

Enterprise Rancheria, Greenville Rancheria, Plumas County

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bucks Lake is a unique resource that deserves special respect and a high level of perpetual stewardship. The area hosts visitors year-round for recreation, provides irreplaceable habitat, and has historically been a gathering area for the Native American people rich in cultural and heritage assets. There are many people who are uniquely attached to Bucks Lake – attached by years or even decades of personal experience, as well as by ancestry and by the history of the Native American people who have inhabited these lands from time immemorial. These people share a vested interest in ensuring that Bucks Lake is preserved, appropriately managed, and enhanced so that future generations will inherit the many things that we enjoy and experience at Bucks Lake today.

The Stewardship Council's primary tool for conservation of the watershed lands under its charge is the establishment of perpetual conservation easements. For Bucks Lake, the Greenville Rancheria and the County of Plumas propose to jointly hold a conservation easement over the entire planning unit. The only exception will be those areas that are donated in fee to Plumas County, for which Greenville Rancheria would be the sole holder of the conservation easement.

Of the lands available for donation in fee, Enterprise Rancheria proposes to receive most of the area south of Mile High Road and west of Haskins Bay to construct an interpretive center and a camp facility for educational, cultural, spiritual healing, and health and wellness use. Plumas County proposes to receive the lands available on the south side of Haskins Bay, part of which would continue to be managed as open space and available for low-impact recreation activities with supporting amenities, with the forested portions being managed for fire safety, habitat preservation, and carbon sequestration. Allowances will be included in the conservation easement to allow future expansion of the Bucks Lake fire station to house additional apparatus and to provide a multi-purpose meeting room for the community. Plumas County also proposes to receive most of the lands available on the south side of Bucks Creek inlet, where trails will be developed and a portion of which would be reserved for a future outdoor education area set within a model managed forest, balancing forest uses and sequestering carbon. Of all the lands available for donation, two areas on the south side of the lake encompassing existing leach fields that serve the recreation homesites would continue to be owned by PG&E.

A significant challenge in long-term management of the Bucks Lake area is reconciling the Stewardship Council's vision and objectives for these lands with the limited funds that are available to support the Land Conservation Plan. As long as the Land Conservation Plan is not approached as something that has to be self-contained and self-executing, there are opportunities to work in concert with other planning and management efforts. Rather than undertaking a number of immediate surveys or management plans under the Land Stewardship Proposal, a long-term Bucks Lake Coordinating Committee is proposed to provide an ongoing framework for efficient planning and coordination. The Coordinating Committee will consist of the potential donees participating in the Stewardship Council process (the proposal team along with the U.S. Forest Service, Feather River Land Trust, and Plumas Corporation) as well as PG&E, the Bucks Lake cabin owners, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other interested stakeholders. The Coordinating Committee will serve as a conduit for information and promote coordinated planning and resource management across PG&E and other private lands and the National Forest through various processes, such as

implementation of the Land Stewardship Proposal, update of the Plumas County General Plan, and license implementation and eventual FERC relicensing of PG&E's Bucks Creek Project.

An endowment is proposed to provide annual financial resources for the Coordinating Committee, and expenditures would be prioritized each year depending on the needs for resource surveys, management plans, matching funds for grant opportunities, or matching funds for actions carried out by PG&E under its FERC license.

While the Coordinating Committee will turn to other various actions over time, certain immediate needs and opportunities were identified through the Stewardship Council process and development of this Land Stewardship Proposal. The following actions will be undertaken by the donees and community partners in the near term:

- The Coordinating Committee will work with the Plumas County Fire Safe Council and Plumas Corporation with the support of local matching funds to develop a fuels management plan that is appropriate for the Bucks Lake area, taking into consideration habitat needs, recreation development, and other factors.
- The Coordinating Committee will work with the Plumas County Fire Safe Council and Plumas Corporation with the support of local matching funds to develop a fire response, management, and evacuation plan for the Bucks Lake area.
- The Coordinating Committee will work with Trails for Plumas County, Plumas Corporation, and other stakeholders to complete a trails plan for the Bucks Lake area that is integrated with the Plumas County Master Trails Plan and the Plumas County General Plan. Trail planning will include determination of trail routes to connect existing trails and popular use areas as well as establishing any necessary easements across PG&E's non-FERC lands.
- The Coordinating Committee will work with the Enterprise Rancheria with the support of matching funds to develop a youth, elder, and Tribal wellness camp and interpretive center that is appropriate for the Bucks Lake area, taking into consideration habitat needs, recreation development, and other factors.
- The Coordinating Committee will work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service staff biologists, botanists, and foresters in order to determine best management principles for the Bucks Lake area and develop a framework management plan.

We have endeavored to meet the Stewardship Council's timeline for moving forward with this process, but with the procedures involved in reconciling and approving a proposal between two tribal governments and a county government, we have not been able to fully circulate the final proposal and receive meaningful feedback from all of the parties we would have liked to engage. We submit this proposal to the Stewardship Council as our current concept for the Bucks Lake Planning Unit, and we look forward to further developing the details of this proposal through negotiation with the Stewardship Council and direct engagement with other interested stakeholders.