect that public access and recreation opportunities will be enhanced if the two planning units are managed as a single CAL FIRE Demonstration State Forest. We will also conduct comprehensive surveys of biological resources for the development of our Forest management plan, creating better information and more opportunities for wildlife enhancements. We will survey and document archaeological resources on the property, as required by law and Executive Order, and will incorporate this information into our update to CAL FIRE's management plan for Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites. This approach provides opportunities for education and preservation.

#### **d) Proposed Management Impacts on Public Use**

CAL FIRE's proposed management of the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir Planning Units as a Demonstration State Forest would enhance public use and sustain existing economic uses. The Demonstration State Forest mission for research and demonstration while supporting recreation as a secondary use provides a more significant basis for public use

than the current management approach. Over time, we believe that there will be increased public utilization of the area, for example through field tours to see sustainable forest management demonstration projects. Current recreational opportunities will be maintained or enhanced. CAL FIRE patrol of the area will address illegal OHV use.

Demonstration State Forest operation will continue sustainable forest management as an activity that supports the local economy. Research and demonstration projects will bring additional activity to the area, resulting in expenditures in hotels, restaurants, gas stations, hardware stores, etc. By statutory direction, CAL FIRE pays the same property taxes as would a private landowner. Harvesting also generates timber yield tax payments to counties.

#### **e) Timeline for Enhanced Management Costs**

Enhanced management costs will start immediately upon acquisition with the need to conduct resource surveys, develop a management plan, long term sustained yield plan, and develop the required CEQA document for the Forest management plan (typically a mitigated negative declaration). The completed management plan will help to identify the suite of management actions that are required over time.

During the first year of ownership, CAL FIRE would rely on its deep pool of existing resources, including professional staff, law enforcement officers, heavy fire equipment, and conservation camp inmate labor, to minimize costs of ownership. Enhanced management, staffing, infrastructure and associated costs will be built up over time as revenues begin to materialize.

#### **f) Proposed Enhancement Activities and Best Management Practices**

The primary mission of the Demonstration State Forest is to investigate and demonstrate the implementation of enhanced forest management techniques and best forestry management practices. The establishment of a Demonstration State Forest in the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir Planning Units will contribute to the body of information and research on best management practices and to the technology transfer of these techniques to other forest land owners.

The actual management of a Demonstration State Forest on the Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir Planning Units and the conduct of forest management will be under the charge of a Registered Professional Forester. CAL FIRE baseline and enhancement activities will meet or exceed applicable Forest Practice Rule standards for forest management. CEQA compliance at the forest management plan and project levels will further help to ensure that best management practices will be applied.

### **Battle Creek**

#### **a) Proposed Activities: Baseline and Enhanced Management**

CAL FIRE's proposed land management activities on the Battle Creek watershed lands would focus on sustainable forestry, research, habitat maintenance and restoration,

cultural resources protection and recreation. A first step in the management of the property would be the appointment of existing CAL FIRE staff to maintain and manage the property in the near term, and eventually the establishment of a new forest management structure and staff. These staff foresters would be responsible for patrol, safety, vegetation management and planning, management and coordination of other activities on the Forest. Given the uncertainty over what, if any, acreage would be donated, we have tentatively assumed that the forest manager initially would be a part-time position. We anticipate this position would be incorporated into existing CAL FIRE forestry staff headquartered at existing CAL FIRE facilities in Redding. This would result in significant savings on office rent, supplies and equipment.

The enhanced management activities described below represent a look-ahead for the near- and medium-term future. It is not possible to anticipate all future research and demonstration projects. We do however, plan to have a research, demonstration or educational purpose to all our management activities.

Generally baseline management would consist of road maintenance, patrol and recreation management, trash removal, property tax payments, law enforcement and fire protection. Categories of enhanced management activities would include items 1 through 7 below. For all these activities, the frequency of activities would be continuous. Duration of activities would be permanent.

1. Establishment of a Demonstration State Forest that would encompass all the donated lands. We envision this Demonstration State Forest as a Northern California destination for monitoring, adaptive management, research, and demonstration on best management practices to support privately owned forestry enterprises that are both ecologically and financially sustainable. If we become a donee, we plan to dedicate staff to manage the Forest, commensurate with the size and location of the tract.

2. Development of the following:

- a) A comprehensive, sustainable multi-resource management plan which is consistent with the BPVs identified by the Stewardship Council. This is a critical step in implementing and maintaining a Demonstration State Forest. The management plan would include all resources, including but not limited to forest, flora and fauna, habitat, water quality and watershed function, recreation, and cultural resources. Key infrastructure elements such as road construction, maintenance, and decommissioning are also addressed in our Forest management plans.

- b) A long-term sustained yield plan prepared in conformance with the requirements of 14 CCR 933.11(a) ("Option A") of the Forest Practice regulations. The Option A plan would establish a sustainable annual harvest level that is in harmony with management plan objectives relative to water quality, watershed protection, wildlife, cultural resource, recreation, research and other goals and objectives. Management would be coordinated with neighboring lands using a landscape approach, including FERC and other lands retained by PG&E, federal and private lands.



There is substantial opportunity for public input into the development of Demonstration State Forest management plans and Option A plans, through requests to the public for comments, public meetings, CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's management plan review and approval process, and the associated CEQA process.

3. Development of a sustainable forestry program of research, demonstration and implementation of best management practices focused on:

a. Watershed protection through appropriate resource management practices and fuels reduction. An important part of such a program will be an active fuels and fire hazard reduction and vegetation management program. Fire plays an important ecological role in California mixed conifer forests. Large, intense wildfires however, often have a negative effect on water quality and beneficial uses as a result of increased erosion and sedimentation, and increased runoff and peak flows.

b. Application of silvicultural methods that maintain or increase landscape biodiversity and inventories of trees, biomass and timber over time. This includes the full range of silvicultural methods, from techniques aimed at creating canopy gaps and openings large enough to achieve regeneration of shade intolerant species like pine, to techniques that are aimed at maintaining a variety of stand conditions including a large component of younger and older stands in a closed canopy condition.

c. Commitment to a management objective to create a diversity of forest stand structural conditions across the landscape, ranging from early seral to late seral forest conditions. The objective would be to mimic the variety of conditions one can expect to encounter in a natural forest, create viable conditions for a range of research projects and provide flexibility for evaluating new management strategies to address climate change. A variety of forest stand conditions also maintains the largest possible suite of flora and fauna.

d. Promotion of opportunities to address climate change research needs and addressing mitigation and adaptation through management, research and demonstration. The availability of multiple Demonstration State Forests along diverse spatial and elevation gradients in the Sierra Nevada and elsewhere in the State strengthens the value of the Demonstration State Forests for these purposes. CAL FIRE has developed a Demonstration State Forest system-wide research strategy on climate change and other key factors affecting forest sustainability.

CAL FIRE defines sustainable forestry here as a suite of management practices that are consistent with the Stewardship Council definition of sustainable forestry, comply with all statutory requirements (e.g. the California Forest Practices Act and Forest Practice Rules, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, etc.) and adhere to Demonstration State Forest guidelines for forest management.

The Council defines sustainable forestry as: "the practice of managing dynamic forest ecosystems to provide ecological, economic, social, and cultural benefits for present and future generations." The California Forest Practice Act (Public Resources Code § 4511 et seq.) is established to "ensure high quality timber products while considering recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, fisheries, regional economic vitality, employment and aesthetic enjoyment" (PRC § 4513(b)). The Forest Practice Rules (14 California Code of Regulations § 895.1 et seq.), which implement the Act, regulate forest harvest to ensure that it does not exceed forest growth and that it provides watercourse and lake protection, fire hazard reduction and fire protection, wildlife protection, and archaeology and historic resource protection. Public Resources Code section 4645 requires that when Demonstration State Forests manage for forest products, they consider recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, range and forage, watershed, wildlife, and fisheries values.

CAL FIRE has a wide range of existing research partners to bring to bear on any PG&E watershed lands we may receive, based on our extensive experience with our other Demonstration State Forests: 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.

4. Development of a program of ecosystem monitoring and adaptive management. An important part of this program will be a forest-wide, multi-resource monitoring inventory system, consisting in part of a grid of permanently monumented plots that will be periodically remeasured. This system will include cultural, floral and faunal surveys. Objective measurements of forest development over time under different management regimes will provide information about which management regimes are most sustainable and robust against a wide range of possible future climate and fire scenarios.

5. Commitment to habitat protection and restoration in the context of a working forest landscape. These 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 where needed. Examples of such management practices include density control, retention of structural habitat features such as snags and downed woody debris, and fuels management to reduce habitat loss and the likelihood of adverse impacts to sensitive species. The development of information and guidance to address trade-offs between reduction of fuel loads for fire resiliency and maintenance of habitat structural elements for wildlife habitat will be a key area for research and demonstration of best management practices.

6. Support of recreation and education. These activities would take advantage of the features of a working forest to demonstrate the effects of different types of management on forest structure and function. Activities could take the form of science camps, tours and hikes, displays and self-guided trails. We will evaluate the feasibility of constructing a rustic campground facility in an appropriate location.

7. Development of a program to protect and, where appropriate, demonstrate historical and current cultural resources. Given the significant extent of cultural resources, traditional cultural resource use, and tribal interest in these planning units, CAL FIRE would reach out to and collaborate with local tribes on the management of these resources. CAL FIRE already has a department-wide cultural resources management plan that spells out detailed measures for protection of cultural resources, which applies to all the Demonstration State Forests. These lands, 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.

#### **b) Enhancement Contributions to Management Objectives**

The Land Conservation Plan Volume II identifies six management objectives and related recommended measures for the Battle Creek Planning Unit (Table CB-4), corresponding to the six overall Beneficial Public Values identified by the Stewardship Council.

The Land Conservation Plan recommended concept for the Battle Creek Planning Unit is to protect and enhance biological and cultural resources, and enhance sustainable forestry, agricultural uses and recreation opportunities.

#### **Biological Resources Protection:**

As a preliminary scoping measure, CAL FIRE conducted a California Natural Diversity database search for the Battle Creek Planning Unit. The results confirmed the findings in the Land Conservation Plan. A number of sensitive and special status wildlife and plant species were noted. Additional survey work will likely be needed to facilitate effective wildlife and habitat management plan development and implementation. CAL FIRE has developed or is in the process of updating management plans for each of the existing units within its Demonstration State Forest system. Including this property as part of the CAL FIRE Demonstration State Forest system would provide an opportunity to specifically address noxious weed and wildlife and habitat management needs and issues. A management plan typically developed for a unit within the State Demonstration Forest System would include measures to identify, implement and monitor fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects and habitat restoration opportunities. In addition, close coordination with other federal and state agencies and non-governmental organizations with an interest in this region is key to successful management plan development and implementation.

CAL FIRE will scope for and as appropriate conduct surveys for biological resources on its Demonstration State Forest lands as a part of Forest management plan development and during the planning and design of individual management, maintenance, research, recreation, timber harvest and other types of projects. CAL FIRE typically utilizes a project-specific scoping process to identify those special status species likely to occur in the affected environment of a project area and the potential habitat impact from the activity either individually or cumulatively. Sources of information that are typically

consulted to predict species occurrence and contribute to the planning process include CNDDDB ( <http://dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/> ) for known species occurrence, the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System (<http://dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cwhr/> ), and previous surveys associated with other projects that have been done in the watershed. This information will be used to develop forest- and project-level measures to protect and enhance biological resources.

The LaTour Demonstration State Forest management plan (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection 2008) identifies a number of planning guidelines that would be applicable to the Battle Creek Planning Unit should these lands be added to the Demonstration State Forest System. Included is maintaining and improving current riparian conditions and in-stream habitat. Given the nexus with the Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project, we anticipate that riparian areas will be a fertile area for future research on the Forest. Management in and near these areas will be focused on rapidly improving habitat quality for listed anadromous salmonids, as well as maintaining maximum future management flexibility, so as to not foreclose on future options for research and management. CAL FIRE will also work to restore, maintain, or enhance occurrence of special habitat elements and unique habitats to promote species diversity and habitat quality. Measures to achieve this include:

- 1) Large diameter at breast height (dbh) snag recruitment and retention.
- 2) Retention and recruitment of down logs and large woody debris as needed in aquatic and terrestrial environments.
- 3) Maintenance of natural ponds and springs.
- 4) Riparian zone protection and restoration through active management.
- 5) Retention of late-successional forest conditions in the near term, and consolidation of late successional forest conditions in the long term.
- 6) Design of forest management activities based on landscape perspectives. Components to consider will include horizontal and vertical forest structure, vegetation density, edge effect, corridor size, and biological diversity.

Unique biological features of the Battle Creek Planning Unit that would make it a valuable addition to the Demonstration State Forest System include riparian forest and the opportunity to reestablish steelhead and winter-run and spring-run chinook salmon populations in Battle Creek.

#### **Cultural Resources Protection:**

Enhanced management category 7 above directly addresses this objective. A CAL FIRE archaeologist has reviewed available cultural and historic resource information for the Battle Creek parcels of interest to CAL FIRE (Foster 2006). Material reviewed included archaeological information on file at the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) and the North Central Information Center office in Sacramento. The Records Checks for the subject parcels consisted of a review of USGS quadrangles that depict past archaeological survey coverage and the locations of recorded archaeological sites within the subject Planning Unit parcels. Copies of the numerous survey reports and archaeological site records were not requested as no parcels have yet changed ownership.

The Battle Creek Planning Unit has 27 recorded historic and prehistoric archaeological sites. It is estimated that 100 percent of the Planning Unit has been previously surveyed. CAL FIRE is committed to the identification, management and protection of cultural resources on the properties that it manages. Public Resources Code Section 5024 requires state agencies to inventory archaeological resources under their jurisdiction and develop policies to preserve and maintain them. Governor Executive Order W-26-92 required State agencies to prepare inventories and develop management plans for cultural and historical properties under their ownership and control.

Interpretation of cultural resources is a part of CAL FIRE's research and demonstration mission, and also fits with its recreation role. CAL FIRE's overall commitment to cultural resources is demonstrated by the comprehensive cultural and historic resource management plan for all CAL FIRE properties (Foster and Thornton 2001). CAL FIRE has a staff of six professional archeologists, who dedicate a portion of their time to the Demonstration State Forests. Cultural resources will be researched, identified, and addressed as a part of our management plan development process. Cultural resources are further surveyed and addressed at the project level. CEQA provides review opportunities at Plan and project level. CAL FIRE's archaeology staff has established relationships with a number of Native American entities. For example, at the Sunset Point prehistoric site at Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest where CAL FIRE conducted an excavation and developed an interpretive trail, the local tribe contributed the interpretation and signage.

CAL FIRE cultural resource enhancements to the Battle Creek Planning Unit will include creating a confidential cultural resource data base. This data base will include information regarding prehistoric and historic archaeological sites (e.g. bedrock mortars, petroglyphs, mining camps) and Native American cultural sites (e.g. religious, power, basketry material collection sites). Archaeological survey and site information will be compiled from the PG&E archaeological staff, the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) Information Centers, archaeologists from adjacent federal land agencies and the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA). Cultural site information will be compiled from the PG&E archaeological staff who have commissioned such studies of adjacent PG&E parcels for FERC relicensing projects, a query of the Sacred Lands Files maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and through formal consultation with local groups listed on the CAL FIRE/NAHC Native American contact list.

The assembled data base for each parcel would be routinely consulted for every project that involves ground-disturbing activities. We will collaborate with the tribes and support traditional tribal activities on all lands we may receive.

### **Sustainable Forestry:**

Enhanced management categories 1, 2, 3 and 4 above directly address this objective and recommended concept. CAL FIRE has a long history of Demonstration State Forest management, research and restoration projects that contribute to and promote sustainable

forests, protect and enhance habitat and address fuel loads. We would continue this pattern on the Battle Creek watershed lands.

CAL FIRE will develop a Forest management plan and Option A plan for the Battle Creek Planning Unit that maintains a diversity of natural stand conditions for long-term ecological, economic, social, and cultural benefits. The first step in the planning process would be to install a new forest resources inventory on the Forest, either using CAL FIRE foresters or by contracting out the work, in order to obtain accurate current information about resource conditions. This inventory would also be the first installation of an ongoing resource monitoring program. Forest conditions will be evaluated over time using the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System (California Department of Fish and Game, 1992). Forest structural elements such as multi-canopy stands, snags, down woody debris, and hardwood stand components will be identified for management and protection. The management plan will provide quantitative goals for these stand structure elements.

The Option A plan is a strategic plan that guides forest management to ensure that harvest methods and harvest levels are sustainable in perpetuity without degrading the productive capacity of the forest ecosystem. Maintaining or increasing total biomass volume over time is arguably an important element of sustainable forest management. All of our existing Demonstration State Forests are managed to maintain or increase timber volumes over time, and we would manage the Battle Creek Planning Unit in the same manner.

Our emphasis on using a variety of silvicultural methods in order to obtain a broad range of structural conditions, ranging from early to late seral, maintains a resilient forest that can adapt to changing conditions over time.

CAL FIRE has established a goal of attaining third-party sustainable forest management certification for all of its Demonstration State Forests and would extend this goal to the Battle Creek Planning Unit.

Fire protection and fuels management in fire prone areas is an important component of sustainable forestry and of Demonstration State Forest management plans. CAL FIRE is already engaged in many fuels management and fire hazard reduction projects in the Battle Creek Planning Unit, with local, State and federal partners. We would review local, State and federal fire planning and fuels treatment efforts in the area in an effort to streamline and increase efficiency.

Silviculture in the Battle Creek Planning Unit would include a focus on maintaining the health and diversity of tree species in this area. Another silvicultural emphasis would be to prioritize the regeneration of new generations of trees in the understory, with an emphasis on openings large enough to regenerate pine. Pine species are an important component of natural stands in this area, but they typically do not regenerate well under the shade of closed canopy over story trees. A combination of fire exclusion and closed

canopy stands have combined to make pine regeneration a silvicultural challenge in this area.

### **Agriculture:**

CAL FIRE would continue the existing leases for aquaculture and grazing as specified and explore the opportunities for grazing use enhancements on any Battle Creek parcels that we may receive. We would incorporate a rangeland management plan within the general forest management plan, and coordinate with the neighboring Wildcat Ranch. The rangeland management plan would focus on sustainable grazing practices, monitoring and preventing erosion, adverse water quality impacts and degradation of riparian areas.

CAL FIRE and the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection have a long history of working with the range community on vegetation management, research, monitoring and restoration of rangelands and oak woodlands. The Board has a dedicated seat for a representative of the range-livestock industry and the Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) to advise it on rangeland issues. CAL FIRE, RMAC and the Board recognize that carefully controlled grazing can be done in a manner that protects and in some cases enhances biological resources, provides an economic basis for landownership, and provides open space values.

### **Public Access and Recreation:**

Enhanced management category 5 above directly addresses this objective and recommended concept. Public access is a universal priority on all the Demonstration State Forests, and is only restricted for safety or environmental reasons. CAL FIRE has substantial experience in managing recreation opportunities across property boundaries, and will work with the Forest Service, PG&E and other landowners to enhance public access to the Battle Creek Planning Unit.

We would continue the open access and rustic recreation model of the existing Demonstration State Forest, consisting of easy access, well maintained roads and plenty of parking opportunities for access to trail heads, scenic vista points and other destinations. CAL FIRE restricts OHV use on its Demonstration State Forests to public roads. We would similarly manage OHV use on the Battle Creek Planning Unit. CAL FIRE is committed to using its existing deep pool of available resources (funding and staff) to maintain, improve, and expand recreation opportunities on existing and new Demonstration State Forests.

CAL FIRE addresses unauthorized uses through its planning, management, and law enforcement staff. Physical measures such as locked gates on roads, signage, staff presence, information from members of the public, and law enforcement actions are all used to control unauthorized uses, and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for law-abiding recreationists.

We recognize the importance of public input and participation on recreation matters. On Jackson Demonstration State Forest we have a standing Recreation Task Force which

meets monthly and provides input on recreation management on the Forest. On Soquel Demonstration State Forest, we work closely with the members of the nonprofit Stewards of Soquel Forest. The Friends of Boggs Mountain similarly work with staff on the Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest to identify recreation priorities and implement projects such as trail building and maintenance. We would support similar recreation and general public interest groups interacting with us in the management of the Battle Creek lands.

### **c) Proposed Enhancement Versus Current Management**

We estimate that our proposed sustainable forestry program for the Battle Creek Planning Unit would result in harvest rates slightly lower than PG&E's historical harvest levels. On the other hand, given our goal of creating a wide range of forest structures, from early to late seral conditions, for forest health, adaptive management and research, our silvicultural techniques would probably be more diverse than those of PG&E's historical management.

We expect that public access and recreation opportunities would be enhanced if the Planning Unit is managed as a CAL FIRE Demonstration State Forest. CAL FIRE has its own dedicated law enforcement and fire protection staff that it brings to bear on patrol of the Demonstration State Forests. CAL FIRE peace officers would increase the law enforcement presence in the Planning Unit.

We would conduct new comprehensive forest resource inventories for the development of our Forest management plan, creating new information and opportunities for enhancements. CAL FIRE would expand on PG&E's timber resource inventory data and incorporate it into our comprehensive forest resources information system. We would also survey and document archaeological resources on the property, as required by law and Governor's Executive Order, and will incorporate this into our update to our management plan for CAL FIRE's Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites. This provides opportunities for education and preservation. Finally, our ownership of these parcels would create a research and demonstration program where one has not existed before. This new Demonstration State Forest would become a part of, and enhance, a State-wide network of monitoring facilities found on the existing Demonstration State Forests.

### **d) Proposed Management Impacts on Public Use**

CAL FIRE's proposed management of the Battle Creek Planning Unit as a Demonstration State Forest would enhance public use and sustain existing economic uses. The Demonstration State Forest mission for research and demonstration while supporting recreation as a secondary use would provide a more significant basis for public use than current management.

Over time, we believe that there will be increased public utilization of the area, for example through field tours to see sustainable forest management demonstration projects. Current recreational opportunities will be maintained or enhanced. We would plan to



expand all-season recreation opportunities in cooperation with potential land conservation partners. We expect that increased patrol will reduce illegal OHV use.

Demonstration State Forest operations will continue sustainable forest management as an activity that supports the local economy. Research and demonstration projects will bring additional activity to the area, resulting in expenditures in hotels, restaurants, gas stations, hardware stores, etc. By statutory direction, CAL FIRE pays the same property taxes as would a private landowner. Harvesting timber also generates timber yield tax payments to counties.

#### **e) Timeline for Enhanced Management Costs**

Some enhanced management costs would start immediately upon acquisition with the need to conduct resource inventories, develop a management plan, and develop the required CEQA document for the management plan (typically a mitigated negative declaration). The completed management plan would help to identify the suite of management actions that are required over time.

We would plan to minimize the cost of most of these immediate enhanced management costs using our own resources and staff. CAL FIRE's has a well developed "total force" business model, in which a variety of resources and staff from throughout the State are brought to bear on a particular task. This organizational approach has proven successful in handling projects ranging from State Forests resource inventories to wildfires using CAL FIRE staff and equipment that minimizes out of pocket costs.

During the first year of ownership, CAL FIRE would implement a low intensity custodial management strategy. We would rely on our deep pool of existing resources, including professional staff, law enforcement officers, equipment and conservation camp inmate labor, to minimize costs of ownership. Enhanced management and associated costs would begin to build up in the second year of ownership, as revenues begin to materialize.

#### **f) Proposed Enhancement Activities and Best Management Practices**

The primary mission of the Demonstration State Forests is to investigate and demonstrate the implementation of enhanced forest management techniques and best forestry management practices. The establishment of a Demonstration State Forest in the Battle Creek watershed will contribute to the body of information and research on best management practices and to the technology transfer of these techniques to other forest land owners.

The actual management of a Demonstration State Forest on the Battle Creek Planning Unit and the conduct of forest management would be under the charge of a Registered Professional Forester. CAL FIRE baseline and enhancement management activities would meet or exceed applicable Forest Practice Rule standards for forest management. CEQA compliance at the forest management plan and project level will further help to ensure that best management practices would be applied.

## **Cow Creek**

CAL FIRE's proposed land management activities on the Cow Creek watershed lands would focus on sustainable forestry, research and range management practices to protect watercourses, riparian areas, and water quality; cultural resources protection; and recreation. A first step in the management of the property would be the appointment of existing staff from the CAL FIRE Shasta Trinity Unit in Redding to maintain and manage the property in the near term, and eventually the establishment of additional part-time staff, as needed. Forest management responsibilities will include patrol, safety, vegetation management and planning, grazing lease management, protection of cultural and recreation resources, partnership projects and coordination of activities with other entities on the Forest.

### **a) Proposed Activities: Baseline and Enhanced Management**

Baseline management activities for the requested parcels in the Cow Creek Reservoir Planning Unit would consist of road maintenance, patrol, grazing lease management, recreation management, trash removal, enforcement, and payment of property taxes. Categories of enhanced management activities include items 1 through 7 below. For all these activities, the frequency of activities would be continuous. Duration of activities would be permanent.

1. Establish a Demonstration State Forest that would encompass the donated lands. This Unit would provide a representative site for research and demonstration in a low-elevation, northern Sierran, forest and woodland vegetation complex. It would be available for forest, rangeland, habitat, watershed and climate research and monitoring; adaptive management; and demonstration of best management practices for small landowners.

2. Development of the following:

a) A comprehensive, sustainable multi-resource management plan which is consistent with the BPVs identified by the Stewardship Council. This is a critical step in implementing and maintaining a Demonstration State Forest. The management plan would include all resources, including but not limited to forest, flora and fauna, habitat, water quality and watershed function, recreation, and cultural resources. Key infrastructure elements such as road construction, maintenance, and decommissioning are also addressed in our Forest management plans.

b) A long-term sustained yield plan prepared in conformance with the requirements of 14 CCR 933.11(a) ("Option A") of the Forest Practice regulations. The Option A plan would establish a sustainable annual harvest level that is in harmony with management plan objectives relative to water quality, watershed protection, wildlife, cultural resource, recreation, research and other goals and objectives. Management would be coordinated with neighboring lands using a landscape approach, including FERC and other lands retained by PG&E, federal and private lands.

There is substantial opportunity for public input into the development of Demonstration State Forest management plans and Option A plans, through requests to the public for comments, public meetings, CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's management plan review and approval process, and the associated CEQA process.

3. Develop a sustainable forestry program of research, demonstration and implementation of best management practices. CAL FIRE defines sustainable forestry as a suite of management practices that (1) are consistent with the Stewardship Council definition of sustainable forestry, (2) comply with all statutory requirements, e.g. the California Forest Practices Act and Forest Practice Rules, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, etc., (3) adhere to Demonstration State Forest guidelines for forest management, and (4) protect and enhance the specific Beneficial Public Values in the Cow Creek Planning Unit.

The Council defines sustainable forestry as: "the practice of managing dynamic forest ecosystems to provide ecological, economic, social, and cultural benefits for present and future generations." The CA Forest Practices Act is established to "ensure high quality timber products while considering recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, fisheries, regional economic vitality, employment and aesthetic enjoyment." The Forest Practice Rules, which implement the Act, regulate forest harvest to ensure that it does not exceed forest growth and that it provides watercourse and lake protection, fire hazard reduction and fire protection, wildlife protection, and archaeology and historic resource protection. Public Resources Code section 4645 requires that when Demonstration State Forests manage for forest products, they consider recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, range and forage, watershed, wildlife, and fisheries values.

If CAL FIRE were to receive land in the Cow Creek Planning Unit, we would develop a management plan describing objectives and strategies for sustainable forest management on the Planning Unit, including the following:

a. Watershed protection through proper resource management practices and fuels reduction. An important part of sustainable forestry for the Cow Creek Planning Unit is the implementation and demonstration of proper forest and rangeland management practices for maintenance of forest cover and protection of soils, maintenance and regeneration of oaks, fuels and fire hazard reduction to reduce wildfire risks and impacts, all of which are critical for protection of forest resources and preventing erosion, runoff and sedimentation.

b. Application of silvicultural methods that maintain or increase landscape biodiversity and inventories of trees, biomass and timber over time. This includes the full range of silvicultural methods, from techniques aimed at creating canopy gaps and openings large enough to achieve regeneration of shade intolerant species like pine, to techniques that are aimed at maintaining a variety of stand conditions including a large component of younger and older stands in a closed canopy condition.

c. Commitment to a management objective to create a diversity of forest stand structural conditions across the landscape, ranging from early seral to late seral forest conditions. The objective would be to mimic the variety of conditions one can expect to encounter in a natural forest, create viable conditions for a range of research projects and provide flexibility for evaluating new management strategies to address climate change. A variety of forest stand conditions also maintains the largest possible suite of flora and fauna.

d. Promotion of opportunities to address climate change research needs and addressing mitigation and adaptation through management, research and demonstration. The availability of multiple Demonstration State Forests along diverse spatial and elevation gradients in the Sierra Nevada and elsewhere in the State strengthens the value of the Demonstration State Forests for these purposes. CAL FIRE has developed a Demonstration State Forest system-wide research strategy on climate change and other key factors affecting forest sustainability.

4. Development of a program of ecosystem monitoring and adaptive management. An important part of this program will be a forest-wide, multi-resource monitoring inventory system, consisting in part of a grid of permanently monumented plots that will be periodically remeasured. This system will include cultural, floral and faunal surveys for forest and rangeland areas. Objective measurements of forest development over time under different management regimes will provide information about which management regimes are most sustainable and robust against a wide range of possible future climate and fire scenarios.

5. Commitment to habitat protection and restoration in the context of a working forest landscape. These 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 where needed. Examples of such management practices include density control, retention of structural habitat features such as snags and downed woody debris, and fuels management to reduce habitat loss and the likelihood of adverse impacts to sensitive species. The development of information and guidance to address trade-offs between reduction of fuel loads for fire resiliency and maintenance of habitat structural elements for wildlife habitat will be a key area for research and demonstration of best management practices.

6. Support of recreation and education. These activities would take advantage of the features of a working forest to demonstrate the effects of different types of management on forest structure and function. Activities could take the form of science camps, tours and hikes, displays and self-guided trails. We will evaluate the feasibility of constructing a rustic campground facility in an appropriate location.

7. Development of a program to protect and, where appropriate, demonstrate historical and current cultural resources. Given the significant extent of cultural resources, traditional cultural resource use, and tribal interest in these planning units, CAL FIRE would reach out to and collaborate with local tribes on the management of these resources. CAL FIRE already has a department-wide cultural resources management

plan that spells out detailed measures for protection of cultural resources, which applies to all the Demonstration State Forests. These lands, 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.

#### **b) Enhancement Contributions to Management Objectives**

The Land Conservation Plan Volume II recommends six management objectives for the Cow Creek Planning Unit (Table CB-3), corresponding to the Beneficial Public Values, and potential measures to achieve them. The overarching objective for the Cow Creek Planning Unit is "preserve and enhance biological, cultural and agricultural resources, and enhance sustainable forestry management." CAL FIRE's proposed management of the Cow Creek Planning Unit would make significant contributions towards this overall planning unit objective. These contributions are detailed under each of the more specific objectives below.

##### **Preserve and Enhance Habitat in Order to Protect Special Biological Resources:**

Enhanced management category 4 above directly addresses this objective, while categories 3 and 5 (ecosystem monitoring, and recreation and education) will also contribute. The Cow Creek Unit includes a variety of habitats: forests, woodlands, grasslands, grasslands and meadows, riparian habitat and possibly marsh and seep areas. Some of these may include sensitive or listed species, such as red and yellow legged frogs and the western pond turtle.

A CAL FIRE database search of the California Natural Diversity for the Cow Creek Planning Unit and lands immediately adjacent found a number of sensitive and special status wildlife and plant species (e.g. *Fritillaria eastwoodiae*). Additional survey work is needed for effective wildlife and habitat management plan development and implementation.

If CAL FIRE receives the Cow Creek Planning Unit, it will increase baseline wildlife information for the Unit by conducting survey work for the development of the Unit's management plan, and also during the planning and design of individual management, maintenance, research, recreation, timber harvest and other types of projects. CAL FIRE typically utilizes a project-specific scoping process to identify those special status species likely to occur in the affected environment of a project area and the potential habitat impact from the activity either individually or cumulatively. Sources of information that are typically consulted to predict species occurrence and contribute to the planning process include CNDDDB ( <http://dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/> ) for known species occurrence, the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System (<http://dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cwhr/> ), and previous surveys associated with other projects that have been done in the watershed. This information will be used to develop forest- and project-level measures to protect and enhance biological resources.

The Demonstration State Forest management plan for Cow Creek will identify measures for protecting and monitoring special biological resources and for identifying habitat improvement and restoration opportunities. In addition, existing management practices that could degrade suitable habitat for special status species would be re-examined as part of the planning process. Close coordination with other agencies, non-governmental organizations, and lessees with an interest in this region will contribute to successful management plan development and implementation.

CAL FIRE will also address noxious weed concerns in its plan. CAL FIRE will work with the Shasta County Weed Management Area (in which local CAL FIRE staff participate), the lessees, neighbors and others to identify problems and the need for management. Potential measures include mechanical, chemical, grazing, prescribed burning, or a combination of methods. CAL FIRE will work closely with other agencies and non-governmental organizations with an interest in this region, such as the Cow Creek Watershed Management Group (in which CAL FIRE also participates).

**Preserve Open Space in Order to Protect Natural and Cultural Resources, Viewsheds, and Agricultural Land Uses:**

Inclusion of the Cow Creek Planning Unit property in the Demonstration State Forest system directly addresses this objective by maintaining the land as a working forest landscape for the primary purpose of research and demonstration on forest management practices for improved timber management and environmental stewardship, while giving consideration to recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage and fishery values. Board of Forestry and Fire Protection policies do not support residential development, discourage uses benefiting non-forestry or private interests that are inconsistent with State Forest objectives, and state that State Forest units should remain intact without further diversion to non-forestry purposes.

Development of property is contrary to the purposes of the Demonstration State Forests. With the exception of two Conservation Camps located within Jackson Demonstration State Forest and fire lookouts at Mount Zion and LaTour Demonstration State Forests, CAL FIRE has not developed its Demonstration State Forests beyond limited facilities for forest management, research and demonstration, and recreation. CAL FIRE would accept the Cow Creek Planning Unit parcels with conservation easements that ensure preservation of open space.

Enhanced management category 1 above indirectly addresses the Open Space objective by providing information that helps maintain open space on privately owned properties. Research and demonstration of ecologically and financially sustainable management practices can help landowners, especially on smaller properties, economically manage property to “pay its way,” so they don’t have to look to other, more intensive economic uses that result in land conversion and the loss of open space.

**Enhance Recreational Management in Order to Provide Appropriate Recreation Use:**

Enhanced management category 5 for recreation and education directly addresses this objective. Public access is a universal priority on all the Demonstration State Forests, and is only restricted for reasons of safety, environmental protection, or historical and cultural resource protection reasons. Current recreational use of this property is low due to limited access. It includes hiking, horse back riding, bird watching and unauthorized OHV use. The only recommended concept for this BPV on the Cow Creek Unit is to monitor recreation use

CAL FIRE will maintain recreational use at Cow Creek Planning Unit while ensuring protection of biological, cultural and economic resources. Management would include minor enhancements to the existing trail system for the near term, such as signage for educational purposes and to discourage off-trail use and impacts to soils and vegetation. We will also work with interested neighbors and partner groups, such as the Cow Creek Watershed Management Group, to implement any additional enhancements, such educational signage, trail mapping, and education about fuels management and prescribed burning. CAL FIRE will work in partnership with schools, local groups and the grazing lessees to provide access for educational tours or demonstrations, as appropriate.

CAL FIRE will monitor recreation use over time. If use or demand increases significantly, we will work with local groups, lessees, neighbors, local agencies and other stakeholders in the future to identify and prioritize needed improvements and to secure funding and resources to implement more intensive measures such as fencing, trail building or compatible recreational use. CAL FIRE could also utilize Conservation Camp inmate labor for installation and maintenance of these types of improvements.

**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 and Fire Management:**

Enhanced management categories 1, 2, 3 and 4 above directly address this objective and recommended concept. The Land Conservation Plan describes the Cow Creek forest resources as undergoing change to improve timber production and forest health, and also emphasizes watershed management and fuels management.

The Cow Creek Planning Unit lies at the transition of blue oak/grey pine woodlands and ponderosa pine/black oak forest. Timber resources include ponderosa pine and mixed conifer, including several hundred acres of new pine plantation. According to the 2005 Draft Cow Creek Watershed Management Plan, there is some white alder riparian forest along Mill Creek. A plantation recently established by PG&E to rehabilitate the stand would be managed to maintain stand health and promote growth.

One of the primary objectives of sustainable forestry is watershed protection. The Cow Creek Unit is in the Clover Creek subwatershed of the larger Cow Creek drainage. The Unit has two Class I fish-bearing watercourses running through it: Mill Creek and South Cow Creek. The Cow Creek watershed has a long history of watershed assessment,

restoration and cooperative projects among landowners, agencies and local stakeholders. The forest is managed for timber and forest stand improvement and the property is grazed.

Fire protection and fuels management in fire prone areas is an important consideration for the protection of watershed resources in the Cow Creek watershed. Some fuels reduction has been conducted in association with recent timber harvests in the Cow Creek Planning Unit. The property would be assessed for additional fuel management needs and opportunities, particularly in or around chaparral stands, to protect on-site resources and neighboring communities. CAL FIRE would work with adjacent landowners, the Cow Creek Watershed Management Group, the Western Shasta County Resource Conservation District, the Shasta County Fire Safe Council and others to conduct these activities. In addition to watershed protection, mechanical fuels management and prescribed burning will be conducted to provide multiple beneficial values, including range improvement for brush and grassland areas, improved forest health and resilience, and habitat protection or enhancement. These activities will result in additional social benefits by providing opportunity for fire management training for CAL FIRE and local fire protection cooperators.

CAL FIRE will develop a Forest management plan and long term sustained yield plan (Option A) for the Cow Creek Planning Unit that increases timber productivity and economic use, ensures forest health, and increases the resilience of the entire landscape to catastrophic wildfire, while maintaining a diversity of natural stand conditions for ecological and economic benefits.

Noxious weed control is also a concern for the Cow Creek Planning Unit and for sustainable forestry. CAL FIRE addresses noxious weeds as a part of its Forest management plan development and planning for individual management projects, and utilizes an integrated weed management approach. CAL FIRE is a Board member of the Shasta County Weed Management Area, which works to identify critical noxious weed issues. If special management is needed, we would then work with neighbors, the lessee and local agencies as appropriate to implement grazing, manual, mechanical, chemical, burning or biological control methods.

### **Identify and Manage Cultural Resources in Order to Ensure their Protection:**

Enhanced management category 6 above directly addresses this objective and recommended concept. Elements of the forest management and recreation strategies will also contribute to protection of cultural resources and historical and archaeological sites. If the Cow Creek Planning Unit is donated to CAL FIRE, it will be incorporated into CAL FIRE's 2001 Management Plan for Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites. Cultural resources on the property will be researched, identified, and addressed as a part of our Forest management plan development process, and further surveyed and addressed at the project level. CEQA provides review opportunities at management plan and project levels.



The Land Conservation Plan describes old homesteads and the potential for other cultural resources. A CAL FIRE archaeologist conducted a preliminary analysis of archaeological information on file at the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) for the Cow Creek Planning Unit. Archaeological information was obtained from the Northeast Information Center office in Chico. The Records Checks for the subject parcels consisted of a review of USGS quadrangles that depict past archaeological survey coverage and the locations of recorded archaeological sites within the subject Planning Unit parcels. Copies of the numerous survey reports and archaeological site records were not requested as no parcels have changed ownership.

The archaeologist determined that about 50% of the Planning Unit was previously surveyed. Therefore many areas considered to have a high likelihood for containing archaeological sites (proximity to water resources and/or forest openings) have not yet been surveyed for archaeological resources. Thirty-three prehistoric/historic archaeological sites were recorded.

CAL FIRE cultural resource enhancements to Cow Creek Planning Unit will include creating a confidential cultural resource data base which will contain information on prehistoric and historic archaeological sites (e.g. bedrock mortars, petroglyphs, mining camps) and Native American cultural sites (e.g. religious, power and basketry material collection sites). Archaeological survey site information will be compiled from PG&E archaeological staff, the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) Information Centers, and archaeologists from adjacent federal land agencies. Cultural site information will be compiled from the PG&E archaeological staff who have commissioned such studies for FERC licensing projects, a query of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands Files, and through formal consultation with local groups listed on the CAL FIRE/NAHC Native American contact list. The assembled data base for each parcel would be routinely consulted for every project that involves ground-disturbing activities.

Interpretation of cultural resources is a part of CAL FIRE's research and demonstration mission, and also fits with its recreation role. Education and recreational enhancements for cultural and historical resources must, first and foremost, protect the resources. CAL FIRE archaeologists will also work with the Yana tribe and Redding Rancheria in our efforts to survey, identify and protect archaeological and cultural resources, and on any related educational efforts.

**Preserve and Enhance Grazing in Order to Support Associated Economic Benefits, as Well as to Protect Open Space and Habitat Resources:**

There are two grazing leases on the Cow Creek Planning Unit. Lessees are responsible for maintaining and repairing designated fences and gates. CAL FIRE will include a process for assessing and monitoring range condition in its management plan in order to protect soil, water and habitats. The plan will also address vegetation, grazing and noxious weed management, and will determine if additional fencing is needed to enhance grazing, recreation or habitat protection objectives. CAL FIRE will work with the lessee

and, as needed, with local experts such as the County Farm Advisor (UC Cooperative Extension) and the Resource Conservation District to design and implement this activity.

CAL FIRE and the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection have a long history of working with the range community on vegetation management, research, monitoring and restoration of rangelands and oak woodlands. The Board includes a dedicated seat for a representative of the range-livestock industry and has a standing Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) to advise it on rangeland issues. CAL FIRE, RMAC and the Board recognize that carefully controlled grazing can be done in a manner that protects and in some cases enhances biological resources.

### **c) Proposed Enhancement vs. Current Management**

We expect the following differences in management at the Cow Creek Planning Unit to occur as a result of the proposed enhancements if this Planning Unit is added to the Demonstration State Forest System:

- Sustainable forestry program: Forest growth and timber production should increase with management of the recently created plantation and potential additional stand rehabilitation. Timber harvest will be similar to historical harvest levels, though may increase over time with improved timber growth. Fuels management will likely be more aggressive than current practices.
- Recreation will be maintained or slightly enhanced in the near term through better management of unauthorized vehicle access. Educational values will increase as a result of the Planning Unit's use for applied research and demonstration; potential additional trail signage; and possible use for local education tours. If recreation use increases, additional improvements will be implemented to maintain recreational quality and other beneficial public values.
- Ecosystem monitoring and adaptation enhancements will result in more and detailed data on forest, woodland and other vegetation resources than likely exists now as a result of comprehensive inventory and monitoring conducted for the Management Plan. This data will also be incorporated into CAL FIRE's forest resources information system.
- Habitat and restoration enhancements will result in more comprehensive information on wildlife and biological resources than currently exists as a result of surveys done for the Management Plan and research. This information will then be used for additional protection, enhancements and restoration, if needed.
- Our historical and cultural enhancements will provide additional information on archaeological and cultural sites for these lands. We will survey and document archaeological resources, as required by law and Governor's Executive Order, and will compile information on cultural sites. We will incorporate this information into our Management Plan for Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites. This will, in turn, enhance opportunities for education and preservation.
- Finally, our ownership of these parcels will create a research and demonstration program where one has not existed before.

#### **d) Proposed Management Impacts on Public Use and Existing Economic Uses**

CAL FIRE's proposed management of the Cow Creek Planning Unit as a Demonstration State Forest will enhance public use and sustain existing economic uses. The Demonstration State Forest mission, which supports research, demonstration and recreation, provides a more significant basis for public use than current management. Over time, we believe that there will be slightly more public utilization of the area for research and demonstration. Current recreational opportunities will be maintained or enhanced, if needed. CAL FIRE patrol of the area will address illegal OHV use.

Demonstration State Forest operation will continue sustainable forest management and grazing use as activities that support the local economy. Harvesting also generates timber yield tax payments to counties. CAL FIRE also pays property taxes at rates equivalent to other private forest landowners.

#### **e) Timeline for Enhanced Management Costs**

Enhanced management costs will start immediately upon acquisition with the need to conduct resource surveys, develop a management plan and a long term sustained yield plan (Option A), and develop the required CEQA document for the Management Plan (typically a mitigated negative declaration). The completed Management Plan will help to identify the suite of management actions that are required over time. In Cow Creek, more intensive recreation and access improvements to the property will be implemented if warranted by significant increases in recreation or educational use. These would be implemented as funds become available through revenue generation on the property or on other properties within the Demonstration State Forest system.

During the first year of ownership, CAL FIRE would rely on its deep pool of existing resources, including professional staff, law enforcement officers, heavy fire equipment, and conservation camp inmate labor, to minimize costs of ownership.

#### **f) Proposed Enhancement Activities and Best Management Practices**

The primary mission of the Demonstration State Forest is to investigate and demonstrate the implementation of enhanced forest management techniques and best forestry management practices. The establishment of a Demonstration State Forest in the Cow Creek Planning Unit will contribute to the body of information and research on best forest and range management practices and to education of other land owners.

The actual management of a Demonstration State Forest and the conduct of forest management will be under the charge of a Registered Professional Forester. CAL FIRE baseline and enhancement activities will meet or exceed applicable Forest Practice Rule standards for forest management. CEQA compliance at the forest management plan and project levels will further help to ensure that best management practices will be applied.

To ensure proper grazing lease management, CAL FIRE will consult with local experts, as needed, on best management practices for protecting water courses, riparian areas, rangeland vegetation and fisheries and wildlife habitat.

## **Lake Spaulding**

### **a) Proposed Activities: Baseline and Enhanced Management**

CAL FIRE's proposed land management activities on the Lake Spaulding watershed lands would focus on sustainable forestry, research, habitat maintenance and restoration, cultural resources protection and recreation. A first step in the management of the property would be the appointment of existing CAL FIRE staff to maintain and manage the property in the near term, and eventually the establishment of a new forest management structure and staff. These staff foresters would be responsible for patrol, safety, vegetation management and planning, and management and coordination of other activities on the Forest. Given the uncertainty over what, if any, acreage would be donated, we have tentatively assumed that the forest manager would be a part-time position. We anticipate this position would be incorporated with existing CAL FIRE forestry staff headquartered at existing CAL FIRE facilities in Auburn, Grass Valley or Colfax. This would result in significant savings on office rent, supplies and equipment.

The enhanced management activities described below represent a look-ahead for the near- and medium-term future. It is not possible to anticipate all future research and demonstration projects. We do however, plan to have a research, demonstration or educational purpose to all our management activities.

Generally baseline management would consist of road maintenance, patrol and recreation management, trash removal, property tax payments, law enforcement and fire protection. Categories of enhanced management activities would include items 1 through 7 below. For all these activities, the frequency of activities would be continuous. Duration of activities would be permanent.

1. Establishment of a Demonstration State Forest that would encompass all the donated lands. We envision this Demonstration State Forest as a Northern California destination for monitoring, adaptive management, research, and demonstration on best management practices to support privately owned forestry enterprises that are both ecologically and financially sustainable. If we become a donee, we plan to dedicate staff to manage the Forest, commensurate with the size and location of the tract.

2. Development of the following:

a) A comprehensive, sustainable multi-resource management plan which is consistent with the BPVs identified by the Stewardship Council. This is a critical step in implementing and maintaining a Demonstration State Forest. The management plan would include all resources, including but not limited to forest, flora and fauna, habitat, water quality and watershed function, recreation, and cultural resources. Key infrastructure elements such as road construction, maintenance, and decommissioning are also addressed in our Forest management plans.

b) A long-term sustained yield plan prepared in conformance with the requirements of 14 CCR 933.11(a) ("Option A") of the Forest Practice regulations. The Option A plan would

establish a sustainable annual harvest level that is in harmony with management plan objectives relative to water quality, watershed protection, wildlife, cultural resource, recreation, research and other goals and objectives. Management would be coordinated with neighboring lands using a landscape approach, including FERC and other lands retained by PG&E, federal and private lands.

There is substantial opportunity for public input into the development of Demonstration State Forest management plans and Option A plans, through requests to the public for comments, public meetings, CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's management plan review and approval process, and the associated CEQA process.

3. Development of a sustainable forestry program of research, demonstration and implementation of best management practices focused on:

a. Watershed protection through appropriate resource management practices and fuels reduction. An important part of such a program will be an active fuels and fire hazard reduction and vegetation management program. Fire plays an important ecological role in California mixed conifer forests. Large, intense wildfires however, often have a negative effect on water quality and beneficial uses as a result of increased erosion and sedimentation, and increased runoff and peak flows.

b. Application of silvicultural methods that maintain or increase landscape biodiversity and inventories of trees, biomass and timber over time. This includes the full range of silvicultural methods, from techniques aimed at creating canopy gaps and openings large enough to achieve regeneration of shade intolerant species like pine, to techniques that are aimed at maintaining a variety of stand conditions including a large component of younger and older stands in a closed canopy condition.

c. Commitment to a management objective to create a diversity of forest stand structural conditions across the landscape, ranging from early seral to late seral forest conditions. The objective would be to mimic the variety of conditions one can expect to encounter in a natural forest, create viable conditions for a range of research projects and provide flexibility for evaluating new management strategies to address climate change. A variety of forest stand conditions also maintains the largest possible suite of flora and fauna.

d. Promotion of opportunities to address climate change research needs and addressing mitigation and adaptation through management, research and demonstration. The availability of multiple Demonstration State Forests along diverse spatial and elevation gradients in the Sierra Nevada and elsewhere in the State strengthens the value of the Demonstration State Forests for these purposes. CAL FIRE has developed a Demonstration State Forest system-wide research strategy on climate change and other key factors affecting forest sustainability.

CAL FIRE defines sustainable forestry here as a suite of management practices that are consistent with the Stewardship Council definition of sustainable forestry, comply with

all statutory requirements (e.g. the California Forest Practices Act and Forest Practice Rules, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, etc.) and adhere to Demonstration State Forest guidelines for forest management.

The Council defines sustainable forestry as: "the practice of managing dynamic forest ecosystems to provide ecological, economic, social, and cultural benefits for present and future generations." The California Forest Practice Act (Public Resources Code § 4511 et seq.) was established to "ensure high quality timber products while considering recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, fisheries, regional economic vitality, employment and aesthetic enjoyment" (PRC § 4513(b)). The Forest Practice Rules (14 California Code of Regulations § 895.1 et seq.), which implement the Act, regulate forest harvest to ensure that it does not exceed forest growth and that it provides watercourse and lake protection, fire hazard reduction and fire protection, wildlife protection, and archaeology and historic resource protection. Public Resources Code section 4645 requires that when Demonstration State Forests manage for forest products, they consider recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, range and forage, watershed, wildlife, and fisheries values.

CAL FIRE has a wide range of existing research partners to bring to bear on any PG&E watershed lands we may receive, based on our extensive experience with our other Demonstration State Forests: 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.

4. Development of a program of ecosystem monitoring and adaptive management. An important part of this program will be a forest-wide, multi-resource monitoring inventory system, consisting in part of a grid of permanently monumented plots that will be periodically remeasured. This system will include cultural, floral and faunal surveys. Objective measurements of forest development over time under different management regimes will provide information about which management regimes are most sustainable and robust against a wide range of possible future climate and fire scenarios.

5. Commitment to habitat protection and restoration in the context of a working forest landscape. These 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 where needed. Examples of such management practices include density control, retention of structural habitat features such as snags and downed woody debris, and fuels management to reduce habitat loss and the likelihood of adverse impacts to sensitive species. The development of information and guidance to address trade-offs between reduction of fuel loads for fire resiliency and maintenance of habitat structural elements for wildlife habitat will be a key area for research and demonstration of best management practices.

6. Support of recreation and education. These activities would take advantage of the features of a working forest to demonstrate the effects of different types of management

on forest structure and function. Activities could take the form of science camps, tours and hikes, displays and self-guided trails. We will evaluate the feasibility of constructing a rustic campground facility in an appropriate location.

7. Development of a program to protect and, where appropriate, demonstrate historical and current cultural resources. Given the significant extent of cultural resources, traditional cultural resource use, and tribal interest in these planning units, CAL FIRE would reach out to and collaborate with local tribes on the management of these resources. CAL FIRE already has a department-wide cultural resources management plan that spells out detailed measures for protection of cultural resources, which applies to all the Demonstration State Forests. These lands, 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.

#### **b) Enhancement Contributions to Management Objectives**

The Land Conservation Plan Volume II identifies six management objectives and related recommended measures for the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit (Table YB-2), corresponding to the six overall Beneficial Public Values identified by the Stewardship Council.

The Land Conservation Plan recommended concept for the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit is to focus management on preserving and enhancing biological and cultural resources, enhancing public access, recreation opportunities and sustainable forestry, and evaluating the potential for enhanced grazing opportunities.

#### **Preserve and Enhance Biological Resources:**

CAL FIRE conducted a California Natural Diversity database search for the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit and lands immediately adjacent. Sensitive wildlife species noted include the California Spotted Owl, American marten, and sensitive amphibians such as Foothill Yellow-legged Frog. Additional survey work will likely be needed to facilitate effective wildlife and habitat management plan development and implementation. CAL FIRE has developed management plans for each of the units within its Demonstration State Forest system. Including this property as part of the CAL FIRE Demonstration State Forest system would provide an opportunity to specifically address or contribute to our base of knowledge on the effects of forest fragmentation on wildlife movement as a demonstration theme. In addition, forest connectivity would be promoted through coordinated protection of lands adjacent to USFS California Spotted Owl Protected Activity Centers (PACs) as part of the State Forest management plan to be developed. Noxious weed extent and management and recreational impacts as well as other wildlife and habitat management needs and issues are recognized and would be addressed as part of a State Forest management plan. A management plan typically developed for a unit within the State Demonstration Forest System would include measures to identify, implement and monitor fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects and habitat restoration opportunities. Close coordination with other federal and

state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and lessees with an interest in this region is also recognized as key to successful management plan development and implementation.

CAL FIRE conducts surveys for biological resources on its Demonstration State Forest lands as a part of Forest management plan development and during the planning and design of individual management, maintenance, research, recreation, timber harvest and other types of projects. CAL FIRE typically utilizes a project-specific scoping process to identify those special status species likely to occur in the affected environment of a project area and the potential habitat impact from the activity either individually or cumulatively. Sources of information that are typically consulted to predict species occurrence and contribute to the planning process include CNDDB (<http://dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/>) for known species occurrence, the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System (<http://dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cwhr/>), and previous surveys associated with other projects that have been done in the watershed. This information will be used to develop forest- and project-level measures to protect and enhance biological resources.

Unique biological features of the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit that would make it a valuable addition to the Demonstration State Forest System include research addressing the use of river riparian corridors as migratory/movement corridors for various wildlife species. Additionally, a variety of demonstration opportunities related to sustainable grazing practices could be a central ecological restoration theme for a Demonstration State Forest property at Lake Spaulding.

#### **Preserve and Enhance Cultural Resources:**

Enhanced management category 7 above directly addresses this objective. A CAL FIRE archaeologist has reviewed available cultural and historic resource information for the Lake Spaulding parcels of interest to CAL FIRE. Material reviewed included archaeological information on file at the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) and the North Central Information Center office in Sacramento. The Records Checks for the subject parcels consisted of a review of USGS quadrangles that depict past archaeological survey coverage and the locations of recorded archaeological sites within the subject Planning Unit parcels. Copies of the numerous survey reports and archaeological site records were not made as no parcels have changed ownership.

The Lake Spaulding Planning Unit has 69 recorded historic and prehistoric archaeological sites. It is estimated that approximately 80 percent of the Planning Unit has been previously surveyed. Several individual parcels shown on Planning Unit Maps 1, 4 and 5 are shown at the Information Center as unsurveyed yet contain multiple recorded archaeological sites. It is possible that archaeological surveys have actually been performed on these parcels but survey reports have not been submitted. In the event that CAL FIRE is a successful donee, we will prioritize clarifying these records.

CAL FIRE is committed to the identification, management and protection of cultural resources on the properties that it manages. Public Resources Code Section 5024



requires state agencies to inventory archaeological resources under their jurisdiction and develop policies to preserve and maintain them. Governor Executive Order W-26-92 required State agencies to prepare inventories and develop management plans for cultural and historical properties under their ownership and control.

Interpretation of cultural resources is a part of CAL FIRE's research and demonstration mission, and also fits with its recreation role. CAL FIRE's overall commitment to cultural resources is demonstrated by the comprehensive cultural and historic resource management plan for all CAL FIRE properties that was completed in 2001. CAL FIRE has a staff of six professional archeologists, who dedicate a portion of their time to the Demonstration State Forests. Cultural resources will be researched, identified, and addressed as a part of our management plan development process. Cultural resources are further surveyed and addressed at the project level. CEQA provides review opportunities at Plan and project level. CAL FIRE's archaeology staff has established relationships with a number of Native American entities. For example, at the Sunset Point prehistoric site at Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest where CAL FIRE conducted an excavation and developed an interpretive trail, the local tribe contributed the interpretation and signage.

CAL FIRE cultural resource enhancements to the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit will include creating a confidential cultural resource data base. This data base will include information regarding prehistoric and historic archaeological sites (e.g. bedrock mortars, petroglyphs, mining camps) and Native American cultural sites (e.g. religious, power, basketry material collection sites). Archaeological survey and site information will be compiled from the PG&E archaeological staff, the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) Information Centers, archaeologists from adjacent federal land agencies and the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA). Cultural site information will be compiled from the PG&E archaeological staff who have commissioned such studies of adjacent PG&E parcels for FERC relicensing projects, a query of the Sacred Lands Files maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and through formal consultation with local groups listed on the CAL FIRE/NAHC Native American contact list.

The assembled data base for each parcel would be routinely consulted for every project that involves ground-disturbing activities. We will collaborate with the tribes and support traditional tribal activities on all lands we may receive.

### **Sustainable Forestry:**

Enhanced management categories 1, 2, 3 and 4 above directly address this objective and recommended concept. CAL FIRE has a long history of Demonstration State Forest management, research and restoration projects that contribute to and promote sustainable forests, protect and enhance habitat and address fuel loads. We would continue this pattern on the Lake Spaulding watershed lands.

CAL FIRE will develop a Forest management plan and Option A plan for the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit that maintains a diversity of natural stand conditions for long-

term ecological, economic, social, and cultural benefits. The first step in the planning process would be to install a new forest resources inventory on the Forest, either using CAL FIRE foresters or by contracting out the work, in order to obtain accurate current information about resource conditions. This inventory would also be the first installation of an ongoing resource monitoring program. Forest conditions will be evaluated over time using the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System (California Department of Fish and Game, 1992). Forest structural elements such as multi-canopy stands, snags, down woody debris, and hardwood stand components will be identified for management and protection. The management plan will provide quantitative goals for these stand structure elements.

The Option A plan is a strategic plan that guides forest management to ensure that harvest methods and harvest levels are sustainable in perpetuity without degrading the productive capacity of the forest ecosystem. Maintaining or increasing total biomass volume over time is arguably an important element of sustainable forest management. All of our existing Demonstration State Forests are managed to maintain or increase timber volumes over time, and we would manage the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit in the same fashion.

Our emphasis on using a variety of silvicultural methods in order to obtain a broad range of structural conditions, ranging from early to late seral, maintains a resilient forest that can adapt to changing conditions over time.

CAL FIRE has established a goal of attaining third-party sustainable forest management certification for all of its Demonstration State Forests and would extend this goal to any fee title lands we may receive in the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit.

Fire protection and fuels management in fire prone areas is an important component of sustainable forestry and of Demonstration State Forest management plans. CAL FIRE is already engaged in many fuels management and fire hazard reduction projects in the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit, with local, State and federal partners.

Silviculture in the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit would include supplementing the existing reforestation efforts on the site of the 2001 Gap Fire, and maintaining the health and diversity of tree species in existing sub-alpine stands in this area.

If CAL FIRE received the abandoned construction camp facilities (“Camp 19”) in parcel 797, we would investigate the feasibility of restoring the buildings to a habitable condition. The intent would be to develop a facility that could provide accommodations for researchers and graduate students while doing field work, and a location for having meetings and educational events. The facility could also serve as a meeting place and educational facility for school field trips.

### **Enhance Recreation Opportunities and Public Access:**

Enhanced management category 5 above directly addresses this objective and recommended concept. Public access is a universal priority on all the Demonstration

State Forests, and is only restricted for safety or environmental reasons. CAL FIRE has substantial experience in managing recreation opportunities across property boundaries, and will work with the Forest Service, PG&E and other landowners to achieve public access to the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit. The San Joaquin County Office of Education has offered to serve as a conservation partner assisting CAL FIRE in developing the outdoor recreation portion of the management plan for any PG&E watershed lands we may receive.

CAL FIRE could facilitate an informal winter recreation area in the Six Mile Valley, for interested parties from the Auburn Ski Club, Eagle Mountain Conservancy or other organizations. Possible programs could include a sledding area, cross-country ski trails and an elementary school introductory cross-country skiing program. Given its easy access from the Yuba Gap exit off I-80 and the Sacramento area and surrounding foothill communities, the Six Mile Valley and the site of the old Eagle Mountain cross-country ski area would provide an ideal setting for this program.

We are also pursuing opportunities for cooperative efforts with the Nevada County Land Trust. We would work cooperatively with neighboring landowners and the Nevada County Land Trust to maintain and expand trail systems in the Planning Unit.

CAL FIRE would continue the open access and rustic recreation model of the existing Demonstration State Forest, consisting of easy access, well maintained roads and plenty of parking opportunities for access to trail heads, scenic vista points and other destinations. CAL FIRE restricts OHV use on its Demonstration State Forests to public roads. We would similarly manage OHV use on the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit. CAL FIRE is committed to using its existing deep pool of available resources (funding and staff) to maintain, improve, and expand recreation opportunities on the Demonstration State Forests.

CAL FIRE addresses unauthorized uses through its planning, management, and law enforcement staff. Physical measures such as locked gates on roads, signage, staff presence, information from members of the public, and law enforcement actions are all used to control unauthorized uses, and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for law-abiding recreationists.

We recognize the importance of public input and participation on recreation matters. On Jackson Demonstration State Forest we have a standing Recreation Task Force which meets monthly and provides input on recreation management on the Forest. On Soquel Demonstration State Forest, we work closely with the members of the nonprofit Stewards of Soquel Forest. The Friends of Boggs Mountain similarly work with staff on the Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest to identify recreation priorities and implement projects such as trail building and maintenance. We would support similar recreation and general public interest groups interacting with us in the management of the Lake Spaulding lands.

### **Evaluate the Potential for Enhanced Grazing Opportunities:**

CAL FIRE would explore the opportunities for grazing use on any Lake Spaulding parcels that we may receive. CAL FIRE and the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection have a long history of working with the range community on vegetation management, research, monitoring and restoration of rangelands and oak woodlands. The Board has a dedicated seat for a representative of the range-livestock industry and the Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) to advise it on rangeland issues. CAL FIRE, RMAC and the Board recognize that carefully controlled grazing can be done in a manner that protects and in some cases enhances biological resources, provides an economic basis for landownership, and provides open space values.

### **c) Proposed Enhancement Versus Current Management**

We estimate that our proposed sustainable forestry program for the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit would result in harvest levels slightly lower than PG&E's historical harvest levels. On the other hand, given our goal of creating a wide range of forest structures for adaptive management and research, ranging from early to late seral conditions, our silvicultural techniques would probably be more diverse than those of PG&E's historical management.

We expect that public access and recreation opportunities would be enhanced if the Planning Unit is managed as a CAL FIRE Demonstration State Forest. CAL FIRE has its own dedicated law enforcement and fire protection staff that it brings to bear on patrol of the Demonstration State Forests. CAL FIRE peace officers would increase the law enforcement presence in the Planning Unit.

CAL FIRE would conduct new comprehensive forest resource inventories for the development of our Forest management plan, creating new information and opportunities for enhancements. CAL FIRE would update and expand on PG&E's timber resource inventory data and incorporate it into our comprehensive forest resources information system.

We would also survey and document archaeological resources on the property, as required by law and Governor's Executive Order, and will incorporate this into our update to our management plan for CAL FIRE's Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites. This provides opportunities for education and preservation. Finally, our ownership of these parcels would create a research and demonstration program where one has not existed before. This new Demonstration State Forest would become a part of, and enhance, a State-wide network of monitoring facilities with the existing Demonstration State Forests.

### **d) Proposed Management Impacts on Public Use**

CAL FIRE's proposed management of the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit as a Demonstration State Forest would enhance public use and sustain existing economic uses. The Demonstration State Forest mission for research and demonstration while supporting recreation as a secondary use would provide a more significant basis for public use than current management.

Over time, we believe that there will be increased public utilization of the area, for example through field tours to see sustainable forest management demonstration projects. Current recreational opportunities will be maintained or enhanced. We would plan to expand all-season recreation opportunities in cooperation with potential land conservation partners. We expect that increased patrol will reduce illegal OHV use.

Demonstration State Forest operation will continue sustainable forest management as an activity that supports the local economy. Research and demonstration projects will bring additional activity to the area, resulting in expenditures in hotels, restaurants, gas stations, hardware stores, etc. By statutory direction, CAL FIRE pays an equivalent level of property taxes as would a private landowner. Harvesting timber also generates timber yield tax payments to counties.

#### **e) Timeline for Enhanced Management Costs**

Some enhanced management costs would start immediately upon acquisition with the need to conduct resource inventories, develop a management plan, and develop the required CEQA document for the management plan (typically a mitigated negative declaration). The completed management plan would help to identify the suite of management actions that are required over time.

We would plan to minimize the cost of most of these immediate enhanced management costs by using our own resources and staff. CAL FIRE's has a well developed "total force" business model, in which a variety of resources and staff from throughout the State are brought to bear on a particular task. This organizational approach has proven successful in handling projects ranging from State Forests resource inventories to wildfires using CAL FIRE staff and equipment, thereby minimizing out of pocket costs.

During the first year of ownership, CAL FIRE would implement a low intensity custodial management strategy. We would rely on our deep pool of existing resources, including professional staff, law enforcement officers, equipment and conservation camp inmate labor, to minimize costs of ownership. Enhanced management and associated costs would build up in the second year of ownership, as revenues begin to materialize.

#### **f) Proposed Enhancement Activities and Best Management Practices**

The primary mission of the Demonstration State Forests is to investigate and demonstrate the implementation of enhanced forest management techniques and best forestry management practices. The establishment of a Demonstration State Forest in the Lake Spaulding watershed will contribute to the body of information and research on best management practices and to the technology transfer of these techniques to other forest land owners.

The actual management of a Demonstration State Forest on the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit and the conduct of forest management would be under the charge of a Registered Professional Forester. CAL FIRE baseline and enhancement management activities would meet or exceed applicable Forest Practice Rule standards for forest management.

CEQA compliance at the forest management plan and project level will further help to ensure that best management practices would be applied.

## **Bear River**

### **a) Proposed Activities: Baseline and Enhanced Management**

CAL FIRE's proposed land management activities on the Bear River watershed lands would focus on sustainable forestry, research, habitat maintenance and restoration, cultural resources protection and recreation. A first step in the management of the property would be the appointment of existing CAL FIRE staff to maintain and manage the property in the near term, and eventually the establishment of a new forest management structure and staff. These staff foresters would be responsible for patrol, safety, vegetation management and planning, and management and coordination of other activities on the Forest. Given the uncertainty over what, if any, acreage would be donated, we have tentatively assumed that the forest manager would be a part-time position. We anticipate this position would be incorporated with existing CAL FIRE forestry staff headquartered at existing CAL FIRE facilities in Auburn, Grass Valley or Colfax. This would result in significant savings on office rent, supplies and equipment.

The enhanced management activities described below represent a look-ahead for the near- and medium-term future. It is not possible to anticipate all future research and demonstration projects. We do however, plan to have a research, demonstration or educational purpose to all our management activities.

Generally baseline management would consist of road maintenance, patrol and recreation management, trash removal, property tax payments, law enforcement and fire protection. Categories of enhanced management activities would include items 1 through 7 below. For all these activities, the frequency of activities would be continuous. Duration of activities would be permanent.

1. Establishment of a Demonstration State Forest that would encompass all the donated lands. We envision this Demonstration State Forest as a Northern California destination for monitoring, adaptive management, research, and demonstration on best management practices to support privately owned forestry enterprises that are both ecologically and financially sustainable. If we become a donee, we plan to dedicate staff to manage the Forest, commensurate with the size and location of the tract.

2. Development of:

a) A comprehensive, sustainable multi-resource management plan which is consistent with the BPVs identified by the Stewardship Council. This is a critical step in implementing and maintaining a Demonstration State Forest. The management plan would include all resources, including but not limited to forest, flora and fauna, habitat, water quality and watershed function, recreation, and cultural resources. Key infrastructure elements such as road construction, maintenance, and decommissioning are also addressed in our Forest management plans.

b) A long-term sustained yield plan prepared in conformance with the requirements of 14 CCR 933.11(a) (“Option A”) of the Forest Practice regulations. The Option A plan would establish a sustainable annual harvest level that is in harmony with management plan objectives relative to water quality, watershed protection, wildlife, cultural resource, recreation, research and other goals and objectives. Management would be coordinated with neighboring lands using a landscape approach, including FERC and other lands retained by PG&E, federal and private lands.

There is substantial opportunity for public input into the development of Demonstration State Forest management plans and Option A plans, through requests to the public for comments, public meetings, CAL FIRE’s Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection’s management plan review and approval process, and the associated CEQA process.

3. Development of a sustainable forestry program of research, demonstration and implementation of best management practices focused on:

a. Watershed protection through appropriate resource management practices and fuels reduction. An important part of such a program will be an active fuels and fire hazard reduction and vegetation management program. Fire plays an important ecological role in California mixed conifer forests. Large, intense wildfires however, often have a negative effect on water quality and beneficial uses as a result of increased erosion and sedimentation, and increased runoff and peak flows.

b. Application of silvicultural methods that maintain or increase landscape biodiversity and inventories of trees, biomass and timber over time. This includes the full range of silvicultural methods, from techniques aimed at creating canopy gaps and openings large enough to achieve regeneration of shade intolerant species like pine, to techniques that are aimed at maintaining a variety of stand conditions including a large component of younger and older stands in a closed canopy condition.

c. Commitment to a management objective to create a diversity of forest stand structural conditions across the landscape, ranging from early seral to late seral forest conditions. The objective would be to mimic the variety of conditions one can expect to encounter in a natural forest, create viable conditions for a range of research projects and provide flexibility for evaluating new management strategies to address climate change. A variety of forest stand conditions also maintains the largest possible suite of flora and fauna.

d. Promotion of opportunities to address climate change research needs and addressing mitigation and adaptation through management, research and demonstration. The availability of multiple Demonstration State Forests along diverse spatial and elevation gradients in the Sierra Nevada and elsewhere in the State strengthens the value of the Demonstration State Forests for these purposes. CAL FIRE has developed a Demonstration State Forest system-wide research strategy on climate change and other key factors affecting forest sustainability.

CAL FIRE defines sustainable forestry here as a suite of management practices that are consistent with the Stewardship Council definition of sustainable forestry, comply with all statutory requirements (e.g. the California Forest Practices Act and Forest Practice Rules, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, etc.) and adhere to Demonstration State Forest guidelines for forest management.

The Council defines sustainable forestry as: "the practice of managing dynamic forest ecosystems to provide ecological, economic, social, and cultural benefits for present and future generations." The California Forest Practice Act (Public Resources Code § 4511 et seq.) was established to "ensure high quality timber products while considering recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, fisheries, regional economic vitality, employment and aesthetic enjoyment" (PRC § 4513(b)). The Forest Practice Rules (14 California Code of Regulations § 895.1 et seq.), which implement the Act, regulate forest harvest to ensure that it does not exceed forest growth and that it provides watercourse and lake protection, fire hazard reduction and fire protection, wildlife protection, and archaeology and historic resource protection. Public Resources Code section 4645 requires that when Demonstration State Forests manage for forest products, they consider recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, range and forage, watershed, wildlife, and fisheries values.

CAL FIRE has a wide range of existing research partners to bring to bear on any PG&E watershed lands we may receive, based on our extensive experience with our other Demonstration State Forests: 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.

4. Development of a program of ecosystem monitoring and adaptive management. An important part of this program will be a forest-wide, multi-resource monitoring inventory system, consisting in part of a grid of permanently monumented plots that will be periodically remeasured. This system will include cultural, floral and faunal surveys. Objective measurements of forest development over time under different management regimes will provide information about which management regimes are most sustainable and robust against a wide range of possible future climate and fire scenarios.

5. Commitment to habitat protection and restoration in the context of a working forest landscape. These 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 where needed. Examples of such management practices include density control, retention of structural habitat features such as snags and downed woody debris, and fuels management to reduce habitat loss and the likelihood of adverse impacts to sensitive species. The development of information and guidance to address trade-offs between reduction of fuel loads for fire resiliency and maintenance of habitat structural elements for wildlife habitat will be a key area for research and demonstration of best management practices.



6. Support of recreation and education. These activities would take advantage of the features of a working forest to demonstrate the effects of different types of management on forest structure and function. Activities could take the form of science camps, tours and hikes, displays and self-guided trails. We will evaluate the feasibility of constructing a rustic campground facility in an appropriate location.

7. Development of a program to protect and, where appropriate, demonstrate historical and current cultural resources. Given the significant extent of cultural resources, traditional cultural resource use, and tribal interest in these planning units, CAL FIRE would reach out to and collaborate with local tribes on the management of these resources. CAL FIRE already has a department-wide cultural resources management plan that spells out detailed measures for protection of cultural resources, which applies to all the Demonstration State Forests. These lands, 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.

#### **b) Enhancement Contributions to Management Objectives**

The Land Conservation Plan Volume II identifies six management objectives and related recommended measures for the Bear River Planning Unit (Table YB-3), corresponding to the six overall Beneficial Public Values identified by the Stewardship Council.

The Land Conservation Plan recommended concept for the Bear River Planning Unit is to focus management on sustainable forestry, biological and cultural resource protection, public access and recreation.

#### **Sustainable Forestry:**

Enhanced management categories 1, 2, 3 and 4 above directly address this objective and recommended concept. CAL FIRE has a long history of Demonstration State Forest management, research and restoration projects that contribute to and promote sustainable forests, protect and enhance habitat and address fuel loads. We would continue this pattern on the Bear River watershed lands.

CAL FIRE will develop a Forest management plan and Option A plan for the Bear River Planning Unit that maintains a diversity of natural stand conditions for long-term ecological, economic, social, and cultural benefits. The first step in the planning process would be to install a new forest resources inventory on the Forest, either using CAL FIRE foresters or by contracting out the work, in order to obtain accurate current information about resource conditions. This inventory would also be the first installation of an ongoing resource monitoring program. Forest conditions will be evaluated over time using the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System (California Department of Fish and Game, 1992). Forest structural elements such as multi-canopy stands, snags, down woody debris, and hardwood stand components will be identified for management

and protection. The management plan will provide quantitative goals for these stand structure elements.

The Option A plan is a strategic plan that guides forest management to ensure that harvest methods and harvest levels are sustainable in perpetuity without degrading the productive capacity of the forest ecosystem. Maintaining or increasing total biomass volume over time is arguably an important element of sustainable forest management. All of our existing Demonstration State Forests are managed to maintain or increase timber volumes over time, and we would manage the Bear River Planning Unit in the same fashion.

Our emphasis on using a variety of silvicultural methods in order to obtain a broad range of structural conditions, ranging from early to late seral, is intended to maintain a resilient forest that can adapt to changing conditions over time.

CAL FIRE has established a goal of attaining third-party sustainable forest management certification for all of its Demonstration State Forests and would extend this goal to the Bear River Planning Unit.

Fire protection and fuels management in fire prone areas is an important component of sustainable forestry and of Demonstration State Forest management plans. CAL FIRE is already engaged in many fuels management and fire hazard reduction projects in the Bear River Planning Unit, with local, State and federal partners.

Silviculture in the Bear River Planning Unit would include a focus on maintaining the health and diversity of tree species in this area. Another silvicultural emphasis would be to prioritize the regeneration of new generations of trees in the understory, with an emphasis on openings large enough to regenerate pine. Pine is an important component of natural stands in this area, but it does not regenerate well under the shade of closed canopy over story trees. A combination of fire exclusion and closed canopy stands have combined to make pine regeneration a challenge in this area.

#### **Biological Resources Protection:**

CAL FIRE conducted a California Natural Diversity database search for the Bear River Planning Unit and lands immediately adjacent. Sensitive wildlife species noted include the California Spotted Owl, American marten, and sensitive amphibians such as Foothill Yellow-legged Frog. Additional survey work is needed to facilitate effective wildlife and habitat management plan development and implementation.

Including this property as part of the CAL FIRE Demonstration State Forest system would provide an opportunity to specifically address or contribute to the developing science of meadow and riparian restoration as a demonstration theme. In addition, forest connectivity would be promoted through coordinated protection of lands adjacent to USDA Forest Service California Spotted Owl Protected Activity Centers (PACs) as part of the State Forest management plan to be developed. Noxious weed extent and management and lodgepole encroachment on meadow areas as well as well as other

wildlife and habitat management needs and issues are recognized and would be addressed as part of a State Forest management plan. A management plan typically developed for a unit within the Demonstration State Forest System would include measures to identify, implement and monitor fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects and habitat restoration opportunities. Close coordination with other federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and lessees with an interest in this region is also recognized as key to successful management plan development and implementation.

CAL FIRE conducts surveys for biological resources on its Demonstration State Forest lands as a part of Forest management plan development and during the planning and design of individual management, maintenance, research, recreation, timber harvest and other types of projects. CAL FIRE typically utilizes a project-specific scoping process to identify those special status species likely to occur in the affected environment of a project area and the potential habitat impact from the activity either individually or cumulatively. Sources of information that are typically consulted to predict species occurrence and contribute to the planning process include CNDDDB (<http://dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/>) for known species occurrence, the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System (<http://dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cwhr/>), and previous surveys associated with other projects that have been done in the watershed. This information will be used to develop forest- and project-level measures to protect and enhance biological resources.

Unique biological features of the Bear River Planning Unit that would make it a valuable addition to the Demonstration State Forest System include research addressing the use of river riparian corridors as migratory/movement corridors for various wildlife species, including the Bear Valley meadow and riparian restoration efforts. Lodgepole encroachment is also a widespread issue across much of the southern Cascades and Sierra Nevada. Developing measures to reduce and control lodgepole encroachment that are both effective and cost efficient could be an important ecological restoration theme for a Demonstration State Forest property in this area.

#### **Cultural Resources Protection:**

Enhanced management category 7 above directly addresses this objective. A CAL FIRE archaeologist has reviewed available cultural and historic resource information for the Bear River parcels of interest to CAL FIRE. Material reviewed included archaeological information on file at the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) and the North Central Information Center office in Sacramento. The Records Checks for the subject parcels consisted of a review of USGS quadrangles that depict past archaeological survey coverage and the locations of recorded archaeological sites within the subject Planning Unit parcels. Copies of the numerous survey reports and archaeological site records were not requested as no parcels have changed ownership.

The Bear River Planning Unit has 59 recorded historic and prehistoric archaeological sites. It is estimated that approximately 70 percent of the Planning Unit has been previously surveyed. Many areas considered to have a high likelihood for containing

archaeological sites (proximity to water resources and/or forest openings) have not yet been surveyed for archaeological resources.

CAL FIRE is committed to the identification, management and protection of cultural resources on the properties that it manages. Public Resources Code Section 5024 requires state agencies to inventory archaeological resources under their jurisdiction and develop policies to preserve and maintain them. Governor Executive Order W-26-92 required State agencies to prepare inventories and develop management plans for cultural and historical properties under their ownership and control.

Interpretation of cultural resources is a part of CAL FIRE's research and demonstration mission, and also fits with its recreation role. CAL FIRE's overall commitment to cultural resources is demonstrated by the comprehensive cultural and historic resource management plan for all CAL FIRE properties that was completed in 2001. CAL FIRE has a staff of six professional archeologists, who dedicate a portion of their time to the Demonstration State Forests. Cultural resources will be researched, identified, and addressed as a part of our management plan development process. Cultural resources are further surveyed and addressed at the project level. CEQA provides review opportunities at Plan and project level. CAL FIRE's archaeology staff has established relationships with a number of Native American entities. For example, at the Sunset Point prehistoric site at Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest where CAL FIRE conducted an excavation and developed an interpretive trail, the local tribe contributed the interpretation and signage.

CAL FIRE cultural resource enhancements to the Bear River Planning Unit will include creating a confidential cultural resource data base. This data base will include information regarding prehistoric and historic archaeological sites (e.g. bedrock mortars, petroglyphs, mining camps) and Native American cultural sites (e.g. religious, power, basketry material collection sites). Archaeological survey and site information will be compiled from the PG&E archaeological staff, the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) Information Centers, archaeologists from adjacent federal land agencies and the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA). Cultural site information will be compiled from the PG&E archaeological staff who have commissioned such studies of adjacent PG&E parcels for FERC relicensing projects, a query of the Sacred Lands Files maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and through formal consultation with local groups listed on the CAL FIRE/NAHC Native American contact list.

The assembled data base for each parcel would be routinely consulted for every project that involves ground-disturbing activities. We will collaborate with the tribes and support traditional tribal activities on all lands we may receive.

#### **Public Access and Recreation:**

Enhanced management category 5 above directly addresses this objective and recommended concept. Public access is a universal priority on all the Demonstration State Forests, and is only restricted for safety or environmental reasons. CAL FIRE has

substantial experience in managing recreation opportunities across property boundaries, and will work with the Forest Service, PG&E and other landowners to enhance public access to the Bear River Planning Unit.

We would continue the open access and rustic recreation model of the existing Demonstration State Forest, consisting of easy access, well maintained roads and plenty of parking opportunities for access to trail heads, scenic vista points and other destinations. CAL FIRE restricts OHV use on its Demonstration State Forests to public roads. We would similarly manage OHV use on the Bear River Planning Unit. CAL FIRE is committed to using its existing deep pool of available resources (funding and staff) to maintain, improve, and expand recreation opportunities on the Demonstration State Forests.

CAL FIRE addresses unauthorized uses through its planning, management, and law enforcement staff. Physical measures such as locked gates on roads, signage, staff presence, information from members of the public, and law enforcement actions are all used to control unauthorized uses, and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for law-abiding recreationists.

We recognize the importance of public input and participation on recreation matters. On Jackson Demonstration State Forest we have a standing Recreation Task Force which meets monthly and provides input on recreation management on the Forest. On Soquel Demonstration State Forest, we work closely with the members of the nonprofit Stewards of Soquel Forest. The Friends of Boggs Mountain similarly work with staff on the Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest to identify recreation priorities and implement projects such as trail building and maintenance. We would support similar recreation and general public interest groups interacting with us in the management of the Bear River lands.

Potential long term strategies for recreation management on the Bear River Planning Unit include

- Working with neighboring landowners and land conservation partners to maintain and enhance existing trails
- Work with the Yuba-Sutter YMCA to enhance the existing Bear Valley Camp lease.
- Explore possibilities for accommodating a dedicated OHV area.

We are pursuing opportunities for cooperative efforts with the Nevada County Land Trust. We would work cooperatively with neighboring landowners and the Nevada County Land Trust to maintain and expand trail systems in the Planning Unit.

### **c) Proposed Enhancement Versus Current Management**

We estimate that our proposed sustainable forestry program for the Bear River Planning Unit would result in harvest levels slightly lower than PG&E's historical harvest levels. On the other hand, given our goal of creating a wide range of forest structures, from early to late seral conditions, for forest health, adaptive management and research, our silvicultural techniques would probably be more diverse than those of PG&E's historical management.

We expect that public access and recreation opportunities would be enhanced if the Planning Unit is managed as a CAL FIRE Demonstration State Forest. CAL FIRE has its own dedicated law enforcement and fire protection staff that it brings to bear on patrol of the Demonstration State Forests. CAL FIRE peace officers would increase the law enforcement presence in the Planning Unit.

We would conduct new comprehensive forest resource inventories for the development of our Forest management plan, creating new information and opportunities for enhancements. CAL FIRE would expand on PG&E's timber resource inventory data and incorporate it into our comprehensive forest resources information system.

We would also survey and document archaeological resources on the property, as required by law and Governor's Executive Order, and will incorporate this information into our update to our management plan for CAL FIRE's Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites. This provides opportunities for education and preservation. Finally, our ownership of these parcels would create a research and demonstration program where one has not existed before. This new Demonstration State Forest would become a part of, and enhance, a State-wide network of monitoring facilities with the existing Demonstration State Forests.

### **d) Proposed Management Impacts on Public Use**

CAL FIRE's proposed management of the Bear River Planning Unit as a Demonstration State Forest would enhance public use and sustain existing economic uses. The Demonstration State Forest mission for research and demonstration while supporting recreation as a secondary use would probably provide a more significant basis for public use than current management.

Over time, we believe that there will be increased public utilization of the area, for example through field tours to see sustainable forest management demonstration projects. Current recreational opportunities will be maintained or enhanced. We would plan to expand all-season recreation opportunities in cooperation with potential land conservation partners. We expect that increased patrol will reduce illegal OHV use.

Demonstration State Forest operation will continue sustainable forest management as an activity that supports the local economy. Research and demonstration projects will bring additional activity to the area, resulting in expenditures in hotels, restaurants, gas stations, hardware stores, etc. By statutory direction, CAL FIRE pays the same property taxes as would a private landowner. Harvesting timber also generates timber yield tax payments to counties.

#### **e) Timeline for Enhanced Management Costs**

Some enhanced management costs would start immediately upon acquisition with the need to conduct resource inventories, develop a management plan, and develop the required CEQA document for the management plan (typically a mitigated negative declaration). The completed management plan would help to identify the suite of management actions that are required over time.

We would plan to minimize the cost of most of these immediate enhanced management costs using our own resources and staff. CAL FIRE's has a well developed "total force" business model, in which a variety of resources and staff from throughout the State are brought to bear on a particular task. This organizational approach has proven successful in handling projects ranging from State Forests resource inventories to wildfires using CAL FIRE staff and equipment, thereby minimizing out of pocket costs.

During the first year of ownership, CAL FIRE would implement a low intensity custodial management strategy. We would rely on our deep pool of existing resources, including professional staff, law enforcement officers, equipment and conservation camp inmate labor, to minimize costs of ownership. Enhanced management and associated costs would build up in the second year of ownership, as revenues begin to materialize.

#### **f) Proposed Enhancement Activities and Best Management Practices**

The primary mission of the Demonstration State Forests is to investigate and demonstrate the implementation of enhanced forest management techniques and best forestry management practices. The establishment of a Demonstration State Forest in the Bear River watershed will contribute to the body of information and research on best management practices and to the technology transfer of these techniques to other forest land owners.

The actual management of a Demonstration State Forest on the Bear River Planning Unit and the conduct of forest management would be under the charge of a Registered Professional Forester. CAL FIRE baseline and enhancement management activities would meet or exceed applicable Forest Practice Rule standards for forest management. CEQA compliance at the forest management plan and project level will further help to ensure that best management practices would be applied.

#### **Lyons Reservoir**

CAL FIRE's proposed land management activities on the Lyons Reservoir watershed lands (the 4 contiguous parcels in Rushing Meadow and constrained parcels adjacent to Lyons Reservoir on the northeast and northwest) would focus on sustainable forestry, research, range management practices to protect watercourses, riparian areas, and water quality, cultural resources protection and recreation. A first step in the management of the property would be the appointment of existing staff from the CAL FIRE Tuolumne Calaveras Unit in San Andreas to maintain and manage the property in the near term, and eventually the establishment of a new forest management structure and staff. If CAL FIRE were to receive land in the Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit, we would consider the

option to combine management for the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit parcels donated in the Round 1 with the Lyons Reservoir property. In addition to cost effectiveness, this could also improve consistency in the protection of BPVs across the watershed lands. Forest management responsibilities would include patrol, safety, vegetation management and planning, grazing lease management, protection of cultural and recreation resources, and partnership projects and coordination activities with other entities on the Forest.

#### **a) Proposed Activities: Baseline and Enhanced Management**

Baseline management activities for the requested parcels in the Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit would consist of road maintenance, patrol, grazing lease management, recreation management, trash removal, enforcement, and payment of property taxes. Categories of enhanced management activities include items 1 through 7 below. For all these activities, the frequency of activities would be continuous. Duration of activities would be permanent.

1. Establish a Demonstration State Forest that would encompass all the donated lands. We envision this as a mid-elevation, southern Sierran location suitable for forest, habitat, watershed and climate research and monitoring; adaptive management; and demonstration of best management practices for privately owned forest lands that are both ecologically and financially sustainable.

2. Development of the following:

a) A comprehensive, sustainable multi-resource management plan which is consistent with the BPVs identified by the Stewardship Council. This is a critical step in implementing and maintaining a Demonstration State Forest. The management plan would include all resources, including but not limited to forest, flora and fauna, habitat, water quality and watershed function, recreation, and cultural resources. Key infrastructure elements such as road construction, maintenance, and decommissioning are also addressed in our Forest management plans.

b) A long-term sustained yield plan prepared in conformance with the requirements of 14 CCR 933.11(a) ("Option A") of the Forest Practice regulations. The Option A plan would establish a sustainable annual harvest level that is in harmony with management plan objectives relative to water quality, watershed protection, wildlife, cultural resource, recreation, research and other goals and objectives. Management would be coordinated with neighboring lands using a landscape approach, including FERC and other lands retained by PG&E, federal and private lands.

There is substantial opportunity for public input into the development of Demonstration State Forest management plans and Option A plans, through requests to the public for comments, public meetings, CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's management plan review and approval process, and the associated CEQA process.



3. Development of a sustainable forestry program of research, demonstration and implementation of best management practices focused on:

a. Watershed protection through proper resource management practices and fuels reduction. An important part of a sustainable forestry program for Lyons Reservoir is the implementation and demonstration of forest and rangeland management practices to maintain forest cover and soil stability, including an active fuels and fire hazard reduction program to reduce wildfire risks and impacts. These practices are critical to protecting forest resources and preventing accelerated rates of erosion, runoff and sedimentation.

b. Application of silvicultural methods that maintain or increase landscape biodiversity and inventories of trees, biomass and timber over time. This includes the full range of silvicultural methods, from techniques aimed at creating canopy gaps and openings large enough to achieve regeneration of shade intolerant species like pine, to techniques that are aimed at maintaining a variety of stand conditions including a large component of younger and older stands in a closed canopy condition.

c. Commitment to a management objective to create a diversity of forest stand structural conditions across the landscape, ranging from early seral to late seral forest conditions. The objective would be to mimic the variety of conditions one can expect to encounter in a natural forest, create viable conditions for a range of research projects and provide flexibility for evaluating new management strategies to address climate change. A variety of forest stand conditions also maintains the largest possible suite of flora and fauna.

d. Promotion of opportunities to address climate change research needs and addressing mitigation and adaptation through management, research and demonstration. The availability of multiple Demonstration State Forests along diverse spatial and elevation gradients in the Sierra Nevada and elsewhere in the State strengthens the value of the Demonstration State Forests for these purposes. CAL FIRE has developed a Demonstration State Forest system-wide research strategy on climate change and other key factors affecting forest sustainability.

CAL FIRE defines sustainable forestry here as a suite of management practices that are consistent with the Stewardship Council definition of sustainable forestry, comply with all statutory requirements (e.g. the California Forest Practices Act and Forest Practice Rules, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, etc.) and adhere to Demonstration State Forest guidelines for forest management.

The Council defines sustainable forestry as: "the practice of managing dynamic forest ecosystems to provide ecological, economic, social, and cultural benefits for present and future generations." The California Forest Practice Act (Public Resources Code § 4511 et seq.) was established to "ensure high quality timber products while considering recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, fisheries, regional economic vitality, employment and aesthetic enjoyment" (PRC § 4513(b)). The Forest Practice Rules (14 California Code of Regulations § 895.1 et seq.), which implement the Act, regulate forest harvest to ensure that it does not exceed forest growth and that it provides watercourse

and lake protection, fire hazard reduction and fire protection, wildlife protection, and archaeology and historic resource protection. Public Resources Code section 4645 requires that when Demonstration State Forests manage for forest products, they consider recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, range and forage, watershed, wildlife, and fisheries values.

CAL FIRE has a wide range of existing research partners to bring to bear on any PG&E watershed lands we may receive, based on our extensive experience with our other Demonstration State Forests: 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.

4. Develop a program of ecosystem monitoring and adaptive management. An important part of this program will be a forest-wide, multi-resource monitoring inventory system, consisting of a grid of permanently monumented plots that will be periodically remeasured. This system will include cultural, floral and faunal surveys for forest and rangeland areas. Objective measurements of forest development over time under different management regimes will provide information about which management regimes are most sustainable and robust against a wide range of possible future climate and fire scenarios.

5. Habitat protection and restoration in the context of a working forest and range landscape. These 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 restorations where needed. Examples of such management practices include density control, retention of structural habitat features such as snags and downed woody debris, meadow maintenance and restoration, prescribed burning for grassland and brush improvement, and fuels management to reduce habitat loss and the likelihood of adverse impacts to sensitive species. The development of information and guidance to address trade-offs between reduction of fuel loads for fire resiliency and maintenance of habitat structural elements for wildlife habitat will be a key area for research and demonstration of best management practices.

6. Recreation and education. Develop a program to ensure that recreation is consistent with other BPVs and contributes where possible to education about natural, cultural and historical resources and about forest management and land stewardship. Activities could take the form of science camps, tours and hikes, displays and self-guided trails.

7. Develop a program to identify and protect historical and cultural resources and to develop educational materials, as appropriate. Public Resources Code Section 5024 requires state agencies to inventory archaeological resources under their jurisdiction and develop policies to preserve and maintain them. Governor Executive Order W-26-92 required State agencies to prepare inventories and develop management plans for cultural and historical properties under their ownership and control. CAL FIRE's department-wide Management Plan for Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites (California

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection 2001) spells out detailed measure for protection of cultural resources. Additional properties would be incorporated into this document. The Demonstration State Forests have extensive experience with protecting cultural resources and providing education opportunities where appropriate. CAL FIRE has a staff of six professional archeologists, who dedicate a portion of their time to the Demonstration State Forests.

#### **b) Enhancement Contributions to Management Objectives**

The Land Conservation Plan Volume II identifies six management objectives and related recommended measures for the Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit (Table SR-3), corresponding to the Beneficial Public Values identified by the Stewardship Council. The overarching objective for Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit is “preserve and enhance biological, cultural and agricultural resources and enhance the recreation experience and sustainable forestry management.” CAL FIRE’s proposed management of the Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit would make significant contributions towards this overall planning unit objective. These contributions are detailed under each of the more specific objectives below.

#### **Preserve and Enhance Habitat in Order to Protect Special Biological Resources:**

Enhanced management category 4 above directly addresses this objective, while categories 3 and 5 (ecosystem monitoring, and recreation and education) will also contribute. Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit would make a valuable addition to the Demonstration State Forest System because it offers a number of opportunities for research, demonstration and restoration of a forest/meadow habitat complex.

As a preliminary scoping measure, CAL FIRE conducted a California Natural Diversity database search for the Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit and lands immediately adjacent. Sensitive wildlife and plant resources include but are not limited to California Spotted Owl, Bald Eagle, and sensitive amphibians such as Foothill Yellow-legged Frog. A number of populations of plant species of concern such as *Lomatium stebbensii* and *Alium tribracteatum* occur in the immediate area (both species are found only in California). A California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System (CWHR) query confirmed the potential for habitat of value to special status species including Northern Goshawk, red-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, western pond turtle, Bald Eagle, and Willow Flycatcher, as well as other potential rare plant species. The Land Conservation Plan also identified the potential for great gray owl, and the Department of Fish and Game confirmed that this species has been sighted and is of high interest to them (personal communication, Dan Applebee, 4/29/11). Additional survey work is needed to facilitate effective wildlife and habitat management plan development and implementation.

CAL FIRE develops tailored management plans for each of the units within its Demonstration State Forest system. CAL FIRE will conduct surveys for biological resources as a part of the process to develop a management plan for Lyons Reservoir parcels, and also during the planning and design of individual management, maintenance, research, recreation, timber harvest and other types of projects. CAL FIRE typically

utilizes a project-specific scoping process to identify those special status species likely to occur in the affected environment of a project area and the potential habitat impact from the activity either individually or cumulatively. Sources of information that are typically consulted to predict species occurrence and contribute to the planning process include CNDDDB ( <http://dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/> ) for known species occurrence, the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System (<http://dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cwhr/> ), and previous surveys associated with other projects that have been done in the watershed. This information will be used to develop forest- and project-level measures to protect and enhance biological resources.

The Demonstration State Forest management plan for Lyons will include measures to identify, implement and monitor fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects and habitat restoration opportunities. In addition, existing management practices that could degrade suitable habitat for special status species would be re-examined as part of the planning process. Close coordination with the Department of Fish and Game, the Stanislaus National Forest, other federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and lessees with an interest in this region will contribute to successful management plan development and implementation.

Including this planning unit as part of the Demonstration State Forest system would provide an opportunity to address and demonstrate effective OHV recreation management with adjacent landowners to protect water quality and riparian and meadow habitats; to restore meadows and wetlands through ponderosa pine management and prescribed burning; to enhance forest connectivity through coordinated protection of lands adjacent to USFS California spotted owl and willow flycatcher Protected Activity Centers (PACs) as part of the State Forest Management Plan to be developed; to promote great gray owl habitat by providing nesting areas and possibly grazing improvements, and to improve riparian vegetation and grazing management if needed (DFG, Applebee, personal communication, 4/29/11). Noxious weed extent and management as well as well as other wildlife and habitat management needs and issues are recognized and would be addressed as part of a State Forest Management Plan.

CAL FIRE is also committed to working on its existing Demonstration State Forests and in multi-landowner efforts to ensure watershed protection and enhance aquatic habitats. Examples include the design of Demonstration State Forest management measures for watercourse and lake protection zones that exceed the Forest Practice Rules. The research and demonstration activities carried out on the Demonstration State Forests will increase our knowledge of how to protect and enhance biological resources as a part of sustainable forest management.

### **Preserve Open Space in Order to Protect Natural and Cultural Resources, Agricultural Uses, Recreation Experiences and Viewsheds**

Inclusion of the Lyons property in the Demonstration State Forest system directly addresses this objective by maintaining the land as a working forest landscape for the primary purpose of research and demonstration on forest management practices for improved timber management and environmental stewardship, while giving consideration

to recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage and fishery values. Board of Forestry and Fire Protection policies do not support residential development, discourage uses benefiting non-forestry or private interests that are inconsistent with State Forest objectives, and state that State Forest units should remain intact without further diversion to non-forestry purposes.

Development of property would be contrary to the purposes of the Demonstration State Forests. With the exception of two Conservation Camps located within Jackson Demonstration State Forest and fire lookouts at Mount Zion and LaTour Demonstration State Forest, CAL FIRE has not developed its Demonstration State Forests beyond limited facilities for forest management, research and demonstration, and recreation. CAL FIRE would accept the Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit parcels with conservation easements that ensure preservation of open space.

CAL FIRE recognizes that there can be short-term impacts to viewsheds from timber harvesting. These can be mitigated by using lighter-touch selection harvesting, layout of harvest units in irregular, natural shapes, and careful treatment of logging slash. Viewshed sensitivity will be particularly important for views from the Reservoir and the Sugar Pine Railroad Trail. At the same time, attempting to hide timber harvesting activity decreases the potential for demonstrating some of the principles of sustainable forest management to the public.

Enhanced management category 1 above indirectly addresses the Open Space objective by providing information that helps maintain open space on privately owned properties. Research and demonstration of ecologically and financially sustainable management practices can help landowners, especially on smaller properties, economically manage property to “pay its way,” so they don’t have to look to other, more intensive economic uses that result in land conversion and the loss of open space.

### **Enhance Recreational Facilities in Order to Provide Additional Education Opportunities, Recreation Management and Enhance the Recreation Experience**

Enhanced management category 5 above directly addresses this objective and recommended concept. Public access is a universal priority on all the Demonstration State Forests, and is only restricted for reasons of safety, environmental protection, or historical and cultural resource protection reasons.

Lyons Reservoir presents opportunities and challenges for recreational use. Recreation on the parcels requested by CAL FIRE primarily involves use of the Sugar Pine Railroad trail for hiking, biking and horseback riding. PG&E developed a brochure on the railroad’s history. The Land Conservation Plan recommends no physical enhancements for the requested parcels. There is also a white water run and take-out north of the Reservoir, but this is apparently not used. Unauthorized recreational use has caused erosion and degraded natural and cultural resources in the past around the Reservoir. PG&E installed barriers on access roads to minimize impacts. The Land Conservation Plan states that the USFS has mapped remaining unauthorized trails northwest and north of the Reservoir.

CAL FIRE would be willing to support efforts to formalize the Sugar Pine Railroad Trail by providing signage for donated parcels land. CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forests would address unauthorized OHV use through its planning, management and law enforcement staff. Physical measures such as locked gates on roads, signage, staff presence, information from members of the public, and law enforcement actions are all used to control unauthorized uses, and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for law-abiding recreationists. CAL FIRE policy restricts OHV use on its Demonstration State Forests to public roads. For the Lyons property, CAL FIRE will work with PG&E, Sierra Pacific Industries, the USFS and other adjacent landowners to reduce unauthorized access and associated impacts through maintenance of gates and fences, patrol and additional signage.

CAL FIRE would also promote the use of the Lyons Reservoir property for educational tours and demonstrations on forestry and natural resource management. Enhancements would build on existing trails, such as developing signage about working forest and grazing activities, to demonstrate the effects of different types of management on forest and rangeland structure and function. The Demonstration State Forest would partner with the Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources and Environment (TUCARE) to conduct Tours for Kids, Natural Resource Tours for local decision-makers or other activities at Lyons. Tuolumne County would advise and possibly offer resources and assistance for expanding trail-based recreation opportunities. We would establish a working relationship with Columbia Community College to accommodate field trips, classes, projects and studies.

CAL FIRE recognizes the importance of public input and participation on recreation matters. We will work with local groups, agencies, neighboring landowners and other stakeholders to enhance the recreational experience at Lyons while ensuring the protection of natural and cultural resources and grazing lessee operations. This collaboration has been demonstrated on other State Forests where CAL FIRE works with the Friends of Boggs Mountain and the Stewards of Soquel on projects such as trail building, signage and other activities, and with adjacent landowners to ensure compatibility of sustainable management across ownership boundaries. For example, management at Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest involves collaboration with the Giant Sequoia National Monument and a county park. Management at Jackson and Soquel Demonstration State Forest involves collaboration with adjacent state park units, industrial forest landowners, and residential forest landowners. Management of LaTour Demonstration State Forest includes collaborative snowmobile trail management with the Lassen National Forest.

**Develop and Implement Forestry Practices in Order to Contribute to and Promote a Sustainable Forest, Preserve and Enhance Habitat, as well as to Ensure Appropriate Fuel Load Management:**

Enhanced management categories 1, 2, 3 and 4 above directly address this objective and recommended concept. CAL FIRE has a long history of Demonstration State Forest management, research and restoration projects that contribute to and promote sustainable

forests, protect and enhance habitat and address fuel loads. We would continue this pattern on the Lyons Reservoir watershed lands.

One of the primary objectives of sustainable forestry is watershed protection. Watershed features on the Lyons Planning Unit include Lyons Reservoir, portions of Main Tuolumne Canal and South Fork Stanislaus River. The reservoir is the primary source of drinking water for the Tuolumne Utilities District. Forest management activities to retain canopy cover, minimize soil disturbance, and avoid catastrophic wildfires will protect the Lyons property and surrounding watershed areas. Fire protection and fuels management in fire prone areas is an important component of sustainable forestry and of Demonstration State Forest management plans. CAL FIRE's experience with fuel reduction, fire protection and prescribed burning is described in detail in questions 10 and 18.

All of our existing Demonstration State Forests are managed under sustainable forestry principles, and the Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit would be managed in the same fashion. CAL FIRE will develop a Forest Management Plan and long term sustained yield plan for the Lyons Reservoir unit that supports management activities which will maintain a diversity of natural stand conditions for long-term ecological, economic, social, and cultural benefits. Forest conditions will be evaluated over time as a part of our monitoring program. Forest structural elements such as multi-canopy stands, snags, down woody debris, and hardwood stand components will be identified for management and protection. The Management Plan will provide quantitative goals for these stand structure elements. CAL FIRE will manage the existing even-aged plantation at the Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit to optimize growth and stand health, and will consider the need for additional thinning to enhance growth on the plantation and other openings described above.

CAL FIRE has established a goal of attaining third-party sustainable forest management certification for all of its Demonstration State Forests and would extend this goal to the Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit.

Noxious weed control is also a concern for sustainable forestry. CAL FIRE addresses noxious weeds as a part of its Forest management plan development and planning for individual management projects. We utilize an integrated weed management approach. We also conduct invasive species control research, as evidenced by work conducted at Jackson Demonstration State Forest in Mendocino County.

#### **Identify and Manage Cultural Resources in Order to Ensure their Protection:**

Enhanced management category 6 above directly addresses this objective and recommended concept. Elements of the forest management and recreation strategies will also contribute to this objective. If the Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit is donated to CAL FIRE, it will be incorporated into CAL FIRE's 2001 Management Plan for Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites. Cultural resources on the property will be researched, identified, and protection measures addressed as a part of our Forest management plan development process. Planned project areas will be further surveyed

and addressed at the project level. CEQA provides review opportunities at the management plan and project levels.

The Land Conservation Plan states that prehistoric and historic sites have been identified in the Unit, including the Sugar Pine Railroad (now used as a trail), old cabins on parcel 1025, and archaeological sites which might be eligible for NRHP. CAL FIRE conducted a preliminary analysis of archaeological information on file at the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) for PG&E parcels. The Records Checks for the subject parcels consisted of a review of USGS quadrangles that depict past archaeological survey coverage and the locations of recorded archaeological sites within the subject Planning Unit parcels. Copies of the numerous survey reports and archaeological site records were not requested as no parcels have changed ownership.

A CAL FIRE archaeologist has determined that 100 percent of the Unit was previously surveyed. Only historic sites have been recorded. Although survey reports show that the entire parcel has been surveyed for timber harvesting, it is assumed that areas of high probability (near meadows and wet areas) were out of the harvest areas and were not surveyed. CAL FIRE found 15 historic archaeological sites, and we are aware of about a half dozen unrecorded sites.

CAL FIRE cultural resource enhancements to the Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit will include creating a confidential cultural resource data base which will provide information on prehistoric and historic archaeological sites (e.g. bedrock mortars, petroglyphs, mining camps) and Native American cultural sites (e.g. religious, power and basketry material collection sites). Archaeological survey site information will be compiled from PG&E archaeological staff, the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) Information Centers, and archaeologists from adjacent federal land agencies. Cultural site information will be compiled from PG&E archaeological staff who have commissioned such studies for FERC licensing projects, queries of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands Files, and through formal consultation with local groups listed on the CAL FIRE/NAHC Native American contact list. The assembled data base for each parcel would be routinely consulted for every project that involves ground-disturbing activities.

Interpretation of cultural resources is a part of CAL FIRE's research and demonstration mission, and also fits with its recreation role. Education and recreational enhancements for cultural and historical resources must, first and foremost, protect the resources. CAL FIRE's archeologists will work with the Me-wuk Tribe and other tribal entities in our efforts to survey, identify and protect archaeological and cultural resources, and on any related educational efforts. CAL FIRE Tuolumne Calaveras Unit chief Mike Noonan has discussed ways to collaborate on protecting cultural resources and possibly providing signage, with Dore Reitz and Reba Fuller, members of the Tuolumne Band of the Me-wuk tribe.



**Preserve and Enhance Grazing in Order to Support Associated Economic Benefits, as Well as to Protect Open Space and Habitat Resources:**

There is one grazing lease on the Lyons Reservoir Unit parcels in Rushing Meadow which PG&E renews annually. The lessee is responsible for maintaining and repairing designated fences and gates. Discussions at the Council's public meeting held on March 31, 2011 indicate that the lessee uses this lease for a brief period in the fall as a gathering area.

CAL FIRE will include a process for assessing, monitoring and managing range condition in its Demonstration Forest Management Plan. The plan will address vegetation, grazing and noxious weed management and determine if additional fencing is needed to protect water resources or sensitive species. CAL FIRE will work with the lessee and, as needed, with local experts such as the County Farm Advisor (University of California Cooperative Extension) and the Resource Conservation District, and neighbors such as the Stanislaus National Forest, to design and implement this activity. Tuolumne County has also offered to work with CAL FIRE to improve grazing use.

CAL FIRE and the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection have a long history of working with the range community on vegetation management, research, monitoring and restoration of rangelands and oak woodlands. The Board includes a dedicated seat for a representative of the range-livestock industry and has a standing Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) to advise it on rangeland issues. CAL FIRE, RMAC and the Board recognize that carefully controlled grazing can be done in a manner that protects and in some cases enhances biological resources, provides an economic basis for landownership, and provides open space values.

**c) Proposed Enhancement vs. Current Management**

We expect the following differences in management at Lyons Reservoir Unit to occur as a result of the proposed enhancements if the Lyons Reservoir Unit were to be added to the Demonstration State Forest System:

- Sustainable forestry program: Timber harvest would be similar or somewhat less intensive than historical harvest levels, however fuels management would likely be more aggressive than current practices .
- Recreation and education opportunities would be enhanced with enforcement and potential improvements to prevent unauthorized vehicle access; applied research and demonstration of proper forest management practices; trail signage; and education tours by school children and others on forestry and stewardship through TUCARE.
- Ecosystem monitoring and adaptation enhancements would establish comprehensive inventory and monitoring, resulting in more comprehensive and detailed data on timber resources. This would be incorporated into CAL FIRE's forest resources information system.
- Habitat and restoration enhancements would include more comprehensive surveys of biological resources and research studies which would provide better information for habitat and wildlife protection, management, enhancements and restoration.
- Our archaeological enhancements would provide for surveys and additional information on historical and cultural resources outside FERC boundaries. We would

also survey and document archaeological resources, as required by law and Governor's Executive Order, and would incorporate this into our update to CAL FIRE's Management Plan for Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites. This enhances opportunities for education and preservation.

- Finally, our ownership of these parcels would create a research and demonstration program where one has not existed before.

#### **d) Proposed Management Impacts on Public Use and Existing Economic Uses**

CAL FIRE's proposed management of the Lyons Reservoir as a Demonstration State Forest would enhance public use and sustain existing economic uses. The Demonstration State Forest mission for research and demonstration while supporting recreation as a secondary use provides a more significant basis for public use than current management. Over time, we believe that there would be increased public utilization of the area, for example through field tours to see sustainable forest management demonstration projects. Current recreational opportunities would be maintained or enhanced. CAL FIRE patrol of the area would address illegal OHV use.

Demonstration State Forest operation would continue sustainable forest management and grazing use as activities that support the local economy. Research and demonstration projects would bring additional activity to the area, resulting in expenditures in hotels, restaurants, gas stations, hardware stores, etc. By statutory direction, CAL FIRE pays the same property taxes as would a private landowner. Harvesting also generates timber yield tax payments to counties.

#### **e) Timeline for Enhanced Management Costs**

Enhanced management costs would start immediately upon acquisition with the need to conduct resource surveys, develop a Management Plan, long term sustained yield (Option A) plan, and develop the required CEQA document for the Management Plan (typically a mitigated negative declaration). The completed Management Plan would help to identify the suite of management actions that are required over time. More intensive improvements would be implemented as funds become available through revenue generation on the property or on other properties within the Demonstration State Forest system.

During the first year of ownership, CAL FIRE would rely on its deep pool of existing resources, including professional staff, law enforcement officers, heavy fire equipment, and conservation camp inmate labor, to minimize costs of ownership. Enhanced management and associated costs would build up as timber revenues begin to flow.

#### **f) Proposed Enhancement Activities and Best Management Practices**

The primary mission of the Demonstration State Forest is to investigate and demonstrate the implementation of enhanced forest management techniques and best forestry management practices. The establishment of a Demonstration State Forest in the Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit would contribute to the body of information and research on best management practices and to the technology transfer of these techniques to other forest land owners.

The actual management of a Demonstration State Forest and the conduct of forest management would be under the charge of a Registered Professional Forester. CAL FIRE baseline and enhancement activities would meet or exceed applicable Forest Practice Rule standards for forest management. CEQA compliance at the forest management plan and project levels would further help to ensure that best management practices would be applied.

To ensure proper grazing lease management, CAL FIRE would consult with local experts, as needed, on best management practices for protecting water courses, riparian areas, rangeland vegetation and fisheries and wildlife habitat.

## ***29. Physical Enhancements/Capital Improvements***

CAL FIRE divides up the ownership phase between the startup phase (the first year after ownership), and the long-term phase (year two onward). We plan to postpone physical enhancements and capital improvements to the long term ownership phase, when revenues can be generated from timber harvests to support the project costs.

The following projects are planned during the long-term ownership phase (estimated costs are described in the accompanying budget and funding plan):

### **Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir:**

1. Road maintenance and improvement. This includes grading, culvert maintenance and replacement, and dust control during logging operations. Road maintenance and improvement help to protect water quality and contribute to the recreation objective by enhancing access to the Forest. The project also contributes to the sustainable forestry objective by improving access for silvicultural activities and harvesting. The project contributes to the objective of enhancing public access.
2. Construction of trails. Design and layout would be done by CAL FIRE staff. Most of the work would likely be done by inmate crews from Conservation Camps, at nominal cost. This project contributes to the recreation objective. It contributes to the open space objective by minimizing the foot print of the project on the landscape.
3. Construction of at least one rustic campground facility in each Planning Unit. One-time costs include access and camp site development, including fire pits and picnic tables, and installation of toilets. If camping fees are charged, the campground should be self-sustaining. This project contributes to the recreation objective. It contributes to the open space objective by minimizing the foot print of the project on the landscape.

### **Battle Creek:**

1. Road maintenance and improvement. This includes grading, culvert maintenance and replacement, and dust control during logging operations. Road maintenance and improvement help to protect water quality and contribute to the recreation objective by enhancing access to the Forest. The project also contributes to the sustainable forestry

objective by improving access for silvicultural activities and harvesting. The project contributes to the objective of enhancing public access.

2. Trails. Management of LaTour Demonstration State Forest includes collaborative snowmobile trail management with the Lassen National Forest. If CAL FIRE were to acquire lands in this Planning Unit, we would include these lands into the trail network as feasible. Existing networks of hiking trails would be expanded to include any additional PG&E watershed lands.

3. Educational and recreational activities. This would include possible joint projects with Shasta College, Eagle Scouts, schools and other organizations. They would include camps, educational signs, guided tours, lectures and nature hikes.

### **Cow Creek:**

1. Road maintenance and improvement. This includes grading, culvert maintenance and replacement, and dust control during logging operations. Existing roads and access are limited at Cow Creek. Skid trail construction and road use for timber operations and fuel management activities would be intermittent at Cow Creek, given the vegetation mix, ownership size and recent timber harvest activity. Road maintenance and improvement are part of sustainable forestry to facilitate management and economic use while protecting the watershed, would protect special biological resources, and would enhance recreational use of the property.

2. Additional signage to reduce unauthorized OHV use and for general educational purposes about the property. Design and layout would be done by CAL FIRE staff with input from neighbors and local interested groups, such as the Cow Creek Watershed Management Group. This project contributes to the recreation and protection of biological resources objectives.

### **Lake Spaulding Planning Unit:**

1. Road maintenance and improvement. This includes grading, culvert maintenance and replacement, and dust control during logging operations and repair and restoration of damage caused by unauthorized OHV use. Road maintenance and improvement are part of sustainable forestry to facilitate management, economic uses and access for research and demonstration while protecting the watershed, and will help protect special biological and cultural resources. It would also enhance recreational use and access for educational tours and forestry demonstrations to school children and local decision-makers.

2. Additional recreational signage would be provided to reduce unauthorized OHV use and other recreational impacts, as needed. Educational signage would be developed regarding forestry uses and possibly grazing management, cultural resources and habitats and biological resources. Design and layout would be done with input from groups such as Eagle Scouts, community interest groups, the Department of Fish and Game, the Tahoe National Forest or other interested entities. This project contributes to the Demonstration State Forest sustainable forestry program mission, and to recreational enhancement and protection of biological resources objectives.

3. CAL FIRE would make it a high priority to enhance the plantation established after the 2001 Gap Fire. This would include inter-planting, controlling competing vegetation and animal damage and possibly restocking areas where necessary.

4. Trail construction for mountain bikes, equestrians and foot traffic. CAL FIRE would expand and connect the network of existing trails in this area. This could include leveraging the easy access from the Yuba Gap exit off Interstate 80 to make the 6-Mile Valley area a hub for trails of varying difficulty, from short family hikes providing day users access to Kelly Lake and Lake Valley Reservoir, to longer trails connecting to the Tahoe National Forest trail network. Existing trails to Loch Leven and nearby areas could also be connected.

#### **Bear River Planning Unit:**

1. Road maintenance and improvement. This includes grading, culvert maintenance and replacement, and dust control during logging operations and repair and restoration of damage caused by unauthorized OHV use. Road maintenance and improvement are part of sustainable forestry to facilitate management, economic uses and access for research and demonstration while protecting the watershed, and will help protect special biological and cultural resources. It would also enhance recreational use and access for educational tours and forestry demonstrations to school children and local decision-makers.

2. Additional recreational signage would be provided to reduce unauthorized OHV use and other recreational impacts, as needed. Educational signage would be developed to regarding forestry uses and possibly grazing management, cultural resources and habitats and biological resources. Design and layout would be done with input from groups such as Eagle Scouts, community interest groups, the Department of Fish and Game, the Tahoe National Forest or other interested entities. This project contributes to the Demonstration State Forest sustainable forestry program mission, and to recreational enhancement and protection of biological resources objectives.

3. Trail construction for mountain bikes, equestrians and hikers. The network of existing trails in this area would be expanded and connected.

#### **Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit:**

1. Road maintenance and improvement. This includes grading, culvert maintenance and replacement, and dust control during logging operations and repair and restoration of damage caused by unauthorized OHV use. Road maintenance and improvement are part of sustainable forestry to facilitate management, economic uses and access for research and demonstration while protecting the watershed, and will help protect special biological and cultural resources. It would also enhance recreational use and access for educational tours and forestry demonstrations to school children and local decision-makers.

2. Additional recreational signage would be provided to reduce unauthorized OHV use and other recreational impacts, as needed. Educational signage would be developed to regarding forestry uses and possibly grazing management, cultural resources and habitats

and biological resources. Design and layout would be done with input from groups such as the Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources and Environment, the Department of Fish and Game, the Me-Wuk tribe or other interested entities. This project contributes to the Demonstration State Forest sustainable forestry program mission, and to recreational enhancement and protection of biological resources objectives.

3. Other long term improvements might include development of one primitive camp site along the Sugar Pine Railroad trail. This project contributes to the recreation objective. This would be done with advice and potential support from Tuolumne County (Tuolumne County 2011).

4. Research and habitat enhancement installations. These types of projects would include creation of nesting sites, small riparian enclosures to enhance habitat for prey and possibly additional fencing, if needed, to keep cattle out of the meadow during early spring. One example of such a project could be a great gray owl habitat enhancement project, in conjunction with Department of Fish and Game and other interested parties.

### ***30. Potential Land Conservation Partners***

CAL FIRE has identified the following potential partnerships for management and enhancement activities:

#### **Shasta County Planning Units (Pit River, Tunnel Reservoir, Battle Creek and Cow Creek):**

Western Shasta Resource Conservation District. CAL FIRE would work with the Resource Conservation District on a variety of potential projects, including identifying fuel management needs and implementing projects, conducting surveys and inventories and restoration projects.

Cow Creek Watershed Management Group (CCWMG). CAL FIRE would work with this group to identify recreational and educational enhancement needs and opportunities at the Cow Creek Planning Unit. CCWMG would partner with CAL FIRE to map existing trails used for horseback riding and hiking, provide input to CAL FIRE regarding educational or recreation signage to protect resources from unauthorized OHV use impacts and communicate with neighbors and local communities about fuel reduction needs and activities.

CAL FIRE has a long-standing research partnership with the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station in Redding. They are interested in continuing such a partnership on any PG&E watershed lands that CAL FIRE may receive.

#### **Bear River and Lake Spaulding Planning Units:**

San Joaquin County of Education (SJCOE): The SJCOE and CAL FIRE would mutually consult with each other on outdoor recreation plans and implementation, as well as on natural resources management plans and implementation, for their respective parcels of

interest. The plan would identify strategies to increase access to the lands for youth and the general public.

The Nevada County Land Trust. There is a strong nexus between the conservation ethic of our two organizations in the areas of protecting working forest lands from conversion to non-forest uses, sustainable forestry and public outdoor recreation and education. The Nevada County Land Trust would help CAL FIRE leverage our ability to provide outdoor recreation opportunities in a forested setting, on any PG&E watershed lands we may obtain in this area. Similarly, we believe our experience with proven techniques for sustainable forestry, best management practices and protecting working forests from conversion to non-forest land use can assist the Nevada County Land Trust's efforts at land conservation.

#### **Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit:**

Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources and the Environment (TUCARE). CAL FIRE would work with TUCARE to enhance the educational use of the Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit by conducting educational tours and forest management demonstrations on the property. TUCARE would bring school children to the Planning Unit through the Tours for Kids program and may also bring local decision-makers through its Natural Resource Tours Program. CAL FIRE would also seek input from TUCARE about additional educational signage, as needed.

Department of Fish and Game. CAL FIRE would work with DFG on wildlife studies and habitat improvement projects. One example could be a project to enhance great gray owl habitat at Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit. The two agencies would work together to acquire materials and build nesting sites to fence off some areas of riparian vegetation, utilizing inmate labor when possible for fence construction or other activities. CAL FIRE would work with DFG to determine fencing needs, if any, for protecting habitat from early seasonal cattle use impacts and to identify other measures, if needed, for maintaining meadow quality.

Tuolumne County. CAL FIRE would seek advice and potentially implement cooperative projects with the County to improve grazing and recreational trail use on Rushing Meadow.

### ***31. Previous Experience With Proposed Land Conservation Partner***

CAL FIRE works closely with the Department of Fish and Game during review of timber harvest projects on private land, vegetation management projects, such as prescribed burning and fuels reduction, and research projects. DFG currently conducts research and monitoring studies on Demonstration State Forest lands at Jackson and LaTour Demonstration State Forest.

CAL FIRE has worked with the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District on many projects, including defensible space education, strategic fuel break planning, fuel break

construction and the establishment of local fire safe councils in association with the Shasta County Fire Safe Council.

CAL FIRE staff participate on the Board of the Cow Creek Watershed Management Group, and have worked cooperatively with this group on projects in the past.

The San Joaquin County Board of Education has agreed to work with CAL FIRE on recreational activities for the North Fork Mokelumne Planning Unit.

CAL FIRE continues to work extensively with Tuolumne County on natural resource protection and fire prevention issues.

CAL FIRE has a long-standing research partnership with the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station in Redding, and we continue to work with them on research projects.

### ***32. Letter From the Executive Director of Potential Land Conservation Partner***

Letters are enclosed from:

- Mick Founts, Superintendent of the San Joaquin County Office of Education
- Phil Schoefer, President, Western Shasta County Resource Conservation District
- Marty Coleman-Hunt, Executive Director, Nevada County Land Trust
- Susan Goodwin, President, Cow Creek Watershed Management Group
- Neil Manji, California Department of Fish and Game, Northern Region
- Jeffrey Single, California Department of Fish and Game, Central Region
- David Levinson, Program Manager, USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station
- Daniel Richardson, Deputy County Administrator, Tuolumne County
- Melinda Fleming, Executive Director, Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources and Environment, Inc.





San Joaquin County Office of Education  
Mick Founts, Superintendent of Schools

April 27, 2011

Helge Eng, Demonstration States Forests Program Manager  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Dear Mr. Eng,

It is with great pleasure that I offer the San Joaquin County Office of Education's (SJCOE) support for the CAL FIRE Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Stewardship Council Land Proposal for planning units in the Lake Spaulding area. With over 50 years of experience in providing outdoor education opportunities for youth, SJCOE is proud to serve as a land conservation partner assisting CAL FIRE in the area of outdoor recreation. SJCOE will consult with CAL FIRE on developing an outdoor recreation plan for their parcels of interest. The plan will identify strategies to increase access to the lands for youth and the general public. If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mick Founts, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



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6270 Parallel Road – Anderson, CA 96007-4833 – Phone: (530) 365-7332 – Fax: (530) 365-7271  
<http://www.westernshastarc.org>

May 5, 2011

Cathy Bleier, Climate Action Program Manager  
CAL FIRE  
P. O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Dear Mrs. Bleier:

The Western Shasta Resource Conservation District (RCD) supports the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) in its application to hold fee title to the following PG&E properties in Shasta County:

Cow Creek Planning Unit  
Pit River Planning Unit  
Tunnel Reservoir Unit  
Battle Creek Planning Unit

The RCD has been working with willing landowners in the implementation of wildlife and fisheries restoration projects, wetland restoration, farm and ranch conservation practices, erosion control, fuels reduction, and coordinated resource planning projects in Shasta County since 1957. For many years our staff has worked closely with CAL FIRE in wildfire and defensible space education and outreach, developing plans for strategically located shaded fuelbreaks on nine key watersheds, and the use of inmate crews in the construction of shaded fuelbreaks. As a partner with CAL FIRE, the RCD organized the Shasta County Fire Safe Council and seven neighborhood Fire Safe Councils to expand landowner knowledge and expertise in creating defensible space.

The RCD supports CAL FIRE's goal of holding the above PG&E properties in fee title and believes CAL FIRE will contribute to the permanent protection of the watershed lands and the preservation and enhancement of the beneficial public values (BPVs) associated with the watershed lands. It is our opinion that CAL FIRE is primarily interested in preserving and enhancing the BPVs; has a history of responsible financial management and demonstrates the financial ability to carry out activities necessary to preserve and enhance the BPVs; brings funding to achieve PG&E's current baseline land management activities; will improve management of the land for the BPVs; increases the opportunity to secure additional funding to support management as well

as the preservation and enhancement of the BPVs; and has experience managing lands with similar resources and uses, as well as preserving and enhancing values similar to the BPVs.

Since 2000, the RCD has worked with the Cow Creek Watershed Management Group (CCWMG) in writing grant applications and implementing grant projects, including the *Cow Creek Watershed Assessment*, *Cow Creek Watershed Management Plan*, *Backbone Ridge Defensible Fuel Profile Zone Plan*, *Cow Creek Strategic Fuels Reduction Plan*, constructing the 17-mile Backbone Ridge Fuelbreak, water quality testing, farmer and rancher cost-share assistance, illegal tire removal projects, fish screen and fish barrier removal projects, construction of a tailwater pond for water quality improvement, and currently the six mile Backbone McAndless Fuelbreak. CAL FIRE has been a partner with the RCD and CCWMG in all of the studies and projects involving fuels reduction in the watershed.

Creation of a land management plan for these properties under CAL FIRE ownership will be beneficial for:

- a. Improved public and management access.
- b. Fuels Management – Key areas on the landscape protected from catastrophic wildfire.
- c. Grazing where practical on landscapes that have traditionally benefited from grazing.
- d. Timber harvest and thinning where practical to encourage sustainable and healthy forests that contribute to carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat and economic opportunity.
- e. Habitat restoration projects that benefit fisheries and wildlife, and improve water quality and quantity.
- f. Invasive species management/eradication/control to protect and encourage native plants throughout the landscape.
- g. Restoration of oak woodlands for ecosystem stability and habitat and food for wildlife.
- h. Youth Education - Outdoor education opportunities such as research and service learning projects.
- i. Interpretive trails to educate the public on topics such as the history of the area, Native American usage, general environmental concepts and specific natural resource elements of the area and the ecosystem services that they provide.
- j. Recreation opportunities involving activities such as hiking, camping and fishing among others.
- k. Open space retention in rural watersheds, which is highly valued by local residents.

We look forward to continuing our working relationship with CAL FIRE. Our staff includes a Registered Professional Forester, wildlife biologist, certified wetland delineation specialist, two GIS specialists, certified erosion control specialist, archaeologist, hydrologist, and licensed herbicide applicators and a great field crew.

Thank you for your consideration of CAL FIRE as the fee title holder of the Cow, Pit,  
Tunnel Reservoir and Battle Creek Planning Units.

Sincerely,

Phil Schoefer, President  
Board of Directors





**BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS**

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Chris Gee  
*AmeriCorps Member*

Allene Zanger  
Executive Director  
Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council  
15 North Ellsworth Avenue, Suite 100  
San Mateo, CA 94401

Re: Support for CalFire application for PG&E parcels in the Lake Spaulding  
Planning and Bear River Planning Units

Dear Ms Zanger,

Nevada County Land Trust is grateful that PG&E will protect the Yuba-Bear River Watershed by making lands available for donation to qualified conservation organizations. We are in favor of the conservation of lands for the benefit of our community and for Sierra watershed health.

Nevada County Land Trust is in support of the application by CalFire, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to receive in fee title, a donation of PG&E parcels in the Lake Spaulding Planning and Bear River Planning Units. The intent is for CalFire to manage these forested lands as a demonstration forest, which will enhance forest health as well as strengthen our ability to protect against catastrophic forest fires in our community.

Similarly, for donated lands that CalFire receives, Nevada County Land Trust would be grateful to participate as the Conservation Easement holder and Conservation Partner to develop recreational amenities, such as mixed-use trails.

Sincerely,

Marty Coleman-Hunt  
Executive Director  
Nevada County Land Trust



175 Joerschke Drive, Suite R • Grass Valley, CA 95945  
Phone: 530.272.5994 • Fax: 530.272.5997  
Website: [www.NevadaCountyLandTrust.org](http://www.NevadaCountyLandTrust.org) • Email: [info@NevadaCountyLandTrust.org](mailto:info@NevadaCountyLandTrust.org)



May 3, 2011

Cathy Bleier  
Climate Action Program Manager  
CAL FIRE  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

RE: PG&E Cow Creek Planning Unit 8

Dear Ms. Bleier:

It was a pleasure meeting with you to discuss the PG&E Cow Creek Planning Unit 8 in the Whitmore area. The Cow Creek Watershed Management Group (CCWMG) would like to support and work with CAL FIRE on this project.

The CCWMG is a nonprofit organization formed in 1999 by citizens within the Cow Creek Watershed. Our mission is to use the resources of the Cow Creek Watershed in a way that meets the needs of today without infringing on the needs of future generations. Our volunteer Board of Directors consists of 15 landowners, four from timber, including one representative from Latour Demonstration Forest, four from agriculture, four from rural residential, and three at large.

As you outlined during our meeting, the objectives of CAL FIRE to investigate and demonstrate forest management practices while considering other values including recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, and fisheries are consistent with the objectives of the CCWMG.

We would appreciate the opportunity to work with you on the proposed improvement to the property, including management, recreation and education that are consistent with existing uses and leases. I can personally offer to map the existing trail system on the property with a GPS unit. Several other members of the CCWMG and the community would be more than happy to volunteer their services to help identify potential recreational or access enhancements for low-impact activities. As far as outreach and education, the CCWMG has periodic community meetings where CAL FIRE could present topics related to this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Goodwin".

Susan Goodwin, President  
Cow Creek Watershed Management Group





State of California -The Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
Northern Region  
601 Locust Street, Redding, CA 96001  
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

EDMUND G. BROWN, Jr. Governor  
JOHN McCAMMAN, Director



May 11, 2011

Mr. Helge Eng  
Demonstration State Forests Program Manager  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Post Office Box 94426  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

**Re: Support of Continued Land Conservation Partnership with Latour State Forest**

Dear Mr. Eng:

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) have collaborated on several studies of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife within the boundaries of Latour State Demonstration Forest. These research projects have allowed DFG to expand our knowledge of locally significant wildlife, understand impacts of a managed forest on the State's fish and wildlife, and make better management decisions for reviewing timber harvesting plans. These studies have also benefited CAL FIRE by increasing the information base for management decisions.

Past projects DFG has partnered with Latour State Forest include:

- Track plating to determine the presence of small mammals,
- Nest site and activity center surveys for northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*),
- Camera station surveys for pine marten (*Martes martes*) and small mammal presence, and
- Migratory bird vocalization surveys using digital recorders.

DFG also anticipates future projects on and with Latour State Forest involving studying impacts of group selection silviculture on botanical species, the delineation and characterization of mountain hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*), and stream habitat, temperature, and fish presence surveys.

DFG looks forward to continuing and expanding our collaborative fish and wildlife research partnership, particularly with the potential of Latour State Forest acquiring additional acreage through the Pacific Gas & Electric Stewardship Council.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please contact Environmental Scientist Stacy Stanish by phone at (530) 225-2090 or by e-mail at [sstanish@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:sstanish@dfg.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

**NEIL MANJI**  
Regional Manager

*Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870*

Mr. Helge Eng  
May 11, 2011  
Page 2 of 2

ec: Ms. Stacy Stanish and Karen Kovacs  
Mr. Curt Babcock  
Department of Fish and Game  
[sstanish@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:sstanish@dfg.ca.gov), [kkovacs@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:kkovacs@dfg.ca.gov), [cbabcock@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:cbabcock@dfg.ca.gov)

Mr. Bruce Beck and Helge Eng  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
[Bruce.Beck@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Bruce.Beck@fire.ca.gov), [Helge.Eng@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Helge.Eng@fire.ca.gov)





State of California - The Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
Central Region  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93710  
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

EDMUND G. BROWN, Jr. Governor  
JOHN McCAMMAN, Director



May 12, 2011

Ms. Vanessa Parker-Geisman  
Regional Land Conservation Manager  
Pacific Forest and Watershed  
Lands Stewardship Council  
1107 9th Street, Suite 501  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[Vparkerg@stewardshipcouncil.org](mailto:Vparkerg@stewardshipcouncil.org)

Subject: Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit

Dear Ms. Parker-Geisman:

This letter is to inform the Council that the Department of Fish and Game (Department) will not be submitting a Land Stewardship Proposal for the Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit. After carefully considering the opportunities and challenges associated with the long term management of this Planning Unit, we have decided that our organization will not seek fee title interest in these lands.

Our primary interest in these lands has been and will continue to be fish and wildlife habitat. We believe there are excellent opportunities to enhance the meadows, streams, and forests of the Unit for the benefit of fish and wildlife. Specifically, the meadows and surrounding forest could be managed to improve foraging and nesting habitat for the state endangered great gray owl (*Strix nebulosa*) and the state threatened willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*). Additionally, the riparian vegetation along the Stanislaus River could be enhanced to provide shade and structure for benefit of numerous aquatic and terrestrial species.

We have had the opportunity to review the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (Cal Fire) draft Land Stewardship Proposal. We recommend that the Council select Cal Fire as the donee for this Planning Unit. We believe Cal Fire's intent to establish and Demonstration State Forest on these lands would facilitate the responsible management and enhancement of the existing important fish and wildlife resources. Additionally, Cal Fire has expressed a desire to work cooperatively with the Department on wildlife management, enhancement, and research activities on the Unit in the future. We welcome this opportunity and believe we can make an important contribution to the future management of these lands.

*Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870*

---

Vanessa Parker-Geisman  
May 12, 2011  
Page 2 of 2

We wish to thank you, and your organization for opportunity to participate in the land conveyance process. If you have any questions regarding these comments please contact Mr. Daniel Applebee.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Single, Ph.D.  
Regional Manager

e.c. Mr. Helge Eng, Cal Fire  
[Helge.Eng@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Helge.Eng@fire.ca.gov)  
Ms. Cathy Bleier, Cal Fire  
[Cathy.Bleier@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Cathy.Bleier@fire.ca.gov)  
Mr. Daniel Applebee, DFG  
[dapplebee@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:dapplebee@dfg.ca.gov)  
Ms. Terry Palmisano, DFG  
[tpalmisano@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:tpalmisano@dfg.ca.gov)



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Pacific Southwest  
Research Station

3644 Avtech Parkway  
Redding, CA 96002

Date: May 5, 2011

Helge Eng  
Deputy Chief, Demonstration State Forests  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
416 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Dear Helge:

We fully support the efforts of your department to expand your land base in northern California. The United States Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station has had a long and productive partnership with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for over 50 years. Researchers from the Redding Laboratory have worked collaboratively with Cal Fire at LaTour Demonstration State Forest on numerous silvicultural studies over the years and this partnership continues today.

Both Drs. Martin Ritchie and Jianwei Zhang have expressed an interest in exploring other avenues for research with your agency in the future. Should you succeed in obtaining sites where we can initiate new research efforts, we will seek opportunities to work with you and your staff to address important research questions for California forests. Please feel free to contact us at any time to discuss existing research projects or any future research opportunities.

Sincerely,

David Levinson, Ph.D.  
Program Manager  
Ecosystem Function & Health



(530) 226-2530

Redding Laboratory

FAX (530) 226-5091



## County Administrator's Office

**Craig L. Pedro**  
County Administrator

Tuolumne County Administration Center  
2 South Green Street  
Sonoma, CA 95370  
Phone (209) 533-5511  
Fax (209) 533-5510  
[www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov](http://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov)

May 9, 2011

Helge Eng  
State Forests Program Manager  
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Dear Mr. Eng:

The County of Tuolumne Board of Supervisors considered what role the County may take in applying for land donation or supporting other entities for donation of properties at Lyon's Reservoir through the Stewardship Council process. The County is endorsing the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) as the donee for the Rushing Meadows parcels. The demonstration forest concept would allow for a multi-use forest, maintain the current recreational aspects, continue the current cattle grazing practices, and demonstrate how to maintain a healthy forest during a time of climate change.

The County offers its role as a partner with CALFIRE, lending its expertise and interest in recreation and trails. It is important to maintain the use of the railroad bed which winds its way through the Rushing Meadows parcels and serves as a popular trail for a variety of uses. In addition, maintaining water quality is of interest to the County because the majority of the County's drinking water flows through the Rushing Meadows area into Lyon's Reservoir.

As a partner with CALFIRE, the County looks forward to working closely to ensure the beneficial public values established by the Stewardship Council are fulfilled in a way that enhances this resource for future recreation and enjoyment. Thank you for the opportunity to partner with you in this worthwhile endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel M. Richardson".

DANIEL M. RICHARDSON  
Deputy County Administrator

*...serving the Board of Supervisors, departments, and the community as good stewards of the County's fiscal and human resources through collaborative, professional and ethical leadership.*



Wise use is multiple use

**Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council**

Land Conservation Program Staff  
1107 9th Street, Suite 501  
Sacramento, CA 95814

May 12, 2011

RE: CAL FIRE application for lands in Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit

Dear Stewardship Council:

Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources & Environment (TuCARE) is a community based non-profit organization founded in 1989. Our membership is made up of a cross-section of our community including local businesspersons, educators, retirees and those actively engaged in working on a daily basis with our natural resources. TuCARE supports conservation and the multiple-use of the many resources on our public lands.

Multiple-use policies allow for everyone to benefit. People can enjoy a wide variety of recreational opportunities. The wood products industry can provide us with needed renewable building materials. Livestock owners can use summer pasture for cattle grazing to produce food for us to eat. Miners can extract minerals necessary for the production of everyday goods that we all use. Everyone who uses water or power generated by the harnessing of the Sierra snowmelt is a beneficiary.

We advocate an increased awareness of natural resources in our schools and communities--believing that a more informed public will be able to make better decisions regarding how our natural resources are cared for and utilized. To this end, we facilitate resource tours to public and private sites within our county and neighboring counties. *Should CAL FIRE become the land-holders for the lands included in the Rushing Meadow, Lyons Reservoir Planning Unit, TuCARE would definitely include sites within the unit for potential tour locations. In addition, TuCARE would help facilitate on the ground projects that might take place on these lands.*

TuCARE is committed to insuring the long-term viability of all of our natural resources, through an ecosystem management approach toward good stewardship of our public lands. Man must play an active role to ensure our forests are not destroyed by wildfire and our resources are available for everyone to use and to enjoy. TuCARE seeks stability for natural resource industries, through the wise use of our resources, to help ensure the economic soundness of our local communities for future generations.

Sincerely,

Melinda Fleming  
Melinda Fleming, Executive Director

P.O. Box 1056 • Twain Harte, CA 95383 • Phone / Fax: (209) 586-7816 • [tucare@mlode.com](mailto:tucare@mlode.com)

### ***33. Public Input***

CAL FIRE has reviewed the public comments provided in the Land Conservation Plan for each Planning Unit and incorporated these comments in this proposal.

CAL FIRE staff have attended all Stewardship Council field tours and also public meetings with stakeholders for all the Planning Units for which we are applying. At these meetings we talked with many of the Local Conservation Partners identified by the Stewardship Council and other stakeholders present about specific concerns or suggestions. In the course of developing our application we followed up with personal contacts to a number of these Partners and also contacted additional potential partners and interested entities. Descriptions of how we have attempted to address stakeholder comments are incorporated in the application and explicitly described below.

Shasta County Planning Units, general: Western Shasta RCD sent a letter of support for CAL FIRE ownership of all Shasta County Planning Units. We will consider working with the RCD on various projects, as funding is available. This could include fuel management projects, watershed or habitat restoration or other activities.

Pit River and Tunnel Reservoir: CAL FIRE met with Jake Elmore, Tribal Elder for the Madesi Band of the Pit Tribe, and Brad Coombs, Pit River Tribe Archaeologist. We agreed on the need to ensure that archaeological and cultural sites were protected; to consult with the Tribe regarding activities affecting these resources, including surveys, management plans and timber harvest plans (THPs); to develop and implement mitigations for harvest activities that do not emphasize avoided sites and inadvertently increase the likelihood of theft and damage; and the opportunity to hire fully certified (CRM or Cultural Resource Management) tribal staff for survey work.

Cow Creek: Contacts for information in the Cow Creek watershed included the Shasta County Farm Advisory (Larry Forero) and the Cow Creek Watershed Management Group (Susan Goodwin). We propose minimal recreational capital improvements for the short term, signage to reduce OHV impacts, support for the Cow Creek Watershed Management Group offer to map existing trails, fuels management for the property, and support for working with the Cow Creek Watershed Management Group and RCD, as needed, to communicate or educate neighboring landowners on fire and fuels management.

Lyons Reservoir: CAL FIRE contacted the Department of Fish and Game. One of their primary interests in the property was in enhancing great gray owl habitat. We included activities for that purpose, such as nesting site construction, riparian vegetation protection and options for limiting cattle use in early spring. We spoke with Dan Richardson and Craig Pedro from Tuolumne County regarding Tuolumne County Irrigation District concerns about parcel #1019, south of the Reservoir; we decided not to apply for this parcel as a result of those discussions. We spoke with a group of people discussing recreational trespass concerns (Stanislaus National Forest, Central Sierra Environmental

Resource Center, PG&E), and propose adequate enforcement, signage and restoration if needed. We discussed educational opportunities with the Tuolumne County Association for Resources and Environment, and propose partnering with their programs to bring school children and local decision-makers for tours and demonstrations about sustainable forestry management. Finally, CAL FIRE spoke with Reba Fuller, Governmental Affairs and Administrative Specialist of the Tuolumne Band of Me-wuk Indians to discuss working with tribes on protection, education and signage of tribal archaeological and cultural sites, as needed.

Bear River and Lake Spaulding: CAL FIRE spoke to and will partner with San Joaquin County Office of Education (Scott Biedermann) to develop educational and recreational opportunities on the Lake Spaulding Unit. We discussed recreation and land stewardship issues with the Nevada County Land Trust, and they are a potential lands conservation partner in both planning units. We plan to continue ongoing discussions regarding Native American land use interests in this area with Izzy Martin, Don Reiberg and representatives of the Auburn Rancheria, regarding strategies for protection of historical sites and supporting tribal activities. We discussed the potential for facilitating a winter outdoor recreation area in the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit with Paul Violet from the Auburn Ski Club and Gene West and Marsha Burch from the Eagle Mountain Conservancy.

### ***34. Budget and Funding Plan***

CAL FIRE requests no funding from the Stewardship Council other than basic land transfer costs. This reflects a prudent fiscal stewardship strategy of starting management of these lands conservatively using existing in-house resources to develop a management plan for these properties.

As the management plan is completed, a gradual build-up of sustainable timber harvests will be the major funding source for a developing program of resource management, protection and restoration, research, monitoring and recreation. A secondary funding source for specific projects will be grants.

We believe this strategy is preferable to starting a more ambitious land management strategy at the outset on a budget that is subsidized by the Stewardship Council and that may not be sustainable in the long term. If, however, it is the desire and within the charter, funding policy, and financial capability of the Stewardship Council to advance the implementation schedule for some or all of the management projects described within our Land Stewardship Proposal, CAL FIRE would be pleased to work cooperatively with the Council to bring this about.

## ***PART 3 – SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION***

### ***1. Internal Revenue Service Determination Letters***

See 13. above.

### ***2. Letter From the Executive Director***

See 7. above.

### ***3. Operating Budget***

See 35. above, and attached budget and funding plan.

### ***4. Financial Statements for the Past Three Years***

See 13. above.



## ***References***

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California Department of Fish and Game. California Natural Diversity Database (gov. ed.) [ds45] Biogeographic Data Branch, Version 4.18, April, 2011.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. 2008. LaTour Demonstration State Forest management plan.

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Foster, D. G. and M. V. Thornton. 2001. Management plan for CDF's historic buildings and archaeological sites. CDF Archaeological Reports Number 22.

Mayer, K. E., and W. F. Laudenslayer. 1988. A guide to wildlife habitats of California. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Natural Resources Management Corporation. 2002. Timber and resource inventory report. PG&E contract # 4600012184.

Tuolumne County. 2011. County Board of Supervisors Resolution, April 19, 2011.

Western Shasta Resource Conservation District, Cow Creek Watershed Management Group. 2006. Draft management plan and proposal for the Cow Creek Sustainable Conservation Preserve. 38 p. Western Shasta Resource Conservation District, Anderson, CA.

## *List of Acronyms*

BPV	Beneficial Public Value
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFIP	California Forest Improvement Program
CHRIS	California Heritage Resources Information System
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CWHR	California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System
DFG	California Department of Fish and Game
FRIF	Forest Resources Improvement Fund
LCP	Land Conservation Plan
LSP	Land Stewardship Proposal
NAHC	Native American Heritage Council
NEU	CAL FIRE's Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit
OCTA	Oregon-California Trails Association
OHV	Off-highway vehicle
PAC	Protected Activity Center
PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
PRC	Public Resources Code
RMAC	Range Management Advisory Committee
SHU	CAL FIRE's Shasta-Trinity Unit
TCU	CAL FIRE's Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit
THP	Timber Harvest Plan
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
VMP	Vegetation Management Program
WESTCARB	West Coast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership

## ***Appendix. Budget and Funding Plan Documentation***

### **Transaction Costs:**

The estimated Title Report fees are based a single multi-parcel report for each planning unit requested. This was estimated to be \$500, but additional cost may be incurred for some complicated Title Reports, according to Kelley Di Pinto, Senior Land Agent, CAL FIRE.

Estimated property values, used for Title Insurance and Escrow Fee estimation, are based on recent transactions of comparables in Shasta and Eldorado Counties, provided by Placer Title. Property values were estimated at \$2000/acre for all properties.

The estimated costs of Title Insurance and Escrow fees were provided by Stewart Title.

The estimated costs for Survey work and Department of General Services (DGS) review were provided by DGS.

### **Management Costs:**

The budget information was compiled using the format provided in the Budget Template, consisting of One-Time Costs and Ongoing Annual Costs. CAL FIRE expects some true one-time costs associated with land transfer process, as well as a start-up phase of one to two years, during which time timber revenues would not be available to cover management costs. Rather than changing the format of the Budget Template, both of these costs have been listed as a one-time cost on the provided spreadsheet. Ongoing Annual Costs for each planning unit were derived from per-acre costs incurred to operate existing Demonstration State Forests. The Ongoing Annual Costs are therefore based on a fully staffed and functional Demonstration State Forest with revenues covering all management costs.

### **Baseline:**

Baseline costs assume minimal management activities. Estimated costs of personnel and operating are based on the cost estimates to patrol and provide basic maintenance of the properties. Payments equivalent to property taxes are included in baseline costs.

#### **One-Time Costs:**

During the Start-up Phase this funding is provided by CAL FIRE's Forest Resources Improvement Fund using revenues from existing Demonstration State Forests.

#### **Ongoing Annual Costs:**

Following the Start-up Phase this cost is covered by projected timber and/or lease revenues.

**Enhanced Management Costs:**

Enhanced management costs are those that are beyond the baseline costs and provide enhanced beneficial public values.

**One-Time Costs:**

During the start-up phase this funding is provided by CAL FIRE's Forest Resources Improvement Fund using revenues from existing Demonstration State Forests. This cost includes the initial set up and measurements of both a forest resources inventory that is used to evaluate current resource conditions and a monitoring inventory consisting of permanently monumented plots that are used to monitor change in forest conditions over time. The forest resources inventory initial costs are based on the assumptions of one plot every five acres at a cost of \$40 per plot. The monitoring inventory initial costs are based on the assumptions of 1 plot every 40 acres at a cost of \$500 per plot.

The addition of new rustic campgrounds has also been included as a one-time capital improvement cost, at \$9,000 per campground, on some of the planning units.

**Ongoing Costs and Revenues:**

Costs for all planning units (except Cow Creek Planning Unit) are based on the actual current LaTour Demonstration State Forest budget, pro-rated on a per-acre basis to each of the planning units. An estimated cost for all forest management activities, baseline and enhanced, was applied to each of the planning units. For the Cow Creek Planning Unit, which includes more rangeland and other non-forested lands than LaTour Demonstration State Forest, a custom budget was developed.

Timber revenues, which are the primary source of funding for both baseline and enhanced management activities, are based on stumpage value of \$200 per thousand board feet. The harvest level is assumed to be 60 percent of projected growth in PG&E's inventory reports (Natural Resources Management Corporation 2002).

Unsecured Grant revenues are not included in the budget projections. CAL FIRE has a long record of successfully securing additional grant funding for research and other special projects (see question #15 for examples). This source of revenue is expected to continue, but the grants funding source is considered to be too variable to be included in this budget analysis. As presented, all ongoing costs have been accounted for with timber and lease revenues.

Projected revenues in excess of planned management costs were left unallocated in order to illustrate the relative productive potential of the planning units, but also to provide management flexibility and allow for other unforeseen costs.

Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council  
Land Stewardship Proposal Budget and Funding Plan  
Lyons Res Planning Unit

**PROJECT BUDGET - TRANSACTION COSTS**

**A. Document Preparation Costs**

Task	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	Total Cost	Funding Request	Comments
Title Report	Report	1	500	500		
Input Activity				-		
Input Activity				-		
Input Activity				-		
Input Activity				-		
To add a row: right click on the row above -> select copy -> right click again ->select insert copied cells						
<b>A. Total Document Preparation Costs</b>				<b>500</b>	<b>-</b>	

**B. Closing Costs**

Task	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	Total Cost	Funding Request	Comments
Title Insurance	Transaction	1	1,170	1,170	1,170	
Escrow	Transaction	1	2,034	2,034	2,034	
						The State is exempt from paying recording fees and transfer tax fees.
Recording Fees				-		
Input Activity				-		
Input Activity				-		
To add a row: right click on the row above -> select copy -> right click again ->select insert copied cells						
<b>B. Total Closing Costs</b>				<b>3,204</b>	<b>3,204</b>	

**C. Other**

Task	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	Total Cost	Funding Request	Comments
Document search				-		
Boundary Surveys		1	52,000	52,000	26,000	
						Since 15% of estimated survey costs are for due diligence, CAL FIRE requests funding for 85% of the estimated survey cost where surveyed lands do not include any constrained areas or parcels. Where surveys of donated lands include constrained areas or parcels, CAL FIRE requests 50% of the entire survey cost estimate.
Dept. of General Services Review		1	50,000	50,000		CAL FIRE will cover all DGS review costs.
Input Activity				-		
Input Activity				-		
To add a row: right click on the row above -> select copy -> right click again ->select insert copied cells						
<b>C. Total Other</b>				<b>102,000</b>	<b>26,000</b>	
<b>TOTAL TRANSACTION COSTS</b>				<b>105,704</b>	<b>29,204</b>	

Additional Notes:

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PROJECT BUDGET - BASELINE LAND OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES (SEE NOTE 1)

PROJECT REVENUES

Source	Description	Non- SC Sources of Funding		Comments
		One-Time Grants	Ongoing Funding	
Committed Funds (cash received or award made)				
Grant Awards	Forest Resources Improvement Fund	13,000		
Fundraising				
Matching Funds				
Lease Revenues				
Timber Revenues				
General Fund/Reserves				
Other (Describe)				
Total Committed Funds		13,000	-	
Pending Funds (no award made to date)				
Grant Awards			8,431	Portion of Timber Revenues needed to cover Baseline Costs
Fundraising				
Matching Funds				
General Fund/Reserves				
Timber Revenues				
Lease Revenues			-	
Total Pending or Potential Funds		-	8,431	
To add a row: right click on the row above -> select copy -> right click again ->select insert copied cells				
TOTAL PROJECT REVENUES		13,000	8,431	

PROJECT EXPENSES

A. Baseline Management Activities

Task	Description	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	SC Funding Request		Comments
					One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs	
Start-up Salary 1/8 time Forester I (1st Year)	Patrol and Basic Maintenace only	Position	1	13,000	13,000		Patrol costs reduced after the start-up phase due to increased presence associated with other management activities.
Patrol (1/16 time Forester I - ongoing)		Position	1	6,500	-	6,500	
Infrastructure Maintenance	Signage, Gates	Annual Cost	1	400		400	
Trash Removal		Annual Cost	1	300		300	
Road Maintenance/OHV control measures	Basic grading/maintenance/ OHV control	Annual Cost	1	500		500	
Input Activity							
Input Activity							
To add a row: right click on the row above -> select copy -> right click again ->select insert copied cells							
A. Total Baseline Management Activities					13,000	7,700	- -

B. Baseline Land Ownership Costs

Task	Description	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	SC Funding Request		Comments
					One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs	
Property Taxes		Transaction	1	731		731	
Input Activity							
Input Activity							
Input Activity							
Input Activity							
Input Activity							
Input Activity							
Input Activity							

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Input Activity									
To add a row: right click on the row above -> select copy -> right click again ->select insert copied cells									
B. Total Baseline Land Ownership Costs					-	731	-	-	
C. Other									
Task	Description	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs	SC Funding Request		Comments
							One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs	
Input Activity									
Input Activity									
Input Activity									
Input Activity									
Input Activity									
Input Activity									
Input Activity									
Input Activity									
Input Activity									
To add a row: right click on the row above -> select copy -> right click again ->select insert copied cells									
C. Total Other					-	-	-	-	
TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES					13,000	8,431	-	-	
NET REVENUE/(EXPENSE) - BASELINE LAND OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES					-	-	-	-	

Additional Notes:

**Note 1:** According to the Stewardship Council's Land Conservation Program Funding Policy, the Stewardship Council will require future land owners to demonstrate that they have the funding and other capacity to maintain that property interest so as to preserve and/or enhance the beneficial values on the Watershed Lands. Exceptions to this guideline will be rare and considered only in circumstances where,

1) The funding of baseline land ownership and management activities will clearly lead to enhancement of the beneficial public values on the lands; and/or,

2) The funding of baseline land ownership and management activities is only temporary (≤5 years).

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PROJECT BUDGET - ENHANCEMENTS TO BENEFICIAL PUBLIC VALUES

PROJECT REVENUES

Source	Description	Non- SC Sources of Funding		Comments
		One-Time Grants	Ongoing Funding	
Committed Funds (cash received or award made)				
Grant Awards				
Fundraising				
Matching Funds				
Lease Revenues				
General Fund/Reserves				
Other (Describe)	Forest Resources Improvement Fund	22,040		
Total Committed Funds		22,040	-	
Pending Funds (no award made to date)				
Grant Awards				
Fundraising				
Matching Funds				
General Fund/Reserves				
Lease Revenues	Grazing		750	
Timber Revenues	Stumpage Sales		26,167	Remaining Timber Revenues after Baseline Costs have been deducted
Total Pending or Potential Funds		-	26,917	
To add a row: right click on the row above -> select copy -> right click again ->select insert copied cells				
TOTAL PROJECT REVENUES		22,040	26,917	

PROJECT EXPENSES

A. Enhanced Land Management Activities

Task	Description	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	SC Funding Request		Comments
					One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs	
Forest/Range Resource Assessment Inventory	Temporary plots used to assess current conditions	Plot	126	40	5,040	-	Initial cost based on 1 plot/5 acres, cruise contracted out @ \$40/plot.
Forest/Range Resource Monitoring Installation	Permanent plots used to monitor change	Plot	16	500	8,000	-	This cost is not ongoing, but the cost is expected to be spread out over a 5 year plot installation period.
Forest/Range Resource Assessment Inventory Updating and Data Analysis	Temporary plots used to assess current conditions	Annual Cost	1	1,299		1,299	Assumes 10 yr cycle, 1 plot/5acres
Forest/Range Resource Monitoring Inventory Remeasurement and Data Analysis	Permanent plots used to monitor change	Annual Cost	1	1,299		1,299	Assumes 5 yr re-measure period
Cultural Surveys		Annual Cost	1	955		955	
Biological Surveys		Annual Cost	1	642		642	Flora and Fauna
Comprehensive Multi-resource Management Plan Development		Plan	1	-	-	-	The management plan will be developed by CAL FIRE scientists and staff
Option A/LTSY Plan Development		Plan	1	-	-	-	The Option A/LTSY plan will be developed by CAL FIRE scientists and staff
Research and Demonstration		Annual Cost	1	4,470		4,470	Costs associated with funding or maintaining research projects
Vegetation Management	Fuel treatments/thinning	Annual Cost	1	1,578		1,578	
Road Improvements/Maintenance		Annual Cost	1	4,126		4,126	This is the estimated cost of all roadwork beyond baseline maintenance. Includes improvements and maintenance due to Enhanced BPV activities (e.g. sustainable forestry)
Timber Sale Prep/Admin/Fees		MBF	173	50		8,650	Costs associated with Timber Sale Preparation, review, fees
Recreation		Annual Cost	1	1,471		1,471	Cost of personnel and operating expenses for Recreation management
Other Operating Expenses		Annual Cost	1	1,032		1,032	Tools, supplies, paint, flagging, facilities
To add a row: right click on the row above -> select copy -> right click again ->select insert copied cells							
A. Total Enhanced Land Management Activities					13,040	25,522	- -



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B. Capital Improvements

Task	Description	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs	SC Funding Request		Comments
							One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs	
Trail Construction/Improvements	Rustic CG	Campground	1	9,000	9,000	500			
Campground Construction									
Input Activity									
Input Activity									
To add a row: right click on the row above -> select copy -> right click again ->select insert copied cells									
B. Total Capital Improvements					9,000	500	-	-	

C. Other

Task	Description	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs	One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs	Comments
Input Activity									
Input Activity									
To add a row: right click on the row above -> select copy -> right click again ->select insert copied cells									
C. Total Other					-	-	-	-	

TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES					22,040	26,022	-	-	
NET REVENUE/(EXPENSE) - ENHANCEMENT OF BENEFICIAL PUBLIC VALUES					-	895	-	-	

Additional Notes: