

BUCKS LAKE PLANNING UNIT

Feather River Watershed

Existing Conditions & Uses

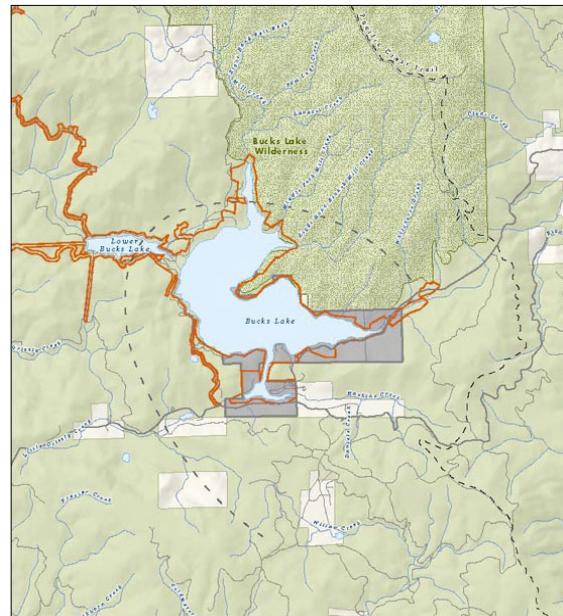
Overview

- Scenic reservoir in a mountain setting with both developed and undeveloped shorelines and year-round recreation
- Just over 2,000 acres in Plumas County; 574 acres outside the FERC boundary and 1,585 acres inside the FERC boundary (including reservoir)
- Part of the Bucks Creek Project (FERC #619); License expires in 2018

Bucks Lake is a popular reservoir for summer water-based recreation, providing a scenic and largely undeveloped mountain setting for camping, boating, fishing, hiking, and swimming. At an elevation of around 5,200 feet, winter recreation use is also popular with visitors reaching the area by snowmobile after the roads close for the season. Most lands surrounding the planning unit are USFS lands administered by the Plumas National Forest, who manages the lake area in cooperation with PG&E as the Bucks Lake Recreation Area (see Figure FR-15). Several USFS and PG&E boat ramps, campgrounds, day use areas, and commercial facilities are on or near the shoreline of the lake.



Bucks Lake from Bucklin Road



Bucks Lake Planning Unit
Plumas County

All of Bucks Lake and about 300 acres of shoreline within the planning unit are within the boundary of the FERC-licensed Bucks Creek Project (FERC #619). Not including the reservoir itself, nearly all of the hydropower features of the Bucks Creek Project are outside the planning unit. As part of a 1988 License Amendment issued by FERC that extended the License term 14 years to 2018, PG&E was required to conduct more than 20 environmental studies and submit several management plans to the USFS based on the study results. The studies were completed in 2002, and the required plans were completed in 2005 and 2006. One of these plans is a revised Exhibit R, or Recreation Use Plan, submitted to FERC in June 2006.

The Recreation Use Plan is intended to guide recreation facility improvements until the current FERC License expires in 2018. PG&E has agreed to conduct rehabilitation work and replace water systems and vault toilets at three USFS campgrounds on the lake, as well as add a new day-use lake access site at a heavily used area on the west shore of the lake in 2007. PG&E and the USFS have also drafted a Shoreline Management Plan focused on management of boat docks and other shoreline facilities and uses.



Bucks Lake Planning Unit

Existing Conditions

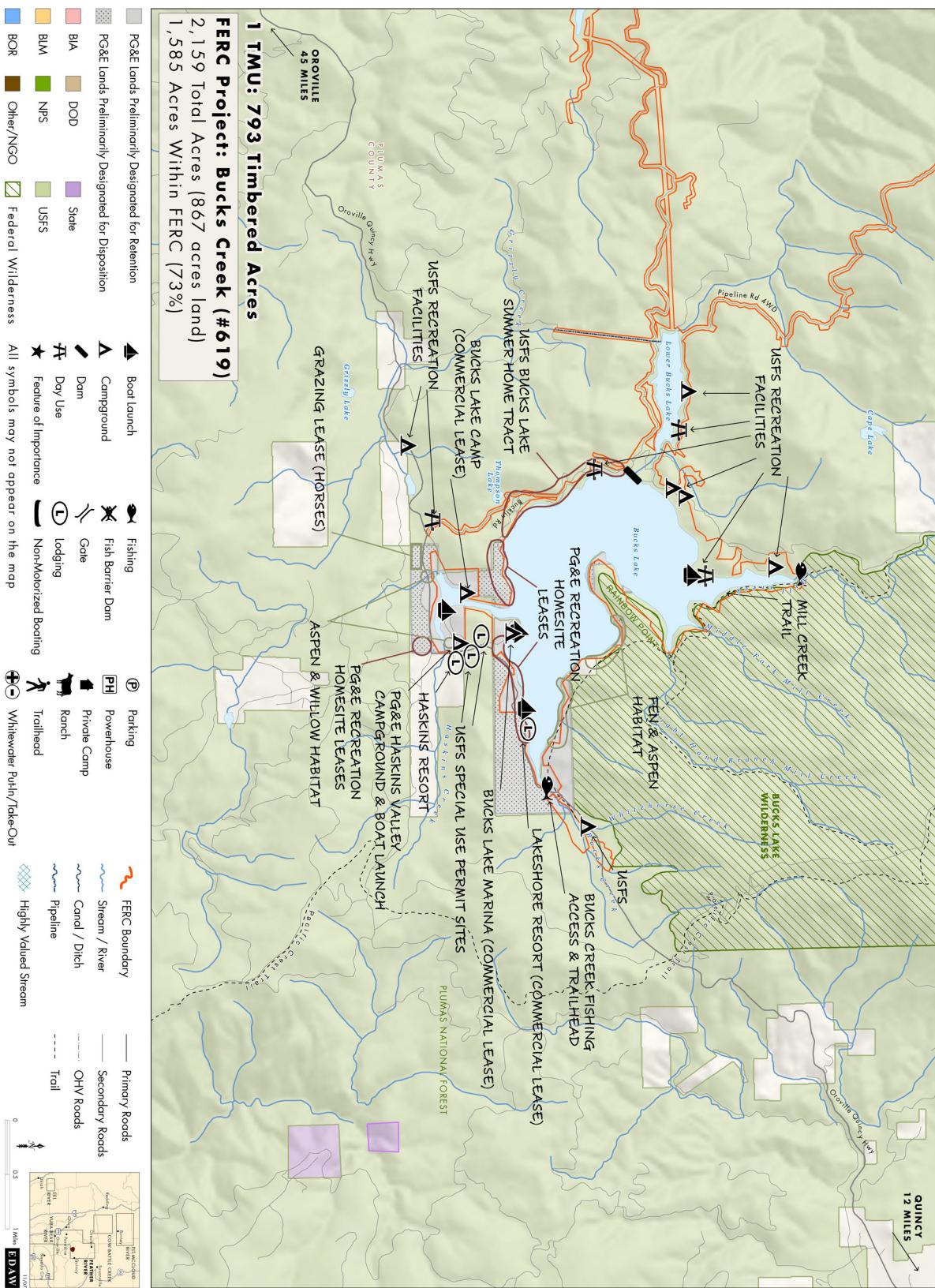


Figure FR-15

BUCKS LAKE PLANNING UNIT

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Fish, Plant, and Wildlife Habitat

The reservoir and the surrounding lands provide habitat for special status species such as osprey, bald eagle, and willow flycatcher. Several osprey nests and one bald eagle nest have been observed on or near the planning unit close to the lake shore. Additionally, willow flycatchers have been detected nesting among the willows of Haskins Creek east of the planning unit, and a few acres of willow flycatcher habitat are present within the planning unit near Haskins Bay. Other special status wildlife have been noted in the area, including northern goshawk and mountain yellow-legged frog, and the USFS has mapped California spotted owl Protected Activity Centers (PACs) adjacent to Bucks Lake.

Other wildlife that occur in the area include black bear, deer, beaver, and several species of waterfowl. The lake has been stocked with kokanee salmon and rainbow, brook, and brown trout. Kokanee spawn each fall in Bucks Creek and are self-sustaining. Few sensitive plants have been located within the planning unit, but uncommon habitats such as fens, aspen groves, and seeps exist in small areas. PG&E recently completed several FERC license required resource protection plans for the area, including a Bald Eagle Management Plan, Habitat Protection and Mitigation Plan for Willow Flycatcher and Haskins Valley, and Noxious Weed Control and Prevention Plan.

Open Space

The developed and undeveloped timberland within the planning unit and the adjacent National Forest is managed primarily for viewshed. The reservoir and the adjacent Bucks Lake Wilderness Area also provide protected open space.

Outdoor Recreation

There are three commercial recreation facilities operated under PG&E commercial leases. As shown in Figure FR-15, the Bucks Lake

Campground is a former 4-H camp now operated as a group and recreational vehicle (RV) camp. Two resorts/marinas, Lakeshore Resort and Bucks Lake Marina, are located on the south shore of the lake. Each provides visitors with boat docks, boat rentals, cabins, campsites, and a store. The Lakeshore Resort also has a restaurant and bar, which are currently not in operation due to lease management issues. The Lakeshore Resort's cabins are also currently not available for use.

In addition to the commercial facilities, the south shore is occupied with private cabins on 68 PG&E recreational homesite leases. Three additional homesite leases are on the south side of Oroville-Quincy Highway, southeast of Haskins Bay. Many of these lease sites have been occupied by the same families for generations, some dating back to the 1930s, and are highly valued by the leaseholders. Cabin owners are required to maintain their lots and control fuel loads under strict lease terms managed by PG&E. In recent years, lease holders have made substantial investments in community septic systems for the cabins, and all cabins are connected to these systems.

Numerous additional cabins are located near the west shore of the lake on USFS recreation cabin tracts, and additional resort and lodging facilities are located on USFS land under special use permits and on private land adjacent to the planning unit parcels. As shown in Figure FR-15,



Docked boats at Lakeshore Resort

BUCKS LAKE PLANNING UNIT

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Cattle & aspen grove at Oroville-Quincy Highway

PG&E provides a campground with a boat ramp on Haskins Bay at the south end of the lake. Trail access is available along the undeveloped north and east shore of the lake, where PG&E lands abut the 21,000-acre Bucks Lake Wilderness Area.

The USFS recently installed an informational and interpretive kiosk with paved parking, two picnic sites, and vault toilets at the intersection of Oroville-Quincy Highway and Bucklin Road, just outside the planning unit. Additional interpretive signage is located at an overlook high above the west side of the lake, on Bucklin Road.

Forest Resources

Forest management within the planning unit and on surrounding Federal lands is mostly focused on the aesthetic viewshed value of the timberland, and on protecting the developed areas from fire. Nearly 800 acres of timberland in the planning unit (most of the non-inundated land) is included in a PG&E Timber Management Unit (TMU). The TMU is managed under a Multiple Use prescription; while sustained timber production is a management component, protection and uses of other resources and facilities may preclude sustained timber management as the highest and best use of portions of the property. A Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) will be prepared by PG&E for a scheduled 2007 timber harvest in the area. Goals for this harvest are fuel load reduction, improving safety and aesthetics,

protection of the viewshed, and enhancement of aspen habitat. Timber value from the planned harvest is low, with stands comprised primarily of true fir with second-growth, mature, and over-mature trees.

The developed resort, cabin, and campground facilities near Bucks Lake make the area a high priority for fuel load management and other wildfire prevention activities. The Bucks Lake area is identified as a “wildland urban intermix defense zone” in the USFS Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment, which prioritizes this area for protection of life and property from wildfires.¹

Agricultural Uses

As shown in Figure FR-15, one 10-acre grazing lease exists within the planning unit southwest of Haskins Bay, on the south side of the Oroville-Quincy Highway. The lease area is fenced and grazes a maximum of six horses. Outside of the planning unit, private lands are used for grazing in Haskins Valley to the east of Haskins Bay, and the USFS Bucks Creek grazing allotment includes the lands to the north and west of the planning unit parcels. Cattle that graze the surrounding Federal and private lands also graze the unfenced PG&E lands south of Haskins Bay. A recent PG&E assessment of grazing in Haskins Valley did not recommend installation of fencing to exclude cattle from the area, but did propose routine monitoring for grazing impacts and related issues such as noxious weed infestations.



Bucks Lake Fire Station (PG&E lease lot)

BUCKS LAKE PLANNING UNIT

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Historic Resources

The resources of Bucks Creek were used by Native Americans for centuries and later attracted pioneer settlers and ranchers. The area is within the ancestral territory of the Northeastern or Mountain Maidu Tribe, who had summer camps near (what is now) the shoreline of the lake. There are several well-documented Native American and settlement-period cultural resource sites that are mostly inundated, except during periods of low water. Recent surveys conducted in conjunction with the THP confirmed the existence of numerous cultural resource sites on the south and east sides of the lake. Some cabins present within the planning unit may also be historic resources.



Cattle grazing near Haskins Bay

Stewardship Council Recommendations

The Stewardship Council recommends that the land and land uses at Bucks Lake be preserved and enhanced by focusing on the importance of recreation to the community and region, the need to provide ongoing protection to natural and cultural resources, and the desire to preserve surrounding forests, viewsheds and open space. In presenting the Recommended Concept provided here, our objective is to preserve and enhance recreation and public access, protect natural and cultural resources, and contribute to the maintenance of a healthy forest. Given the historic use and important investments made by cabin owners and commercial lease holders in the planning unit, we envision that these recommendations would be planned and implemented in close cooperation with the community of commercial recreation and cabin lessees, who are highly engaged and committed to preserving the Bucks Lake region.

As shown on Table FR-8, the Stewardship Council has identified a number of preservation and/or enhancement measures that may contribute to the conservation management program for Bucks Lake. 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.



PG&E leased lots on shoreline of Bucks Lake

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

BUCKS LAKE PLANNING UNIT

Feather River Watershed

Fish, Plant, and Wildlife Habitat

Objective: Preserve and enhance habitat in order to protect special biological resources, as well as to minimize disruption to the wilderness setting.

Bucks Lake is a small jewel set in a region rich in natural resources. The Stewardship Council recognizes the importance of this resource for public recreation and access, but intends to see that the wilderness beauty of the area and the fish, plant, and wildlife resources found there are protected. 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 full understanding of the resources at Bucks Lake. Once recommended biological resource surveys are complete, potential habitat enhancements can be identified and developed into a comprehensive wildlife and habitat management plan. As shown in Figure FR-16, the Stewardship Council recommends that the north shore of the lake continue to be managed as a buffer to the adjacent wilderness area.

The wildlife and habitat management plan should be developed in conjunction with forest management and fuels management plans, as well as habitat enhancement and protection measures described in recently completed FERC license required plans. We recommend close coordination with the USFS and other resource-focused organizations working in the region.



Patio & lawn at the Lakeshore Resort

Open Space

Objective: Preserve open space in order to protect natural and cultural resources, the wilderness character of the region, and remaining undeveloped areas for recreational use.

This concept would preserve open space by limiting the construction of manmade features to low impact recreation improvements, as well as through permanent conservation easements. The Stewardship Council specifically recommends that the lands on the north shore of Bucks Creek inlet be managed as a wilderness buffer area, with development limited to trails, as exist now, and associated improvements such as trailhead parking and trail signage. This measure is consistent with the existing buffer on the remainder of the north and east side of the lake between the shoreline and the Federally designated boundary of the wilderness area. Conservation easements would describe all prohibited uses to maintain open space values, including the level of uses allowed and required to maintain scenic qualities.

Outdoor Recreation

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

Bucks Lake has been an important recreational area for generations of California families. In addition to the community of cabins along the south shore of the reservoir, day use and overnight visitors come to the area for camping, boating, fishing, water sports, and hiking. As shown in Figure FR-16, the Stewardship Council looks to enhance these opportunities by recommending enhancement to recreational facilities on the properties, particularly focusing along the south shore of the lake. We recommend enhancements focused on improved day use facilities, potential additions of sanitation and trash facilities, and improved pedestrian access to the lake.

BUCKS LAKE PLANNING UNIT

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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 Bucks Lake Planning Unit includes nearly 800 acres of timberland managed for multiple uses. The Stewardship Council recommends that future care and management of the Bucks Lake properties 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, fuels, and forest management plans should be developed in conjunction with the wildlife and habitat management plan as well as with relevant FERC license required plans. We expect that all of these plans would be developed in coordination with relevant county plans and adjacent USFS management and practices as appropriate.

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.

Bucks Lake is an area rich in the history of Native Americans and the history of the developing west. The Stewardship Council aims to support an increased understanding of existing cultural 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 Bucks Lake (particularly outside the FERC cultural resource study area where less information is available), that appropriate management plans be developed and implemented, and that opportunities to support public education regarding cultural resources be considered. Throughout all of these



Mill Creek Trail near Bucks Inlet trailhead

efforts, the Stewardship Council recommends close coordination with Native American entities. Development of the cultural resources management plan should be consistent with cultural resource policies and practices associated with the Bucks Creek Project and should be coordinated with PG&E cultural resource specialists.

Endnote

¹ Fire protection is provided by the Bucks Lake fire station, which is located on a site leased from PG&E at the intersection of Bucks Lake Road and Big Creek Road, near the southeast corner of the planning unit. The site is leased by the Bucks Lake Homeowners Association and is used by the Bucks Lake Volunteer Fire Department.

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Table FR-8 Objectives to Preserve and/or Enhance – Recommended Concept

Planning Unit Objective: Preserve and enhance biological and cultural resources, and enhance public access, the recreation experience, and sustainable forestry management.		
Beneficial Public Value	Objective	Potential Measures to Preserve and/or Enhance BPVs – Not Requirements*
Protection of the Natural Habitat of Fish, Wildlife, and Plants	Preserve and enhance habitat in order to protect special biological resources, as well as to minimize disruption to the wilderness setting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct surveys of the planning unit to identify biological resources outside of recently surveyed areas and enable their protection. Develop a wildlife and habitat management plan for the planning unit, in coordination with commercial and recreation homesite lessees. Manage north shore lands as a buffer for the Bucks Lake Wilderness Area.**
Preservation of Open Space	Preserve open space in order to protect natural and cultural resources, the wilderness character of the region, and remaining undeveloped areas for recreational use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply permanent conservation easements to ensure a higher level of open space protection.
Outdoor Recreation by the General Public	Enhance recreational facilities in order to provide additional public access and enhance the recreation experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide public day use area amenities and improved pedestrian shoreline access at the existing site at Lakeshore Resort.** Consider installation of a portable chemical toilet and bear-proof refuse container at an appropriate site near the south shore of Haskins Bay.** Consider installation of a portable chemical toilet and bear-proof refuse container at an appropriate site near the south shore of Bucks Creek inlet.**
Sustainable Forestry	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate existing timber inventory data and supplement as appropriate. Develop a forest management plan for the planning unit to promote natural forest development and structural and physical diversity in forests for long-term ecological, economic, social, and cultural benefits. Develop a fuels management plan for the planning unit to ensure long-term forest health and reduce fuel loading and fire hazard. Develop a fire management and response plan for the planning unit to ensure fire preparedness.
Agricultural Uses		None proposed.
Preservation of Historic Values	Identify and manage cultural resources in order to ensure their protection, as well as to support opportunities for public education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct surveys outside the FERC Project APE to identify cultural resources and enable their protection. Conduct an ethnographic study of the planning unit to identify traditional use areas. Develop a cultural resources management plan for the planning unit. Coordinate with Native American entities when conducting cultural resource measures.

* This is a set of recommended possibilities for the preservation and enhancement of BPV's, and is not intended to be a set of requirements for future land management.

** Denotes site specific measure.

BUCKS LAKE PLANNING UNIT

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Bucks Lake Planning Unit Recommended Concept

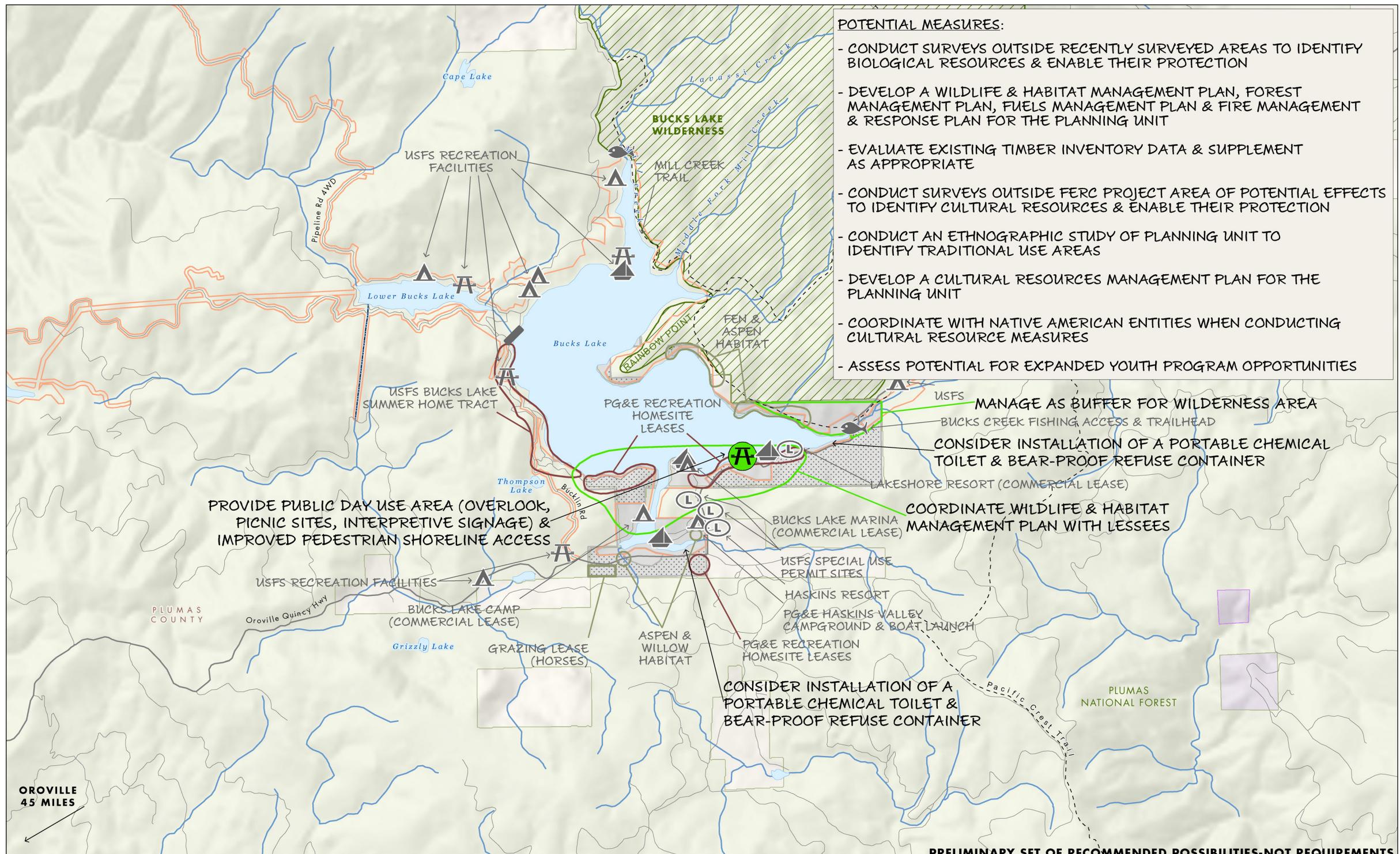


Figure FR-16

Bucks Lake Planning Unit

Outdoor Recreation

Potential Measure:

- *Provide public day use area amenities and improved pedestrian shoreline access at the existing site at Lakeshore Resort.*

On the east side of the former Lakeshore Resort restaurant is an open area surrounding a concrete patio and sand volleyball court. The area surrounding the patio had been planted with sod, which appeared dead during a fall 2006 site visit. The Stewardship Council recommends providing a small day use picnic site in the lawn and patio portion of the site and improving shoreline access to serve visitors passing through the area on Bucks Lake Road. The aesthetics of the site would also be improved with landscaping. The addition of a few tables and grills, basic informational and perhaps interpretive signage, and stairs for improved pedestrian access to the shore would be sufficient to serve the intended purpose and could be integrated with the resort's uses of the site, if the resort returns to full operation. Parking is available along Bucks Lake Road. This enhancement is intended to complement the more extensive day use improvements planned for the west shore, which appear less likely to be used by travelers who may enjoy a brief stop on the lakeshore, than by nearby cabin owners and boaters. Travelers also may not be aware of the west shore site or may not detour from the Oroville-Quincy Highway up Bucklin Road to the site.

Potential Measures:

- *Consider installation of a portable chemical toilet and bear-proof refuse container at an appropriate site near the south shore of Haskins Bay.*
- *Consider installation of a portable chemical toilet and bear-proof refuse container at an appropriate site near the south shore of Bucks Creek inlet.*

Anglers and others access the lake — and Bucks and Haskins Creeks when the lake is drawn down — at informal use areas on the south side of Haskins Bay and the south side of the Bucks Creek inlet. Local residents have reported problems with sanitation and accumulation of litter at these sites during high-use periods. Based on a previous evaluation, PG&E has eliminated from consideration any formal recreation improvements on the south side of the Haskins Bay area due to inundation and marshy ground when the lake is high, as well as poor conditions for recreation use when the lake is drawn down. However, the Stewardship Council recommends that consideration be given to installing a portable chemical toilet and perhaps a bear-proof refuse container at a suitable location in the area to reduce sanitation and refuse problems. Similarly, the Stewardship Council recommends that consideration be given to installing a portable chemical toilet and perhaps a bear-proof refuse container at an appropriate site on the south side of the Bucks Creek inlet. Possible future improvements at the Bucks Creek inlet trailhead, particularly if the improvements include a toilet, may draw current users of this informal access point away, and may remove the need for this enhancement.

Fish, Plant, and Wildlife Habitat

Potential Measure:

- *Conduct surveys of the planning unit to identify biological resources outside of recently surveyed areas and enable their protection.*

Several biological surveys have been conducted recently by PG&E, some of which extended beyond the FERC boundaries. However, because not all areas of the planning unit may have been surveyed, the Stewardship Council recommends conducting a biological survey to cover any areas excluded from the previous studies.

Potential Measure:

- *Develop a wildlife and habitat management plan for the planning unit, in coordination with commercial and recreation homesite lessees.*

Once recommended biological resource surveys are completed, potential habitat enhancements can be identified and developed into a comprehensive wildlife and habitat management plan describing goals and objectives for habitat and species, as well as measures to enhance and protect habitat for both plant and wildlife species. Monitoring of species and/or habitats would also be a component of the plan. The intent of this plan would be to address potential habitat protection and enhancement on both undeveloped lands within the planning unit and lands occupied by public recreation facilities, commercial lease facilities, and private cabins on leased sites. The wildlife and habitat management plan should be developed in conjunction with the forest management and fuels management plans, as well as habitat enhancement and protection measures described in recently completed FERC license required plans developed for the Bucks Creek Project. Specifically, the wildlife and habitat management plan should be consistent with the Noxious Weed Control and Prevention Plan, the Bald Eagle Management Plan, and the Habitat Protection and Mitigation Plan for Willow Flycatcher and Haskins Valley. Potential measures to protect and enhance habitat on commercial and recreation home lease sites would be developed in coordination with lease holders.

Sustainable Forestry

Potential Measures:

- *Evaluate existing timber inventory data and supplement as appropriate.*
- *Develop a forest management plan for the planning unit to promote natural forest development and structural and physical diversity in forests for long-term ecological, economic, social, and cultural benefits.*

Forest management would focus on habitat preservation and enhancement, as well as fuel load management. Most of the planning unit is forested and primarily managed for Multiple Uses including timber production; however, there is no overall documented vision for the Timber Management Unit (TMU) within the planning unit. Therefore, the Stewardship Council recommends developing a forest management plan for the planning unit through the evaluation of existing forest inventory data and supplemental information, when appropriate. In addition to supporting natural forest development, the forest management plan would promote holistic watershed management, supporting the enhancement of other BPVs over the long term. Opportunities to protect and enhance aspen groves and other uncommon habitats found in small

pockets on the shore of the Bucks Creek inlet and south of Haskins Bay would be pursued in the context of the forest management program. The forest management plan would be compatible with adjacent USFS management where appropriate to maintain habitat connectivity.

Development of the forest management plan should be coordinated with relevant county plans and development of the wildlife and habitat management and fuels management plans.

In areas where timber extraction is consistent with the forest management plan, timber harvesting techniques would be promoted that maintain mosaics of forest stands of different age, size, and rotation period. In addition to utilizing PG&E's uneven-age selection harvest system, harvesting practices and a monitoring program would be included to protect watercourses and lakes and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests. Post-harvest, a monitoring plan would be developed to ensure that forest management and the recommended harvesting schedule would be consistent with the forest management plan, promoting natural forest development in perpetuity.

Potential Measure:

- *Develop a fuels management plan for the planning unit to ensure long-term forest health and reduce fuel loading and fire hazard.*

Due to the location of the planning unit within a “wildland urban intermix defense zone” as identified in the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment, reduction of fuels within the planning unit is important. Therefore, the Stewardship Council recommends developing a fuels management plan for the planning unit that would promote long-term forest health and reduce fuel loading and fire hazard within the planning unit. Development of the fuels management plan should be coordinated with the USFS, relevant county plans, and development of the forest management plan and wildlife and habitat management plan.

Potential Measure:

- *Develop a fire management and response plan for the planning unit to ensure fire preparedness.*

The presence within the planning unit of numerous cabins, several commercial facilities, and recreation facilities that receive heavy use during certain times of the year makes fire management and response a priority. Of equal concern for fire protection are the commercial recreation facilities and rural residential developments on adjacent lands. Therefore, the Stewardship Council recommends developing a fire management and response plan to ensure fire preparedness and enhance fire prevention. The plan would include appropriate actions to take when a fire occurs, as well as reporting procedures that would be useful for the Bucks Lake community. This plan would be developed in coordination with the USFS, who is responsible for fire management in most of the Bucks Lake area, and the Bucks Lake community fire department, which maintains a fire house on a leased site within the planning unit.

Preservation of Historic Values

Potential Measures:

- *Conduct surveys outside the FERC Project APE to identify cultural resources and enable their protection.*
- *Conduct an ethnographic study of the planning unit to identify traditional use areas.*

- *Coordinate with Native American entities when conducting cultural resource measures.*

Over the past few decades, several cultural resource investigations have been conducted within the Bucks Creek Project Area of Potential Effects (APE), with detailed study and excavation of sites on the Bucks Lake shore and in the inundation zone. Recent archeological surveys conducted for a THP identified numerous additional cultural sites. However, because a thorough survey of cultural resources has not occurred outside the APE, the Stewardship Council recommends conducting surveys outside the Bucks Creek Project APE to identify cultural resources and enable their protection. The Stewardship Council also recommends conducting an ethnographic study of the planning unit (particularly outside the FERC boundary) to identify traditional use areas, such as ethnobotanical sites. The cultural resource surveys and ethnographic study should be coordinated with Native American entities.

Potential Measures:

- *Develop a cultural resources management plan for the planning unit.*
- *Coordinate with Native American entities when conducting cultural resource measures.*

Recent efforts to protect cultural resources at Bucks Lake have focused on areas that receive high recreation use or that are recommended for recreation development, and no comprehensive cultural resources management plan has been produced. Therefore, the Stewardship Council recommends developing a cultural resources management plan for the planning unit to ensure that cultural resources are adequately protected in the future. The plan would include appropriate measures for the identification, evaluation, and treatment of cultural resources (archaeological and historical), as well as traditional use areas. Treatment measures could include avoidance, specific protective measures (e.g., fencing), site monitoring, and methods to preserve, restore, or enhance cultural resource values through conservation easements, management agreements, or through public interpretation and education programs. Development of the cultural resources management plan should be consistent with cultural resource policies and practices associated with the Bucks Creek Project and should be coordinated with PG&E cultural resource specialists and Native American entities.

Open Space

Potential Measure:

- *Apply permanent conservation easements to ensure a higher level of open space protection.*

The Stewardship Council recommends providing long-term protection of open space values through permanent conservation easements. Management of undeveloped lands focused on habitat enhancement, viewshed protection (from both the Bucks Lake Road corridor and the reservoir), and fuel load management would also preserve open space while protecting the habitat of eagle, osprey, and other wildlife. The easements would also provide protection for willow flycatcher habitat and other riparian habitat values in the Haskins Bay area, which may be threatened by development on adjacent private lands.

Potential Measure:

- *Manage north shore lands as a buffer for the Bucks Lake Wilderness Area.*

The Stewardship Council recommends that the lands on the north shore of Bucks Creek inlet be managed as a wilderness buffer area, with development limited to trails, as exist now, and associated improvements such as trailhead parking and trail signage. This measure would protect both habitat and open space values on those lands and minimize disturbance of wilderness uses and values on adjacent lands. This measure is consistent with the existing buffer on the remainder of the north and east sides of the lake between the shoreline and the Federally designated boundary of the Wilderness Area, where the wilderness boundary is about 200 feet above the high water mark. As is currently permitted, boats would continue to be allowed to land on the shoreline adjacent to the Wilderness Area.

Agricultural Uses

None recommended.