

FEE TITLE DONEE RECOMMENDATION HAT CREEK, FALL RIVER MILLS, AND LAKE BRITTON PLANNING UNITS – PIT RIVER TRIBE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

The Stewardship Council is recommending donation of lands within three planning units located in Shasta County, CA.

HAT CREEK

The Hat Creek planning unit, located in Shasta County, consists of 26 parcels encompassing approximately 3,176 acres of land, of which approximately 2,706 acres were preliminarily identified as available for fee title donation. The Stewardship Council Board of Directors (Board) previously approved one fee title recommendation at this planning unit. On April 29, 2015, the Board recommended the Pit River Tribe as the prospective fee title donee for 850 acres.

The Stewardship Council has continued to evaluate opportunities for the recommendation of additional donations of land within this planning unit. Based on a review of the LSP submitted by the Pit River Tribe and follow up discussions with the Tribe, the Stewardship Council has developed the following recommendations:

Pit River Tribe is being recommended as the prospective recipient of fee title to approximately 541 acres available for donation within seven parcels (185, 187, 188, 191, 204, 205, 209) in the Hat Creek planning unit subject to compliance with all of the requirements of the Land Conservation Commitment.

FALL RIVER MILLS

The Fall River Mills planning unit, located in Shasta County, consists of 71 legal parcels encompassing approximately 4,837 acres of land. Approximately 4,197 acres were preliminarily identified as available for fee title donation. The Board previously approved four fee title

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

recommendations at this planning unit. In May 2012, the Board recommended the donation of three parcels, encompassing approximately 34 acres, to the Fall River Valley CSD.

In September 2012, the Board recommended the donation of 19 parcels, encompassing approximately 2,514 acres to the BLM. Subsequent to its submittal of an LSP, BLM withdrew and confirmed that it could not pursue the land donation due to requirements of the Stipulation relating to Section 4(e) of the Federal Power Act. On March 12, 2014, the Board recommended the donation of 4 parcels, encompassing approximately 523 acres, to the Fall River RCD.

The Stewardship Council has continued to evaluate opportunities for the recommendation of additional donations of land within this planning unit. Based on a review of the LSP submitted by the Pit River Tribe on November 15, 2018 and follow up discussions with the Tribe, the Stewardship Council has developed the following recommendation:

Pit River Tribe is being recommended as the prospective recipient of fee title to approximately 1,506 acres available for donation within eleven parcels (107, 108, 111, 112, 114, 116-118, 127, 130, 132) in the Fall River Mills planning unit, subject to compliance with all of the requirements of the Land Conservation Commitment.

LAKE BRITTON

The Lake Britton planning unit, located in Shasta County, consists of 61 parcels encompassing approximately 5,704 acres of land. Approximately 3,212 acres were preliminarily identified as available for fee title donation.

In December 2010, the Board recommended the donation of four parcels encompassing approximately 119 acres to the California State Parks. In September 2012, the Board recommended donation of 13 parcels encompassing approximately 1,405 acres to the Bureau of Land Management, Alturas Field Office. Subsequent to its submittal of an LSP, BLM withdrew and confirmed that it could not pursue the land donation due to requirements of the Stipulation relating to Section 4(e) of the Federal Power Act. In January 23, 2014, the Board recommended donation of approximately 308 acres to the United States Forest Service (Lassen National Forest).

The Stewardship Council has continued to evaluate opportunities for the recommendation of additional donations of land within this planning unit. Based on a review of the LSP submitted by the Pit River Tribe and follow up discussions with the Tribe, the Stewardship Council has developed the following recommendation:

Pit River Tribe is being recommended as the prospective recipient of fee title to approximately 1,095 acres available for donation within seven parcels (211-216, 267) in the Lake Britton planning unit, subject to compliance with all of the requirements of the Land Conservation Commitment.

The following requirements of the Land Conservation Commitment apply to all recommendations to the Pit River Tribe:

- The Pit River Tribe provides a limited waiver of sovereign immunity to ensure that the conservation easement and other agreements executed pursuant to the Land Conservation Commitment are enforceable.
- The Pit River Tribe agrees not to petition the federal government to have the donated lands placed into federal trust.

The Watershed Planning Committee also recommends that the Board approve the Stewardship Council funding of the future property tax obligations associated with the donation of lands to the Pit River Tribe.

If this recommendation is endorsed by the Board, the Stewardship Council would work with the Pit River Tribe, PG&E, and the recommended conservation easement holder to initiate the transaction including the development of the conservation easements. Following the Stewardship Council's review of the proposed conservation easements, the conservation easements would be incorporated into a Land Conservation and Conveyance Plan (LCCP). The draft LCCP will be made available for public review and comment before it is reviewed and approved by the Planning Committee and the board. Adoption of the LCCP by the board would be the final step in the Stewardship Council's process. The draft LCCP will be made available for public review and comment before it is reviewed and approved by the Planning Committee and the board. Adoption of the LCCP by the board will be the final step in the Stewardship Council's process.

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

A. *Planning Unit Description*

HAT CREEK

The description below is inclusive of the entire planning unit, of which 541 acres are the subject of this fee title recommendation. The Hat Creek planning unit consists of approximately 3,176 acres of land currently owned by PG&E and is located in Shasta County in and around the town of Cassel. The planning unit is comprised of 26 legal parcels and includes several bodies of water including Cassel Pond, Hat Creek #1 Forebay, Baum Lake, Crystal Lake, Hat Creek, and Hat Creek #1 Canal. At an elevation of approximately 3,200 feet, the Hat Creek planning unit is an important recreation area with extensive historic and habitat resources.

There is substantial diverse riparian habitat within the Hat Creek planning unit. The habitat resources are used by a variety of waterfowl, raptors, and aquatic species including great blue heron, osprey, bald eagle, bank swallow, Shasta crayfish, hardhead, bigeye marbled sculpin, and rough sculpin. A portion of the planning unit is designated as a Wild Trout stream by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife due to its abundant wild rainbow and brown trout fisheries.

This planning unit also provides open space for Shasta County and the town of Cassel. The Shasta County General Plan recognizes that rivers, creeks and associated riparian corridors, and floodplains within the county are major open space resources.

Recreation use at Hat Creek is primarily associated with fishing and duck hunting, although camping, hiking, and wildlife watching also occurs throughout the planning unit. Boating (non-motorized, electric trolling motor boats only) primarily occurs at Baum Lake as boating is prohibited at many other areas in the planning unit. The Pacific Crest Trail runs through the planning unit, primarily along the western shore of Baum Lake. Many of the recreation sites in the planning unit have been enhanced to accommodate high use during the recreation season.

The planning unit has minor forestry resources and there has been only one timber sale for this area in the last 20 years. The area has scattered second-growth Jeffrey and Ponderosa Pine stands with no plantations or late seral stage stands. The PG&E Timber Management Unit (TMU) for Hat Creek consists of 644 acres of timber, and current PG&E management activities are restricted to mitigating for watershed and forest health issues, including emergency salvage harvesting following insect attack or a catastrophic event.

Grazing was eliminated in 2001 due to impacts to cultural resources, as well as erosive impacts to the shoreline of Baum and Crystal Lakes and the east side of Hat Creek.

The planning unit is within the Pit River Tribe's ancestral territory. There are several recorded historic and prehistoric archaeological sites within the planning unit (all within the FERC boundary). The planning unit contains the only legal Native American spearfish site in California and other important places to Native Americans, including prayer sites and a large meadow where members of the Illmawi band of the Pit River Tribe are said to have taken refuge from nearby Mt. Lassen eruptions.

The Hat Creek planning unit report, which describes the BPVs and management objectives associated with the planning unit has been excerpted from Volume II of the LCP and is attached.

FALL RIVER MILLS

The description below is inclusive of the entire planning unit, of which 1,506 acres are the subject of this fee title recommendation. The Fall River Mills planning unit consists of approximately 4,837 acres of land currently owned by PG&E and located in Shasta County (see attached map). The planning unit is comprised of 71 legal parcels that contain the Pit 1 Forebay, Fall River Pond, and several miles of the Fall River and Pit River corridors and surrounding lands. The Fall River flows into the Pit 1 Forebay and, below the Forebay, into the Fall River Pond, both of which are located adjacent to the town of Fall River Mills. The 71 parcels of land comprising this planning unit are located adjacent to private lands and lands owned and managed by the BLM. The Fall River Mills planning unit contains extensive river, riparian, and terrestrial habitat resources. There are many aquatic species that inhabit the site, including the endangered Shasta Crayfish and Northwestern Pond Turtle, a special status species. Due to the large number of avian species that use the greater Fall River Area and its importance in maintaining bird populations, the Audubon Society has designated this area as an Important Bird Area. Open space values are found throughout the planning unit due to a lack of development, the steepness of the Pit River Canyon, and limited recreation facilities. Lands behind the town of Fall River Mills located near the Pit 1 Forebay and Fall River Pond provide an open space area for the town. Lands along Highway 299 provide a viewshed for the highway and scenic overlook across from the Pit River Falls. A section of the Pit River that starts near the end of Big Eddy (beginning on the BLM land) and continues to the Pit River Falls has been

proposed by the BLM as a Wild and Scenic River segment. The majority of the planning unit's recreational facilities are located at the Pit 1 Forebay and Fall River Pond, adjacent to the town of Fall River Mills. At the Forebay, facilities include a group picnic area, swim beach, boat ramp, and day use area. Facilities at the Fall River Pond include a boat launch and picnic site. These lands and facilities serve as a community park for Fall River Mills. Whitewater boating access is also available at two locations within this planning unit.

PG&E currently manages three leases on lands that were made available for donation: a grazing lease on 300 acres in the vicinity of the Pit 1 Forebay, a grazing lease on 26 acres near the Pit 1 Weir, and a recreation lease associated with the Hat Creek Rifle and Pistol Club. Additionally, there is an informal day use area managed by the Fall River Lion's Club, located downstream of the Pit 1 Powerhouse. The planning unit has two PG&E Timber Management Units (TMUs) consisting of second growth mixed conifer and eastside pine stands, along with oaks and incense-cedar. The primary TMU within the planning unit (covering the Fall River Mills area west to about the Sucker Springs Creek area) is currently managed by PG&E under a salvage prescription, while a small area in the western portion of the planning unit is managed for multiple-uses.

This area is within the ancestral territory of the Pit River Tribe, specifically the Ajumawi and Illmawi bands of the Pit River Tribe. Portions of the planning unit have been recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an historic district.

LAKE BRITTON

The description below is inclusive of the entire planning unit, of which 1,095 acres are the subject of this fee title recommendation. The Lake Britton planning unit consists of approximately 5,704 acres of land currently owned by PG&E and is located in Shasta County (see attached map). The planning unit, located at an elevation of 2,700 feet, is comprised of 61 legal parcels along Lake Britton and portions of the Pit River and Hat Creek. Lands adjacent to, or in the immediate vicinity of, Lake Britton that are not owned by PG&E are owned by the USFS, California State Parks, and private parties. Lake Britton is generally referred to as consisting of two areas, lower and upper Lake Britton, due to the distinct difference in character and level of development between the two areas. The lower lake is more reservoir-like and heavily developed for recreation, while the upper lake is more narrow and river-like with little recreation development. Lake Britton provides valuable habitat resources and has been identified as a Significant Natural Area by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Lower Lake Britton supports a warm water fishery for introduced game species, while the shallower upper Lake Britton contains higher concentrations of native fish species. The area adjacent to Lake Britton and the Pit River has one of the largest populations of bald eagles within the contiguous United States, and the Pit River System is one of the most important bald eagle nesting areas in California. Lands within the planning unit provide open space and scenic viewsheds for McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park, Highway 299, and Highway 89, which has been designated as part of the Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway. Lake Britton is a popular recreation area for angling, swimming, hiking, picnicking, boating, camping, wildlife viewing, and hunting. The lakeshore day use area contains a beach, marina, picnic area, designated swim area, and boat rental. In addition, lower Lake Britton contains a campground, boat launch, day use area, two private camps, and a moderately-used informal recreation area. There are also 20 recreation trails found in the lower portion of Lake Britton.

The planning unit contains one PG&E Timber Management Unit (TMU) that consists of 2,499 acres of second-growth mixed conifer and eastside pine stands, and may contain some remnant apple orchard trees, along with oaks and incense-cedar. The Lake Britton TMU is currently managed by PG&E for multiple uses in which protection and uses of other resources and facilities may preclude sustained timber management as the highest and best use of portions of the TMU. Grazing was discontinued on lands within the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) boundary in the late 1980s to protect sensitive resources and water quality. Lands outside the FERC boundary appear to have low potential to support grazing activities due to the presence of sensitive species. The planning unit is located within the Pit River Tribe's ancestral territory. In 1975 the entire shoreline of Lake Britton was federally-designated an archaeological district. In 2008, the archaeological district was expanded and is now referred to as the Pit River Aboriginal Cultural District.

B. Donee Evaluation Process

The Stewardship Council received statements of qualifications (SOQs) from numerous organizations interested in acquiring fee title to lands available for donation within the three planning units.

Hat Creek

The Stewardship Council received statements of qualifications (SOQs) from seven organizations interested in acquiring fee title to lands available for donation within this planning unit. A list of organizations that submitted SOQs is attached. Of the four organizations that were invited forward (BLM, Pit River Tribe, Shasta County, USFS), the following two organizations submitted LSPs:

- BLM (Alturas Field Office); BLM subsequently withdrew from this process when it determined that it could not pursue a land donation due to requirements of the Stipulation relating to section 4(e) of the Federal Power Act
- Pit River Tribe

Fall River Mills

The Stewardship Council received statements of qualifications (SOQs) from nine organizations interested in acquiring fee title to lands available for donation within this planning unit. A list of organizations that submitted SOQs is attached. Of these organizations, the following four organizations were invited to submit LSPs:

- BLM Alturas Field Office
- Fall River Valley Community Services District
- Fall River Resource Conservation District
- Pit River Tribe

Lake Britton

The Stewardship Council received statements of qualifications (SOQs) from seven organizations interested in acquiring fee title to lands available for donation within this planning unit. A list of organizations that submitted SOQs is attached. Of these organizations, the following five organizations were invited to submit LSPs:

- BLM (Alturas Field Office)
- California State Parks
- Shasta County
- Pit River Tribe
- USFS (Lassen National Forest)

After an initial round of LSPs was submitted for the Hat Creek, Fall River Mills, and Lake Britton planning units prior to 2015, recommendations were made for a portion of the acres to be donated in fee, while the remaining acres were anticipated to be retained by PG&E. In 2018, the Stewardship Council and PG&E land staff conducted a desk review and field review of the additional lands that were anticipated to be retained by PG&E. PG&E staff assessed the remaining acres that did not fall within Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) project boundaries, and were not required for current or future utility operations. The Board then agreed to solicit additional Land Stewardship Proposals for available lands in Hat Creek, Fall River Mills, and Lake Britton planning units, from two key regional stakeholders, the Fall River Resource Conservation District (Fall River RCD) and the Pit River Tribe. The Stewardship Council evaluated this additional round of LSPs for the three planning units in November and December of 2018. In evaluating the LSPs, the following factors were considered:

- An evaluation of the potential donees' programmatic, financial, and legal capacity to maintain the property interest so as to preserve and/or enhance the beneficial public values of the planning unit;
- Anticipated funding needs of the potential donees;
- The management objectives for the Hat Creek, Fall River Mills, and Lake Britton planning units as set forth in Volume II of the LCP;
- Public comments received regarding the desired qualifications of potential donees and the future stewardship of the planning unit;
- The requirements of the Settlement and Stipulation; and,
- Other relevant policies, procedures, and goals adopted by the Stewardship Council.

II. EVALUATION

The Stewardship Council evaluated the LSP and supplemental information that was submitted in November, 2018 by the Pit River Tribe. As a result, the Pit River Tribe is being recommended to receive a donation of fee title to lands within the Hat Creek, Fall River Mills, and Lake Britton

planning units as follows:

Pit River Tribe is being recommended as the prospective recipient of fee title to approximately 541 acres available for donation within seven parcels (185, 187, 188, 191, 204, 205, 209) in the Hat Creek planning unit.

Pit River Tribe is being recommended as the prospective recipient of fee title to approximately 1,506 acres available for donation within eleven parcels (107, 108, 111, 112, 114, 116-118, 127, 130, 132) in the Fall River Mills planning unit.

Pit River Tribe is being recommended as the prospective recipient of fee title to approximately 1,095 acres available for donation within seven parcels (211-216, 267) in the Lake Britton planning unit.

The Stewardship Council's recommendation is based upon a determination that the Pit River Tribe appears to have sufficient financial and organizational capacity to own and manage fee title to the acres of land that are the subject of this recommendation. Additionally the Pit River Tribe has proposed to maintain and improve the recreational and educational use of the property.

A. Donee Organizational Capacity

The Pit River Tribe appears to possess the organizational capacity and experience to own and manage fee title to the properties recommended for donation and to preserve and enhance the beneficial public values thereon.

- The Pit River Tribe is a federally-recognized Native American tribe consisting of the original eleven autonomous bands that comprise the “100-mile square” ancestral boundary of the Pit River Nation. The Hat Creek, Fall River Mills, and Lake Britton planning units are located entirely within this boundary, and was the ancestral home of the Illmawi and Atsuge Tribal bands. The Pit River Tribal Council, a sovereign government entity, consists of one member each of the eleven original bands that populated the tribal ancestral homelands. The entire county of Shasta lies within the jurisdictional territory of the Pit River Tribe. The remaining lands available for donation hold indescribable cultural significance to the Pit River People.
- The Pit River Tribe currently owns and manages the XL Ranch, approximately 9,700 acres of land, for the preservation of natural and cultural resource protection and agricultural uses.
- The Pit River Tribe owns in fee, governmental trust, and reservation lands, approximately 23,000 acres within the Pit River and McCloud Watersheds.
- The Pit River Tribe has established partnerships with state and federal land agencies, and other local entities on fire management activities, noxious weeds management, habitat restoration, trail work, and archaeological restorations.
- Through its Environmental Programs Office and Natural Resources Department, the Pit River Tribe is actively involved in resource management and educational activities such as noxious weed abatement, road maintenance, forestry

management, prescribed range and meadow grazing, and tribal youth educational programs.

- The Pit River Tribe's Environmental Programs and Historic Preservation Offices handle all tribal cultural resource matters pertaining to archeology, cultural site monitoring, and identification and preservation of cultural resources. The Pit River Tribe is responsible for the planning, execution, ordinance enforcement, and on-the-ground environmental resource and road management for the XL Ranch. Operations on the XL Ranch include grazing, agriculture, irrigation, hunting, noxious weed management, and prescribed burning programs.
- The Pit River Youth Resource Conservation Group works to ensure knowledge of the Pit River culture is passed from one generation to the next through oral history and hands- on activities, the department is developing youth education and outreach by the following activities:
 1. Watershed Day Camp- this activity will strengthen the Pit River youth's connection to the ecosystems of the watershed they live in.
 2. Burney Creek Clean up - this annual activity gets Pit River united with concept of clean rivers and streams in their watershed.
 3. Traditional Cultural Gathering at Medicine Lake campground on the shore of Medicine Lake. This educational outreach event brings Tribal people and their children to celebrate the connection with the land and renew of Tribal customs and teachings.
- The Pit River Tribe passed a Water Quality Ordinance in 2001, which made a commitment to developing its water resource programs with a priority to protect fisheries and promote water quality standards on Tribal and traditional ancestral territories. When the Tribal Environmental Program received its Treatment-As-State status from the USEPA in 2007, the Tribe advanced the next step in watershed-based planning through implementation of projects that reduce non-point source pollutants being discharged into rivers and streams. The Environmental Program has since developed sound methodology and capacity in understanding water quality. The PRT protects and measures water quality and operates land management activities in accordance with its USEPA approved Non-Point Source Pollution Management Plan.

B. Donee Financial Capacity

The Stewardship Council believes the Pit River Tribe has sufficient financial capacity for the lands being recommended for donation in the subject planning units, based upon a review of its 2016, 2017, and 2018 unaudited financial statements.

C. Management Objectives

Volume II of the LCP established certain management objectives for the Hat Creek, Fall River Mills, and Lake Britton planning units (see Volume II Planning Unit Report with attachments). The Pit River Tribe is seeking fee title to lands within the planning unit to achieve a number of proposed management activities, which are described below and appear to be consistent with the established management objectives.

The Pit River Tribe proposes to manage the property through a collaborative approach that ensures adequate protection of the beneficial public values, while honoring existing agreements and uses. Specific management activities identified in the Pit River Tribe's proposal include:

- Protect identified biological and cultural BPVs through planning ecological restoration activities that preserve and enhance fisheries; monitoring watershed conditions; balancing recreational activities to protect and identify cultural resources, preserving open space, enhancing pristine habitat values, and preparing an inventory of sensitive species and habitat.
- Engaging in baseline data collection, ecological performance monitoring, invasive species control, and other critical pre-restoration steps needed to plan for future management activities.
- Implement projects that: improve water quality; preserve cultural resources; protect fisheries; enhance open space attributes and visitor experience; develop culturally competent and appropriate interpretive signage; maintain existing and proposed trails; monitor impacts associated with potential increases in recreation; monitor vehicular access; and maintain roads and vegetation.
- Apply Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) restoration projects to the parcels, as well as prescribed fire management.
- Continue access for the Pit River people to the Pit-McCloud River Watershed to gather traditional subsistence food and native plants for medicine and for the arts. Continue to provide members of the Pit River Tribe access to their ancestral homelands that include many identified and unidentified sacred sites, living shrines, geological satellites, family cemeteries, and domain allotments.
- Enhance public outdoor recreation opportunities, including promoting non-motorized exploration, interpretative and educational walkways, and other components that value light footprints on the ecosystem. This includes providing educational and cultural access to the ecologically sensitive habitats in the Pacific Flyway, and preservation of the unparalleled views of the Fall River and McCloud Watershed valleys, and Mt. Shasta skyline.
- Engage in sustainable forestry practices and develop a Forest Management Plan through the evaluation of existing timber inventory data and supplemental information. In addition, the Tribe may explore opportunities to participate in a carbon credit program to generate revenue for the purposes of supporting projects consistent with the conservation easement and LCCP developed for the Hat Creek planning unit, which will also be incorporated to the planning of the Lake Britton and Fall River Mills planning units.
- Coordinate with PG&E and state agencies on joint wildfire prevention efforts within Shasta County planning units. Collaborative efforts among agencies and the Tribe will serve a needed large-scale planning effort as can be seen with recent devastating fire activity within the region.

- California Trout will serve as a Conservation Partner and will assist in activities on the donated lands that contribute to the preservation and enhancement of the beneficial public values (BPVs) related to the protection and restoration of the natural habitat of fish, wildlife, and plants in the Hat Creek watershed, in particular. The Tribe will also seek to work with other conservation partners, the State of California, and PG&E to pursue opportunities to implement joint habitat improvement projects, invasive species management activities. The Tribe will apply for funding and management assistance through programs offered by US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Environmental Protection Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to introduce financial cost-share opportunities to restore habitat, improve water quality, protect and preserve cultural resources, and support the recovery of critically and endangered species within the watershed.

D. Funding

The estimated annual property tax amount associated with the 3,142 acres recommended for donation to the Pit River Tribe, is approximately \$18,500. The lump sum payment that would be needed to satisfy property tax neutrality if the donated lands were exempt from property taxes would be approximately \$462,500. This number was calculated based on the methodology described in the Property Tax Neutrality Methodology adopted on June 27, 2012 by the Stewardship Council and amended on November 15, 2017.

The Stewardship Council will provide funding to Shasta County for the Pit River Tribe for future property tax obligations associated with this recommended donation. The Stewardship Council's recommendation is based on the following factors: First, both PG&E and the Stewardship Council have conditioned the donation of land to the Pit River Tribe on the Tribe agreeing not to take the donated lands into trust. Thus, the Tribe would be prevented from obtaining tax exempt status for this property. Second, providing funding to Shasta County for the Pit River Tribe would treat that entity in a similar manner to other fee donees. The Stewardship Council would work with PG&E, the Pit River Tribe, and Shasta County to determine the final payment methods and amounts necessary to satisfy the new landowner's property tax obligations.

E. Requirements of the Settlement and Stipulation

A recommendation to donate lands to the Pit River Tribe would be subject to compliance with all the requirements of the Land Conservation Commitment. Several of these requirements are highlighted below:

- Require a determination that conveyance of these parcels would not result in an expansion of FERC license conditioning authority under Section 4(e) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), in compliance with Stipulation Section 12(b)(4). This would be accomplished by the Pit River Tribe agreeing not to petition to have the donated lands taken into trust.
- A conservation easement would be established on all lands donated to the Pit River Tribe. The conservation easement must contain a limited waiver of sovereign immunity by the Tribe to ensure the conservation easement is enforceable.
- The grant deed and conservation easement for lands that are donated would include an express reservation of rights for continued operation and maintenance

of hydroelectric facilities and associated water delivery facilities, including project replacements and improvements required to meet existing and future water delivery requirements for power generation and consumptive water use by existing users, and compliance with any FERC license, FERC license renewal, or other regulatory requirements.

- The Pit River Tribe must enter into a legally binding agreement to ensure PG&E's reserved rights are protected, the conservation easement is enforceable, and other agreements with PG&E and/or the Stewardship Council would be enforceable.

F. Conservation Partners

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

The Pit River Tribe identified potential partnerships for management and enhancement activities with California Trout, a San Francisco-based 501(c)(3) conservation group with a mission to ensure resilient wild fish in healthy waters for a better California.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Stewardship Council has implemented a public outreach program to engage stakeholders and solicit public input on the development and implementation of the LCP. A summary of key public outreach activities and public comments associated with the Hat Creek, Fall River Mills, and Lake Britton planning units is attached.

IV. ALTERNATIVES

In addition to evaluating the proposal submitted by the Pit River Tribe, the Stewardship Council considered an alternative consisting of PG&E retaining some or all of the lands available for donation in the subject parcels is summarized below.

PG&E Retention:

Some or all of the lands being recommended for donation within the subject parcels could be retained by PG&E. The retention of the acres by PG&E would result in continuing the current

management regime, subject to a newly established conservation easement. However, it should be noted that some or all of these lands could be transferred at some future date by PG&E to a new landowner. Although the new landowner would be required to manage these lands subject to the conservation easement, the type and level of management could change from PG&E's current management regime.

V. NEXT STEPS FOLLOWING PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

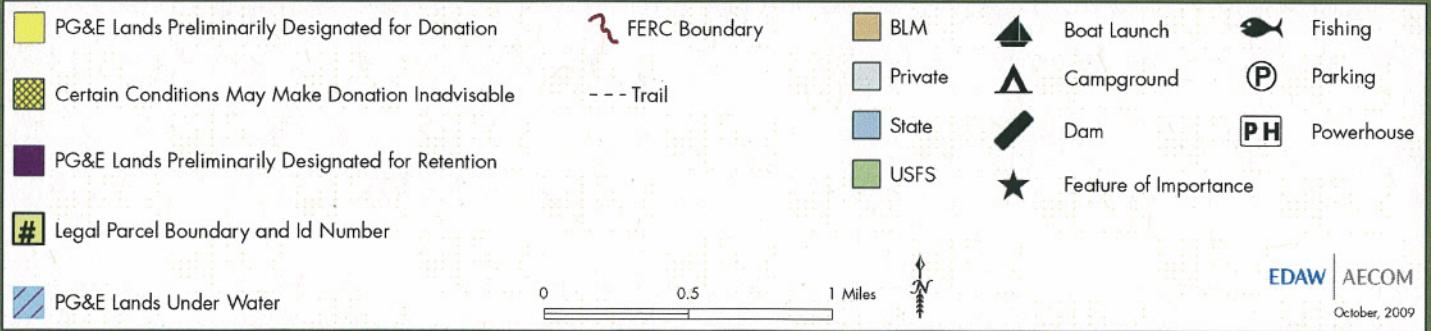
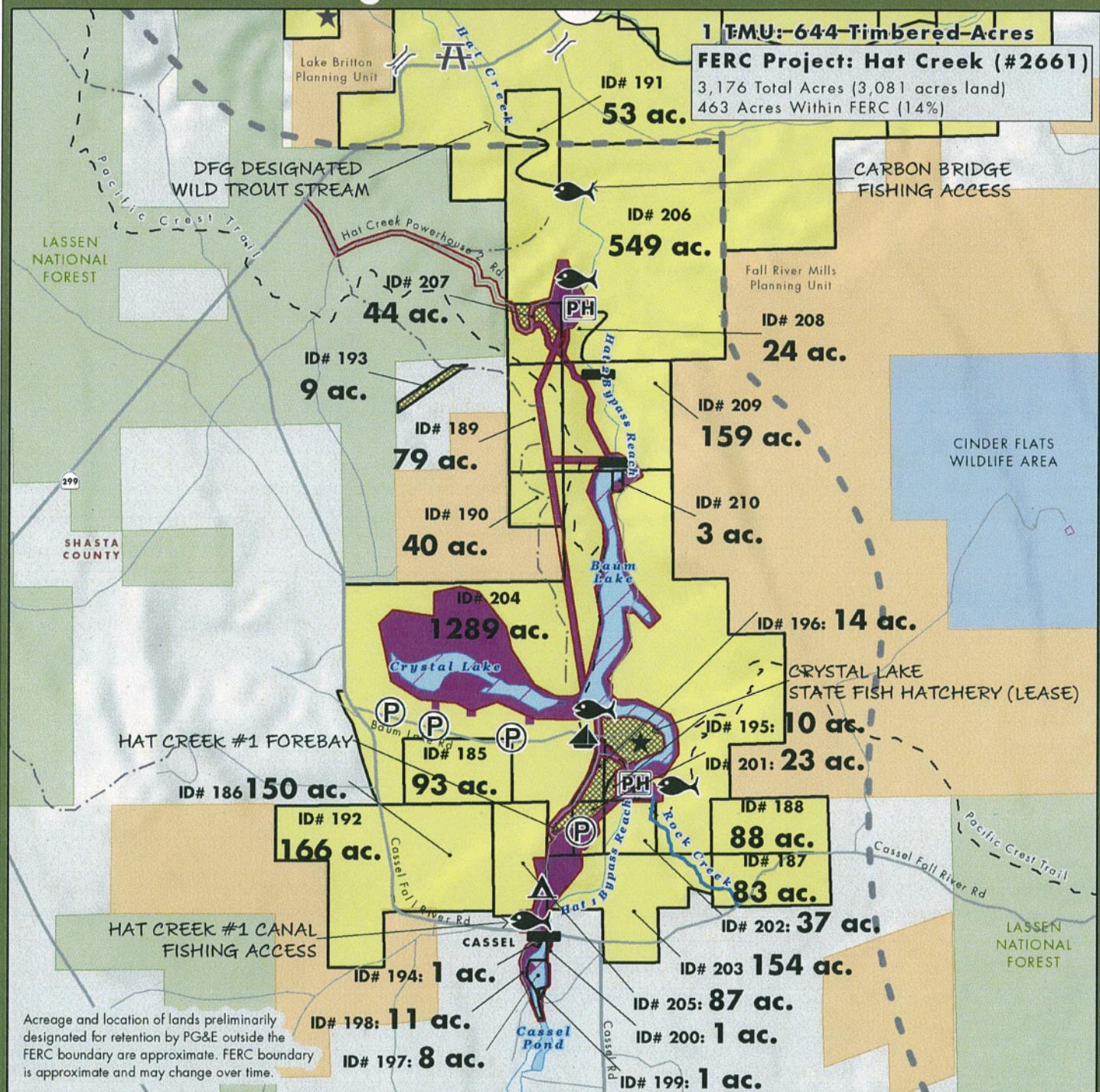
If the Board approves this recommendation on January 23, 2019, the Stewardship Council would invite the Pit River Tribe to negotiate the specific terms of the fee title transaction and the conservation easement with PG&E and the prospective conservation easement holder, respectively. The Pit River Tribe must agree that the form of the conservation easements that will be negotiated for the properties to be donated in the Hat Creek, Fall River Mills and Lake Britton planning units will contain the same boilerplate language found in the Hat Creek #1 conservation easement, with revisions made only as necessary to conform the conservation easement to the specific conditions and circumstances of each subject property. The Stewardship Council would work with the Pit River Tribe to develop a management and funding agreement in coordination with the development of an LCCP for the subject property.

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

ATTACHMENTS AND REFERENCE MATERIAL

- Hat Creek, Fall River Mills, Lake Britton Planning Unit Maps
- LCP Volume II Planning Unit Report for the Planning Units
- Summary of Key Public Outreach Activities and Public Comments Associated with the Planning Units

Hat Creek Planning Unit



HAT CREEK PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed

Existing Conditions & Uses

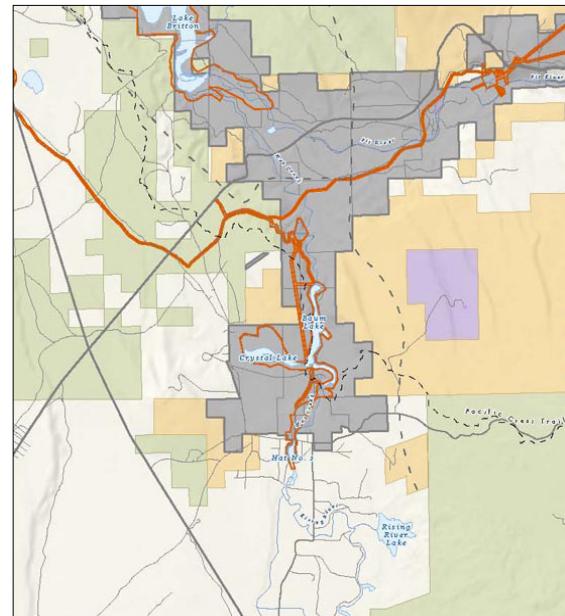
Overview

- Two small lakes and Hat Creek corridor that contain valuable biological and recreational resources
- 3,208 acres in Shasta County; 2,745 acres outside the FERC boundary and 463 acres inside the FERC boundary
- Comprises the Hat Creek Project (FERC #2661), New License issued November 2002

As shown in Figure PM-7, the Hat Creek Planning Unit is located in Shasta County in and around the town of Cassel. The planning unit includes several waterbodies including Cassel Pond, Hat Creek #1 Forebay, Baum Lake, Crystal Lake, Hat Creek, and Hat Creek #1 Canal. The planning unit contains lands that are part of the Hat Creek FERC Project (#2661) as well as hydropower infrastructure such as the Hat Creek #1 and 2 Powerhouses and associated penstocks, dams, canals, flumes, and intakes. The planning unit is primarily surrounded by BLM and private land, as well as USFS land in the northwest corner of the planning unit. In addition, the DFG leases land for the Crystal Lake State Fish Hatchery.



Crystal Lake



Hat Creek Planning Unit
Shasta County

Fish, Plant, and Wildlife Habitat

There is substantial diverse riparian habitat within the Hat Creek Planning Unit. The habitat resources are used by a variety of waterfowl, raptors, and aquatic species including great blue heron, osprey, bald eagle, bank swallow, Shasta crayfish, hardhead, bigeye marbled sculpin, and rough sculpin. Waterfowl and other birds use the fresh water emergent wetland habitat and waterbodies for nesting, wintering, and staging. Bald eagles nest near Hat Creek and forage throughout the planning unit. The adjacent nesting territory is one of the most productive bald eagle nesting territories in the State and has been chosen to contribute nestlings for the San Francisco Zoo captive breeding program and Catalina Island reintroduction project in four different years.

Wild trout are abundant in Hat Creek and Crystal Lake. The portion of Hat Creek from Hat Creek #2 Powerhouse (north of Baum Lake) downstream to the fish barrier dam (located in the Lake Britton Planning Unit) is a DFG-designated Wild Trout stream known for its excellent wild rainbow and brown trout fisheries. The New License for the Hat Creek Project provided several biological resource enhancements and management plans.¹



Hat Creek Planning Unit

Existing Conditions

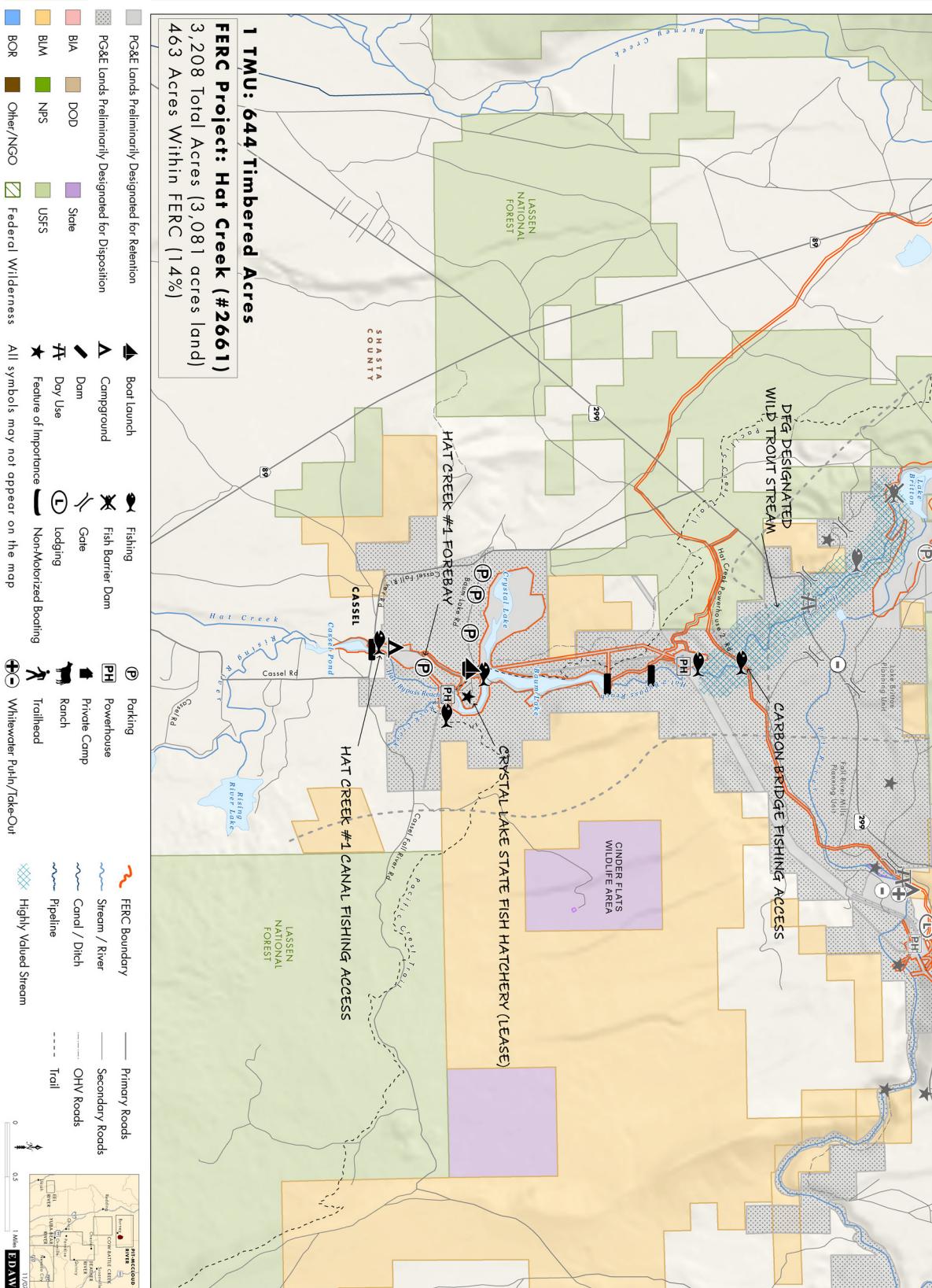


Figure PM-7

HAT CREEK PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed

Open Space

The Hat Creek Planning Unit contains open space throughout the planning unit as development is limited to a few scattered recreation facilities. The Shasta County General Plan recognizes that rivers, creeks and associated riparian corridors, and floodplains within the county are major open space resources. This planning unit also provides open space for the town of Cassel and contains viewshed for the Cassel Fall River Road, a primary local thoroughfare.

Outdoor Recreation

Recreation use at Hat Creek is primarily associated with fishing and hunting, though camping, hiking, and wildlife watching also occur in the planning unit. Fishing, in particular, is popular throughout the planning unit. Hunting, mostly for ducks, occurs around Crystal Lake. The Cassel Campground includes ADA-compliant campsites and is very popular, receiving substantial use during the recreation season. Boating (non-motorized, electric trolling motor boats only) primarily occurs at Baum Lake as boating is prohibited at many other areas in the planning unit.²

The Pacific Crest Trail runs through the planning unit, primarily along the west shore of Baum Lake. Due to the outstanding habitat, there are ample opportunities for wildlife viewing throughout the planning unit, particularly at Baum and Crystal Lakes. Many of the recreation sites have been recently enhanced, and a Recreation Management Plan (Shasta crayfish) and Public Access Management Plan were developed according to the New License Order.

Forest Resources

The planning unit has minor forestry resources and there has been only one timber sale for this area in the last 20 years. The area has scattered second-growth Jeffrey and ponderosa pine stands with no plantations or late seral stage stands. The

PG&E Timber Management Unit (TMU) for Hat Creek consists of 644 acres of timber, and current PG&E management activities are restricted to mitigating for watershed and forest health issues, including emergency salvage harvesting following insect attack or a catastrophic event. Salvage harvesting operations were last conducted in the early 1990s to remove dead and dying trees, the result of a large disease outbreak. Hazard trees are also occasionally removed from recreation areas.

Agricultural Uses

In the 1800s the site was a dairy farm and since then sustained heavy grazing use under two grazing leases that nearly encompassed the entire planning unit. Grazing was eliminated in 2001 due to impacts to cultural resources, as well as erosive impacts to the shoreline of Baum and Crystal Lakes, and the east side of Hat Creek downstream of Hat Creek #2 Powerhouse.

Historic Resources

The Hat Creek Planning Unit is within the Pit River Tribe's ancestral territory. There are 15 recorded archaeological sites within the Hat Creek Project cultural resource study area (all lands within the FERC boundary). These sites include midden areas, housepit depressions, lithic scatters, milling stations, historic Baum Powerhouse, historic Camp 1 remains and



American white pelican on Baum Lake

HAT CREEK PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed



Kayaking on Baum Lake

caretaker's house, an historic can scatter, and historic rock alignments/post piles and artifacts. One ethnographic site is located within the planning unit – an important salmon fishing area (the only legal Native American spearfish site in California). In addition, there are other important places to Native Americans including prayer sites and a large meadow where members of the Illmawi band of the Pit River Tribe are said to have taken refuge from nearby Mt. Lassen eruptions.

All components of the Hat Creek Hydroelectric Project were found to be eligible on the NRHP as an historic district. PG&E has taken efforts to manage cultural sites as prescribed by the Hat Creek Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) by eliminating grazing use, capping areas, bouldering roads, and providing parking areas to prevent damage to sites from vehicle or pedestrian use.

Stewardship Council Recommendations

The Stewardship Council recommends that the land and land uses at Hat Creek be preserved and enhanced by focusing on biological and cultural resource values as well as popular recreation resources. In presenting the Recommended Concept provided here, our objective is to preserve and enhance cultural and important plant and wildlife resources, as well as enhance

educational opportunities and sustainable forestry management.

Objective: Preserve and enhance biological and cultural resources while enhancing educational opportunities, the recreation experience, and sustainable forestry management.

As shown on Table PM-4, The Stewardship Council has identified a number of preservation and/or enhancement measures that may contribute to the conservation management program for the Hat Creek Planning Unit. Additional detail and background regarding these potential measures can be found in the Supporting Analysis for Recommendations, provided under separate cover. These measures are intended to be illustrative in nature, not prescriptive, and will be amended, deleted, or augmented over time in coordination with future land owners and managers to best meet the objective for this planning unit.

Fish, Plant, and Wildlife Habitat

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

The Hat Creek Planning Unit offers a variety of habitats for both native terrestrial and aquatic



Hat Creek near Carbon Bridge Fishing Access

HAT CREEK PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed

species, including many special status species. In order to preserve and enhance the habitat and resources found here, the Stewardship Council recommends that baseline studies and plans be developed to gain a clear understanding of the resources at Hat Creek. These studies will likely be followed by management plans to ensure implementation of preservation and enhancement measures for specific resources. Management of the property to preserve and enhance habitat will also include addressing noxious weeds, damage from muskrats, and restoration of hydrologic function in two creeks.

The Stewardship Council also recommends improving bald eagle nesting and perching habitat, supporting Shasta Crayfish restoration efforts, and reducing habitat fragmentation through OHV road restoration and removal of unnecessary fencing. The Stewardship Council encourages close coordination with the Shasta Crayfish Technical Review Committee and other resource-focused organizations working in the region. All planning should be considered in conjunction with fuels and forest management plans as well as relevant FERC license required plans.

Open Space

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

This concept would preserve open space values by limiting development to minor recreation enhancements, as well as through permanent conservation easements. Conservation easements would describe all prohibited uses to maintain open space values, including the level of uses allowed. This concept includes habitat restoration with little development and is therefore not expected to decrease the scenic quality of the viewsheds.



Fishing in Cassel Pond

Outdoor Recreation

Objective: Enhance recreational facilities in order to provide additional educational opportunities and enhance the recreation experience.

The Hat Creek Planning Unit provides many recreation opportunities and receives year-round recreation use. As shown in Figure PM-8, the Stewardship Council looks to enhance these opportunities by providing interpretive signage to educate visitors on the valuable natural resources within the planning unit. We recommend enhancements focus on interpretive signage along the Pacific Crest Trail, improvements to fishing-related signage, increased opportunities for youth education and recreation, and providing minimal additional day use facilities.



Emergent wetland habitat near Crystal Lake

HAT CREEK PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed

Sustainable Forestry

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

The forestlands of the Hat Creek Planning Unit provide valuable habitat and are located adjacent to the community of Cassel. The Stewardship Council recommends that future care and management of the property include developing a long-term vision for forest management in the area, which addresses silvicultural practices, holistic watershed management, fuels management, and fire management and response. The fire management and response, fuels, and forest management plans should be developed in conjunction with the noxious weed and wildlife and habitat management plans. We expect that all of these plans would be developed in conjunction with adjacent landowners, DFG, BLM, and USFS management and practices as appropriate.

Preservation of Historic Values

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

Various prehistoric and historic cultural resources are known to be present within the



Annual grassland near Hat Creek

planning unit, and there is a high likelihood that additional cultural resources are present. The Stewardship Council aims to support an increased understanding of these resources and ensure they are appropriately protected. To meet this objective, we recommend that cultural resource studies be conducted to understand the resources found at Hat Creek (particularly outside the FERC cultural resource study area where less information is available) and that appropriate management plans be developed and implemented. Throughout this effort, the Stewardship Council recommends close coordination with Native American entities. Development of the cultural resources management plan should be consistent with the Hat Creek Project CRMP.

Endnotes

¹ New License Order habitat measures include flushing flows, gravel augmentation, fish monitoring, monitoring and protection of Shasta crayfish, bank swallow protection, and development of a Final Hat Creek Bald Eagle Nesting Territory Management Plan.

² In relicensing, the area was found to have low whitewater boating potential.

SUMMARY OF KEY PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC COMMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE HAT CREEK PLANNING UNIT

PUBLIC REVIEW OF VOLUMES I AND II OF THE LCP

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

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

- Include adjacent tribal lands and members in any emergency action planning efforts.
- Conduct ethnographic surveys to identify and enhance habitat for traditional use plants.
- Acknowledge traditional uses of the area by Astuge and Illmawi bands of the Pit River Tribe.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING FOR THE HAT CREEK PLANNING UNIT

A public information meeting for the Fall River Mills, Fall River Valley, Hat Creek, and Lake Britton planning units was hosted by the Stewardship Council on October 29, 2009 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall in Burney, California. A total of 33 people attended and participated in the meeting, representing a wide variety of interests, including local and federal governments, community organizations, and community members. The primary purpose of this meeting was to solicit public input on the development of the Land Conservation and Conveyance Plans (LCCP) to preserve and enhance the Fall River Mills, Fall River Valley, Hat Creek, and Lake Britton planning units.

During the meeting, participants were invited to provide comments at the four planning unit stations, focusing on two topics: the potential priority measures proposed for the above listed planning units, and important qualifications of future land owners and conservation easement holders. A summary of the public comments concerning the Hat Creek Planning Unit is provided below.

General Comments/Potential Priority Measures to Preserve and Enhance the BPVs

- Enhance recreation for multiple-uses, not just fishing
- Enhance trail access to the river
- Ensure trails are safe for non-vehicle users
- Employ rules of conduct to protect private property owners
- Keep southernmost parcels pristine
- Open space is critical to preserving the integrity of the area

Important Qualifications of Future Landowners and Conservation Easement Holders

- Local organization
- Tribal for cultural preservation

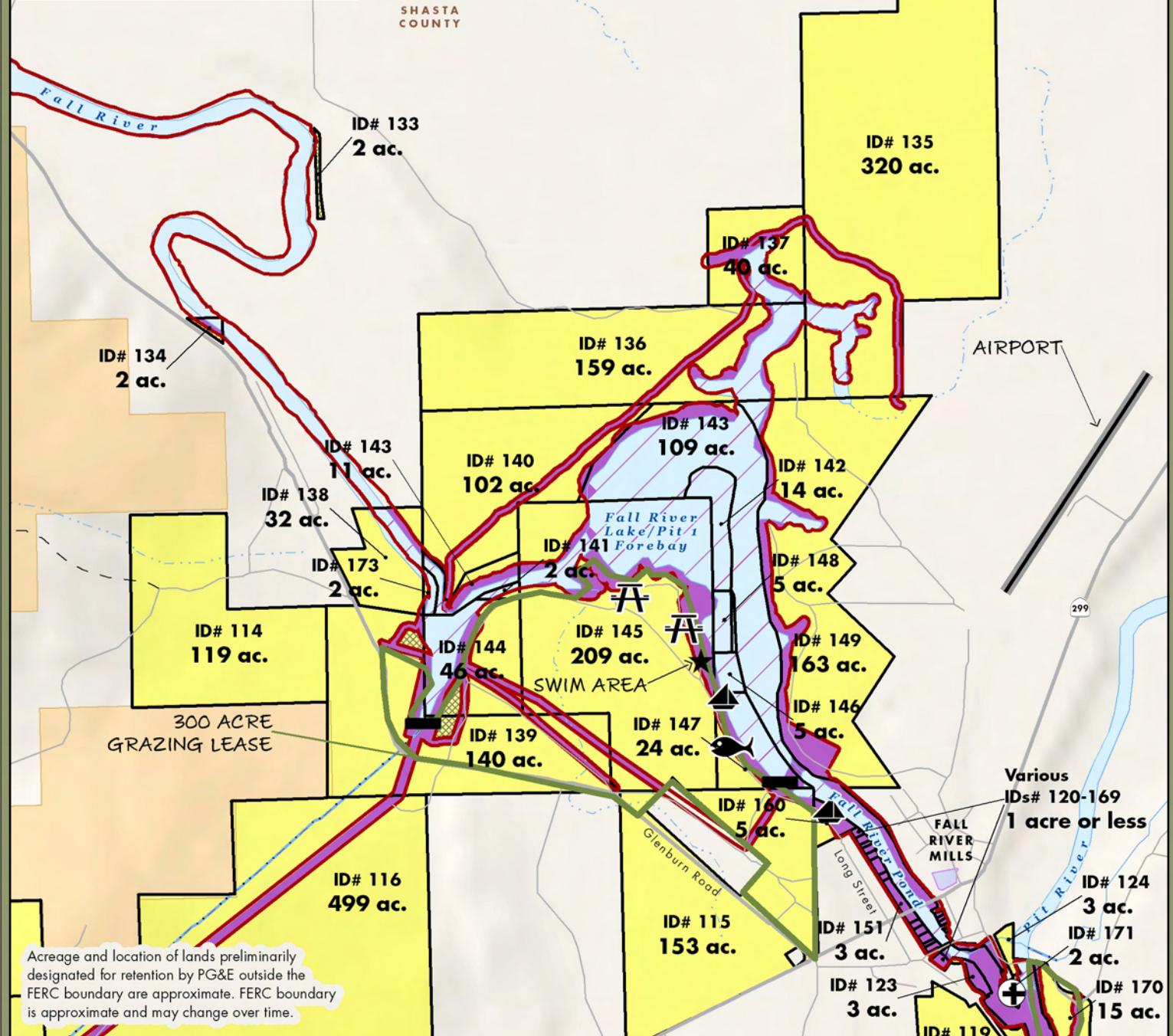
ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE SUBMITTED

The Stewardship Council also received other public comments and letters from individuals and organizations regarding the future management of the Hat Creek Planning Unit, as summarized below:

- Prohibit OHV use due to potential impacts on wildlife habitat and soils.
- Remove noxious weeds and preserve wetland areas.
- Enhance management of cultural resources and designate area as an archaeological district due to the significance and density of cultural resources located on the property.
- Assess and develop educational opportunities for the public and youth to learn about the Pit River Indian culture, such as signage, a cultural resource center, and model villages.
- Concern that increased public access will impact sensitive riparian habitat.
- Support for the lands available for donation to be transferred to the Pit River Tribe.

Fall River Mills Planning Unit: Map 1

2 TMUs: 888 Timbered Acres
FERC Project: Pit 1 (#2687)

 4,837 Total Acres (4,644 acres land)
 578 Acres Within FERC (11%)


■ PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Donation

■ BLM

■ PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Retention

■ Private

■ Certain Conditions May Make Donation Inadvisable

■ State

■ Legal Parcel Boundary and Id Number

■ USFS

■ PG&E Lands Under Water

■

■ FERC Boundary

■ Boat Launch

■ Fishing

■ Campground

■ Gate

■ Dam

■ Lodge

■ Day Use Area

■ Powerhouse

■ Feature of Importance

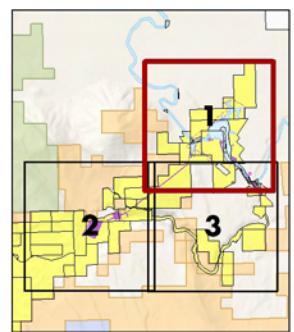
■ Whitewater Put-In/Take-Out



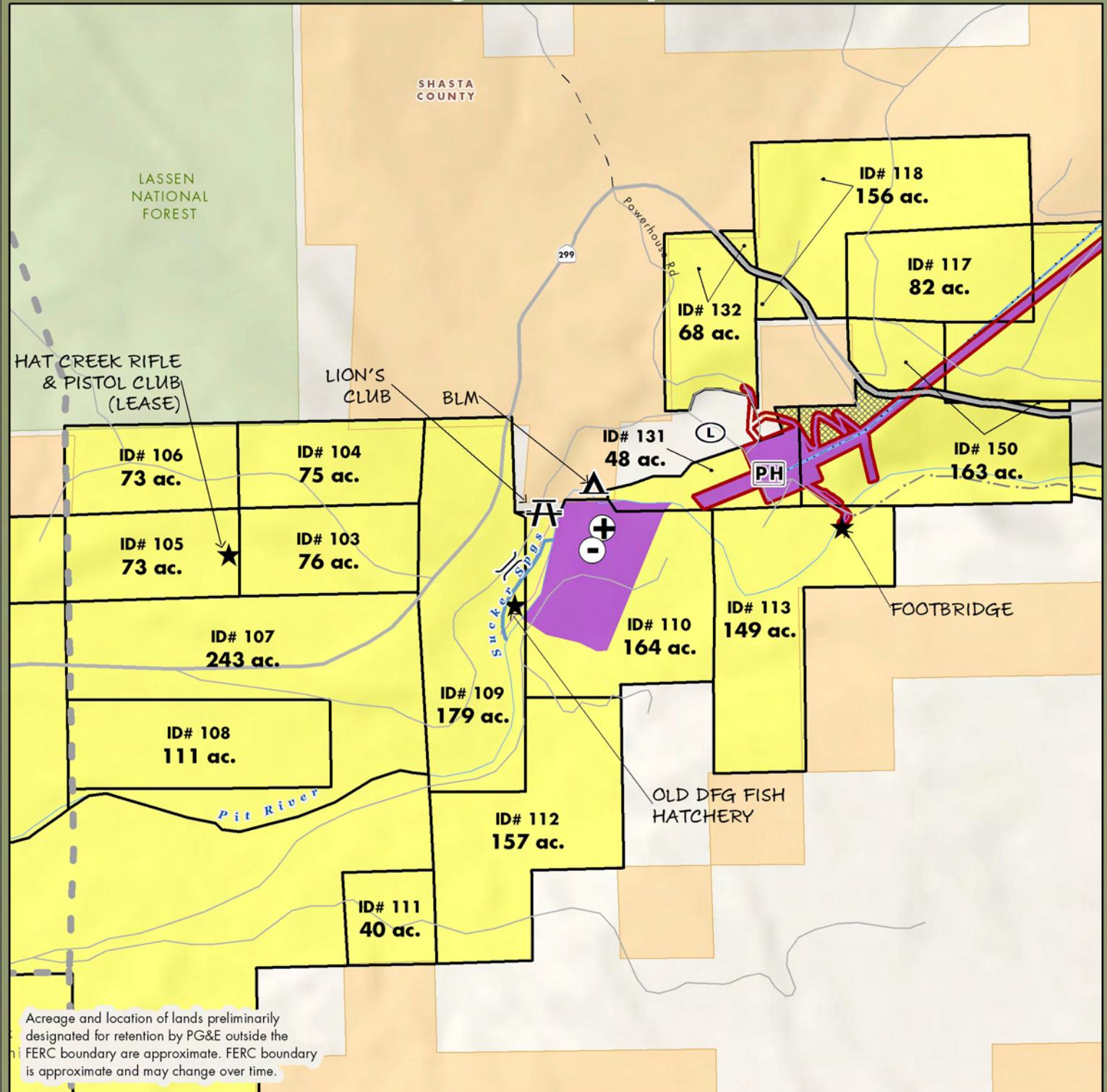
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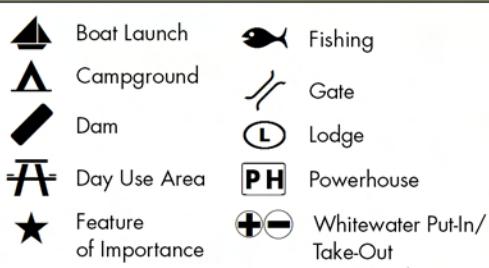


Fall River Mills Planning Unit: Map 2

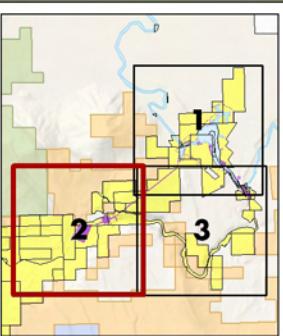


Acreage and location of lands preliminarily designated for retention by PG&E outside the FERC boundary are approximate. FERC boundary is approximate and may change over time.

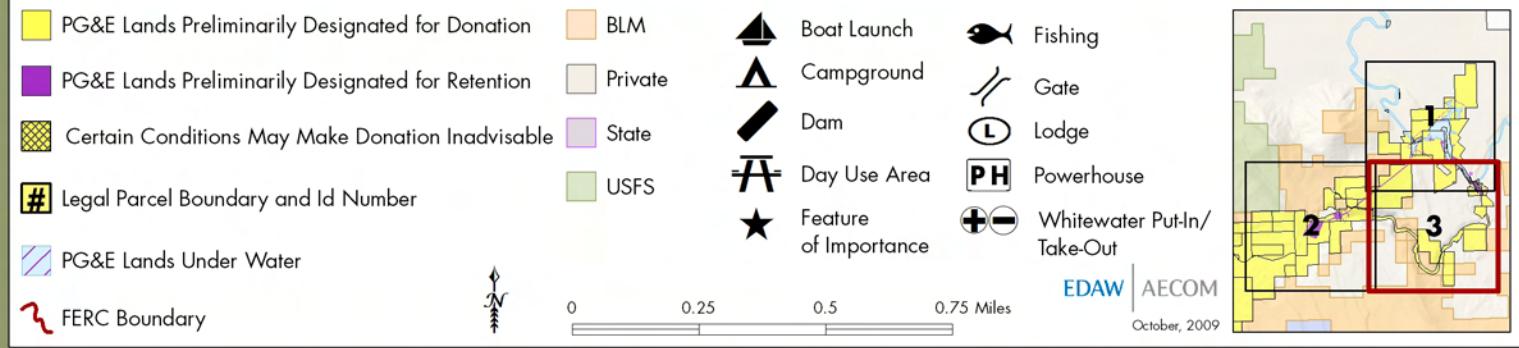
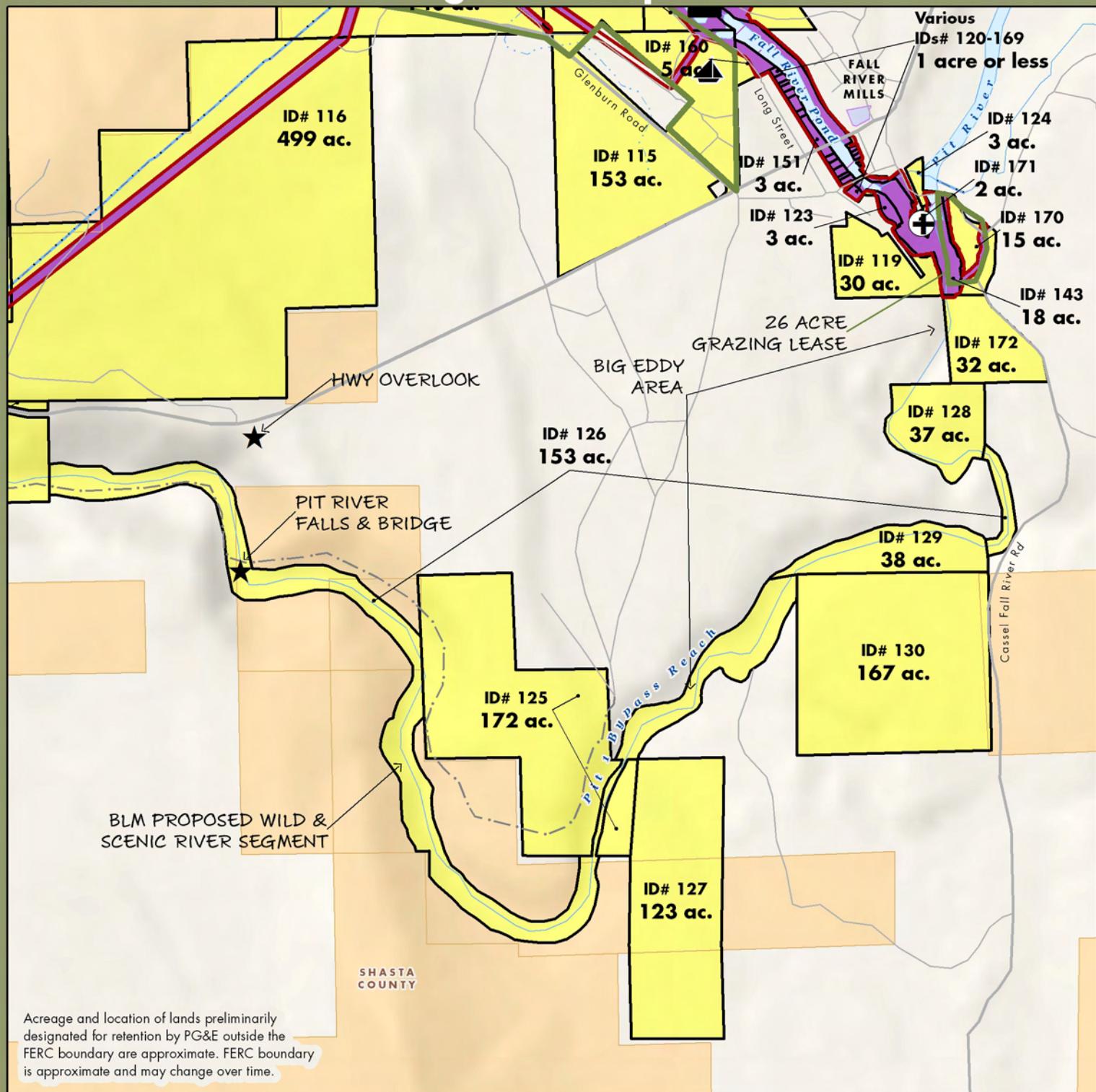
- PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Donation
- BLM
- PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Retention
- Private
- Certain Conditions May Make Donation Inadvisable
- State
- # Legal Parcel Boundary and Id Number
- USFS
- PG&E Lands Under Water
- 
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EDAW | AECOM
October, 2009



Fall River Mills Planning Unit: Map 3



FALL RIVER MILLS PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed

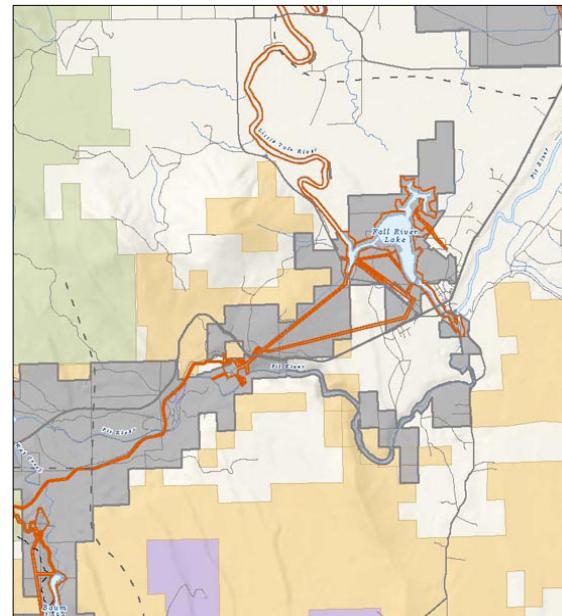
Existing Conditions & Uses

Overview

- Scenic lake and river corridor adjacent to the town of Fall River Mills; 5,310 acres in Shasta County
- 4,732 acres outside the FERC boundary; 578 acres inside the FERC boundary
- Part of Pit 1 Project (FERC #2687); New License issued March 2003

The Fall River Mills Planning Unit is located in Shasta County adjacent to the town of Fall River Mills. The planning unit contains Pit 1 Forebay, Fall River Pond, and several miles of the Fall and Pit River corridors and surrounding lands (see Figure PM-5). The Fall River flows into the 222-acre Pit 1 Forebay (also called Fall River Lake) and, below the forebay, the 0.7-mile long Fall River Pond, which are surrounded by the town of Fall River Mills.

The 6.7-mile section of the Pit River from the confluence with the Fall River to the Pit 1 Powerhouse is referred to as the Pit 1 bypass reach, as most of the Fall River waterflow into the Pit River is bypassed into the powerhouse. The Pit 1 bypass reach includes a slow moving,



Fall River Mills Planning Unit
Shasta County

pond-like section called the Big Eddy, a canyon, and the Pit River Falls. The reach downstream of the Big Eddy is a fast moving, moderate gradient river confined within steep canyon walls. The Pit River slows and flattens past the powerhouse as it nears the confluence with Lake Britton in the Lake Britton Planning Unit.

The planning unit contains lands that are part of the Pit 1 Hydroelectric Project (FERC #2687) as well as infrastructure consisting of several dams and weirs in the Fall River Mills area, the Pit 1 Powerhouse downstream, and water conveyance structures supplying the powerhouse. The unit is primarily surrounded by private property and BLM land, with one U.S. Forest Service (USFS) parcel adjoining the western portion of the planning unit. In the Pit River bypass reach, a private lodge and a BLM campground are on lands adjacent to the planning unit. In addition to two grazing leases, there are leases within this planning unit for a rifle and pistol club, and a residential house in the town of Fall River Mills.



Pit River near Pit 1 Powerhouse

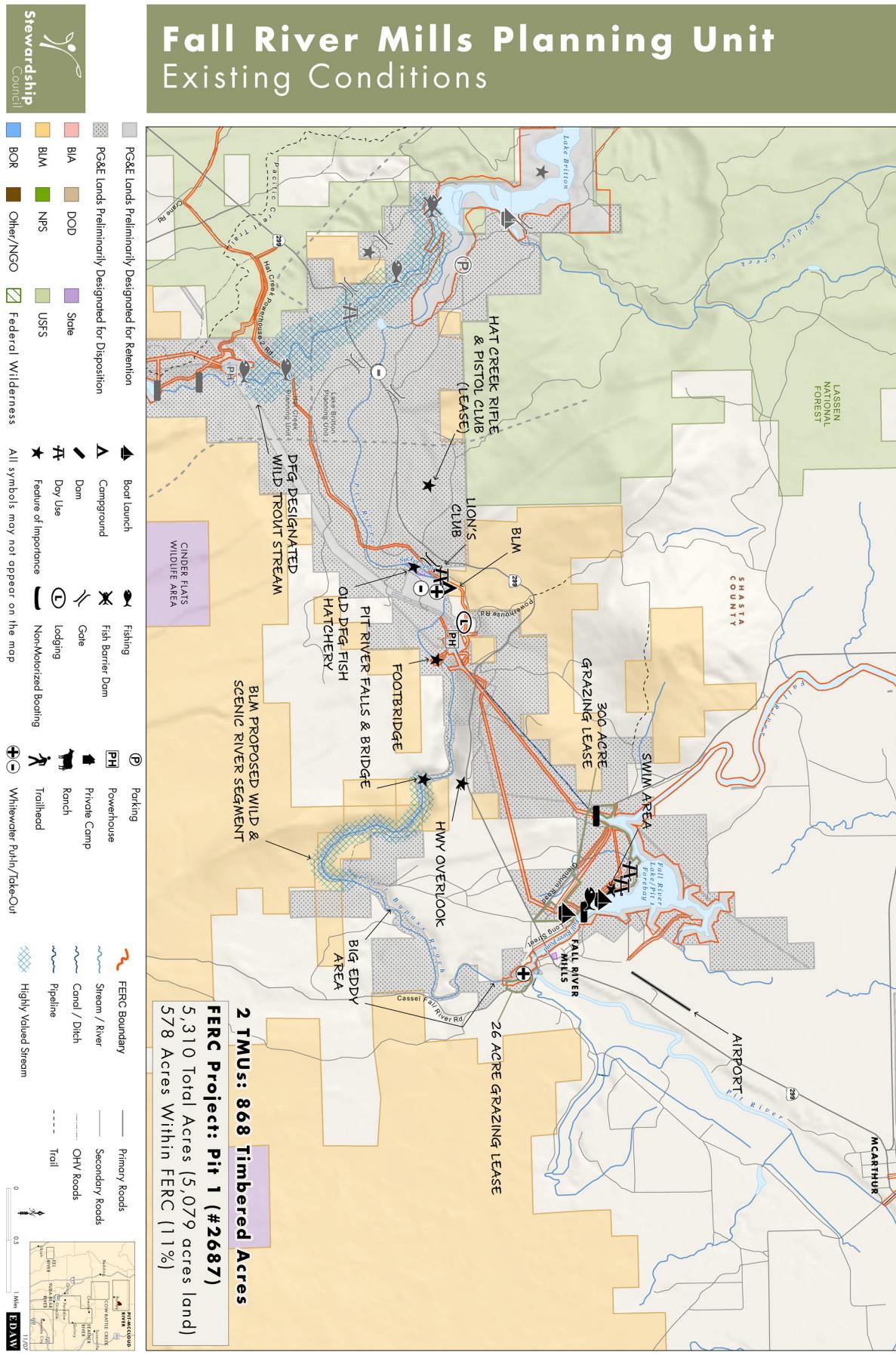


Figure PM-5

FALL RIVER MILLS PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed

Fish, Plant, and Wildlife Habitat

Due to the large amount of riparian habitat and presence of both rivers and impoundments within the planning unit, there are many aquatic species that inhabit the site, including both warm and coldwater fish species, mollusks, northwestern pond turtle, and Shasta crayfish. Northwestern pond turtles, a special status species, are found throughout the Fall River Pond and in three main groups within the Pit River in this planning unit. The endangered Shasta crayfish is found in two areas of the planning unit, Sucker Springs Creek and the Pit River. A former DFG fish hatchery at Sucker Springs Creek is currently being restored by the USFWS Shasta Crayfish Recovery Team to provide Shasta crayfish habitat.

The planning unit also provides extensive terrestrial habitat. There are three bald eagle nests within the planning unit, and wintering bald eagles have also been seen using the Pit River within this planning unit and at Pit 1 Forebay. Bank swallows can be seen in an area of cliffs at the Pit 1 Forebay. Five species of bats use the planning unit and its facilities for foraging and roosting. Due to the large number of avian species that use the greater Fall River Area and its importance in maintaining bird populations, the Audubon Society has designated this area as an Important Bird Area. One special status plant species has also been identified in the planning unit. The recent Pit 1 License Order requires several habitat measures and management plans.¹

Open Space

Due to a lack of development, steepness of the Pit River Canyon, and limited recreation facilities, open space values are found throughout the planning unit. Lands behind the town of Fall River Mills at the Pit 1 Forebay and Fall River Pond provide an open space area for the town. Lands along Highway 299 provide the viewshed for the highway and scenic overlook across from the Pit River Falls. A section of the Pit River from near the end of Big Eddy (beginning on BLM land) to the Pit River Falls has been

proposed by BLM as a Wild and Scenic River segment.

The Shasta County General Plan recognizes that rivers, creeks, and associated riparian corridors and floodplains within the county are major open space resources. The General Plan also recognizes that agricultural lands provide privately maintained open space, which contributes to both the rural character of the county and its open, natural landscape.

Outdoor Recreation

The majority of the planning unit's recreation facilities are located at the Pit 1 Forebay and Fall River Pond, adjacent to the town of Fall River Mills. At the forebay, facilities include a group picnic area, swim beach, boat ramp, and day use area. Facilities at Fall River Pond include a boat launch and picnic site. An Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible fishing platform and several other ADA facilities such as trails, parking, restrooms, and picnic tables are also provided. These sites were recently constructed or improved as a result of the Pit 1 License Order.

These lands and facilities serve as a community park for Fall River Mills and experience such issues as graffiti, off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, dumping, and vandalism. It is likely that PG&E will station a caretaker near the Pit 1 Forebay



Group picnic area at Pit 1 Forebay

FALL RIVER MILLS PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed



Cattle grazing near Pit 1 Forebay

Dam to reduce these problems. PG&E plans to clean up the site of a former trap shooting club at the Pit 1 Forebay. The recent Pit 1 License Order requires the development of two plans addressing recreation management as well as development and maintenance of recreation facilities.

There are few recreation facilities south of Fall River Pond. The Pit River Lodge (formerly owned by PG&E) is located at the Pit 1 Powerhouse, and a small day use area just downstream of the powerhouse has historically been managed by the Lion's Club for public use. In the same area, a BLM campground also provides whitewater boating access and day use facilities. As shown in Figure PM-5, the Hat Creek Rifle and Pistol Club leases land north of Highway 299, at the western end of the planning unit.

Whitewater boating access is available at a number of locations within this planning unit. The Pit 1 bypass reach and Pit River below the Pit 1 Powerhouse provide for two whitewater runs, one from Fall River Mills to the BLM campground near Pit 1 Powerhouse and one from the BLM campground to the Highway 299 bridge. PG&E has proposed a put-in site at Cassel Bridge in Fall River Mills to provide access to the first whitewater run; this would be the only formal recreation facility in the Pit 1 bypass reach. There has been little recorded use of the whitewater runs during yearly flushing flows (only 36 kayakers over several days in

the last three years). PG&E is investigating the provision of whitewater flows during the period of September 15 to October 30 as part of the Pit 1 License Order.²

Forest Resources

This planning unit contains 868 acres of timber within two PG&E Timber Management Units (TMUs). Forest resources consist of scattered second-growth pine stands, including Jeffrey and ponderosa pine, and do not include any plantations or late successional stands. The primary TMU within the planning unit (covering the Fall River Mills area west to about the Sucker Springs Creek area) is currently managed by PG&E under a Salvage prescription, meaning that management activities are restricted to mitigating for watershed and forest health issues, including emergency salvage harvesting following insect attack or a catastrophic event. A small area in the western portion of the planning unit is managed for Multiple-Uses, meaning that protection and uses of other resources and facilities may preclude sustained timber management as the highest and best use of portions of the TMU.

Agricultural Uses

Currently, two grazing leases exist within the Fall River Mills area. The first is a 300-acre grazing lease on the southwestern side of Pit 1 Forebay



Pit River Canyon near Pit 1 Powerhouse

FALL RIVER MILLS PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed

for 33 head of cattle. Cattle are allowed to graze at the forebay during the late spring and part of the fall to control yellow starthistle in recreation areas. The second grazing lease is a 26-acre lease for two horses on the east side of the Pit River near the confluence with the Fall River. There was a third lease along the north and east side of the Pit 1 Forebay for cattle grazing from April to July; however, the lease was terminated due to death of the lessee. As part of the relicensing for the adjacent Hat Creek Project, a grazing lease that extended from the Pit 1 Powerhouse to and along Hat Creek was terminated in 2001.



Pit River Falls

Historic Resources

There are a number of cultural resources within this planning unit including many sites around the Pit 1 Forebay and along the Pit 1 bypass reach. This area is within the ancestral territory of the Pit River Tribe, specifically the Ajumawi and Illmawi bands of the tribe. At least two major settlement areas, the villages of Wennehahle and Dawchtahpit, are known to be present in the canyon along with a resource procurement place and several potential Traditional Cultural Properties that are important spiritually. In addition, the Pit 1 Hydroelectric Project has been recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as an historic district. The recent License Order for the Pit 1 Project required the development of a Pit 1 Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) to manage cultural resources.

Stewardship Council Recommendations

The Stewardship Council recommends that the land and land uses at the Fall River Mills Planning Unit be preserved and enhanced by focusing on the importance of the recreation facilities to the local community as well as the special habitat values and species within the planning unit. In presenting the Recommended Concept provided here, our objective is to

protect and enhance habitat resources while maintaining existing recreation use and enhancing the quality of the recreation experience.

Objective: Preserve and enhance biological, agricultural and cultural resources, as well as enhance recreation opportunities and sustainable forestry management.

As shown in Table PM-3, the Stewardship has identified a number of preservation and/or enhancement measures that may contribute to the conservation management program for the Fall River Mills Planning Unit. Additional detail and background regarding these potential measures can be found in the Supporting Analysis for Recommendations, provided under separate cover. These measures are intended to be illustrative in nature, not prescriptive, and will be amended, deleted, or augmented over time in coordination with future land owners and managers to best meet the objective for this planning unit.

FALL RIVER MILLS PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed

Fish, Plant, and Wildlife Habitat

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

The Falls River Mills Planning Unit is known to contain important habitat for several aquatic and terrestrial special status species. In order to preserve and enhance the habitat and resources found here, the Stewardship Council recommends that baseline studies be developed to gain a clear understanding of the resources (particularly outside the FERC boundary where little information is available). These studies will likely be followed by management plans to ensure implementation of preservation and enhancement measures for specific resources. Management of the property to preserve and enhance habitat will also include addressing noxious weeds. Other recommended measures emphasize control of vehicle access and restoration of areas damaged by unauthorized OHV use, monitoring of shoreline use, Shasta crayfish interpretive programs, and ensuring adequate care of a shooting club's lease site. Coordination with Pit 1 Project plans, ongoing Shasta Crayfish habitat restoration at the former fish hatchery, and with Native American entities regarding restoration in sensitive cultural resource areas, is also anticipated.



Road at Pit 1 Forebay

Open Space

Objective: Preserve open space in order to protect natural and cultural resources, viewsheds, agricultural land uses, and the recreation setting.

The lands within the planning unit comprise a large portion of the open space viewsheds for the Falls River Mills community, for travelers on Highway 299, and for visitors to adjacent camping and lodge facilities. This concept would preserve open space through permanent conservation easements and would enhance the viewshed by working with PG&E to reduce graffiti on the Pit 1 Forebay Dam. Conservation easements would describe all prohibited uses to maintain open space values, including the level of uses allowed and the requirement to maintain scenic qualities.

Outdoor Recreation

Objective: Enhance recreational facilities in order to provide additional recreation opportunities.

The Falls River Mills Planning Unit provides many of the most popular recreation facilities used by residents of the Falls River Mills community, and provides the potential for new and enhanced recreation experiences near that community and at other more remote locations. As shown in Figure PM-6, the Stewardship Council looks to enhance these opportunities by recommending evaluation of opportunities to expand and improve community park developments and enhance recreation opportunities within the Pit 1 bypass reach. We recommend enhancements focused on providing parking and trail facilities in the Pit 1 Powerhouse area, increasing opportunities for youth education and recreation, and enhancing ADA accessibility. The Stewardship Council also recommends evaluating opportunities to support community park development by the Fall River Weir and evaluating the safety of the Pit River Falls Bridge in conjunction with the Fort Crook Historical Society. Recreation enhancements should be

FALL RIVER MILLS PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed

coordinated with the BLM, adjacent landowners, and Pit 1 Project plans.

Sustainable Forestry

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

The Fall River Mills Planning Unit contains nearly 900 acres of timberland, primarily managed for salvage only rather than sustained timber production. Due to the proximity of the town of Fall River Mills and other factors, management of fuel loads and wildfires have special importance. The Stewardship Council recommends that future care and management of the land include developing a long-term vision for forest management in the area, addressing silvicultural practices, holistic watershed management, fuels management, and fire management and response. The fire management and response, forest, and fuels management plans should be developed in conjunction with the noxious weed, rangeland, and wildlife and habitat management plans, as well as relevant Pit 1 Project plans. We expect that all of these plans would be developed in coordination with adjacent landowners, lessees, and BLM management and practices as appropriate.

Agricultural Uses

Objective: Preserve and enhance grazing in order to support associated economic benefits, as well as to protect open space and habitat resources.

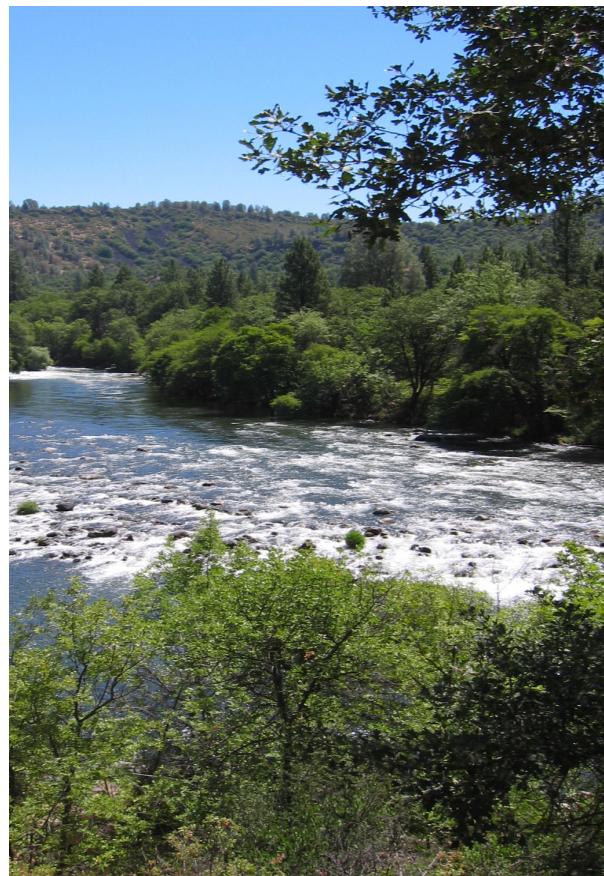
There are currently two grazing leases within the planning unit. The Stewardship Council looks to preserve this important economic use as part of the long-term management of the Fall River Mills Planning Unit. To support this effort, we anticipate a baseline conditions report

will be required to describe current agricultural, physical, and overall biological conditions of the area, as well as to assess the potential for the reintroduction of additional grazing opportunities. From this, specific determinations can be made to identify and manage grazing practices in balance with other uses and values of the property.

Preservation of Historic Values

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

The Fall River Mills Planning Unit is known to contain important Native American cultural resources and historical resources related to hydropower development, and there is a high likelihood additional cultural resources are present. The Stewardship Council aims to support an increased understanding of these resources and ensure they are appropriately



Pit River near the BLM Campground

FALL RIVER MILLS PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed

protected. To meet this objective, we recommend that cultural resource studies be conducted to understand the resources within the unit (particularly outside the FERC cultural resource study area, where less information is available), and that appropriate plans be developed and implemented. A specific recommendation is also made to determine potential noise impacts from the Hat Creek Rifle and Pistol Club on Native American traditional cultural resource practices in the area. This measure should be coordinated with the club and any other potentially affected parties. Throughout this effort, the Council recommends close coordination with Native American entities. Development of the cultural resources management plan should be consistent with the Final Pit 1 HPMP.

Endnotes

¹ Pit 1 License Order habitat-related measures include monitoring of Shasta crayfish and bald eagles, minimum flows, flushing flows, development of a Shasta Crayfish Technical Review Committee, bat surveys, and recording of incidental observations of peregrine falcons. A number of plans are also required in the License Order including a Shasta crayfish management plan, vegetation management plan, foothill yellow-legged frog protection plan, and northwestern pond turtle protection plan.

² A fish stranding study and further refinement of acceptable whitewater boating flows are proposed in a Phase 2 study on the impacts of potential whitewater boating flows.

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

PUBLIC REVIEW OF VOLUMES I AND II OF THE LCP

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

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

- Consideration of the Pit River Park's historical and recreational value to the local community.
- Support for the land available for donation to transfer to the BLM in order to enhance public access along segments recommended for National Wild and Scenic River status.
- Coordinate studies involving the Hat Creek Rifle and Gun Club with the club and any other potentially affected parties.
- Support for the preservation and enhancement of the recreation facilities to support the local economy.
- Concern for equal consideration for and preservation of all historical resource values.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING FOR THE FALL RIVER MILLS PLANNING UNIT

A public information meeting for the Fall River Mills, Fall River Valley, Hat Creek, and Lake Britton planning units was hosted by the Stewardship Council on October 29, 2009 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall in Burney, California. A total of 33 people attended and participated in the meeting, representing a wide variety of interests, including local and federal governments, community organizations, and community members. The primary purpose of this meeting was to solicit public input on the development of the Land Conservation and Conveyance Plans (LCCP) to preserve and enhance the Fall River Mills, Fall River Valley, Hat Creek, and Lake Britton planning units.

During the meeting, participants were invited to provide comments at the four planning unit stations, focusing on two topics: the potential priority measures proposed for the above listed planning units, and important qualifications of future land owners and conservation easement holders. A summary of the public comments concerning the Fall River Mills Planning Unit is provided below.

General Comments/Potential Priority Measures to Preserve and Enhance the BPVs

- Develop trails along the east side of Fall River Lake
- Develop a hiking trail along the Pit River to the Pit River Falls

- Develop a trail all the way from Fall River Mills to the Pit 1 Powerhouse
- Noxious weed control is critical
- Enhancing habitat for wildlife and birds is important
- Maintain existing Lion's Club day use area on the Pit River
- Maintain Hat Creek Rifle & Pistol Club in present location

Important Qualifications of Future Landowners and Conservation Easement Holders

- Should have local interest and knowledge
- Experience with noxious weed management
- Interest in acting as a “sound board” for local community (i.e. access, tribal, weeds, ranchers, economic)

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE SUBMITTED

The Stewardship Council also received other public comments and letters from individuals and organizations regarding the future management of the Fall River Mills Planning Unit, as summarized below:

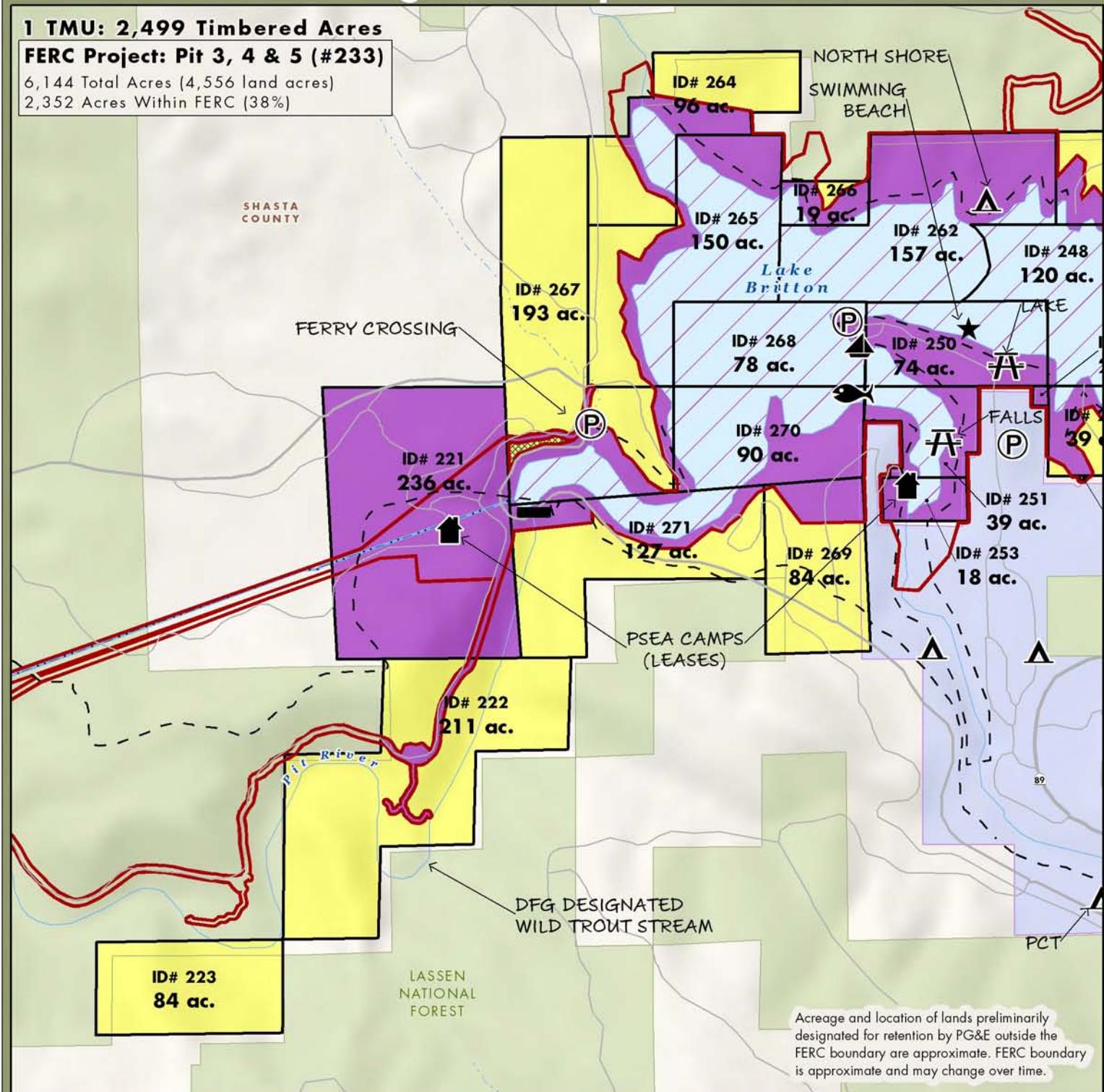
- Prohibit OHV use due to potential impacts on wildlife habitat and soils.
- Support for the lands available for donation to be transferred to the Pit River Tribe.
- Assess and develop educational opportunities for the public and youth to learn about the Pit River Indian culture, such as signage, a cultural resource center, and model villages.
- Concern that enhanced public access will impact sensitive riparian habitat.

Lake Britton Planning Unit: Map 1

1 TMU: 2,499 Timbered Acres

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

6,144 Total Acres (4,556 land acres)
2,352 Acres Within FERC (38%)



 PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Donation

 PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Retention

 Legal Parcel Boundary and Id Number

 Certain Conditions May Make Donation Inadvisable

 PG&E Lands Under Water

 FERC Boundary

 BLM

 Private

 State

 USFS

 Boat Launch

 Campground

 Dam

 Day Use Area

 Feature of Importance

 Fishing

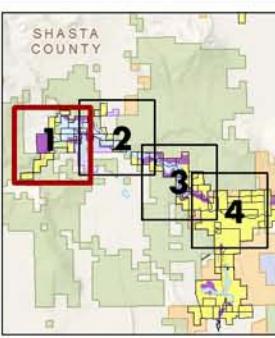
 Fish Barrier Dam

 Gate

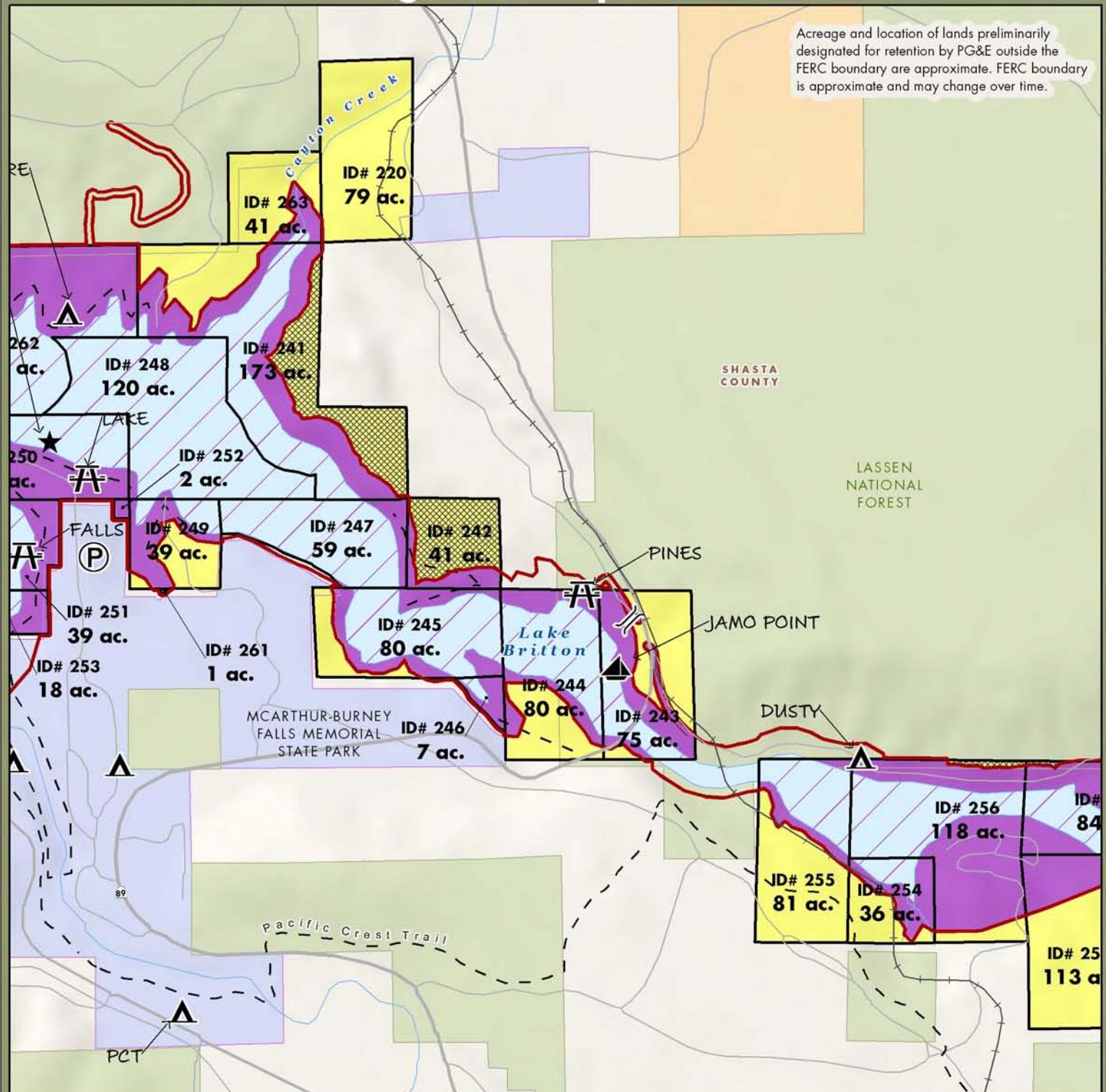
 Parking

 Private Camp

 Whitewater Take-Out



Lake Britton Planning Unit: Map 2

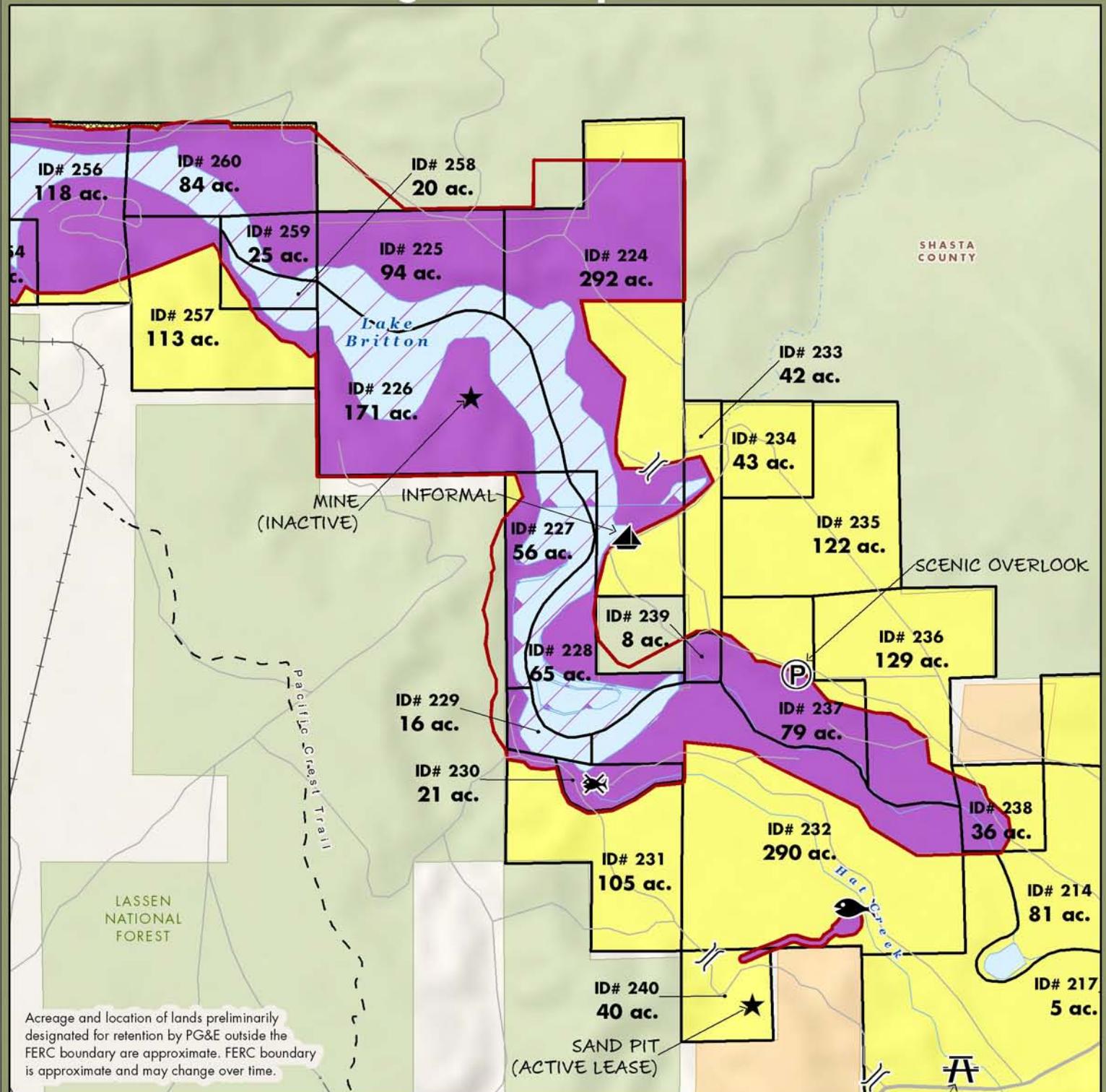


0 0.25

0.5

0.75 Miles

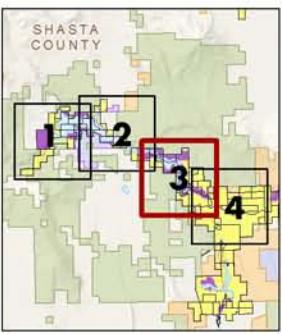
Lake Britton Planning Unit: Map 3



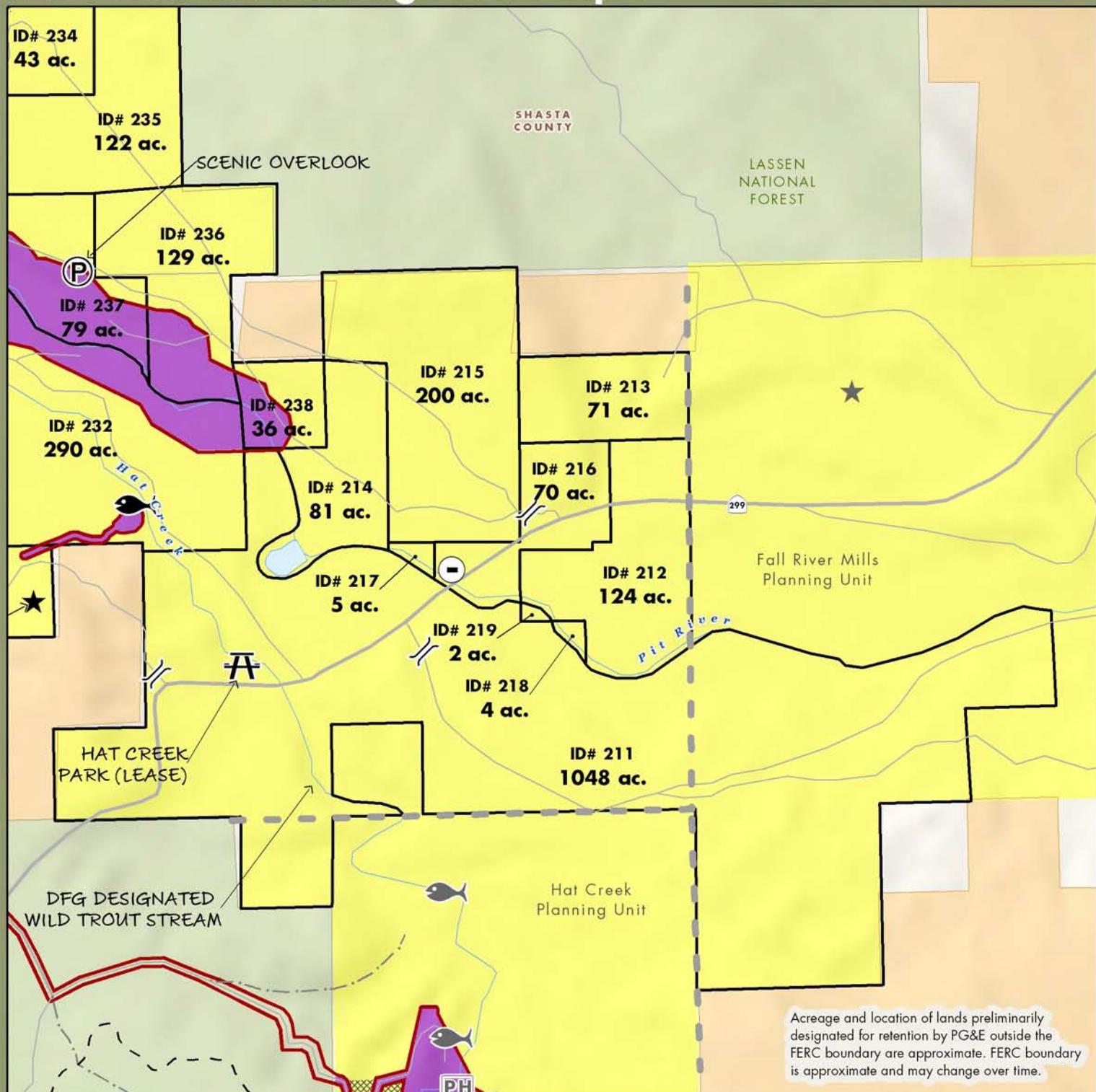
- PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Donation
- PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Retention
- # Legal Parcel Boundary and Id Number
- Certain Conditions May Make Donation Inadvisable
- PG&E Lands Under Water
- FERC Boundary

- BLM
- Private
- State
- USFS

- Boat Launch
- Campground
- Dam
- Day Use Area
- Feature of Importance
- Fishing
- Fish Barrier Dam
- Gate
- Parking
- Private Camp
- Whitewater Take-Out



Lake Britton Planning Unit: Map 4



■ PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Donation

■ BLM

■ PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Retention

■ Private

■ Legal Parcel Boundary and Id Number

■ State

■ Certain Conditions May Make Donation Inadvisable

■ USFS

■ PG&E Lands Under Water

■ FERC Boundary

0 0.25

0.5 0.75 Miles

▲ Boat Launch

✖ Fish Barrier Dam

▲ Campground

▬ Gate

■ Dam

● Parking

■ Day Use Area

■ Private Camp

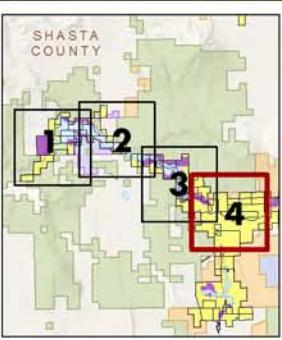
★ Feature of Importance

▬ Whitewater Take-Out

■ Fishing

EDAW | AECOM

October, 2009



LAKE BRITTON PLANNING UNIT

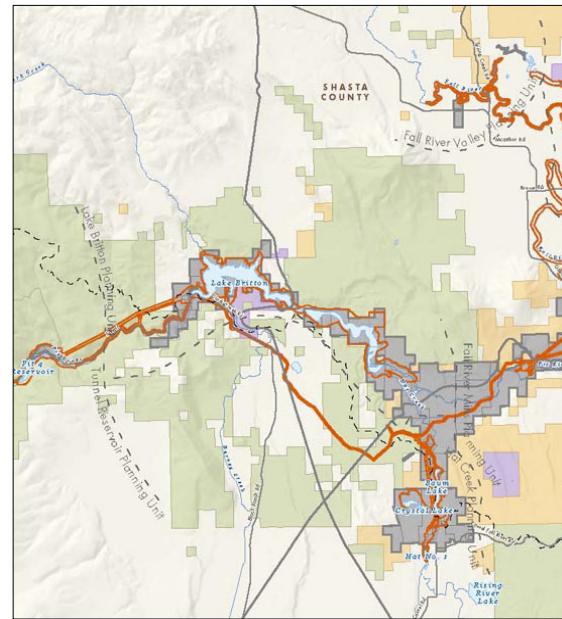
Pit-McCloud River Watershed

Existing Conditions & Uses

Overview

- Adjacent to and part of McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park; 5,663 acres in Shasta County
- Extensive habitat resources, important recreation area, and part of an Archeological District
- 3,311 acres outside the FERC boundary; 2,352 acres inside
- Part of the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project (FERC #233), New License issued July 2007

The Lake Britton Planning Unit is located in Shasta County, 46 miles northeast of Redding and less than 10 miles north of Burney. The planning unit contains the 1,293-acre Lake Britton and portions of the Pit River and Hat Creek (see Figure PM-9). The planning unit contains lands that are part of the Pit 3, 4, 5 FERC Project (#233) as well as associated hydropower infrastructure. PG&E was issued a New License for the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project on July 2, 2007. Lake Britton is primarily surrounded by USFS land, State Park land, and private property. The Hat Creek and Pit River



Lake Britton Planning Unit
Shasta County

lands are primarily surrounded by USFS land and a few BLM parcels.

Lake Britton is generally discussed as two areas, lower and upper Lake Britton,¹ due to the distinct difference in character and level of development between the two areas. The lower lake is more reservoir-like and developed heavily for recreation, while the upper lake is more narrow and river-like with little recreation development.

Fish, Plant, and Wildlife Habitat

Lake Britton provides valuable habitat resources and has been identified as a Significant Natural Area by DFG. The 8-mile long Lake Britton provides habitat for both recreational and native fisheries. Lower Lake Britton supports a warmwater fishery for introduced game species such as bass, black crappie, green sunfish, and bluegill. The shallower upper Lake Britton contains higher concentrations of native fish species such as hardhead, Sacramento pikeminnow, and Sacramento sucker. Lake Britton also contains rough sculpin, bigeye marbled sculpin, and Pit roach. Northwestern pond turtles, as well as several mollusks and bi-valve aquatic



Pit River

LAKE BRITTON PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed

species, were also frequently documented around Lake Britton during FERC relicensing studies.

Previous fisheries enhancement efforts in Lake Britton included the construction of the Hat Creek fish barrier dam, located at the confluence of Hat Creek and Lake Britton. This dam was constructed in 1969 to prevent introduced fish species within Lake Britton from entering and impacting the designated Hat Creek Wild Trout area. The Hat Creek Wild Trout area extends from the fish barrier dam upstream to Hat Creek #2 Powerhouse (located within the Hat Creek Planning Unit).

Terrestrial habitat within the planning unit provides for a wide range of species. The area adjacent to Lake Britton and the Pit River has one of the largest populations of bald eagles within the contiguous United States, and the Pit River System is one of the most important bald eagle nesting areas in California. Seven pairs of bald eagles nest within the planning unit, and wintering bald eagles can also be seen in the planning unit. Eight bank swallow colony complexes have been documented along Lake Britton with 30 to over 2,000 nesting burrows at each colony. Additionally, three osprey nests, a probable new peregrine falcon breeding site, potential breeding habitat for willow flycatcher, and habitat for the valley elderberry longhorn beetle were also identified during FERC relicensing studies. The Lake Britton area is also within the range of the northern spotted owl, and the adjacent USFS Chalk Mountain Late Successional Reserve (LSR) contains five spotted owl Protected Activity Centers (PACs). The Lake Britton area also provides habitat for several special status plants and six species of noxious weeds. Many habitat-related enhancements and plans are required in the New License.²

Open Space

The Shasta County General Plan recognizes that rivers, creeks and associated riparian corridors, and floodplains within the county are major open space resources. Lands within the planning unit provide open space and scenic viewsheds for McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park,

Highway 299, and Highway 89, which has been designated as part of the Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway.

Outdoor Recreation

Lake Britton is a popular recreation area for angling, swimming, hiking, picnicking, boating, camping, wildlife viewing, and hunting. Most of the recreation facilities are found in the lower Lake Britton area at McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park. The park leases 182 acres of shoreline lands from PG&E. McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park is one of the oldest and most popular State Parks in California; it contains Burney Falls, a National Landmark, along with several campgrounds, trails, and two day use areas. These popular day use areas are located at Burney Falls and along the lakeshore.

The lakeshore day use area contains a beach, marina, picnic area, designated swim area, and boat rental. In addition, lower Lake Britton contains a campground (North Shore), boat launch, day use area, two private camps, and a moderately used informal recreation area. There are also 20 recreation trails found in the lower portion of Lake Britton. A number of recreation enhancements are required in the New License under the recreation management plan, and focus on enhancing both facilities and the user experience in the lower lake area.³ Additionally, a bridge replacement and relocation of Highway 89 planned in the lower



Marina at Lake Britton

LAKE BRITTON PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed



Fishing platform on Lake Britton

Lake Britton area will improve highway access from the boat launch and picnic area on the east side of the lake.

The upper Lake Britton area provides a more primitive recreation setting. There are only two developed recreation sites - a campground and day use area. Most recreation use is dispersed, and fishing is the primary recreation activity. The day use area, Hat Creek Park, is located on Hat Creek and Highway 299 and is leased and managed by Shasta County. Hat Creek is a catch-and-release wild trout fishery that is very popular with anglers. The upper lake area also contains an informal scenic overlook on the Pit River off Highway 299, an informal boat launch near the scenic overlook, and a whitewater take-out at the Highway 299 Bridge for the Pit River run. A short road and parking area are provided for boaters at the take-out. There are 39 trails in the upper lake area, primarily used for fishing access. Additional recreation enhancements for upper Lake Britton are required in the New License under the recreation management plan.⁴

Unauthorized OHV use is known to occur in the area. PG&E has closed, gated, and bouldered many roads in the upper lake area to limit vehicle access and reduce unauthorized OHV use. These measures have been very successful and have helped reduce impacts to habitat and cultural resources. Also included within the Lake Britton Planning Unit are two former project construction camps, Camp Britton and Camp Shasta, now leased by Pacific Service Employees Association

(PSEA). There are a total of four recreational leases within the planning unit, including McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park, Camp Britton, Camp Shasta, and Hat Creek Park.⁵

Forest Resources

The planning unit contains one Timber Management Unit (TMU) that includes 2,499 acres of timber, consisting of second-growth mixed conifer and eastside pine stands. There are no plantations within the TMU, but there is a possibility of late seral stage stands. The area near the Pit River confluence with Lake Britton may contain some remnant apple orchard trees, along with oaks and incense-cedar. The Lake Britton TMU is currently managed by PG&E for Multiple-Uses, meaning that protection and uses of other resources and facilities may preclude sustained timber management as the highest and best use of portions of the TMU. Forestland in the southwest portion of the planning unit, adjacent to the USFS Chalk Mountain LSR, was harvested in the early 1990s.

Much of the forestland within the planning unit is surrounded by USFS lands managed under a late successional prescription. This prescription strives to provide diversity through maintenance and protection of old-growth ecosystems that serve as habitat for late successional and old-growth forest-related species, such as the northern spotted owl. Fire management is a concern in the planning unit; small fires are fairly common at Lake Britton. In



Habitat in peninsula area along Pit River

LAKE BRITTON PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed

fact, seven of the nine large fires in the project vicinity between 1911 and 2001 were located around Lake Britton.⁶

Agricultural Uses

Grazing was discontinued on lands within the FERC boundary in the late 1980s to protect sensitive resources and water quality.⁷ Lands outside the FERC boundary appear to have low potential to support grazing activities due to the presence of sensitive species.

Historic Resources

Lake Britton is located on land formerly occupied by an extensive ancient lake. Human use of the Lake Britton area dates back to the Paleoindian period over 7,500 years ago. The planning unit is within the Pit River Tribe's ancestral territory. The entire shoreline of Lake Britton was Federally designated an archaeological district in 1975 with over 90 archaeological sites including 20 prehistoric villages contained within the district. Cultural resource surveys as part of the Pit 3, 4, 5 FERC Project identified 102 ethnographic locations and recorded 66 sites in the vicinity of Lake Britton, which include shell middens, lithic scatters, housepits, cairns, and historic cairns, a railroad, homesteads, roads, and ditches. Ethnobotanical resources have also been identified in the Pit 3, 4, 5 Project area such as hazel and redbud, which are of special importance to Native Americans for art, medicine, basketry, and cultural use.

In relicensing, the Pit 3, 4, 5 Hydroelectric System was determined to be eligible for listing in the NRHP as an historic district. Some system components within the planning unit are also individually eligible for inclusion on the NRHP including the Pit 3 Dam and Lake Britton, Camp Shasta, and Camp Britton. Vandalism and shoreline erosion were affecting many cultural sites; however, limits on boat speed in upper Lake Britton, bouldering and closure of roads, and seasonal gate closures have reduced vandalism and impacts to cultural sites. Many sites impacted by



Pit River Overlook

fluctuating water levels in Lake Britton have been stabilized and/or documented. PG&E currently has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Pit River Tribe for tribal use of two spiritual sites within the planning unit. The New License requires developing a final historic properties management plan (HPMP) including monitoring and protection of sites.

Stewardship Council Recommendations

The Stewardship Council recommends that the land and land uses at the Lake Britton Planning Unit be preserved and enhanced by focusing on biological and cultural resources protection, public access and recreation, and sustainable forestry. In presenting the Recommended Concept provided here, our objective is to preserve and enhance open space and recreation, while also protecting biological and cultural resources and important forest resources. We recommend this effort be conducted in close coordination with PG&E and license compliance efforts for the area.

Objective: Preserve and enhance biological and cultural resources, as well as enhance public access, educational opportunities, the recreation experience and sustainable forestry management.

LAKE BRITTON PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed

As shown on Table PM-5, the Stewardship Council has identified a number of preservation and/or enhancement measures that may contribute to the conservation management program for the Lake Britton Planning Unit. Additional detail and background regarding these potential measures can be found in the Supporting Analysis for Recommendations, provided under separate cover. These measures are intended to be illustrative in nature, not prescriptive, and will be amended, deleted, or augmented over time in coordination with future land owners and managers to best meet the objective for this planning unit.

Fish, Plant, and Wildlife Habitat

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

The Lake Britton Planning Unit offers diverse and high value terrestrial habitat as well as important aquatic resources such as Lake Britton, Hat Creek and the Pit River. In order to preserve and enhance the habitat and resources found here, the Stewardship Council recommends that baseline studies and plans be developed to gain a clear understanding of the resources (particularly outside the FERC boundary where little information is currently available). These studies will likely be followed by management plans to ensure implementation of preservation and enhancement measures for specific resources. Management of the property to preserve and enhance habitat will also include addressing noxious weeds, and compliance with the USFWS Biological Opinion, outside the FERC boundary as applicable. Bald eagle nesting habitat improvements on the north side of the lake are also recommended. The Stewardship Council encourages close coordination with the USFS and other resource-focused organizations working in the region. All planning should be considered in conjunction with fuels and forest management plans as well as relevant FERC license required plans.

Open Space

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

The Lake Britton Planning Unit provides important open space and viewsheds for major recreation areas and highways. This concept would preserve open space by limiting the construction of human-made features to recreation improvements within existing developed areas, as well as through permanent conservation easements. Conservation easements would describe all prohibited uses to maintain open space values, including the level of uses allowed and the requirement to maintain scenic qualities.

Outdoor Recreation

Objective: Enhance recreational facilities in order to provide additional public access and educational opportunities, as well as to enhance the recreation experience.

The Lake Britton Planning Unit is a popular recreation destination, primarily for water-based recreation such as boating, swimming, and fishing. The planning unit offers a variety of experiences ranging from very developed to dispersed and primitive. As shown in Figure PM-10, the Stewardship Council looks to enhance recreation



Meadow habitat along Pit River

LAKE BRITTON PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed

opportunities by recommending improvements to existing recreational facilities as well as the creation of new trail features and interpretive programs. We recommend enhancements focused on assessment of the potential for additional trail connections, installation and improvement of directional and interpretive signage, enhancement of public access at the PSEA camps, designation of OHV routes, evaluation of the potential to relocate the Pacific Crest Trail campground, and development of additional interpretive programs. We recommend coordinating with the development of FERC license required plans and working closely with Shasta County, the Department of Parks and Recreation, USFS, USFWS, and the Pit River Tribe regarding recreation enhancements.

Sustainable Forestry

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

The Lake Britton Planning Unit contains almost 2,500 acres of forestland adjacent to late successional habitat in a fire-prone area. The Stewardship Council recommends that future care and management of the land include developing a long-term vision for forest management in the area, addressing silvicultural practices, holistic watershed management, fire management and response, and fuels management. The forest, fire management and response, and fuels management plans should be developed in conjunction with noxious weed and wildlife and habitat management plans as well as with relevant FERC license required plans. We expect that all of these plans would be developed in coordination with adjacent landowners, lessees, and USFS management and practices as appropriate.



Hat Creek Park

Preservation of Historic Values

Objective: Identify and manage cultural resources in order to ensure their protection, as well as to support opportunities for public education and traditional uses.

With the entire shoreline of Lake Britton designated an archaeological district and numerous documented archaeological and historic sites, the Lake Britton Planning Unit is an important cultural resource area. The Stewardship Council aims to support an increased understanding of these resources and ensure they are appropriately protected. To meet this objective, we recommend that cultural resource studies be conducted to understand the resources found at Lake Britton (particularly outside the FERC cultural resource study area where less information is available). The Stewardship Council recommends that appropriate management plans be developed and implemented, and that opportunities to support public education regarding cultural resources be considered. Additionally, removal of signs of unauthorized recreation use at cultural sites is recommended to further discourage unauthorized use and protect cultural resources. Throughout this effort, the Stewardship Council recommends close coordination with Native American entities. Development of the cultural resources management plan should be consistent with relevant FERC license required plans and recommended habitat enhancement measures.

LAKE BRITTON PLANNING UNIT

Pit-McCloud River Watershed

Endnotes

¹The lower Lake Britton area includes lands from the Pit 3 Dam (in the west) to Highway 89 (in the east). Upper Lake Britton includes lands from Highway 89 (in the west) to Highway 299 (in the east).

²Measures required in the New License regarding habitat include: a western pond turtle monitoring plan, updating of the Interagency Bald Eagle Management Plan, a vegetation and invasive weed management plan, a valley elderberry longhorn beetle protection plan, a northern spotted owl protection plan, fish population trend and condition monitoring in Project reservoirs and river reaches, a Biological Resource Program Technical Review Group, and a terrestrial wildlife mitigation and monitoring plan.

³The New License requires several recreation enhancements for the lower lake area under the recreation management plan. These enhancements include: improvements at North Shore Campground, measures to address management of the informal use area called the North Ferry Crossing; boating, parking, and day use enhancements at the Jamo Point Boat Ramp; increased camping and day use capacity; maintaining and upgrading existing trails around Lake Britton; pedestrian signage at the Pit 3 Dam; and development of a reservoir water surface zoning plan, an information, education, and interpretation plan, and a recreation monitoring and reporting plan (all three of which would cover the lower and upper Lake Britton areas). The New License also requires development of a visual management plan and a sign plan.

⁴The New License also requires several recreation enhancements for the upper lake area under the recreation management plan. These enhancements include: a plan for public access to lower Hat Creek; camping, swimming, and ADA access improvements at the campground; improvements to the car-top boat ramp; parking closures; and an OHV and vehicle management plan as a component of the road and facilities management plan (which would cover the upper and lower Lake Britton areas).

⁵There is also a lease for a sand quarry located north of Hat Creek Park.

⁶The New License requires developing a fire management and response plan for the project area.

⁷Grazing was discontinued in accordance with the previous Pit 3, 4, 5 FERC Project Cultural Resources Management Plan.



Riparian habitat along Hat Creek

SUMMARY OF KEY PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC COMMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LAKE BRITTON PLANNING UNIT

PUBLIC REVIEW OF VOLUMES I AND II OF THE LCP

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

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

- Prohibit grazing in the Lake Britton Planning Unit to protect the streambank.
- Limit timber harvesting to protect the viewshed and water quality.
- The conservation easement should protect the viewshed, limit development, and prohibit mining.
- The conservation easement should provide public access, as appropriate.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING FOR THE LAKE BRITTON PLANNING UNIT

A public information meeting for the Fall River Mills, Fall River Valley, Hat Creek, and Lake Britton planning units was hosted by the Stewardship Council on October 29, 2009 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall in Burney, California. A total of 33 people attended and participated in the meeting, representing a wide variety of interests, including local and federal governments, community organizations, and community members. The primary purpose of this meeting was to solicit public input on the development of the Land Conservation and Conveyance Plans (LCCP) to preserve and enhance the Fall River Mills, Fall River Valley, Hat Creek, and Lake Britton planning units.

During the meeting, participants were invited to provide comments at the four planning unit stations, focusing on two topics: the potential priority measures proposed for the above listed planning units, and important qualifications of future land owners and conservation easement holders. A summary of the public comments concerning the Lake Britton Planning Unit is provided below.

General Comments/Potential Priority Measures to Preserve and Enhance the BPVs

- How will the conservation easement address resource rights not owned by PG&E?

Important Qualifications of Future Landowners and Conservation Easement Holders

- Experience managing easements

- Expertise in resource management (timber, minerals, grazing) and grazing as a management tool
- Financial resources, staying power to do job
- Ability to cooperate with multiple stakeholders

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE SUBMITTED

The Stewardship Council also received other public comments and letters from individuals and organizations regarding the future management of the Lake Britton Planning Unit, as summarized below:

- Prohibit OHV use due to potential impacts on wildlife habitat and soils.
- Assess and develop educational opportunities for the public and youth to learn about the Pit River Indian culture, such as signage, cultural resource center, and model villages.
- Protect cultural resources including, traditional and medicinal plants, sacred sites, and human remains.
- Concern that enhanced public access would impact sensitive riparian habitat.
- Support for reestablishing the Pit River Rendezvous, a yearly black powder shooting event hosted by the Pit River Pioneers.
- Support for the lands available for donation to be transferred to the Pit River Tribe.