



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm Production
and Conservation

Farm
Service
Agency

SOLANO/NAPA COUNTY FSA OFFICE
810 VACA VALLEY PARKWAY SUITE 102
VACAVILLE, CA 95688-8835
(707) 448-0106 x2

CHARLES HAAS- CHARLES J AND ELLEN J HAAS REVOCABLE
2 SWANSTON RD
SAINT HELENA, CA 94574

January 11, 2024

Program : Emergency Forest Restoration
Application No : 06_055_2023_0009

Dear CHARLES HAAS- CHARLES J AND ELLEN J HAAS REVOCABLE:

Your request for financial assistance under the above program has been approved for the practice(s) indicated on the attached FSA-848A and summarized below:

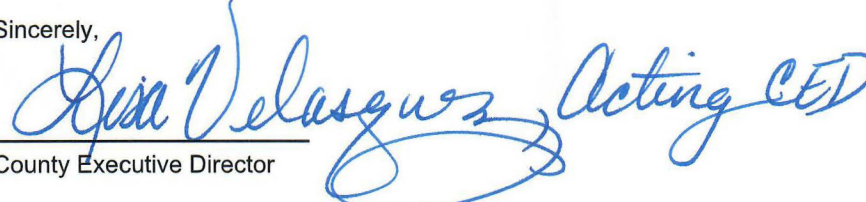
Practice Code	Farm Number(s)	TSP	Lifespan
EF7	1934	Other	10

If you are not satisfied with the practice(s) or financial assistance approved, you may appeal in writing to the County FSA Committee within 30 days from the date of this letter. If you are satisfied with the approval, please sign and return the attached FSA-848A to your local county FSA office within 15 days from the date of this letter.

The following items should serve as a guide in completing and reporting the approved practice(s):

1. Make arrangements to install the practice(s) as soon as practical.
2. Make arrangements to obtain the necessary easements and permits to perform the practice(s).
3. Carry out the practice(s) in accordance with the specified requirements to ensure effective practice(s). The specifications must be met to qualify for the financial assistance approved.
4. If you start the practice(s) and cannot complete the practice(s) before the expiration date, please notify us in advance. If the reasons justify an extension of time, the committee may approve an extension.
5. Furnish a report of performance on the attached FSA-848B immediately upon completion of the practice and not later than the expiration date indicated on the form. Otherwise, the approval for financial assistance will be cancelled.
6. Furnish sales slips, invoices or other evidence for the materials used in connection with each practice to be used in determining your financial assistance.

Sincerely,


County Executive Director

Note: Activities must cease and the FSA office must immediately be notified if any archaeological site or remains are discovered when installing the practice(s).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Emergency Forest Restoration Program Forest Management Plan

Charles J and Ellen J Haas

Prepared For:

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)

810 Vaca Valley Parkway Suite 102, Vacaville, CA 95688

Prepared By:

Kirsten Sequoia, RPF #3009, NRCS TSP #20-23243

and

Napa County Resource Conservation District

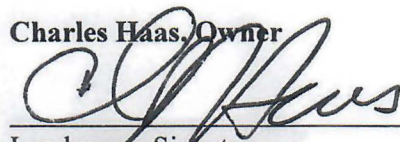
1303 Jefferson St. Suite 500B Napa, CA 94559

July 2023

Landowner Certification

"I have reviewed this plan and approve its content."

Charles Haas, Owner



Landowner Signature

1/31/24

Date

7. RESOURCE ASSESSMENT:

There has been no site visit to this property.

Elevation	300 ft - 600 ft
Vegetation Type	Evergreen Oak Woodland, and Douglas Fir/Redwood Forest.
Species	Prior to fire closed canopy, DF encroaching on evergreen oak woodland forest.
Road System	Paved road and driveway lead to former housing site. Roads on map derived from aerial photos – road locations approximate.
Watercourses	At top of southern peak on Glass Mt. No blue line stream. Some concentrated flow areas.
Structures	All structures burned. Paved areas including tennis court and pool remain. Developed surface area under 1 acre.

8. RESOURCE CONCERNS:

- X DEGRADED PLANT CONDITIONS
- X WILDFIRE HAZARD FROM EXCESSIVE BIOMASS ACCUMULATION
- X UNDERSTORY COMPETITION

9. FOREST MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Focus on high use areas of the property, ingress and egress or regularly used roads that traverse the property.

Apply a suite of NRCS practices (described below) to improve forest health and wildlife habitat. This will be an aesthetically pleasing treatment plan that can promote both forest health and wildfire resiliency on the property.

Maintain the project area with a follow-up project about every five years.

10. PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS and PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS:

NRCS Practice #	NRCS Practice Name /Scenario	NRCS Practice Description	Timing	Acres
666	Forest Stand Improvement #10 - Wildlife Fire and Forest Health, Large Stem	Possible combination of hand tools and equipment used to open the canopy of a stand to improve the wildlife habitat and tree health. Encroachment of stands that are 4-8" DBH; 300-600 TPA. Appropriate treatments will include cutting with hand tools (chainsaws), mechanical equipment (chopper, masticator), and/or injection. Resource concerns include: Degraded plant condition - Inadequate structure and composition, Undesirable plant productivity and health, Wildfire hazard; and Wildlife habitat degradation. The excessive slash will be treated per Practice #384 (below). It is mapped on the "Topo-Project Map" as "Unit 1".	2023-2024	5 ac
666	Forest Stand Improvement #11 – Wildlife and Forest Health, Dense Woodlands	Historic Oak Woodlands that have become grossly overstocked with unwanted woody species. Careful handling of cut material will ensure the remaining stand is damage-free. Treatments will address resource concerns to reduce wildfire hazard, improve wildlife habitat, improve structure and composition of the forest, and improve forest health. The excessive slash will be treated per Practice #384 (below). After adjusting the stocking to an acceptable level and/or controlling the competing vegetation, stand growth, condition, and overall quality is improved. In addition, wildlife habitat is improved with the resulting increase of sunlight reaching the forest floor. It is mapped on the "Topo-Project Map" as "Unit 2".	2023-2024	5 ac
660	Tree Shrub Pruning #1 – Fire Hazard	Pruning trees of branches in a forest stand where wildfires are considered a high and very high hazard. Hand tools and power tools are used to cut branches from trees. Resource concerns include degraded plant condition-wildfire hazard and undesirable plant productivity and health. Trees are pruned to the desirable height (generally 8-16') based on desired separation space between ground vegetation and tree crown. Pruned branches are treated if they are a hazard, see Woody Residue Treatment standard.	2023-2024	10 ac
314	Brush Management # 15 – Hand Tools, Medium	Understory ladder fuels will be cut to reduce fuel loading using hand tools, such as chainsaws, axes, nippers, or brush pullers to remove or cut off woody plants at or below the root collar. Posttreatment pruning or lopping will also be performed to adequately reduce woody species on the site. Encroaching woody species are cut and/or removed to achieve the desirable plant community based on species composition, structure, density, and canopy cover or height. Ecological site degradation is reversed and condition continues progressing in an upward trend. Desired hydrology, wildlife habitat, and plant health, vigor, and productivity are sustained.	2023-2024	10 ac

PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS Continued

NRCS Practice #	NRCS Practice Name /Scenario	NRCS Practice Description	Timing	Acres
384	Woody Residue Treatment #6 – Restoration/conservation treatment following catastrophic events	The use of a combination of hand (chainsaw) and heavy equipment similar to those used in logging to treat slash resulting from catastrophic events such as fire, wind, severe pest outbreak, etc. This scenario will remove/treat the larger material the size of which is consistent with the large equipment used. Resource concerns include: Excessive plant pest pressure (from pine bark beetle), potential emissions of particulate matter (from future wildfire), wildfire hazard from excessive biomass accumulation, and habitat degradation.	2023-2024	10 ac
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation #10 - Hand Site Prep, Individual Spots, Disaster Rehabilitation	This practice typically involves cutting and grubbing all vegetation from individual spots (roughly 4-8 sqft) leaving bare soil where trees and/or shrubs will be planted. Typical sites include emergent brush areas growing back after fire or other destructive event. Sites often have burnt or downed wood that requires clearing. A combination of mechanical and chemical methods may be used. Resource concerns addressed: degraded plant condition - undesirable plant productivity and health and inadequate structure.	2023-2024	10 ac
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment #10 - Native Seed, Hand Plant	Native seed (acorns, nuts, etc.) from native tree species are directly planted in the soil. The native seed are collected/purchased locally so as to get trees known to be adapted to local conditions. Resource concerns are degraded plant condition, inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife.	2023-2024	10 ac

Project Description:

The project covers 10 acres of a 24-acre property located within the burn scar of the 2020 Glass Fire, northwest of St. Helena, in Napa County. The project is in a mixed-oak woodland and coniferous forest. The project area is surrounded by additional burned forestland, vineyards, developed areas, some grasslands and shrubland.

The 10-acre project area will be treated to improve forest health and wildlife habitat, as well as treat potential wildfire fuels. Hand crews and possibly equipment operators (smaller heavy equipment similar to those used in logging, plus a chipper) will be used to fall and thin dead and dying trees, reduce competing brush species, prune live trees and brush (to a minimum of 10 feet above the ground $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Live Crown Ratio (LCR), whichever is the lesser), and discard slash material created by the Glass Fire. The slash will be treated with hand crews and/or equipment. The project area has mostly moderate, but some steep slopes, and equipment use will vary accordingly; hand crews in steeper areas, and heavy equipment only on stable operating surfaces, including existing roads, previously disturbed areas (trails, landings, etc.), and/or chip beds on slopes under 35%.

In the winter after initial operations hand crews will site-prepare (by hand) and hand plant seed (acorns, nuts, etc.) from native tree species over the 10-acre project area.

The post treatment target is to encourage and/or maintain a healthy stand of well-spaced trees that is void of ladder fuels. Where live conifer trees remain, the leave stand (including seedlings) should be about 100-200 trees per acre with a spacing of approximately 15 to 20 feet. Where live oak trees remain, the leave stand (including seedlings) should be about 50-70 trees per acre (mostly native oaks) with a spacing of approximately 25 to 30 feet. This will maintain an overhead canopy that will limit the regrowth of brush and other ladder fuels.

Project Background:

The project area and adjacent area was viewed reviewed via aerial photos, topographic maps, Lidar imagery, permits, reports, and other resources available to the TSP and consulting forester (Kirsten Sequoia, RPF #3009).

Portions of the property were previously disturbed during historic road and building construction, fire suppression activities, and post-fire forest fuel reduction activities. The project area was chosen based on its proximity to existing roads; lack of threatened, endangered or sensitive species; lack of sensitive and/or aquatic habitats; and lack of known cultural resources.

According to the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) there are no wetlands within the project area. Within 1 mile there is the following mapped habitat: Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetlands (along the Napa River), Riverine (intermittent watercourses), Freshwater Ponds (constructed reservoirs), and Freshwater Emergent Wetland (also along the Napa River).

According to FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer Flood Map Panels # 06055 C0263E and #06055 C0265E, the project area is in "Zone X", an "Area of Minimal Flood Hazard". The property is adjacent to, but not within a "Zone AE".

Protection Measures:

Prior to implementation, a NWIC Records Search should be requested by the landowner to determine likelihood and or presence of know cultural or historic-era sites within 1 mile of the project area. See <https://nwic.sonoma.edu/record-searches/chris-data-request> for information. The area in and 100' adjacent to the project area (within the landowner's property) should receive Intuitive Surveys for detection of cultural resources.

Additionally, the area should be surveyed for sensitive plants and listed animal habitat. Additionally, fallers and operators will always survey trees for sweep, loose limbs, and other hazards; at this time,

they will also look for nests and cavities. If discovered, sensitive species or habitat in or adjacent to the project area will be flagged for avoidance with a 30-foot buffer for plants and 100-foot buffer for potential nests.

The following protection measures consider requirements of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the California Forest Practice Rules (FPRs), and best management practices guided by multiple Federal and State resource protection agencies and NRCS Standards.

The following measures will be applied during project implementation to avoid disturbance to sensitive plant and animal species (as well as neighbors):

- No new road construction.
- No change of habitat types.
- No nighttime operations.
- No burning.
- No herbicide application.
- No removal of live trees larger than 10" DBH.
- Up to 5 conifer snags larger than 20" DBH will be retained per acre.
- Up to 5 down logs that are greater than 20" DBH and at least 10 feet long will be retained per acre.
- Additional avoidance mitigation is included for any federally listed species with habitat in or adjacent to the project area (see below).

A U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) Species List was generated for the project area. According to the IPaC 2023-0101121 (dated July 6, 2023), there is no Critical Habitat for plant or animal species within or adjacent to the project area. There are 4 Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate animal species on the IPaC Species List. There is 1 Endangered plant species on the IPaC Species List.

The project is within the range of the following federally listed animal species with Critical Habitat:

- Northern Spotted Owl (NSO), *Strix occidentalis caurina* is federally listed as Threatened. The closest Critical Habitat is 4 miles to the east and west. There are several historic Activity Centers (ACs) in the area. The closest known historic AC is over 2 miles west of the project. The Burn Severity in the project area is mapped as moderate and low. There may be suitable habitat for NSO within ¼ mile of the project. To protect this species there should be no operations during the breeding season: March 1- August 15.
- California red-legged frog (CRLF), *Rana draytonii*, is an amphibian species federally listed as Threatened. Adults utilize riparian vegetation with deep (greater than 2 1/3-foot deep) still or slow-moving water and well-vegetated terrestrial areas within the riparian corridor. They have been identified up to 100 meters from water in adjacent dense riparian vegetation during summer hibernation and are most vulnerable when traveling cross-country to breeding habitat during rainy nights in the fall. The closest Critical Habitat is over 9 miles to the southwest. The closest known observation is over 4 miles to the northwest (Napa River). There is likely breeding habitat for this species within 1 mile of the project area. To protect this species from disturbance, there will be no nighttime operations and no operations for at least 72 hours following any rain of more than 1/2".

The project is NOT within the range of the following federally listed animal species without Critical Habitat:

- Monarch Butterfly, *Danaus plexippus*: There will be no disturbance to this species due to lack of habitat. The Range for this species over 80 miles east of the project area. The closest known observation is 24 miles south of the project area.

The project is within the range of the following federally listed animal species without Critical Habitat:

- California Freshwater Shrimp, *Syncaris pacifica*: There will be no disturbance to this species due to lack of habitat. The closest known observation is over 5 miles northwest of the project area in vernal pools.

There is 1 Endangered plant species on the IPaC Species List. It does not have Critical Habitat. None have been observed in the project area:

- Clara Hunt's Milk-vetch, *Astragalus clarianus*: There will be no disturbance to this species due to lack of soil habitat. The closest observation is over 1 mile northwest in Napa-Bothe State Park. This observation was in an oak woodland community in volcanic soils (hambright rock outcrop complex). There are no serpentine soil types on the property.

According to Napa County records, "Potential Archaeological sites may occur in this general area, please contact the Planning, Building, & Environmental Services Dept. for details". This may be a reference to the historic-era stone structure remains. See also Protection Measures, above.

An Anticipated Discovery Plan with a Post Review Discovery Plan has been prepared. If cultural material is identified during implementation the following post review discovery plan should be followed: In the event that archaeological or historical materials are discovered during project implementation, all work shall be halted within 100 feet of the discovery until a qualified person can assess the object. Qualified personnel will flag a 100-foot project exclusion area around the discovery. Project personnel will be instructed to not take photos or collect cultural material.

If the landowners and RCD personnel wish to use heavy equipment within the 100-foot avoidance area, a Secretary of the Interior qualified professional (SOI) will be contacted to visit the site and determine the significance of the resource. Appropriate tribal representatives from the Napa County Contacts List should also be informed of any Native American archaeological find. The SOI, in consultation with the tribal representative (if appropriate), will develop and coordinate proper protection/mitigation measures required for the discovery. Mitigation measures may include avoidance, removal, preservation and/or recordation in accordance with California and federal laws. Any identified cultural resources should be recorded on DPR 523 historic resource recordation forms.

Water quality will be protected by including the following mitigation measures:

- Unmapped USGS intermittent watercourses on the property will receive a 30-foot equipment exclusion buffer. Exposed soil (within these buffers) created by project activities and with the potential for surface erosion will be treated with an application of chips or slash to an average depth of at least two inches and a coverage rate of 90%.
- To assure equipment is only operating on stable surfaces, there should be no operations for at least 72 hours following any rain of more than 1/2" and no operations if soils are saturated (per FPRs).

Operators will adhere to Cal Fire's fire mitigation, and "red flag warning" rules. Potential risk of pests, including pine bark beetle, will be mitigated with a slash disposal component of chipping and/or masticating wherever feasible and in areas of lop and scatter the material should be reduced to 18" or less.

11. SIGNATURES

RCD Planner Signature: Willie Binger Date: 7/7/23

Farm Service Agency Representative: _____ Date: _____

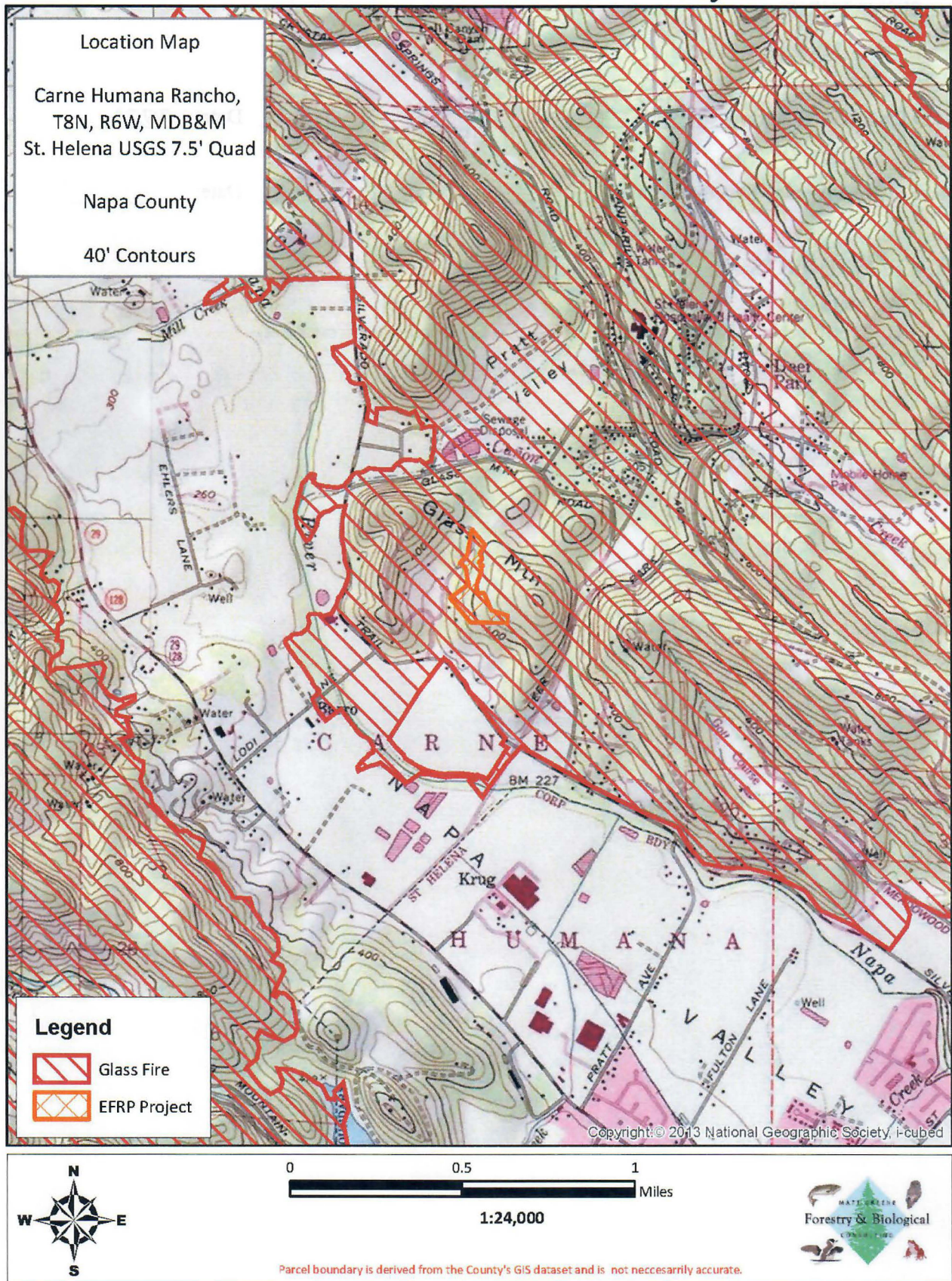
12. ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Maps
- B. IPaC Species List (See additional: FSA 850 Environmental Worksheet)

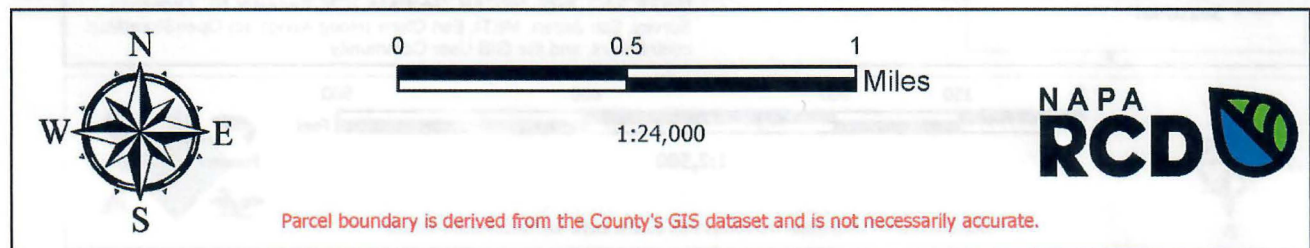
Attachment A: Maps

- Location
- Aerial Photo
- Topographic Project
- Vegetation/Habitat

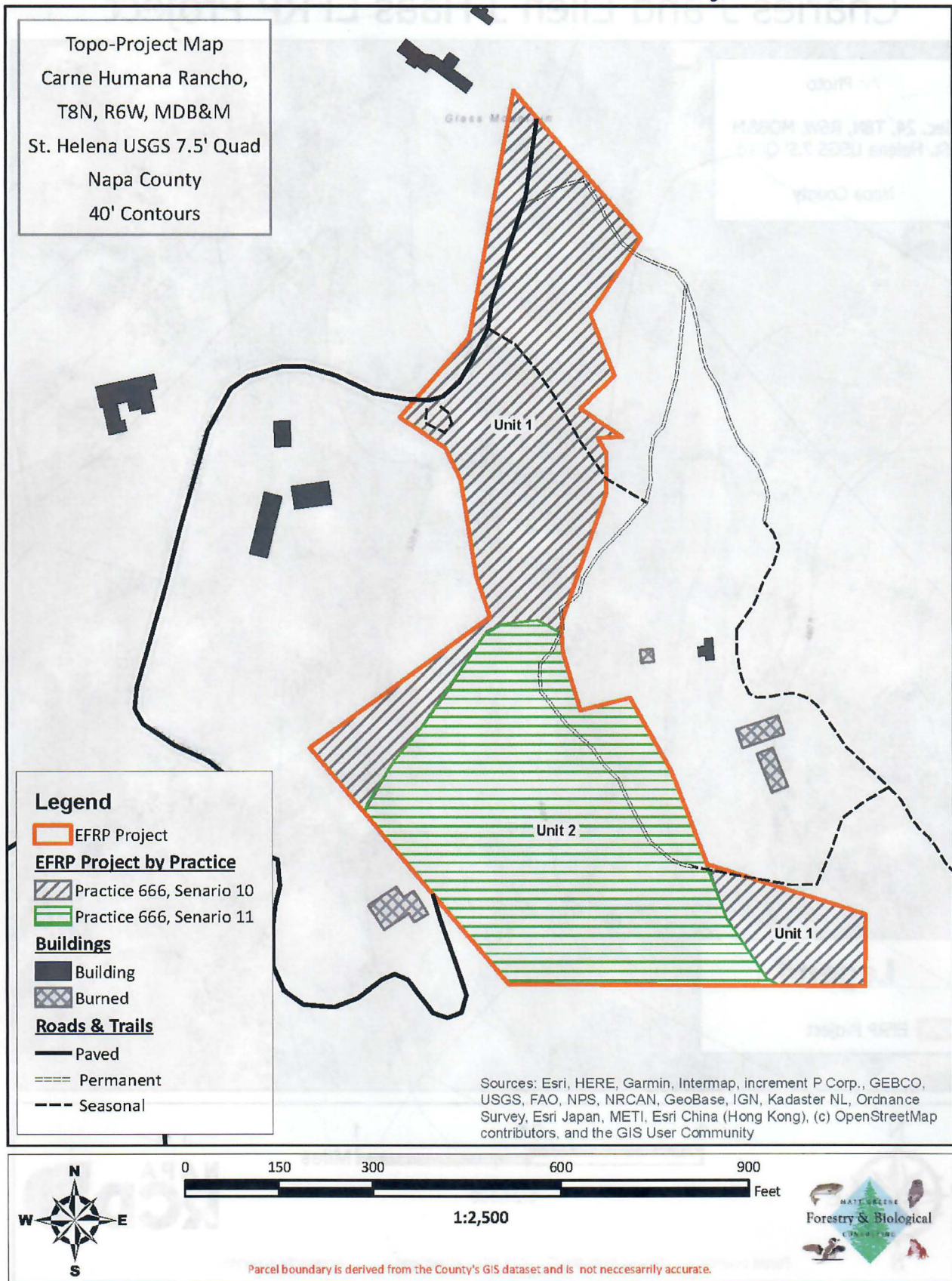
Charles J and Ellen J Haas EFRP Project



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