

Mitigated Negative Declaration Number 687
For Special Use Permit U 7-24/25-01

Bucks Lake Trail System Project

Plumas County, CA

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Bucks Lake Trail System Project

Plumas County, CA

Mitigate Negative Declaration Number 687

Prepared for:

Plumas County Planning Department, Lead Agency

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship proposes the Bucks Lake Trail System Project (Project) to construct and maintain a non-motorized trail system on the southeast shore of Bucks Lake in Plumas County, California.

The primary purpose of the Project is to construct an unpaved facility that can be used by recreationalists, including hikers with a range of fitness levels, mountain bikers, trail runners, hunters, fishermen, and wildlife. No motorized uses would be allowed.

Project Features

The Project would be constructed to U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS) standard trail plans and managed for both hiking and cycling recreational opportunities.

The improvements would include:

1. One (1) approximately 4.53-mile-long unpaved trail (Figure 2).
2. One(1) USFS standard multiple log stringer trail bridge with timber and geocell abutments and railings crossing a perennial stream to protect aquatic resources and public drinking water infrastructure (Figure 4).
3. Ten (10) USFS simple stringer bridges or hardened water crossings across the intermittent drainages (Figure 5 and Figure 6).
4. A single post sign at entrances to the trail system showing allowable uses.
5. Nine (9) directional carsonite signs at trail intersections and trailheads (Figure 7).

The unpaved trail would be managed for both hiking and biking opportunities and designed to bicycle parameters, which include:

- The trail width would be predominately 12 to 24 inches and may be up to 36 inches along steep side slopes and high-use areas.
- Design structures, such as the bridge, would have a minimum width of 18 inches.
- The design of the unpaved trail surface would be native (tread) made of natural soils and gravels - no concrete or non-native materials would be used - with limited grading; protrusions such as tree roots or bedrock might be common and continuous but less than or equal to 6 inches in height.

- The design grade of the unpaved trail would be 5 to 12 percent with a short pitch maximum of no more than 15 percent and an average running grade of 9.6 percent.
- The design of the unpaved trail cross-slope would be 5 to 8 percent with a maximum cross-slope of 10 percent.
- The maximum depth of excavation to construct the unpaved trail would be approximately 8 to 13 inches deep depending on the slope.
- Vegetation clearance would be to a height of 6 to 8 feet and would be 60 to 72 inches wide, providing a shoulder clearance of 6 to 12 inches. Short, light vegetation such as mosses, native grasses, ferns, and shrubs may encroach into the clearing area.
    - No trees larger than 6 inches in diameter would be removed to construct the trail and all vegetation would either be removed by pulling the root wad or by cutting flush with the ground.
- The design turning radius would be 3 to 6 feet.

No parking areas, buildings, or other permanent infrastructure are being proposed as part of the Project. Access to the trail system would be seasonal with no maintenance occurring during the winter season (December – February). Seasonal summer maintenance of the trail system would be through Adopt-A-Trail partnerships and volunteer hours. Maintenance of the trail is expected to be performed by hand tools only except for any bridge maintenance, which would require mechanical assistance.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Based on the environmental evaluation performed for this Initial Study, the Project would have:

- ***No Impact*** on Agriculture and Forestry, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, and Public Services.
- ***Less Than Significant Impact*** on Aesthetics, Air Quality, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Recreation, Transportation, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire.
- ***Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated*** on Biological Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources.

MITIGATION MEASURES

Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship has agreed to implement the following mitigation measures to reduce the Project impacts to a "Less than Significant" level:

- **Mitigation Measure BIO-1:** Preconstruction Special Status Plant Survey
- **Mitigation Measure BIO-2:** Control of Non-Native/Invasive Plants
- **Mitigation Measure BIO-3:** Preconstruction Nesting Bird Survey
- **Mitigation Measure BIO-4:** Preconstruction Special Status Wildlife Survey
- **Mitigation Measure BIO-5:** Biological Monitoring Near Perennial/Intermittent Drainages
- **Mitigation Measure BIO-6:** Preconstruction Survey for Underground Cavities/Burrows
- **Mitigation Measure BIO-7:** Minimization of Impacts to Riparian Vegetation
- **Mitigation Measure BIO-8:** Minimization of Impacts to Jurisdictional Waters
- **Mitigation Measure CUL-1:** Minimization of Impacts to Cultural and Archaeological
- **Mitigation Measure CUL-2:** Mitigation Measure CUL-2 Procedure for the Inadvertent Discovery of Human Remains
- **Mitigation Measure TCR-1**: Workers Environmental Awareness Program
- **Mitigation Measure TCR-2:** Continue Consultation with Responding Tribes
- **Mitigation Measure TCR-3:** Inadvertent/Unanticipated Discovery

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	*Definition*
AB	Assembly Bill
APE	Area of Potential Effect
APN	Assessor's Parcel Numbers
Basin Plan	Water Quality Control Plan for Sacramento River Basin
BMP	Best Management Practice
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CDFG	California Fish and Game
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
CWA	Clean Water Act
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
GF	General Forest

Abbreviation	*Definition*
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
IPaC	Information for Planning and Conservation
IS	Initial Study
LSA	Lake and Streambed Alteration
MMRP	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPPA	Native Plant Protection Act
NSAQMD	Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
O_3	Ozone
PG&E	Pacific Gas & Electric Company
PM	Particulate Matter
PRC	Public Resources Code
Project	Bucks Lake Trail System Project
Rec-3	Recreation

Abbreviation	*Definition*
RWQCB	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
S-3	Secondary Suburban
SBTS	Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship
SLF	Sacred Lands File
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFS	U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service
WEAP	Workers Environmental Awareness Program

Section 1 Project Information

Type of Information	*Project Details*
1. Project title:	Bucks Lake Trail System Project
2. Lead Agency name and address:	Plumas County Planning Department 555 Main Street Quincy, CA 95971
3. Lead Agency contact person and phone number:	Tim Evans Plumas County Senior Planner (530) 283-6207
4. Project location:	The Project is located within Plumas County, on the southeast shore of Bucks Lake, in the Bucks Lake Recreation Area. The proposed trail system is closest to Bucks Lake Road, 17 miles southwest of Quincy and 32 miles northeast of Oroville (by road), Assessor's Parcel Numbers 112-060-008-000 and 112-060-007-000.
5. Project sponsor's name and address:	Greg Williams – Executive Director Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship (SBTS) 550 Crescent Street Quincy, CA 95971
6. **Property owner name and address:**	PG&E 300 Lakeside Drive Oakland, CA 94612-3534
7. General Plan designations:	Timber Resource Lands, Secondary Suburban Residential, Resort and Recreation
8. Zoning:	General Forest (GF), Secondary Suburban (S-3), and Recreation (Rec-3)
9. Description of project:	The Project is approximately 52 acres consisting of a 100-foot-wide corridor (50-foot buffer to each side) centered on the proposed trail alignment centerline.
10. Surrounding land uses and setting:	General Forest ("GF"), Secondary Suburban ("S-3"), Recreation ("Rec-3"), and Lake ("L")

11. Other public agencies whose approval is required:	A. Pacific Gas & Electric B. California Department of Fish and Wildlife C. California Public Utility Commission D. Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board E. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
12. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?	Native American correspondence was initiated with a letter and attached maps to the NAHC on August 22, 2022. The letter requested a record search of their Sacred Lands File (SLF) and a contact list for regional tribes that may know of cultural or tribal resources within or immediately adjacent to the Area of Potential Effect (APE). A response was received from the NAHC on October 21, 2022, with negative SLF results. Inquiry letters were mailed to the tribes identified by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and the County of Plumas on November 22, 2022. On December 8 and 9, 2022, follow-up emails were sent to the tribes and the Maidu Summit Consortium was contacted via phone. On June 10, 2024, follow-up emails were sent to the tribes indicating that the project was starting up again, and on June 21, 2024, follow-up phone calls and voicemails were left. As of the circulation of this MND, four Tribes have responded: Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria, Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians (Greenville Rancheria), Maidu Summit Consortium, and Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians (Mooretown Rancheria). • Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria: On July 8, 2024, Nelson Smith, Co-Director, responded to the outreach and requested Consultation. A field meeting was then scheduled for September 30, 2024, which included Sierra Buttes Trail

	Stewardship staff, Plumas County Planning Department staff, and the Tribes. On that date, the field meeting was held, but no tribal representatives attended. On October 1, 2024, and October 16, 2024, the Tribe was contacted by SBTS and NCE respectively, but no response was received. • Greenville Rancheria: On December 13, 2022, SBTS had a meeting with Shelby Leung, Greenville Rancheria Fire Crew Lead, Cultural Resource Specialist, and Tribal Liaison. The Project was discussed, and a digital copy of the Consultation letter was provided. No response was received from the 2024 outreach. • Mooretown Rancheria: On December 22, 2022, a letter was received from Matthew Hatcher, Mooretown Rancheria Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, dated November 30, 2022. Mr. Hatcher requested consultation. He requested to have a field meeting with the construction manager and archaeologist. On September 24, 2024, a field visit was scheduled with Mr. Hatcher for September 30, 2024. On that date, the field meeting was held, but no tribal representatives attended. On October 1, 2024, and October 16, 2024, the Tribe was contacted by SBTS and NCE respectively, but no response was received. • Maidu Summit Consortium: On December 20, 2022, Trina Cunningham, Maidu Summit Consortium Executive Director,

	responded to the outreach by telephone and email and requested Consultation. She requested a site visit and that tribal monitors be on-site during trail construction as processing and storage artifacts may surface during construction. On June 24, 2024, Misty Salem, Maidu Summit Finance/Community Engagement Coordinator, responded by telephone requesting to continue Consultation on the project. She also provided the contact information for the Maidu Summit Cultural Resources Coordinator, Harvey Merino. On September 17, 2024, an email was sent to coordinate logistics for a field meeting between SBTS, the County, and consulting Tribes. No response was received. To date, no additional Tribes have responded to the request for Consultation.

Section 2 Introduction

2.1 Focus of the Environmental Review

2.1.1 California Environmental Quality Act

The Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship (SBTS), as the Project sponsor, and Plumas County, as the Lead Agency, have prepared this Draft Initial Study (IS) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Bucks Lake Trail System Project (Project). This IS is an informational document provided to help the public and decision-makers understand the potential effects the Project may have on the environment, and how potential adverse effects may be mitigated. Whereas this document has identified potentially significant impacts that can be reduced to less than significant with the adoption of mitigation measures, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) has been prepared.

The Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration provides notice to interested agencies and the public that it is Plumas County's intent to adopt an MND and, pending public review, Plumas County expects to determine from this IS/MND that the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment as mitigated. This Public Review Draft IS/MND is subject to modification based on comments received by interested agencies and the public.

2.2 Required Permits and Additional Approvals

2.2.1 Permits

The Project would obtain or comply with the following permits:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Section 1602 (Streambed Alteration Notification)
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Stormwater General Permit
- Non-Reporting USACE Section 404 NWP 14 Linear Transportation Permit
- Central Valley RWQCB 401 Water Quality Certification
- Plumas County Planning Department Special Use Permit

2.2.2 Responsible/Trustee Agencies

- CDFW
- Central Valley RWQCB
- Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E)

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

2.3 LEAD AGENCY DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

___ I find that the proposed Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

X I find that although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the Project have been made by or agreed to by the Project sponsor. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

___ I find that the proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) is required.

___ I find that the proposed Project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An EIR is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

___ I find that although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed Project, nothing further is required.

Timothy Evans, Senior Planner

6/26/2025
Date

Section 3 Project Description

The SBTS proposes the Project to construct and maintain a non-motorized trail system on lands owned by PG & E on the southeast shore of Bucks Lake in Plumas County, California.

3.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The Project is located approximately 95 miles north of the City of Sacramento and 25 miles east of the City of Paradise. The Project is wholly within Plumas County, on the southeastern shore of Bucks Lake, in the Bucks Lake Recreation Area. The proposed unpaved trail system is closest to Bucks Lake Road, 17 miles southwest of Quincy and 32 miles northeast of Oroville (by road). The Project Area, defined as the area of direct construction activities and long-term operations, is located within Sections 1 and 2, Township 23 North, Range 7 East on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Bucks Lake and Haskins Valley topographic maps (Figure 1). The site includes Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 112-060-008-000 and 112-060-007-000 (Figure 2).

The approximately 52-acre Area of Potential Effect (APE) consists of a 100-foot-wide corridor (50-foot buffer to each side) centered on the proposed trail alignment (see Figure 1). Access to the Project location is from Highway 162, officially named the Oroville-Quincy Highway, but shown as Bucks Lake Road along the Project and to the west and Big Creek Road to the east on most mapping programs. The road is closed during the winter months to vehicular traffic but open to snowmobiles.

3.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES, PURPOSE, AND NEED

The primary purpose of the Project is to construct an unpaved facility that can be used by recreationalists, including hikers with a range of fitness levels, mountain bikers, trail runners, hunters, fishermen, and wildlife.

The Project provides connectivity between existing U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS) maintained trails at the east end of the Project and resort areas located at the western extents. The goal is to provide a safe, non-motorized alternative to traveling along the paved Bucks Lake Road to access these areas. Visiting trail users would be able to park at the existing Bucks Lake Loop Trailhead, which contains approximately 8 to 10 parking spaces, access the proposed trails, and then walk to the Bucks Lake Loop Trail. Bucks Lake residents would be able to access the trail system from resort and cabin areas.

This Project would provide a new access point to and enhance the existing trails in the Plumas National Forest (Figure 2). The Project would also create an alternative way to explore the open space surrounding the lake and forested areas. The trail

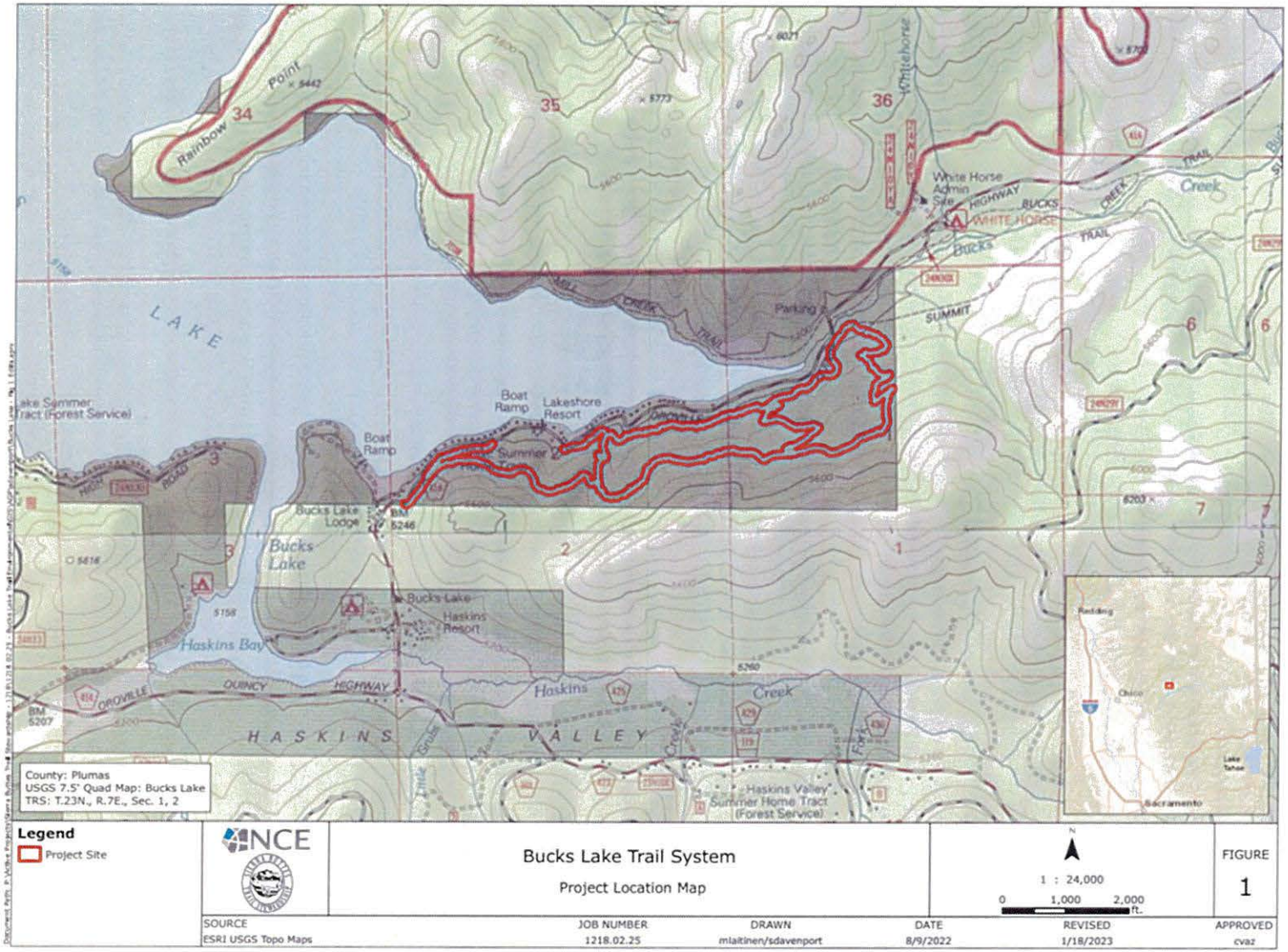
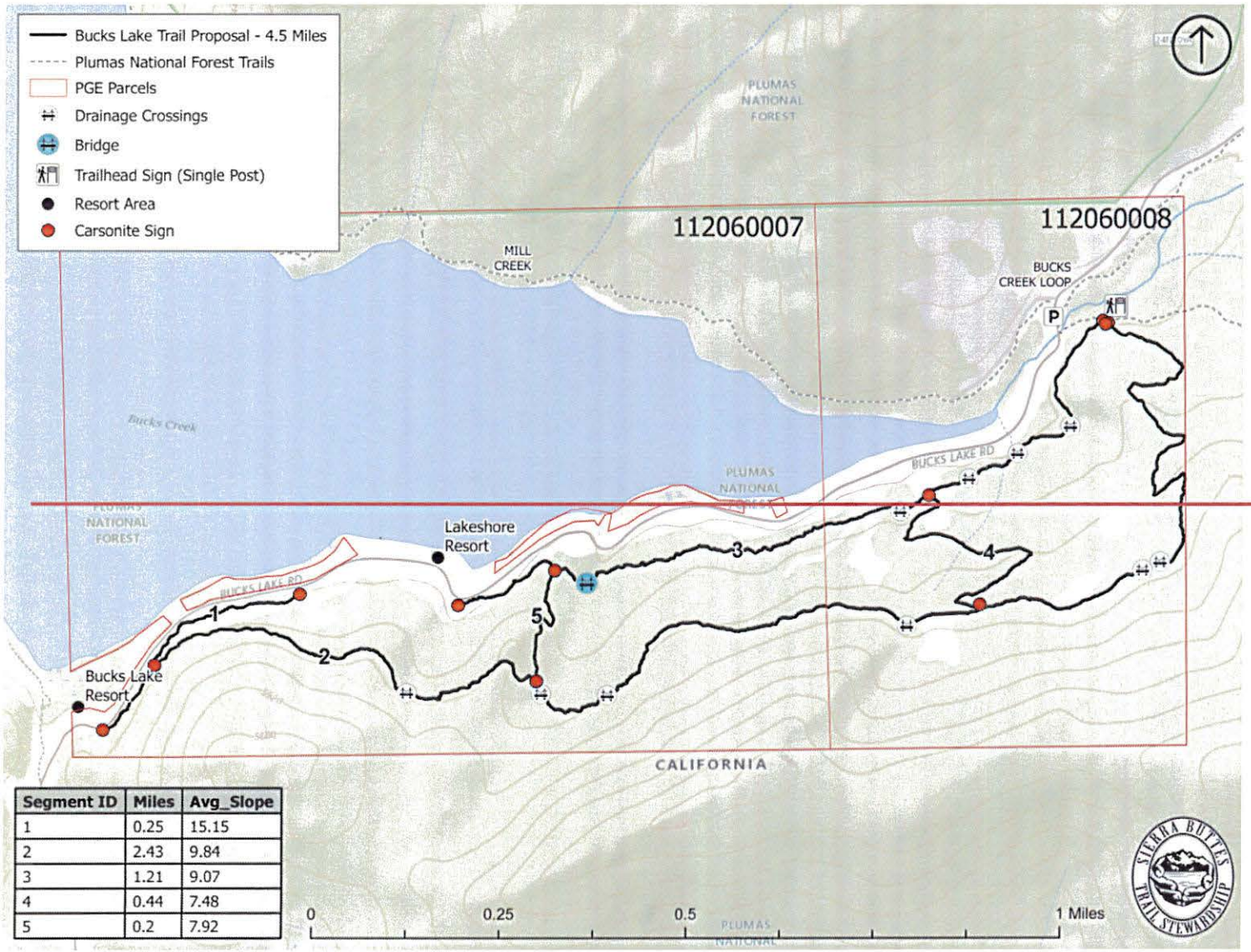


Figure 1. Project Location



Segment ID	Miles	Avg_Slope
1	0.25	15.15
2	2.43	9.84
3	1.21	9.07
4	0.44	7.48
5	0.2	7.92

Figure 2. Project Features

would connect to the existing Bucks Creek Loop in the national forest and would rely on existing and nearby trailheads and parking. Existing parking is located at the Bucks Creek Loop Trailhead with approximately 8 to 10 parking spaces.

The Project objectives are to:

1. Provide a high-quality recreational experience for residents and visitors.
2. Enhance the existing user-created trails to improve safety, reduce erosion and watershed siltation, and to improve trail sustainability.

As of the date of circulation of this MND, current recreational trail use in the area, it is anticipated that the proposed trail system would be used by up to 3 individuals hourly and 25 to 30 individuals daily on weekends during peak season (Memorial Day through Labor Day). Use is anticipated to be less on weekdays during peak season as well as weekends and weekdays during the non-peak season, such as the fall and winter seasons (September-February). The trail system is not anticipated to be used during the winter season (December-February).

3.3 PROJECT BACKGROUND

SBTS was awarded a Stewardship Council grant to conduct an environmental review, obtain appropriate approvals, construct, and maintain a non-motorized recreational trail system on the southeast shore of Bucks Lake in Plumas County, California. The Project is located on two PG&E-owned parcels identified by Assessor Parcel Numbers 112-060-008-000 and 112-060-007-000. The parcels total 682.68 acres. Of this area, 1.5 acres are proposed to be developed into a single-lane, standard/terra, non-motorized trail system resulting in approximately 4.53 miles of new trail for recreation in the Bucks Lake Recreation Area.

Project approval would be sought through a Third-Party Request to use PG&E lands, the California Public Utility Commission 851 Advice Letter process, and a special use permit from the Plumas County Planning Department, CEQA Lead Agency.

3.4 SURROUNDING LAND USES AND SETTING

Bucks Lake is situated at 5,167 feet above sea level. The Project Area is located on the south side of Bucks Lake Road at the southeast corner of the lake between Haskins Creek and Bucks Creek. The primary land uses include resorts, cabins, residential, and a variety of recreation uses typical for a high-lake environment, such as fishing, hiking, and biking. Bucks Lake is surrounded by the Plumas National Forest and Bucks Lake Wilderness to the northeast and northwest, with recreation residences and PG&E-owned and managed lands and facilities on southern and eastern shorelines. The Project Area is gently sloping with conifers such as Sugar, Lodgepole, and Jeffrey pine.

The proposed unpaved trail system would be located in undeveloped forested area, with limited residential development nearby. The Project Area is located on two parcels owned by PG&E with a land use designations of Timber Resource Lands, Secondary Suburban Residential, Resort and Recreation in the Plumas County 2035 General Plan and zoned "Rec-3", "S-3", and "GF". Trail development is consistent with existing zoning and the Plumas County 2035 General Plan (General Plan; Plumas County 2023) as discussed in the Land Use section of this MND.

3.5 PROJECT FEATURES

The Project would be constructed and managed to USFS standard trail plans for both hiking and cycling recreational opportunities, as illustrated on Figure 3.

The improvements would include:

- One (1) approximately 4.53-mile-long unpaved trail (Figure 2).
- One (1) USFS standard multiple log stringer trail bridge with timber and geocell abutments and railings crossing a perennial stream to protect aquatic resources and public drinking water infrastructure (Figure 4).
- Ten (10) USFS simple stringer bridges or hardened water crossings across the intermittent drainages (Figure 5 and Figure 6).
- A single post sign at entrances to the trail system showing allowable uses.
- Nine (9) directional carsonite signs (Figure 7) at trail intersections and trailheads.

The unpaved trail would be managed for both hiking and biking recreation opportunities and designed to bicycle parameters, which include:

- The unpaved trail width would be predominately 12 to 24 inches and may be up to 36 inches along steep side slopes and high-use areas.
- Design structures, such as the bridge, would have a minimum width of 18 inches.
- The design surface of the unpaved trail would be native (tread) made of natural soils and gravels - no concrete or non-native materials would be used - with limited grading; protrusions such as tree roots or bedrock might be common and continuous but less than or equal to 6 inches in height.
- The design grade of the unpaved trail would be 5 to 12 percent with a short pitch maximum of no more than 15 percent and an average running grade of 9.6 percent.

- The design cross-slope would be 5 to 8 percent with a maximum cross-slope of 10 percent.
- The maximum depth of excavation to construct the trail would be approximately 8 to 13 inches deep depending on the slope.
- Vegetation clearance would be to a height of 6 to 8 feet and would be 60 to 72 inches wide, providing a shoulder clearance of 6 to 12 inches. Short, light vegetation such as mosses, native grasses, ferns, and shrubs may encroach into the clearing area.
    - No trees larger than 6 inches in diameter would be removed and all vegetation would either be removed by pulling the root wad or by cutting flush with the ground.
- The design turning radius would be 3 to 6 feet.

No parking areas, buildings, or other permanent infrastructure are being proposed as part of the Project. Access to the trail system would be seasonal with no maintenance occurring during the winter season. Seasonal summer maintenance of the trail system would be through Adopt-A-Trail partnerships and volunteer hours. Maintenance of the trail is expected to be performed by hand tools only except for any bridge maintenance, which would require mechanical assistance.

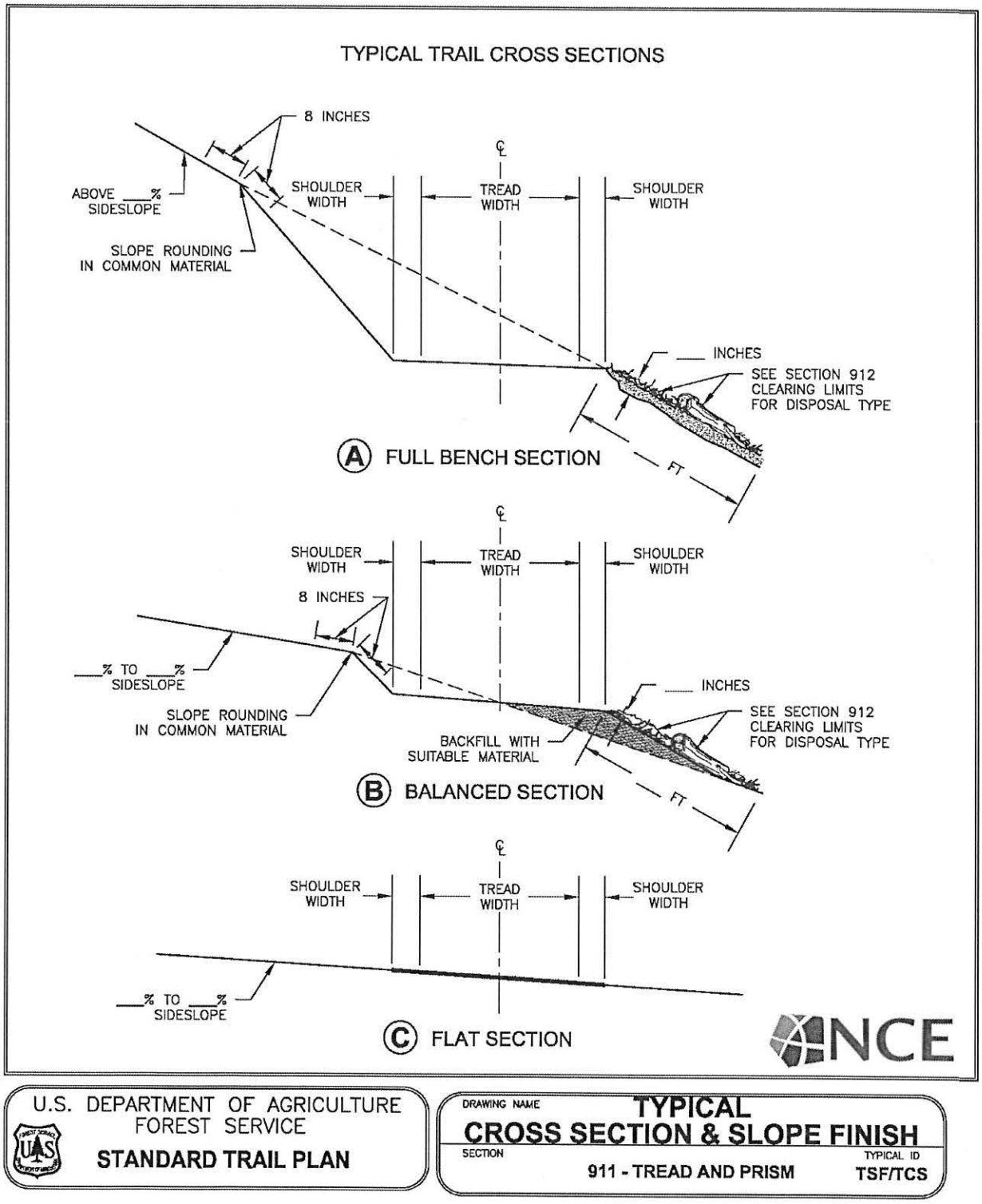


Figure 3. USFS Standard Trail Cross Section and Slope Finish

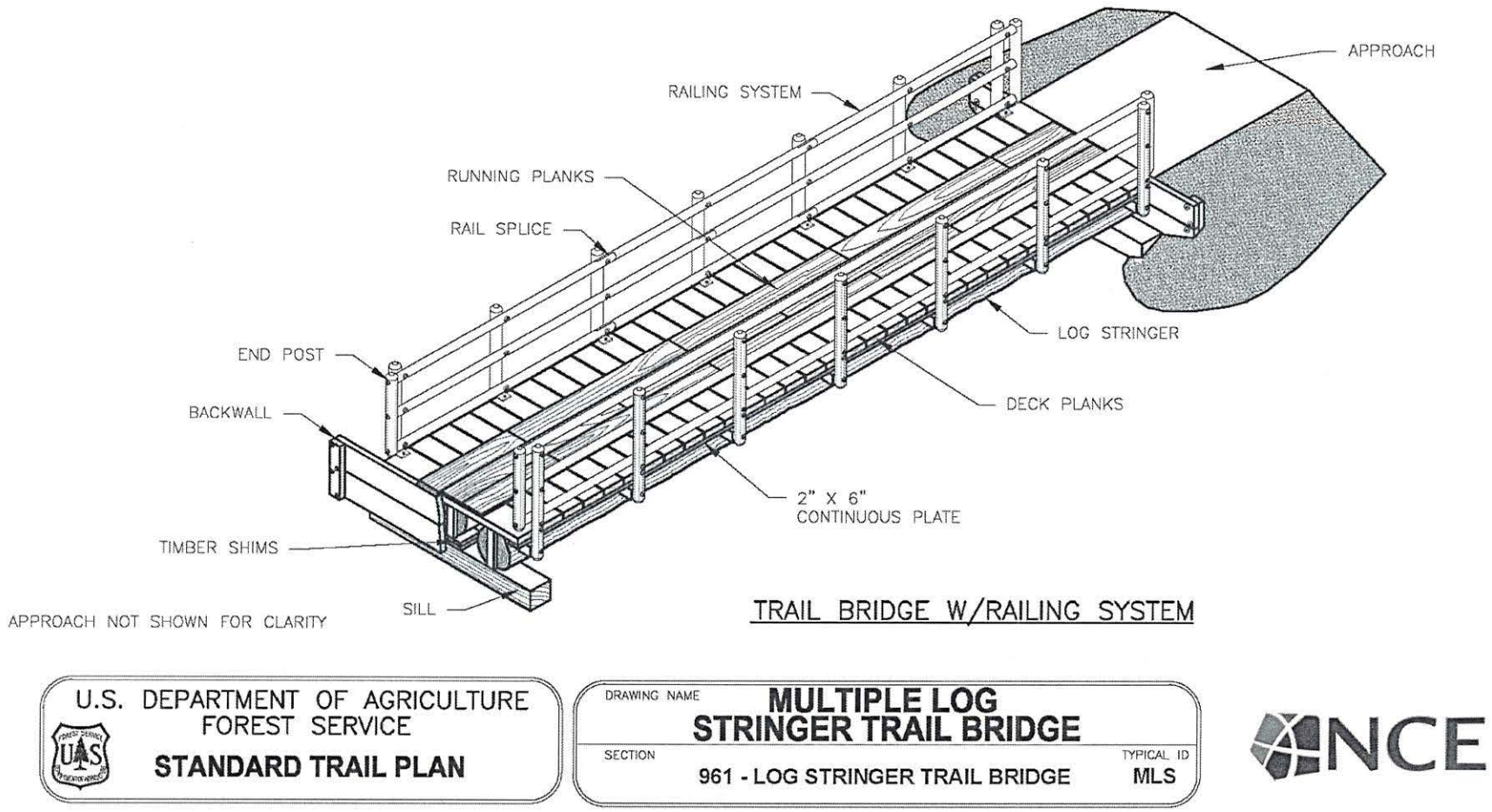


Figure 4. USFS Standard Multiple Log Stringer Trail Bridge

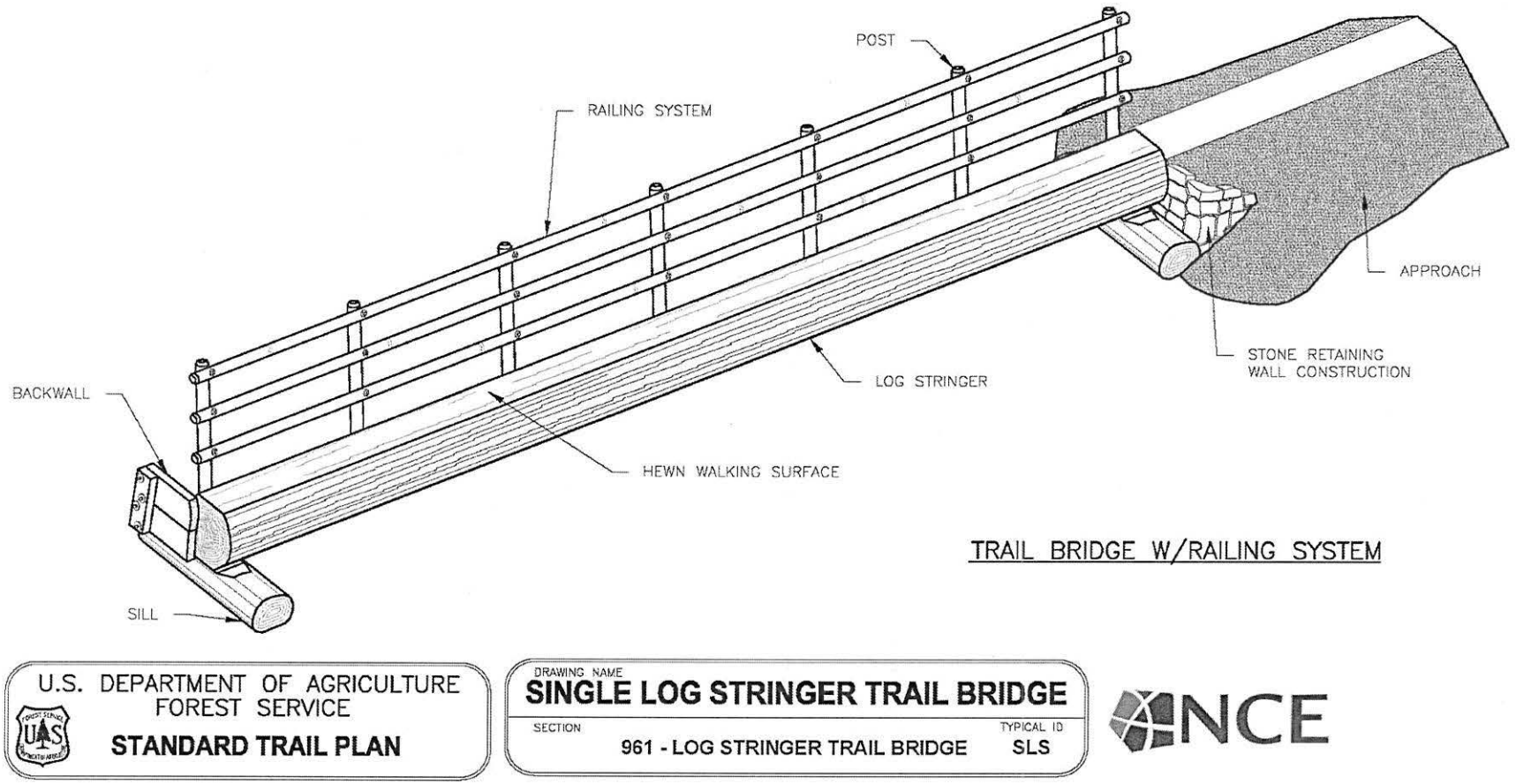


Figure 5. USFS Simple Stringer Bridges or Hardened Water Crossings

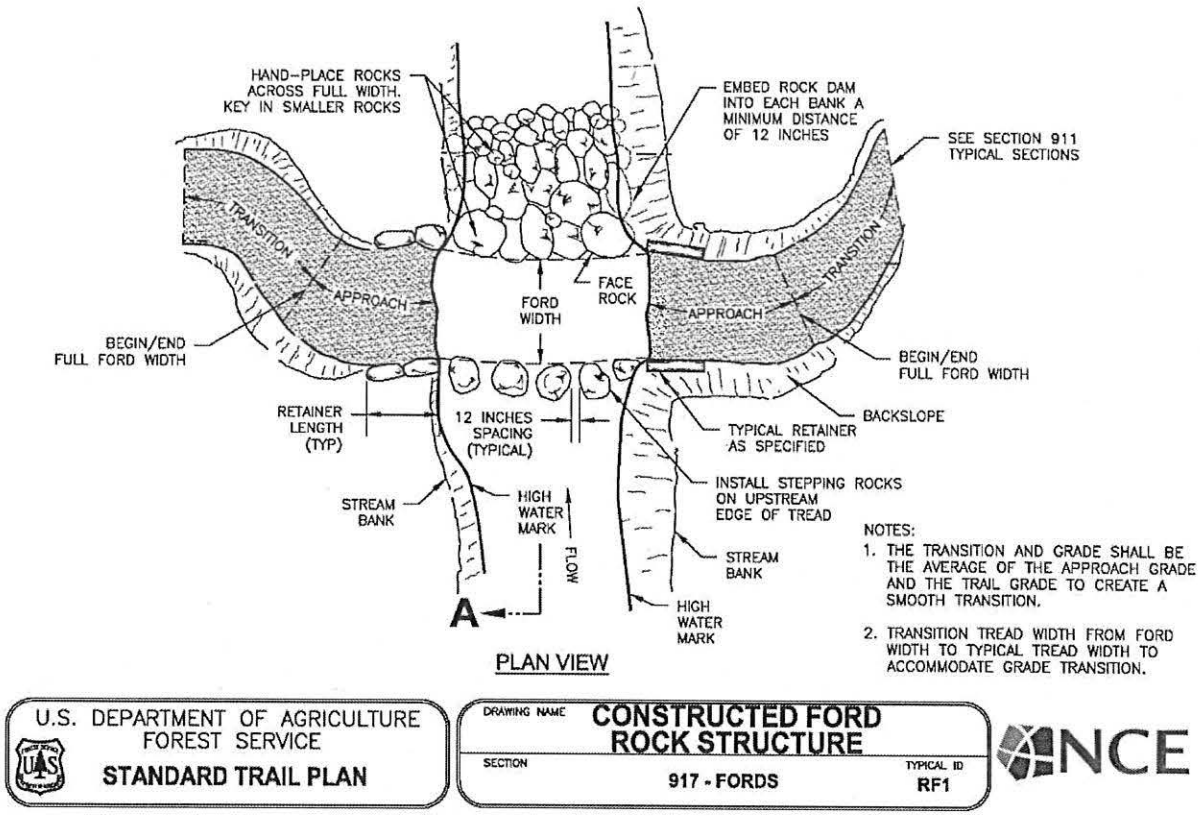


Figure 6. USFS Hardened Water Crossings



Figure 7. Carsonite Sign

Source: USFS et al. 2017

3.5.1 Project Construction

The Project would be constructed by paid full-time crews of 3 to 8 people with hand tools and some mechanized equipment (e.g., mini-excavator). If construction through rock is unavoidable, additional mechanized equipment such as handheld rock hammer 'pionjar,' and over-the-counter boulder-busting charges may be used.

Occasional "volunteer days" would be held when as many as 25 volunteers from the surrounding areas would arrive to supplement the full-time crews.

The USFS *Standard Specifications for Construction and Maintenance of Trails* (EM-7720-103; USFS 1996) would be followed to construct the Project. This guidance includes construction specifications for switchbacks, existing trail restoration, and log stringer bridges. The Project would be constructed to meet a Class 2, Moderately Developed standard. This standard includes continuous and discernible, but narrow and rough surfaces with trail surface (tread) made of natural soils and gravels. No concrete or non-native materials would be used.

3.5.2 Drainage

The USFS *Standard Specifications* also include detailed standards for the construction and maintenance of trail drainage features. Proper drainage is crucial to prevent erosion and maintain trail integrity. The trail would be constructed using established USFS techniques, such as water bars to divert water off the train surface and rock spillways to guide water away from the trail. This includes property shaping of the trail to ensure water flows off the trail surface, raised sections of trail (turnpikes) built to keep the trail dry in wet areas, and switchbacks in steep areas to reduce erosion. STBS would provide for regular inspection and maintenance to ensure drainage features remain effective. This includes clearing debris from water bars and other features, and repairing erosion damage.

3.5.3 Construction Access and Staging

There would be no staging areas required for this Project. The Project would be constructed by trail crews of 3 to 8 people who would drive to the site from homes in Quincy and would park in the existing 8 to 10 parking spaces at the Bucks Creek Loop Trailhead. Most of the tools and equipment to be used would be handheld by nature and some of the tools would be carried in each morning as crews arrived and out each night at the end of the workday. Some hand tools and any mechanized equipment would be left on the trail where work ended each day and removed from the site at the end of the construction season and end of the Project. Appropriate spill containment devices would be put in place when equipment is parked or left on-site overnight.

Volunteers would arrive in their own vehicles and SBTS would provide hand tools for use during the volunteer trail construction day. Tools include mcleods, pulaskis, picks, shovels, and rakes. Most of the hand tools would be removed from the construction area at the end of the day. Volunteers are expected to come mostly from the Quincy area.

Construction access to the site would be primarily from roadside parking along Bucks Lake Road. The eastern end of the Project would be accessed from the existing 8 to 10 parking spaces at the Bucks Creek Loop Trailhead .

3.5.4 Construction Time Schedule

Construction is anticipated to begin upon approval of the environmental review and issuance of permits. Trail construction is estimated to take 66 days or 17 weeks across one or two summer seasons (June-September). No work would be done during the snow season (December-February). Work is expected to commence upon approval and after spring snow melt in the summer of 2025 and continue over the summer of 2025 until the first snowfall.

Section 4 Environmental Evaluation

The following sections evaluate the potential adverse impacts of the Project in compliance with CEQA. Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations 14 § 20) provides a sample checklist with a series of questions designed to enable the Lead Agency, Plumas County, to identify Project impacts with respect to 20 environmental topics.

Except where a specific threshold has been adopted by a public agency and is specified in the sections below, such as an air quality threshold, the thresholds listed in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines are used to determine significance for the CEQA checklist questions.

Potential environmental impacts are described as follows:

- **Potentially Significant Impact**: An environmental impact that could be significant and for which no feasible mitigation is known. If any potentially significant impacts are identified in this Checklist, an EIR must be prepared.
- **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated**: An environmental impact that requires the implementation of mitigation measures to reduce that impact to a less than significant level.
- **Less than Significant Impact**: An environmental impact may occur; however, the impact would not exceed significance thresholds.
- **No Impact**: No environmental impacts would result from implementation of the Project.

4.1 AESTHETICS

4.1.1 Environmental Setting

The Project is located on the south side of Bucks Lake Road between Haskins Creek and Bucks Creek. Bucks Lake is situated at 5,167 feet above sea level. The lake is surrounded by Plumas National Forest and Bucks Lake Wilderness to the northeast and northwest, with recreation residences and PG&E-owned and managed lands and facilities on southern and eastern shorelines. The Project Area is gently sloping with conifers such as Sugar, Lodgepole, and Jeffrey pine. There is limited residential development nearby.

4.1.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	Less Than Significant Impact
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings, within a state scenic highway?	Less Than Significant Impact
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	Less Than Significant Impact
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	No Impact

4.1.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

For this Project, 1.5 acres are proposed to be developed into a single-lane, standard/terra, non-motorized trail system resulting in approximately 4.53 miles of new trail for recreation in the Bucks Lake Recreation Area. The Project would be constructed with switchbacks and moderate slopes. The trail would cross several drainages (see Biological Resources, Section 4.4), and the Project would install one bridge of timber and geocell abutments and 10 hardened water crossings or timber stringer bridges.

Bucks Lake is mostly hidden for the majority of the proposed trail, but there are a number of locations where there are openings in the tree line/canopy and vantage points on a couple of hilltops where parts of the lake are visible. The Project would enhance access to scenic views of the lake and would be barely visible from the lake as a recreational trail consistent with USFS standards. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact on scenic vista.

b) Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

The Plumas County 2035 General Plan identifies scenic areas and roads, which are designed to maintain and preserve the rural character, representative qualities of historic lifestyles, qualities that attract tourists, and to provide standards for scenic highways. The proposed project is not located along a designated scenic highway nor in a designated scenic area.

Vegetation would be trimmed back but no trees larger than 6 inches in diameter, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings would be removed. Once the trail is constructed, it would be rarely visible from the road and consistent with recreational forest views. Therefore, there would be a less than significant impact to scenic resources.

c) In non-urbanized areas, would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

The Project is in a forested, nonurban area. There are views from surrounding forested areas into the Project Area that would be temporarily impacted during construction of the Project. Implementation of construction measures and best management practices (BMPs) would minimize the impacts of construction, as well as proper staging and scheduling. Additionally, no parking areas, buildings, or other permanent infrastructure are being proposed as part of the Project. As discussed in 4.1.3(a-b) above, construction disturbance would be temporary, and the Project would not degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. The Project would also be consistent with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact on the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings.

d) Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

There are no new sources of light or glare associated with the Project. There would be no impact on day or nighttime views in the Project Area.

4.2 AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

4.2.1 Environmental Setting

As discussed in Section 3, Project Description, the Project Area is zoned General Forest ("GF"), Secondary Suburban ("S-3"), and Recreation ("Rec-3"). There is no farmland or agricultural use land associated with the Project. There is forest land associated with the Project.

4.2.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	No Impact
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	No Impact
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) § 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by PRC § 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code § 51104(g))?	No Impact
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	No Impact
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	No Impact

4.2.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

The Project Area does not contain Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (California Department of Conservation 2024). Implementation of the Project does not require conversion of

land from the existing land use. Because the Project does not propose to convert land or contain farmland, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

The Project Area is zoned General Forest ("GF"), Secondary Suburban ("S-3"), and Recreation ("Rec-3"); there is no existing agricultural zoning or Williamson Act contract associated with the Project Area. The Williamson Act is a means to restrict the uses of agricultural and open space lands to farming and ranching uses in exchange for a property tax reduction. As there is no Williamson Act contract or agricultural uses associated with the Project Area, there would be no impact.

c) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) § 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by PRC § 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code § 51104(g))?

According to General Plan designations, there is land zoned as timber resource land with evidence of previous timber resource use in the Project Area, including a restoration area and abandoned forest roads (Plumas County 2023). The Project Area is within Plumas National Forest land that is still used for timber harvesting. However, trails do not limit future timber harvesting activities. The goal of the Project is to provide connectivity between existing USFS trails and resort areas and provide a safe, non-motorized alternative to traveling along Bucks Lake Road to access these areas. Construction of the Project would not require removal of trees larger than 6 inches in diameter, and the Project does not involve a conversion of land use from forest uses. The Project would not conflict with existing zoning or cause rezoning, therefore, there would be no impact.

d) Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

As discussed in items 4.2.3(a-c) above, the Project does not result in the loss of forest lands or require conversion of forest use to non-forest use; therefore, there would be no impact.

e) Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

As discussed in items 4.2.3(a-d) above, the Project does not involve designated Farmland or result in the potential to convert land use. Therefore, there would be no impact.

4.3 AIR QUALITY

4.3.1 Environmental Setting

Climate, weather, and terrain influence local air quality. Factors such as the amount of sunlight, wind, and rain all have strong influences. Winds can transport ozone (O_3) and O_3 precursors from the region, contributing to air quality problems downwind of sources. Furthermore, mountains can act as a barrier that prevents pollution from dispersing. Recent large fires in the Sierra Nevada have shown how winds can spread pollution. In 2021, fire smoke from the Lake Tahoe region was clearly visible from space and traveled hundreds of miles into central Utah (David Morrow, fire smoke observation, July 2021). Hence, emissions generated in Plumas County do not only affect the immediate Sierra Nevada – pollution can travel, mix with other pollutants, and impact those downwind.

Bucks Lake, at about 5,000-foot elevation, enjoys temperatures of up to 85 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer with lows reaching 30 degrees Fahrenheit in winter (WeatherWX 2023). The area receives about 38 inches of rain annually. Typically, snow is on the ground from November to April, with the highest accumulation of several feet of snowfall generally in February and March.

Few air-pollution emission sources exist nearby, and the primary pollutant of concern is wood smoke, either from human caused or natural sources.

4.3.2 Regulatory Setting

Air Quality Standards

Air quality in the region is regulated by several agencies including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD). These agencies develop rules, regulations, policies, and/or plans focused on beneficial air quality. Continuously meeting a given standard is called "attainment."

Federal

The EPA is responsible for implementing the federal Clean Air Act (1970), including establishing health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for air pollutants. NAAQS established for criteria pollutants under the Clean Air Act are ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter of varying microns in diameter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$), and lead. The standards set for criteria pollutants are periodically reviewed and revised as applicable.

State

In general, CARB works with local agencies to develop policies, guidance, and regulations for pollution control; coordinates with local agencies on transportation plans and strategies; and helps local districts and transportation agencies meet air quality standards. CARB is responsible for implementing the California Clean Air Act of 1988 and subsequent legislation, such as Assembly Bill (AB) 32, which focuses on climate change. CARB developed California Ambient Air Quality Standards, which may be more restrictive than the national standards.

Local

The Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD) was established in 1986 and encompasses Nevada, Sierra, and Plumas counties. The primary goal of the NSAQMD is to ensure healthy air in all parts of the region through education, regulation, and financial assistance, especially for promising new technologies.

Attainment Status

All of Plumas County meets federal, state, and NSAQMD air quality standards except the town of Portola, about 38 miles east of Bucks Lake. Portola is designated non-attainment (moderate) for the federal $PM_{2.5}$ standard. Accordingly, a voluntary plan has been developed to meet the $PM_{2.5}$ health standard and a "mandatory no burn program commenced on January 1, 2021, per the State Implementation Plan for achieving attainment for federal and state air quality standards" (NSAQMD 2024).

The NSAQMD operates continuous $PM_{2.5}$ monitoring stations at Chester, 20 miles north of Bucks Lake; Portola, 38 miles east of Bucks Lake; and Quincy, about 12 direct miles east-northeast of Bucks Lake. The state 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ health standard is 12 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu g/m^3$) and was exceeded at all of these stations in 2020, 2021, and 2022 (Table 1). Uncontrolled wildfires caused very high $PM_{2.5}$ levels at these 3 air monitoring stations, which are nearest the proposed trail, in the late summers of 2020 and 2021. The $PM_{2.5}$ levels dropped significantly in 2022 but still exceeded the state 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ health standard. At all 3 monitoring sites, unhealthy air persisted for several weeks.

Table 1. PM2.5 High State 24-Hour Average

Station Location	Chester	Portola	Quincy
2020	203 $\mu g/m^3$	453 $\mu g/m^3$	290 $\mu g/m^3$
2021	403 $\mu g/m^3$	349 $\mu g/m^3$	326 $\mu g/m^3$

Station Location	Chester	Portola	Quincy
2022	76 µg/m^3	89 µg/m^3	35 µg/m^3
2023	31.7 µg/m^3	52.1 µg/m^3	34.1 µg/m^3

µg/m^3 = micrograms per cubic meter
Source: CARB 2025

4.3.3 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	No Impact
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	Less Than Significant Impact
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	No Impact
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	No Impact

4.3.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

Trail construction is estimated to take 66 days or 17 weeks across 2 summer seasons (June-September), and would involve only minor grading, approximately 60% by hand tools and 40% by mini-excavator. Pollution-control efforts in Plumas County by the NSAQMD focus on reducing $PM_{2.5}$ in the Portola community; the rest of Plumas County meets air quality standards. High $PM_{2.5}$ levels in this community occur primarily in winter (December – February) and result from residential wood burning. No Project-related work would be done during the snow season. This Project is about 38 miles west of Portola and summer emissions of construction dust would not impact Portola. The Project would not conflict with implementation of the Portola voluntary plan to meet the $PM_{2.5}$ health standard. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

The Project would entail minor construction emissions. Construction would include both mechanized (mini-excavator, pionjar, over-the-counter boulder-busting charges) and hand-construction methods (McLeod, Pulaski, picks, etc.). The maximum depth of excavation to construct the unpaved trail is approximately 8 to 13 inches deep depending on slope.

Construction could also include operating chain saws for a few hours while clearing brush along trail corridor and building the stringer bridges or hardened water crossings. Construction crews would travel in pick-up trucks, and material may be trucked in for bridge or hardened water crossings. Spread over the several months required for construction, daily emissions from these sources would be low and would not be cumulatively considerable contributions to Portola $PM_{2.5}$ and would result in a less than significant impact. Therefore, there would be a less than significant impact.

c) Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

The Bucks Lake area is sparsely populated. Sensitive receptors may include people living in cabins by Bucks Lake. The proposed trail is at least one-quarter mile from these residences and any dust emission or construction vehicle exhaust would disperse before reaching them or potential sensitive visitors to the resort. Therefore, there would be no impact.

d) Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

During construction, the Project may create temporary odors from chainsaw exhaust and the smell of cut wood. The odor of freshly turned soil may also be noticed by the crews constructing the unpaved trail. Any such odors would not be discernible by residents of the Bucks Lake community because emission rates would be low, and the intervening distance is great. Therefore, there would be no impact.

4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

4.4.1 Environmental Setting

The Project is located in a primarily undeveloped recreational forested environment. The Project crosses numerous perennial and ephemeral drainages and riparian habitats. This analysis is drawn from the Bucks Lake Biological Resources Assessment, updated February 2025, in Appendix A, and the Bucks Lake Aquatic Resources Memorandum, in Appendix B.

Database research, literature reviews, and information requests for biological resources known to occur in the vicinity of the APE were conducted to assist with the determinations contained in this document.

The following preliminary research was conducted:

- Database searches for biological resources within the APE, including:
    - California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB; CDFW 2024)
    - Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] 2024)
    - Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (California Native Plant Society [CNPS] n.d.)
- Review of Plumas National Forest records.
- Personal communication with Colin Dilingham (USFS, Plumas National Forest) regarding occurrences of Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae*) in the vicinity of the APE, April 28, 2022.

Reconnaissance-level field surveys were conducted within the APE to evaluate the accuracy of the preliminary research and to determine potential for special status plant and wildlife species to occur based on habitat requirements and existing site conditions. The Project Area was visited on August 10 and 11, 2022, by NCE scientists. The surveys involved observing and recording plant communities and wildlife (including tracks and sign), verifying Classification and Assessment with Landsat of Visible Ecological Groupings (CALVEG; U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA] 2008) classifications in the APE, evaluating habitats for special status species, and identifying plants to a taxonomic level necessary for the determination of their rarity and listing status. The surveys were conducted along the proposed trail alignment, and meandering transects were conducted off-trail when necessary to investigate complex habitats, snags, wildlife tracks, and potential refugia. Focused protocol surveys for special status species of flora and fauna were not conducted;

however, numerous American[1] goshawk (*Accipiter atricapillus*) calls were broadcast during the day and California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*) calls were broadcast at night to elicit responses of any individuals present in suitable habitat near the trail alignment.

AQUATIC RESOURCES

NCE conducted an aquatic resources delineation of the APE using USACE methodology (NCE 2023). NCE conducted multiple site visits August 10, August 11, and October 28, 2022, to determine the presence or absence of aquatic resources such as drainages, springs, and/or wetlands and evaluate whether these features demonstrate a hydrologic connection to a traditional navigable waterway. Results of these field visits concluded that there are 6 drainages present in the Project Area that are hydrologically connected to Bucks Lake through roadside ditches, culverts, and/or a direct discharge into Bucks Lake (Figure 8). Due to this, NCE assumes that the 6 drainages are federally and state jurisdictional aquatic resources. No wetlands were delineated.

BOTANICAL RESOURCES

Vegetation types were initially identified with the CALVEG Alliances geographic information system (GIS), then verified based on reconnaissance-level surveys conducted by NCE in 2022. Vegetation alliances in the APE were found to be consistent with the type, location, and size mapped by CALVEG; however, the area along the southern shore of Bucks Lake contains moderate residential and campground development. The APE is dominated by white fir (*Abies concolor*) forest (White Fir Alliance) with varying density and canopy-layer complexity but has likely been thinned for fire management and impacted by logging over the past century. Upper Montane Mixed Chaparral, Lodgepole Pine Alliance, and Mixed Conifer-Fir Alliance are also present. Riparian corridors consisting of Willow-Alder and Mountain (Thinleaf) Alder Alliances are also present in 2 of the drainages in the APE. Most of the drainages in the APE are ephemeral and were dry during the site visit; however, the 2 drainages containing well-established alders are associated with more consistent, perennial sources of water including a natural spring. Common disturbances in the APE include altered landscapes around the residences and campgrounds, litter, domestic pets, humans, past timber harvest, and vehicular traffic.

The CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants revealed 13 rare or special status plants known to occur in the Bucks Lake USGS quadrangle. CNDDB occurrences for

[1] In 2023, the American Ornithological Society split northern goshawk into 2 species: American goshawk and Eurasian goshawk. This has not impacted the conservation status of goshawks in North America or their protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

mud sedge (*Carex limosa*), northern coralroot (*Corallorhiza trifida*), and long-leaved starwort (*Stellaria longifolia*) are present within a 1-mile buffer of the APE. No special status plants were observed during the reconnaissance-level field surveys (NCE 2024a).

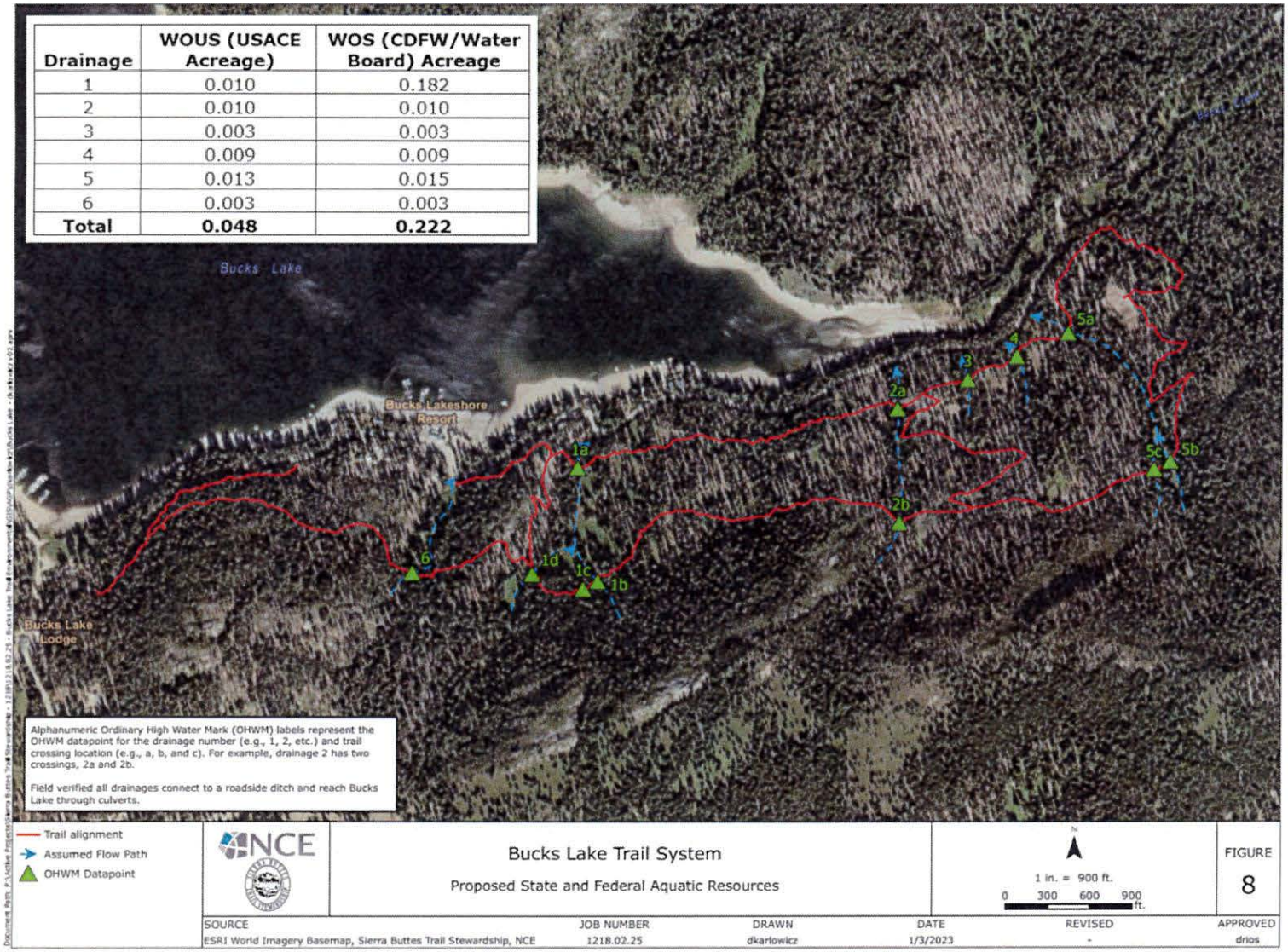


Figure 8. Proposed State and Federal Aquatic Resources (NCE 2023)

INVASIVE SPECIES

The reconnaissance-level field survey found no non-native/invasive plant species in the APE, but the USFS provided locations of a non-native/invasive plant species, Quack Grass (*Elymus repens*), within a 1-mile buffer of the APE.

WILDLIFE

CNDDB occurrences for Sierra Nevada Mountain beaver (*Aplodontia rufa californica*), North American porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*), western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis*), Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, Sierra Nevada red fox (*Vulpes necator*), willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*), and southern long-toed salamander (*Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum*) are present within 1 mile of the APE.

The USFS provided locations of numerous Protected Activity Centers and Limited Operating Period buffers for known locations of California spotted owl, American goshawk, osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), and Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) within a 1-mile buffer of the APE (Figure 9). Only the osprey and Bald Eagle Limited Operating Period buffers overlap with the APE. The osprey nest site, which was inactive at the time of the surveys, is easily visible from Bucks Lake Road and the proposed trail alignment. The Bald Eagle nest at Bucks Lodge was not observed. Of these species, only osprey was encountered during the reconnaissance-level field surveys.

Results of the USFWS IPaC database search indicate that Foothill Yellow-legged Frog (*R. boylii*), Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog , northwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*), delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), and monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) may be found in vicinity of the APE. There is a CNDDB record from 1991 of Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog in Haskins Creek approximately 0.5 mile south of the APE. USFS-mapped suitable habitat and USFWS critical habitat for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog are present in the APE and overlap with the trail alignment (Figure 9).

Plumas National Forest biologists have no recent Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog detections around Bucks Lake or Haskins Creek. The reconnaissance-level field surveys confirmed habitat is low-quality in the APE considering the drainages in the APE are mostly dry and ephemeral. Only one perennial stream is present (Drainage 1a), and all drainages in the APE connect to Bucks Lake via dry roadside ditches and culverts. The presence of introduced fish species in Bucks Lake further reduces potential for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog. No Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs were observed during the reconnaissance-level field surveys.

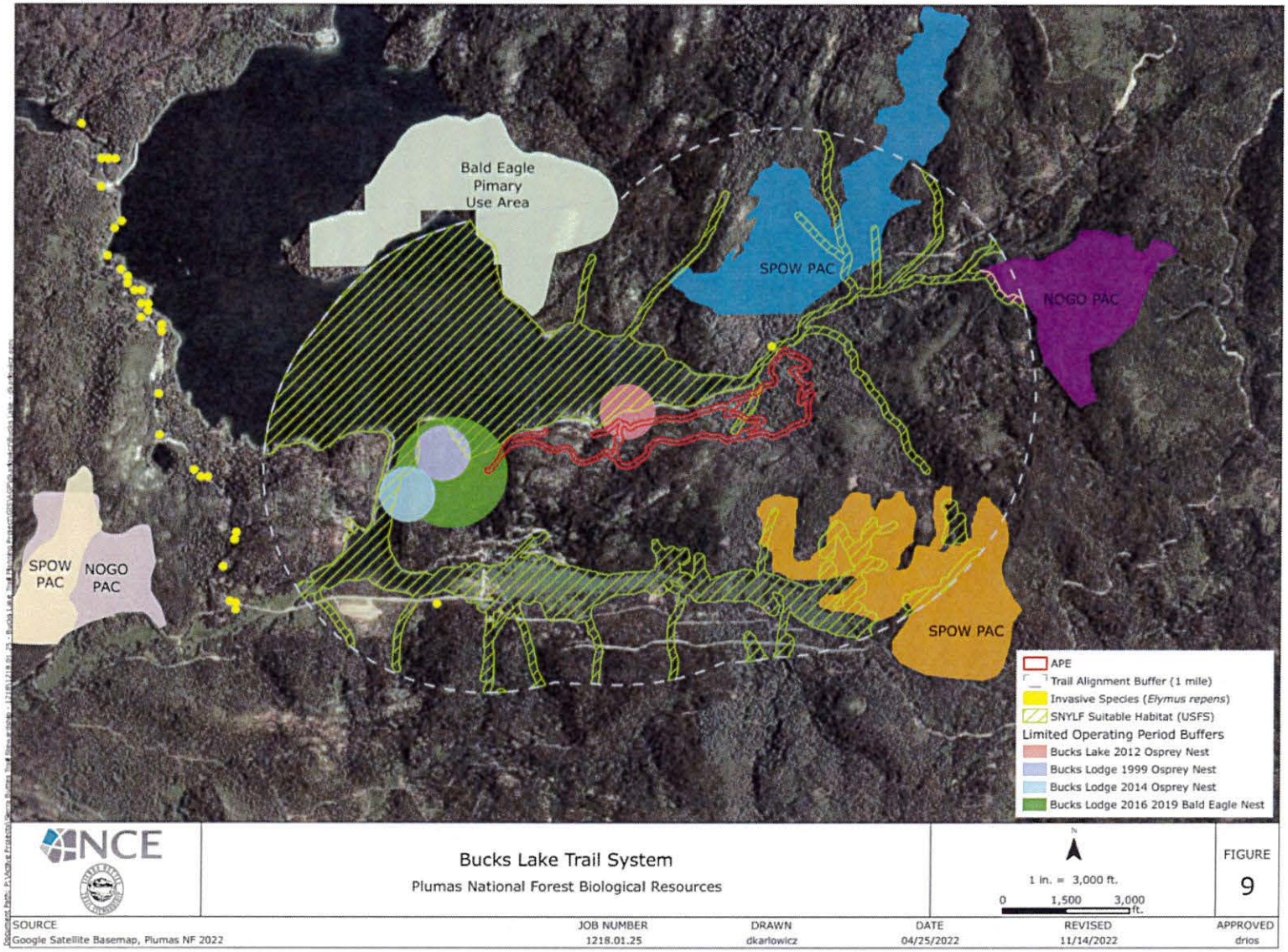


Figure 9. Plumas National Forest Biological Resources (NCE 2024a)

Further discussion of potential for occurrence, habitat requirements, and potential impacts to these species can be found in the Biological Resource Assessment (NCE 2024a).

Wildlife Corridors

A wildlife corridor is an area of habitat connecting wildlife populations and larger areas of similar wildlife habitat. These corridors generally consist of native vegetation and allow wildlife species to find water, food, shelter, and potential mates. Corridors enable the movement of animals and the continuation of viable populations, thus playing a role in the maintenance of biodiversity.

The Project Area contains potential corridors for the movement of animals due to areas of contiguous forest and numerous drainages with connectivity to Bucks Lake.

4.4.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal

Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) protects plants and wildlife that are listed as endangered or threatened by the USFWS. Section 9 of the ESA prohibits the taking of endangered wildlife, where taking is defined as "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in such conduct (50 Code of Federal Regulations 17.3)." This statute also governs removing, possessing, maliciously damaging, or destroying any endangered plant on federal land and removing, cutting, digging up, damaging, or destroying any endangered plant on non-federal land in knowing violation of state law.

Under Section 7 of the ESA, federal agencies are required to consult with the USFWS and/or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration–National Marine Fisheries Service if their actions, including permit approvals or funding, could adversely affect a federally listed species (including plants) or its critical habitat.

Clean Water Act

The USACE Regulatory Branch regulates activities that discharge dredged or fill materials into Waters of the United States (WOUS), which includes wetlands under Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

Section 401 requires that an applicant proposing to conduct any activity that may result in a discharge to a WOUS must apply for and secure a Water Quality Certification prior to construction activities. The Central Valley RWQCB will administer the Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this Project.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act makes it unlawful at any time, by any means or in any manner, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, or kill migratory birds. The law applies to the removal of nests (such as Swallow nests on bridges) occupied by migratory birds during the breeding season. California Fish and Game (CDFG) Code (Section 3500) also prohibits the destruction of any nest, egg, or nestling.

State

California Endangered Species Act

Pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act and Section 2081 of the CDFG Code, an Incidental Take Permit from the CDFW is required for projects that could result in the "take" of a state-listed threatened or endangered species. Under the California ESA, "take" is defined as an activity that would directly or indirectly kill an individual of a species proposed for listing (called "candidates" by the state). Section 2080 of the CDFG Code prohibits the taking, possession, purchase, sale, and import or export of endangered, threatened, or candidate species, unless otherwise authorized by permit or in the regulations.

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act

The Porter-Cologne Act provides the state with very broad authority to regulate "Waters of the State" (which are defined as any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters). The State Water Resources Control Board is granted ultimate authority over water quality policy in the State of California. Before allowing discharges that may affect the quality of Waters of the State, a Report of Waste Discharge must be filed with the RWQCB.

California Native Plant Protection Act

The Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA) of 1977 (CDFG Code Sections 1900 – 1913) was created in order to "preserve, protect and enhance rare and endangered plants in this State." The NPPA is administered by CDFW. The Fish and Game Commission has the authority to designate native plants as "endangered" or "rare" and to protect endangered and rare plants from take. The California Endangered Species Act provided further protection for rare and endangered plant species, but the NPPA remains part of the CDFG Code.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

The CDFW is responsible for protecting and conserving fish and wildlife resources, and the habitats upon which they depend. Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code requires that the CDFW review any project that may do one or more of the following:

- Divert or obstruct the natural flow of any river, stream, or lake.
- Change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake.
- Use material from any river, stream, or lake.
- Deposit or dispose of material into any river, stream, or lake.

Under the Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) Program, entities are required to notify the CDFW of proposed impacts through an LSA Notification. If it is determined by the CDFW that the activity, as described in an LSA Notification, would substantially alter a river, stream, or lake, and may substantially adversely affect existing fish or wildlife resources, then an LSA Agreement must be prepared. The LSA Agreement includes necessary mitigation measures to protect fish and wildlife resources from significant impacts.

4.4.3 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)?	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS?	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	No Impact
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	Less Than Significant Impact

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	No Impact
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

4.4.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)?

Based on the database review, there is a potential for special status plant and animal species to occur near or along the proposed trail alignment prior to construction (NCE 2024a). In addition, biological resources identified during the survey include an inactive osprey nest, numerous White Fir snags, a frequently visited den associated with a rock outcrop (tracks from various small mammal species at the entrance), ephemeral drainages, and springs. The ephemeral drainages, springs, and associate step-pools may provide suitable habitat for special status species such as Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and southern long-toed salamander during certain wet years. Snags and rotting logs from dead trees are present throughout the APE and are important sites for fisher and American marten (*Martes americana*), as they provide suitable cavities for refuge, food storage, and reproduction (Williams 1986). Western bumblebees may occur in underground cavities such as small mammal burrows in the APE; ground-disturbing activities may cause direct impacts to this species.

Habitat in the APE, and the Bucks Lake watershed, in general, is remote and high-quality with the potential to support various special status species. The landscape presents signs of modification by human activity over the past century, including timber harvest, residential/resort development, and the introduction of sport fishes into Bucks Lake. These fish include Kokanee salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), rainbow trout (*O. mykiss*), brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), and lake trout (*S. namaycush*).

No special status plants were observed during the reconnaissance-level field surveys; however, numerous special status plant species have the potential to occur in the APE based on their habitat requirements and nearby database occurrences. Additional discussion of these species and their potential for occurrence is included in the Biological Resource Assessment (NCE 2024a).

The trail construction activities associated with the Project have the potential to temporarily impact these natural resources, either directly or indirectly. Potential impacts include the possibility of disturbing protected flora and fauna, degrading their habitats, preventing the successful breeding of raptors or other birds, or degrading water quality in drainages and Bucks Lake. The following mitigation measures would avoid or minimize impacts to special status species and their resources.

SPECIAL STATUS PLANTS

- **Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Preconstruction Special Status Plant Survey**

A preconstruction survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist. This survey shall focus on the areas of proposed ground-disturbing activities and would occur during the appropriate season necessary for plant identification. The purpose of the survey is to determine the presence or absence of special status plants in the APE prior to the time of trail construction. Should one or more populations of special status plant species be detected within the APE, then individuals shall be marked for avoidance (with pin flags or other easily visible flagging) through the duration of the Project. If the trail cannot be rerouted to avoid the population or individual plant, the USFS, USFWS, and/or CDFW shall be consulted for appropriate action.

- **Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Control of Non-Native/Invasive Plants**

To further protect potential rare plant populations and their habitats in the APE, BMPs to control the spread of invasive plants shall be implemented, such as ensuring all equipment and tools are free of dirt, plant material, and seeds prior to mobilization.

Findings: Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2 are expected to reduce Project impacts to any special status plant species that may occur on the site to less than significant.

SPECIAL STATUS WILDLIFE

- **Mitigation Measure BIO-3: Preconstruction Nesting Bird Survey**

If trees and other vegetation need to be removed, pulled, cut, or otherwise disturbed, these activities shall occur during the non-breeding season, typically September 1 through January 31. If it is not possible to schedule these activities outside of the breeding season (February 1 through August 31), a qualified biologist would conduct a pre-disturbance survey for nesting birds and raptors in all trees along the trail alignment and within 250 feet of the footprint no more than 3 days prior to the onset of ground disturbance. If nesting birds are detected during the survey, a suitable activity-free buffer shall be established around all active nests. The precise dimension of the buffer (up to 500 feet for raptors) shall be determined after consultation with USFS and CDFW and may vary depending on location and species. Buffers shall remain in place for the duration of the breeding season or until it has been confirmed by a qualified biologist that all chicks have fledged and are no longer dependent on the nest location. Status of the known osprey and bald eagle nests in the APE shall be determined during the survey. If these nests are confirmed active, the USFS shall be consulted prior to any work conducted within the Limited Operating Period buffers that overlap with the trail alignment. The Limited Operating Periods are January 1 to August 31 for Bald Eagle and March 15 to August 15 for Osprey.

- **Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Preconstruction Special Status Wildlife Survey**

Prior to initiating the unpaved trail construction, a preconstruction survey for the presence of special status wildlife species listed in the Biological Resource Assessment shall be conducted along the trail alignment and within 250 feet of the footprint. If special status species are encountered within the vicinity of the APE during the preconstruction survey or during construction of the trail, avoidance of impacts to these species shall be conducted following consultation with CDFW, USFS, and/or USFWS as necessary.

- **Mitigation Measure BIO-5: Biological Monitoring Near Perennial/ Intermittent Drainages**

SBTS shall provide an on-site biological monitor during construction within two (2) meters of the perennial drainage. This monitor's duty shall be to inform the construction superintendent and site crew of basic identification, ecology, and agency protections of Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs and the appropriate actions to take if a frog is seen on the site during construction. If a frog is encountered during monitoring, and the biological monitor suspects it may be a Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, work on the drainage crossing shall stop and USFWS shall be consulted for instruction on how to proceed in accordance with the ESA. If the other intermittent drainages in the APE are determined to have potential to support Sierra Nevada

yellow-legged frog during the preconstruction survey (e.g., there is sufficient flow or standing water in the drainage or step pool systems), biological monitoring shall also be required for those drainages. The USFWS and USFS shall be consulted for any additional avoidance or mitigation measures for impacts to mapped Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog habitat in the APE prior to trail construction.

- **Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Preconstruction Survey for Underground Cavities/Burrows**

Western bumble bees may use underground cavities such as small mammal burrows in the APE. Underground cavities in the direct path of the trail alignment that may provide suitable nest or hibernation sites shall be flagged during the preconstruction survey and avoided to the extent possible during trail construction.

Findings: Implementation Mitigation Measures BIO-3 through BIO-6 would mitigate impacts to special status plants, wildlife, and migratory birds (including tree-nesting raptors) to less than significant.

b) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS?

The Project would include the installation of a Class 2 single-track trail (up to 36 inches wide along steep slopes or high-use areas) along the proposed trail alignment. The work would require grading and vegetation removal to create the necessary tread width. Design vegetation clearing is 6 to 8 feet tall and up to 72 inches wide, including through riparian corridor areas consisting of dense CALVEG-mapped willow-alder and mountain alder (*Alnus incana*) thickets.

As discussed in the Environmental Setting, the Project Area contains 6 drainages that through their connection to Bucks Lake are federally and state jurisdictional aquatic resources. These drainages would be impacted by this Project and impacts would be potentially significant, thereby requiring permitting pursuant to sections 404 and 401 of the CWA, and California Fish and Game Code Section 1602. These permits provide a mechanism for Trustee agencies to closely review projects and establish mitigation protocols that they have determined would mitigate adverse impacts on sensitive natural communities to less than significant.

- **Mitigation Measure BIO-7: Minimization of Impacts to Riparian Vegetation**

To the extent practicable, direct impacts to riparian (alder/willow) areas shall be minimized and avoided. The area of disturbance shall be limited to the smallest area necessary to complete trail construction activities. The Project proponent shall adhere to all revegetation and avoidance requirements in regulatory agency permits acquired for the Project.

- **Mitigation Measure BIO-8: Minimization of Impacts to Jurisdictional Waters**

The Project proponent shall adhere to all revegetation and avoidance requirements in regulatory agency permits acquired for the Project and shall utilize BMPs necessary to prevent sediment discharge or other impacts to nearby surface waters.

Findings: Regulatory compliance with requirements in the Section 404 CWA permit, Section 401 Water Quality Certification, 1602 Streambed Alteration Notification,* and *Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-7 and BIO-8 would mitigate impacts to riparian habitats to less than significant.

c) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

The aquatic resource assessment conducted for the Project did not identify or delineate any state or federally regulated wetlands within the APE. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on wetlands.

d) Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

FISH PASSAGE

There is one perennial drainage within the APE that feeds an underground drinking-water storage tank. However, this drainage would be spanned with a bridge crossing and existing conditions of potential fish movement would not be disrupted or altered. There are no other waterways that may provide movement for fish passage in the APE.

WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

Due to the Project's forested setting, wildlife species (including birds) may use the area as a wildlife corridor. The trail would be constructed at near-grade and would not include any above ground structures with potential to impede animal migration through the area. As discussed above, the Project would implement measures to protect migratory bird species from significant impact during construction; no additional mitigation is necessary.

WILDLIFE NURSERY SITES

Project activities would not affect the ability of birds or mammals in the area to forage, move, or breed, and the Project would implement measures to protect osprey, bald eagle, California spotted owl, and American goshawk breeding habitat should nest sites be encountered during construction. This Project would not interrupt the movement of species in the region, and habitat quality would remain high for special

status wildlife within and adjacent to the Project (NCE 2024a). Therefore, the project would have a less than significant impact.

e) Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

As a standard practice per USFS trail construction guidelines, no trees larger than 6 inches in diameter would be removed and all vegetation would either be removed by pulling the root wad or by cutting flush with the ground. There are no local policies or ordinances protecting trees or biological resources in the Project Area. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

f) Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

As discussed throughout this section, a portion of the trail would be constructed within USFS bald eagle and osprey Limited Operating Period buffers and USFS-mapped suitable habitat for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog. California spotted owl and American goshawk Protected Activity Centers are also present within one mile of the APE. However, because the Project would implement the mitigation measures BIO-1 through BIO-8 to protect the plant and wildlife species during construction, impacts to USFS biological resources are anticipated to remain less than significant. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated.

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

4.5.1 Environmental Setting

The approximately 52-acre APE consists of a 100-foot-wide corridor (50-foot buffer to each side) centered on the proposed trail alignment centerline. It was determined that the boundaries of the Area of Direct Impact and Area of Indirect Impact are coincident for this Project; therefore, they are referenced herein as the APE.

The maximum depth of excavation to construct the trail is approximately 8 to 13 inches deep, depending on slope. The trail would be constructed with native materials made of natural soils and gravels - no concrete or non-native materials would be used. During construction, there would be a temporary increase in construction traffic levels, dust, equipment noise, and vibrations in the APE. Proposed operational vertical elements include trail signs and install one bridge of timber and geocell abutments and 10 hardened water crossings or timber stringer bridges.

Archival data overlapping the APE were reviewed and an intensive field inventory was conducted within the APE on August 10 and 11, 2022, and October 28, 2022. The objective of the archival review was to determine the location and nature of prehistoric and/or historic resources recorded previously within and adjacent to the APE. The objective of the field inventory was to locate and describe cultural resources present within and adjacent to the APE (NCE 2024b).

Archaeological inventory and site records maintained by the Northeast Information Center and the Plumas National Forest, Mt. Hough Ranger District, were requested using a quarter (0.25) mile search buffer around the APE. According to the records search, no cultural resources have been formally recorded in the APE. Three historic resources were identified within a quarter (0.25) mile of the APE, including the Beckwourth Trail (P-32-001635), Bucks Lake Lodge (P-32-004382), and a Placer mining site (P-32-004599).

According to PG&E and USFS (n.d.), Bucks Lake is a manmade lake reservoir that was originally a valley with accompanying drainage. The Bucks Lake area was traditionally used by the Maidu. Horace Bucklin and Francis Walker were the first non-native people to move into the valley during the 1850 Gold Rush, leading to the names Bucks Valley and Bucks Creek. Bucks Ranch was established in 1851 and was an important pack trail stop to Spanish Ranch and Rich Bar. This trail became the Beckwourth Trail established by James P. Beckwourth. The valley and surrounding forest were primarily used for logging, mining, and cattle ranching. The lake was dammed in 1928 by the Feather River Power Company and PG&E now owns and operates the dam. Since the creation of Bucks Lake, small communities and recreational lodges have sprung up in the area. No standing structures or linear

features were discernible on historical aerial imagery overlapping with the APE or were depicted in the APE on available historical maps reviewed.

The westernmost and easternmost portions of the APE, totaling approximately 44 acres, were found to contain slopes greater than 30 percent. The APE has historically been used for logging and mining. The various forms of disturbance occupying most of the APE include evidence of temporary 2-track logging roads and ditches from recent logging activities, natural drainages, and modern underground water tanks near drainages and within spring sources for residents.

Two isolated historic artifacts were identified within the APE during the field inventory. ISO-01 was a corroded crimped-seam beer can with church-key openings. ISO-02 was a crushed water tank constructed with rivets. The tank appeared to have traveled downhill and came to rest in its present location. No other cultural material was identified within the APE. However, visibility within the APE was low due to a high density of vegetation and pine duff.

This analysis is drawn from the Cultural Resources Letter Report, updated January 2025, in Appendix C.

4.5.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 defined the role and responsibilities of the federal government in historic preservation and established the National Register of Historic Places. It directs agencies to identify and manage historic properties under their control, to undertake actions that would advance the Act's provisions and avoid actions contrary to its purposes, to consult with others while carrying out historic preservation activities, and to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties.

State

California Register of Historical Resources

The California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) is a guide to cultural resources that must be considered when a government agency undertakes a discretionary action subject to CEQA. The CRHR helps government agencies identify and evaluate California's historical resources and indicates which properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change (PRC § 5024.1(a)). Any resource listed in, or eligible for listing in, the CRHR must be considered during the CEQA process.

Local

The Plumas County 2035 General Plan Constraints and Policies Map (Map) sets forth the locally designated historic buildings in Plumas County. The General Plan Constraints and Policies Map was adopted by Board of Supervisors Resolutions 83-3668 and 83-3721, and amended by 85-3935, 87-4194, 88-4327, 89-4445, 91-5246, 92-5353, 92-5418, and 98-6132. Properties on the Map have a secondary zoning designation of Special Plan Historic Building ("SP-HB") and is subject to the requirements set forth in Plumas County Code Sec. 9-2.3703, Special plan review, which states that no physical aspect of a property regulated by the "SP-HB" zoning shall be altered in any way without review and approval.

4.5.3 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5?	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5?	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

4.5.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5?

As discussed in the Environmental Setting, no historical resources were identified within the APE (NCE 2024b). The majority of Project-related disturbance would be limited to steep areas and areas previously disturbed by logging activities. As a result, the Project is not anticipated to impact historical resources meeting the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California PRC.

The Plumas County 2035 General Plan contains Conservation and Open Space Element Policy 7.5.5, Assessment of Impacts to Cultural and Historical Resources, which states the following:

"The County shall encourage cultural resource preservation and ensure that new development does not adversely impact important resources. Discretionary projects involving ground disturbance shall have evaluations to determine cultural and historical significance."

A complete cultural resources analysis (Appendix C) of the APE was provided by the applicant in the Cultural Resources Letter Report prepared by Molly Laitinen, Staff Archaeologist, and Charles Zeier, Senior Archaeologist, NCE.

Impacts from unanticipated prehistoric or historic resources would be less than significant with incorporation of **Mitigation Measure CUL-1** and impacts from discovery of human remains would be less than significant with incorporation of **Mitigation Measure CUL-2**.

- **Mitigation Measure CUL-1 Minimization of Impacts to Cultural and Archaeological:** Should any evidence of prehistoric cultural resources be observed (freshwater shells, beads, bone tool remnants or an assortment of bones, soil changes including subsurface ash lens or soil darker in color than surrounding soil, lithic materials such as flakes, tools or grinding rocks, etc.), or historic cultural resources, structures and remains with square nails, refuse deposits or bottle dumps, often associated with wells or old home-sites, privies, all work should immediately cease and a qualified archaeologist must be consulted to assess the significance of the cultural materials.

If archaeological materials are encountered, all soil disturbing activities within 100 feet in all directions of the find shall cease until the resource is evaluated. The applicant and the archaeological monitor shall immediately notify the County of the encountered archaeological resource. The monitor shall, after making a reasonable effort to assess the identity, integrity, and significance of the encountered archaeological resource, present the findings of this assessment to the County.

- **Mitigation Measure CUL-2 Procedure for the Inadvertent Discovery of Human Remains:** If an inadvertent discovery of human remains is made at any time during project-related construction activities, the following performance standards shall be met prior to implementing or continuing actions such as construction, which may result in damage to or destruction of human remains. In accordance with the California Health and Safety Code (HSC), if human remains are encountered during ground disturbing activities, the applicant shall immediately halt potentially damaging excavation in the area of the remains and notify the Plumas County Coroner and a qualified archaeologist to determine the nature of the remains. The Coroner is required to examine all discoveries of human remains within 48 hours of receiving notice of a discovery on private or State lands (HSC Section 7050.5[b]).

If the human remains are of historic age and are determined to be not of Native American origin, the County would follow the provisions of the HSC Section 7000 (et seq.) regarding the disinterment and removal of non-Native American human remains.

If the Coroner determines that the remains are those of a Native American, he or she must contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) by phone within 24 hours of making that determination (HSC Section 7050[c]). After the Coroner's findings have been made, the archaeologist and the NAHC-designated Most Likely Descendant (MLD), in consultation with the landowner, shall determine the ultimate treatment and disposition of the remains. The responsibilities of the County for acting upon notification of a discovery of Native American human remains are identified in PRC Section 5097.9 et seq.

Findings: Implementation Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2 would mitigate impacts to cultural and archaeological resources, as well as the inadvertent discovery of human remains, to less than significant.

b) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5?

The search results indicated no historic archaeological sites have been previously recorded within the APE, nor were historic archaeological resources identified during the field inventory that appeared connected to the APE. The potential to impact prehistoric archaeological sites is addressed in Section 4.18, Tribal Cultural Resources. Based on the archival research and field inventory conducted as part of the cultural resources assessment, Project-related disturbance would be limited to areas previously and recently disturbed by logging activities, and steep areas with low potential to contain undocumented historic resources. Impacts from unanticipated prehistoric or historic resources would be less than significant with incorporation of mitigation measure CUL-1 and impacts from discovery of human remains would be less than significant with incorporation of mitigation measure CUL-2.

c) Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

Based on the prehistoric and historic uses of the area, the prior ground disturbance within the APE, and minimal construction depths, human remains are not expected to be discovered during construction activities. However, in the event that unknown burials or human remains are discovered, the Project must comply with PRC Section 5097.98 and Section 7050.5 of California Health and Safety Code.

Implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-2 would ensure that potential impacts to human remains would be less than significant.

4.6 ENERGY

4.6.1 Environmental Setting

The Project Area consists of an undeveloped, forested area. There are no existing lights in the Project Area or other facilities using energy except for the existing residences along Bucks Lake.

4.6.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	Less Than Significant Impact
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	No Impact

4.6.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

The Project would not result in the need for the use of energy within the Project Area. Gasoline or diesel would be required for small construction equipment during construction but would not require additional capacity on a local or regional scale. The California Low Carbon Fuel Standard (Standard) is designed to reduce petroleum dependency and reduce GHG emissions by encouraging the use of cleaner low-carbon transportation fuels and the production of those fuels. The Standard is one of the key AB 32 measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in California (CARB 2023). Because use of energy would be temporary during construction and would comply with the Renewable Fuel Standard program and the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, the Project would not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during construction or operation. Therefore, the impact would be less than significant.

b) Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

The Project does not propose any improvements that would involve the use of new energy on site. Complying with the Renewable Fuel Standard program and California Low Carbon Fuel Standard to reduce fossil fuel use by construction vehicles would also be consistent with these goals and policies. Therefore, there would be no impact.

4.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

4.7.1 Environmental Setting

The Project lies on the southeast side of Bucks Lake Road between Haskins Creek and Bucks Creek and slopes gently. Bucks Lake is surrounded by Plumas National Forest and Bucks Lake Wilderness to the northeast and northwest.

Geologic Setting

Plumas County is located at the northern terminus of the granitic Sierra Nevada where it intersects the volcanic Cascade Range (Plumas County 2021). Underlying rock formations throughout the Project Area are igneous intrusive, formed when magma (molten rock) cools and crystallizes, either at volcanoes on the surface of the Earth or while the melted rock is still inside the crust (USGS 2023).

Seismicity and Faulting

Although there are several potentially active faults within and near the county, seismic hazard mapping indicates that the county has low seismic hazard potential (Plumas County 2021). Moreover, the county is not located within a delineated Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone; therefore, earthquake and fault rupture risks within the county are considered low.

Liquefaction

Liquefaction is a phenomenon where saturated sand and silt take on the characteristics of a liquid during the intense shaking of an earthquake. The highest hazard areas are concentrated in regions of man-made landfill. Other potentially hazardous areas include larger stream channels, which produce the loose young soils that are particularly susceptible to liquefaction (USGS n.d.). The Project Area is not in a known area for high susceptibility for liquefaction (State of California and Department of Conservation 2021).

Groundwater

Plumas County is composed of 14 groundwater basins and the majority of these basins are located in the valleys on the east side of the Sierra Crest (Plumas County 2021). They range in size from the smallest groundwater basin at 2,310 acres for the Yellow Creek Valley Groundwater Basin to the largest groundwater basin at 125,250 acres for the Sierra Valley. Plumas County is located entirely within the Upper Feather River Watershed. Given the mapped drainages within the Project Area, and that one type of hydric soil is present, groundwater may be present close to the surface (NCE 2023).

Soils

Soils within the Project Area have been mapped by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and are described in the Custom Soil Resource Report for the Plumas National Forest Area, California (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service n.d.). The Project Area includes 3 soil types: Chaix family - Haplaquolls complex, 2 to 30 percent slopes; Chaix - Wapi families complex, 30 to 50 percent slopes; and Goodlow - Haplaquolls complex, 0 to 10 percent slopes. The soil units can be described as poorly to well-drained, high saturated hydraulic conductivity.

4.7.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Could the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including risk of loss, injury, or death involving: i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	No Impact
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	No Impact
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	No Impact
iv. Landslides?	No Impact
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	Less Than Significant Impact
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	No Impact
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	No Impact
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	No Impact
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	No Impact

4.7.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

The Project is not located in an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone (State of California and Department of Conservation 2021). The purpose of the Alquist-Priolo Geologic Hazards Zones Act is to prohibit the location of most structures for human occupancy across the traces of active faults and to mitigate potential hazards of fault-rupture. According to the Earthquake Shaking Potential for California, the Bucks Lake area, including the Project Area, is considered to have a relatively low potential for shaking caused by earthquakes (California Geological Survey 2016). The Project proposes no structures or development that could affect a fault. Therefore, there would be no impact.

ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?

The intensity of ground shaking due to an earthquake is determined by several factors including the proximity of the earthquake, the magnitude of the earthquake, fault rupture characteristics, and the type of soil or bedrock in the area. According to the Earthquake Shaking Potential for California, the Bucks Lake area, including the Project Area, is considered to have a relatively low potential for shaking caused by earthquakes (California Geological Survey 2016). Because the site does not lie within an Earthquake Fault Zone and the area has low potential for shaking, strong seismic ground shaking is not anticipated to occur at the Project Area. Therefore, there would be no impact.

iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

As discussed in the Environmental Setting, the Project is not in a known area for high susceptibility for liquefaction (State of California and Department of Conservation 2021) and does not propose to construct features within larger stream channels. Therefore, there would be no impact.

iv. Landslides?

A landslide is the downslope movement of rock, debris, earth, or soil. Landslides occur when gravitational and other types of shear stresses within a slope exceed the shear strength of the materials that form the slope. Factors contributing to landslide include proximity to faults, springs, seeps, or shallow groundwater, and unstable or steep terrain. The Project Area contains moderate slopes with an average running grade of 9.6 percent and is not located in an area susceptible to landslides (State of

California and Department of Conservation 2021). The Project does not have the potential to increase the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

During construction, the Project may have the potential to cause the loss of topsoil or cause erosion during earth moving and clearing activities. The Project would implement erosion and sediment BMPs as discussed in Section 4.10, Hydrology and Water Quality, that would prevent significant soil loss or erosion during construction. Implementation of a Project Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which is required for the Project by Construction General Permit Order 2009-0009-DWQ, would further reduce the potential for erosion and topsoil loss during construction to less than significant.

c) Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

As discussed in the Environmental Setting and Section 4.7.3(a), the Project is not located in an unstable geologic unit or soil area that would be subject to damage or adverse impacts from implementation of the Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

d) Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

The Project Area does not contain expansive soils as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994). Soils within the Project Area are primarily composed of residuum weathered from granodiorite or basalt and are not susceptible to expansion. Therefore, there would be no impact.

e) Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

The Project does not propose the use of septic tanks and would not require use of alternative wastewater disposal services; therefore, there would be no impact.

f) Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

The Northeast Information Center records search revealed there are no previously recorded or existing paleontological resources identified within the Project Area. It is particularly rare, if not unheard of, for fossils to be found in igneous rocks. This is because igneous rocks form straight from molten rock, either from magma or lava. The temperatures that can melt rocks destroy any organic materials and melt any

fossils that may have already formed in the rock. Therefore, there would be no impact.

4.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

The term greenhouse gas (GHG) is used to describe atmospheric gases that absorb solar radiation and subsequently emit radiation in the thermal infrared region of the energy spectrum, trapping heat in the Earth's atmosphere. Greenhouse gases of concern include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases. Unlike emissions of criteria and toxic air pollutants, which have local or regional impacts, emissions of greenhouse gases have a broader, global impact.

4.8.1 Environmental Setting

Plumas National Forest

Managers of the Plumas National Forest recognize that severe droughts and past forest management have substantially increased wildfire intensity and area burned. Consequently, the Forest is preparing fuel management strategies, mostly adjacent to populated areas like the town of Quincy. The Plumas Forest Climate Change Trend Summary provides key information to managers and forest users (USDA Region 5 Ecology Program 2022). According to the report, the climate in the Plumas National Forest is changing with the number of extreme heat days rising and "annual average minimum temperature increasing by up to 13.8 °F by the end of the century." The extended droughts and rising temperatures are expected to make Plumas National Forest hotter and drier, leading to increased wildfire risk.

4.8.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal

The EPA has no regulations or legislation enacted specifically addressing GHG emissions reductions and climate change at the project level. In addition, the EPA has not issued explicit guidance or methods to conduct project-level GHG analysis.

State

The State of California has taken several legislative steps including assembly bills and Executive Orders to reduce increases in GHG emissions. CARB is the lead agency in the development of reduction strategies for greenhouse gases in California. California's GHG reduction requirements aim to reduce vehicle miles traveled, thereby improving air quality by reducing GHG emissions from automobiles.

Local

The NSAQMD presently has no guidance concerning CEQA evaluation of GHG emissions and no regulatory requirements. Therefore, there is no local guidance on GHGs surrounding the Project Area.

4.8.3 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	Less Than Significant Impact
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	Less Than Significant Impact

4.8.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

As discussed in Air Quality Section 4.3, some construction equipment would use fossil fuels. Burning one gallon of gasoline produces about 20 pounds of CO_2 and burning one gallon of diesel fuel produces about 22 pounds of CO_2. Construction equipment would also produce small amounts of oxides of nitrogen, another GHG.

Construction access to the site is gained from parking locations along Bucks Lake Road and approximately 8 to 10 parking spaces at the easternmost trailheads at Bucks Creek at the east end of the Project Area. Trail builders may reside elsewhere and travel to the worksite in cars and trucks, creating GHG emissions. Most of the tools and equipment to be used would be handheld. The Project would take about 66 days to complete. The trail designers estimate that the total ground disturbance is 1.5 acres.

One of the purposes of the trail is to provide a safe route to walk or bicycle off the main road. In this regard, those who walk or bicycle who previously drove would be avoiding GHG emissions.

Given the relatively small size of the area impacted during construction and the minor use of powered equipment, the GHGs emitted are considered less than significant. Likewise, the number of trail users who drive to the trail would be small; it is anticipated the new trail system use on weekends during peak season (Memorial Day through Labor Day) would 25 to 30 individuals daily (approximately 12-15 vehicles). GHG emissions from these vehicles are considered less than significant.

b) Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Federal, state, and local efforts to reduce GHGs are focused on emissions from transportation, electricity generation, and other large sectors. Additionally, during construction, given that emissions would be short-term over the course of 66 days for small equipment, increases in GHG emissions that could be attributed to the Project would not result in a significant impact on the environment. The GHG emissions generated during construction would not be considered significant and therefore would not limit the state's ability to attain the goals identified in AB 32. Once operational, the Project would help attain the state's goals defined in AB 32; therefore, impacts during construction are less than significant, and beneficial once constructed.

There are no climate change plans or regulations related to trail building and use. Plumas National Forest may choose to perform fuel reduction and mitigation in the Bucks Lake area in the future. These efforts are currently ongoing near larger communities such as Quincy. The national forest managers may choose to thin trees or create a fire break near the proposed trail in the future, but currently there are no plans for such work.

Therefore, construction and use of the Project would have a less than significant impact to an applicable plan, policy, or regulation designed to reduce GHGs.

4.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

4.9.1 Environmental Setting

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) GeoTracker website (SWRCB 2024) and the Department of Toxic Substances Control EnviroStor website (Department of Toxic Substances Control 2024) were searched for information on the Project Area. The search revealed that most hazardous waste sites in the region (pursuant to Government Code 65962.5) are located east in Quincy and southwest in Chico. No sites in the Project vicinity were identified on EnviroStor or the SWRCB GeoTracker website.

4.9.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	Less Than Significant Impact
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	Less Than Significant Impact
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	No Impact
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	No Impact
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	No Impact
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	No Impact
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	Less Than Significant Impact

4.9.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

The Project's use of hazardous materials during construction would be limited to fuels and other maintenance-related chemicals to run equipment machinery, and materials would be managed according to the SWPPP. The required SWPPP would ensure that equipment fueling and maintenance, if performed at the job site, would be performed in a designated area utilizing secondary containment with a spill kit nearby. No disposal of hazardous materials is anticipated as part of this Project. No dewatering is anticipated during construction.

The California Department of Transportation limits the transportation of hazardous waste that can be transported at one time to 15 gallons (combined total). Therefore, the use of hazardous materials during construction and operation would be limited and would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. Therefore, the project would have a less than significant impact.

b) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

No hazardous waste sites in the Project vicinity were identified on EnviroStor or the SWRCB GeoTracker website. As described in 4.9.3(a), hazardous materials used during construction are expected to be minimal and the required on-site SWPPP would mitigate effects of the use of fuels and chemicals. Should a spill occur, spill procedures in the SWPPP would be followed. Therefore, the project would have a less than significant impact.

c) Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

The nearest school to the Project Area is the Quincy Junior-Senior High School, located approximately 15.2 miles east of the Project Area. As discussed above, hazardous materials used as part of the Project construction is anticipated to be limited and very localized. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

d) Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

EnviroStor is the Department of Toxic Substances Control's data management system for tracking cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known contamination or sites where there may be reasons to investigate further, also known as the Cortese List. As noted above, no

sites in the Project vicinity were identified on EnviroStor, and the Project Area has no known historical uses that require investigation. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

The nearest airport, Quincy-Ganser-Spanish Creek Airfield-201, is over 17 miles east of the Project Area. The Project Area is not located within a comprehensive land use planning area, and the Project does not involve habitable improvements that would be sensitive to airport operations. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

f) Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Plumas County's adopted emergency plan includes prearranged emergency response procedures (Plumas County 2016). Emergency routes for the evacuation of Bucks Lake area include Bucks Lake Road and Big Creek Road. The Project involves the construction of a trail within an open space area and would not have an impact on the existing adopted emergency response plan or evacuation plan. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

g) Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

The Project involves construction of a trail in a forested area near Bucks Lake. The Project would not expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. See Section 4.20, Wildfires, for more information. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

4.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

4.10.1 Environmental Setting

Watershed and Water Quality

The Project Area is in the Sacramento River Basin within the Central Valley RWQCB, which sets policy on implementing state and federal water quality laws (Central Valley RWQCB 2019). Bucks Lake is not included on the 2018 CWA Section 303(d) list of impaired water bodies. The Project Area contains 6 drainages that are hydrologically connected to Bucks Lake through roadside ditches, culverts, and/or a direct discharge into Bucks Lake (NCE 2023).

As discussed in Section 4.4, Biological Resources, these hydrological features are considered WOUS and Waters of the State of California.

Groundwater

Results of the aquatic resources delineation also indicate one type of hydric soil is present within the Project Area (NCE 2023). Given the one type of hydric soil and mapped drainages within the Project Area, groundwater may be present close to the surface.

Flood, Tsunami and Seiche Hazards

The area is delineated on Federal Emergency Management Agency map panels 06063C0875E and 06063C0875E, effective March 2, 2005. The Project Area is located within Zone D, which are areas of undetermined flood hazard. Based on the General Plan, the Project Area is not in a potential inundation area. In contrast, the area northwest of Bucks Lake is noted as a potential inundation area.

4.10.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal

Clean Water Act and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit

Sections 401 and 404 of the CWA relate directly to local agency planning. Section 401 of the CWA requires a State Water Quality Certification for all federal permit or license applications for any activity that may result in a discharge to a water body to ensure compliance with state water quality standards. Most certifications are issued in connection with Section 404 permits for dredge and fill discharges. Activities in WOUS that are regulated under this program include fill for development, water resource projects (such as dams and levees), infrastructure development (such as highways and airports), and mining projects.

Section 402 of the CWA requires NPDES permits for stormwater discharges from municipal storm drain systems. The *Water Quality Control Plan for Sacramento River Basin* (Basin Plan; Central Valley RWQCB 2019) is the Water Board's planning document. The Water Board issues the municipal stormwater NPDES permits to address stormwater impairments and recommend actions. Stormwater discharges into the County's municipal stormwater drainage system are regulated by the Central Valley RWQCB under the Municipal Regional Separate Storm Sewer Systems Permit, Order No. R5-2016-0040.

Section 303(d) of the CWA authorizes the EPA to assist jurisdictions in listing impaired waters and developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for these waterbodies. A TMDL establishes the maximum levels of each pollutant allowed in a waterbody and serves as the starting point or planning tool for restoring water quality. In California, the state and regional water boards assess water quality monitoring data for the state's surface waters every 2 years to determine if they contain pollutants at levels that exceed protective water quality standards. Water bodies and pollutants that exceed these standards are placed on the state's 303(d) List. The determination is governed by the Water Quality Control Policy for developing California's Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List. Currently, the 2020-2022 California Integrated Report 303(d) list is in effect (SWRCB and California EPA 2022).

State

Statewide Construction General Permit

Because the Project would disturb more than 1 acre (including staging, storage, access, and the footprint of improvements), it is subject to the statewide Construction General Permit Order 2009-0009-DWQ, which regulates stormwater leaving construction sites. Under this order, site owners must notify the state and implement a project specific SWPPP prepared by a Qualified SWPPP Developer. The SWPPP describes potential pollutant sources, temporary construction BMPs, construction site monitoring, and reporting requirements. Coverage under this permit is not about new impervious area as much as protecting receiving water quality from sediment and other pollutants during construction projects. The SWPPP must outline measures that would protect hydrology and water quality resources, including groundwater, from negative impacts during construction through implementation of BMPs and monitoring the effectiveness of BMPs. This permit is administered by the State Water Resources Control Board and overseen by the RWQCB.

4.10.3 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	Less Than Significant Impact
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	Less Than Significant Impact
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would: i. result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off-site;	Less Than Significant Impact
ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off-site;	Less Than Significant Impact
iii. create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	No Impact
iv. impede or redirect flood flows?	Less Than Significant Impact
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	No Impact
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	No Impact

4.10.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?

During construction of the Project, grading and general ground-disturbing activities may have the potential to result in sediment-laden, polluted runoff discharging from the Project Area and impacting downgradient water. The Project construction depths are only 8 to 13 inches, and thus construction is not anticipated to encounter groundwater.

The Project is required to implement an approved SWPPP to protect against polluted runoff leaving the site during construction. Various monitoring and reporting activities would be established by the Central Valley RWQCB depending on the risk the Project

poses. The Project would also require permitting pursuant to Sections 404 and 401 of the CWA, and California Fish and Game Code Section 1602.

Because the Project is required to comply with federal and state requirements for protection of surface and groundwater quality during construction, implementing SWPPP requirements and meeting regulatory permit requirements would ensure that the Project would not result in a violation of water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality. Therefore, the project would have a less than significant impact.

b) Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

The Project would not use groundwater for construction water supply and would not encounter groundwater during construction of the trail. The Project would grade 1.5 acres of soil along the trail corridor to a depth of 8 to 13 inches. It is unlikely that construction would encounter groundwater at this depth, but groundwater may be present close to the surface. Some minor dewatering may be required in some places along the trail, but not at amounts that would decrease groundwater supplies. Therefore, the Project would not have a substantial effect on groundwater recharge or management of the groundwater basin. Therefore, the project would have a less than significant impact.

c) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:

i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off-site?

Construction activities have the potential to create erosion and siltation on- and off-site during construction. However, this would be controlled by measures in the Project-specific SWPPP as well as from required regulatory permits. The construction would be monitored for erosion and siltation, as mandated by the RWQCB. Post-construction, the Project would be stabilized per RWQCB requirements, resulting in a less than significant impact. Therefore, the project would have a less than significant impact.

ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off-site?

The Project could slightly increase surface runoff within the Project Area. The Project would be constructed in a forested area and would be surrounded by native vegetation on all sides. There is no paving associated with the Project, so surface runoff would be minimal. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

The Project would construct an unpaved trail that would not change existing drainage patterns and would not construct new impermeable surfaces. No connection to municipal drainage systems would occur and no vehicular use of the trail would be allowed that could contribute to polluted runoff. Polluted runoff related to construction activities would be controlled by the SWPPP and would not be allowed to enter the natural drainage system. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?

The Project Area contains 6 drainages. One bridge with timber and geocell abutments and 10 hardened water crossings or timber stringer bridges would be included as Project features and located outside the drainage flows. The trail is not anticipated to impede or redirect flood flows. Therefore, the project would have a less than significant impact.

d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, would the project risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

FLOOD HAZARD

The Project Area is located within in Zone D, indicating areas of undetermined flood hazard. Based on the 2035 General Plan (Plumas County 2023), the Project Area is not a potential inundation area. Therefore, there would be no impact.

TSUNAMI AND SEICHE HAZARD

A seiche that affects the Project Area is unlikely to occur as it is more than 100 feet from Bucks Lake. The limited construction activities would present a negligible risk release of pollutants in the very unlikely event of inundation, and there would be no risk once the trail is operational. Therefore, there would be no impact.

e) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

The Basin Plan sets forth water quality standards for the surface water and groundwater in the region. The Project is not anticipated to conflict with water quality standards and would therefore not obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan. The Project would not conflict with implementation of the Basin Plan as it would not adversely affect beneficial uses or contribute to an exceedance of water quality objectives established to protect beneficial uses. The Project is proposing to add one USFS standard trail multiple log stringer bridge with railings crossing a perennial

stream to protect aquatic resources and public drinking water infrastructure and 10 either hardened water crossings or timber stringer bridges. Therefore, implementation of the Project would result in a trail that protects water quality in the Project Area with no impact.

4.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

4.11.1 Environmental Setting

The Project would be located on 2 PG&E owned parcels zoned as: "Rec-3" – Recreation, "S-3" – Secondary Suburban, and "GF" – General Forest. Of this area, 1.5 acres are proposed to be developed into a single-lane, standard/terra, non-motorized trail system resulting in approximately 4.53 miles of new trail for recreation in the Bucks Lake Recreation Area. The Project would connect to the existing Bucks Creek Loop in the Plumas National Forest and would rely on existing and nearby trailheads and parking.

4.11.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Physically divide an established community?	No Impact
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	Less Than Significant Impact

4.11.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project physically divide an established community?

The primary purpose of the Project is to construct and maintain a non-motorized trail system on the southeast shore of Bucks Lake. The Project would not physically divide an established community but would provide opportunities for greater connectivity between communities. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

b) Would the project cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

The Project would connect to the existing Bucks Creek Loop Trail in the Plumas National Forest and would rely on existing and nearby trailheads and parking.

Construction of the Project would require approval through Third-Party Request to Use PG&E Lands, the California Public Utility Commission 851 Advice Letter process, and a special use permit from the Plumas County Planning Department. Therefore, the project would have a less than significant impact.

The Project would comply with the County land use plan, policies, and regulations adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating environmental effects by implementing controls to protect or avoid impacts to sensitive resources and

mitigating any impacts to less than significant levels, as described in the other sections of this initial study. Construction of the trail would be compatible with the with "Rec-3" – Recreation, "S-3" – Secondary Suburban, and "GF" – General Forest zoning designations as a trail is permitted in the "Rec-3" zoning by right as a "recreation facility" use, in the "S-3" zoning as a "recreation facility" use subject to the issuance of a special use permit, and in the "public service facility" use subject to the issuance of a special use permit.

Because the Project would comply with PG&E, California Public Utility Commission, and Plumas County land use plans, policies, and regulations, as well as regulations administered by the permitting agencies, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

4.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

4.12.1 Environmental Setting

Minerals are naturally occurring chemical elements or compounds, or groups of elements and compounds, formed from inorganic processes and organic substances including, but not limited to, coal, peat, and oil-bearing rock, but excluding geothermal resources, natural gas, and petroleum.

According to the Department of Conservation (California Department of Conservation, n.d.) there are no state or regional valuable mineral resources within the vicinity of the Project Area.

4.12.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	No Impact
b) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	No Impact

4.12.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

Although streams in the area have been historically subject to placer mining, according to the Department of Conservation and the General Plan (Plumas County 2023), there are no state or regionally valuable mineral resources within the Project Area. The Project would therefore not result in no impact to the loss of a known mineral resource.

b) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?

According to the Department of Conservation and the 2035 General Plan (Plumas County 2023), there are no resource recovery sites associated with the Project; therefore, there would be no impact.

4.13 NOISE

4.13.1 Environmental Setting

Noise is defined as a sound or series of sounds that are intrusive, objectionable, or disruptive to daily life. Different land uses have different acceptability levels in terms of noise disturbance. For example, industrial uses have a higher noise threshold than residential uses. Noise standards provide a means of assessing exposure and compatibility based on specific uses. There are no stationary sources of noise generation within the Project Area. Noise generators in the vicinity of the Project include hikers and cyclists using the Bucks Creek Loop in the Plumas National Forest, and vehicular traffic along Bucks Lake Road. According to the 2035 General Plan (Plumas County 2023), the Bucks Lake area also has a prominent noise source from motorized watercraft.

1.1.1 Regulatory Setting

Plumas County

The County does not currently have an adopted noise ordinance, which would be used for code enforcement purposes and addressing noise complaints. According to Policy 3.1.4 of the 2035 General Plan (Plumas County 2023), Construction Noise shall follow the following guidelines:

The County shall seek to limit the potential noise impacts of construction activities on surrounding land uses. The standards outlined below shall apply to those activities associated with actual construction of a project as long as such construction occurs between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekends or on federally recognized holidays. Exceptions are allowed if it can be shown that construction beyond these times is necessary to alleviate traffic congestion and safety hazards.

4.13.2 Per Figure 22, Community Noise Exposure, of the 2035 General Plan, the maximum conditionally acceptable noise level for a residential area is 70 dB.CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project result in:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	Less Than Significant Impact

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	Less Than Significant Impact
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	No Impact

4.13.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

During construction, workers and persons residing in the area would be temporarily exposed to minor noise generated by construction equipment, such as mechanized (mini-excavator, pionjar, over-the-counter boulder-busting charges) and hand-construction methods (McLeod, pulaski, picks, etc.).

Construction noise would be temporary during construction, and the Project is primarily being constructed in an uninhabited area. The loudest noise would be generated if over-the-counter boulder-busting charges are required to break up boulders; this noise would be sporadic and brief. The Project would comply with the County Construction Noise guidance for construction projects, and therefore would result in a less than significant impact to ambient noise levels in excess of established standards set forth in the 2035 General Plan.

b) Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Groundborne vibration is described in terms of frequency and amplitude. Unlike sound, there is no standard way of measuring and reporting amplitude. Construction vibration is generally associated with pile driving and rock blasting.

During construction, workers and persons residing in the area would be temporarily exposed to minor groundborne vibration generated primarily only if over-the-counter boulder-busting charges are required to break up boulders in the path; all other construction methods are too small to generate vibration. Because impacts would be temporary and separated from sensitive receptors by significant distances, the impacts would be less than significant.

c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport

or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

There are no airports within two miles of the Project Area. The nearest public-use airport, Quincy-Ganser-Spanish Creek Airfield-201, is over 17 miles east of the Project Area. Therefore, the Project would not expose construction workers to excessive aircraft noise resulting in no impact.

4.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

4.14.1 Environmental Setting

As of 2023 the Bucks Lake area had an estimated population of 22 residents and Quincy, approximately 17 miles southwest of the Project, had an estimated population of 1,308 (WPR, 2025). Bucks Lake has an estimated housing stock of 182 dwelling units and Quincy has an estimated 799 dwelling units (California Department of Finance 2023). The Project is located in an undeveloped forest area near Bucks Lake. There is no residential housing in or planned for the Project Area.

4.14.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	Less Than Significant
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	No Impact

4.14.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

The Project would construct a trail within an undeveloped forest area. The Project does not construct housing or provide infrastructure that would facilitate housing. However, the unpaved trail is considered infrastructure and while there would not be substantial unplanned population growth, there is the potential for users of the unpaved trail to be attracted to the area and creating an unsubstantial growth in population. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact on unplanned population growth in the area.

b) Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

Implementing the Project would not influence population growth, either directly or indirectly. The Project does not propose any removal or construction of features that would result in displacement of persons and would therefore not require construction or replacement housing elsewhere. There would be no impact.

4.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

4.15.1 Environmental Setting

Fire Protection

Distribution of wildland fire protection resources is managed by the U.S. Forest Services throughout Plumas County. The Project Area is located in a State Responsibility Area for fire protection, for which the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) contracts with the U.S. Forest Services for the provision of fire protection services. These agencies coordinate with the Bucks Lake Fire Department, approximately 0.5 miles south, which also serves the Project Area. The Department provides 24-hour emergency response for medical emergencies, fire suppression, and disaster response.

Police Protection

The Plumas County Sheriff's Office, approximately 18.6 miles to the east, serves the Project Area. In case of emergencies and non-emergency calls, the community can reach an on-call first responder on a 24-hour basis at the Sheriff's Office.

4.15.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project result in:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the need and/or provision of new or physically altered governmental services and/or facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services? i) Fire protection? ii) Police protection? iii) Schools? iv) Parks? v) Other public facilities?	No Impact

1.1.1 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the need and/or provision of new or physically altered governmental services and/or facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services?

i) Fire protection?

ii) Police protection?

iii) Schools?

iv) Parks?

v) Other public facilities?

The Project would construct a trail in an area designated for recreation and forest land. Once constructed, the trail would be open to bicyclists and pedestrians.

The Project would not increase dwelling units or road capacity within the surrounding area and thus involves no increase in demand for public services such as schools, libraries, or parks. During construction, the Project may have a negligible temporary increase in the need for emergency services to protect construction equipment and workers. There are adequate fire and police services to protect the construction sites and workers without affecting emergency services ratios, response times, or other performance objectives. Therefore, the Project would not require new or physically altered governmental services and/or facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

4.16 RECREATION

4.16.1 Environmental Setting

The Project Area and the surrounding communities contain a variety of existing public and private recreational resources. Bucks Lake is surrounded by Plumas National Forest and Bucks Lake Wilderness to the northeast and northwest, with recreation residences and PG&E-owned and managed lands and facilities on southern and eastern shorelines.

The Bucks Lake Wilderness arose with the passage of the California Wilderness Act in 1984 (USDA n.d.). The Act granted 23,578 acres of the Plumas National Forest protection as part of the National Forest Wilderness System. The Bucks Lake Wilderness has 6 access points, or trailheads: Bucks Summit, Bucks Creek, Mill Creek, Three Lakes, Belden, and Silver Lake.

4.16.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	Less Than Significant Impact
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	Less Than Significant Impact

4.16.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

Although the trail would provide a new access point to the existing trails in the Plumas National Forest, some access to the Plumas National Forest and Bucks Creek Loop currently exists. By increasing trail access, residents and visitors may be encouraged to access these recreation areas by foot or bicycle rather than by motorized methods. Due to the pre-existing trail access in the surrounding area, no significant physical deterioration of the Plumas National Forest and Bucks Creek Loop would occur as a result of the Project. Therefore, the project would have a less than significant impact.

b) Would the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

As discussed in Section 4.17, Transportation, the trail is intended to serve primarily as a recreational route, although it may be used for transportation purposes by some users. Impacts to the environment are analyzed in each subsection of Section 4 and appropriate conditions of approval or mitigation measures are proposed as needed. No new park facilities are proposed, and completion of the Project would not require the construction or expansion of other existing recreational facilities. Therefore, the project would have a less than significant impact.

4.17 TRANSPORTATION

4.17.1 Environmental Setting

The Project's purpose is to provide connectivity between existing USFS trails at the east end of the Project and resort areas located at the western extents. The goal is to provide a safe, non-motorized alternative to traveling along the paved Bucks Lake Road to access these areas. Visiting trail users would be able to park at the existing Bucks Lake Loop Trailhead as well as on Bucks Lake Road to access the proposed trails and then walk to the Bucks Lake Loop Trail. Bucks Lake residents would be able to access the trail system from resort and cabin areas.

4.17.2 Regulatory Setting

Local and Regional Transportation

The following local and regional transportation guidance documents apply to the Project:

- **Plumas County 2035 General Plan, Element 4, Circulation** – details the County's efforts regarding roads and highways, public transit, and non-motorized transit including bicycles and pedestrians, rail, air, and movement of goods (Plumas County 2023). Goal 4.4, Bicycle and Pedestrian, aims to encourage non-auto transportation throughout Plumas County.
- **2018 Plumas County Active Transportation Program Pedestrian/Bicycle Plan** – aims to be an integral part of safe, effective, efficient, balanced, and coordinated transportation systems to serve bicyclists and pedestrians within Plumas County and the City of Portola (Plumas County Transportation Commission 2018). The Plan provides a comprehensive long-range view for the development of an extensive regional bikeway network that connects cities and unincorporated areas countywide. Projects recommended include bikeway improvements and pedestrian improvements.
- **2025 Plumas County Regional Transportation Plan** (RTP) – covers short-range planning for 2025 to 2035 and long-range planning for 2036 to 2045, including the policies, projects, and programs necessary to maintain, manage and improve the region's transportation system. Prepared by the Plumas County Transportation Commission, the RTP is required by state law to be updated every 5 years (Plumas County Transportation Commission 2025).
- **2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program** (RTIP) – the RTIP outlines the County's proposed program for the existing and proposed highway, local road transit, and active transportation projects that are anticipated to be funded by state and federal revenue through the State Transportation Improvement Program (Plumas County Transportation

Commission 2023). It is updated every 4 to 5 years through an extensive public participation process.

4.17.3 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	No Impact
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines §15064.3, subdivision (b)?	No Impact
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	Less Than Significant Impact
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	No Impact

4.17.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?

Construction of the Project would provide a safe, non-motorized alternative to traveling along the paved Bucks Lake Road. Visiting trail users would be able to park at the existing Bucks Lake Loop Trailhead, access the proposed trails, and then walk to the Bucks Lake Loop Trail.

A common goal of the Plumas County 2035 General Plan, 2018 Plumas County Active Transportation Program Pedestrian/Bicycle Plan, 2025 RTP, and 2022 RTIP is to improve transportation systems and encourage non-auto transportation (Plumas County 2023; Plumas County Transportation Commission 2018, 2020, and 2021).

Because the Project is consistent with the goals of these documents, the Project would not conflict with any ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. Therefore, the projecy would have no impact.

b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3(b) pertains to the use of vehicle miles travelled (VMT) to analyze transportation impacts. Per Senate Bill 743 criteria, as of July 1, 2020, the CEQA guidelines require the evaluation of VMT as a key criterion to determine potentially significant transportation impacts. The Project does not propose changes

to existing road layout, circulation, alignment, or structures that would have potential to increase VMT. Therefore, there would be no impact.

c) Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

The Project is located in an area of generally moderately sloped terrain as is common within the Plumas National Forest. The trail would have a design grade of 5 to 12 percent with a short pitch maximum of no more than 15 percent and an average running grade of 9.6 percent. The design cross-slope would be 5 to 8 percent with a maximum cross-slope of 10 percent. Use of trail switchbacks as a design control would also prevent excessive speeds and minimize the slope differentials.

The Project would meet USFS's *Standard Specification for Construction and Maintenance of Trails* (EM-7730-103) and a Class 2 Moderately Developed standard, which includes continuous and discernible, but narrow and rough tread constructed of native materials.

Because the Project incorporates design features intended to protect the safety of users, and limit excessive slopes, speeds, and hazardous design features, impacts would be less than significant.

d) Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

Construction of the Project would occur off road and would not interfere with emergency access. The trail is completely located in a non-motorized vehicle area.

Emergency access to trail users in the case of a medical emergency would be similar to that of existing trails in the area in that utilizing cell service to call for emergency services would be required. In the case of no cell service, there are residences on the north side of Bucks Lake Road, which traverses parallel to approximately one (1) mile of the unpaved trail, which would allow for access to a land line telephone to call emergency services. The unpaved trail will contain multiple points of access near Bucks Lake Road, approximately four (4), which would allow timely access for emergency services to the trail users. In addition, approximately one (1) mile of the 4.53-mile unpaved trail being is within approximately 600 feet, per Figure 2, of Bucks Lake Road and would allow close access to the trail. Therefore, there would be no impact.

4.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

4.18.1 Environmental Setting

The APE is located within the traditional aboriginal territory of the Mountain Maidu (Northeastern Maidu) and the KonKow (Northwestern Maidu) (Golla 2007, Kroeber 1925, McGuire 2007). These tribes occupied areas along the Sacramento River and east of the foothills of the Sierra Nevada between present-day Chico and Susanville. The Mountain Maidu inhabited the Bucks Valley area on a seasonal basis. PG&E and USFS (n.d.) note, "Bucks Creek served as a summer and fall hunting and gathering encampment for the Maidu whose permanent villages were located at lower elevations. Radiocarbon dates from sites in the area demonstrate a history of Maidu use extending back at least 2,000 years."

The Maidu populations were divided into recognized autonomous political units creating distinct village communities. Subsistence practices included fishing, hunting, and collecting different plant resources such as acorns, a staple food source. The Mountain Maidu and KonKow were known to make a variety of basketry and wood, stone, and bone tools (Kroeber 1925; PMC 2008, 2010). The Mountain Maidu community continues to protect the lands and cultural resources in the Bucks Lake area today.

During the field inventory, the westernmost and easternmost portions of the APE, totaling approximately 44 acres, were observed to contain slopes greater than 30 percent. These portions of the APE proposed to be directly impacted are considered to have low archaeological sensitivity. Steep slopes are not likely to contain prehistoric habitation sites and are unlikely to have preserved prehistoric archaeological resources, known as Tribal Cultural Resources (TCRs), due to natural erosion processes. Such sites are more likely to occur on flat topographic features close to water sources. The centrally located 8 acres of the APE contain flat topography and meadow landscape and are considered to have moderate to high archaeological sensitivity. Two drainages located on the east side of the APE are considered to have low to moderate archaeological sensitivity, considering steeper slopes and few flat areas near the drainages.

4.18.2 Regulatory Setting

Native American Consultation

In accordance with AB 52, as identified in the PRC § 21080.3.1(b)(2) of CEQA, Native American tribes (tribes) identified by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) must be invited to consult on projects. Native American correspondence was initiated with a letter and attached maps to the NAHC on August 22, 2022. The letter requested a record search of their Sacred Lands File (SLF) and a contact list for regional tribes that may know of cultural or tribal resources within or immediately

adjacent to the APE. A response was received from the NAHC on October 21, 2022, with negative SLF results. Inquiry letters were mailed to the tribes identified by the NAHC and Plumas County on November 22, 2022. On December 8 and 9, 2022, follow-up emails were sent to the tribes and the Maidu Summit Consortium was contacted via phone. To date, 4 tribes have responded: Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria, Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians (Greenville Rancheria), Maidu Summit Consortium, and Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians (Mooretown Rancheria). A summary of correspondence is as follows:

- **Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria:** On July 8, 2024, Nelson Smith, Co-Director, responded to the outreach and requested Consultation. A field meeting was then scheduled for September 30, 2024, which included Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship staff, Plumas County Planning Department staff, and the Tribes. On that date, the field meeting was held, but no tribal representatives attended. On October 1, 2024, and October 16, 2024, the Tribe was contacted by SBTS and NCE respectively, but no response was received.
- **Greenville Rancheria:** On December 13, 2022, SBTS had a meeting with Shelby Leung, Greenville Rancheria Fire Crew Lead, Cultural Resource Specialist, and Tribal Liaison. The Project was discussed, and a digital copy of the Consultation letter was provided. No response was received from the 2024 outreach.
- **Mooretown Rancheria:** On December 22, 2022, a letter was received from Matthew Hatcher, Mooretown Rancheria Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, dated November 30, 2022. Mr. Hatcher requested consultation. He requested to have a field meeting with the construction manager and archaeologist. On September 24, 2024, a field visit was scheduled with Mr. Hatcher for September 30, 2024. On that date, the field meeting was held, but no tribal representatives attended. On October 1, 2024, and October 16, 2024, the Tribe was contacted by SBTS and NCE respectively, but no response was received.

- **Maidu Summit Consortium:** On December 20, 2022, Trina Cunningham, Maidu Summit Consortium Executive Director, responded to the outreach by telephone and email and requested Consultation. She requested a site visit and that tribal monitors be on-site during trail construction as processing and storage artifacts may surface during construction. On June 24, 2024, Misty Salem, Maidu Summit Finance/Community Engagement Coordinator, responded by telephone requesting to continue Consultation on the project. She also provided the contact information for the Maidu Summit Cultural Resources Coordinator, Harvey Merino. On September 17, 2024, an email was sent to coordinate logistics for a field

meeting between SBTS, the County, and consulting Tribes. No response was received.

As of the circulation date of this IS/MND, no additional Tribes have responded to the request for Consultation. The NAHC letter and response, and copies of tribal correspondence are provided in the *Cultural Resources Inventory Letter Report for Bucks Lake Trail System, Plumas County, California* (NCE 2024b).

4.18.3 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in PRC § 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is: i. Listed or eligible for listing in CRHR, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC § 5020.1(k), or	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

4.18.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in PRC § 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

i. Listed or eligible for listing in CRHR, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC § 5020.1(k)?

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

or

ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC §

5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

As discussed in the Environmental Setting, archaeological sites are more likely to occur on flat topographic features close to water sources. The centrally located 8 acres of the APE (within Drainage 1) contain flat topography and meadow landscape and are considered to have moderate to high archaeological sensitivity. Drainages 2 and 3 located towards the east side of the APE are considered to have low to moderate archaeological sensitivity considering steeper slopes and few flat areas. It is recommended workers' awareness training mitigation be implemented prior to the onset of construction within the APE and near drainages.

Two tribes, the Maidu Summit Consortium and Mooretown Rancheria, have requested to consult on the Project. Both Tribes have requested to conduct a site visit of the APE with the Project proponent and the Maidu Summit Consortium has recommended tribal monitors be present during trail construction. The Maidu Summit Consortium has identified the Bucks Lake area as having been an important gathering area for the Mountain Maidu and neighboring tribes prior to Bucks Valley being dammed and turned into the lake reservoir it is today. The Tribe consortium indicated that processing and storage artifacts may be uncovered during trail construction.

The cultural resources inventory and initial consultations with Tribes have shown there is a possibility that Native American resources may be found in the APE. This would be a potentially significant impact on TCRs. The following mitigation measures would reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

- **Mitigation Measure TCR-1: Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP)**

The Project proponent shall require the applicant/contractor to provide a cultural resources and TCRs sensitivity and Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) for all personnel involved in Project construction, including field consultants and construction workers. The WEAP would be developed in coordination with an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for Archeology, as well as culturally affiliated Native American tribes. The proponent may invite Native American representatives from interested culturally affiliated Native American tribes to participate. The WEAP shall be conducted before any Project-related construction activities begin at the Project Area. The WEAP would include relevant information regarding sensitive cultural resources and TCRs, including applicable regulations, protocols for avoidance, and consequences of violating state laws and regulations.

The WEAP would also describe appropriate avoidance and impact minimization measures for cultural resources and TCRs outlined in Mitigation Measure TCR-3. The

WEAP would emphasize the requirement for confidentiality and culturally appropriate treatment of any discovery of significance to Native Americans and would discuss appropriate behaviors and responsive actions, consistent with Native American Tribal values.

- **Mitigation Measure TCR-2: Continue Consultation with Responding Tribes**

The Maidu Summit Consortium and Mooretown Rancheria shall be contacted to continue consultation. Consultation is considered concluded when either of the following occurs, pursuant to PRC 21080.3.2(b)(1): "The parties agree to measures to mitigate or avoid a significant effect, if a significant effect exists, on a tribal cultural resource," or PRC 21080.3.2(b)(2): "A party, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached." Agreed upon mitigation measures can include current Mitigation Measures TCR-1 and TCR-3 and/or newly agreed upon mitigation measures provided by the Tribe(s).

- **Mitigation Measure TCR-3: Inadvertent/Unanticipated Discovery**

The following measure is intended to address the evaluation and treatment of inadvertent/unanticipated discoveries of potential TCRs, archaeological, or cultural resources during the Project's ground-disturbing activities:

- If any suspected TCRs, archaeological, or cultural resources are discovered during ground-disturbing construction activities, all work shall cease within 100 feet of the find, or an agreed upon distance based on the Project Area and nature of the find. A qualified professional archaeologist and a Tribal Representative from a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area shall be immediately notified and shall determine if the find is a TCR (PRC § 21074). The Tribal Representative or qualified archaeologist would make recommendations for further evaluation and treatment as necessary.
- The contractor shall implement any measures deemed by the CEQA lead agency to be necessary and feasible to preserve in place, avoid, or minimize impacts to the resource, including, but not limited to, facilitating the appropriate tribal treatment of the find, as necessary.
- Work at the discovery location cannot resume until all necessary investigations and evaluation of the discovery have been satisfied.

Findings: Implementation of Mitigation Measures TCR-1, TCR-2, and TCR-3 would reduce potentially significant impacts to TCRs to less than significant.

4.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

4.19.1 Environmental Setting

Currently, the Project Area consists of undeveloped forested land. The Project contains PG&E lands; the nearest utilities are located within the nearby resort and residential areas.

4.19.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	No Impact
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	No Impact
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	No Impact
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	Less Than Significant Impact
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	Less Than Significant Impact

4.19.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

The Project consists of the construction of an unpaved trail. The Project does not involve features that would require the construction or relocation of expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities; therefore, there is no impact.

b) Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

The Project would not construct water supply facilities and would have no impact on water usage. The Project does not propose features that would require water services; therefore, there would be no impact.

c) Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

The Project does not involve the construction of restroom facilities or direct or indirect discharge of wastewater to sanitary sewer or on-site septic systems. No demand for wastewater treatment or facilities would occur as a result of the Project. The Project would not create or discharge wastewater and therefore would have no impact on a wastewater treatment operator.

d) Would the project generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

Construction would result in a temporary increase in solid waste generation, but not in excess of state or local standards or local infrastructure. Once constructed, the Project would provide an alternative transportation route through the area and would not create solid waste. Users would be directed to implement Leave No Trace principals and carry out their waste. Therefore, the project would have a less than significant impact.

e) Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Construction would result in a temporary increase in solid waste generation requiring disposal at area landfills. Waste generation would be temporary during construction and would not reduce available capacities at existing landfills. Disposal of construction waste would comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, the project would have a less than significant impact.

4.20 WILDFIRE

4.20.1 Environmental Setting

The Project Area contains USFS lands. CAL FIRE designates fire hazard severity zones for areas under state jurisdiction. For areas under local jurisdiction, CAL FIRE identifies areas that they consider to be Moderate, High, and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZs); the local jurisdiction must choose whether to adopt the CAL FIRE recommendations. Portions of the Project Area are within the state designated (SRA) Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

4.20.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	No Impact
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	Less Than Significant Impact
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	No Impact
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	No Impact

4.20.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

The Project is located within a state designated VHFHSZ. The County's adopted emergency plan includes prearranged emergency response procedures (Plumas County 2016). Emergency routes for the evacuation of Bucks Lake area include Bucks Lake Road and Big Creek Road. The Project involves the construction of a trail within an open space area and would not have an impact on the existing adopted emergency response plan or evacuation plan. Construction of the Project would not require changes to existing evacuation routes. Construction of the Project would provide an

additional emergency access corridor for wildland fire evacuation, emergency rescue, and law enforcement personnel and small vehicles, and the trail could provide some fire break benefits. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

b) Would the project, due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

The trail would be constructed to a design tread width of 12 to 24 inches; tread may be up to 36 inches along steep side slopes and high-use areas. This would create a break in the slope and forested environment; construction of the trail has the potential to serve as a small fire break should a fire occur in the area. Construction of the trail would not increase the risk associated with wildfire in this area. The Project does not propose to construct or modify habitable structures within the Project Area that could expose occupants to pollutant concentrations from wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire. Therefore, the project would have a less than significant impact.

c) Would the project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

The Project does not require associated infrastructure or utilities that would exacerbate fire risk. The Project would not require the installation or maintenance of new drainage systems or utility relocations. Construction of the trail would not exacerbate fire risk or result in ongoing impact to the surrounding environment. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

d) Would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

The Project is on moderately sloped terrain (design grade would be 5 to 12 percent with a short pitch maximum no more than 15 percent and an average running grade of 9.6 percent) and includes permanent stabilization techniques such as revegetation; therefore, the project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, because of runoff, post-fire slope stability or drainage changes. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

4.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

4.21.1 CEQA Checklist Summary

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, or the effects of probable future projects.)	Less Than Significant Impact
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	Less Than Significant Impact

4.21.2 Answers to CEQA Mandatory Findings of Significance Questions

a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

As discussed in Section 4.4, Biological Resources, Project construction could impact special status plants and wildlife, riparian vegetation, and jurisdictional waters. Implementation of the following Biological Resources Mitigation Measures would reduce the impacts to less than significant.

- Mitigation Measures BIO-1: Preconstruction Special Status Plant Survey and BIO-2: Control of Non-Native/Invasive Plants would minimize impacts to special status plants to less than significant.
- Mitigation Measures BIO-3: Preconstruction Nesting Bird Survey, BIO-4: Preconstruction Special Status Wildlife Survey, BIO-5: Biological Monitoring Near Perennial/Intermittent Drainages, and BIO-6: Preconstruction Survey for Underground Cavities/Burrows would mitigate impacts to special status plants,

wildlife, and migratory birds (including tree-nesting raptors) to less than significant.

Regulatory compliance with requirements in the Section 404 CWA permit, Section 401 Water Quality Certification, 1602 Streambed Alteration Notification, and implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-7: Minimization of Impacts to Riparian Vegetation and BIO-8: Minimization of Impacts to Jurisdictional Waters would mitigate impacts to riparian habitats to less than significant.

As discussed in Section 4.18, Tribal Cultural Resources, the cultural resources inventory and initial consultations with tribes have shown there is a possibility that Native American resources may be found in the APE. Implementation of Mitigation Measures TCR-1: Workers Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP), TCR-2: Continue Consultation with Responding Tribes, and TCR-3: Inadvertent/ Unanticipated Discovery would reduce potentially significant impacts to TCRs to less than significant.

No other potentially significant impacts to the environment, unique or rare species, habitats, or resources associated with the major periods of California history or prehistory were identified for the Project.

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, or the effects of probable future projects)?

Less Than Significant Impact

The Project would not result in an increase in population or growth that would require new housing, facilities, or structures that would cause environmental degradation. The Project does not result in an exceedance for any criteria air pollutant for which the region is in non-attainment; therefore, there would be no cumulatively considerable net increase in criteria pollutants. The Project would be consistent with local, state, and federal regulations pertaining to the protection and mitigation of impacts to sensitive resources, and compliance with the terms of permitting conditions would ensure that adverse impacts to resources are mitigated and would not result in cumulative impacts. All identified potentially significant impacts from construction and implementation would be reduced to less than significant with the mitigation measures that have been included in the Project.

c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Less Than Significant Impact

All potential impacts associated with construction and implementation of the Project identified in this IS/MND are either less than significant after mitigation or less than

significant and do not require mitigation. No adverse effects on human beings, such as noise or hazards were identified. Additionally, implementation of BMPs and compliance with state and federal regulations protecting human and environmental health during construction, such as preparation of a SWPPP, would be implemented. Therefore, the Project would not result in environmental effects that cause substantial adverse effects on human beings either directly or indirectly.

Once the Project is constructed, the unpaved trail would positively affect humans through improvement of the non-automobile transportation network.

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Appendix A

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT



Biological Resource Assessment

Bucks Lake Trail System

December 2022

NCE

Lake Tahoe, NV

224 Kingsbury Grade Rd.
Suite 203
Stateline, NV 89449



Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship

550 Crescent Street
Quincy, CA 95971

Collaboration. Commitment. Confidence.℠

Biological Resource Assessment

Bucks Lake Trail System

Bucks Lake, Plumas County, California

December 2022

Prepared for:

Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship
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Appendix B

Table 1. Special Status Plant Species Considered for the Project
Table 2. Special Status Wildlife Species Considered for the Project
Table 3. Plant Species Observed During Surveys
Table 4. Wildlife Species Observed During Surveys

1 Introduction

This Biological Resource Assessment (BRA) was prepared for the Bucks Lake Trail System (Project) on behalf of the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship (SBTS). The Project is located on the southeast shore of Bucks Lake in Plumas County, California. This BRA describes the biological resources found in the Project area, or Area of Potential Effect (APE), and the potential for impacts to biological resources that must be considered under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This report concludes with an analysis of those potential impacts and how they may be reduced to less-than-significant with appropriate mitigation measures.

The objectives of this report are to:

- Summarize all site-specific information related to existing biological resources.
- Draw reasonable conclusions about the biological resources that could occur in the APE based on habitat suitability, historical occurrences, existing data, and the proximity of the site to a species' known range.
- Identify and discuss the potential impacts to biological resources from the proposed Project likely to occur on and near the site within the context of CEQA.
- Identify avoidance and mitigation measures that would reduce potential impacts and that are generally consistent with recommendations of the resource agencies for affected biological resources.

2 Project Description

2.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed Project is on the southeast shore of Bucks Lake, approximately 15 miles west of historic downtown Quincy in Plumas County, California. It is located within Sections 1 and 2, Township 23 North, Range 7 East on the U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute Bucks Lake and Haskins Valley topographic maps (**Figure 1**). The approximately 52-acre APE consists of a 100-foot-wide corridor (50-foot buffer to each side) centered on the proposed trail alignment (**Figure 2**). All figures are presented in **Appendix A**.

2.2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The SBTS was awarded a Stewardship Council grant to conduct an environmental review and seek approval to construct and maintain a non-motorized trail system on the southeast shore of Bucks Lake in Plumas County, California. The proposed Project is located on two Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E)-owned parcels identified by Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 112-060-008 and 112-060-007. The parcels total 682.68 acres. Of this area, 1.5 acres are proposed to be developed into a single-lane, standard/terra, non-motorized trail system resulting in approximately 5 miles of new trail for recreation in the Bucks Lake Recreation Area.

Project approval will be sought through a Third-Party Request to Use PG&E Lands, the California Public Utility Commission 851 Advice Letter process, and a special use permit from the Plumas County Planning Department. NCE has been retained to complete environmental review of the Project in compliance with CEQA.

2.3 PROJECT OBJECTIVES, PURPOSE, AND NEED

The goal of the Project is to provide connectivity between existing U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS) trails and resort areas and provide a safe, non-motorized alternative to traveling along Bucks Lake Road to access these areas. Visiting trail users would be able to park at the existing Bucks Lake Loop Trailhead and access the proposed trails via the Bucks Lake Loop Trail. Bucks Lake residents would be able to access the trail system from the resort and cabin areas.

The Project would be managed for both hiking and biking recreation opportunities, and designed to bicycle parameters, which include:

- Design tread width will be 12 to 24 inches; tread may be up to 36 inches along steep side slopes and high-use areas. The maximum depth of excavation to construct the trail is approximately 8 to 13 inches deep depending on slope.
- Design structures will have a minimum tread of 18 inches.

- Design surface will be native with limited grading; protrusions might be common and continuous but less than or equal to 6 inches.
- Design grade will be 5 to 12 percent with a short pitch maximum no more than 15 percent and an average running grade of 9.6 percent.
- Design cross-slope will be 5 to 8 percent with a maximum cross slope of 10 percent.
- Design clearing will be to a height of 6 to 8 feet, clearing width will be 60 to 72 inches, shoulder clearance will be 6 to 12 inches, and light vegetation may encroach into the clearing area.
    - No trees larger than 6 inches in diameter will be removed and all vegetation will either be removed by pulling the root wad or by cutting flush with ground.
- Design turning radius will be 3 to 6 feet.

Other improvements to the property will include: (1) one bridge with railings crossing a perennial stream to protect aquatic resources and public drinking water infrastructure; (2) eight simple stringer bridges or hardened water crossings across the intermittent drainages; (3) single post sign at entrances to trail system showing allowable uses; and (4) directional carsonite signs at trail intersections.

No parking areas, buildings, or other permanent infrastructure are being proposed as part of the Project. Access to the trail system would be seasonal with no maintenance occurring during the winter season. Seasonal summer maintenance of the trail system will be through Adopt-A-Trail partnerships and volunteer hours. Maintenance of the trail is expected to be performed by hand tools only with the exception of any bridge maintenance, which will require mechanical assistance.

Based on current recreational trail use in the area, it is anticipated the new trail system use on weekends during peak season (Memorial Day through Labor Day) will be 0 to 3 individuals hourly and 25 to 30 individuals daily. Use is anticipated to be less on weekdays during peak season as well as weekends and weekdays during the non-peak season. The trail system is not anticipated to be used during the winter season.

2.4 SURROUNDING LAND USES AND SETTING

Land use in the APE is predominantly open space with nearby residential development along the south shore of Bucks Lake. General Plan designations for the area include Timber Resource Land, Secondary Suburban Residential, and Resort and Recreation. Zoning includes General Forest, Secondary Suburban, and Recreation. Evidence of previous timber resource use in the APE includes a restoration area and abandoned forest roads.

2.5 CONSTRUCTION ACCESS AND STAGING

Construction access to the site is gained from parking locations at the Bucks Lakeshore Resort, trailheads at Bucks Creek at the east end of the APE, and various shoulder locations along Bucks Lake Road. Equipment will be staged at the trail construction location.

2.6 CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

The USFS *Standard Specifications for Construction and Maintenance of Trails* (EM-7730-103; 1996) will be followed to construct the Project. The trail system will be constructed to Class 2 Moderately Developed, which includes continuous and discernible, but narrow and rough tread constructed of native materials. Construction will include both mechanized (mini-excavator, pionjar, over-the-counter boulder-busting charges) and hand-construction methods (McLeod, pulaski, picks, etc.).

Trail construction is estimated to take 16 to 17 weeks across 2 field seasons and expected to start in summer of 2023.

3 Methods

The purpose of this BRA is to describe the biological resources found in the APE and the potential for impacts to those biological resources resulting from the proposed Project that must be considered under CEQA.

Database research, literature reviews, and information requests for biological resources known to occur in the vicinity of the APE were conducted to assist with the determinations contained in this document.

The following preliminary research was conducted:

- Database searches for biological resources within the APE, including:
    - California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB; California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW] 2022a)
    - Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] 2022)
    - Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (California Native Plant Society [CNPS] n.d.).
- Review of Plumas National Forest records (USFS 2022).
- Personal communication with Colin Dilingham (USFS, Plumas National Forest) regarding occurrences of Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog in the vicinity of the APE, April 28, 2022.

Reconnaissance-level field surveys were conducted within the APE to evaluate the accuracy of the preliminary research and to determine potential for special-status plant and wildlife species to occur based on habitat requirements and existing site conditions. The site was visited on August 10 and 11, 2022, by NCE scientists. The surveys involved observing and recording plant communities and wildlife (including tracks and sign), verifying Classification and Assessment with Landsat of Visible Ecological Groupings (CALVEG; U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA] 2008) classifications in the APE, evaluating habitats for special status species, and identifying plants to a taxonomic level necessary for the determination of their rarity and listing status. The surveys were conducted along the proposed trail alignment (**Figure 2**), and meandering transects were conducted off-trail when necessary to investigate complex habitats, snags, wildlife tracks, and potential refugia. Focused protocol surveys for special status species of flora and fauna were not conducted; however, numerous northern goshawk calls were broadcast during the day and California spotted owl calls were broadcast at night to elicit responses of any individuals present in suitable habitat near the trail alignment.

On the days of the surveys, the temperature ranged from 52 to 78 degrees Fahrenheit. The skies were clear with winds at 1 to 3 miles per hour. Survey equipment included a Trimble GeoExplorer 6000 Series GPS unit, binoculars,

portable speaker for broadcasting raptor calls, and smartphone utilizing the ESRI Field Maps application.

4 Results

4.1 HABITATS

The following vegetation types were initially identified with the CALVEG GIS data (USDA 2009) and then verified based on the NCE reconnaissance field surveys (**Figure 3**). Vegetation alliances in the APE were found to be consistent with the type, location, and size mapped by CALVEG; however, the area along the southern shore of Bucks Lake contains moderate residential and campground development. The APE is dominated by white fir (*Abies concolor*) forest (White Fir Alliance) with varying density and canopy-layer complexity but has likely been thinned for fire management and impacted by logging over the past century. Upper Montane Mixed Chaparral, Lodgepole Pine Alliance, and Mixed Conifer-Fir Alliance are also present. Riparian corridors consisting of Willow-Alder and Mountain (Thinleaf) Alder Alliances are also present in two of the drainages in the APE. Most of the drainages in the APE are ephemeral and were dry during the site visit; however, the two drainages containing well-established alders are associated with more consistent, perennial sources of water including a natural spring. Common disturbances in the APE include altered landscapes around the residences and campgrounds, litter, domestic pets, humans, past timber harvest, and vehicular traffic.

Habitat in the APE, and the Bucks Lake watershed in general, is remote and high-quality with the potential to support various special status species. The landscape presents signs of modification by human activity over the past century, including timber harvest, residential/resort development, and the introduction of sport fishes into Bucks Lake. These fish include Kokanee salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), and lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*). Unless otherwise referenced, the descriptions of the habitats found in the APE below are taken from the USFS North Sierran Ecological Province (Zone 3) Vegetation Descriptions (USDA 2008). All subsections mentioned are within the north portion of the Sierra Nevada Section in Zone 3.

4.1.1 White Fir Alliance (CALVEG Code WF)

This habitat type is dominant throughout the APE. Pure stands of white fir are found primarily on both eastside and westside slopes of the northern Sierra at an elevation range of about 3000 to 9200 feet (915 to 2806 meters). In general, white fir occurs typically in cool, moist, shady environments on north aspects, in riparian positions, and around large lakes, such as Bucks Lake. This Alliance, defined by this dominant conifer, has been mapped widely with varying intensities within 14 subsections in this zone. The white fir band often represents an intermediate zone between the Mixed Conifer - Pine and Mixed Conifer - Fir Alliances on south and west aspects, and between the Mixed Conifer - Pine and Red Fir Alliances on north

and east aspects, the conifer usually being a component of these 3 types. Black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) is most commonly associated as the understory hardwood in mixed stands, in addition to shrubs of the Upper Montane Chaparral Alliance such as snowbrush (*Ceanothus velutinus*) and greenleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos patula*) in open white fir stands.

White fir habitats are found on a variety of soils developed from different parent materials, including volcanic and igneous rocks, granitics, various metamorphics, and sedimentary material (Franklin and Dyrness 1973, Fowells 1965, Hopkins 1982). Elevation of white-fir habitat varies with latitude. Cooler north- and east-facing slopes are the most common sites throughout the state.

As stands mature, a high percentage of defective trees are found as the result of windthrow and heart rot fungus (Gordon 1978, Hopkins 1982). The benefit of heart rot is the cylindrically stable snag created as a result of the rot moving from the inside of the tree to the outer diameter, providing excellent habitat for snag- and cavity-dependent wildlife species, particularly when breaks occur between 15 and 30 meters (50 to 100 feet) (Mayer and Laudenslayer 1988). White fir is the preferred tree species for insect-gleaning yellow-rumped warblers (*Dendroica coronata*) and western tanagers (*Piranga ludoviciana*) and is also commonly used by other insect-gleaning birds, such as mountain chickadee (*Poecile gambeli*), chestnut-backed chickadee (*Poecile rufescens*), golden-crowned kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*), and black-headed grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) (Airola and Barrett 1985).

4.1.2 Upper Montane Mixed Chaparral (CALVEG Code CX)

This habitat type is mapped south of the proposed trail alignment but is also present throughout the APE in small, unmapped patches, often at the top of slopes or hills with rock outcrops. The Upper Montane Mixed Chaparral Alliance is a widespread and diverse mixed-shrub type that occurs abundantly in 7 subsections and occasionally in 13 others at moderate to high elevations of this zone. Chaparral species such as greenleaf manzanita, mountain whitethorn (*Ceanothus cordulatus*), snowbrush and deerbrush (*Ceanothus integerrimus*) are indicators of this type. Deerbrush is found extensively on deep mesic soils of the westside of the Northern Sierra. Greenleaf manzanita and mountain whitethorn are found most commonly associated with the Mixed Conifer - Fir, Red Fir, and White Fir Alliances. On eastside Sierran slopes, big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata*) and squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides*) may also occur in this Alliance. Whiteleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos viscida*) may be present on the westside foothills at lower elevations of this type, representing a transition between the Lower Montane Mixed Chaparral Alliance and this Alliance. Red and white firs and ponderosa pine are often found in the immediate vicinity of this habitat.

4.1.3 Lodgepole Pine Alliance (CALVEG Code LP)

This habitat type is present along Bucks Creek and the northeast edge of the proposed trail alignment. The Lodgepole Pine Alliance has been mapped at elevations up to about 10,000 feet (3050 meters) in this zone. Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta* ssp. *murrayana*) – a medium-sized conifer of open habitats – is found either in dense, pure stands in swales with abundant year-round moisture or as scattered individual trees on very dry soils. The Lodgepole Pine Alliance has been identified abundantly in the Glaciated Batholith and Volcanic Flows, Tahoe Valley, and Carson Range Subsections and less frequently in 10 others. This conifer is an aggressive pioneer series on such sites, but as microsite conditions improve, it may be replaced by red fir (*Abies magnifica* var. *magnifica*), white fir, or Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*). On the periphery of meadows, as the water table level drops, Lodgepole pine may be invasive and replace the sedge and forb species. Shrubs such as huckleberry oak (*Quercus vaccinifolia*) and mountain sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *vaseyana*) are often present on or in the vicinity of these sites.

4.1.4 Mixed Conifer – Fir Alliance (CALVEG Code MF)

This habitat type is sparse in the vicinity of the APE, mapped north and west of the proposed trail alignment. The Mixed Conifer - Fir Alliance is the high-elevation and often more moisture-deficient counterpart of the Mixed Conifer - Pine Alliance. It occurs at elevations up to about 9000 feet (2745 meters) in this zone, typically on eastside soils. An extensive type, it has been mapped widely and very abundantly in 11 subsections and less frequently in 7 others. Three major species define this mixed conifer type: white fir, Jeffrey pine, and/or lodgepole pine. At lower elevations, the Mixed Conifer Pine Alliance associates such as Pacific Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and Ponderosa pine (*P. ponderosa*) may occur in trace amounts in the Mixed Conifer - Fir type. As elevations begin to increase, red fir becomes more prominent. Other associates at all elevations may include sugar pine (*P. lambertiana*) and incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*). Upper elevation and Great Basin shrubs are often found on or next to these locations, including greenleaf manzanita, huckleberry oak, curl leaf mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*), snowbrush, mountain alder (*Alnus incana* ssp. *tenuifolia*), mountain sagebrush, and bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*). Black oak, willows (*Salix* spp.) and quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) are also likely to occur on these sites.

4.1.5 Willow – Alder Alliance (CALVEG Code QY)

This habitat type is present in one riparian corridor at the southeast end of the proposed trail alignment. This Alliance includes any tree species of willow combined with white alders (*Alnus rhombifolia*) or mountain alders occurring together in stream or seepage areas where neither is clearly dominant in the riparian mixture. This wide-ranging type has been mapped occasionally within 10 subsections of this

zone at elevations generally below 7400 feet (2256 meters). Common associates include upland conifers such as white fir and Ponderosa pine in addition to shrubs such as species of gooseberry and currant (*Ribes* spp.), blackberry and other edible berries (*Rubus* spp.), wild rose (*Rosa* spp.) and poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), along with various graminoids and forbs.

4.1.6 Mountain (Thinleaf) Alder Alliance (CALVEG Code TA)

This habitat type is present in numerous riparian corridors around the vicinity of the trail alignment. Mountain or thinleaf alder is a dominant high-elevation small tree or tall shrub species, generally occurring in pure stands between about 4200 and 8800 feet (1280 and 2684 meters) in this region. As a dominant shrub, it has been identified in small, very scattered stands in 13 subsections of this zone. The type occurs in large perennial grass and forb meadows where stream courses and coarse, shallow or gravelly soils exist. These saturated or seasonally flooded sites are sometimes adjacent to White Fir, Mixed Conifer - Fir, and Red Fir sites. Minor inclusions of tree or shrub willows or mountain maple (*Acer glabrum*) may occur in this type, but the density of mountain alder stands limits the growth of other species aside from some aquatic gaminoids and forbs.

4.1.7 Barren (CALVEG Code BA)

Landscapes generally devoid of vegetation, as seen from a high-altitude image source such as aerial photography, are labeled as Barren. This category includes mappable landscape units in which surface lithology is dominant, such as exposed bedrock, cliffs, interior sandy or gypsum areas, and the like. It usually does not include barren areas considered as modified or developed, as in urban areas. The CALVEG mapped barren location on the eastern end of the proposed trail alignment has been restored and now resembles a perennial grassland. The barren location on the western portion of the APE is now the Bucks Lakeshore Resort.

4.2 CLIMATE

The climate in Plumas County varies depending on the location and topography. Bucks Lake experiences average monthly temperatures between 89.5 degrees Fahrenheit in July and 23.5 degrees Fahrenheit in December. Average annual precipitation is 40.2 inches The wettest month is January, with 7.4 inches of precipitation and the driest month is July, with 0.14 inch of precipitation on average. During winter, monthly average snowfall peaks in March, reaching approximately 16.9 inches. Average annual snowfall is 55.1 inches (Western Regional Climate Center 2022).

4.3 SOILS

Soils within the APE have been mapped by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and are described in the Custom Soil Resource Report

for the Plumas National Forest Area, California (USDA n.d.). The APE includes three soil types: Chaix family - Haplaquolls complex, 2 to 30 percent slopes, Chaix - Wapi families complex, 30 to 50 percent slopes, and Goodlow - Haplaquolls complex, 0 to 10 percent slopes. The NRCS descriptions of these soil types are provided below.

4.3.1 Soil Unit: Chaix family - Haplaquolls Complex, 2 to 30% Slopes

This soil unit complex is found on mountains and alluvial fans at elevations between 2,500 and 5,800 feet above mean sea level. The components of this soil type are 60 percent Chaix family and similar soils, 35 percent Haplaquolls and similar soils, and 5 percent minor components. The soil unit has a Natural Drainage Class of somewhat poorly drained to well-drained with a high saturated hydraulic conductivity (Ksat =1.98 to 5.95 inches/hour). The depth to the water table is more than 80 inches. There is no flooding or ponding and the available water storage in its profile is low (4.4 to 4.9 inches).

The Chaix family typical horizon (H) profile is:

H1 - 0 to 8 inches: sandy loam

H2 – 8 to 37 inches: sandy loam

H3 – 37 to 45 inches: gravelly loamy sand

H4 – 45 to 60 inches: weathered bedrock

The Haplaquolls typical profile is:

H1 - 0 to 15 inches: sandy loam

H2 – 15 to 47 inches: loamy sand

H3 – 47 to 62 inches: very gravelly loamy coarse sand

This soil type is found in the northern and central portions of the APE. The Chaix family - Haplaquolls complex is classified as a hydric soil (USDA n.d.).

4.3.2 Soil Unit: Chaix – Wapi Families Complex, 30 to 50% Slopes

This soil unit is found on mountains between 5,200 and 5,800 feet above mean sea level. The components of this soil type are 60 percent Chaix family and similar soils, 25 percent Wapi family and similar soils, and 15 percent minor components. The soil unit has a Natural Drainage Class of well-drained to somewhat excessively drained and high to very-high saturated hydraulic conductivity (Ksat = 5.95 to 19.98 inches/hour). The depth to the water table is more than 80 inches. There is no flooding or ponding and the available water storage in its profile is low to very low (0.8 to 4.9 inches).

The typical Wapi family profile is:

H1 - 0 to 3 inches: gravelly loamy sand

H2 - 3 to 18 inches: gravelly coarse sand

H3 – 18 to 28 inches: unweathered bedrock

This soil complex is found in the southern portion of the APE. Chaix and Wapi families are not classified as hydric soils (USDA n.d.).

4.3.3 Soil Unit: Goodlow – Haplaquolls Complex, 0 to 10% Slopes

This soil unit is typically found on basin floors, toe slopes, and mountain bases between 6,200 and 7,800 feet above mean sea level. The components of this soil type are 55 percent Goodlow family and similar soils, 30 percent Haplaquolls and similar soils, and 10 percent minor components. The soil unit has a Natural Drainage Class of poorly drained to well-drained and high saturated hydraulic conductivity (Ksat =1.98 to 5.95 inches/hour). The depth to the water table is more than 80 inches. There is no flooding or ponding and the available water storage in its profile is low to very low (1.7 to 4.4 inches).

The typical Goodlow family profile is:

H1 - 0 to 5 inches: gravelly sandy loam

H2 - 5 to 26 inches: very gravelly sandy loam

H3 – 26 to 36 inches: unweathered bedrock

This soil complex is found in the northeast portion of the APE. The Goodlow family is not classified as a hydric soil (USDA n.d.).

4.4 TOPOGRAPHY

The APE is located on the southeast shore of Bucks Lake. Slopes in the APE average 20 degrees and are primarily north-facing. Elevation of the trail alignment, which contains switch backs and crosses numerous un-named drainages, ranges between 5,200 and 5,440 feet above mean sea level.

4.5 SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

A wide variety of taxa native to the state of California have low populations, limited distributions, or are otherwise vulnerable to extinction or extirpation within the state. Although they may include Ecologically Significant Units and sub-species as well as species, these taxa are collectively referred to as "special status species."

These flora and fauna may be considered "rare" and are vulnerable to extirpation as the state's human population grows, the habitats these species occupy are converted to agricultural and urban land uses, and or they are subject to other impacts, such as climate change, pollution, or wildfires. State and federal laws have provided the CDFW and the USFWS with the responsibility for conserving and protecting the diversity of plant and animal species native to the state. Because of the diversity of habitats within the state, a relatively large number of native plants

and animals have been formally designated as "threatened" or "endangered" under state and federal endangered species legislation. Others have been designated as candidates for such listing or have been designated as "species of special concern" by the CDFW. The CNPS has developed its own set of lists of native plants considered rare, threatened, or endangered (CNPS 2022).

Several special status plants and animals have the potential to occur in the vicinity of the APE and these species and the likelihood of their occurrence in the APE are listed in **Appendix B**, **Tables 1** and **2,** respectively. Sources of information for these tables include:

- *California's Wildlife*, Volumes I, II, and III (Zeiner et. al 1988)
- CNDDB and Spotted Owl Viewer (CDFW 2022a)
- CDFW Special Animals List (CDFW 2022b).
- California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR) (CDFW 2021)
- CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (CNPS n.d.)
- Information for Planning and Conservation (USFWS 2022)
- Plumas National Forest biological resource information received from the USFS

The right column in **Tables 1** and **2** lists the potential for occurrence in the APE for each species. Species listed as "present" were observed in the APE during the surveys or have recent occurrence data within the APE. Species listed as "potential" were not observed during the surveys, but suitable habitat and or historical occurrence data are present within the APE. An "unlikely" listing means the species was not observed and is not expected to occur because of limited habitat potential, except perhaps, as a transient. Any species listed as "absent" may be known to occur in the general vicinity of the APE, but none were observed, and the species is precluded from occurring there because habitat requirements are not met.

4.5.1 Special Status Plants

Table 1 presents a list of special status plant species with the potential to occur in the APE identified by the background database research and evaluated during the surveys. The CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants revealed 13 rare or special status plants known to occur in the Bucks Lake quad. A 9-quad search was used for initial analysis and survey preparation, but only the analysis of plants in the Bucks Lake quad are included in **Table 1** for conciseness.

No special status plants were observed in the APE during the surveys. CNDDB occurrences for mud sedge (*Carex limosa*), northern coralroot (*Corallorhiza trifida*), and long-leaved starwort (*Stellaria longifolia*) are present near the APE (**Figure 4**), but these plants were not observed during reconnaissance-level field surveys. Numerous special status plant species have potential to occur in the APE based on

their habitat requirements and nearby occurrences. Additional discussion of these species and their potential for occurrence is included in **Table 1**. A complete list of plant species observed during the surveys is presented in **Table 3**.

4.5.2 Special Status Wildlife

Special status wildlife species with the potential to occur in the APE, identified by the background database research and evaluated during the reconnaissance-level field survey, are presented in **Table 2**.

CNDDB occurrences for Sierra Nevada mountain beaver (*Aplodontia rufa californica*), North American porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*), western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis*), Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae*), Sierra Nevada red fox (*Vulpes necator*), willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*), and southern long-toed salamander (*Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum*) are present within 1 mile of the APE (**Figure 4**). A single bumble bee individual was observed during the surveys of the trail alignment, but its species could not be determined before it left the area. Western bumble bees occupy underground cavities such as small mammal burrows. Few nests have been reported from aboveground locations and little is known about the species' wintering sites (Jepsen et al. 2014).

The USFS provided locations of numerous Protected Activity Centers and Limited Operating Period buffers for known locations of California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*), northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), and bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) in the vicinity of the APE (**Figure 5**). Only the osprey and bald eagle Limited Operating Period buffers overlap with the APE. The osprey nest site, which was inactive at the time of the surveys, is easily visible from Bucks Lake Road and the proposed trail alignment. The bald eagle nest at Bucks Lodge was not observed. Of these species, only osprey (heard calling in the distance) were encountered during the reconnaissance-level field surveys. Northern goshawk calls were broadcast into suitable habitat along the trail alignment during the morning and early afternoon, but no individuals were detected. California spotted owl calls were broadcast in the early evening, just after sunset, into suitable habitat in the central and eastern areas of the APE, but no individuals were detected. The broadcasts of the northern goshawk and California spotted owl calls were exploratory and not a part of protocol surveys.

Results of the USFWS IPaC database search indicate that Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), and monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) may be found in the APE or be impacted by the Project. There is a CNDDB record from 1991 of Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog in Haskins Creek approximately 0.5 mile south of the APE. USFS-mapped suitable habitat and USFWS critical habitat are present in the APE and overlap with the trail alignment (**Figure 6**). Plumas National Forest biologists have no recent Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog detections around Bucks Lake or Haskins Creek. The reconnaissance-

level field surveys confirmed suitable habitat is absent in the APE – the drainages are mostly dry, only one perennial stream is present (**Figure 7**, Drainage 1a), and all drainages in the APE connect to Bucks Lake via dry roadside ditches and culverts. Introduced fish including Kokanee and several trout species are present in Bucks Creek and Bucks Lake. The presence of introduced trout reduces the potential for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs, as the trout are a well-known factor contributing to the decline of populations throughout the Sierra Nevada (Bradford 1989; Knapp 2005). Two drainage crossings, (**Figure 7**, Drainages 3 and 6), are proposed within Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog USFWS federal critical habitat. The reconnaissance-level field surveys confirmed these drainages are dry, intermittent, have no associated riparian corridor, and have low potential to support the species. USFS-mapped Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog suitable habitat overlaps the trail alignment on the eastern end of the APE (**Figure 7**, Drainage 4) and was also identified as low-quality habitat and a dry, intermittent drainage during the field surveys.

Other than osprey, no special status wildlife species were observed in the vicinity of the APE during the surveys. A flammulated owl (*Psiloscops flammeolus*), which is a USFWS bird of conservation concern, was heard during the nocturnal California spotted owl broadcasts. Birds of conservation concern are identified by the USFWS to become candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act without additional conservation action. These species are not protected by any legislation, but rather the USFWS aims to prevent these species' need for federal listing through proactive conservation. Overall, numerous special status wildlife species have potential to occur along the trail alignment. A complete list of wildlife species observed during the survey is presented in **Table 4**.

5 Relevant Regulations

5.1 MIGRATORY BIRDS AND RAPTORS

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA; 16 United States Code [U.S.C.] § 703 et seq.) states it is unlawful at any time, by any means or in any manner, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, or kill migratory birds. The law applies to the removal of nests (such as swallow nests on bridges) occupied by migratory birds during the breeding season. The list of bird species protected under the MBTA, which includes raptors, can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 50, Part 10.13.

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, enacted in 1940, prohibits take of bald or golden eagles, including nests, eggs, feathers, or other parts without a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior. The Act defines "take" as "pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb." Regulations further define "disturb" as "to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available, 1) injury to an eagle, 2) a decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or 3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior" (50 CFR 22.6).

5.2 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) and California Endangered Species Act has provided the USFWS and the CDFW with a mechanism for conserving and protecting plant and animal species of limited distribution and/or low or declining populations. Species listed as threatened or endangered under provisions of the federal and state endangered species acts, candidate species for such listing, state species of special concern, and some plants listed as endangered by the CNPS are collectively referred to as "special status species."

Permits may be required from both the CDFW and USFWS if activities associated with a proposed Project will result in the "take" of a listed species. "Take" is defined by the state of California as "to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill" (California Fish and Game Code [FGC] § 86). "Take" is more broadly defined by the federal ESA to include "harm" (16 U.S.C. § 1532(19), 50 CFR 17.3). Furthermore, the CDFW and the USFWS are responding agencies under CEQA. Both agencies review CEQA documents to determine the adequacy of their treatment of endangered species issues and to make project-specific recommendations for their conservation.

5.3 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS

Jurisdictional waters are defined by the laws that protect them, including the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and the California FGC §§ 1601 through 1603 (§ 1600). The CWA regulates waters of the U.S., which typically include rivers, creeks, and drainages that have a defined bed and bank and which, at the very least, carry ephemeral flows. Waters of the U.S. may also include lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and wetlands, if these waters have a significant nexus with a Traditional Navigable Water.

Creeks, rivers, lakes, and their associated riparian areas may be subject to regulation by the CDFW under Section 1600, and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board may take jurisdiction over all waters of the state. Waters of the state are defined as all surface and groundwater within the state of California. The CDFW has jurisdiction over the bed and bank of natural drainages according to provisions of Section 1601 and 1602 of the California FGC. Activities that will disturb these drainages are regulated by the CDFW via a Streambed Alteration Agreement. Such an agreement typically stipulates that certain measures will be implemented to protect the habitat values of the drainage in question.

The proposed trail alignment crosses a total of six unnamed drainages (**Figure 7**). Most of the drainages are dry, except for Drainage 1 which is a perennial stream feeding an underground drinking-water collection tank. The trail was rerouted to avoid riparian habitat and a wet meadow associated with the perennial stream during the early stages of environmental review.

Based on the NCE's site investigations, ordinary high water mark data collection (NCE 2022), and soil pit investigations, several drainages are under the jurisdiction of permitting agencies. SBTS will be required to prepare and submit a non-reporting U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Section 404 permit application, a Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements application, and a CDFW Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement. Additionally, because the APE is located on PG&E land and the County will need to grant approval, SBTS will need to apply for a California Public Utility Commission 851 Advice Letter and a special use permit from the Plumas County Planning Department.

6 Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The Project will include the installation of a Class 2 single-track trail (up to 36 inches wide along steep slopes or high-use areas) along the proposed trail alignment. The work will require grading and vegetation removal to create the necessary tread width. Design vegetation clearing is 6 to 8 feet tall and up to 72 inches wide. The Project includes plans for crossing jurisdictional drainages with bridges, including one bridge with railings at a perennial stream (**Figure 7**, Drainage 1a) to protect aquatic resources and public drinking water infrastructure, and eight simple stringer bridges or hardened water crossing across the ephemeral drainages.

Biological resources identified during the survey include an inactive osprey nest, numerous white fir snags, a frequently visited den associated with a rock outcrop (tracks from various small mammal species at the entrance), ephemeral drainages, and springs (**Figure 7**). These ephemeral drainages, springs, and associate step-pools may provide suitable habitat for special status species, such as Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and southern long-toed salamander, during certain wet years. Snags and rotting logs from dead trees are present throughout the APE and are important sites for fisher (*Pekania pennanti*) and American marten (*Martes americana*), as they provide suitable cavities for refuge, food storage, and reproduction (Williams 1986). Western bumblebees may occur in underground cavities such as small mammal burrows in the APE, therefore ground-disturbing activities may cause direct impacts to this species.

The trail construction activities associated with the Project have the potential to temporarily impact these natural resources, either directly or indirectly. Potential impacts include the possibility of disturbing protected flora and fauna, degrading their habitats, preventing the successful breeding of raptors or other birds, or degrading water quality in drainages and Bucks Lake. NCE recommends the mitigation measures detailed in the following sections to avoid or minimize impacts to special status species and their resources.

6.1 SPECIAL STATUS PLANTS

Mitigation Measure 1: There is potential for the special status plant species described in **Table 1**, and other special status plant species not included in the table, to occur near or along the proposed trail alignment prior to construction. A preconstruction survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist. This survey will focus on the areas of proposed ground-disturbing activities and will occur during the appropriate season necessary for plant identification. The purpose of the survey is to determine the presence or absence of special status plants in the APE prior to the time of trail construction. Should one or more populations of special status plant species be detected within the APE, then individuals shall be marked for

avoidance (with pin flags or other easily visible flagging) through the duration of the Project. If the trail cannot be rerouted to avoid the population or individual plant, the USFS, USFWS, and/or CDFW should be consulted for appropriate action.

Mitigation Measure 2: To further protect potential rare plant populations and their habitats in the APE, best management practices (BMPs) to control the spread of invasive plants will be implemented, such as ensuring all equipment and tools are free of dirt, plant material, and seeds prior to mobilization.

Implementation of the above measures is expected to reduce Project impacts to a less-than-significant level to any special status plant species that may occur on the site.

6.2 SPECIAL STATUS WILDLIFE

Mitigation Measure 3: If trees and other vegetation need to be removed, pulled, cut, or otherwise disturbed, these activities will occur during the non-breeding season, typically September 1 through January 31. If it is not possible to schedule these activities outside of the breeding season (February 1 through August 31), a qualified biologist will conduct a pre-disturbance survey for nesting birds and raptors in all trees along the trail alignment and within 250 feet of the footprint no more than 10 days prior to the onset of ground disturbance. If nesting birds are detected during the survey, a suitable activity-free buffer will be established around all active nests. The precise dimension of the buffer (up to 500 feet for raptors) will be determined after consultation with USFS and CDFW and may vary depending on location and species. Buffers will remain in place for the duration of the breeding season or until it has been confirmed by a qualified biologist that all chicks have fledged and are no longer dependent on the nest location. Status of the osprey and bald eagle nests in the APE shall be determined during the survey. If these nests are confirmed active, the USFS will be consulted prior to any work conducted within the Limited Operating Period buffers that overlap with the trail alignment. The Limited Operating Periods for bald eagle and osprey are January 1 to August 31 and March 15 to August 15, respectively.

Implementation of the above measure will mitigate impacts to migratory birds, including tree-nesting raptors, to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure 4: Prior to initiating trail construction, a preconstruction survey for the presence of special status wildlife species listed in **Table 2** will be conducted along the trail alignment and within 250 feet of the footprint. If special status species are encountered within the vicinity of the APE during the preconstruction survey or during construction of the trail, avoidance of impacts to these species shall be conducted following consultation with CDFW, USFS, and/or USFWS as necessary.

Mitigation Measure 5: SBTS shall provide an on-site biological monitor during construction near the perennial drainage. This monitor's duty will be to inform the construction superintendent and site crew of basic identification, ecology, and agency protections of Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs and the appropriate actions to take if a frog is seen on the site during construction. If a frog is encountered during monitoring, and the biological monitor suspects it has potential to be a Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, work on the drainage crossing will stop and USFWS will be consulted for instruction on how to proceed in accordance with the ESA. If the other intermittent drainages in the APE are determined to have potential to support Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog during the preconstruction survey (e.g., there is sufficient flow or standing water in the drainage or step pool systems), biological monitoring shall be required for those drainages as well. The USFWS and USFS will be consulted for any additional avoidance or mitigation measures for impacts to mapped Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog habitat in the APE prior to trail construction.

Mitigation Measure 6: Western bumble bees may use underground cavities such as small mammal burrows in the APE. Underground cavities in the direct path of the trail alignment that may provide suitable nest or hibernation sites will be flagged during the preconstruction survey and avoided to the extent possible during trail construction.

6.3 VEGETATION AND RIPARIAN AREAS

Mitigation Measure 7: To the extent practicable, direct impacts to riparian (alder/willow) areas will be minimized and avoided. The area of disturbance will be limited to the smallest area necessary to complete trail-construction activities. The Project proponent will adhere to all revegetation and avoidance requirements in regulatory agency permits acquired for the Project.

6.4 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS

Mitigation Measure 8: The Project proponent will adhere to all revegetation and avoidance requirements in regulatory agency permits acquired for the Project and will utilize BMPs necessary to prevent sediment discharge or other impacts to nearby surface waters.

7 Conclusion

The Project involves installation of approximately 5 miles of Class 2 trail system, requiring grading, and vegetation and rock removal along the proposed alignment. Trail width will average 12 to 24 inches but may be up to 36 inches along steep side slopes and high-use areas, resulting in a total estimated impact of 1.5 acres. Design vegetation clearing is 6 to 8 feet tall and up to 72 inches wide. The Project will involve installation of numerous drainage crossings; however, most of the drainages in the APE are intermittent and likely only see flows following snow melt or significant storm events. Habitat in the APE is dominated by white fir, accompanied by alder and other trees in the riparian corridors. Several special status species have the potential to use habitats within the APE, and the potential exists to adversely affect these species and their habitats. However, the Project will be designed to avoid impacts to sensitive species through the mitigation measures described in Section 6. These include: preconstruction surveys, BMPs to avoid spread of invasive species, appropriate construction timing, biological monitoring, avoidance of identified special status species, and BMPs to avoid impacts to water quality. The Project will obtain necessary permits from resource agencies and will conduct additional consultation as needed. These mitigation measures will allow the Project to provide new hiking and biking recreation opportunity while avoiding significant impacts to the natural resources in the APE.

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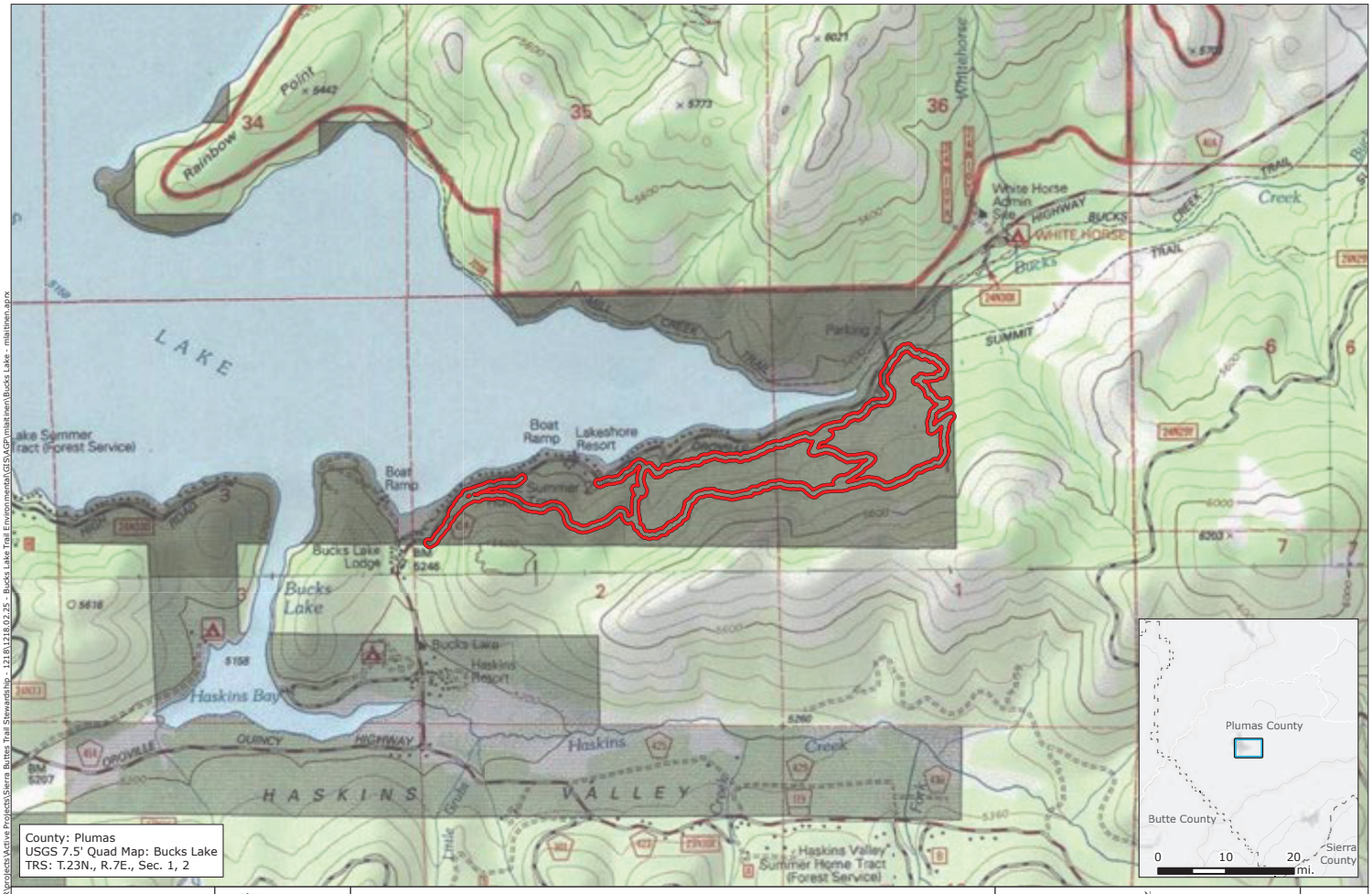
Appendix A

FIGURES



County: Plumas
USGS 7.5' Quad Map: Bucks Lake
TRS: T.23N., R.7E., Sec. 1, 2

Legend
APE

NCE

Bucks Lake Trail System

Area of Potential Effect (APE) Location Map

N

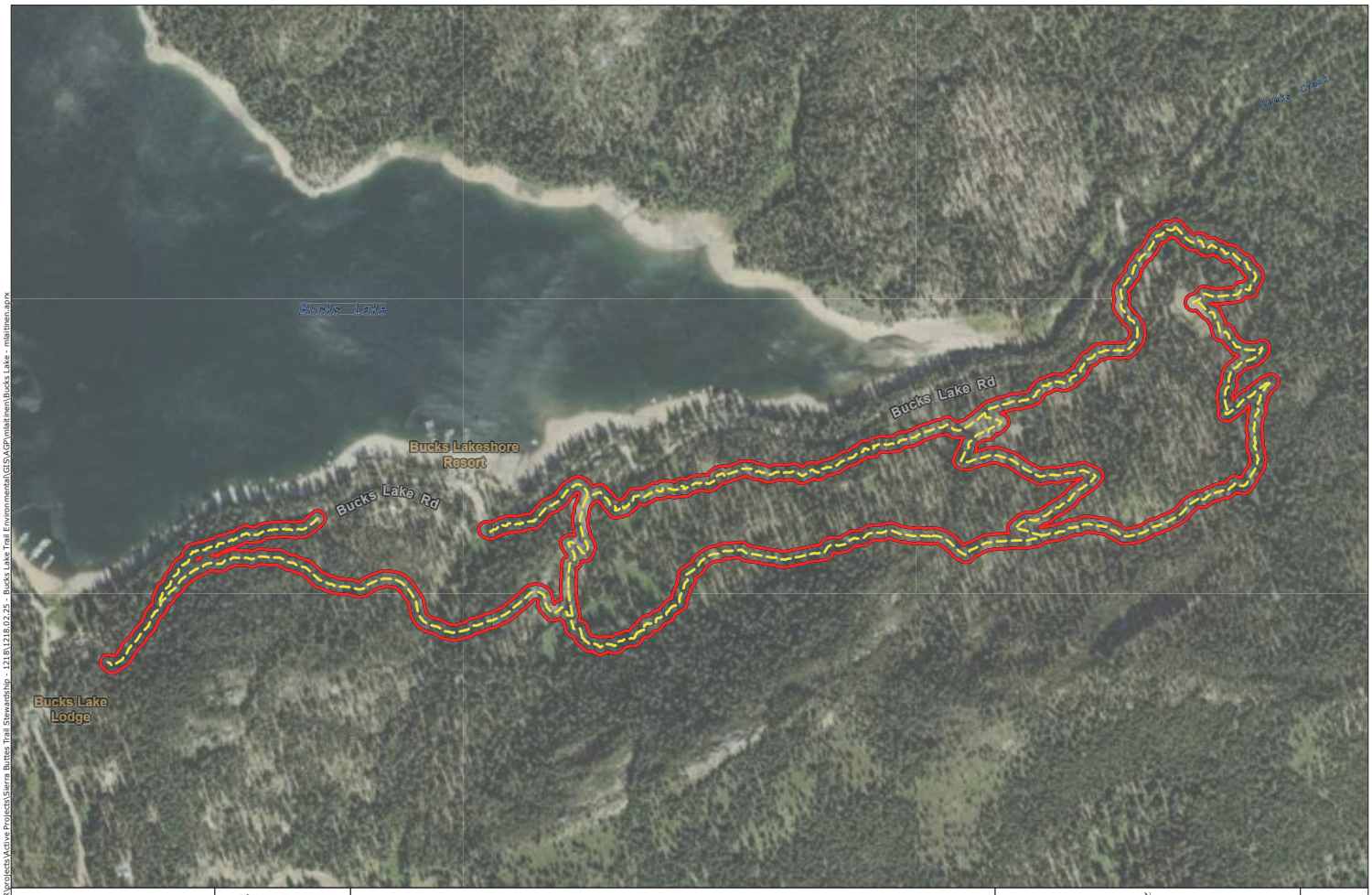
1 : 24,000

0 1,000 2,000 ft.

FIGURE 1

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
ESRI USGS Topo Maps	1218.02.25	mlaitinen	8/9/2022	11/29/2022	drios

Document Path: \\NCE-RCH-PFER\projects\Active Projects\Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship - 1218\1218.02.25 - Bucks Lake Trail Environmental\GIS\AGP\mlaitinen\Bucks Lake - mlaitinen.aprx



Legend

- APE
- Trail Centerline

NCE

Bucks Lake Trail System

APE Detail Map

N

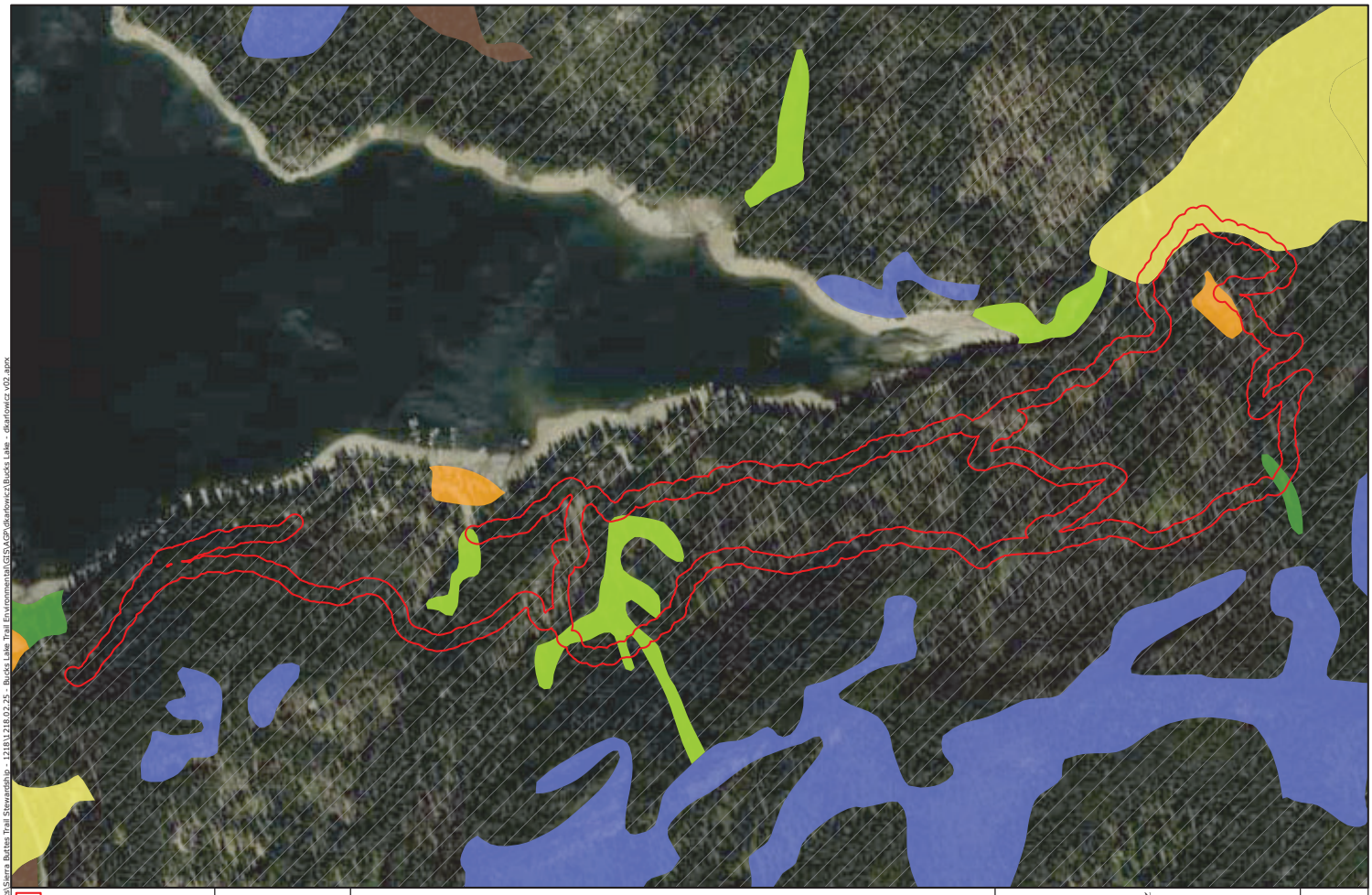
1 in. = 900 ft.

0 300 600 900 ft.

FIGURE 2

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
ESRI World Imagery Basemap	1218.02.25	mlaitinen	8/9/2022	11/29/2022	drios

Document Path: \\NCE-RCH-PFER\projects\Active Projects\Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship - 1218\1218.02.25 - Bucks Lake Trail Environmental\GIS\AGP\mlaitinen\Bucks Lake - mlaitinen.aprx



APE
Barren
Upper Montane Mixed Chaparral
Lodgepole Pine
Mixed Conifer - Fir
Willow - Alder
Mountain (Thinleaf) Alder
White fir

NCE

Bucks Lake Trail System

CALVEG Classifications

N

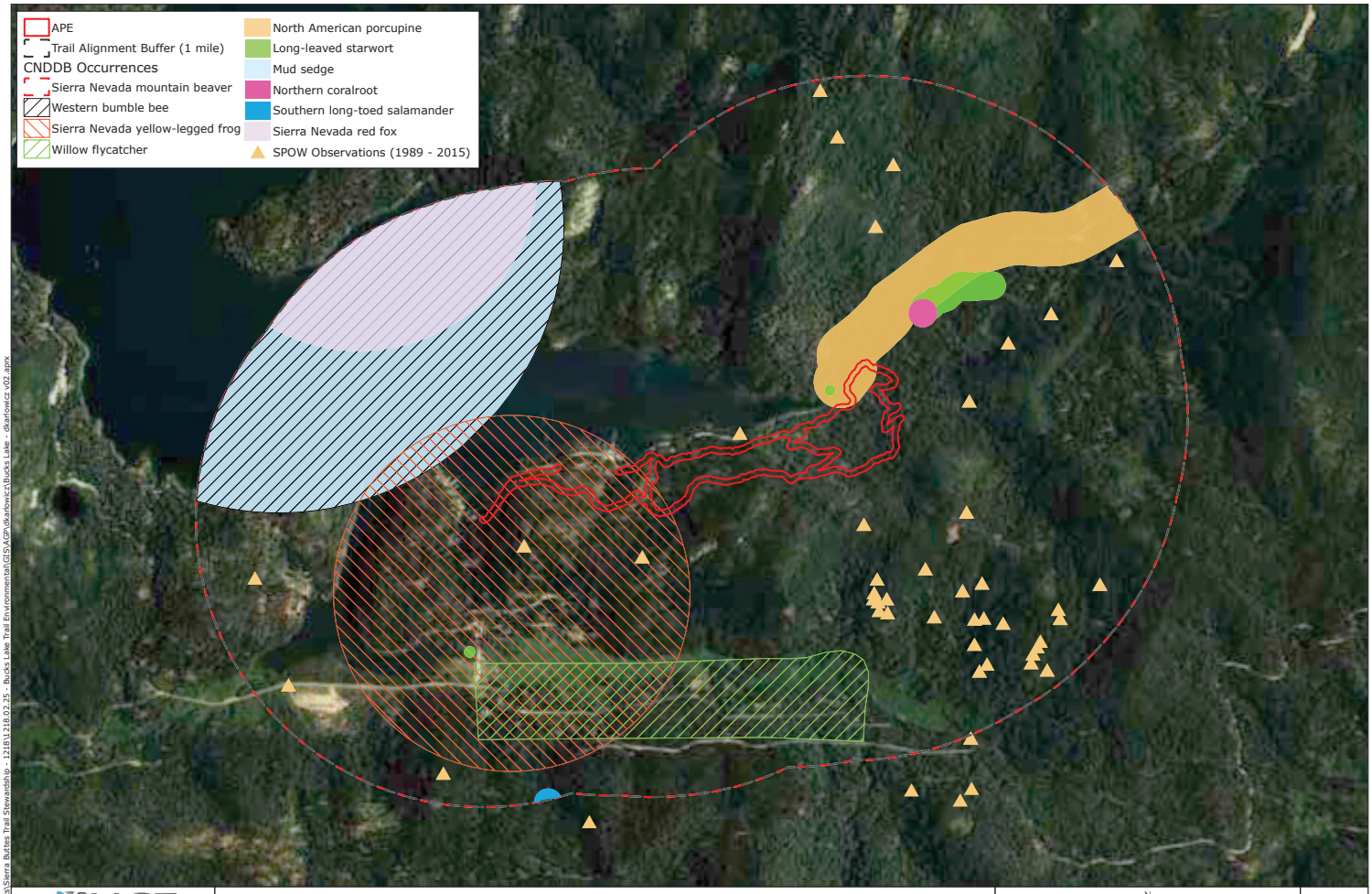
1 in. = 850 ft.

0 425 850 ft.

FIGURE 3

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
Bing Aerial Basemap, CALVEG, Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship	1218.02.25	dkarlowicz	11/14/2022	-	drios

Document Path: P:\Active Projects\Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship - 1218\1218.02.25 - Bucks Lake Trail Environmental\GIS\AGR\dkarlowicz\Bucks Lake - dkarlowicz_v02.aprx



NCE

Bucks Lake Trail System

CNDDB Occurrences

N

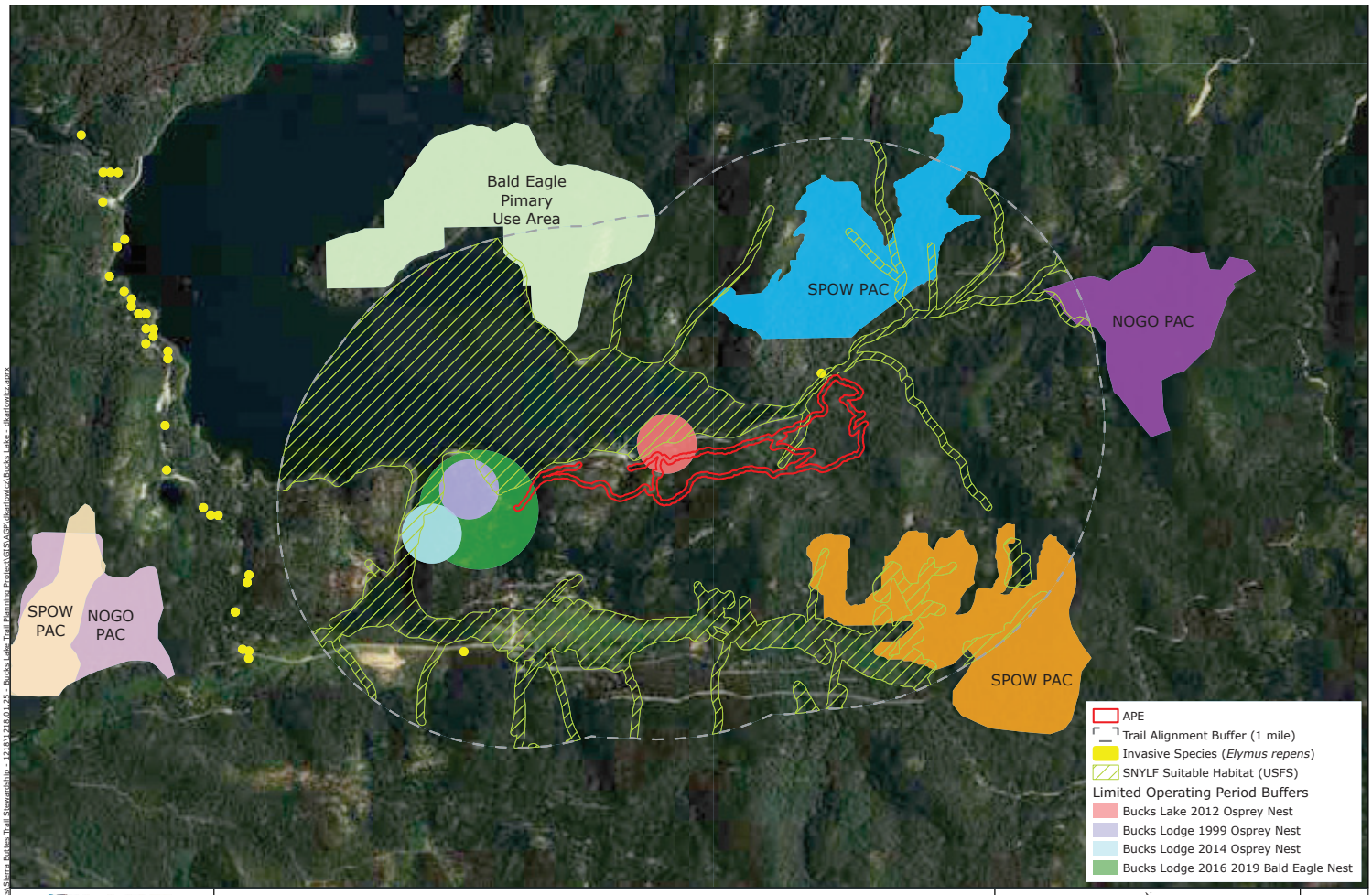
1 in. = 2,500 ft.

0 2,500 ft.

FIGURE 4

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
Google Satellite Basemap, CNDDB, Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship	1218.02.25	dkarlowicz/mlaitinen	4/19/2022	11/15/2022	drios

Document Path: P:\Active Projects\Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship - 1218\1218.02.25 - Bucks Lake Trail Environmental\GIS\AGP\dkarlowicz\Bucks Lake - dkarlowicz v02.aprx



NCE

Bucks Lake Trail System

Plumas National Forest Biological Resources

N

1 in. = 3,000 ft.

0 1,500 3,000 ft.

FIGURE 5

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
Google Satellite Basemap, Plumas NF 2022	1218.01.25	dkarlowicz	04/25/2022	11/14/2022	drios

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APE
Trail Alignment Buffer (1 mile)
Streams (USGS NHD)
SNYLF Critical Habitat (USFWS)
SNYLF Suitable Habitat (USFS)

NCE

Bucks Lake Trail System

USFWS and USFS Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog Habitat

N

1 in. = 2,500 ft.

0 2,500 ft.

FIGURE 6

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
Bing Aerial Basemap, USFWS, Plumas NF, USGS	1218.01.25	dkarlowicz	04/25/2022	11/14/2022	drios

Document Path: P:\Active Projects\Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship - 1218\1218.01.25 - Bucks Lake Trail Planning Project\GIS\AGP\dkarlowicz\Bucks Lake - dkarlowicz.aprx



Alphanumeric drainage labels represent the drainage number (e.g., 1, 2, etc.) and trail crossing location (e.g., a, b, and c). For example, drainage 2 has two crossings, 2a and 2b.

- APE
- Drainages
- Osprey nest
- Springs
- Rock outcrop wildlife den
- Snags

NCE

Bucks Lake Trail System

Biological Resources Identified During Surveys

N

1 in. = 850 ft.

0 425 850 ft.

FIGURE 7

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
Bing Aerial Basemap, Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, NCE	1218.02.25	dkarlowicz	11/11/2022	-	drios

Document Path: P:\Active Projects\Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship - 1218\1218.02.25 - Bucks Lake Trail Environmental\GIS\AGR\dkarlowicz\Bucks Lake - dkarlowicz v02.aprx

Appendix B

TABLES

Table 1. Special Status Plant Species Considered for the Project

Special Status Plant Species Considered for the Project						
Species	**Regulatory Status**			**Habitat Requirements**	**Blooming Period**	**Potential for Occurrence in the APE and Results of Survey**
	Federal	**State**	**CNPS**			
Boechera constancei Constance's rockcress		SE	1B.1	Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest. Elevation range 3,200 to 6,645 feet.	May to July	**Potential.** May occur. Not encountered.
Carex limosa mud sedge			2B.2	Perennial rhizomatous herb that prefers bogs, fens, meadows, seeps, marshes, swamps, and both lower and upper montane coniferous forests. Elevation range is between 3,900 and 8,900 feet.	June to August	**Potential.** May occur. Not encountered. CNDDB record of a 1975 collection exists within 1 mile of the APE.
Clarkia mildrediae* ssp. *mildrediae Mildred's clarkia		SE	1B.3	Cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest. Elevation range 805 to 5,610 feet.	May to August	**Potential.** May occur. Not encountered.
Corallorhiza trifida northern coralroot			2B.1	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps. Elevation range 4,495 to 5,725 feet.	June to July	**Potential.** May occur. Not encountered. Multiple CNDDB records exist within 1 mile of the APE along Bucks Creek south of Whitehorse Campground.
Epilobium luteum yellow willowherb			2B.3	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps. Elevation range is from 4,920 to 7,200 feet.	July to September	**Potential.** May occur. Not encountered.
Eremogone cliftonii Clifton's eremogone		SE	1B.3	Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest. Elevation range 1,495 to 6,825 feet.	April to September	**Potential.** May occur. Not encountered.
Frangula purshiana ssp. ultramafica caribou coffeeberry		SE	1B.2	Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, upper montane coniferous forest. Elevation range 2,705 to 6,330 feet.	May to July	**Potential.** May occur. Not encountered.

Special Status Plant Species Considered for the Project						
Species	**Regulatory Status**			**Habitat Requirements**	**Blooming Period**	**Potential for Occurrence in the APE and Results of Survey**
	Federal	**State**	**CNPS**			
Hemieva ranunculifolia buttercup-leaf hemieva			2B.2	Meadows and seeps, upper montane coniferous forest. Elevation range 4,920 to 8,205 feet.	June to August	**Potential.** May occur. Not encountered.
Monardella follettii Follett's monardella		SE	1B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest. Elevation range 1,970 to 6,520 feet.	June to September	**Potential.** May occur. Not encountered.
Oreostemma elatum tall alpine-aster		SE	1B.2	Bogs and fens, meadows and seeps, upper montane coniferous forest. Elevation range 3,295 to 6,890 feet.	June to August	**Potential.** May occur. Not encountered.
Penstemon personatus closed-throated beardtongue		SE	1B.2	Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest. Elevation range 3,495 to 6,955 feet.	June to September	**Potential.** May occur. Not encountered.
Rhamnus alnifolia alder buckthorn			2B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, riparian scrub, upper montane coniferous forest. Elevation range 4,495 to 6,990 feet.	May to July	**Potential.** May occur. Not encountered.
Stellaria longifolia long-leaved starwort			2B.2	Bogs and fens, meadows and seeps, riparian woodland, upper montane coniferous forest. Elevation range 2,955 to 6,005 feet.	May to August	**Potential.** May occur. Not encountered. CNDDB occurrences along Bucks Creek in 2015 within 1 mile of the APE.

Special Status Plant Species Considered for the Project						
Species	**Regulatory Status**			**Habitat Requirements**	**Blooming Period**	**Potential for Occurrence in the APE and Results of Survey**
	Federal	**State**	**CNPS**			
Special Status Codes Federally Listed Species (Federal): FE = Federally Endangered FT = Federally Threatened FD = Federally Delisted PT = Proposed Threatened FCE = Federally Endangered Candidate FPD = Proposed for Delisting Source: CNPS 2022				California Listed Species (State): SE = State Endangered ST = State Threatened SR = State Rare SC = State Candidate		California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List Categories: 1 = Rare in California and elsewhere 2 = Rare in California, but not elsewhere A = Presumed extirpated or extinct B = Rare, threatened, or endangered 3 = Plants about which we need more information 4 = Plants of limited distribution CNPS Threat Code Extensions: .1 = Seriously endangered in California (Over 80% of occurrences threatened) .2 = Fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened) .3 = Not very endangered in California (<20% of occurrences threatened)

Table 2. Special Status Wildlife Species Considered for the Project

Special Status Wildlife Species Considered for the Project						
Common Name *Scientific Name*	**Federal Status**	**State Status**		**USFS Status**	**Habitat Requirements**	**Potential for Occurrence in the APE and Results of Survey**
		CESA	**CDFW**			
Amphibians						
Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog *Rana sierrae*	FE	ST	WL	S	Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs live in California's Sierra Nevada mountains in lakes, ponds, marshes, meadows, and streams at elevations ranging from 4,500 to 12,000 feet (1,370 to 3,660 meters). Their range extends from the western Sierra Nevada north of Fresno County and the eastern Sierra Nevada in Inyo and Mono counties. They are primarily found on National Forests and National Parks in Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, Alpine, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mono, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, and Inyo counties, California. Breeds in the shallows of ponds and lakes or in inlet streams and deposit their eggs underwater in clusters, which they attach to rocks, gravel, or vegetation (USFWS Species Profile).	**Unlikely.** USFS suitable habitat and USFWS critical habitat is present in the APE. CNDDB occurrence is from 1991 in Haskins Creek approximately 0.5 mile south of the APE. Plumas USFS biologists have no recent detections in the vicinity of the APE or Haskins Creek, which has no connectivity to drainages in the APE. Field visits confirmed suitable habitat is limited in the APE, given that the drainages are dry, no streams are present, drainages in the APE connect to Bucks Lake via roadside ditches and culverts. Introduced fish (e.g., Kokanee) are present in Bucks Creek and Bucks Lake.
Southern long-toed salamander *Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum*			SSC		The long-toed salamander is uncommon to common in preferred habitats in the Sierra from Tuolumne County near the Stanislaus River, north through the mountains of the state, and east of the Cascades in Modoc and Lassen Counties. Preferred habitats include arid grasslands and sagebrush communities, dry woodlands, coniferous forests, and alpine meadows adjacent to ponds, springs, and lakes (Ferguson 1961, Petranka 1998, Pilliod and Fronzuto 2005, Nafis 2018).	**Potential.** CNDDB occurrences are from 2003-2005 south of Haskins Creek, located south of the APE. Aquatic habitat is limited, but may occur around springs, drainages, and step-pools in the APE.

Special Status Wildlife Species Considered for the Project						
Common Name *Scientific Name*	**Federal Status**	**State Status**		**USFS Status**	**Habitat Requirements**	**Potential for Occurrence in the APE and Results of Survey**
		CESA	**CDFW**			
Birds						
Willow flycatcher *Empidonax traillii*		SE		S	A rare to locally uncommon, summer resident in wet meadow and montane riparian habitats at 600-2500 m (2000-8000 ft) in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Range. Most often occurs in broad, open river valleys or large mountain meadows with lush growth of shrubby willows. Dense willow thickets are required for nesting and roosting. Low, exposed branches are used for singing posts and hunting perches. In the Sierra Nevada, consistently absent from otherwise apparently suitable areas where the lower branches of willows had been browsed heavily by livestock (Serena 1982).	**Unlikely.** Most recent CNDDB occurrence is from 2002. There is a potential breeding population in wet meadow and riparian habitat along Haskins Creek south of the APE. However, habitat for the species in the APE is limited and does not include dense willow thickets, but rather alder thickets. May occur as a transient, but unlikely to nest in the APE.
Bald eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	DL	SE	FP	S	Bald eagles have an expansive range with breeding areas in Northern California, wintering mostly in the Klamath Basin, and a few favored inland areas of Southern California. Locally, they are yearlong residents and migrants in the Tahoe Basin. Bald eagles use shorelines along large bodies of water and river courses for both nesting and wintering. Snags, broken-topped trees, or rocks near water are required for foraging and nesting. Most nests are located in large trees with open branches within 1 mile of a water body.	**Potential.** Species was not observed during the surveys, but suitable habitat exists in the vicinity of the APE. A USFS bald eagle primary use area is mapped approximately 1 mile northwest of the APE on the east side of Bucks Lake, and a 2019 bald eagle Limited Operating Period nest buffer overlaps with the west end of the trail alignment.

Special Status Wildlife Species Considered for the Project						
Common Name ***Scientific Name***	**Federal Status**	**State Status**		**USFS Status**	**Habitat Requirements**	**Potential for Occurrence in the APE and Results of Survey**
		CESA	**CDFW**			
Northern goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*			SSC	S	Northern goshawks are distributed throughout California in middle to higher elevation forested areas, particularly in the North Coast Ranges through Sierra Nevada, Klamath, Cascade, and Warner Mountains (Zeiner et al. 1990). Locally, they can be yearlong residents and seasonal migrants. Goshawks usually nest on north-facing slopes near water and require mature conifer or aspen forests with large diameter trees, dense canopy cover, and an open under story interspersed with meadows or shrub patches. Open areas provide foraging opportunities, while logs, snags, and broken-top trees are used as "plucking posts" to de-feather prey. Nests are usually located within the largest tree in the stand, next to the bole of the tree, in the lower third of the canopy.	**Potential.** Species was not observed during the surveys, but suitable habitat exists in the vicinity of the APE. USFS Protected Activity Centers are located approximately 2 miles west and east of the APE.
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*			WL		Osprey are yearlong residents. Osprey diets are almost entirely fish; therefore, its range has a close association with open, calm, and clear waters for feeding. Platform nets are built atop large snags, living trees, and human structures. Tall, open trees called “pilot trees” are required nearby for landing approaches and flight practice for fledglings.	**Present.** Osprey are known residents in the Bucks Lake basin. A USFS monitored nest tree is present near the APE but was inactive during surveys. Osprey calls were also heard during surveys.
California spotted owl *Strix occidentalis occidentalis*			SSC	S	An uncommon, permanent resident in suitable habitat. Resides in dense, old-growth, multi-layered mixed conifer, redwood, and Douglas-fir habitats, from sea level up to approximately 2300 m (0-7600 ft) and often associated with sources of water (Garrett and Dunn 1981). May move downslope in winter along the eastern and western slopes of the Sierra Nevada, and in other areas. Uses dense, multi-layered canopy cover for roost seclusion.	**Potential.** Species was not observed during the surveys, but suitable habitat exists in the vicinity of the APE. USFS Protected Activity Centers are located approximately 0.5 mile north, 1 mile southeast, and 2 miles west of the APE.

Special Status Wildlife Species Considered for the Project						
Common Name *Scientific Name*	**Federal Status**	**State Status**		**USFS Status**	**Habitat Requirements**	**Potential for Occurrence in the APE and Results of Survey**
		CESA	**CDFW**			
Insects						
Monarch butterfly *Danaus plexippus*	FC				Species occurs in various habitats across North America. During the breeding season, monarchs lay their eggs on their obligate milkweed host plant (primarily *Asclepias* spp.). Multiple generations can breed year-round. Species migrates from Nevada to the coastal regions of California in fall and return in the spring.	**Unlikely.** Species may occur in the APE during migration but is unlikely to breed in the APE as host plants are not present.
Western bumble bee *Bombus occidentalis*		SC		S	Historical distribution is from the Pacific coast to the Colorado Rocky Mountains; severe population decline west of the Sierra-Cascade Crest, but populations are known from the Great Basin, the Rocky Mountains and Alaska; several subspecies have been suggested. Food plant genera include *Melilotus, Cirsium, Trifolium, Centaurea, Chrysothamnus,* and *Eriogonum* (Koch, Strange and Williams 2012).	**Potential.** CNDDB collections are from 1949. Food plants may be present in the vicinity of the APE. One bumble bee was observed during the field surveys, but its species could not be confirmed.
Mammals						
Sierra Nevada mountain beaver *Aplodontia rufa californica*			SSC		Found throughout the Cascade, Klamath, and Sierra Nevada Ranges. Distribution is often scattered. Occur in dense riparian-deciduous and open, brushy stages of most forest types. Typical habitat in the Sierra Nevada is montane riparian with a dense understory near water. Deep, friable soils are required for burrowing, along with a cool, moist microclimate (Zeiner et al. 1990).	**Unlikely.** CNDDB occurrence is from a 1941 collection. Suitable habitat providing cover and stream requirements is present within 1 mile of the APE but limited along the trail alignment. Species was not observed during field visits.
Fisher *Pekania pennanti*			SSC	S	Fishers are forest specialist mesocarnivores and thought to be limited due to historic over-harvest and habitat destruction. Sierra population is thought to be restricted to the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada south of Yosemite (CDFW 2015, Zielinski et al. 2005, Tucker et al. 2012).	**Unlikely.** Occurrence information is lacking in the APE. Species is uncommon but presence of snags and other refugia in the APE may provide suitable habitat.

Special Status Wildlife Species Considered for the Project						
Common Name *Scientific Name*	**Federal Status**	**State Status**		**USFS Status**	**Habitat Requirements**	**Potential for Occurrence in the APE and Results of Survey**
		CESA	**CDFW**			
Sierra Nevada red fox (Sierra Nevada Distinct Population Segment) *Vulpes vulpes necator*	FE	ST		S	In the Sierra Nevada, prefers forests interspersed with meadows or alpine fell-fields. Open areas are used for hunting, forested habitats for cover and reproduction. Edges are utilized extensively (Seidensticker 1999). The Sierra Nevada Distinct Population Segment sightings have been limited to federal lands in Alpine, Fresno, Inyo, Madera, Mono and Tuolumne counties (USFWS).	**Unlikely.** CNDDB occurrence is a reported sighting from 1985. Areas near the APE may provide suitable denning habitat; however, open areas for hunting are lacking and there is no forest edge habitat nearby. May occur in the vicinity of the APE.
Fish						
Delta smelt *Hypomesus transpacificus*	FT	SE			Delta smelt are endemic to the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary in California. Reported range extends from Berkeley to the City of Napa on the Napa River, throughout Suisin Bay and the Delta, and along the axis of the Sacramento River to Knight's Landing and along the axis of the San Joaquin River to the City of Lathrop (Merz et al. 2011, Vincik and Julienne 2012).	**Absent.** Outside of species known range, no habitat or known occurrences near the APE. No impacts to water quality or downstream populations are anticipated.

Special Status Codes

Federal
Federally Listed Species (Federal):
FE = Federally Endangered
FT = Federally Threatened
FD = Federally Delisted
PT = Proposed Threatened
FC = Federal Candidate
FPD = Proposed for Delisting
Sources: CDFW 2022, CWHR 2022, USFS 2022, USFWS 2022

State
California State Listed Species (CA):
SE = State Endangered
ST = State Threatened
SR = State Rare
SC = State Candidate

CDFW
SSC = Species of Special Concern
FP = Federally Protected
WL = Watch List

USFS
S = USFS Sensitive Species

Table 3. Plant Species Observed During Surveys

Scientific Name	Common Name	Native: Y/N
Abies concolor	White fir	Y
Achillea millefolium	Common yarrow	Y
Acer glabrum	Mountain maple	Y
Adenocaulon bicolor	American trailplant	Y
Alnus incana	Mountain Alder	Y
Anaphalis margaritacea	Pearly-everlasting	Y
Aquilegia formosa	Crimson columbine	Y
Arctostaphylos patula	Greenleaf manzanita	Y
Athyrium filix-femina	Common ladyfern	Y
Bromus sp.	Brome	-
Carex sp.	Sedge	-
Castilleja miniata	Great red Indian-paintbrush	Y
Ceanothus cordulatus	Mountain whitethorn	Y
Chamaenerion angustifolium	Narrow-leaf fireweed	Y
Chimaphila umbellata	Blake's prince's pine	Y
Chrysolepis sempervirens	Bush chinquapin	Y
Corallorhiza maculata	Spotted coralroot	Y
Elymus glaucus	Blue wild rye	Y
Elymus sp.	Rye grass	-
Erigeron glacialis	Wandering fleabane	Y
Eriogonum nudum	Naked buckwheat	Y
Erythranthe guttata	Seep monkey-flower	Y
Galium triflorum	Fragrant bedstraw	Y
Letharia vulpina	Wolf lichen	Y
Lonicera conjugialis	Double honeysuckle	Y
Lupinus latifolius	Broad-leaf lupine	Y
Monardella odoratissima	Desert mint	Y
Pedicularis racemosa	Leafy lousewort	Y
Pinus contorta	Lodgepole pine	Y
Pinus lambertiana	Sugar pine	Y
Prunus emarginata	Bitter cherry	Y
Pteridium aquilinum	Western bracken fern	Y
Ribes nevadense	Sierra currant	Y
Senecio triangularis	Arrow-leaf ragwort	Y
Sidalcea glaucescens	Glaucous checker mallow	Y
Solidago canadensis	Canadian goldenrod	Y
Spiraea douglasi	Douglas spiraea	Y
Veratrum californicum	California false hellebore	Y

Table 4. Wildlife Species Observed During Surveys

Scientific Name	Common Name	Native: Y/N
Birds		
Branta canadensis	Canada goose	Y
Cathartes aura	Turkey vulture	Y
Catharus guttatus	Hermit thrush	Y
Colaptes auratus	Northern flicker	Y
Corvus corax	Common raven	Y
Cyanocitta stelleri	Steller's jay	Y
Dryocopus pileatus	Pileated woodpecker	Y
Junco hyemalis	Dark-eyed junco	Y
Nucifraga columbiana	Clark's nutcracker	Y
Pandion haliaetus	Osprey	Y
Picoides albolarvatus	White-headed woodpecker	Y
Poecile gambeli	Mountain chickadee	Y
Psiloscops flammeolus	Flammulated owl	Y
Selasphorus rufus	Rufous hummingbird	Y
Setophaga coronata	Yellow-rumped warbler	Y
Sitta canadensis	Red-breasted nuthatch	Y
Sphyrapicus ruber	Red-breasted sapsucker	Y
Turdus migratorius	American robin	Y
Vireo gilvus	Warbling vireo	Y
Mammals		
Odocoileus hemionus	Mule deer	Y
Spermophilus lateralis	Golden-mantled ground squirrel	Y
Tamias sp.	Chipmunk	Y
Ursus americanus	Black bear (tracks)	Y
Insects		
Bombus sp.	Bumble bee	Y
Fish		
Oncorhynchus nerka	Kokanee	N

Appendix B

AQUATIC RESOURCES TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM

Date:	January 5, 2023	Project Number:	1218.02.25
To:	Trinity Stirling, Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship		
From:	Debra Lemke, PWS, CPESC and Dylan Karlowicz, NCE		
Subject:	Bucks Lake Trail System Project – Aquatic Resources Technical Memorandum		

On behalf of Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, NCE conducted an aquatic resources delineation to determine if potential waters of the United States (WOUS) and/or waters of the state (WoS) are within the Bucks Lake Trail System (project). The purpose of this memorandum is to report NCE's findings to support the planning, permitting, and construction of a new trail system that will connect with the existing Bucks Creek Loop on the Plumas National Forest. The project is located on the southeast shore of Bucks Lake, approximately 15 miles west of historic downtown Quincy in Plumas County, California. The project is located within a portion of Sections 1 and 2, Township 23 North, Range 7 East and Section 36, Township 24 North, Range 7 East on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Bucks Lake and Haskins Valley topographic maps (**Appendix A**, **Figure 1**). The project is on the south side of Bucks Lake and Bucks Lake Road as presented on the topographic map (**Appendix A**, **Figure 2**).

The delineation was conducted in with the following guidance:

- 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual;
- Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region (Version 2.0), May 2010; and,
- A Field Guide to the Identification of the Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM) in the Arid West Region of the Western United States, August 2008.

BACKGROUND

The study area consisted of the project's proposed trail alignment (**Appendix A, Figure 1**). Prior to NCE conducting the aquatic resources delineation, NCE reviewed mapping and Google Earth imagery. The USGS topographic figure was reviewed (**Appendix A, Figure 2**) for the presence of a "blue-line" drainage. Following the review, a "blue-line" drainage was identified as an intermittent drainage, crossing the proposed trail.

NCE reviewed the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetland Inventory (NWI) database to understand if there are mapped wetlands or riverine features in proximity to the proposed trail. The USFWS NWI does show a mapped riverine feature located towards the northeast portion of the project (**Appendix A, Figure 3**).

The proposed trail was compared to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soils database to understand if hydric soils are present within the proposed trail alignment (**Appendix A, Figure 4**). The NRCS data indicates one type of hydric soil (Chaix family – Haplaquolls complex, 2 to 30 percent slopes) which is present within most of the project.

Lastly, NCE reviewed the CALVEG GIS data for mapped vegetation types (**Appendix A, Figure 5**). The CALVEG GIS data indicated the presence of Willow-Alder and Mountain Alder riparian corridors.

METHODS

NCE conducted field visits on August 10, August 11, and October 28, 2022, to determine the presence or absence of aquatic resources such as drainages, springs, and/or wetlands and evidence if these features demonstrate a hydrologic connection to a traditional navigable waterway (TNW). Features with these characteristics would be indicative of federal U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdictional WOUS due to proximity and connection to Bucks Lake, and then to the Feather River, a TNW, as well as State of California jurisdictional WoS. The methods below were implemented during the field delineation.

Wetlands

The survey area was investigated for the presence of wetlands utilizing the USACE 1987 three-parameter (vegetation, hydrology, and soils) methodology. This methodology was refined in the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region (Version 2.0), May 2010 and requires the collection of data on soils, vegetation, and hydrology at several locations to establish the potential jurisdictional boundary of wetlands.

Drainage

The survey area was delineated for drainages utilizing the presence of Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) indicators, evidence of frequent surface water flows, and a connection to a TNW. These characteristics were indicative of a WOUS. Arid West Ephemeral and Intermittent Stream OHWM Data Sheets were completed for each drainage with the presence of OHWM indicators. If the drainage had OHWM indicators present, the drainage was followed to determine if the drainage flowed into another drainage with OHWM indicators or if these indicators terminated. Where the drainage exhibited OHWM indicators, width measurements were taken to be used in determining an average width of the drainage and height measurements from the OHWM to the drainage bottom were taken. When drainages with OHWM indicators left the survey area, an attempt was made to follow the drainage to determine if OHWM indicators terminated or a connection to a TNW. The OHWM indicator locations were recorded with a Trimble GeoExplorer 6000 Series GPS unit and representative photographs were taken.

Survey Data Integration

Boundaries of the potential aquatic resources within the survey area were mapped using a Trimble GeoExplorer 6000 Series GPS unit and digitized in ESRI ArcGIS Pro 3.0.2 software. The horizontal datum is NAD 1983 and no vertical data was collected.

RESULTS

The survey area is approximately 52 acres. The entire survey area was field delineated by NCE. The USACE datasheets are located in Appendix B, and representative photos are located in Appendix C. A total of six drainages were delineated and are described below. Appendix A, Figure 6a depicts the locations of the wetland sample points. The wetland sample points were near and within the CALVEG mountain alder and willow-alder mapped classifications. Appendix A, Figure 6b depicts the locations of the drainage OHWM datapoints as well as the average OHWM width and depth. If the trail alignment crossed a drainage in multiple locations, then multiple OHWM datapoints were collected. The drainage OHWM datapoints correspond to the numbered drainage. For example, the proposed trail crosses Drainage 2 in two locations and the OHWM datapoints are identified as 2a and 2b.

Drainage 1

A total of four OHWM datapoints were collected for Drainage 1. Datapoint 1a was collected at the proposed trail crossing of the lower portion of Drainage 1; datapoint 1a contained flow and an OHWM width of 30-inches and depth of 3-inches. The proposed trail was rerouted in this location to avoid an upslope alder thicket and a potential wet meadow. Surrounding vegetation at 1a included sparse mountain alder (Alnus incana) and western bracken fern (Pteridium aquilnum). Three datapoints (1b, 1c, and 1d) were collected at the upper portion of Drainage 1. This area is mapped by CALVEG as mountain alder and represents a riparian corridor through the surrounding white fir (Abies concolor) woodland (Appendix A, Figure 5). Datapoint 1b was dry and contained an OHWM width of 25-inches and depth of 1.5-inches. Vegetation surrounding datapoint 1b included mountain alder and mountain maple (Acer glabrum). There was no defined drainage at datapoint 1c however the mountain alder thicket was 78-feet wide. Datapoint 1d was dry and contained an OHWM width of 24-inches and depth of 2-inches. Vegetation at datapoint 1d included sparse mountain alder. Other general herbaceous species within the understory of the mountain alder thickets and white fir forest around Drainage 1 included brome (Bromus sp.) and rye (Elymus spp.) grasses, western bracken fern (Pteridium aquilinum), and common yarrow (Achillea millefolium).

To determine if wetlands were present within and/or near the CALVEG mountain alder mapped classification, NCE completed five wetland determination data sheets (Sample Points (SP) 1-5) within and near the CALVEG mapped mountain alder classification. South (upstream) of OHWM datapoint 1a is the mapped mountain alder classification. Adjacent to OHWM datapoint 1a, two wetland sample points were collected, SP-1 and SP-2. SP-1 yielded the presence of hydric soils and wetland hydrology but no hydrophytic vegetation, and SP-2 did not yield hydric soils, wetland hydrology, or hydrophytic vegetation. No wetlands or riparian corridor was present at OHWM datapoint 1a.

OHWM datapoints 1b, 1c, and 1d are within the CALVEG mountain alder mapped classification. A wetland datasheet was completed at OWHM datapoints 1b (SP-3), 1c (SP-4), and 1d (SP-5). SP-3 and SP-5 had hydric soils and SP-4 did not have hydric soils; SP-3, SP-4, and SP-5 did not have wetland hydrology or hydrophytic vegetation. Due to the lack of the three wetland parameters, no wetlands were delineated. The CALVEG mountain alder mapped classification was accurate at OHWM datapoint 1b/SP-3 and OHWM datapoint 1c/SP-4. It is NCE's professional opinion that state regulated riparian corridor is present at OHWM datapoint 1b/SP-3 and OHWM datapoint 1c/SP-4.

Drainage 2

Two OHWM datapoints were collected for dry Drainage 2. Datapoint 2a was collected at the proposed trail crossing of the lower portion of Drainage 2, and datapoint 2b was collected at the upper portion of the drainage. Datapoint 2a was at a location of a step pool system and had an OHWM width of 30-inches and depth of 3-inches. Surrounding vegetation included sparse mountain alder and western bracken fern. Datapoint 2b had an OHWM width of 46-inches and depth of 1-inch. There was no identifiable bed and bank, and no mountain alder or other riparian vegetation.

Drainage 3

One OHWM datapoint was collected for Drainage 3. Drainage 3 was a dry drainage with a step pool system and had an OHWM width of 24-inches and a depth of 4-inches. Surrounding vegetation included sparse mountain alder and western bracken fern.

Drainage 4

One OHWM datapoint was collected for Drainage 4. Drainage 4 is a dry drainage with a step pool system and had an OHWM width of 62-inches and a depth of 6-inches. Surrounding vegetation included white fir, western bracken fern, and double honeysuckle (Lonicera conjugialis).

The USGS and NWI mapped riverine feature appeared near Drainage 4; however, NCE was unable to locate the entire USGS and NWI mapped feature as depicted on Figures 2 and 3. NCE believes that Drainage 4 is the location of the agency mapped aquatic resource.

Drainage 5

Three OHWM datapoints were collected for dry Drainage 5. Datapoint 5a was collected at the proposed trail crossing of the lower portion of Drainage 5, and datapoints 5b and 5c were collected at the upper portion of Drainage 5. Datapoint 5a was at a location of a step pool system and had an OHWM width of 45-inches and a depth of 2-inches. Surrounding vegetation included white fir, western bracken fern, and bush chinquapin (Chrysolepis sempervirens). Datapoint 5b had an OWHM width of 17-inches and depth of 1-inch. Surrounding vegetation included sparse mountain alder, western bracken fern, and brome grass. Datapoint 5c had an OHWM width of 36-inches and a depth of 2-inches, and surrounding vegetation included white fir and western bracken fern. Datapoint 5c is a separate channel that discharges into Drainage 5. Datapoints 5b and 5c are in CALVEG mapped willow–alder classification.

OHWM datapoint 5b is within the CALVEG willow–alder mapped classification and datapoint 5c is adjacent. To determine if wetlands were present within and near the CALVEG willow–alder mapped classification, NCE completed two wetland determination data sheets (SP-6 and SP-7) within and near the CALVEG mapped willow–alder classification. A wetland datasheet was completed at OWHM datapoints 5b (SP-6) and 5c (SP-7). At both SP's there were no hydric soils, wetland hydrology, or hydrophytic vegetation. Due to the lack of the three wetland parameters, no wetlands were delineated. The CALVEG willow-alder mapped classification was accurate at OHWM datapoint 5b/SP-6. It is NCE's professional opinion that state regulated riparian corridor is present at OHWM datapoint 5b/SP-6.

Drainage 6

One OHWM datapoint was collected for Drainage 6. Drainage 6 is a dry drainage with a step pool system and had an OHWM width of 25-inches and a depth of 2-inches. Surrounding vegetation included white fir.

The above six drainages are hydrologically connected to Bucks Lake through either roadside ditches, culverts, and/or a direct discharge into Bucks Lake. Due to this, NCE assumes that the six drainages are federally and state jurisdictional aquatic resources. No wetlands were delineated.

SUMMARY

Tables 1 and **2** present the six drainages and their proposed federal and state jurisdictional acreages within the project. The WOUS and WoS acreages differ due to the presence of state regulated riparian corridors associated with Drainages 1 and 5. No wetlands were delineated.

Table 1. WOUS Proposed Jurisdictional Acreages

Aquatic Resource	Datapoints	WOUS (USACE) Acreage	Total WOUS Acreage
Drainage 1	Datapoint 1a	0.004	0.010
	Datapoint 1b	0.003	
	Datapoint 1c	No OHWM/bed and bank or wetlands	
	Datapoint 1d	0.003	
Drainage 2	Datapoint 2a	0.004	0.010
	Datapoint 2b	0.006	
Drainage 3	Datapoint 3	0.003	0.003
Drainage 4	Datapoint 4	0.009	0.009
Drainage 5	Datapoint 5a	0.006	0.013
	Datapoint 5b	0.002	
	Datapoint 5c	0.005	
Drainage 6	Datapoint 6	0.003	0.003
Grand Total		**0.048**	**0.048**

Table 2. WoS Proposed Jurisdictional Acreages

Aquatic Resource	Datapoints	WoS (CDFW/Water Board) Acreage	Total WoS Acreage
Drainage 1	Drainage 1a	0.004	0.182
	Drainage 1b	0.046	
	Drainage 1c	0.129	
	Drainage 1d	0.003	
Drainage 2	Drainage 2a	0.004	0.010
	Drainage 2b	0.006	
Drainage 3	Drainage 3	0.003	0.003
Drainage 4	Drainage 4	0.009	0.009
Drainage 5	Drainage 5a	0.006	0.015
	Drainage 5b	0.004	
	Drainage 5c	0.005	
Drainage 6	Drainage 6	0.003	0.003
Grand Total		**0.222**	**0.222**

Attachment A, Figure 7 depicts the proposed jurisdictional aquatic resources.

Attachments:

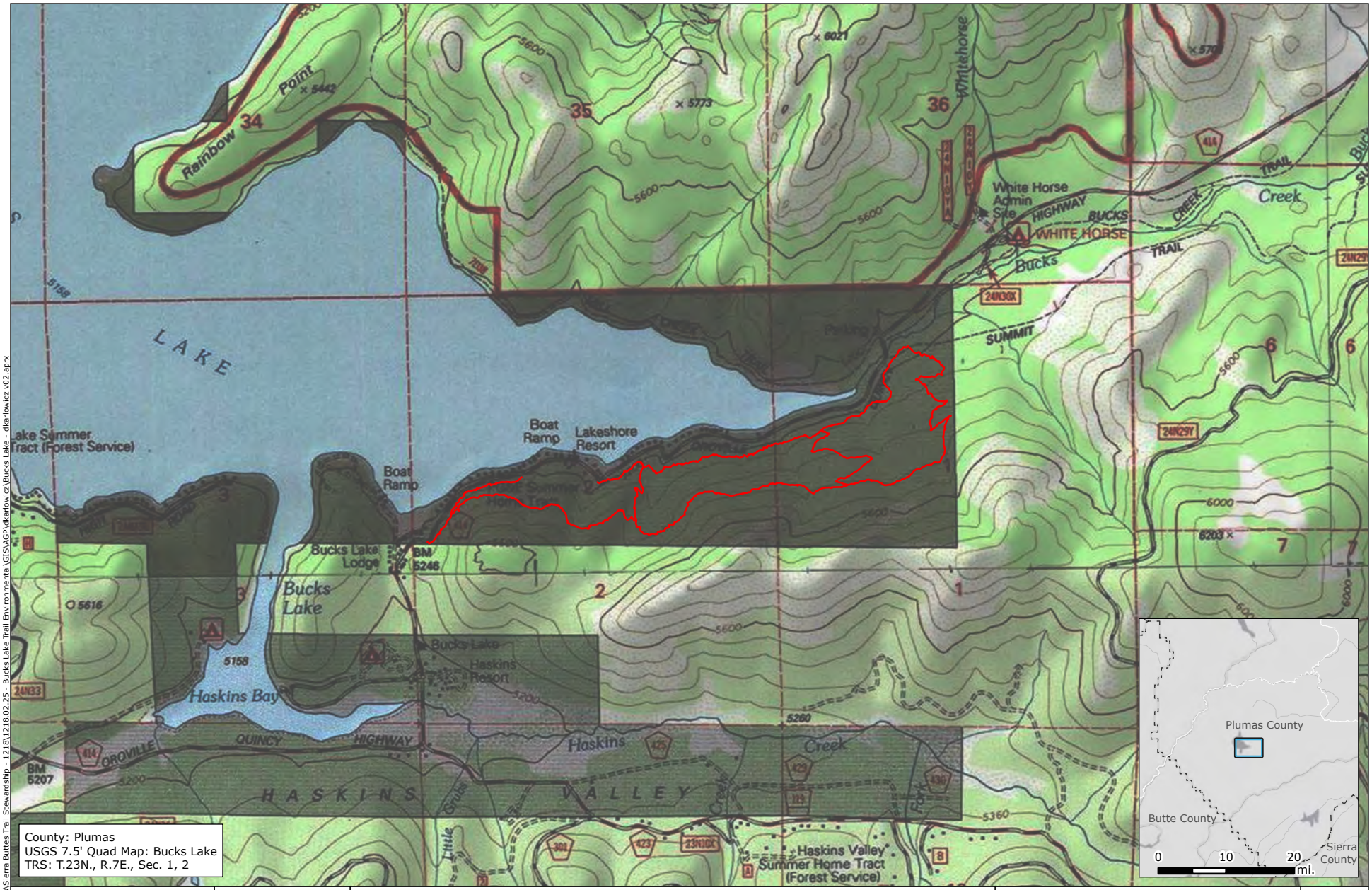
Appendix A – Figures

Appendix B – USACE Datasheets

Appendix C – Representative Photographs

Appendix A

Figures



County: Plumas
USGS 7.5' Quad Map: Bucks Lake
TRS: T.23N., R.7E., Sec. 1, 2

Legend

— Trail Alignment

NCE

Bucks Lake Trail System

Project Location Map

N

1 : 24,000

0 1,000 2,000 ft.

FIGURE 1

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
ESRI USGS Topo Maps	1218.02.25	mlaitinen	8/9/2022	1/5/2023	drios

Document Path: P:\Active Projects\Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship - 1218\1218.02.25 - Bucks Lake Trail Environmental\GIS\AGP\dkarlowicz\Bucks Lake - dkarlowicz v02.aprx



County: Plumas
USGS 7.5' Quad Map: Bucks Lake
TRS: T.23N., R.7E., Sec. 1, 2

Legend

- Trail Alignment
- Intermittent Drainage

NCE

Bucks Lake Trail System

USGS Topographic Map

N

1 in. = 800 ft.

0 400 800 ft.

FIGURE 2

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
USGS Topographic Basemap, Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship	1218.01.25	sdavenport	4/21/2022	12/15/2022	sanderson

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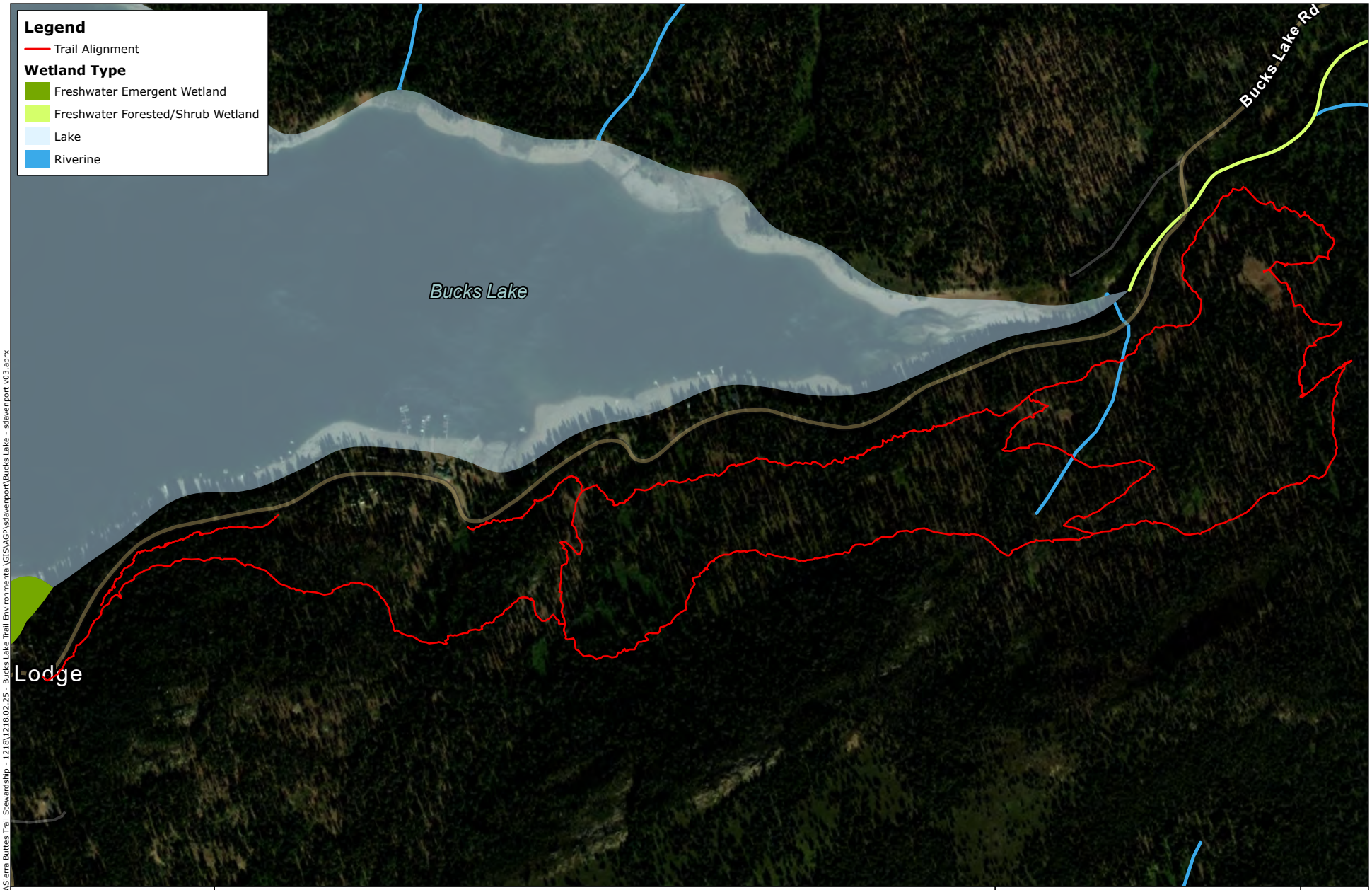

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NCE

Bucks Lake Trail System

National Wetland Inventory Map

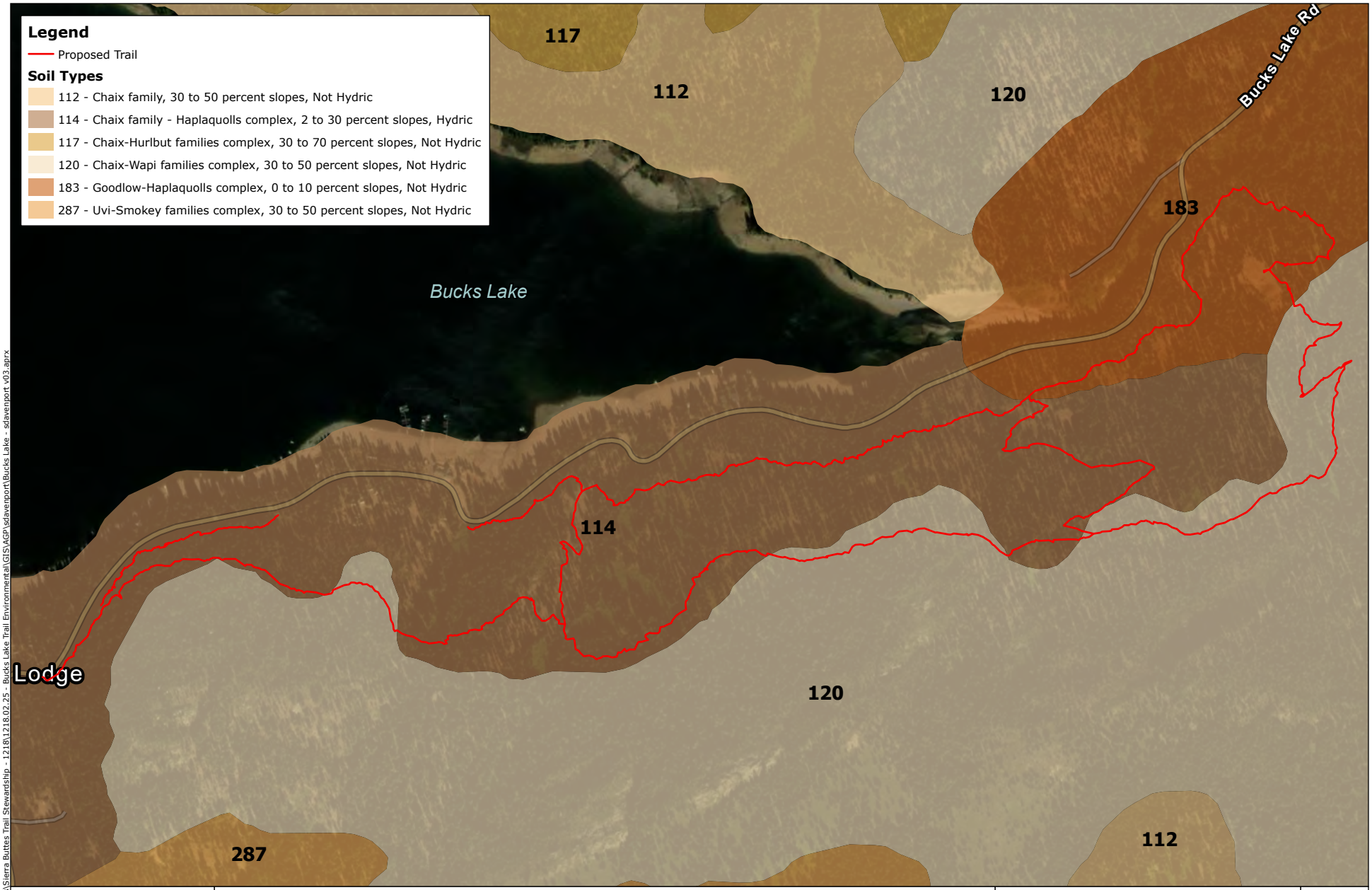
N

1 in. = 800 ft.

0 400 800 ft.

FIGURE 3

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
ESRI Imagery with Metadata; NWI, Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship	1218.01.25	sdavenport	4/21/2022	1/5/2023	sanderson



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NCE

Bucks Lake Trail System

NRCS Soils Map

N

1 in. = 800 ft.

0 400 800 ft.

FIGURE 4

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
ESRI Imagery with Metadata; NRCS Soils, Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship	1218.01.25	sdavenport	4/21/2022	1/5/2023	sanderson



- Proposed Trail
- Barren
- Upper Montane Mixed Chaparral
- Lodgepole Pine
- Mixed Conifer - Fir
- Willow - Alder
- Mountain (Thinleaf) Alder
- White fir

NCE

Bucks Lake Trail System

CALVEG Classifications

N

1 in. = 850 ft.

0 425 850 ft.

FIGURE 5

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
Bing Aerial Basemap, CALVEG, Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship	1218.02.25	dkarlowicz	11/14/2022	-	drios

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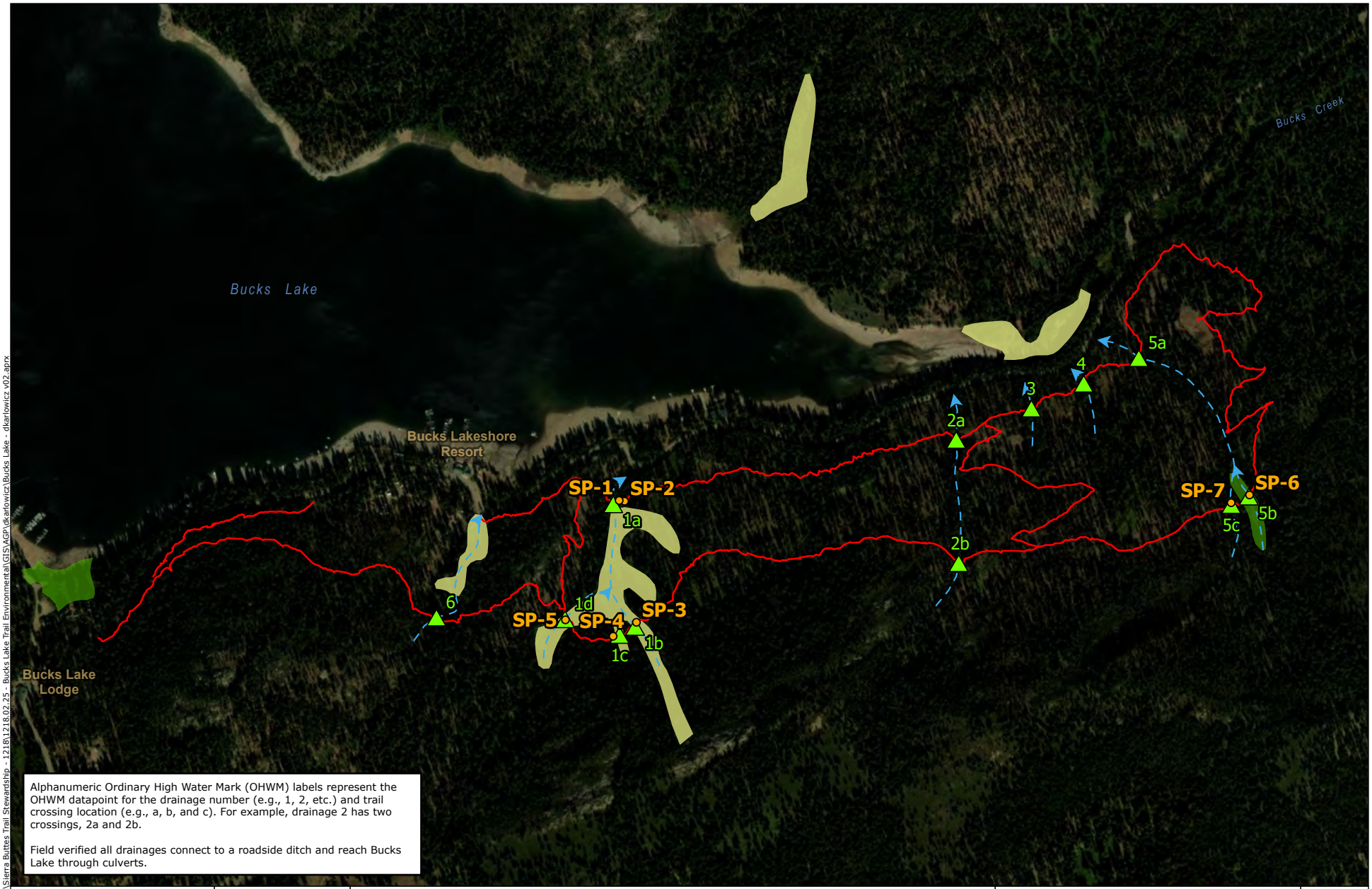

Alphanumeric Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) labels represent the OHWM datapoint for the drainage number (e.g., 1, 2, etc.) and trail crossing location (e.g., a, b, and c). For example, drainage 2 has two crossings, 2a and 2b.

Field verified all drainages connect to a roadside ditch and reach Bucks Lake through culverts.

- Trail alignment
- Assumed Flow Path
- OHWM Datapoint
- Wetland Sample Points
- Willow - Alder
- Mountain Alder

NCE

Bucks Lake Trail System

Sample Point Locations

N

1 in. = 900 ft.

0 300 600 900 ft.

FIGURE 6a

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
ESRI World Imagery Basemap, SBTS, NCE, CALVEG	1218.02.25	dkarlowicz	1/3/2023	-	drios

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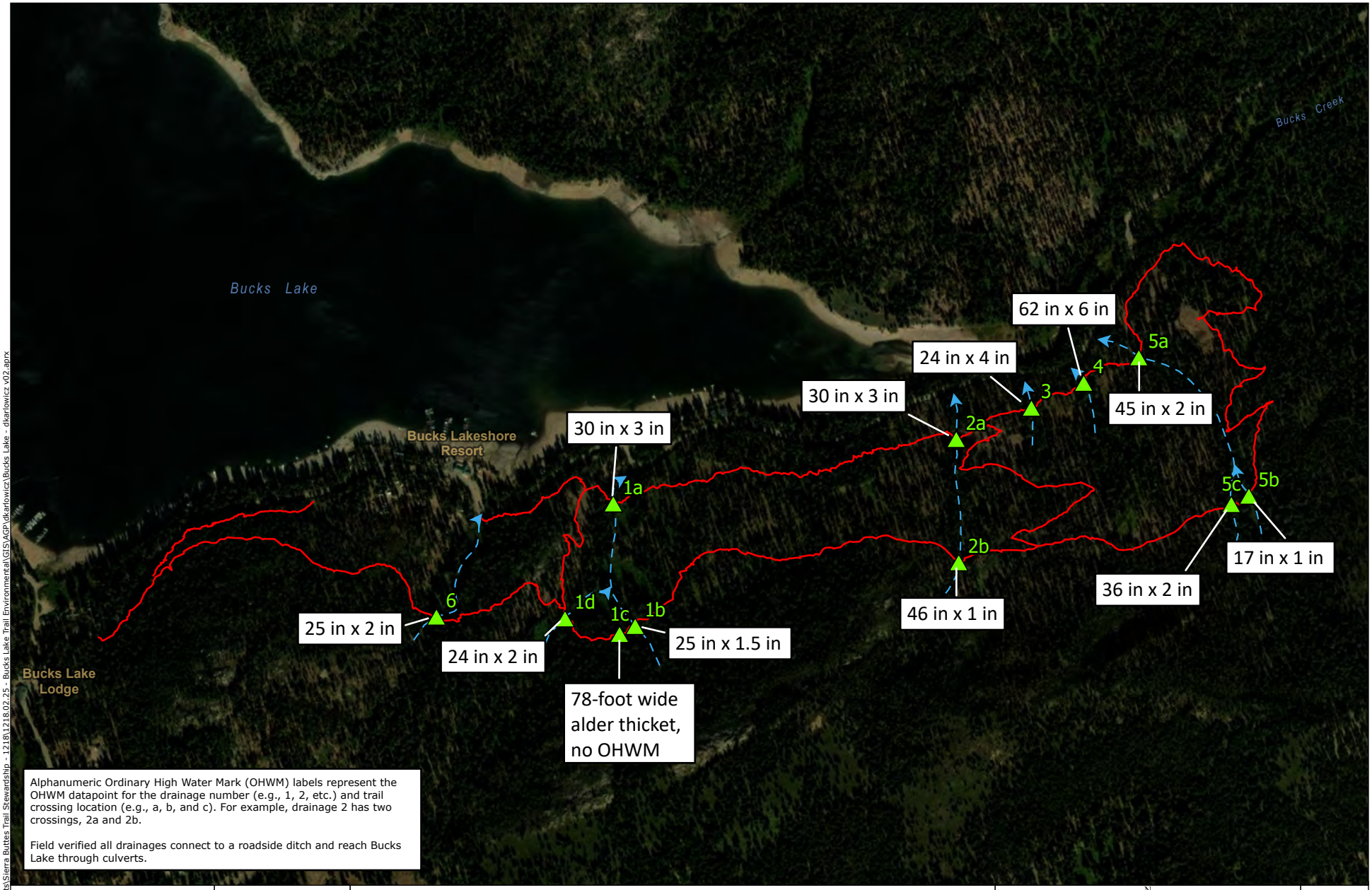


Trail Alignment
Assumed Flow Path
OHWM Datapoint (Width x Depth)

NCE

Bucks Lake Trail System

Ordinary High Water Mark Map

N

1 in. = 900 ft.

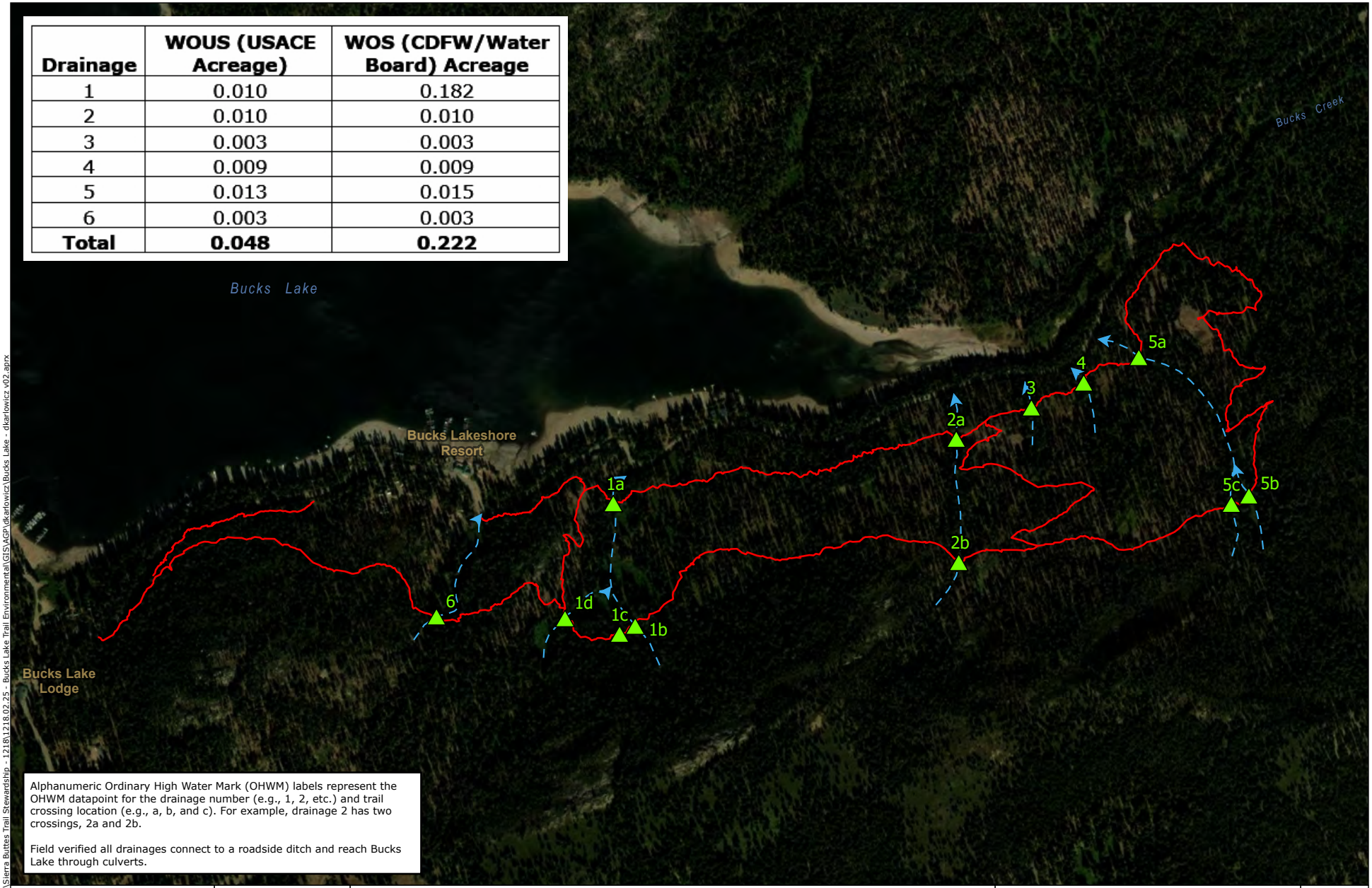
0 300 600 900 ft.

FIGURE 6b

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
ESRI World Imagery Basemap, Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, NCE	1218.02.25	dkarlowicz	1/3/2023	-	drios

Document Path: P:\Active Projects\Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship - 1218\1218.02.25 - Bucks Lake Trail Environmental\GIS\AGP\dkarlowicz\Bucks Lake - dkarlowicz v02.aprx

Drainage	WOUS (USACE Acreage)	WOS (CDFW/Water Board) Acreage
1	0.010	0.182
2	0.010	0.010
3	0.003	0.003
4	0.009	0.009
5	0.013	0.015
6	0.003	0.003
Total	**0.048**	**0.222**



Alphanumeric Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) labels represent the OHWM datapoint for the drainage number (e.g., 1, 2, etc.) and trail crossing location (e.g., a, b, and c). For example, drainage 2 has two crossings, 2a and 2b.

Field verified all drainages connect to a roadside ditch and reach Bucks Lake through culverts.

Trail alignment
Assumed Flow Path
OHWM Datapoint

NCE

Bucks Lake Trail System

Proposed State and Federal Aquatic Resources

N

1 in. = 900 ft.

0 300 600 900 ft.

FIGURE 7

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
ESRI World Imagery Basemap, Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, NCE	1218.02.25	dkarlowicz	1/3/2023	-	drios

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Appendix B

USACE Datasheets

Arid West Ephemeral and Intermittent Streams OHWM Datasheet

Project: 5 Buttes - Bucks Lake
Project Number: 1218.02.25
Stream: unnamed 01 This is now D1a
Investigator(s): Debra Lemke + Dylan Karlowicz
Date: 8-10-22 **Time:** 9:30
Town: Bucks Lake **State:** CA
Photo begin file#: **Photo end file#:** 2

Y ☒ / N ☐ Do normal circumstances exist on the site?

Y ☐ / N ☒ Is the site significantly disturbed?

Location Details: Bucks Lake, CA

Projection: State Plane **Datum:** WGS 84
Coordinates: (39.878899, -121.16134)

Potential anthropogenic influences on the channel system:

User Trail

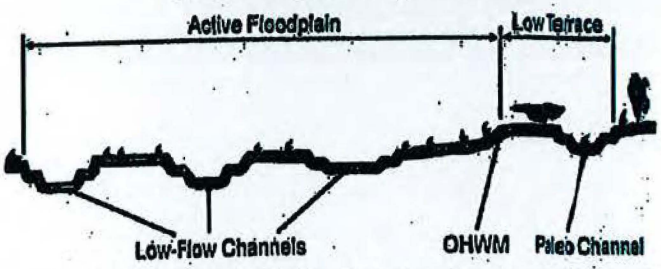
Brief site description:

creek w/ flow, mature vegetation, person-made crossing. This is a source of drinking water for the community

Checklist of resources (if available):

- ☒ Aerial photography
  Dates:
- ☒ Topographic maps
- ☐ Geologic maps
- ☒ Vegetation maps
- ☒ Soils maps
- ☐ Rainfall/precipitation maps
- ☐ Existing delineation(s) for site
- ☐ Global positioning system (GPS)
- ☐ Other studies
- ☐ Stream gage data
  Gage number:
  Period of record:
  - ☐ History of recent effective discharges
  - ☐ Results of flood frequency analysis
  - ☐ Most recent shift-adjusted rating
  - ☐ Gage heights for 2-, 5-, 10-, and 25-year events and the most recent event exceeding a 5-year event

Hydrogeomorphic Floodplain Units



Procedure for identifying and characterizing the floodplain units to assist in identifying the OHWM:

1. Walk the channel and floodplain within the study area to get an impression of the geomorphology and vegetation present at the site.
2. Select a representative cross section across the channel. Draw the cross section and label the floodplain units.
3. Determine a point on the cross section that is characteristic of one of the hydrogeomorphic floodplain units.
   a) Record the floodplain unit and GPS position.
   b) Describe the sediment texture (using the Wentworth class size) and the vegetation characteristics of the floodplain unit.
   c) Identify any indicators present at the location.
4. Repeat for other points in different hydrogeomorphic floodplain units across the cross section.
5. Identify the OHWM and record the indicators. Record the OHWM position via:
   - ☐ Mapping on aerial photograph
   - ☐ Digitized on computer
   - ☒ GPS
   - ☐ Other:

This is now D1a

Project ID: 1218.02.25 **Cross section ID:** D1 **Date:** 8/10/22 **Time:** 9:30

Cross section drawing:



30" wide; 3" deep. Photo 1 upstream 2 downstream.

OHWM

GPS point: D1 This is now D1a

Indicators:

- ☐ Change in average sediment texture
- ☒ Change in vegetation species
- ☒ Change in vegetation cover
- ☒ Break in bank slope
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Comments:

Mtn - thinleaf Alder, White fir Ferns, lupines, Pylan - w/ pink flower bush POA sp.

Floodplain unit: ☐ Low-Flow Channel ☐ Active Floodplain ☐ Low Terrace

GPS point: _____

Characteristics of the floodplain unit:

Average sediment texture: _____

Total veg cover: ____% Tree: ____% Shrub: ____% Herb: ____%

Community successional stage:

- ☐ NA
- ☐ Early (herbaceous & seedlings)
- ☐ Mid (herbaceous, shrubs, saplings)
- ☐ Late (herbaceous, shrubs, mature trees)

Indicators:

- ☐ Mudcracks
- ☐ Ripples
- ☐ Drift and/or debris
- ☐ Presence of bed and bank
- ☐ Benches
- ☐ Soil development
- ☐ Surface relief
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Comments:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA SHEET – Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region

See ERDC/EL TR-10-3; the proponent agency is CECW-CO-R

OMB Control #: 0710-0024, Exp: 11/30/2024
Requirement Control Symbol EXEMPT:
(Authority: AR 335-15, paragraph 5-2a)

Project/Site: Bucks Lake Trail System | City/County: Plumas | Sampling Date: 10/28/2022

Applicant/Owner: Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship | State: CA | Sampling Point: SP-1 (1a)

Investigator(s): Dave Rios, Dylan Karlowicz | Section, Township, Range: Sections 1 and 2, Township 23N, Range 7

Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Hillside | Local relief (concave, convex, none): concave | Slope (%): 20

Subregion (LRR): LRR D, MLRA 22A | Lat: 39.878953 | Long: -121.1612 | Datum: WGS 84

Soil Map Unit Name: 114-Chaix family - Haplaquolls complex, 2 to 30 percent slopes | NWI classification: None

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes x No ____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation ____, Soil ____, or Hydrology ____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes x No ____

Are Vegetation ____, Soil ____, or Hydrology ____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes ____	No X	**Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?** Yes ____ No X
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes x	No ____	
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes X	No ____	

Remarks:

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 3m)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1. *Abies concolor*	50	Yes	UPL
2.			
3.			
4.			
	50	=Total Cover	
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 3m)			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
		=Total Cover	
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 3m)			
1. *Pteridium aquilinum*	25	Yes	FACU
2. *Bromus inermis*	10	Yes	UPL
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
	35	=Total Cover	
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: ____)			
1.			
2.			
		=Total Cover	

% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum 75

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 0 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 3 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 0.0% (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:	
OBL species	0	x 1 =	0
FACW species	0	x 2 =	0
FAC species	0	x 3 =	0
FACU species	25	x 4 =	100
UPL species	60	x 5 =	300
Column Totals:	85 (A)		400 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = 4.71

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

____ 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation

____ 2 - Dominance Test is >50%

____ 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]

____ 4 - Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

____ 5 - Wetland Non-Vascular Plants[1]

____ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes ____ No X

Remarks:
White fir canopy.

SOIL

Sampling Point: SP-1 (1a)

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth	Matrix		Redox Features					
(inches)	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-1								Duff
1-10	10YR 2/1	100						Loam

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) **(LRR D, G)**
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- ___ 2.5 cm Mucky Peat or Peat (S2) **(LRR G)**
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) **(except MLRA 1)**
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- ___ Depleted Matrix (F3)
- x Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) **(LRR A, E)**
- ___ Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) **(LRR D)**
- ___ Red Parent Material (F21)
- ___ Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if observed):

Type: roots/rocks refusal

Depth (inches): 10

Hydric Soil Present? **Yes** x **No** ___

Remarks:
Soil is loamy, dark, and wet.

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)

- X Surface Water (A1)
- X High Water Table (A2)
- X Saturation (A3)
- ___ Water Marks (B1)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3)
- ___ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
- ___ Iron Deposits (B5)
- ___ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ___ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (**except MLRA 1, 2, 4A, and 4B**)
- ___ Salt Crust (B11)
- ___ Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ___ Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)
- ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- ___ Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1) (**LRR A**)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (**MLRA 1, 2 4A, and 4B**)
- ___ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ___ Geomorphic Position (D2)
- X Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ___ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)
- ___ Raised Ant Mounds (D6) (**LRR A**)
- ___ Frost-Heave Hummocks (D7)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present?	Yes x	No ___	Depth (inches): ___
Water Table Present?	Yes x	No ___	Depth (inches): 10
Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe)	Yes x	No ___	Depth (inches): 1

Wetland Hydrology Present? **Yes** X **No** ___

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:
Drainage 1a running water 1 foot away from sample point.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA SHEET – Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region

See ERDC/EL TR-10-3; the proponent agency is CECW-CO-R

OMB Control #: 0710-0024, Exp: 11/30/2024
Requirement Control Symbol EXEMPT:
(Authority: AR 335-15, paragraph 5-2a)

Project/Site: Bucks Lake Trail System | City/County: Plumas | Sampling Date: 10/28/2022

Applicant/Owner: Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship | State: CA | Sampling Point: SP-2 (1a)

Investigator(s): Dave Rios, Dylan Karlowicz | Section, Township, Range: Sections 1 and 2, Township 23N, Range 7

Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Hillside | Local relief (concave, convex, none): concave | Slope (%): 20

Subregion (LRR): LRR D, MLRA 22A | Lat: 39.878943 | Long: -121.161073 | Datum: WGS 84

Soil Map Unit Name: 114-Chaix family - Haplaquolls complex, 2 to 30 percent slopes | NWI classification: None

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes x No ____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation ____, Soil ____, or Hydrology ____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes x No ____

Are Vegetation ____, Soil ____, or Hydrology ____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes ____	No X	**Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?** **Yes** ____ **No** X
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes ____	No X	
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes ____	No X	

Remarks:

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 3m)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1. *Abies concolor*	75	Yes	UPL
2.			
3.			
4.			
	75	=Total Cover	
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 3m)			
1. *Lonicera conjugialis*	10	Yes	FAC
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
	10	=Total Cover	
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 3m)			
1. *Pteridium aquilinum*	50	Yes	FACU
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
	50	=Total Cover	
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: ____)			
1.			
2.			
	____	=Total Cover	

% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum 40

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 1 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 3 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 33.3% (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:	
OBL species	0	x 1 =	0
FACW species	0	x 2 =	0
FAC species	10	x 3 =	30
FACU species	50	x 4 =	200
UPL species	75	x 5 =	375
Column Totals:	135 (A)		605 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = 4.48

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

____ 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation

____ 2 - Dominance Test is >50%

____ 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]

____ 4 - Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

____ 5 - Wetland Non-Vascular Plants[1]

____ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? **Yes** ____ **No** X

Remarks:
White fir canopy.

SOIL

Sampling Point: SP-2 (1a)

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth	Matrix		Redox Features					
(inches)	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-1								duff
1-8	10YR 3/4	100						loam

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) **(LRR D, G)**
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- ___ 2.5 cm Mucky Peat or Peat (S2) **(LRR G)**
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) **(except MLRA 1)**
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- ___ Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) **(LRR A, E)**
- ___ Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) **(LRR D)**
- ___ Red Parent Material (F21)
- ___ Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if observed):

Type: Roots

Depth (inches): 8

Hydric Soil Present? **Yes** ___ **No** X

Remarks:
Soil is loamy and dry.

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)

- ___ Surface Water (A1)
- ___ High Water Table (A2)
- ___ Saturation (A3)
- ___ Water Marks (B1)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3)
- ___ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
- ___ Iron Deposits (B5)
- ___ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ___ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (**except MLRA 1, 2, 4A, and 4B**)
- ___ Salt Crust (B11)
- ___ Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ___ Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)
- ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- ___ Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1) (**LRR A**)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (**MLRA 1, 2 4A, and 4B**)
- ___ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ___ Geomorphic Position (D2)
- ___ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ___ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)
- ___ Raised Ant Mounds (D6) (**LRR A**)
- ___ Frost-Heave Hummocks (D7)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes ___ No x Depth (inches): ___

Water Table Present? Yes ___ No x Depth (inches): ___

Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes ___ No x Depth (inches): ___

Wetland Hydrology Present? **Yes** ___ **No** X

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:
Drainage 1a has running water, perennial stream.

Arid West Ephemeral and Intermittent Streams OHWM Datasheet

Project: Bucks Lake
Project Number: 1218.02.25 This is now D1b
Stream: 09
Investigator(s): OL + OK
Date: 8-10-22 **Time:** 4:50
Town: Bucks Lake **State:** CA
Photo begin file#: 25 **Photo end file#:** 27

Y [X] / N [ ] Do normal circumstances exist on the site?

Y [ ] / N [X] Is the site significantly disturbed?

Location Details: Bucks Lake; CA

Projection: State Plane **Datum:** WGS 84
Coordinates: (39.876683, -121.16074)

Potential anthropogenic influences on the channel system:

none

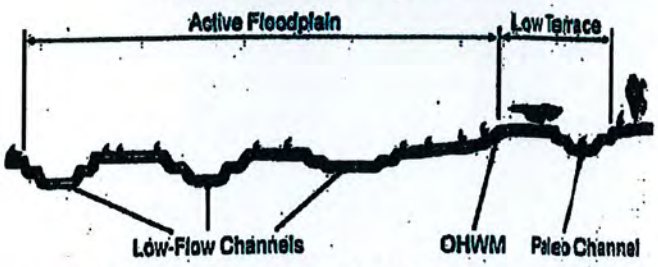
Brief site description:

About 100' from spring 1

Checklist of resources (if available):

- [X] Aerial photography
  Dates:
- [X] Topographic maps
- [ ] Geologic maps
- [X] Vegetation maps
- [X] Soils maps
- [ ] Rainfall/precipitation maps
- [ ] Existing delineation(s) for site
- [ ] Global positioning system (GPS)
- [ ] Other studies
- [ ] Stream gage data
  Gage number:
  Period of record:
- [ ] History of recent effective discharges
- [ ] Results of flood frequency analysis
- [ ] Most recent shift-adjusted rating
- [ ] Gage heights for 2-, 5-, 10-, and 25-year events and the most recent event exceeding a 5-year event

Hydrogeomorphic Floodplain Units

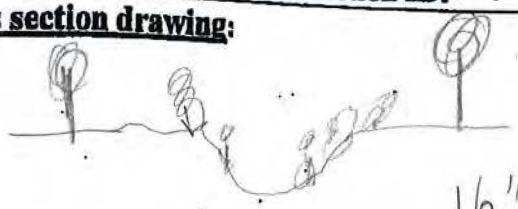


Procedure for identifying and characterizing the floodplain units to assist in identifying the OHWM:

1. Walk the channel and floodplain within the study area to get an impression of the geomorphology and vegetation present at the site.
2. Select a representative cross section across the channel. Draw the cross section and label the floodplain units.
3. Determine a point on the cross section that is characteristic of one of the hydrogeomorphic floodplain units.
   a) Record the floodplain unit and GPS position.
   b) Describe the sediment texture (using the Wentworth class size) and the vegetation characteristics of the floodplain unit.
   c) Identify any indicators present at the location.
4. Repeat for other points in different hydrogeomorphic floodplain units across the cross section.
5. Identify the OHWM and record the indicators. Record the OHWM position via:
   - [ ] Mapping on aerial photograph
   - [ ] Digitized on computer
   - [X] GPS
   - [ ] Other:

Project ID: 1218.02.25 **Cross section ID:** This is now D1b **Date:** 8-10-22 **Time:** 4:50

Cross section drawing:



OHWM

GPS point: D9 This is now D1b

Indicators:

- ☐ Change in average sediment texture
- ☒ Change in vegetation species
- ☒ Change in vegetation cover
- ☒ Break in bank slope
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Comments:

Alder, Fern, elemus. photo 25 - OHWM
26 - upstream
27 - downstream

Floodplain unit: ☐ Low-Flow Channel ☐ Active Floodplain ☐ Low Terrace

GPS point: _____

Characteristics of the floodplain unit:

Average sediment texture: _____

Total veg cover: ____% Tree: ____% Shrub: ____% Herb: ____%

Community successional stage:

- ☐ NA
- ☐ Early (herbaceous & seedlings)
- ☐ Mid (herbaceous, shrubs, saplings)
- ☐ Late (herbaceous, shrubs, mature trees)

Indicators:

- ☐ Mudcracks
- ☐ Ripples
- ☐ Drift and/or debris
- ☐ Presence of bed and bank
- ☐ Benches
- ☐ Soil development
- ☐ Surface relief
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Comments:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA SHEET – Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region

See ERDC/EL TR-10-3; the proponent agency is CECW-CO-R

OMB Control #: 0710-0024, Exp: 11/30/2024
Requirement Control Symbol EXEMPT:
(Authority: AR 335-15, paragraph 5-2a)

Project/Site: Bucks Lake Trail System | City/County: Plumas | Sampling Date: 10/28/2022

Applicant/Owner: Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship | State: CA | Sampling Point: SP-3 (1b)

Investigator(s): Dave Rios, Dylan Karlowicz | Section, Township, Range: Sections 1 and 2, Township 23N, Range 7

Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Hillside | Local relief (concave, convex, none): concave | Slope (%): 20

Subregion (LRR): LRR D, MLRA 22A | Lat: 39.876747 | Long: -121.160711 | Datum: WGS 84

Soil Map Unit Name: 114-Chaix family - Haplaquolls complex, 2 to 30 percent slopes | NWI classification: None

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes x No ____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation ____, Soil ____, or Hydrology ____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes x No ____

Are Vegetation ____, Soil ____, or Hydrology ____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes ____	No X	**Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?** Yes ____ No X
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes X	No ____	
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes ____	No X	

Remarks:

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 3m)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1. *Abies concolor*	10	Yes	UPL
2. *Alnus incana*	20	Yes	FACW
3. *Acer glabrum*	5	No	FACU
4.			
	35	=Total Cover	

Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: ____)			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
		=Total Cover	

Herb Stratum (Plot size: 3m)			
1. *Bromus inermis*	25	Yes	UPL
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
	25	=Total Cover	

Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: ____)			
1.			
2.			
		=Total Cover	

% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum 40

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 1 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 3 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 33.3% (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:	
OBL species	0	x 1 =	0
FACW species	20	x 2 =	40
FAC species	0	x 3 =	0
FACU species	5	x 4 =	20
UPL species	35	x 5 =	175
Column Totals:	60 (A)		235 (B)
Prevalence Index = B/A =			3.92

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

____ 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation

____ 2 - Dominance Test is >50%

____ 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]

____ 4 - Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

____ 5 - Wetland Non-Vascular Plants[1]

____ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes ____ No X

Remarks:

SOIL

Sampling Point: SP-3 (1b)

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth	Matrix		Redox Features					
(inches)	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-1								Duff
1-7	10YR 3/2	100						Dry and loamy

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) **(LRR D, G)**
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- ___ 2.5 cm Mucky Peat or Peat (S2) **(LRR G)**
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) **(except MLRA 1)**
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- x Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) **(LRR A, E)**
- ___ Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) **(LRR D)**
- ___ Red Parent Material (F21)
- ___ Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if observed):

Type: Rock

Depth (inches): 7

Hydric Soil Present? **Yes** X **No** ___

Remarks:
Dry loamy soil

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)

- ___ Surface Water (A1)
- ___ High Water Table (A2)
- ___ Saturation (A3)
- ___ Water Marks (B1)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3)
- ___ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
- ___ Iron Deposits (B5)
- ___ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ___ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (**except MLRA 1, 2, 4A, and 4B**)
- ___ Salt Crust (B11)
- ___ Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ___ Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)
- ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- ___ Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1) (**LRR A**)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (**MLRA 1, 2 4A, and 4B**)
- ___ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ___ Geomorphic Position (D2)
- ___ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ___ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)
- ___ Raised Ant Mounds (D6) (**LRR A**)
- ___ Frost-Heave Hummocks (D7)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes ___ No x Depth (inches): ___

Water Table Present? Yes ___ No x Depth (inches): ___

Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes ___ No x Depth (inches): ___

Wetland Hydrology Present? **Yes** ___ **No** X

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:
Dry drainage, 25in width 1.5in depth OHWM

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA SHEET – Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region

See ERDC/EL TR-10-3; the proponent agency is CECW-CO-R

OMB Control #: 0710-0024, Exp: 11/30/2024
Requirement Control Symbol EXEMPT:
(Authority: AR 335-15, paragraph 5-2a)

Project/Site: Bucks Lake Trail System | City/County: Plumas | Sampling Date: 10/28/2022

Applicant/Owner: Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship | State: CA | Sampling Point: SP-4 (1c)

Investigator(s): Dave Rios, Dylan Karlowicz | Section, Township, Range: Sections 1 and 2, Township 23N, Range 7

Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Hillside | Local relief (concave, convex, none): None | Slope (%): 20

Subregion (LRR): LRR D, MLRA 22A | Lat: 39.876482 | Long: -121.161251 | Datum: WGS 84

Soil Map Unit Name: 114-Chaix family - Haplaquolls complex, 2 to 30 percent slopes | NWI classification: None

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes x No ____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation ____, Soil ____, or Hydrology ____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes x No ____

Are Vegetation ____, Soil ____, or Hydrology ____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes ____	No X	**Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?** **Yes** ____ **No** X
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes ____	No X	
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes ____	No X	

Remarks:

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 3m)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1. *Abies concolor*	10	Yes	UPL
2. *Alnus incana*	10	Yes	FACW
3.			
4.			
	20	=Total Cover	
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: ____)			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
		=Total Cover	
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 3m)			
1. *Pteridium aquilinum*	25	Yes	FACU
2. *Bromus inermis*	10	Yes	UPL
3. *Adenocaulon bicolor*	5	No	UPL
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
	40	=Total Cover	
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: ____)			
1.			
2.			
		=Total Cover	

% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum 40

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 1 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 4 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 25.0% (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:	
OBL species	0	x 1 =	0
FACW species	10	x 2 =	20
FAC species	0	x 3 =	0
FACU species	25	x 4 =	100
UPL species	25	x 5 =	125
Column Totals:	60 (A)		245 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = 4.08

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

____ 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation

____ 2 - Dominance Test is >50%

____ 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]

____ 4 - Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

____ 5 - Wetland Non-Vascular Plants[1]

____ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? **Yes** ____ **No** X

Remarks:

SOIL

Sampling Point: SP-4 (1c)

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth	Matrix		Redox Features					
(inches)	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-10								organic layer
10-16	10YR 3/6	100					Sandy	sandy loam

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) **(LRR D, G)**
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- ___ 2.5 cm Mucky Peat or Peat (S2) **(LRR G)**
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) **(except MLRA 1)**
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- ___ Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) **(LRR A, E)**
- ___ Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) **(LRR D)**
- ___ Red Parent Material (F21)
- ___ Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if observed):

Type: roots and rock

Depth (inches): 16

Hydric Soil Present? **Yes** ___ **No** X

Remarks:

Sandy loam, granitic below organic layer. Organic layer is about 10in deep.

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)

- ___ Surface Water (A1)
- ___ High Water Table (A2)
- ___ Saturation (A3)
- ___ Water Marks (B1)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3)
- ___ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
- ___ Iron Deposits (B5)
- ___ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ___ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (**except MLRA 1, 2, 4A, and 4B**)
- ___ Salt Crust (B11)
- ___ Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ___ Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)
- ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- ___ Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1) (**LRR A**)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (**MLRA 1, 2 4A, and 4B**)
- ___ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ___ Geomorphic Position (D2)
- ___ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ___ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)
- ___ Raised Ant Mounds (D6) (**LRR A**)
- ___ Frost-Heave Hummocks (D7)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes ___ No x Depth (inches): ___

Water Table Present? Yes ___ No x Depth (inches): ___

Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes ___ No x Depth (inches): ___

Wetland Hydrology Present? **Yes** ___ **No** X

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA SHEET – Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region

See ERDC/EL TR-10-3; the proponent agency is CECW-CO-R

OMB Control #: 0710-0024, Exp: 11/30/2024
Requirement Control Symbol EXEMPT:
(Authority: AR 335-15, paragraph 5-2a)

Project/Site: Bucks Lake Trail System | City/County: Plumas | Sampling Date: 10/28/2022

Applicant/Owner: Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship | State: CA | Sampling Point: SP-5 (1d)

Investigator(s): Dave Rios, Dylan Karlowicz | Section, Township, Range: Sections 1 and 2, Township 23N, Range 7

Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Hillside | Local relief (concave, convex, none): None | Slope (%): 20

Subregion (LRR): LRR D, MLRA 22A | Lat: 39.876755 | Long: -121.162387 | Datum: WGS 84

Soil Map Unit Name: 114-Chaix family - Haplaquolls complex, 2 to 30 percent slopes | NWI classification: None

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes x No ____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation ____, Soil ____, or Hydrology ____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes x No ____

Are Vegetation ____, Soil ____, or Hydrology ____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes ____	No X	**Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?** Yes ____ No X
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes X	No ____	
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes ____	No X	

Remarks:

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 3m)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1. *Fraxinus latifolia*	10	Yes	FACW
2. *Alnus incana*	10	Yes	FACW
3. *Abies concolor*	10	Yes	UPL
4.			
	30	=Total Cover	
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 3m)			
1. *Ribes cereum*	5	Yes	UPL
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
	5	=Total Cover	
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 3m)			
1. *Bromus inermis*	5	Yes	UPL
2. *Adenocaulon bicolor*	5	Yes	UPL
3. *Pteridium aquilinum*	5	Yes	FACU
4. *Chimaphila umbellata*	10	Yes	UPL
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
	25	=Total Cover	
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: ____)			
1.			
2.			
	____	=Total Cover	

% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum 40

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 2 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 8 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 25.0% (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:	
OBL species	0	x 1 =	0
FACW species	20	x 2 =	40
FAC species	0	x 3 =	0
FACU species	5	x 4 =	20
UPL species	35	x 5 =	175
Column Totals:	60 (A)		235 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = 3.92

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

____ 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation

____ 2 - Dominance Test is >50%

____ 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]

____ 4 - Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

____ 5 - Wetland Non-Vascular Plants[1]

____ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes ____ No X

Remarks:
Riparian vegetatio is sparse, gap in riparian corridor. Surrounding vegetation in drainage has sparse Carex sp.

SOIL

Sampling Point: SP-5 (1d)

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth	Matrix		Redox Features					
(inches)	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-10								Organic veg layer
10-19	10YR 3/2	80		20				Sandy loam

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) **(LRR D, G)**
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- ___ 2.5 cm Mucky Peat or Peat (S2) **(LRR G)**
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) **(except MLRA 1)**
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- x Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) **(LRR A, E)**
- ___ Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) **(LRR D)**
- ___ Red Parent Material (F21)
- ___ Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if observed):

Type: _____

Depth (inches): _____

Hydric Soil Present? **Yes** X **No** ___

Remarks:
Sandy loam, some redox.

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)

- ___ Surface Water (A1)
- ___ High Water Table (A2)
- ___ Saturation (A3)
- ___ Water Marks (B1)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3)
- ___ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
- ___ Iron Deposits (B5)
- ___ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ___ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (**except MLRA 1, 2, 4A, and 4B**)
- ___ Salt Crust (B11)
- ___ Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ___ Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)
- ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- ___ Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1) (**LRR A**)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (**MLRA 1, 2 4A, and 4B**)
- ___ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ___ Geomorphic Position (D2)
- ___ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ___ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)
- ___ Raised Ant Mounds (D6) (**LRR A**)
- ___ Frost-Heave Hummocks (D7)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes ___ No x Depth (inches): ___

Water Table Present? Yes ___ No x Depth (inches): ___

Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes ___ No x Depth (inches): ___

Wetland Hydrology Present? **Yes** ___ **No** X

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:
Dry drainage, 24in width 2in depth OHWM

Arid West Ephemeral and Intermittent Streams OHWM Datasheet

Project: Bucks Lake
Project Number: 1218.02.25
Stream: Unnamed 02 This is now D2a
Investigator(s): D. Lemke + D. Karlawicz

Date: 8/10 **Time:** 12:04
Town: Bucks Lake **State:** CA
Photo begin file#: 8 **Photo end file#:** 9

Y ☒ / N ☐ Do normal circumstances exist on the site?

Y ☐ / N ☒ Is the site significantly disturbed?

Location Details: Bucks Lake, CA

Projection: State Plane **Datum:** WGS 84
Coordinates: (39.87802672, -121.1532942)

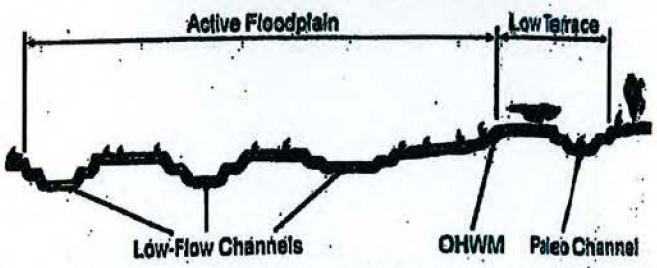
Potential anthropogenic influences on the channel system:
none to date

Brief site description:
dry drainage, step/pool present

Checklist of resources (if available):

- ☒ Aerial photography
  Dates:
- ☒ Topographic maps
- ☐ Geologic maps
- ☒ Vegetation maps
- ☒ Soils maps
- ☐ Rainfall/precipitation maps
- ☐ Existing delineation(s) for site
- ☐ Global positioning system (GPS)
- ☐ Other studies
- ☐ Stream gage data
  Gage number:
  Period of record:
- ☐ History of recent effective discharges
- ☐ Results of flood frequency analysis
- ☐ Most recent shift-adjusted rating
- ☐ Gage heights for 2-, 5-, 10-, and 25-year events and the most recent event exceeding a 5-year event

Hydrogeomorphic Floodplain Units



Procedure for identifying and characterizing the floodplain units to assist in identifying the OHWM:

1. Walk the channel and floodplain within the study area to get an impression of the geomorphology and vegetation present at the site.
2. Select a representative cross section across the channel. Draw the cross section and label the floodplain units.
3. Determine a point on the cross section that is characteristic of one of the hydrogeomorphic floodplain units.
   a) Record the floodplain unit and GPS position.
   b) Describe the sediment texture (using the Wentworth class size) and the vegetation characteristics of the floodplain unit.
   c) Identify any indicators present at the location.
4. Repeat for other points in different hydrogeomorphic floodplain units across the cross section.
5. Identify the OHWM and record the indicators. Record the OHWM position via:
   - ☐ Mapping on aerial photograph
   - ☐ Digitized on computer
   - ☒ GPS
   - ☐ Other:

This is now D2a

Project ID: 1218.02.25 **Cross section ID:** D2 **Date:** 8/10 **Time:** 12:04

Cross section drawing:



30" wide + 3" deep

Ferns, Alder, white pine, ribes

OHWM

GPS point: D2 This is now D2a

Indicators:

- ☐ Change in average sediment texture
- ☒ Change in vegetation species
- ☐ Change in vegetation cover
- ☒ Break in bank slope
- ☐ Other: step pools present
- ☐ Other: _____

Comments:

photo 8 looking upstream
" 9 " downstream

Floodplain unit: ☐ Low-Flow Channel ☐ Active Floodplain ☐ Low Terrace

GPS point: _____

Characteristics of the floodplain unit:

Average sediment texture: _____

Total veg cover: ____% Tree: ____% Shrub: ____% Herb: ____%

Community successional stage:

- ☐ NA
- ☐ Early (herbaceous & seedlings)
- ☐ Mid (herbaceous, shrubs, saplings)
- ☐ Late (herbaceous, shrubs, mature trees)

Indicators:

- ☐ Mudcracks
- ☐ Ripples
- ☐ Drift and/or debris
- ☐ Presence of bed and bank
- ☐ Benches
- ☐ Soil development
- ☐ Surface relief
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Comments:

Arid West Ephemeral and Intermittent Streams OHWM Datasheet

Project: Bucks Lake
Project Number: 1218.02.25
Stream: D8 This is now D2b
Investigator(s): JL+DK

Date: 8-10-22 **Time:** 4:10
Town: Bucks Lake **State:** CA
Photo begin file#: 21 **Photo end file#:** 22

Y ☒ / N ☐ Do normal circumstances exist on the site?

Y ☐ / N ☒ Is the site significantly disturbed?

Location Details: Bucks Lake, CA

Projection: State Plane **Datum:** WGS 84
Coordinates: (39.8779799, -121.1531375)

Potential anthropogenic influences on the channel system:

none. This may be upstream of D3

Brief site description:

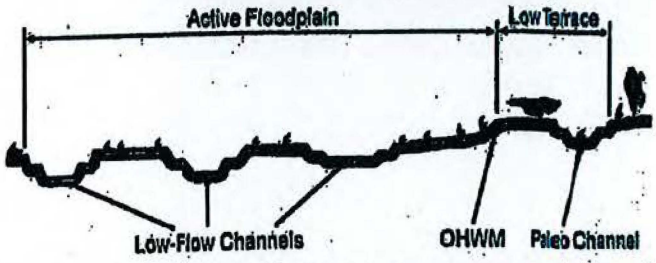
mature forest. no riparian corridor. dry drainage.

Checklist of resources (if available):

- ☒ Aerial photography
  Dates:
- ☒ Topographic maps
- ☐ Geologic maps
- ☒ Vegetation maps
- ☒ Soils maps
- ☐ Rainfall/precipitation maps
- ☐ Existing delineation(s) for site
- ☐ Global positioning system (GPS)
- ☐ Other studies

- ☐ Stream gage data
  Gage number:
  Period of record:
- ☐ History of recent effective discharges
- ☐ Results of flood frequency analysis
- ☐ Most recent shift-adjusted rating
- ☐ Gage heights for 2-, 5-, 10-, and 25-year events and the most recent event exceeding a 5-year event

Hydrogeomorphic Floodplain Units



Procedure for identifying and characterizing the floodplain units to assist in identifying the OHWM:

1. Walk the channel and floodplain within the study area to get an impression of the geomorphology and vegetation present at the site.
2. Select a representative cross section across the channel. Draw the cross section and label the floodplain units.
3. Determine a point on the cross section that is characteristic of one of the hydrogeomorphic floodplain units.
   a) Record the floodplain unit and GPS position.
   b) Describe the sediment texture (using the Wentworth class size) and the vegetation characteristics of the floodplain unit.
   c) Identify any indicators present at the location.
4. Repeat for other points in different hydrogeomorphic floodplain units across the cross section.
5. Identify the OHWM and record the indicators. Record the OHWM position via:
   - ☐ Mapping on aerial photograph
   - ☐ Digitized on computer
   - ☒ GPS
   - ☐ Other:

This is now D2b

Project ID: 1218.02.25 **Cross section ID:** D8 **Date:** 8-10-22 **Time:** 4:10

Cross section drawing:



OHWM

GPS point: D8 This is now D2b

Indicators:

- ☐ Change in average sediment texture
- ☐ Change in vegetation species
- ☐ Change in vegetation cover
- ☒ Break in bank slope
- ☒ Other: exposed rocks
- ☐ Other: _____

Comments:

Dry, #21 looking upstream.
#22 " downstream.

Floodplain unit: ☐ Low-Flow Channel ☐ Active Floodplain ☐ Low Terrace

GPS point: _____

Characteristics of the floodplain unit:

Average sediment texture: _____

Total veg cover: ____% Tree: ____% Shrub: ____% Herb: ____%

Community successional stage:

- ☐ NA
- ☐ Early (herbaceous & seedlings)
- ☐ Mid (herbaceous, shrubs, saplings)
- ☐ Late (herbaceous, shrubs, mature trees)

Indicators:

- ☐ Mudcracks
- ☐ Ripples
- ☐ Drift and/or debris
- ☐ Presence of bed and bank
- ☐ Benches
- ☐ Soil development
- ☐ Surface relief
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Comments:

Arid West Ephemeral and Intermittent Streams OHWM Datasheet

Project: Bucks Lake
Project Number: 1218.02.25
Stream: UNAroad d3
Investigator(s): D. Lemke + D. Karlowicz

Date: 8-10-22 **Time:** 12:30
Town: Buck Lake **State:** CA
Photo begin file#: 10 **Photo end file#:** 12

Y [X] / N [ ] Do normal circumstances exist on the site?

Y [ ] / N [X] Is the site significantly disturbed?

Location Details: Bucks Lake, CA

Projection: State Plane **Datum:** WGS 84
Coordinates: (39.8808686, -121.1515655)

Potential anthropogenic influences on the channel system:

none

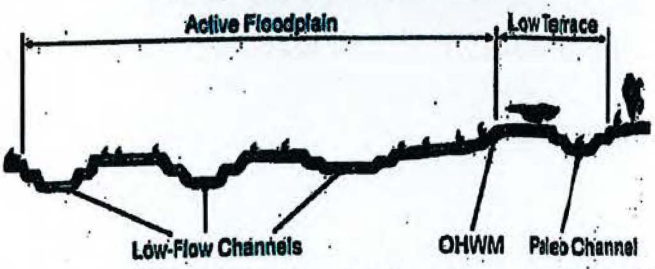
Brief site description:

mature forest, dry drainage, step/pool system, rocky

Checklist of resources (if available):

- [X] Aerial photography
  Dates:
- [X] Topographic maps
- [ ] Geologic maps
- [X] Vegetation maps
- [X] Soils maps
- [ ] Rainfall/precipitation maps
- [ ] Existing delineation(s) for site
- [ ] Global positioning system (GPS)
- [ ] Other studies
- [ ] Stream gage data
  Gage number:
  Period of record:
- [ ] History of recent effective discharges
- [ ] Results of flood frequency analysis
- [ ] Most recent shift-adjusted rating
- [ ] Gage heights for 2-, 5-, 10-, and 25-year events and the most recent event exceeding a 5-year event

Hydrogeomorphic Floodplain Units



Procedure for identifying and characterizing the floodplain units to assist in identifying the OHWM:

1. Walk the channel and floodplain within the study area to get an impression of the geomorphology and vegetation present at the site.
2. Select a representative cross section across the channel. Draw the cross section and label the floodplain units.
3. Determine a point on the cross section that is characteristic of one of the hydrogeomorphic floodplain units.
   a) Record the floodplain unit and GPS position.
   b) Describe the sediment texture (using the Wentworth class size) and the vegetation characteristics of the floodplain unit.
   c) Identify any indicators present at the location.
4. Repeat for other points in different hydrogeomorphic floodplain units across the cross section.
5. Identify the OHWM and record the indicators. Record the OHWM position via:
   - [ ] Mapping on aerial photograph
   - [ ] Digitized on computer
   - [X] GPS
   - [ ] Other:

Project ID: 1218.02.25 **Cross section ID:** 03 **Date:** 8-10-22 **Time:** 12:30

Cross section drawing:



dry drainage 24" wide; 4" deep

OHWM

GPS point: 03

Indicators:

- ☐ Change in average sediment texture
- ☒ Change in vegetation species
- ☒ Change in vegetation cover
- ☒ Break in bank slope
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Comments:

photo break #10
#11 upstream #12 downstream

Floodplain unit: ☐ Low-Flow Channel ☐ Active Floodplain ☐ Low Terrace

GPS point: _____

Characteristics of the floodplain unit:

Average sediment texture: _____

Total veg cover: ____% Tree: ____% Shrub: ____% Herb: ____%

Community successional stage:

- ☐ NA
- ☐ Early (herbaceous & seedlings)
- ☐ Mid (herbaceous, shrubs, saplings)
- ☐ Late (herbaceous, shrubs, mature trees)

Indicators:

- ☐ Mudcracks
- ☐ Ripples
- ☐ Drift and/or debris
- ☐ Presence of bed and bank
- ☐ Benches
- ☐ Soil development
- ☐ Surface relief
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Comments:

Arid West Ephemeral and Intermittent Streams OHWM Datasheet

Project: Bucks Lake
Project Number: 1218.02.25
Stream: unnamed D4
Investigator(s): O. Lemke + O. Karlavicz

Date: 8/10/22 **Time:** 12:55
Town: Bucks Lake **State:** CA
Photo begin file#: 13 **Photo end file#:** 14

Y ☒ / N ☐ Do normal circumstances exist on the site?

Y ☐ / N ☒ Is the site significantly disturbed?

Location Details: Bucks Lake, CA

Projection: State Plane **Datum:** WGS 84
Coordinates: (39.8813679, -121.1503502)

Potential anthropogenic influences on the channel system:

none

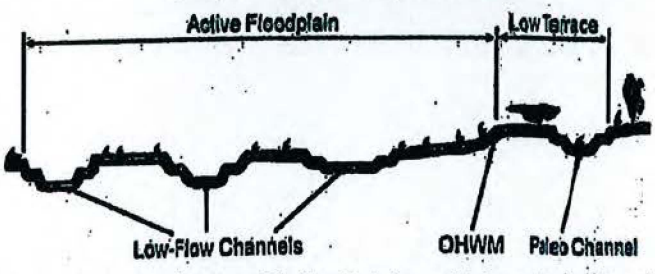
Brief site description:

mature forest, dry drainage, riparian corridor present, step/pool, rocky

Checklist of resources (if available):

- ☒ Aerial photography
  Dates:
- ☒ Topographic maps
- ☐ Geologic maps
- ☒ Vegetation maps
- ☒ Soils maps
- ☐ Rainfall/precipitation maps
- ☐ Existing delineation(s) for site
- ☐ Global positioning system (GPS)
- ☐ Other studies
- ☐ Stream gage data
  Gage number:
  Period of record:
- ☐ History of recent effective discharges
- ☐ Results of flood frequency analysis
- ☐ Most recent shift-adjusted rating
- ☐ Gage heights for 2-, 5-, 10-, and 25-year events and the most recent event exceeding a 5-year event

Hydrogeomorphic Floodplain Units

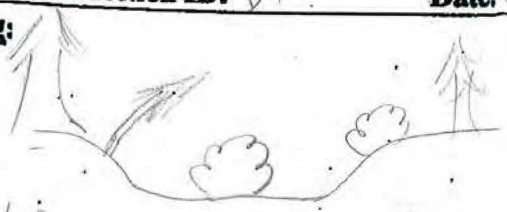


Procedure for identifying and characterizing the floodplain units to assist in identifying the OHWM:

1. Walk the channel and floodplain within the study area to get an impression of the geomorphology and vegetation present at the site.
2. Select a representative cross section across the channel. Draw the cross section and label the floodplain units.
3. Determine a point on the cross section that is characteristic of one of the hydrogeomorphic floodplain units.
   a) Record the floodplain unit and GPS position.
   b) Describe the sediment texture (using the Wentworth class size) and the vegetation characteristics of the floodplain unit.
   c) Identify any indicators present at the location.
4. Repeat for other points in different hydrogeomorphic floodplain units across the cross section.
5. Identify the OHWM and record the indicators. Record the OHWM position via:
   - ☐ Mapping on aerial photograph
   - ☐ Digitized on computer
   - ☒ GPS
   - ☐ Other:

Project ID: 1218.02.25 **Cross section ID:** D4 **Date:** 8/10/22 **Time:** 1255

Cross section drawing:



OHWM

GPS point: D4

Indicators:

- ☐ Change in average sediment texture
- ☒ Change in vegetation species
- ☒ Change in vegetation cover
- ☒ Break in bank slope
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Comments:

Photo # 13 upstream
#14 downstream

Floodplain unit:

☐ Low-Flow Channel ☐ Active Floodplain ☐ Low Terrace

GPS point: _____

Characteristics of the floodplain unit:

Average sediment texture: _____

Total veg cover: ____% Tree: ____% Shrub: ____% Herb: ____%

Community successional stage:

- ☐ NA
- ☐ Early (herbaceous & seedlings)
- ☐ Mid (herbaceous, shrubs, saplings)
- ☐ Late (herbaceous, shrubs, mature trees)

Indicators:

- ☐ Mudcracks
- ☐ Ripples
- ☐ Drift and/or debris
- ☐ Presence of bed and bank
- ☐ Benches
- ☐ Soil development
- ☐ Surface relief
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Comments:

Arid West Ephemeral and Intermittent Streams OHWM Datasheet

Project: Bucks Lake
Project Number: 1218.02.25
Stream: D5 This is now D5a
Investigator(s): DL, DK, ML

Date: 8/10/22 **Time:** 1:15 pm
Town: Bucks Lake **State:** CA
Photo begin file#: 15 **Photo end file#:** 16

Y ☒ / N ☐ Do normal circumstances exist on the site?

Y ☐ / N ☒ Is the site significantly disturbed?

Location Details: Bucks Lake, CA

Projection: State Plane **Datum:** WGS 84
Coordinates: (39.8818605, -121.1489379)

Potential anthropogenic influences on the channel system:

none

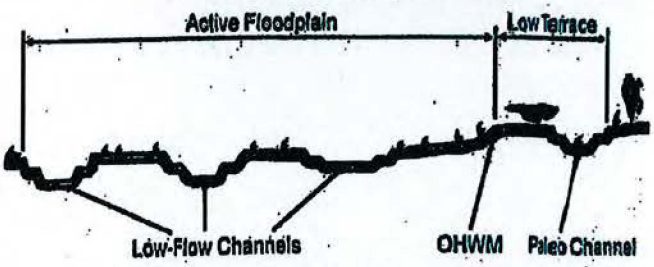
Brief site description:

downstream of data pt. spring (pooling)
upstream dry, riparian vegetation, step/pool present

Checklist of resources (if available):

- ☒ Aerial photography
  Dates:
- ☒ Topographic maps
- ☐ Geologic maps
- ☒ Vegetation maps
- ☒ Soils maps
- ☐ Rainfall/precipitation maps
- ☐ Existing delineation(s) for site
- ☐ Global positioning system (GPS)
- ☐ Other studies
- ☐ Stream gage data
  Gage number:
  Period of record:
- ☐ History of recent effective discharges
- ☐ Results of flood frequency analysis
- ☐ Most recent shift-adjusted rating
- ☐ Gage heights for 2-, 5-, 10-, and 25-year events and the most recent event exceeding a 5-year event

Hydrogeomorphic Floodplain Units



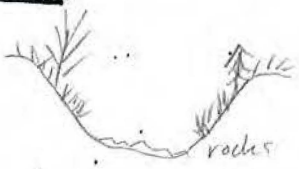
Procedure for identifying and characterizing the floodplain units to assist in identifying the OHWM:

1. Walk the channel and floodplain within the study area to get an impression of the geomorphology and vegetation present at the site.
2. Select a representative cross section across the channel. Draw the cross section and label the floodplain units.
3. Determine a point on the cross section that is characteristic of one of the hydrogeomorphic floodplain units.
   a) Record the floodplain unit and GPS position.
   b) Describe the sediment texture (using the Wentworth class size) and the vegetation characteristics of the floodplain unit.
   c) Identify any indicators present at the location.
4. Repeat for other points in different hydrogeomorphic floodplain units across the cross section.
5. Identify the OHWM and record the indicators. Record the OHWM position via:
   - ☐ Mapping on aerial photograph
   - ☐ Digitized on computer
   - ☒ GPS
   - ☐ Other:

This is now D5a

Project ID: 1218.02.25 **Cross section ID:** D5 **Date:** 8/10/22 **Time:** 1:15

Cross section drawing:



OHWM

GPS point: D5 This is now D5a

Indicators:

- ☐ Change in average sediment texture
- ☒ Change in vegetation species
- ☒ Change in vegetation cover
- ☒ Break in bank slope
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Comments:

Photo #15 upstream
#16 downstream w/spring

Floodplain unit:

☐ Low-Flow Channel ☐ Active Floodplain ☐ Low Terrace

GPS point: _____

Characteristics of the floodplain unit:

Average sediment texture: _____
Total veg cover: ____% Tree: ____% Shrub: ____% Herb: ____%
Community successional stage:

- ☐ NA
- ☐ Early (herbaceous & seedlings)
- ☐ Mid (herbaceous, shrubs, saplings)
- ☐ Late (herbaceous, shrubs, mature trees)

Indicators:

- ☐ Mudcracks
- ☐ Ripples
- ☐ Drift and/or debris
- ☐ Presence of bed and bank
- ☐ Benches
- ☐ Soil development
- ☐ Surface relief
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Comments:

Arid West Ephemeral and Intermittent Streams OHWM Datasheet

Project: Bucks Lake
Project Number: 1218.02.25
Stream: 06 - This is now D5b
Investigator(s): DLT OK

Date: 8-10-22 **Time:** 2:45
Town: Bucks Lake **State:** CA
Photo begin file#: 17 **Photo end file#:** 18

Y [X] / N [ ] Do normal circumstances exist on the site?

Y [ ] / N [X] Is the site significantly disturbed?

Location Details: Bucks Lake, CA

Projection: State Plane **Datum:** WGS 84
Coordinates: (39.879373, -121.146348)

Potential anthropogenic influences on the channel system:

none - This could be the top of D5

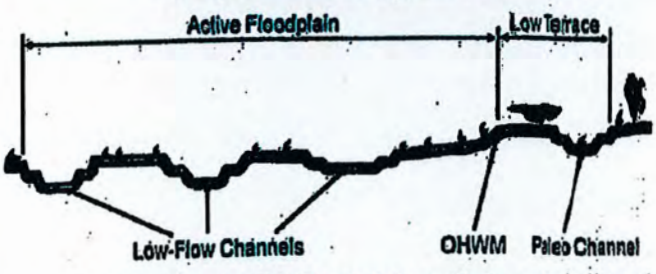
Brief site description:

mature veg,

Checklist of resources (if available):

- [X] Aerial photography
  Dates:
- [X] Topographic maps
- [ ] Geologic maps
- [X] Vegetation maps
- [X] Soils maps
- [ ] Rainfall/precipitation maps
- [ ] Existing delineation(s) for site
- [ ] Global positioning system (GPS)
- [ ] Other studies
- [ ] Stream gage data
  Gage number:
  Period of record:
- [ ] History of recent effective discharges
- [ ] Results of flood frequency analysis
- [ ] Most recent shift-adjusted rating
- [ ] Gage heights for 2-, 5-, 10-, and 25-year events and the most recent event exceeding a 5-year event

Hydrogeomorphic Floodplain Units



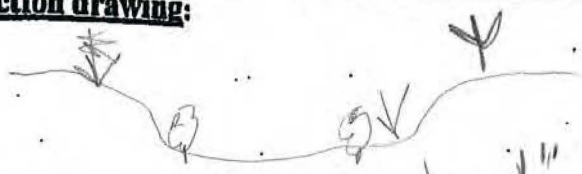
Procedure for identifying and characterizing the floodplain units to assist in identifying the OHWM:

1. Walk the channel and floodplain within the study area to get an impression of the geomorphology and vegetation present at the site.
2. Select a representative cross section across the channel. Draw the cross section and label the floodplain units.
3. Determine a point on the cross section that is characteristic of one of the hydrogeomorphic floodplain units.
   a) Record the floodplain unit and GPS position.
   b) Describe the sediment texture (using the Wentworth class size) and the vegetation characteristics of the floodplain unit.
   c) Identify any indicators present at the location.
4. Repeat for other points in different hydrogeomorphic floodplain units across the cross section.
5. Identify the OHWM and record the indicators. Record the OHWM position via:
   - [ ] Mapping on aerial photograph
   - [ ] Digitized on computer
   - [X] GPS
   - [ ] Other:

This is now D5b

Project ID: 1218.02.25 **Cross section ID:** 06 **Date:** 8-10-22 **Time:** 2:45

Cross section drawing:



rocky bottom 48" wide; 1" deep fern, Alder, elemos sp.

OHWM

GPS point: 06 This is now D5b

wide riparian corridor @ 50' D6-R GPS'd

Indicators:

- ☐ Change in average sediment texture
- ☒ Change in vegetation species
- ☒ Change in vegetation cover
- ☒ Break in bank slope
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Comments:

packets of standing water ~1" deep

photo 17 upstream; photo 18 looking downstream

Floodplain unit: ☐ Low-Flow Channel ☐ Active Floodplain ☐ Low Terrace

GPS point: _____

Characteristics of the floodplain unit:

Average sediment texture: _____

Total veg cover: ____% Tree: ____% Shrub: ____% Herb: ____%

Community successional stage:

- ☐ NA
- ☐ Early (herbaceous & seedlings)
- ☐ Mid (herbaceous, shrubs, saplings)
- ☐ Late (herbaceous, shrubs, mature trees)

Indicators:

- ☐ Mudcracks
- ☐ Ripples
- ☐ Drift and/or debris
- ☐ Presence of bed and bank
- ☐ Benches
- ☐ Soil development
- ☐ Surface relief
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Comments:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA SHEET – Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region

See ERDC/EL TR-10-3; the proponent agency is CECW-CO-R

OMB Control #: 0710-0024, Exp: 11/30/2024
Requirement Control Symbol EXEMPT:
(Authority: AR 335-15, paragraph 5-2a)

Project/Site: Bucks Lake Trail System | City/County: Plumas | Sampling Date: 10/28/2022

Applicant/Owner: Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship | State: CA | Sampling Point: SP-6 (5b)

Investigator(s): Dave Rios, Dylan Karlowicz | Section, Township, Range: Sections 1 and 2, Township 23N, Range 7

Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Hillside | Local relief (concave, convex, none): Concave | Slope (%): 20

Subregion (LRR): LRR D, MLRA 22A | Lat: 39.879383 | Long: -121.146331 | Datum: WGS 84

Soil Map Unit Name: 120 - Chaix-Wapi families complex, 30 to 50 percent slopes | NWI classification: None

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes x No ____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation ____, Soil ____, or Hydrology ____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes x No ____

Are Vegetation ____, Soil ____, or Hydrology ____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes ____	No X	**Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?** **Yes** ____ **No** X
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes ____	No X	
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes ____	No X	

Remarks:

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 3m)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1. *Abies concolor*	30	Yes	UPL
2. *Alnus incana*	10	Yes	FACW
3.			
4.			
	40	=Total Cover	
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size:)			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
		=Total Cover	
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 3m)			
1. *Bromus inermis*	15	Yes	UPL
2. *Pteridium aquilinum*	15	Yes	FACU
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
	30	=Total Cover	
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size:)			
1.			
2.			
		=Total Cover	

% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum 30

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 1 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 4 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 25.0% (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:	
OBL species	0	x 1 =	0
FACW species	10	x 2 =	20
FAC species	0	x 3 =	0
FACU species	15	x 4 =	60
UPL species	45	x 5 =	225
Column Totals:	70 (A)		305 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = 4.36

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

____ 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation

____ 2 - Dominance Test is >50%

____ 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]

____ 4 - Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

____ 5 - Wetland Non-Vascular Plants[1]

____ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? **Yes** ____ **No** X

Remarks:

SOIL

Sampling Point: SP-6 (5b)

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth	Matrix		Redox Features					
(inches)	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-10								Organic layer
10-14	10YR 3/1	100						sandy loam

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) **(LRR D, G)**
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- ___ 2.5 cm Mucky Peat or Peat (S2) **(LRR G)**
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) **(except MLRA 1)**
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- ___ Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) **(LRR A, E)**
- ___ Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) **(LRR D)**
- ___ Red Parent Material (F21)
- ___ Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if observed):

Type: Rocks and roots

Depth (inches): 14

Hydric Soil Present? **Yes** ___ **No** X

Remarks:
Soil is dark, dry, sandy loam. Deep organic layer.

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)

- ___ Surface Water (A1)
- ___ High Water Table (A2)
- ___ Saturation (A3)
- ___ Water Marks (B1)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3)
- ___ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
- ___ Iron Deposits (B5)
- ___ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ___ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (**except MLRA 1, 2, 4A, and 4B**)
- ___ Salt Crust (B11)
- ___ Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ___ Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)
- ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- ___ Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1) (**LRR A**)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (**MLRA 1, 2 4A, and 4B**)
- ___ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ___ Geomorphic Position (D2)
- ___ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ___ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)
- ___ Raised Ant Mounds (D6) (**LRR A**)
- ___ Frost-Heave Hummocks (D7)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes ___ No x Depth (inches): ___

Water Table Present? Yes ___ No x Depth (inches): ___

Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes ___ No x Depth (inches): ___

Wetland Hydrology Present? **Yes** ___ **No** X

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:
17in width x 2.5in depth OHWM

Arid West Ephemeral and Intermittent Streams OHWM Datasheet

Project: Bucks Lake
Project Number: 1218.02.25
Stream: D7 This is now D5c
Investigator(s): OL+DK

Date: 8-10-22 **Time:** 2:50
Town: Bucks Lake **State:** CA
Photo begin file#: 19 **Photo end file#:** 20

Y ☒ / N ☐ Do normal circumstances exist on the site?

Y ☐ / N ☒ Is the site significantly disturbed?

Location Details: Bucks Lake, CA

Projection: State Plane **Datum:** WGS 84
Coordinates: (39.879212, -121.146756)

Potential anthropogenic influences on the channel system:
None

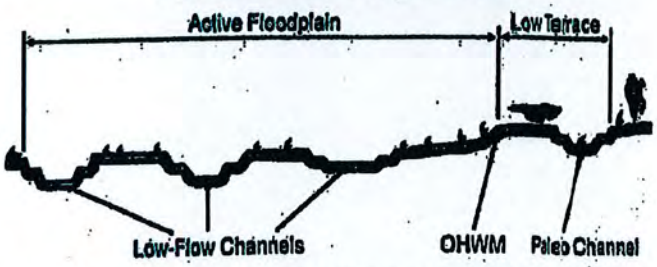
Brief site description:
no Alder. Channel looks possible Abandoned due to a lack of riparian corridor

Checklist of resources (if available):

- ☒ Aerial photography
  Dates:
- ☒ Topographic maps
- ☐ Geologic maps
- ☒ Vegetation maps
- ☒ Soils maps
- ☐ Rainfall/precipitation maps
- ☐ Existing delineation(s) for site
- ☐ Global positioning system (GPS)
- ☐ Other studies

- ☐ Stream gage data
  Gage number:
  Period of record:
  - ☐ History of recent effective discharges
  - ☐ Results of flood frequency analysis
  - ☐ Most recent shift-adjusted rating
  - ☐ Gage heights for 2-, 5-, 10-, and 25-year events and the most recent event exceeding a 5-year event

Hydrogeomorphic Floodplain Units



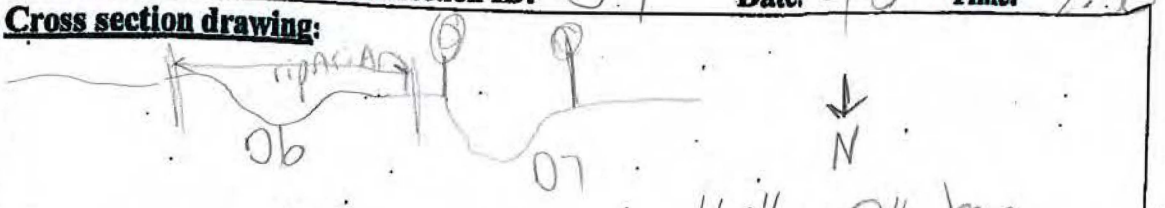
Procedure for identifying and characterizing the floodplain units to assist in identifying the OHWM:

1. Walk the channel and floodplain within the study area to get an impression of the geomorphology and vegetation present at the site.
2. Select a representative cross section across the channel. Draw the cross section and label the floodplain units.
3. Determine a point on the cross section that is characteristic of one of the hydrogeomorphic floodplain units.
   a) Record the floodplain unit and GPS position.
   b) Describe the sediment texture (using the Wentworth class size) and the vegetation characteristics of the floodplain unit.
   c) Identify any indicators present at the location.
4. Repeat for other points in different hydrogeomorphic floodplain units across the cross section.
5. Identify the OHWM and record the indicators. Record the OHWM position via:
   - ☐ Mapping on aerial photograph
   - ☐ Digitized on computer
   - ☒ GPS
   - ☐ Other:

This is now D5c

Project ID: 1218.02.25 **Cross section ID:** 07 **Date:** 8/10 **Time:** 7:55

Cross section drawing:



ferns + pine. No Alder. 40"; 2" deep

OHWM

GPS point: 07 This is now D5c

Indicators:

- [x] Change in average sediment texture
- [ ] Change in vegetation species
- [ ] Change in vegetation cover
- [x] Break in bank slope
- [ ] Other: _____
- [ ] Other: _____

Comments:

rocky bottom. #19 looking upstream. south
#20 " downstream north

Floodplain unit: ☐ Low-Flow Channel ☐ Active Floodplain ☐ Low Terrace

GPS point: _____

Characteristics of the floodplain unit:

Average sediment texture: _____

Total veg cover: ____% Tree: ____% Shrub: ____% Herb: ____%

Community successional stage:

- [ ] NA
- [ ] Early (herbaceous & seedlings)
- [ ] Mid (herbaceous, shrubs, saplings)
- [ ] Late (herbaceous, shrubs, mature trees)

Indicators:

- [ ] Mudcracks
- [ ] Ripples
- [ ] Drift and/or debris
- [ ] Presence of bed and bank
- [ ] Benches
- [ ] Soil development
- [ ] Surface relief
- [ ] Other: _____
- [ ] Other: _____
- [ ] Other: _____

Comments:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA SHEET – Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region

See ERDC/EL TR-10-3; the proponent agency is CECW-CO-R

OMB Control #: 0710-0024, Exp: 11/30/2024
Requirement Control Symbol EXEMPT:
(Authority: AR 335-15, paragraph 5-2a)

Project/Site: Bucks Lake Trail System | City/County: Plumas | Sampling Date: 10/28/2022

Applicant/Owner: Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship | State: CA | Sampling Point: SP-7 (5c)

Investigator(s): Dave Rios, Dylan Karlowicz | Section, Township, Range: Sections 1 and 2, Township 23N, Range 7

Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Hillside | Local relief (concave, convex, none): Concave | Slope (%): 20

Subregion (LRR): LRR D, MLRA 22A | Lat: 39.879232 | Long: -121.146759 | Datum: WGS 84

Soil Map Unit Name: 120 - Chaix-Wapi families complex, 30 to 50 percent slopes | NWI classification: None

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes x No ____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation ____, Soil ____, or Hydrology ____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes x No ____

Are Vegetation ____, Soil ____, or Hydrology ____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes ____	No X	**Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?** **Yes** ____ **No** X
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes ____	No X	
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes ____	No X	

Remarks:

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 3m)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1. *Abies concolor*	25	Yes	UPL
2.			
3.			
4.			
	25	=Total Cover	
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 3m)			
1. *Chrysolepis sempervirens*	15	Yes	UPL
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
	15	=Total Cover	
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 3m)			
1. *Pteridium aquilinum*	20	Yes	FACU
2. *Chimaphila umbellata*	20	Yes	UPL
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
	40	=Total Cover	
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: ____)			
1.			
2.			
	____	=Total Cover	

% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum 20

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 0 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 4 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 0.0% (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:	
OBL species	0	x 1 =	0
FACW species	0	x 2 =	0
FAC species	0	x 3 =	0
FACU species	20	x 4 =	80
UPL species	60	x 5 =	300
Column Totals:	80 (A)		380 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = 4.75

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

____ 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation

____ 2 - Dominance Test is >50%

____ 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]

____ 4 - Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

____ 5 - Wetland Non-Vascular Plants[1]

____ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? **Yes** ____ **No** X

Remarks:

SOIL

Sampling Point: SP-7 (5c)

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth	Matrix		Redox Features					
(inches)	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-5								Organic vegetation layer
5-8	10YR 4/4	100						Sandy loam

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) **(LRR D, G)**
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- ___ 2.5 cm Mucky Peat or Peat (S2) **(LRR G)**
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) **(except MLRA 1)**
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- ___ Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) **(LRR A, E)**
- ___ Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) **(LRR D)**
- ___ Red Parent Material (F21)
- ___ Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if observed):

Type: Roots

Depth (inches): 8

Hydric Soil Present? **Yes** ___ **No** X

Remarks:
Soil is a dry sandy loam.

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)

- ___ Surface Water (A1)
- ___ High Water Table (A2)
- ___ Saturation (A3)
- ___ Water Marks (B1)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3)
- ___ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
- ___ Iron Deposits (B5)
- ___ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ___ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (**except MLRA 1, 2, 4A, and 4B**)
- ___ Salt Crust (B11)
- ___ Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ___ Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)
- ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- ___ Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1) (**LRR A**)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (**MLRA 1, 2 4A, and 4B**)
- ___ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ___ Geomorphic Position (D2)
- ___ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ___ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)
- ___ Raised Ant Mounds (D6) (**LRR A**)
- ___ Frost-Heave Hummocks (D7)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes ___ No x Depth (inches): ___

Water Table Present? Yes ___ No x Depth (inches): ___

Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes ___ No x Depth (inches): ___

Wetland Hydrology Present? **Yes** ___ **No** X

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:
36in width x 2.5in depth OHWM

Arid West Ephemeral and Intermittent Streams OHWM Datasheet

Project: Bucks Lake Trail
Project Number: 1218.02.25
Stream: D10 This is now D6
Investigator(s): ML, DK

Date: 8/11/22 **Time:** 9:50 am
Town: Quincy **State:** CA
Photo begin file#: **Photo end file#:**

← may need to fill in to match Debra's photo #s

Y ☒ / N ☐ Do normal circumstances exist on the site?

Y ☐ / N ☒ Is the site significantly disturbed?

Location Details: Quincy, CA

Projection: State Plane **Datum:** WGS 84
Coordinates: 39.8767070, -121.1654369

Potential anthropogenic influences on the channel system:

none

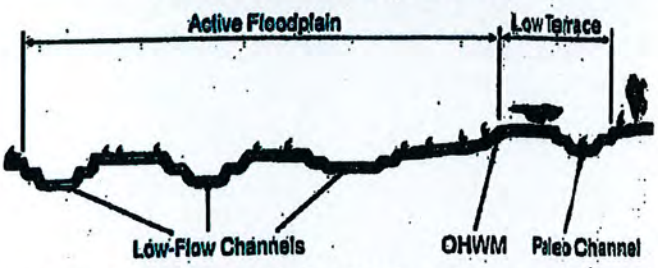
Brief site description:

dry stream, step/pool system, rocky bottom, filled w/ broken branches + slash debris, very steep + prob. high velocity flood when wet

Checklist of resources (if available):

- ☒ Aerial photography
  Dates:
- ☒ Topographic maps
- ☐ Geologic maps
- ☒ Vegetation maps
- ☒ Soils maps
- ☐ Rainfall/precipitation maps
- ☐ Existing delineation(s) for site
- ☐ Global positioning system (GPS)
- ☐ Other studies
- ☐ Stream gage data
  Gage number:
  Period of record:
- ☐ History of recent effective discharges
- ☐ Results of flood frequency analysis
- ☐ Most recent shift-adjusted rating
- ☐ Gage heights for 2-, 5-, 10-, and 25-year events and the most recent event exceeding a 5-year event

Hydrogeomorphic Floodplain Units



Procedure for identifying and characterizing the floodplain units to assist in identifying the OHWM:

1. Walk the channel and floodplain within the study area to get an impression of the geomorphology and vegetation present at the site.
2. Select a representative cross section across the channel. Draw the cross section and label the floodplain units.
3. Determine a point on the cross section that is characteristic of one of the hydrogeomorphic floodplain units.
   a) Record the floodplain unit and GPS position.
   b) Describe the sediment texture (using the Wentworth class size) and the vegetation characteristics of the floodplain unit.
   c) Identify any indicators present at the location.
4. Repeat for other points in different hydrogeomorphic floodplain units across the cross section.
5. Identify the OHWM and record the indicators. Record the OHWM position via:
   - ☐ Mapping on aerial photograph
   - ☐ Digitized on computer
   - ☒ GPS
   - ☐ Other:

This is now D6

Project ID: 1218.02.25 **Cross section ID:** D10 **Date:** 8/11/22 **Time:** 9:50am

Cross section drawing:

white fir
no veg. change
photos upstream + downstream



OHWM

GPS point: D10 This is now D6

Indicators:

- [x] Change in average sediment texture
- [ ] Change in vegetation species
- [ ] Change in vegetation cover
- [x] Break in bank slope
- [ ] Other: _____
- [ ] Other: _____

Comments:

large cobbles + boulders creating various steps down drainage
- mature forest.
- doesn't flow long enough for riparian veg. to grow (steep)
riparian?

Floodplain unit:

- [ ] Low-Flow Channel
- [ ] Active Floodplain
- [ ] Low Terrace

GPS point: _____

Characteristics of the floodplain unit:

Average sediment texture: _____
Total veg cover: ____% Tree: ____% Shrub: ____% Herb: ____%
Community successional stage:

- [ ] NA
- [ ] Early (herbaceous & seedlings)
- [ ] Mid (herbaceous, shrubs, saplings)
- [ ] Late (herbaceous, shrubs, mature trees)

Indicators:

- [ ] Mudcracks
- [ ] Ripples
- [ ] Drift and/or debris
- [ ] Presence of bed and bank
- [ ] Benches
- [ ] Soil development
- [ ] Surface relief
- [ ] Other: _____
- [ ] Other: _____
- [ ] Other: _____

Comments:

Appendix C

Representative Photographs



Photograph Point (PP) 1: D1a, looking upstream



PP 2: D1b, looking east at proposed trail crossing



PP 3: D1c, looking east at the riparian vegetation



PP 4: D1d, looking downstream



PP 5: D2a, looking west at proposed trail crossing



PP 6: D2b, looking downstream



PP 7: D3, looking west at proposed trail crossing



PP 8: D4, looking east at proposed trail crossing



PP 9: D5a, looking northeast at proposed trail crossing



PP 10: D5b, looking northeast at proposed trail crossing



PP 11: D5c, looking downstream



PP 12: D6, looking upstream

Appendix C

Cultural Resources Letter Report



Cultural Resources Letter Report

Bucks Lake Trail System, Plumas County, California

February 2025

NCE

Richmond, CA
501 Canal Blvd., Suite I
Richmond, CA 94804



Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship

550 Crescent Street
Quincy, CA 95971

February 11, 2025

Greg Williams
Executive Director
Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship
550 Crescent Street
Quincy, CA 95971

Subject: Cultural Resources Inventory Letter Report for Bucks Lake Trail System, Plumas County, California

Mr. Williams:

This letter report documents the results of the cultural resources inventory for the Bucks Lake Trail System (Project) located in Plumas County, California. The inventory was carried out according to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resource Code [PRC] Section 21083.2 and 21084.1).

Attachment 1 of this report contains figures depicting the Project area or Area of Potential Effect (APE). **Figure 1** is a location map of the Project area at a 1:24,000 scale with a USGS 7.5' quadrangle background (Bucks Lake). **Figure 2** is a detailed map of the APE with aerial imagery as background. **Figure 3** contains drainage locations within the APE and **Figure 4** depicts current trail connectivity with the proposed Project. Native American consultation-related material is provided in **Attachment 2**. The records search results from the Northeast Information Center (NEIC) (#D22-147) are provided in **Attachment 3** (redacted). Photos taken of the APE during the pedestrian surveys are provided in **Attachment 4**.

BACKGROUND

Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship (SBTS) was awarded a Stewardship Council grant to conduct an environmental review and seek approval to construct and maintain a non-motorized trail system on the southeast shore of Bucks Lake in Plumas County, California (see **Figures 1 and 2**). The proposed Project is located on two PG&E-owned parcels identified by Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 112-060-008 and 112-060-007. The parcels total 682.68 acres and 1.5 of those acres are proposed to be developed into a single lane, standard/terra, non-motorized trail system resulting in approximately five miles of new trail in the Bucks Lake Recreation Area.

The goal of the Project is to provide connectivity between existing United States Forest Service (USFS) trails and resort areas, and provide a safe, non-motorized alternative to traveling along Bucks Lake Road to access these areas. Visiting trail users will be able to park at the existing Bucks Lake Loop Trailhead and access the proposed trails via the Bucks Lake Loop Trail. Bucks Lake residents will be able to access the trail system from the resort and cabin areas (see **Figure 4**).

Project approval will be sought through a Third-Party Request to Use PG&E Lands, the California Public Utility Commission 851 Advice Letter process and a special use permit from the Plumas County Planning Department. NCE has been retained to complete an environmental review of the Project in compliance with CEQA. The USFS's *Standard Specification for Construction and Maintenance of Trails* (EM-7730-103) will be followed to construct the Project. The Project will be constructed to meet a Class 2 Moderately Developed standard, which includes continuous and discernible, but narrow and rough tread construction using native materials. Construction will include both mechanized (mini-excavator, pionjar rock drills, and over-the-counter boulder busting charges) and hand construction methods (McLeod, pulaski, picks, etc.). Construction is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2023 upon approval of the environmental review. Construction may take up to two seasons to complete.

The Project will be managed for both hiking and biking recreation opportunities and designed to bicycle parameters, which include:

- Design tread width will be 12 to 24 inches; tread may be up to 36 inches wide along steep side slopes and high-use areas.
- Design structures will have a minimum tread of 18 inches.
- The design surface will be native with limited grading, protrusions might be common and continuous but less than or equal to six inches.
- The design grade will be five to 12 percent with a short pitch maximum of no more than 15 percent and an average running grade of 9.6 percent.
- The design cross slope will be five to eight percent with a maximum cross slope of 10 percent.
- Design clearing will be to a height of six to eight feet, clearing width will be 60 to 72 inches, shoulder clearance will be six to 12 inches, and light vegetation may encroach into the clearing area.
    - No trees larger than six inches in diameter will be removed and all vegetation will either be removed by pulling the root wad or by cutting flush with the ground.
- The design turning radius will be three to six feet.

Other improvements to the property will include (1) one bridge with railings crossing a perennial stream to protect aquatic resources and public drinking water infrastructure; (2) eight simple stringer bridges or hardened water crossings across intermittent drainages (Drainages 1 through 6 respectively, see **Figure 3**); (3) single post sign at entrances to trail system showing allowable uses; and (4) directional Carsonite signs at trail intersections.

No parking areas, buildings, or other permanent infrastructure are being proposed as part of the Project. Access to the trail system would be seasonal with no maintenance occurring during the winter season. Seasonal summer maintenance of the trail system will be through Adopt-A-Trail partnerships and volunteer hours. Maintenance of the trail is expected to be performed using hand tools except for bridge maintenance which will require mechanical assistance.

Based on current recreational trail use in the area, it is anticipated the new trail system use on weekends during peak season (Memorial Day through Labor Day) will be zero to three individuals hourly and 25 to 30 individuals daily. Use is anticipated to be less on weekdays during peak season as well as on weekends and weekdays during the non-peak season. The trail system is not anticipated to be used during the winter season.

This inventory letter report assesses the potential for the Project to impact cultural resources through Native American consultations, archival review, and an intensive pedestrian survey.

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT

The approximately 52-acre APE consists of a 100-foot-wide corridor (50-foot buffer to each side) centered on the proposed trail alignment centerline (see **Figure 2**). It was determined the boundaries of the Area of Direct Impact and Area of Indirect Impact are coincident for this Project; therefore, they are referenced herein as the APE. The APE is where ground-disturbing activities will occur during construction of the new trail system. The maximum depth of excavation to construct the trail is approximately eight to 13 inches deep depending on slope and the trail will be constructed with native materials. During operations in the APE, there will be a temporary increase in construction traffic levels, dust, equipment noise, and vibrations. Proposed vertical elements include trail signs and one bridge with railings.

NATIVE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENCE

Native Americans speaking more than 100 different languages and occupying a variety of ecological settings inhabited the region before the arrival of the Euro-Americans. The APE is located within the traditional aboriginal territory of the Mountain Maidu (Northeastern Maidu) and the KonKow (Northwestern Maidu) (Golla 2007:77; Kroeber 1925:391-404; McGuire 2007:167-169). These tribes occupied areas along the Sacramento River and east of the foothills of the Sierra Nevada between present-day Chico and Susanville. The Mountain Maidu inhabited the Bucks Valley area on a seasonal basis. PG&E and USFS (n.d.) note, "Bucks Creek served as a summer and fall hunting and gathering encampment for the Maidu whose permanent villages were located at lower elevations. Radiocarbon dates from sites in the area demonstrate a history of Maidu use extending back at least 2,000 years." The Maidu languages are part of the Maiduan Language Family of Penutian Stock and the Hokan language was substratal in this area, most likely from an overlap with the Washoe. The Maidu populations were divided into recognized autonomous political units creating distinct village communities. Subsistence practices included fishing, hunting, and collecting different plant resources such as acorns, a staple food source. The Mountain Maidu and KonKow were known to make a variety of basketry and wood, stone, and bone tools (Kroeber 1925:405-419; PMC 2008, 2010). The Mountain Maidu community continues to protect the lands and cultural resources in the Bucks Lake area today.

Following Assembly Bill 52 (AB-52) as identified in Section 21080.3.1(b)(2) of CEQA, Native American tribes (tribes) identified by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), were invited to consult on the Project. Native American correspondence was initiated with a letter and attached maps to the NAHC on August 22, 2022. The letter requested a record search of

their Sacred Lands File (SLF) and a contact list for regional tribes that may know of cultural or tribal resources within or immediately adjacent to the APE. A response was received from the NAHC on October 21, 2022, with negative SLF results. Inquiry letters were mailed to the tribes identified by the NAHC and the County of Plumas on November 22, 2022 (see **Attachment 2**). On December 8th and 9th, 2022, follow-up emails were sent to the tribes and the Maidu Summit Consortium was contacted via phone. On June 10, 2024, follow-up emails were sent to the tribes indicating that the project was starting up again, and on June 21, 2024, follow-up phone calls and voicemails were left. To date, four tribes have responded: Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria, Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians (Greenville Rancheria), Maidu Summit Consortium, and Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians (Mooretown Rancheria). A summary of correspondence is as follows:

- **Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria**: On July 8, 2024, Nelson Smith, Co-Director, responded to the outreach and requested consultation. A field meeting was then scheduled for September 30, 2024. On that date, the field meeting was held, but no tribal representatives attended. On October 1, 2024, and October 16, 2024, the Tribe was contacted by SBTS and NCE respectively, but no response was received.
- **Greenville Rancheria**: On December 13, 2022, SBTS had a meeting with Shelby Leung, Greenville Rancheria Fire Crew Lead, Cultural Resource Specialist, and Tribal Liaison. The Project was discussed, and a digital copy of the consultation letter was provided. No response was received from the 2024 outreach.
- **Mooretown Rancheria**: On December 22, 2022, a letter was received from Matthew Hatcher, Mooretown Rancheria Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, dated November 30, 2022. Mr. Hatcher requested to consult on the Project. He requested to have a site visit with the construction manager and archaeologist. On September 24, 2024, a field visit was scheduled with Mr. Hatcher for September 30, 2024. On that date, the field meeting was held, but no tribal representatives attended. On October 1, 2024, and October 16, 2024, the Tribe was contacted by SBTS and NCE respectively, but no response was received.
- **Maidu Summit Consortium:** On December 20, 2022, Trina Cunningham, Maidu Summit Consortium Executive Director, responded via phone and email requesting to consult on the Project. She requested a site visit and that tribal monitors be on-site during trail construction as processing and storage artifacts may surface during construction. On June 24, 2024, Misty Salem, Maidu Summit Finance/Community Engagement Coordinator, responded via phone requesting to continue consultation on the project. She also provided the contact information for the Maidu Summit Cultural Resources Coordinator, Harvey Merino. On September 17, 2024, an email was sent to coordinate logistics for a field meeting between SBTS, the County, and consulting tribes. No response was received.

To date, no additional tribes have responded. However, consultation with the tribes is ongoing.

ARCHIVAL REVIEW

Archival data were reviewed to determine the location and nature of prehistoric and/or historic resources recorded previously within and adjacent to the APE. Archaeological inventory and site records maintained by NEIC and the USFS Plumas National Forest, Mt. Hough Ranger District, were requested using a quarter-mile (0.25) search buffer around the APE (discussed as the archival study area). Emphasis was placed on determining which portions of the archival study area have been inventoried previously and the location of previously recorded archaeological sites within or adjacent to the APE (see **Attachment 3**).

As a result of the records search, no cultural resources have been formally recorded in the APE. Three historic resources were identified within a quarter mile of the APE including the Beckwourth Trail (P-32-001635), Bucks Lake Lodge (P-32-004382), and a Placer mining site (P-32-004599). According to PG&E and USFS (n.d.), Bucks Lake is a manmade lake reservoir that was originally a valley with accompanying drainage. Horace Bucklin and Francis Walker were the first non-native people to move into the valley during the 1850 Gold Rush leading to the names Bucks Valley and Bucks Creek. Bucks Ranch was established in 1851 and was an important pack trail stop to Spanish Ranch and Rich Bar. This trail became the Beckwourth Trail established by James P. Beckwourth. The valley and surrounding forest were primarily used for logging, mining, and cattle ranching. The lake was dammed in 1928 by the Feather River Power Company (FRPC) and Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) now owns and operates the dam. Since the creation of Bucks Lake, small communities and recreational lodges have sprung up in the area.

The records search indicates nine inventories have been conducted that intersect with portions of the APE (see **Attachment 3**). The majority of the inventories that encompass the entire APE were conducted as Class I literature reviews or geoarchaeological studies covering multiple counties and the Plumas National Forest. Vasquez (2006) conducted an archaeological survey encompassing the entire APE for the Bucks Lake Timber Harvesting Plan. Beckwourth Trail (P-32-001635) is indicated as the only resource recorded during the survey. Most recently, PG&E and the City of Santa Clara (2017) conducted a survey focused on the perimeter of Bucks Lake, Lower Bucks Lake, and Bucks Lake Creek before PG&E improvements. The survey identified bedrock mortar sites outside of the APE. No sites were identified where the survey overlapped with the APE. The area was observed as having steep terrain (Miguel Jeffery personal communication August 9, 2022). The inventories were conducted five or more years ago necessitating a Class III investigation for the APE.

Historic General Land Office (GLO) plat maps (dated 1875 and 1881), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps (dated 1888, 1891, 1893, 1895, and 1897 Bidwell Bar, 1:125,000; 1950 Bucks Lake, 1:62,500; and 1979 Bucks Lake 1:24,000), and Nationwide Environmental Title Research, LLC's historic aerial imagery (dated 1973) were reviewed. The GLO plat maps depicted an alignment of Oroville and Quincy Road, portions of which would later become Bucks Lake Road. The Oroville and Quincy Road, located north of the APE, extended across Bucks Lake Valley and crossed Bucks Creek before construction of the dam. Early topographic USGS maps generally depicted the location of Bucks Valley, Bucks Creek, and Bucks Ranch

which was located to the west of the APE. Topographic USGS maps dated from 1950 and later depicted the current lake reservoir outline, Bucks Lake Road alignment, and individual cabin locations in the area. Bucks Lake Road and the piers near Bucks Lakeshore Resort can be discerned in available historic aerial imagery. No linear features were discernible in the APE or were depicted in the APE on the historic maps.

METHODS

An intensive pedestrian survey focusing on the APE was conducted by Molly Laitinen, NCE Staff Archaeologist, on August 10, 11, 2022, and October 28, 2022. Ms. Laitinen developed the letter report, which was reviewed by Charles Zeier, NCE Senior Archaeologist. Ms. Laitinen and Mr. Zeier meet the Secretary of Interior's Standards (SOI) for Archaeology (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 61) and are both Registered Professional Archaeologists.

The objective of the field survey was to locate and describe cultural resources present within and adjacent to the APE. Fieldwork was performed following applicable Federal and State standards. Emphasis was placed on the examination of the undisturbed or relatively undisturbed ground.

When cultural resources were encountered in the APE, field personnel more thoroughly examined the immediate area to determine the type and extent of cultural material. Archaeological components, including diagnostic artifacts, artifact concentrations, and features, were described in field notebooks, photographed using 10-megapixel or better cameras, and plotted using a sub-meter GPS. At least two overview photographs would have been taken per site to capture the general surroundings with attention paid to capturing the horizon (if possible) to aid in future relocation. If applicable, photos of artifacts would have contained a scale and all photographs would have been GPS-plotted. Isolates were mapped and photographed (if diagnostic). Upon completion of the inventory, field data was converted to GIS shapefiles projected to NAD83 California State Plane 1. Sites would have been recorded on Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 site forms and plotted on a USGS 7.5-minute map. No artifacts were collected during the field survey.

RESULTS

As a result of the inventory, two isolated historic artifacts were identified within the APE. ISO-01 was a corroded crimped-seam beer can with church-key openings. ISO-02 was a crushed water tank constructed with rivets. The tank appeared to have traveled downhill and came to rest in its present location. No other cultural material was identified within the APE. However, visibility within the APE was low due to a high density of vegetation and pine duff (see **Attachment 4**).

According to archival research, the Bucks Lake area was traditionally used by the Maidu and has historically been used for logging and mining. The various forms of disturbance occupying most of the APE include evidence of temporary two-track logging roads and ditches from recent logging activities, natural drainages, and modern underground water tanks near drainages and within spring sources for residents. The westernmost and easternmost portions of the APE, totaling approximately 44 acres, are considered to have low archaeological

sensitivity and are unlikely to have preserved prehistoric sites. These portions of the APE proposed to be directly impacted by the Project contain slopes greater than 30 percent. Such steep slopes are not likely to contain prehistoric habitation sites. Such sites are more likely to occur on flat topographic features close to water sources. The centrally located eight acres of the APE (within Drainage 1) contain flat topography and meadow landscape and are considered to have moderate to high archaeological sensitivity. Drainages 2 and 3 located towards the east side of the APE are considered to have low to moderate archaeological sensitivity considering steeper slopes and few flat areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended the Project is unlikely to impact historical resources meeting the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California PRC. No such resources have been recorded previously within the APE. The majority of Project-related disturbance will be limited to steep areas and areas previously disturbed by logging activities. It is recommended workers' awareness training mitigation be implemented prior to the onset of construction within the centrally located eight acres of the APE and near Drainages 1 through 3. Proposed vertical elements are considered to have no impact on historical resources. It is also recommended the Maidu Summit Consortium and Mooretown Rancheria should be contacted to continue consultation.

If prehistoric or historic period resources are discovered during Project implementation that could be adversely affected by Project-related activities, all such activities should cease immediately. SHPO representatives should be contacted immediately. Based on the prehistoric and historic uses of the area, the prior ground disturbance within the APE, and minimal construction depths, human remains are not expected to be discovered during construction activities. However, in the event that unknown burials or human remains are discovered, standard construction controls for unanticipated discoveries comply with PRC Section 5097.98 and Section 7050.5 of California Health and Safety Code and ensure that potential impacts to human remains would be less than significant.

If you have any comments regarding the content of this letter report, please contact Molly Laitinen, NCE Staff Archaeologist.

Sincerely,

Molly Laitinen
NCE
Staff Archaeologist
mlaitinen@ncenet.com
510-215-3620

Charles Zeier
NCE
Senior Archaeologist
czeier@ncenet.com
775-588-2505

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Attachment 1

FIGURES

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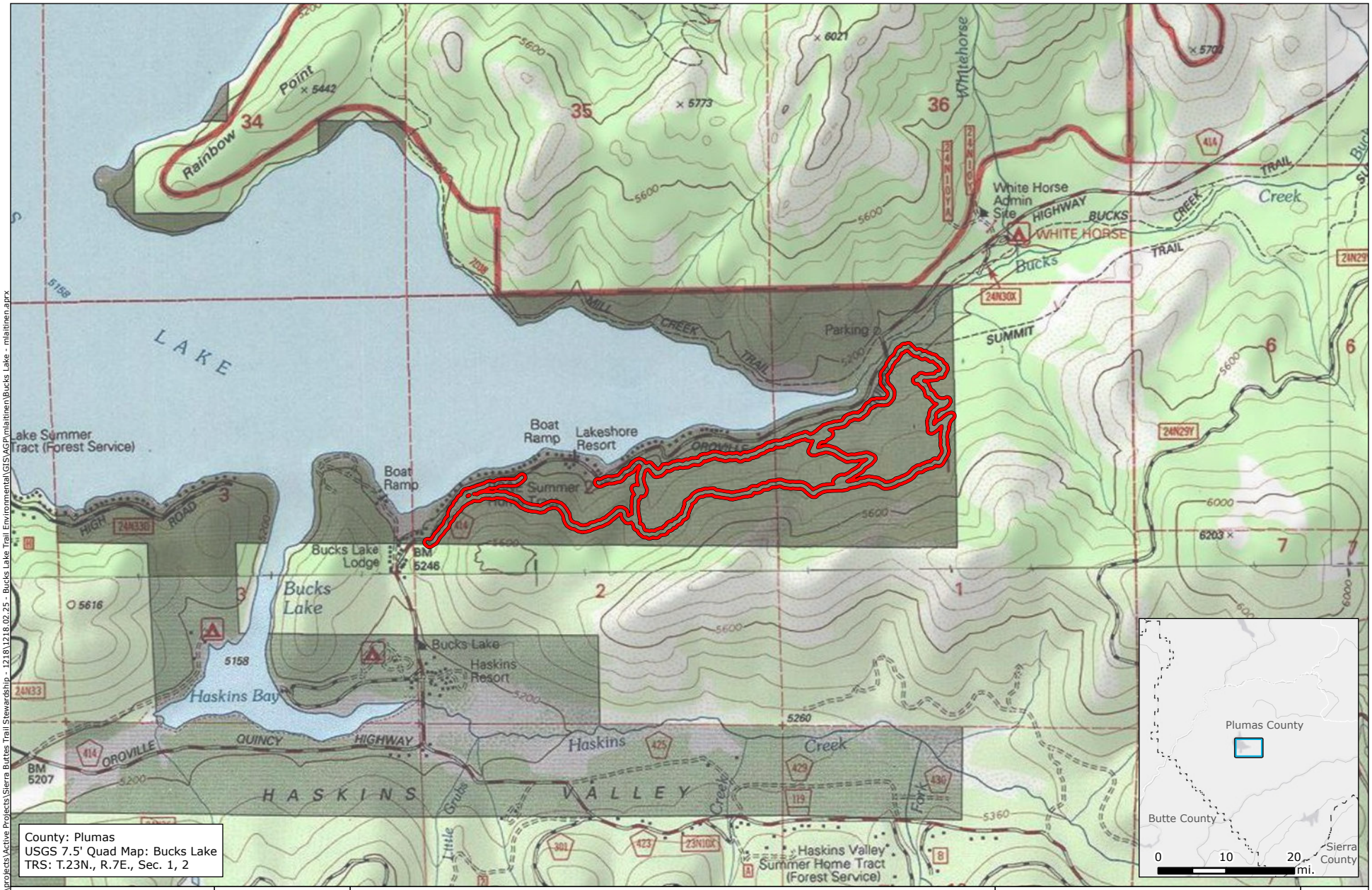

County: Plumas
USGS 7.5' Quad Map: Bucks Lake
TRS: T.23N., R.7E., Sec. 1, 2

Legend

APE

Bucks Lake Trail System

Area of Potential Effect (APE) Location Map

N

1 : 24,000

0 1,000 2,000 ft.

FIGURE 1

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
ESRI USGS Topo Maps	1218.02.25	mlaitinen	8/9/2022	11/29/2022	drios

Document Path: \\NCE-RCH-PEER\projects\Active Projects\Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship - 1218\1218.02.25 - Bucks Lake Trail Environmental\GIS\AGP\mlaitinen\Bucks Lake - mlaitinen.aprx



Legend

- APE
- Trail Centerline

NCE

Bucks Lake Trail System

APE Detail Map

N

1 in. = 900 ft.

0 300 600 900 ft.

FIGURE 2

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
ESRI World Imagery Basemap	1218.02.25	mlaitinen	8/9/2022	11/29/2022	drios

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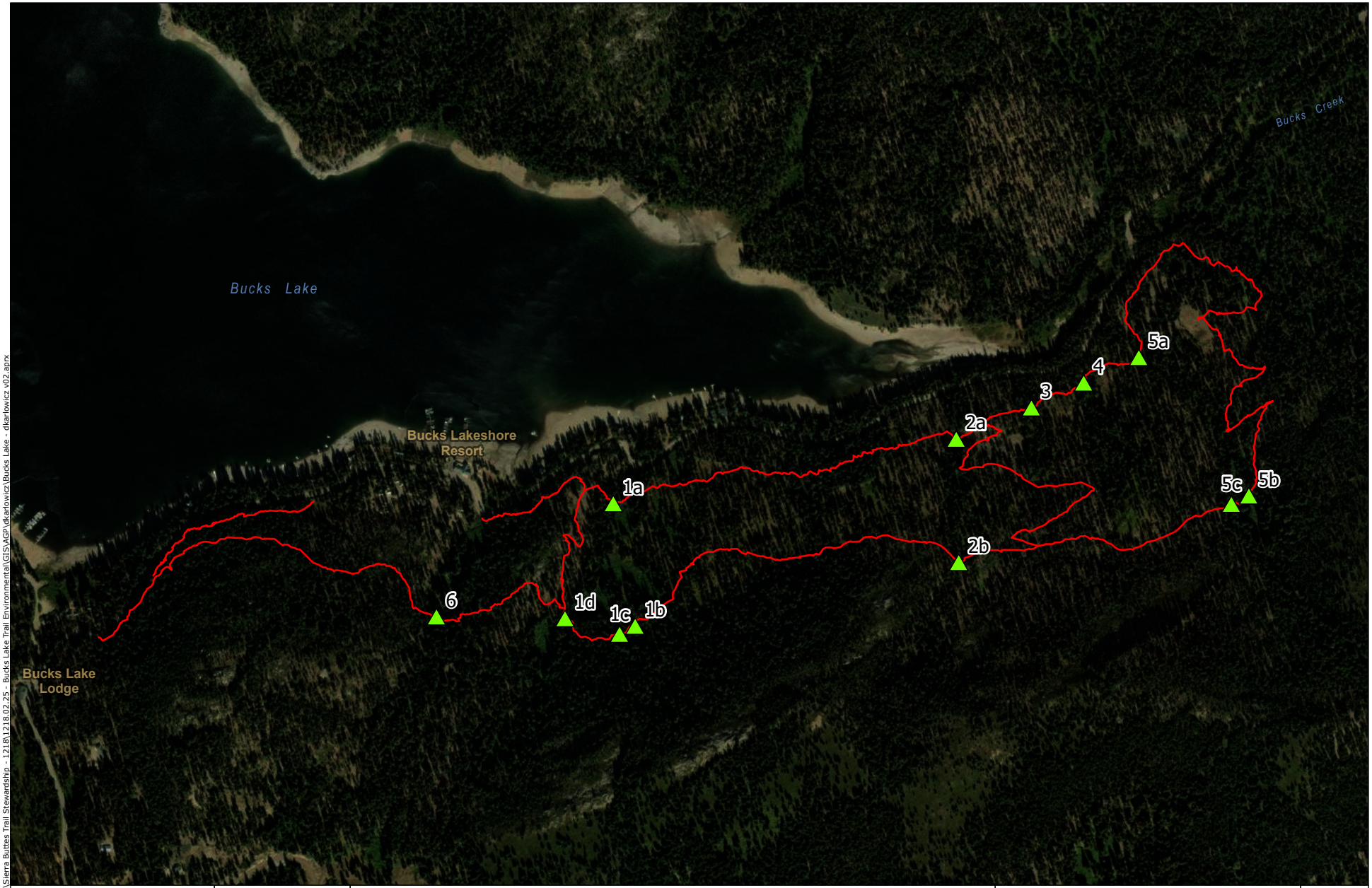


Legend

- Drainage locations
- Trail alignment

NCE

Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship

Bucks Lake Trail System

Drainage Locations

N

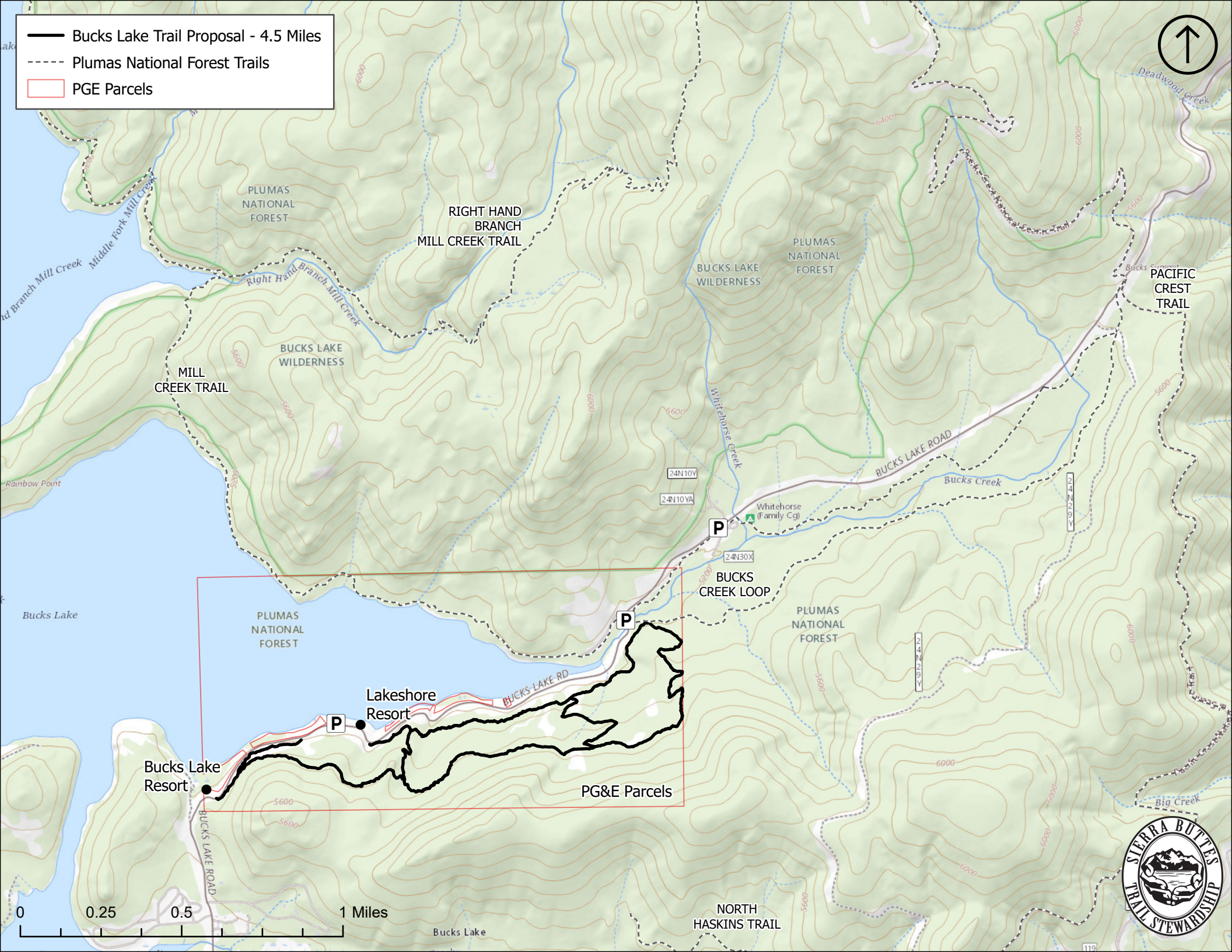
1 in. = 900 ft.

0 300 600 900 ft.

FIGURE 3

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
ESRI World Imagery Basemap, Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, NCE	1218.02.25	dkarlowicz	11/7/2022	-	mlaitinen

Document Path: P:\Active Projects\Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship - 1218\1218.02.25 - Bucks Lake Trail Environmental\GIS\AGP\dkarlowicz\Bucks Lake - dkarlowicz v02.aprx


Bucks Lake Trail Proposal - 4.5 Miles
Plumas National Forest Trails
PGE Parcels
PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST
RIGHT HAND BRANCH MILL CREEK TRAIL
BUCKS LAKE WILDERNESS
PACIFIC CREST TRAIL
MILL CREEK TRAIL
BUCKS LAKE ROAD
BUCKS CREEK LOOP
Lakeshore Resort
Bucks Lake Resort
PG&E Parcels
NORTH HASKINS TRAIL
Bucks Lake
Whitehorse (Family Cg)
Middle Fork Mill Creek
Right Hand Branch Mill Creek
Whitehorse Creek
Bucks Creek
Deadwood Creek
Big Creek
Rainbow Point
24N10Y
24N10YA
24N30X
P
0
0.25
0.5
1 Miles

Attachment 2

NATIVE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENCE

Summary of Tribal Consultation and Correspondence

This summary pertains to Tribal Consultation and Correspondence for the Bucks Lake Trail System (Project) in Plumas County, California. Native American correspondence was initiated by NCE with a letter and attached maps to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on August 22, 2022. The letter requested a record search of their Sacred Lands File (SLF) and a contact list for regional tribes that may have knowledge of cultural or tribal resources within or immediately adjacent to the project area. On October 21, 2022, a negative SLF response was received from the NAHC for the Project. Inquiry letters were mailed to the tribes identified by NAHC and the County of Plumas (County) on November 22, 2022, on County letterhead.

Name	Title	Affiliation
Glenda Nelson	Chairperson	Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria
Kyle Self	Chairperson	Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians
Benjamin Clark	Chairperson	Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians
Deana Bovee	Chairperson	Susanville Indian Rancheria
Don Ryberg	Chairperson	Tsi Akim Maidu
Serrell Smokey	Chairperson	Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California (Washoe Tribe)
Darrel Cruz	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)	Washoe Tribe
Gene Whitehouse	Chairperson	United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria (UAIC)
Trina Cunningham	Executive Director	Maidu Summit Consortium

Follow-up emails or calls were made to tribes identified by the County and NAHC on December 8 and 9, 2022. Follow-up emails and calls were made again on June 10, 2024, and June 21 and 22, 2024 respectively indicating the project was starting up. The following table provides a summary of correspondence. Consultation-related material, including the NAHC request, NAHC response, and examples of the tribal consultation letters sent, is located on the following pages.

Pt. Richmond, CA
501 Canal Blvd., Suite I
Pt. Richmond, CA 94804
(510) 215-3620

Representatives	Affiliation	Letter Result	Phone Call and Email Results
Glenda Nelson	Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria	Letter received on 11/28/2022. No written response to date.	On 12/8/2022, a follow-up email was sent. No response to date. On 6/10/2024, a follow-up email was sent indicating that the project was starting up again. On 7/8/2024, Nelson Smith responded and requested consultation. On 9/17/2024, an email was sent to coordinate logistics for a field meeting between SBTS, the County, and consulting tribes. On 9/18/2024, Nelson Smith responded indicating that he and James Anderson, fellow Co-Director, would represent Enterprise Rancheria at the field meeting. On 9/23/2024, the invite for the field meeting was sent. On 9/24/2024, James Anderson, Co-Director, accepted the meeting invitation. On 9/30/2024, the field meeting was held, but no tribal representatives attended. On 10/01/2024, tribal representatives were contacted by SBTS Project Manager Kelly Habibi about rescheduling a site visit. On 10/16/2024, a follow-up email was sent to Mr. Smith and Mr. Anderson regarding the field meeting. Ms. Habibi's contact information was provided in the event that they would like to schedule a future site visit. No response received.
Kyle Self	Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians	Letter received on 12/2/2022. No written response to date.	On 12/8/2022, a follow-up email was sent to Elijah Fisher, contact for the tribe's Environmental Protection Agency Department. On 12/13/2022, a meeting was held with Shelby Leung, Greenville Rancheria Fire Crew Lead, Cultural Resource Specialist, and Tribal Liaison. The Project was discussed and a digital copy of the consultation letter was provided. On 6/10/2024, a follow-up email was sent indicating that the project was starting up again. On 6/21/2024, a follow-up voicemail was left. No response to date.

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Representatives	Affiliation	Letter Result	Phone Call and Email Results
Benjamin Clark	Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians	Letter received on 11/28/2022. A letter was received on 11/30/2022 (see next column).	On 12/8/2022, a follow-up email was sent to the tribe's general email and their THPO, Matthew Hatcher. On 12/22/2022, a letter was received from Mr. Hatcher dated 11/30/2022. Mr. Hatcher requested to consult on the Project. He requested to have a site visit with the construction manager and archaeologist. On 1/27/2023, an email was sent to Mr. Hatcher containing the cultural resources letter report. The Email indicated a site visit can occur after the snow melts, but a desktop review in-person or virtually could occur prior to a site visit. Meeting availability was requested in the email. On 1/30/2023, Mr. Hatcher responded via email saying he would like to have a virtual meeting and to provide time options. On 4/19/2023, an email was sent to Mr. Hatcher providing time slots for a virtual meeting. No response to date. On 6/10/2024, a follow-up email was sent indicating that the project was starting up again. This email was "undeliverable." On 6/21/2024, a follow-up voicemail was left On 9/17/2024, an email was sent to coordinate logistics for a field meeting between SBTS, the County, and consulting tribes. On 9/23/2024, the invite for the field meeting was sent. On 9/24/24, Mr. Hatcher accepted the invite. On 9/30/2024, Mr. Hatcher changed his invitation status and declined the invite five minutes before the field meeting was held. No tribal representatives attended. On 10/01/2024, tribal representatives were contacted by SBTS Project Manager Kelly Habibi about rescheduling a site visit. On 10/16/2024, a follow-up email was sent to Mr. Hatcher regarding the field meeting. Ms. Habibi's contact information was provided in the event that they would like to schedule a future site visit. No response received.

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Representatives	Affiliation	Letter Result	Phone Call and Email Results
Deana Bovee	Susanville Indian Rancheria	Letter received on 11/28/2022. No written response to date.	On 12/8/2022, a follow-up email was sent. The email bounced and a voicemail was left for the tribe on 12/22/2022. No response to date. On 6/10/2024, a follow-up email was sent indicating that the project was starting up again. This email also was undeliverable. On 6/22/2024, a follow-up voicemail was left. No response to date.
Don Ryberg	Tsi Akim Maidu	Letter was unclaimed and returned to sender.	On 12/8/2022, a follow-up email was sent. No response to date. On 6/10/2024, a follow-up email was sent indicating that the project was starting up again. On 6/21/2024, a follow-up voicemail was left. No response to date.
Serrell Smokey Darrel Cruz Patrick Burtt	Washoe Tribe	Letter received on 11/29/2022. No written response to date.	On 12/8/2022, a follow-up email was sent to Mr. Cruz. No response to date. On 6/10/2024, a follow-up email was sent to Patrick Burtt indicating that the project was starting up again. On 6/22/2024, a follow-up voicemail was left. No response to date.
Gene Whitehouse	UAIC	Letter receipt unknown. No written response to date.	On 12/8/2022, the letter was submitted to UAIC via their online form. No response to date. On 6/10/2024, a follow-up message was submitted to UAIC via their online form. On 6/22/2024, a follow-up voicemail was left. No response to date.

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Representatives	Affiliation	Letter Result	Phone Call and Email Results
Trina Cunningham	Maidu Summit Consortium	Letter received on 11/28/2022. No written response to date.	On 12/9/2022, a voicemail was left for the Maidu Summit Consortium. On 12/20/2022, Ms. Cunningham responded via phone and email requesting to consult on the Project. Ms. Cunningham provided a brief description of the Bucks Lake area's importance as a gathering area for the Mountain Maidu and neighboring tribes. She requested a site visit and that tribal monitors be on-site during trail construction as processing and storage artifacts may surface during construction. On 1/27/2023, an email was sent to Ms. Cunningham containing the cultural resources letter report. The Email indicated a site visit can occur after the snow melts, but a desktop review in-person or virtually could occur prior to a site visit. Meeting availability was requested in the email. On 4/19/2023, an email was sent to Ms. Cunningham indicating current snow coverage and requesting meeting availability. No response to date. On 6/21/2024, a follow-up voicemail was left. On 6/24/2024, Misty Salem, Finance/Community Engagement Coordinator, responded via phone and requested to continue consultation on the project. She also provided the contact information for the Maidu Summit Cultural Resources Coordinator, Harvey Merino. On 9/17/2024, an email was sent to coordinate logistics for a field meeting between SBTS, the County, and consulting tribes. On 9/23/2024, the invite for the field meeting was sent. On 9/24/2024 reached out to Shelby Leung, a contact SBTS Project Manager Kelly Habibi has reached out to before. On 9/25/2024, called the MSC office line but a woman picked up and said it's a personal line. NCE also reached out to Ms. Cunningham via email. On 9/30/2024, the field meeting was held, but no tribal representatives attended. On 10/01/2024, tribal representatives were contacted by Kelly Habibi about rescheduling a site visit. No response received.

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Date:	August 22, 2022
To:	California Native American Heritage Commission
From:	NCE
Subject:	Bucks Lake Trail Project, Plumas County

Ms. Christina Snider, Executive Secretary
California Native American Heritage Commission
1550 Harbor Boulevard, Suite 100
West Sacramento, California 95691

Dear Ms. Snider:

The Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship (SBTS) proposes to implement the Bucks Lake Trail Project (project) located in Plumas County, California. SBTS was awarded a Stewardship Council Grant for completing the planning and construction of a new trail system in the Bucks Lake Recreation Area on Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) land, under easement with the Feather River Land Trust. The environmental review or California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation, supporting technical studies, and an anticipated approval through PG&E are required before the Project can be constructed.

The Bucks Lake Trail System includes approximately six miles of new Class 2 trail, which will connect to the existing Bucks Creek Loop on the Plumas National Forest (Plumas NF) and will rely on existing and nearby trailheads and parking. The trail will be a multi-use, non-motorized natural surface trail grade averaging about 18 to 24 inches wide located in a primarily undeveloped, forested area. The new trails will be constructed using proven sustainable design guidelines and best practices to minimize environmental impacts and long-term maintenance issues while providing a safe and natural public access trail experience. The Project includes standard wayfinding and regulatory signage where approved and needed as part of the system. The new trails will complement the existing, well established outdoor recreation infrastructure by providing additional public access opportunities where very good supportive infrastructure exists such as campgrounds, recreational residences, parking, and other year-round recreation amenities. The new trail system will be constructed with all trail user abilities in mind and provide a place for people to exercise safely outside.

The project requires compliance with CEQA. NCE has been retained to complete initial Native American outreach in compliance with AB-52. The project totals approximately 54-acres within Township 23 North, Range 7 East, Section 30. Two maps are enclosed for your review. Figure 1 is a location map of the project area at a 1:24,000 scale with a USGS 7.5' quadrangle background (Standard). Figure 2 is a detail map with aerial imagery.

Please provide a Native American contact list for within and near the project area. We also request that you conduct a search of your Sacred Lands database for any places of concern that may be located within or adjacent to the proposed project area.

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Pt. Richmond, CA 94804
(510) 215-3620

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email at mlaitinen@ncenet.com or by telephone (510-215-3620). I appreciate your assistance and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Molly Laitinen

Molly Laitinen
NCE | Staff Archaeologist
Enclosed: Tribal Consultation List Request Form; Figure 1 – Location Map; Figure 2 – Detail Map

Local Government Tribal Consultation List Request

Native American Heritage Commission
1550 Harbor Blvd, Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
916-373-3710
916-373-5471 – Fax
nahc@nahc.ca.gov

Type of List Requested

☑ **CEQA Tribal Consultation List (AB 52)** – ***Per Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1, subs. (b), (d), (e) and 21080.3.2***

☐ **General Plan (SB 18)** - ***Per Government Code § 65352.3.***

Local Action Type:

___ General Plan ___ General Plan Element ___ General Plan Amendment

___ Specific Plan ___ Specific Plan Amendment ___ Pre-planning Outreach Activity

Required Information

Project Title: Bucks Lake Trail Project

Local Government/Lead Agency: Plumas County

Contact Person: Molly Laitinen, Staff Archaeologist, NCE

Street Address: 501 Canal Blvd., Suite I

City: Richmond, CA **Zip:** 94804

Phone: 510-215-3620 **Fax:** 510-215-2898

Email: mlaitinen@ncenet.com

Specific Area Subject to Proposed Action

County: Plumas **City/Community:** Bucks Lake

Project Description:

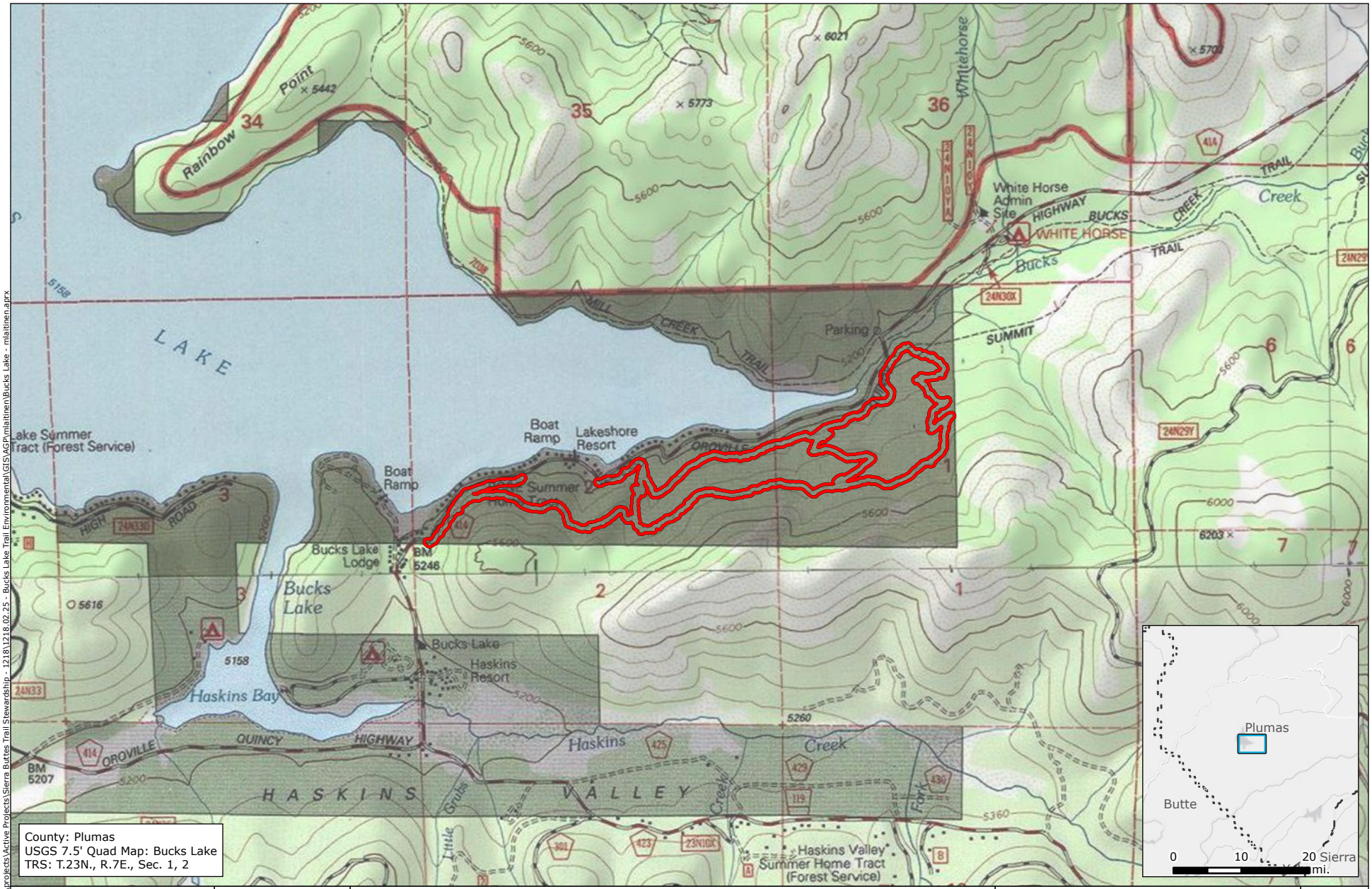
See attached letter.

Additional Request

☑ **Sacred Lands File Search** - ***Required Information:***

USGS Quadrangle Name(s): Bucks Lake 7.5'

Township: 23.N **Range:** 7.E **Section(s):** 1, 2



County: Plumas
USGS 7.5' Quad Map: Bucks Lake
TRS: T.23N., R.7E., Sec. 1, 2

Legend

APE

NCE

Bucks Lake Trail Project

Area of Potential Effect (APE) Location Map

N

1 : 24,000

0 1,000 2,000 ft.

FIGURE 1

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
ESRI USGS Topo Maps	1218.02.25	mlaitinen	8/9/2022	8/22/2022	-

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Legend

- APE
- Trail Centerline

NCE

Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship

Bucks Lake Trail Project

APE Detail Map

N

1 in. = 800 ft.

0 400 800 ft.

FIGURE 2

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
ESRI World Imagery Basemap	1218.02.25	mlaitinen	8/9/2022	8/22/2022	-

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NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

CHAIRPERSON
Laura Miranda
Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

SECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
Miwok

COMMISSIONER
Isaac Bojorquez
Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER
Buffy McQuillen
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki, Nomlaki

COMMISSIONER
Wayne Nelson
Luiseño

COMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
Kumeyaay

COMMISSIONER
[Vacant]

COMMISSIONER
[**Vacant**]

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Raymond C. Hitchcock
Miwok/Nisenan

NAHC HEADQUARTERS
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov
NAHC.ca.gov

October 21, 2022

Molly Laitinen
NCE

Via Email to: ***MLaitinen@ncenet.com***

Re: Native American Tribal Consultation, Pursuant to the Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), Amendments to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014), Public Resources Code Sections 5097.94 (m), 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2 and 21084.3, Bucks Lake Trail Project, Plumas County

Dear Ms. Laitinen:

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (c), attached is a consultation list of tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the above-listed project. Please note that the intent of the AB 52 amendments to CEQA is to avoid and/or mitigate impacts to tribal cultural resources, (Pub. Resources Code §21084.3 (a)) ("Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource.")

Public Resources Code sections 21080.3.1 and 21084.3(c) require CEQA lead agencies to consult with California Native American tribes that have requested notice from such agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribes on projects for which a Notice of Preparation or Notice of Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration has been filed on or after July 1, 2015. Specifically, Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (d) provides:

Within 14 days of determining that an application for a project is complete or a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, the lead agency shall provide formal notification to the designated contact of, or a tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, which shall be accomplished by means of at least one written notification that includes a brief description of the proposed project and its location, the lead agency contact information, and a notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation pursuant to this section.

The AB 52 amendments to CEQA law does not preclude initiating consultation with the tribes that are culturally and traditionally affiliated within your jurisdiction prior to receiving requests for notification of projects in the tribe's areas of traditional and cultural affiliation. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) recommends, but does not require, early consultation as a best practice to ensure that lead agencies receive sufficient information about cultural resources in a project area to avoid damaging effects to tribal cultural resources.

The NAHC also recommends, but does not require that agencies should also include with their notification letters, information regarding any cultural resources assessment that has been completed on the area of potential effect (APE), such as:

1. The results of any record search that may have been conducted at an Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), including, but not limited to:

- A listing of any and all known cultural resources that have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE, such as known archaeological sites;
- Copies of any and all cultural resource records and study reports that may have been provided by the Information Center as part of the records search response;
- Whether the records search indicates a low, moderate, or high probability that unrecorded cultural resources are located in the APE; and
- If a survey is recommended by the Information Center to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

2. The results of any archaeological inventory survey that was conducted, including:

- Any report that may contain site forms, site significance, and suggested mitigation measures.

  All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure in accordance with Government Code section 6254.10.

3. The result of any Sacred Lands File (SLF) check conducted through the Native American Heritage Commission was negative.

4. Any ethnographic studies conducted for any area including all or part of the APE; and

5. Any geotechnical reports regarding all or part of the APE.

Lead agencies should be aware that records maintained by the NAHC and CHRIS are not exhaustive and a negative response to these searches does not preclude the existence of a tribal cultural resource. A tribe may be the only source of information regarding the existence of a tribal cultural resource.

This information will aid tribes in determining whether to request formal consultation. In the event that they do, having the information beforehand will help to facilitate the consultation process.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify the NAHC. With your assistance, we can assure that our consultation list remains current.

If you have any questions, please contact me at my email address: Cameron.vela@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Cameron Vela

Cameron Vela
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

Native American Heritage Commission
Tribal Consultation List
Plumas County
10/21/2022

Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria
Glenda Nelson, Chairperson
2133 Monte Vista Avenue — Maidu
Oroville, CA, 95966
Phone: (530) 532 - 9214
Fax: (530) 532-1768
info@enterpriserancheria.org

Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians
Kyle Self, Chairperson
P.O. Box 279 — Maidu
Greenville, CA, 95947
Phone: (530) 284 - 7990
Fax: (530) 284-6612
kself@greenvillerancheria.com

Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians
Benjamin Clark, Chairperson
#1 Alverda Drive — KonKow
Oroville, CA, 95966 — Maidu
Phone: (530) 533 - 3625
Fax: (530) 533-3680
frontdesk@mooretown.org

Susanville Indian Rancheria
Deana Bovee, Chairperson
745 Joaquin Street — Maidu
Susanville, CA, 96130 — Paiute
Phone: (530) 257 - 6264 — Pit River
Fax: (530) 257-7986 — Washoe
dovee@sir-nsn.gov

Tsi Akim Maidu
Grayson Coney, Cultural Director
P.O. Box 510 — Maidu
Browns Valley, CA, 95918
Phone: (530) 383 - 7234
tsi-akim-maidu@att.net

Tsi Akim Maidu
Don Ryberg, Chairperson
P.O. Box 510 — Maidu
Browns Valley, CA, 95918
Phone: (530) 383 - 7234
tsi-akim-maidu@att.net

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
Darrel Cruz, Cultural Resources Department
919 Highway 395 North — Washoe
Gardnerville, NV, 89410
Phone: (775) 265 - 8600
darrel.cruz@washoetribe.us

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
Serrell Smokey, Chairperson
919 Highway 395 North — Washoe
Gardnerville, NV, 89410
Phone: (775) 265 - 8600
serrell.smokey@washoetribe.us

This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for consultation with Native American tribes under Public Resources Code Sections 21080.3.1 for the proposed Bucks Lake Trail Project, Plumas County.

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November 22, 2022

Glenda Nelson
Chairperson
Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria
2133 Monte Vista Avenue
Oroville, CA 95966

Subject: Invitation to Provide Consultation for the Bucks Lake Trail Project, Bucks Lake, Plumas County, California

Dear Glenda Nelson:

Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship (SBTS) was awarded a Stewardship Council grant to conduct an environmental review and seek approval to construct and maintain a non-motorized trail system on the southeast shore of Bucks Lake in Plumas County, California. The Bucks Lake Trail Project (Project) is located on two PG&E-owned parcels identified by Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 112-060-008 and 112-060-007. The parcels total 682.68 acres and 1.5 of those acres are proposed to be developed into a single lane, standard/terra, non-motorized trail system resulting in approximately five miles of new trail for recreation in the Bucks Lake Recreation Area. The new trail system will provide connectivity between existing Forest Service trails and resort areas and provide a safe, non-motorized alternative to traveling along Bucks Lake Road to access these areas.

Project approval will be sought through a Third-Party Request to Use PG&E Lands, the CA Public Utility Commission 851 Advice Letter process, and a special use permit from the Plumas County Planning Department. NCE has been retained to complete environmental review of the Project in compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Forest Service EM-7730-103 'Standard Specification for Construction and Maintenance of Trails' will be followed to construct the Project. The Project will be constructed to meet a Class 2 Moderately Developed standard, which includes continuous and discernible, but narrow and rough tread constructed of native materials. Construction will include both mechanized (e.g., mini-excavator, pionjar, and over the counter boulder busting charges) and hand construction methods (e.g., McLeod, pulaski, picks, etc.). The Project will be managed for both hiking and biking recreation opportunities and designed to bicycle parameters. The maximum depth of excavation to construct the trail is approximately eight to 13 inches deep depending on slope.

It is anticipated the Project will include 1) one bridge with railings crossing a perennial stream to protect aquatic resources and public drinking water infrastructure; 2) eight simple stringer bridges or hardened water crossings across the intermittent drainages; 3) a single post sign

at each entrance to trail system showing allowable uses; and 4) directional carsonite signs at trail intersections.
The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is comprised of approximately 52 acres consisting of a 100-foot-wide corridor (50-foot buffer to each side) centered on the current trail alignment centerline. The APE is located within Township 23 North, Range 7 East, Sections 1 and 2. Maps enclosed for your review include **Figure 1**: a location map of the APE at a 1:24,000 scale with a USGS 7.5' quadrangle background (Bucks Lake); and **Figure 2**: a detail map with aerial imagery.

A records search of the APE and quarter-mile buffer was requested from the Northeast Information Center (**Attachment 3**). The record search results did not indicate any historic or prehistoric cultural resources recorded in the APE. Three historic resources were identified within a quarter mile of the APE including the Beckwourth Trail (P-32-001635), Bucks Lake Lodge (P-32-004382), and a Placer mining site (P-32-004599).

A search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File was initiated for the Project on August 22, 2022. A response was received from the NAHC on October 21, 2022, with negative SLF results (**Attachment 4**).

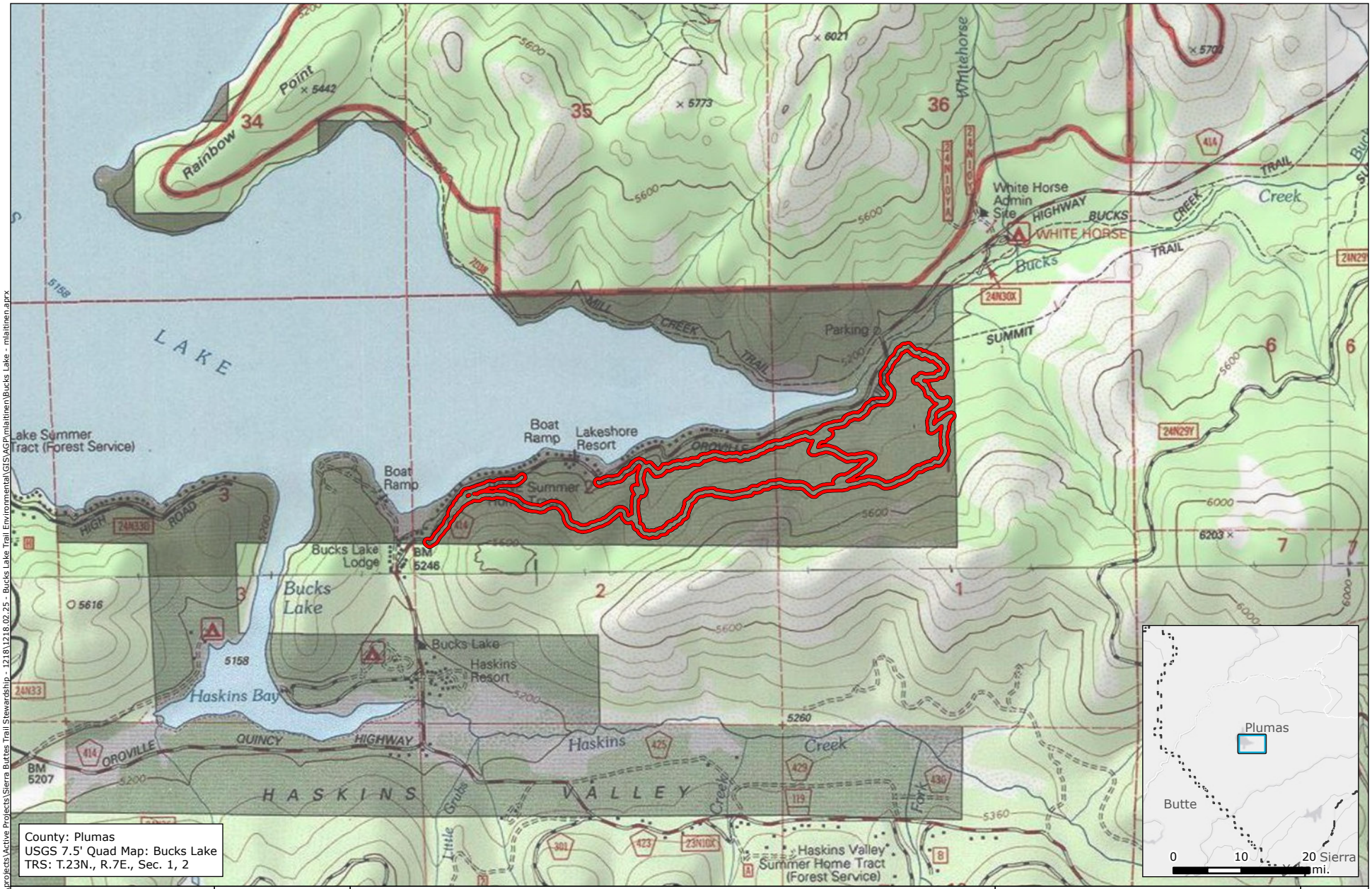
On behalf of Plumas County and SBTS, please consider this letter and preliminary Project information as the initiation of AB-52 consultation pursuant to CEQA. Please respond within 30 days of receipt of this letter, if you would like to consult on this Project. Please provide a designated lead contact person if you have not provided that information to us already. If you have any specific information or questions regarding the Project, please contact me by email, phone, or mail.

Sincerely,

Molly Laitinen

Molly Laitinen
NCE | Staff Archaeologist
(510) 215-3620
mlaitinen@ncenet.com

Attachments:
1. Figure 1 – Project Area Location Map
2. Figure 2 – Area of Potential Effect Map
3. CHRIS Record Search Results
4. NAHC Sacred Lands File Search Response



County: Plumas
USGS 7.5' Quad Map: Bucks Lake
TRS: T.23N., R.7E., Sec. 1, 2

Legend

APE

NCE

Bucks Lake Trail Project

Area of Potential Effect (APE) Location Map

N

1 : 24,000

0 1,000 2,000 ft.

FIGURE 1

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
ESRI USGS Topo Maps	1218.02.25	mlaitinen	8/9/2022	11/7/2022	drios

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Legend

- APE
- Trail Centerline

Bucks Lake Trail Project

APE Detail Map

N

1 in. = 900 ft.

0 450 900 ft.

FIGURE 2

SOURCE	JOB NUMBER	DRAWN	DATE	REVISED	APPROVED
ESRI World Imagery Basemap	1218.02.25	mlaitinen	8/9/2022	11/7/2022	drios

Document Path: \\NCE-RCH-PEER\projects\Active Projects\Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship - 1218\1218.02.25 - Bucks Lake Trail Environmental\GIS\AGP\mlaitinen\Bucks Lake - mlaitinen.aprx

California Historical Resources Information System

BUTTE
GLENN
LASSEN
MODOC
PLUMAS
SHASTA

SIERRA
SISKIYOU
SUTTER
TEHAMA
TRINITY

Northeast Information Center
1074 East Avenue, Suite F
Chico, California 95926
Phone (530) 898-6256
neinfocntr@csuchico.edu

April 13, 2022

Molly Laitinen
NCE
501 Canal Blvd. Suite I
Richmond, CA 94804

IC File # D22-147
Priority Records Search

RE: Bucks Lake Trail Planning Project
T23N, R7E, Section 1, 2, 3; T24N, R7E, Section 36, MDBM
USGS Bucks Lake 7.5' quad
Plumas County

Dear Ms. Laitinen,

In response to your request, a records search for the project cited above was conducted by examining the official maps and records for cultural resources and reports in Plumas County. Please note, the search includes the requested quarter-mile radius surrounding the project area.

RESULTS:

Resources within project area:	None listed
Resources within ¼-mile radius:	32-001635, 32-004382, 32-004599
Reports within project area:	NEIC-213, 215, 839, 8919, 8938, 8939, 12349, 14826
Reports within ¼-mile radius:	NEIC-6095, 12378, 13833

As indicated on your data request form, the locations of resources and reports are provided in the following format: ☒ Custom Maps ☒ GIS Data ☐ N/A

Resource Database Printout (list):	☒ enclosed	☐ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Resource Database Printout (details):	☒ enclosed	☐ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Resource Digital Database Records:	☒ enclosed	☐ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Report Database Printout (list):	☒ enclosed	☐ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Report Database Printout (details):	☒ enclosed	☐ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Report Digital Database Records:	☒ enclosed	☐ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Other Reports: *	☒ enclosed	☐ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Resource Record Copies:	☒ enclosed	☐ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Report Copies:	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Built Environment Resources Directory:	☒ enclosed	☐ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility:	☐ enclosed	☐ not requested	☒ nothing listed
CA Inventory of Historic Resources (1976):	☐ enclosed	☐ not requested	☒ nothing listed
Caltrans Bridge Survey:	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Ethnographic Information:	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Historical Literature:	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Historical Maps:	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Local Inventories:	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
GLO and/or Rancho Plat Maps:	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Shipwreck Inventory:	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed

Notes: *These are classified as studies that are missing maps or do not have a field work component.

Please forward a copy of any resulting reports from this project to the office as soon as possible. Due to the sensitive nature of archaeological site location data, we ask that you do not include resource location maps and resource location descriptions in your report if it is for public distribution.

The provision of California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) Data via this records search response does not in any way constitute public disclosure of records otherwise exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act or any other law, including, but not limited to, records related to archaeological site information maintained by or on behalf of, or in the possession of, the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, State Historic Preservation Officer, Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), or the State Historical Resources Commission.

Due to processing delays and other factors, it is possible that not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the OHP are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area. Additionally, Native American tribes have historical resource information not in the CHRIS Inventory, and you should contact the California Native American Heritage Commission for information on local/regional tribal contacts.

An invoice will follow from Chico State Enterprises for billing purposes. Thank you for your concern in preserving California's cultural heritage, and please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need any further information.

Sincerely,



Ryan Bradshaw
NEIC Coordinator

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

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Laura Miranda
Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

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[Vacant]

COMMISSIONER
[**Vacant**]

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Raymond C. Hitchcock
Miwok/Nisenan

NAHC HEADQUARTERS
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov
NAHC.ca.gov

October 21, 2022

Molly Laitinen
NCE

Via Email to: ***MLaitinen@ncenet.com***

Re: Native American Tribal Consultation, Pursuant to the Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), Amendments to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014), Public Resources Code Sections 5097.94 (m), 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2 and 21084.3, Bucks Lake Trail Project, Plumas County

Dear Ms. Laitinen:

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (c), attached is a consultation list of tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the above-listed project. Please note that the intent of the AB 52 amendments to CEQA is to avoid and/or mitigate impacts to tribal cultural resources, (Pub. Resources Code §21084.3 (a)) ("Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource.")

Public Resources Code sections 21080.3.1 and 21084.3(c) require CEQA lead agencies to consult with California Native American tribes that have requested notice from such agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribes on projects for which a Notice of Preparation or Notice of Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration has been filed on or after July 1, 2015. Specifically, Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (d) provides:

Within 14 days of determining that an application for a project is complete or a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, the lead agency shall provide formal notification to the designated contact of, or a tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, which shall be accomplished by means of at least one written notification that includes a brief description of the proposed project and its location, the lead agency contact information, and a notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation pursuant to this section.

The AB 52 amendments to CEQA law does not preclude initiating consultation with the tribes that are culturally and traditionally affiliated within your jurisdiction prior to receiving requests for notification of projects in the tribe's areas of traditional and cultural affiliation. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) recommends, but does not require, early consultation as a best practice to ensure that lead agencies receive sufficient information about cultural resources in a project area to avoid damaging effects to tribal cultural resources.

The NAHC also recommends, but does not require that agencies should also include with their notification letters, information regarding any cultural resources assessment that has been completed on the area of potential effect (APE), such as:

1. The results of any record search that may have been conducted at an Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), including, but not limited to:

- A listing of any and all known cultural resources that have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE, such as known archaeological sites;
- Copies of any and all cultural resource records and study reports that may have been provided by the Information Center as part of the records search response;
- Whether the records search indicates a low, moderate, or high probability that unrecorded cultural resources are located in the APE; and
- If a survey is recommended by the Information Center to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

2. The results of any archaeological inventory survey that was conducted, including:

- Any report that may contain site forms, site significance, and suggested mitigation measures.

  All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure in accordance with Government Code section 6254.10.

3. The result of any Sacred Lands File (SLF) check conducted through the Native American Heritage Commission was negative.

4. Any ethnographic studies conducted for any area including all or part of the APE; and

5. Any geotechnical reports regarding all or part of the APE.

Lead agencies should be aware that records maintained by the NAHC and CHRIS are not exhaustive and a negative response to these searches does not preclude the existence of a tribal cultural resource. A tribe may be the only source of information regarding the existence of a tribal cultural resource.

This information will aid tribes in determining whether to request formal consultation. In the event that they do, having the information beforehand will help to facilitate the consultation process.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify the NAHC. With your assistance, we can assure that our consultation list remains current.

If you have any questions, please contact me at my email address: Cameron.vela@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Cameron Vela

Cameron Vela
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

7021 2720 0000 0320 4408

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Street and Apt. No., or PO Box No. 745 Joaquin ST
City, State, ZIP+4® Susanville CA 96130

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1. Article Addressed to:

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SUSANVILLE CA 96130

9590 9402 5124 9092 7052 46

2. Article Number *(Transfer from service label)*
7021 2720 0000 0320 4408

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A. Signature
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☐ Agent
☐ Addressee

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D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
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3. Service Type
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  SUSANVILLE, CA 96130
  November 25, 2022, 8:46 am
- **Out for Delivery**
  SUSANVILLE, CA 96130
  November 25, 2022, 8:37 am
- **Arrived at Post Office**
  SUSANVILLE, CA 96130
  November 25, 2022, 8:26 am
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  November 24, 2022
- **Departed USPS Regional Origin Facility**
  RENO NV DISTRIBUTION CENTER
  November 23, 2022, 1:58 pm
- **Arrived at USPS Regional Origin Facility**
  RENO NV DISTRIBUTION CENTER
  November 22, 2022, 11:49 pm
- **Departed Post Office**
  ZEPHYR COVE, NV 89448
  November 22, 2022, 5:04 pm
- **USPS in possession of item**
  ZEPHYR COVE, NV 89448
  November 22, 2022, 4:30 pm
- **Hide Tracking History**

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Postage
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Sent To Benjamin Clark
Street and Apt. No., or PO Box No. #1 Alverda Dr
City, State, ZIP+4® Oroville, CA 95966

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1. Article Addressed to:
Benjamin Clark
(Bucks Lake Trail)
#1 Alverda Drive
Oroville CA 95966

9590 9402 5124 9092 7052 39

2. Article Number *(Transfer from service label)*
7021 2720 0000 0320 4392

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A. Signature
X [signature] ☑ Agent ☐ Addressee

B. Received by *(Printed Name)* David Stcicl Jr C. Date of Delivery 11/28/22

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

[redacted]

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November 28, 2022, 10:48 am

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November 25, 2022, 11:00 am

Out for Delivery
OROVILLE, CA 95965
November 25, 2022, 6:10 am

Arrived at Post Office
OROVILLE, CA 95965
November 25, 2022, 5:22 am

Departed USPS Regional Facility
SACRAMENTO CA DISTRIBUTION CENTER
November 24, 2022, 1:10 pm

Arrived at USPS Regional Facility
SACRAMENTO CA DISTRIBUTION CENTER
November 23, 2022, 2:37 pm

Arrived at USPS Regional Origin Facility
RENO NV DISTRIBUTION CENTER
November 22, 2022, 10:29 pm

Departed Post Office
ZEPHYR COVE, NV 89448
November 22, 2022, 5:04 pm

USPS in possession of item
ZEPHYR COVE, NV 89448
November 22, 2022, 4:30 pm

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- ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery $ _____
- ☐ Adult Signature Required $ _____
- ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery $ _____

Postage
$

Total Postage and Fees
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Sent To DARREL CRUZ

Street and Apt. No., or PO Box No. 919 HWY 395 No

City, State, ZIP+4® GARDNERVILLE NV 89410

PS Form 3800, April 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9047 See Reverse for Instructions

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- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

DARREL CRUZ
(BUCKS LAKE TRAIL)
919 Highway 395 NORTH
GARDNERVILLE, NV 89410

9590 9402 5124 9092 7053 38

2. Article Number *(Transfer from service label)*
7021 2720 0000 0320 4439

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature
X [signature] ☒ Agent ☐ Addressee

B. Received by *(Printed Name)* JUNEC C. Date of Delivery 6/1/19

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

3. Service Type
- ☐ Adult Signature
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  Delivered, Front Desk/Reception/Mail Roo
  GARDNERVILLE, NV 89410
  November 29, 2022, 11:14 am
- **Redelivery Scheduled for Next Business Day**
  GARDNERVILLE, NV 89410
  November 25, 2022, 12:24 pm
- **Out for Delivery**
  GARDNERVILLE, NV 89410
  November 25, 2022, 8:00 am
- **Arrived at Post Office**
  GARDNERVILLE, NV 89410
  November 25, 2022, 7:49 am
- **In Transit to Next Facility**
  November 24, 2022
- **Departed USPS Regional Origin Facility**
  RENO NV DISTRIBUTION CENTER
  November 23, 2022, 11:07 pm
- **Arrived at USPS Regional Origin Facility**
  RENO NV DISTRIBUTION CENTER
  November 22, 2022, 11:52 pm
- **Departed Post Office**
  ZEPHYR COVE, NV 89448
  November 22, 2022, 5:04 pm
- **USPS in possession of item**
  ZEPHYR COVE, NV 89448
  November 22, 2022, 4:30 pm
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- ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery $
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Postage
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Street and Apt. No., or PO Box No. P.O. BOX 682
City, State, ZIP+4® CHESTER, CA 96020

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1. Article Addressed to:
TRINA CUNNINGHAM
(BUCKS LAKE TRAIL)
P.O. BOX 682
CHESTER, CA 96020

9590 9402 5124 9092 7052 22

2. Article Number *(Transfer from service label)*
7021 2720 0000 0320 4385

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature
X Shannon Williams ☐ Agent ☐ Addressee

B. Received by *(Printed Name)* Shannon Williams
C. Date of Delivery 11-28-22

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
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- ☐ Collect on Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
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Your item was picked up at the post office at 2:37 pm on November 28, 2022 in CHESTER, CA 96020.

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Delivered, Individual Picked Up at Post Offi
CHESTER, CA 96020
November 28, 2022, 2:37 pm

Available for Pickup
CHESTER, CA 96020
November 26, 2022, 9:41 am

Arrived at Post Office
CHESTER, CA 96020
November 26, 2022, 9:40 am

Arrived at USPS Regional Facility
REDDING CA DISTRIBUTION CENTER
November 25, 2022, 6:36 pm

Arrived at USPS Regional Facility
SACRAMENTO CA DISTRIBUTION CENTER
November 25, 2022, 10:20 am

In Transit to Next Facility
November 24, 2022

Departed USPS Regional Origin Facility
RENO NV DISTRIBUTION CENTER
November 23, 2022, 8:03 pm

Arrived at USPS Regional Origin Facility
RENO NV DISTRIBUTION CENTER
November 22, 2022, 11:02 pm

Departed Post Office
ZEPHYR COVE, NV 89448
November 22, 2022, 5:04 pm

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1. Article Addressed to:
Glenda Nelson
(Bucks Lake Trail)
2133 Monte Vista Ave.
Oroville, CA 95966

9590 9402 5124 9092 7052 08

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)
7021 2720 0000 0320 4361

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature
X [signature] ☐ Agent ☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name) Kari Rodriguez
C. Date of Delivery

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

3. Service Type
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- ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery
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- ☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
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OROVILLE, CA 95966
November 28, 2022, 11:30 am

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OROVILLE, CA 95966
November 25, 2022, 10:24 am

Out for Delivery
OROVILLE, CA 95965
November 25, 2022, 6:10 am

Arrived at Post Office
OROVILLE, CA 95965
November 25, 2022, 5:24 am

Departed USPS Regional Facility
SACRAMENTO CA DISTRIBUTION CENTER
November 24, 2022, 2:49 pm

Arrived at USPS Regional Facility
SACRAMENTO CA DISTRIBUTION CENTER
November 23, 2022, 11:45 am

Arrived at USPS Regional Origin Facility
RENO NV DISTRIBUTION CENTER
November 22, 2022, 10:31 pm

Departed Post Office
ZEPHYR COVE, NV 89448
November 22, 2022, 5:04 pm

USPS in possession of item
ZEPHYR COVE, NV 89448
November 22, 2022, 4:30 pm

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City, State, ZIP+4® Browns Valley, CA 95918

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PO Box 1760
Zephyr Cove, NV 89448

7021 2720 0000 0320 4415

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MAILED FROM ZIP CO

-R-T-S- 95918-RFS-1N 11/25/22 *
R

RETURN TO SENDER
VACANT
UNABLE TO FORW
RETURN TO SEND

RETURN TO SENDER
UNCLAIMED
UNABLE TO FORWARD

UNC BC: 89448176060 *2556-19100-22-

Engineering & Environmental Services

Tracking Number:

70212720000003204415

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Latest Update

Your item was picked up at the post office at 12:29 pm on December 7, 2022 in ZEPHYR COVE, NV 89448.

Get More Out of USPS Tracking:

USPS Tracking Plus®

Delivered
Delivered, Individual Picked Up at Post Offi
ZEPHYR COVE, NV 89448
December 7, 2022, 12:29 pm

Reminder to pick up your item before December 14, 2022
BROWNS VALLEY, CA 95918
December 5, 2022

Available for Pickup
ZEPHYR COVE, NV 89448
November 30, 2022, 2:52 pm

Arrived at Post Office
ZEPHYR COVE, NV 89448
November 30, 2022, 2:31 pm

Departed USPS Regional Origin Facility
RENO NV DISTRIBUTION CENTER
November 29, 2022, 7:55 pm

Arrived at USPS Regional Origin Facility
RENO NV DISTRIBUTION CENTER
November 29, 2022, 11:24 am

In Transit to Next Facility
November 28, 2022

Arrived at USPS Facility
SACRAMENTO, CA 95813
November 27, 2022, 3:58 pm

Departed USPS Regional Facility
SACRAMENTO CA DISTRIBUTION CENTER
November 24, 2022, 5:18 pm

Arrived at USPS Regional Facility

Feedback

7021 2720 0000 0320 4378

U.S. Postal Service™
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OFFICIAL USE

Certified Mail Fee
$

Extra Services & Fees *(check box, add fee as appropriate)*
- ☐ Return Receipt (hardcopy) $ ____
- ☐ Return Receipt (electronic) $ ____
- ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery $ ____
- ☐ Adult Signature Required $ ____
- ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery $ ____

Postage
$

Total Postage and Fees
$

Postmark Here

Sent To KYIE SELF
Street and Apt. No., or PO Box No. P.O. 279
City, State, ZIP+4® Greenville, CA 95947

PS Form 3800, April 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9047 See Reverse for Instructions

SENDER: *COMPLETE THIS SECTION*

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

KYIE SELF
(BUCKS LAKE TRAIL)
P.O. BOX 279
GREENVILLE CA 95947

9590 9402 5124 9092 7052 15

2. Article Number *(Transfer from service label)*
7021 2720 0000 0320 4378

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature
X
☐ Agent
☐ Addressee

B. Received by *(Printed Name)* Barb. RAC
C. Date of Delivery

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

3. Service Type
- ☐ Adult Signature
- ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Certified Mail®
- ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Priority Mail Express®
- ☐ Registered Mail™
- ☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise
- ☐ Signature Confirmation™
- ☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

...ail
...ail Restricted Delivery
...0)

PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053 Domestic Return Receipt

Tracking Number:

70212720000003204378

Copy Add to Informed Delivery (https://informeddelivery.usps.com/)

Latest Update

Your item was picked up at the post office at 4:28 pm on December 2, 2022 in QUINCY, CA 95971.

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USPS Tracking Plus®

Delivered
Delivered, Individual Picked Up at Post Offi
QUINCY, CA 95971
December 2, 2022, 4:28 pm

Reminder to pick up your item before December 9, 2022
GREENVILLE, CA 95947
November 30, 2022

Available for Pickup
GREENVILLE, CA 95947
November 25, 2022, 12:02 pm

Available for Pickup
GREENVILLE, CA 95947
November 25, 2022, 12:02 pm

Arrived at Post Office
GREENVILLE, CA 95947
November 25, 2022, 12:02 pm

Departed USPS Regional Facility
SACRAMENTO CA DISTRIBUTION CENTER
November 24, 2022, 1:41 pm

Arrived at USPS Regional Facility
SACRAMENTO CA DISTRIBUTION CENTER
November 23, 2022, 2:37 pm

Arrived at USPS Regional Origin Facility
RENO NV DISTRIBUTION CENTER
November 22, 2022, 10:29 pm

Departed Post Office
ZEPHYR COVE, NV 89448
November 22, 2022, 5:04 pm

USPS in possession of item

Feedback

7021 2720 0000 0320 4422

U.S. Postal Service™
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OFFICIAL USE

Certified Mail Fee
$

Extra Services & Fees *(check box, add fee as appropriate)*
- ☐ Return Receipt (hardcopy) $ ____
- ☐ Return Receipt (electronic) $ ____
- ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery $ ____
- ☐ Adult Signature Required $ ____
- ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery $ ____

Postage
$

Total Postage and Fees
$

Postmark Here

Sent To Gene Whitehouse
Street and Apt. No., or PO Box No. 10720 Indian Hill Rd.
City, State, ZIP+4® Auburn, CA 95603

PS Form 3800, April 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9047 See Reverse for Instructions

---

SENDER: *COMPLETE THIS SECTION*

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:
Gene Whitehouse
(Bucks Lake Trail)
10720 Indian Hill Rd.
Auburn, CA 95603

9590 9402 5124 9092 7053 21

2. Article Number *(Transfer from service label)*
7021 2720 0000 0320 4422

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature
X Matt Costa ☐ Agent ☐ Addressee

B. Received by *(Printed Name)* Matt Costa
C. Date of Delivery 11/28

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

3. Service Type
- ☐ Adult Signature
- ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Certified Mail®
- ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
- ☐ ...ail
- ☐ ...ail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Priority Mail Express®
- ☐ Registered Mail™
- ☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise
- ☐ Signature Confirmation™
- ☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053 Domestic Return Receipt

Tracking Number:

70212720000003204422

Copy **Add to Informed Delivery (https://informeddelivery.usps.com/)**

Latest Update

We were unable to deliver your package at 12:26 pm on November 25, 2022 in AUBURN, CA 95603 because the business was closed. We will redeliver on the next business day. No action needed.

Get More Out of USPS Tracking:

USPS Tracking Plus®

Delivery Attempt
Redelivery Scheduled for Next Business Day
AUBURN, CA 95603
November 25, 2022, 12:26 pm

Out for Delivery
AUBURN, CA 95603
November 25, 2022, 6:10 am

Arrived at Post Office
AUBURN, CA 95603
November 25, 2022, 3:32 am

In Transit to Next Facility
November 24, 2022

Departed USPS Regional Facility
SACRAMENTO CA DISTRIBUTION CENTER
November 23, 2022, 7:00 pm

Arrived at USPS Regional Facility
SACRAMENTO CA DISTRIBUTION CENTER
November 23, 2022, 11:54 am

Arrived at USPS Regional Origin Facility
RENO NV DISTRIBUTION CENTER
November 22, 2022, 10:12

Feedback

From:	Molly Laitinen
To:	info@enterpriserancheria.org
Cc:	timevans@countyofplumas.com; Trinity Stirling; Dave Rios
Subject:	Bucks Lake Trail System Tribe Outreach
Date:	Thursday, December 8, 2022 3:48:00 PM
Attachments:	Bucks Lake Enterprise Rancheria Letter.pdf

Greetings:

On behalf of Plumas County and the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, I am conducting follow-up outreach regarding the Bucks Lake Trail System project located at Bucks Lake, California. Please find attached a copy of the consultation letter mailed on November 22, 2022.

The project requires compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). If you have any questions or would like to consult under AB-52, please respond to this email or contact Senior Planner at the Plumas County Planning Department, Tim Evans at timevans@countyofplumas.com.

Kind Regards,

Molly (M.J.) Laitinen, RPA
Staff Archaeologist

NCE

p (510) 215-3620 **c** (408) 823-4570
f (510) 215-2898 **e** mlaitinen@ncenet.com

NCE
501 Canal Blvd., Suite I, Richmond, CA 94804
www.ncenet.com

Collaboration. Commitment. Confidence.SM

From:	Molly Laitinen
To:	kself@greenvillerancheria.com; efisher@greenvillerancheria.com
Cc:	timevans@countyofplumas.com; Trinity Stirling; Dave Rios
Subject:	Bucks Lake Trail System Tribe Outreach
Date:	Thursday, December 8, 2022 3:50:00 PM
Attachments:	Bucks Lake Greenville Rancheria Letter.pdf

Greetings:

On behalf of Plumas County and the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, I am conducting follow-up outreach regarding the Bucks Lake Trail System project located at Bucks Lake, California. Please find attached a copy of the consultation letter mailed on November 22, 2022.

The project requires compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). If you have any questions or would like to consult under AB-52, please respond to this email or contact Senior Planner at the Plumas County Planning Department, Tim Evans at timevans@countyofplumas.com.

Kind Regards,

Molly (M.J.) Laitinen, RPA
Staff Archaeologist

NCE

p (510) 215-3620 **c** (408) 823-4570
f (510) 215-2898 **e** mlaitinen@ncenet.com

NCE
501 Canal Blvd., Suite I, Richmond, CA 94804
www.ncenet.com

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From:	Molly Laitinen
To:	frontdesk@mooretown.org; mhatcher@mooretown.org
Cc:	"timevans@countyofplumas.com"; "Trinity Stirling"; Dave Rios
Subject:	Bucks Lake Trail System Tribe Outreach
Date:	Thursday, December 8, 2022 3:52:00 PM
Attachments:	Bucks Lake Mooretown Rancheria Letter.pdf

Greetings:

On behalf of Plumas County and the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, I am conducting follow-up outreach regarding the Bucks Lake Trail System project located at Bucks Lake, California. Please find attached a copy of the consultation letter mailed on November 22, 2022.

The project requires compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). If you have any questions or would like to consult under AB-52, please respond to this email or contact Senior Planner at the Plumas County Planning Department, Tim Evans at timevans@countyofplumas.com.

Kind Regards,

Molly (M.J.) Laitinen, RPA
Staff Archaeologist



p (510) 215-3620 **c** (408) 823-4570
f (510) 215-2898 **e** mlaitinen@ncenet.com

NCE
501 Canal Blvd., Suite I, Richmond, CA 94804
www.ncenet.com

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From:	Molly Laitinen
To:	"dovee@sir-nsn.gov"
Cc:	"timevans@countyofplumas.com"; "Trinity Stirling"; Dave Rios
Subject:	Bucks Lake Trail System Tribe Outreach
Date:	Thursday, December 8, 2022 3:54:00 PM
Attachments:	Bucks Lake Susanville Indian Rancheria Letter.pdf

Greetings:

On behalf of Plumas County and the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, I am conducting follow-up outreach regarding the Bucks Lake Trail System project located at Bucks Lake, California. Please find attached a copy of the consultation letter mailed on November 22, 2022.

The project requires compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). If you have any questions or would like to consult under AB-52, please respond to this email or contact Senior Planner at the Plumas County Planning Department, Tim Evans at timevans@countyofplumas.com.

Kind Regards,

Molly (M.J.) Laitinen, RPA
Staff Archaeologist

NCE

p (510) 215-3620 **c** (408) 823-4570
f (510) 215-2898 **e** mlaitinen@ncenet.com

NCE
501 Canal Blvd., Suite I, Richmond, CA 94804
www.ncenet.com

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From:	Molly Laitinen
To:	tsi-akim-maidu@att.net
Cc:	timevans@countyofplumas.com; Trinity Stirling; Dave Rios
Subject:	Bucks Lake Trail System Tribe Outreach
Date:	Thursday, December 8, 2022 3:55:00 PM
Attachments:	Bucks Lake Tsi Akim Maidu Letter.pdf

Greetings:

On behalf of Plumas County and the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, I am conducting follow-up outreach regarding the Bucks Lake Trail System project located at Bucks Lake, California. Please find attached a copy of the consultation letter mailed on November 22, 2022.

The project requires compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). If you have any questions or would like to consult under AB-52, please respond to this email or contact Senior Planner at the Plumas County Planning Department, Tim Evans at timevans@countyofplumas.com.

Kind Regards,

Molly (M.J.) Laitinen, RPA
Staff Archaeologist

NCE

p (510) 215-3620 **c** (408) 823-4570
f (510) 215-2898 **e** mlaitinen@ncenet.com

NCE
501 Canal Blvd., Suite I, Richmond, CA 94804
www.ncenet.com

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From:	Molly Laitinen
To:	Darrell Cruz (darrel.cruz@washoetribe.us)
Cc:	timevans@countyofplumas.com; Trinity Stirling; Dave Rios
Subject:	Bucks Lake Trail System Tribe Outreach
Date:	Thursday, December 8, 2022 3:55:00 PM
Attachments:	Bucks Lake Washoe Tribe Letter.pdf

Greetings:

On behalf of Plumas County and the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, I am conducting follow-up outreach regarding the Bucks Lake Trail System project located at Bucks Lake, California. Please find attached a copy of the consultation letter mailed on November 22, 2022.

The project requires compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). If you have any questions or would like to consult under AB-52, please respond to this email or contact Senior Planner at the Plumas County Planning Department, Tim Evans at timevans@countyofplumas.com.

Kind Regards,

Molly (M.J.) Laitinen, RPA
Staff Archaeologist

NCE

p (510) 215-3620 **c** (408) 823-4570
f (510) 215-2898 **e** mlaitinen@ncenet.com

NCE
501 Canal Blvd., Suite I, Richmond, CA 94804
www.ncenet.com

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From: DoNotReply@auburnrancheria.com
To: Molly Laitinen
Subject: Bucks Lake Trail System Notification Confirmation
Date: Thursday, December 8, 2022 4:16:04 PM
Attachments: Thank you for consulting with the UAIC.pdf

The United Auburn Indian Community thanks you for your commitment to consultation for the following project:

Bucks Lake Trail System
Submission Date: 12/8/2022 12/8/2022 4:15:43 PM

You will find a copy of your consultation submission attached for your records.

Our Tribal Historic Preservation Department will review the project and respond as soon as possible. If you need to speak with someone regarding the project or your submission, please contact the Tribal Office at (530) 883-2390.

The United Auburn Indian Community is now accepting electronic consultation requests and project notifications. To learn more, click here.

**This is an automated email. Replies to this address will not be received.

Nothing in this e-mail is intended to constitute an electronic signature for purposes of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (E-Sign Act), 15, U.S.C. §§ 7001 to 7006 or the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act of any state or the federal government unless a specific statement to the contrary is included in this e-mail.

Thank you for consulting with the UAIC

Please complete one form for each notification.

How to submit a consultation notification or project update:

1. **One form must be completed for each project.**
2. **Forms cannot be saved and completed at a later time.**
3. Include all relevant project information.
4. Upload file attachments. Multiple files can be attached.
5. Submit form.
6. You will receive a submission receipt via email when submission is complete. UAIC prefers our online submission form over certified or hard copy letters.

Contact the Tribal Office at (530) 883-2390 for questions or concerns. Ask for Tribal Historic Preservation or use the contact form located on our website.

Contact Information

Consulting on Behalf of *
Plumas County Planning Department
Lead Agency, Consulting Firm, Tribe

Mailing Address
Street Address
555 Main Street
Address Line 2

City
Quincy

State / Province / Region
CA

Postal / Zip Code
95971

Point of Contact for Consultation *
Tim Evans
Primary Contact Name

Point of Contact Email *
timevans@countyofplumas.com

Second Point of Contact
☑ Yes
Is there more than one point of contact for this project?

Second Point of Contact

Contact Name *
Molly Laitinen

Organization
NCE

Email Address *
mlaitinen@ncenet.com

Address is same as above? *
○ Yes ◉ No

Second Point of Contact Address

Street Address
501 Canal Blvd.
Address Line 2
Suite I
City
Richmond
State / Province / Region
CA
Postal / Zip Code
94804

Regulatory

Consulting Under *

This project fall under the following regulatory requirements:

- ○ Federal
- ◉ State of California
- ○ Federal and State
- ○ Other

California Regulations *

Select all that apply

- ☑ Assembly Bill 52 (PRC §21080.3.1)
- ☐ Senate Bill 18
- ☑ Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- ☐ Forest Practice Rules
- ☐ CalNAGPRA
- ☐ Assembly Bill 168
- ☐ Other

Project Notification Information

Project Name *

Bucks Lake Trail System

Please include Name and Reference Number (if applicable)

This is a *

- ◉ New Project
- ○ Public Hearing
- ○ Request for Information
- ○ Notice of Preparation (NOP)
- ○ Notice of Availability (NOA)
- ○ Other

Project Description

Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship (SBTS) was awarded a Stewardship Council grant to conduct an environmental review and seek approval to construct and maintain a non-motorized trail system on the southeast shore of Bucks Lake in Plumas County, California. The proposed Project is located on two PG&E-owned parcels identified by Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 112-060-008 and 112-060-007. The parcels total 682.68 acres and 1.5 of those acres are proposed to be developed into a single lane, standard/terra, non-motorized trail system resulting in approximately five miles of new trail in the Bucks Lake Recreation Area.

Please include a brief project description

Project/Construction Year *

2023

Please select the year your project will initiate

Project/Construction Season

Summer

Please select the season your project will initiate (if applicable)

Environmental Document Timeline

Jan.-Feb. 2023

Please share when your final environmental document is planned for public review

Location

APNs: 112-060-008 and 112-060-007 on south side of Bucks Lake

Please include county, city, and address (if available)

Project Documents

Documents uploaded to this form are secure and only accessible by the Tribal Historic Preservation team

Notification *

Attach notification letters or announcement

Bucks Lake UAIC Letter.pdf 109.02KB

50mb maximum upload size (per file)

Reports

Attach project reports, project descriptions, or supporting documents. Please add the following if available: Cultural, Biology, Arborist

3. D22-147.pdf 271.89KB

4. NAHC Response.pdf 198.21KB

Bucks Lake CR Letter Report DRAFT.pdf 245.16KB

50mb maximum upload size (per file)

Location Map

Attach maps and location files. Shape files are preferred

1. Figure 1 Project Location Map v02.pdf 942.15KB

2. Figure 2 Detail Map v02.pdf 1.33MB

File extensions allowed: pdf, jpg, png, kmz, lpk, dbf, prj, shp, abn, sbx, xml, shx, cpg, .zip. NOTE: 50mb maximum upload size (per file).

Send Submission Receipt To

☐ Primary Contact ☑ Secondary Contact ☐ Different Email

***This form submission page is offered for the convenience of consulting agencies, developers, and their respective consultants. UAIC reviews all submissions received, but makes no guarantee that submission via this online form satisfies any particular consultation or notice requirement that exists under state or federal law.

Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement

Jeremy Hall <JHall@ncenet.com>

Wed 6/26/2024 1:46 PM

To:info@enterpriserancheria.org <info@enterpriserancheria.org>
Cc:Kelly Habibi <kelly@sierratrails.org>;Dave Rios <DRios@ncenet.com>

1 attachments (2 MB)

Enterprise Email (221208).pdf;

Greetings:

On behalf of Plumas County and the Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship, NCE wishes to re-engage with your organization regarding the Bucks Lake Trail Project. The project requires compliance with AB-52 of CEQA. For various reasons, the project was put on hold since late 2022, when your organization was first informed of the undertaking (see attached). Given the time since you were first informed, NCE would like to re-engage with you to understand consultation needs or questions you may have regarding the project. If you have any questions or would like to consult under AB-52, please respond to this email or contact Kelly Habibi at the Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship (kelly@sierratrails.org).

Thanks,

Jeremy Hall, GISP, RPA
Senior Cultural Resources Manager
GIS Administrator
p (775) 588-2505 **c** (775) 354-9860
e jhall@ncenet.com

NCE

PO Box 1760, Zephyr Cove, NV 89448
www.ncenet.com

Collaboration. Commitment. Confidence.[SM]

Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement

Jeremy Hall <JHall@ncenet.com>

Wed 6/26/2024 1:48 PM

To:kself@greenvillerancheria.com <kself@greenvillerancheria.com>;efisher@greenvillerancheria.com <efisher@greenvillerancheria.com>
Cc:Kelly Habibi <kelly@sierratrails.org>;Dave Rios <DRios@ncenet.com>

1 attachments (2 MB)

Greenville Email (221208).pdf;

Greetings:

On behalf of Plumas County and the Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship, NCE wishes to re-engage with your organization regarding the Bucks Lake Trail Project. The project requires compliance with AB-52 of CEQA. For various reasons, the project was put on hold since late 2022, when your organization was first informed of the undertaking (see attached). Given the time since you were first informed, NCE would like to re-engage with you to understand consultation needs or questions you may have regarding the project. If you have any questions or would like to consult under AB-52, please respond to this email or contact Kelly Habibi at the Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship (kelly@sierratrails.org).

Thanks,

Jeremy Hall, GISP, RPA
Senior Cultural Resources Manager
GIS Administrator
p (775) 588-2505 **c** (775) 354-9860
e jhall@ncenet.com

NCE

PO Box 1760, Zephyr Cove, NV 89448
www.ncenet.com

Collaboration. Commitment. Confidence.SM

Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement

Jeremy Hall <JHall@ncenet.com>

Wed 6/26/2024 1:49 PM

To:frontdesk@mooretown.org <frontdesk@mooretown.org>;mhatcher@mooretown.org <mhatcher@mooretown.org>
Cc:Kelly Habibi <kelly@sierratrails.org>;Dave Rios <DRios@ncenet.com>

1 attachments (2 MB)

Mooretown Email (221208).pdf;

Greetings:

On behalf of Plumas County and the Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship, NCE wishes to re-engage with your organization regarding the Bucks Lake Trail Project. The project requires compliance with AB-52 of CEQA. For various reasons, the project was put on hold since late 2022, when your organization was first informed of the undertaking (see attached). Given the time since you were first informed, NCE would like to re-engage with you to understand consultation needs or questions you may have regarding the project. If you have any questions or would like to consult under AB-52, please respond to this email or contact Kelly Habibi at the Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship (kelly@sierratrails.org).

Thanks,

Jeremy Hall, GISP, RPA
Senior Cultural Resources Manager
GIS Administrator
p (775) 588-2505 **c** (775) 354-9860
e jhall@ncenet.com

NCE

PO Box 1760, Zephyr Cove, NV 89448
www.ncenet.com

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Undeliverable: Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement

Microsoft Outlook <MicrosoftExchange329e71ec88ae4615bbc36ab6ce41109e@ncenet.com>
Mon 6/17/2024 4:18 PM
To:frontdesk@mooretown.org <frontdesk@mooretown.org>

1 attachments (2 MB)
Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement;

Delivery has failed to these recipients or groups:

frontdesk@mooretown.org
Your message was rejected by the recipient's domain because the recipient's email address isn't listed in the domain's directory. It might be misspelled or it might not exist. Try to fix the problem by doing one or more of the following:

1. Send the message again - delete and retype the address before resending. If your email program automatically suggests an address to use, don't select it - type the complete email address.
2. Clear the recipient Auto-Complete List in your email program by following the steps in this article. Then resend the message.

For Email Administrators
Directory based edge blocking is enabled for the recipient's organization and the recipient wasn't found in their directory. If the sender is using the correct address but continues to experience the problem, contact the recipient's email admin and tell them about the problem. To fix this they should resynchronize their on-premises and cloud directories.

The following organization rejected your message: CH2PEPF0000009D.mail.protection.outlook.com.

Diagnostic information for administrators:

Generating server: BL3PR16MB4393.namprd16.prod.outlook.com

frontdesk@mooretown.org
CH2PEPF0000009D.mail.protection.outlook.com
Remote server returned '554 5.4.1 <CH2PEPF0000009D.mail.protection.outlook.com #5.4.1 smtp;550 5.4.1 Recipient address rejected: Access denied. [CH2PEPF0000009D.namprd02.prod.outlook.com 2024-06-17T23:17:57.651Z 08DC8EFEC4F1E29C]>'

Original message headers:

```
ARC-Seal: i=1; a=rsa-sha256; s=arcselector9901; d=microsoft.com; cv=none;
```

b=oDOoBp/64O4GrGxNICpEzyVr1jjQnTZ5XH+87NmeuHDzy0ZAtuXVRp59XI6dYDLSYqO6UmBQZoSJiV5HuZJ6qYU0noXVrAVekMY4
g7bL5CSJ3hQ0efqYuuYNVElAVRCxtSqSSHiL+d1XwFM+de7nShMhOEKTVRpnx67iLK/ivY8jAko9yvksMMgX85S4tQpDQws+MANYTs
IbPaDOnWaUDVoJJyg5SNfUXHhl71OBSlQCt7jXDRy/OEEeQI3i4dTI75/rlQb2CZgZ3+UdtyzvcVmei+FoOebW+st1qvXOx1NiQa1q
iUya5aSsmPbAiq8X/h2f4o40OYiTpt4G7xCztw==
ARC-Message-Signature: i=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed; d=microsoft.com;
 s=arcselector9901;
 h=From:Date:Subject:Message-ID:Content-Type:MIME-Version:X-MS-Exchange-AntiSpam-MessageData-
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 23:17:54 +0000
From: Jeremy Hall <JHall@ncenet.com>
To: "frontdesk@mooretown.org" <frontdesk@mooretown.org>,
        "mhatcher@mooretown.org" <mhatcher@mooretown.org>
CC: Kelly Habibi <kelly@sierratrails.org>, Dave Rios <DRios@ncenet.com>
Subject: Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement
Thread-Topic: Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement
Thread-Index: AQHawQx0u90DBA9pw06KZk+2X/841A==
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Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement

Jeremy Hall <JHall@ncenet.com>

Wed 6/26/2024 1:50 PM

To:dovee@sir-nsn.gov <dovee@sir-nsn.gov>
Cc:Kelly Habibi <kelly@sierratrails.org>;Dave Rios <DRios@ncenet.com>

1 attachments (2 MB)

Susanville Email (221208).pdf;

Greetings:

On behalf of Plumas County and the Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship, NCE wishes to re-engage with your organization regarding the Bucks Lake Trail Project. The project requires compliance with AB-52 of CEQA. For various reasons, the project was put on hold since late 2022, when your organization was first informed of the undertaking (see attached). Given the time since you were first informed, NCE would like to re-engage with you to understand consultation needs or questions you may have regarding the project. If you have any questions or would like to consult under AB-52, please respond to this email or contact Kelly Habibi at the Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship (kelly@sierratrails.org).

Thanks,

Jeremy Hall, GISP, RPA
Senior Cultural Resources Manager
GIS Administrator
p (775) 588-2505 **c** (775) 354-9860
e jhall@ncenet.com

NCE

PO Box 1760, Zephyr Cove, NV 89448
www.ncenet.com

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Undeliverable: Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement

Microsoft Outlook <MicrosoftExchange329e71ec88ae4615bbc36ab6ce41109e@ncenet.com>
Mon 6/17/2024 4:19 PM
To:dovee@sir-nsn.gov <dovee@sir-nsn.gov>

1 attachments (2 MB)
Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement;

Delivery has failed to these recipients or groups:

dovee@sir-nsn.gov
Your message was rejected by the recipient's domain because the recipient's email address isn't listed in the domain's directory. It might be misspelled or it might not exist. Try to fix the problem by doing one or more of the following:

1. Send the message again - delete and retype the address before resending. If your email program automatically suggests an address to use, don't select it - type the complete email address.
2. Clear the recipient Auto-Complete List in your email program by following the steps in this article. Then resend the message.

For Email Administrators
Directory based edge blocking is enabled for the recipient's organization and the recipient wasn't found in their directory. If the sender is using the correct address but continues to experience the problem, contact the recipient's email admin and tell them about the problem. To fix this they should resynchronize their on-premises and cloud directories.

The following organization rejected your message: CO1PEPF000044F4.mail.protection.outlook.com.

Diagnostic information for administrators:

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dovee@sir-nsn.gov
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From: Jeremy Hall <JHall@ncenet.com>
To: "dovee@sir-nsn.gov" <dovee@sir-nsn.gov>
CC: Kelly Habibi <kelly@sierratrails.org>, Dave Rios <DRios@ncenet.com>
Subject: Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement
Thread-Topic: Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement
Thread-Index: AQHawQy48tXqG7QzgE+E1Ar+tKTnEQ==
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UAIC - Contact Form Submission

donotreply@auburnrancheria.com <donotreply@auburnrancheria.com>
Mon 6/17/2024 4:50 PM
To:Jeremy Hall <JHall@ncenet.com>

United Auburn Indian Community
10720 Indian Hill Road
Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Jeremy Hall,

This email is a confirmation that we have received your inquiry. Please see the submission details below.

Subject: Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement

Your Message: Greetings:

On behalf of Plumas County and the Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship, NCE wishes to re-engage with your organization regarding the Bucks Lake Trail Project. The project requires compliance with AB-52 of CEQA. For various reasons, the project was put on hold since late 2022, when your organization was first informed of the undertaking. NCE filled out a UAIC submittal form in 2022. The information on the form remains unchanged; however, the County contact may not be the same.

Given the time since your organization was first informed, NCE would like to re-engage to understand any consultation needs or questions regarding the project. If you have any questions or would like to consult under AB-52, please email me back or contact Kelly Habibi at the Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship (kelly@sierratrails.org).

Thanks,

Jeremy

**This is an automated email. Replies to this address will not be received.

Nothing in this e-mail is intended to constitute an electronic signature for purposes of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (E-Sign Act), 15, U.S.C. §§ 7001 to 7006 or the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act of any state or the federal government unless a specific statement to the contrary is included in this e-mail.

Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement

Jeremy Hall <JHall@ncenet.com>

Wed 6/26/2024 1:54 PM

To:Patrick Burtt (THPO@WashoeTribe.us) <THPO@WashoeTribe.us>
Cc:Kelly Habibi <kelly@sierratrails.org>;Dave Rios <DRios@ncenet.com>

1 attachments (2 MB)

Washoe Email (221208).pdf;

Greetings:

On behalf of Plumas County and the Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship, NCE wishes to re-engage with your organization regarding the Bucks Lake Trail Project. The project requires compliance with AB-52 of CEQA. For various reasons, the project was put on hold since late 2022, when your organization was first informed of the undertaking (see attached). Given the time since you were first informed, NCE would like to re-engage with you to understand consultation needs or questions you may have regarding the project. If you have any questions or would like to consult under AB-52, please respond to this email or contact Kelly Habibi at the Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship (kelly@sierratrails.org).

Thanks,

Jeremy Hall, GISP, RPA
Senior Cultural Resources Manager
GIS Administrator
p (775) 588-2505 **c** (775) 354-9860
e jhall@ncenet.com

NCE

PO Box 1760, Zephyr Cove, NV 89448
www.ncenet.com

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From:	Trina Cunningham
To:	Molly Laitinen
Cc:	Shannon Williams
Subject:	Maidu Summit Consortium, Bucks Lake Trail Project
Date:	Tuesday, December 20, 2022 5:09:00 PM
Attachments:	1625084338188005_1587052684.png

Greetings Miss Laitinen,

Thank you for the correspondence, maps, and proposed project descriptions as consultation for the Bucks Lake Trail Project in Plumas County. The meadow where the waters called Bucks Lake currently covers were a prized area due to species that grew only in that location. As such, this area was a gathering area for the Mountain Maidu as well as the neighboring Maidu tribes and tribes even further away. Though many of the processing and storage artifacts have been stolen or destroyed, we suspect that remnants will be surfaced during trail construction.

The Maidu Summit Consortium respectfully requests further consultation and a site visit of the area. If the trail project is to progress, we also request to have Maidu Summit Consortium tribal monitors on-site for the duration of the project.

We look forward to further communication.

With appreciation,

Trina Cunningham

Maidu Summit Consortium
Executive Director
289 Main Street, #7, Chester CA 96020
P: (530) 258-2299 M: (530) 521-8141
trina@maidusummit.org

Mooretown Rancheria
#1 Alverda Drive
Oroville, CA 95966
(530) 533-3625 Office
(530) 533-3680 Fax

November 30, 2022

Ms. Molly Laitinen
NCE Staff Archaeologist
NCE Environmental & Engineering
501 canal Boulevard, Suite I
Richmond, CA 94804

Re: Proposed (PROJECT TYPE) Project - LOCATION, COUNTY, CA

Dear Ms. Laitinen:

Thank you for your letter dated, November 22, 2022, seeking information regarding the proposed Bucks Lake Trail project in Plumas County, California. Based on the information provided, the Mooretown Rancheria is wanting to engage in further consultation on this Project. Mooretown shares this area with other Maidu Tribes Mooretown Rancheria would like to have a site visit with the construction manager as well as the Archaeologist.

THPO
Mooretown Rancheria
1 Alverda Drive
Oroville, CA 95966
(530) 533-3625 Office
(530) 533-3680 Fax
E-mail: matthew.hatcher@mooretown.org

Thank you for providing us with this notice and opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Matthew Hatcher
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Outlook

Re: Bucks Lake Trail System Tribe Outreach

From Matthew Hatcher <mhatcher@mooretown.org>
Date Mon 1/30/2023 11:49 AM
To Molly Laitinen <MLaitinen@ncenet.com>

I would very much like to schedule a virtual meeting. Please schedule some times and we can decide which times are best for everyone.

Thank you

Matthew Hatcher

Sent from my iPad

> On Jan 27, 2023, at 5:47 PM, Molly Laitinen <MLaitinen@ncenet.com> wrote:
>
> Hi Mr. Hatcher,
>
> I am responding on behalf of the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship and the County of Plumas. Thank you for your response letter (scanned copy attached) dated November 30, 2022. We would be happy to do a site visit with you once the snow melts and would like to set up a desktop review meeting with you in the meantime.
>
> Please let us know if you prefer a virtual meeting or an in-person meeting. Plumas County can offer their Plumas County Planning Department Conference Room located at 555 Main Street Quincy, CA 95971 for an in-person meeting, unless you request a different location. Let us know what days and time may work for you in the coming weeks.
>
> Please find below a sharefile link to the cultural resources letter report for your review and records.
>
> https://nce.sharefile.com/d-s00383942f76e48c782cf1b158317f2e9
>
> Thank you and have a great weekend!
>
> M.J. Laitinen
> NCE|Staff Archaeologist
> Mobile: (408) 823-4570
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Molly Laitinen
> **Sent:** Thursday, December 8, 2022 3:53 PM
> **To:** frontdesk@mooretown.org; mhatcher@mooretown.org
> **Cc:** 'timevans@countyofplumas.com' <timevans@countyofplumas.com>; 'Trinity Stirling'

<trinity@sierratrails.org>; Dave Rios <DRios@ncenet.com>
Subject: Bucks Lake Trail System Tribe Outreach

Greetings:

On behalf of Plumas County and the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, I am conducting follow-up outreach regarding the Bucks Lake Trail System project located at Bucks Lake, California. Please find attached a copy of the consultation letter mailed on November 22, 2022.

The project requires compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). If you have any questions or would like to consult under AB-52, please respond to this email or contact Senior Planner at the Plumas County Planning Department, Tim Evans at timevans@countyofplumas.com.

Kind Regards,

Molly (M.J.) Laitinen, RPA
Staff Archaeologist
<image001.jpg>

p (510) 215-3620 **c** (408) 823-4570
f (510) 215-2898 **e** mlaitinen@ncenet.com

NCE
501 Canal Blvd., Suite I, Richmond, CA 94804
www.ncenet.com

Collaboration. Commitment. Confidence.SM

<Mooretown Rancheria Consultation Request.pdf>

Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement

Jeremy Hall <JHall@ncenet.com>

Wed 6/26/2024 1:46 PM

To:info@enterpriserancheria.org <info@enterpriserancheria.org>
Cc:Kelly Habibi <kelly@sierratrails.org>;Dave Rios <DRios@ncenet.com>

1 attachments (2 MB)

Enterprise Email (221208).pdf;

Greetings:

On behalf of Plumas County and the Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship, NCE wishes to re-engage with your organization regarding the Bucks Lake Trail Project. The project requires compliance with AB-52 of CEQA. For various reasons, the project was put on hold since late 2022, when your organization was first informed of the undertaking (see attached). Given the time since you were first informed, NCE would like to re-engage with you to understand consultation needs or questions you may have regarding the project. If you have any questions or would like to consult under AB-52, please respond to this email or contact Kelly Habibi at the Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship (kelly@sierratrails.org).

Thanks,

Jeremy Hall, GISP, RPA
Senior Cultural Resources Manager
GIS Administrator
p (775) 588-2505 **c** (775) 354-9860
e jhall@ncenet.com

NCE

PO Box 1760, Zephyr Cove, NV 89448
www.ncenet.com

Collaboration. Commitment. Confidence.[SM]

Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement

Jeremy Hall <JHall@ncenet.com>

Wed 6/26/2024 1:48 PM

To:kself@greenvillerancheria.com <kself@greenvillerancheria.com>;efisher@greenvillerancheria.com <efisher@greenvillerancheria.com>
Cc:Kelly Habibi <kelly@sierratrails.org>;Dave Rios <DRios@ncenet.com>

1 attachments (2 MB)

Greenville Email (221208).pdf;

Greetings:

On behalf of Plumas County and the Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship, NCE wishes to re-engage with your organization regarding the Bucks Lake Trail Project. The project requires compliance with AB-52 of CEQA. For various reasons, the project was put on hold since late 2022, when your organization was first informed of the undertaking (see attached). Given the time since you were first informed, NCE would like to re-engage with you to understand consultation needs or questions you may have regarding the project. If you have any questions or would like to consult under AB-52, please respond to this email or contact Kelly Habibi at the Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship (kelly@sierratrails.org).

Thanks,

Jeremy Hall, GISP, RPA
Senior Cultural Resources Manager
GIS Administrator
p (775) 588-2505 **c** (775) 354-9860
e jhall@ncenet.com

NCE

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www.ncenet.com

Collaboration. Commitment. Confidence.SM

Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement

Jeremy Hall <JHall@ncenet.com>

Wed 6/26/2024 1:49 PM

To:frontdesk@mooretown.org <frontdesk@mooretown.org>;mhatcher@mooretown.org <mhatcher@mooretown.org>
Cc:Kelly Habibi <kelly@sierratrails.org>;Dave Rios <DRios@ncenet.com>

1 attachments (2 MB)

Mooretown Email (221208).pdf;

Greetings:

On behalf of Plumas County and the Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship, NCE wishes to re-engage with your organization regarding the Bucks Lake Trail Project. The project requires compliance with AB-52 of CEQA. For various reasons, the project was put on hold since late 2022, when your organization was first informed of the undertaking (see attached). Given the time since you were first informed, NCE would like to re-engage with you to understand consultation needs or questions you may have regarding the project. If you have any questions or would like to consult under AB-52, please respond to this email or contact Kelly Habibi at the Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship (kelly@sierratrails.org).

Thanks,

Jeremy Hall, GISP, RPA
Senior Cultural Resources Manager
GIS Administrator
p (775) 588-2505 **c** (775) 354-9860
e jhall@ncenet.com

NCE

PO Box 1760, Zephyr Cove, NV 89448
www.ncenet.com

Collaboration. Commitment. Confidence.[SM]

Undeliverable: Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement

Microsoft Outlook <MicrosoftExchange329e71ec88ae4615bbc36ab6ce41109e@ncenet.com>
Mon 6/17/2024 4:18 PM
To:frontdesk@mooretown.org <frontdesk@mooretown.org>

1 attachments (2 MB)
Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement;

Delivery has failed to these recipients or groups:

frontdesk@mooretown.org
Your message was rejected by the recipient's domain because the recipient's email address isn't listed in the domain's directory. It might be misspelled or it might not exist. Try to fix the problem by doing one or more of the following:

1. Send the message again - delete and retype the address before resending. If your email program automatically suggests an address to use, don't select it - type the complete email address.
2. Clear the recipient Auto-Complete List in your email program by following the steps in this article. Then resend the message.

For Email Administrators
Directory based edge blocking is enabled for the recipient's organization and the recipient wasn't found in their directory. If the sender is using the correct address but continues to experience the problem, contact the recipient's email admin and tell them about the problem. To fix this they should resynchronize their on-premises and cloud directories.

The following organization rejected your message: CH2PEPF0000009D.mail.protection.outlook.com.

Diagnostic information for administrators:

Generating server: BL3PR16MB4393.namprd16.prod.outlook.com

frontdesk@mooretown.org
CH2PEPF0000009D.mail.protection.outlook.com
Remote server returned '554 5.4.1 <CH2PEPF0000009D.mail.protection.outlook.com #5.4.1 smtp;550 5.4.1 Recipient address rejected: Access denied. [CH2PEPF0000009D.namprd02.prod.outlook.com 2024-06-17T23:17:57.651Z 08DC8EFEC4F1E29C]>'

Original message headers:

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ARC-Message-Signature: i=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed; d=microsoft.com;
 s=arcselector9901;
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ChunkCount:X-MS-Exchange-AntiSpam-MessageData-0:X-MS-Exchange-AntiSpam-MessageData-1;
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 ([fe80::8756:4cd4:2533:65e7%4]) with mapi id 15.20.7677.030; Mon, 17 Jun 2024
 23:17:54 +0000
From: Jeremy Hall <JHall@ncenet.com>
To: "frontdesk@mooretown.org" <frontdesk@mooretown.org>,
        "mhatcher@mooretown.org" <mhatcher@mooretown.org>
CC: Kelly Habibi <kelly@sierratrails.org>, Dave Rios <DRios@ncenet.com>
Subject: Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement
Thread-Topic: Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement
Thread-Index: AQHawQx0u90DBA9pw06KZk+2X/841A==
Date: Mon, 17 Jun 2024 23:17:54 +0000
Message-ID: <BN8PR16MB296121BC225C83004ED520FCC1CD2@BN8PR16MB2961.namprd16.prod.outlook.com>
Accept-Language: en-US
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X-MS-Has-Attach: yes
X-MS-TNEF-Correlator:
msip_labels:
authentication-results: dkim=none (message not signed)
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x-ms-traffictypediagnostic: BN8PR16MB2961:EE_|BL3PR16MB4393:EE_
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x-ms-exchange-antispam-relay: 0
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Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement

Jeremy Hall <JHall@ncenet.com>

Wed 6/26/2024 1:50 PM

To:dovee@sir-nsn.gov <dovee@sir-nsn.gov>
Cc:Kelly Habibi <kelly@sierratrails.org>;Dave Rios <DRios@ncenet.com>

1 attachments (2 MB)

Susanville Email (221208).pdf;

Greetings:

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Jeremy Hall, GISP, RPA
Senior Cultural Resources Manager
GIS Administrator
p (775) 588-2505 **c** (775) 354-9860
e jhall@ncenet.com

NCE

PO Box 1760, Zephyr Cove, NV 89448
www.ncenet.com

Collaboration. Commitment. Confidence.[SM]

Undeliverable: Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement

Microsoft Outlook <MicrosoftExchange329e71ec88ae4615bbc36ab6ce41109e@ncenet.com>
Mon 6/17/2024 4:19 PM
To:dovee@sir-nsn.gov <dovee@sir-nsn.gov>

1 attachments (2 MB)
Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement;

Delivery has failed to these recipients or groups:

dovee@sir-nsn.gov
Your message was rejected by the recipient's domain because the recipient's email address isn't listed in the domain's directory. It might be misspelled or it might not exist. Try to fix the problem by doing one or more of the following:

1. Send the message again - delete and retype the address before resending. If your email program automatically suggests an address to use, don't select it - type the complete email address.
2. Clear the recipient Auto-Complete List in your email program by following the steps in this article. Then resend the message.

For Email Administrators
Directory based edge blocking is enabled for the recipient's organization and the recipient wasn't found in their directory. If the sender is using the correct address but continues to experience the problem, contact the recipient's email admin and tell them about the problem. To fix this they should resynchronize their on-premises and cloud directories.

The following organization rejected your message: CO1PEPF000044F4.mail.protection.outlook.com.

Diagnostic information for administrators:

Generating server: BL3PR16MB4393.namprd16.prod.outlook.com

dovee@sir-nsn.gov
CO1PEPF000044F4.mail.protection.outlook.com
Remote server returned '554 5.4.1 <CO1PEPF000044F4.mail.protection.outlook.com #5.4.1 smtp;550 5.4.1 Recipient address rejected: Access denied. [CO1PEPF000044F4.namprd05.prod.outlook.com 2024-06-17T23:19:53.527Z 08DC8BD0590E1383]>'

Original message headers:

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ARC-Message-Signature: i=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed; d=microsoft.com;
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ChunkCount:X-MS-Exchange-AntiSpam-MessageData-0:X-MS-Exchange-AntiSpam-MessageData-1;
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b=LUmpEuPvGTYlenZDXX6L1rscl8BkRh9rpS42kcbaKFQ7BXPID1L3sBmAT6WKtbtwtJqjCLY3DhuIwTxpryjPEa4CcbPryWQSiF0r
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Received: from BN8PR16MB2961.namprd16.prod.outlook.com (2603:10b6:408:56::10)
 by BL3PR16MB4393.namprd16.prod.outlook.com (2603:10b6:208:338::5) with
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 2024 23:19:47 +0000
Received: from BN8PR16MB2961.namprd16.prod.outlook.com
 ([fe80::8756:4cd4:2533:65e7]) by BN8PR16MB2961.namprd16.prod.outlook.com
 ([fe80::8756:4cd4:2533:65e7%4]) with mapi id 15.20.7677.030; Mon, 17 Jun 2024
 23:19:46 +0000
From: Jeremy Hall <JHall@ncenet.com>
To: "dovee@sir-nsn.gov" <dovee@sir-nsn.gov>
CC: Kelly Habibi <kelly@sierratrails.org>, Dave Rios <DRios@ncenet.com>
Subject: Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement
Thread-Topic: Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement
Thread-Index: AQHawQy48tXqG7QzgE+E1Ar+tKTnEQ==
Date: Mon, 17 Jun 2024 23:19:46 +0000
Message-ID: <BN8PR16MB2961FAAE4EE04C43057547AEC1CD2@BN8PR16MB2961.namprd16.prod.outlook.com>
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X-MS-Has-Attach: yes
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msip_labels:
authentication-results: dkim=none (message not signed)
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UAIC - Contact Form Submission

donotreply@auburnrancheria.com <donotreply@auburnrancheria.com>
Mon 6/17/2024 4:50 PM
To:Jeremy Hall <JHall@ncenet.com>

United Auburn Indian Community
10720 Indian Hill Road
Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Jeremy Hall,

This email is a confirmation that we have received your inquiry. Please see the submission details below.

Subject: Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement

Your Message: Greetings:

On behalf of Plumas County and the Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship, NCE wishes to re-engage with your organization regarding the Bucks Lake Trail Project. The project requires compliance with AB-52 of CEQA. For various reasons, the project was put on hold since late 2022, when your organization was first informed of the undertaking. NCE filled out a UAIC submittal form in 2022. The information on the form remains unchanged; however, the County contact may not be the same.

Given the time since your organization was first informed, NCE would like to re-engage to understand any consultation needs or questions regarding the project. If you have any questions or would like to consult under AB-52, please email me back or contact Kelly Habibi at the Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship (kelly@sierratrails.org).

Thanks,

Jeremy

**This is an automated email. Replies to this address will not be received.

Nothing in this e-mail is intended to constitute an electronic signature for purposes of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (E-Sign Act), 15, U.S.C. §§ 7001 to 7006 or the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act of any state or the federal government unless a specific statement to the contrary is included in this e-mail.

Bucks Lake Trail project re-engagement

Jeremy Hall <JHall@ncenet.com>

Wed 6/26/2024 1:54 PM

To:Patrick Burtt (THPO@WashoeTribe.us) <THPO@WashoeTribe.us>
Cc:Kelly Habibi <kelly@sierratrails.org>;Dave Rios <DRios@ncenet.com>

1 attachments (2 MB)

Washoe Email (221208).pdf;

Greetings:

On behalf of Plumas County and the Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship, NCE wishes to re-engage with your organization regarding the Bucks Lake Trail Project. The project requires compliance with AB-52 of CEQA. For various reasons, the project was put on hold since late 2022, when your organization was first informed of the undertaking (see attached). Given the time since you were first informed, NCE would like to re-engage with you to understand consultation needs or questions you may have regarding the project. If you have any questions or would like to consult under AB-52, please respond to this email or contact Kelly Habibi at the Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship (kelly@sierratrails.org).

Thanks,

Jeremy Hall, GISP, RPA
Senior Cultural Resources Manager
GIS Administrator
p (775) 588-2505 **c** (775) 354-9860
e jhall@ncenet.com

NCE

PO Box 1760, Zephyr Cove, NV 89448
www.ncenet.com

Collaboration. Commitment. Confidence.[SM]

Outlook

Bucks Lake

From Gena Pennanen <GPennanen@ncenet.com>
Date Tue 9/17/2024 10:55 AM
To info@enterpriserancheria.org <info@enterpriserancheria.org>; nelsons@enterpriserancheria.org <nelsons@enterpriserancheria.org>; cindys@enterpriserancheria.org <cindys@enterpriserancheria.org>

2 attachments (4 MB)
Bucks Lake Enterprise Rancheria Letter.pdf; Attachments (compiled).pdf;

Hello,

NCE is coordinating a field meeting for the Bucks Lake Trail Project between Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, Plumas County, and consulting Tribes. The Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians and the Maidu Summit Consortium both requested a site visit be conducted. I've attached the initial project outreach letter and attachments which provide the project information.

Are you available **September 30, 2024,** between 12pm and 5pm for the field visit? The planned meeting place is currently the Lakeshore Restaurant (16001 Bucks Lake Rd, Quincy, CA 95971). In addition, are there any specific areas of concern in mind that you would want to visit during this field meeting?

Please let me know if that date works for you, and I will send out the invite.

Thank you,

Gena Pennanen
Staff Cultural Resources Specialist
p (775) 588-2505 **c** (202) 779-1162
e gpennanen@ncenet.com

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Outlook

Bucks Lake Trail Project Field Meeting

From Gena Pennanen <GPennanen@ncenet.com>
Date Tue 9/17/2024 10:31 AM
To harvey@maidusummit.org <harvey@maidusummit.org>; misty@maidusummit.org <misty@maidusummit.org>

Hello,

NCE is coordinating a field meeting for the Bucks Lake Trail Project between Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, Plumas County, and consulting Tribes. Are you available **September 30, 2024,** between 12pm and 5pm for the field visit? The planned meeting place is currently the Lakeshore Restaurant (16001 Bucks Lake Rd, Quincy, CA 95971). In addition, are there any specific areas of concern in mind that you would want to visit during this field meeting?

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Outlook

Bucks Lake Trail Project Field Meeting

From Gena Pennanen <GPennanen@ncenet.com>
Date Tue 9/17/2024 10:44 AM
To matthew.hatcher@mooretown.org <matthew.hatcher@mooretown.org>; frontdesk@mooretown.org <frontdesk@mooretown.org>

Hello,

NCE is coordinating a field meeting for the Bucks Lake Trail Project between Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, Plumas County, and consulting Tribes. A letter dated 11/30/2022 from Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians requested a site visit. An email and voicemail were left on 6/10/2024 and 6/21/2024 respectively indicating the Bucks Lake Trail Project was starting up again.

Are you available **September 30, 2024,** between 12pm and 5pm for the field visit? The planned meeting place is currently the Lakeshore Restaurant (16001 Bucks Lake Rd, Quincy, CA 95971). In addition, are there any specific areas of concern in mind that you would want to visit during this field meeting?

Please let me know if that date works for you, and I will send out the invite.

Thank you,

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Outlook

RE: Bucks Lake

From Nelson Smith <nelsons@enterpriserancheria.org>
Date Wed 9/18/2024 11:00 AM
To Gena Pennanen <GPennanen@ncenet.com>
Cc James Anderson <jamesa@enterpriserancheria.org>

Hello Gena,

I am available on the 30th for this site visit. Enterprise Rancheria would like to participate. I will be there accompanied by my fellow Co-director James Anderson. He is CC'd on this email. Just to verify we are meeting at the Lakeshore restaurant at 12 pm on Sep. 30th?

Thanks,

Nelson Smith
Department of Natural Resources Co-Director\THPO
2133 Monte Vista Ave. Oroville, Ca, 95966
Office 530-532-9214
Cell Phone 530-990-0063

From: Gena Pennanen <GPennanen@ncenet.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 10:55 AM
To: info info <info@enterpriserancheria.org>; Nelson Smith <nelsons@enterpriserancheria.org>; Cindy Smith <cindys@enterpriserancheria.org>
Subject: Bucks Lake

Hello,

NCE is coordinating a field meeting for the Bucks Lake Trail Project between Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, Plumas County, and consulting Tribes. The Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians and the Maidu Summit Consortium both requested a site visit be conducted. I've attached the initial project outreach letter and attachments which provide the project information.

Are you available **September 30, 2024,** between 12pm and 5pm for the field visit? The planned meeting place is currently the Lakeshore Restaurant (16001 Bucks Lake Rd, Quincy, CA 95971). In addition, are there any specific areas of concern in mind that you would want to visit during this field meeting?

Please let me know if that date works for you, and I will send out the invite.

Thank you,

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e gpennanen@ncenet.com

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Outlook

Re: Bucks Lake

From Gena Pennanen <GPennanen@ncenet.com>
Date Wed 9/18/2024 11:31 AM
To Nelson Smith <nelsons@enterpriserancheria.org>
Cc James Anderson <jamesa@enterpriserancheria.org>

Hello Nelson,

Glad to hear 12pm on September 30th works, we look forward to seeing you there.

We are waiting to hear back from another tribe, since if they have an area of concern that they would like to visit, we may change the meeting location to be closer. Once we receive their response, I will send out a meeting invite to everyone, including you and James, with the finalized details. The invite will come by the end of the week at the latest.

Let me know if I can do anything else to assist!

Best,

Gena Pennanen
Staff Cultural Resources Specialist
p (775) 588-2505 **c** (202) 779-1162
e gpennanen@ncenet.com

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From: Nelson Smith <nelsons@enterpriserancheria.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 11:00 AM
To: Gena Pennanen <GPennanen@ncenet.com>
Cc: James Anderson <jamesa@enterpriserancheria.org>
Subject: RE: Bucks Lake

Hello Gena,

I am available on the 30th for this site visit. Enterprise Rancheria would like to participate. I will be there accompanied by my fellow Co-director James Anderson. He is CC'd on this email. Just to verify we are meeting at the Lakeshore restaurant at 12 pm on Sep. 30th?

Thanks,

Nelson Smith
Department of Natural Resources Co-Director\THPO
2133 Monte Vista Ave. Oroville, Ca, 95966
Office 530-532-9214
Cell Phone 530-990-0063

From: Gena Pennanen <GPennanen@ncenet.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 10:55 AM
To: info info <info@enterpriserancheria.org>; Nelson Smith <nelsons@enterpriserancheria.org>; Cindy Smith <cindys@enterpriserancheria.org>
Subject: Bucks Lake

Hello,

NCE is coordinating a field meeting for the Bucks Lake Trail Project between Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, Plumas County, and consulting Tribes. The Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians and the Maidu Summit Consortium both requested a site visit be conducted. I've attached the initial project outreach letter and attachments which provide the project information.

Are you available **September 30, 2024,** between 12pm and 5pm for the field visit? The planned meeting place is currently the Lakeshore Restaurant (16001 Bucks Lake Rd, Quincy, CA 95971). In addition, are there any specific areas of concern in mind that you would want to visit during this field meeting?

Please let me know if that date works for you, and I will send out the invite.

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Outlook

Bucks Lake Trail Project Follow-Up

From Gena Pennanen <GPennanen@ncenet.com>
Date Wed 10/16/2024 3:26 PM
To Nelson Smith <nelsons@enterpriserancheria.org>; James Anderson <jamesa@enterpriserancheria.org>

Hello,

I wanted to follow up regarding the Bucks Lake Trail Project field meeting since your organization did not attend on September 30. The Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship (SBTS) is happy to arrange a future site visit if you are interested.

Please note that any later meetings won't allow your feedback to be included in the current CEQA documentation, as the window for input is either closed or closing soon. The next opportunity to provide feedback will be during the public comment period, when Plumas County releases the Public Draft environmental document.

If you have any questions or would like to coordinate a field visit, please reach out to Kelly Habibi, SBTS Project Manager, at kelly@sierratrails.org.

Thank you,

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e gpennanen@ncenet.com

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Outlook

Bucks Lake Trail Project Follow-Up

From Gena Pennanen <GPennanen@ncenet.com>
Date Wed 10/16/2024 3:27 PM
To matthew.hatcher@mooretown.org <matthew.hatcher@mooretown.org>; mhatcher@mooretown.org <mhatcher@mooretown.org>

Hello,

I wanted to follow up regarding the Bucks Lake Trail Project field meeting since your organization did not attend on September 30. The Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship (SBTS) is happy to arrange a future site visit if you are interested.

Please note that any later meetings won't allow your feedback to be included in the current CEQA documentation, as the window for input is either closed or closing soon. The next opportunity to provide feedback will be during the public comment period, when Plumas County releases the Public Draft environmental document.

If you have any questions or would like to coordinate a field visit, please reach out to Kelly Habibi, SBTS Project Manager, at kelly@sierratrails.org.

Thank you,

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Attachment 3

NEIC Results (redacted)

Attachment 4

Survey Photos

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CULTURAL RESOURCES PHOTOGRAPH RECORD

Project Name: Bucks Lake Trail System, Plumas County, California
Project Number: 1218.02.25

Date	Frame Number	Site/Iso #	Description	View
8/10/2022	IMG_8133	-	Overview of steep areas on west side of APE	NW
8/10/2022	IMG_8141	-	Overview of steep areas on west side of APE	S
8/10/2022	IMG_8151	-	Overview of flat grassy meadow near Drainage 1 on north side of APE	E
8/10/2022	IMG_8152	-	Overview of flat heavily vegetated area near Drainage 3 on north side of APE	W
8/10/2022	IMG_8153	-	Overview of flat heavily vegetated area near Drainage 3 on north side of APE	E
10/28/2022	IMG_8957	ISO-02	Isolated historic tank near Drainage 1	W
10/28/2022	IMG_8966	-	Overview of flat riparian areas near Drainage 1 on south side of APE	SW
10/28/2022	IMG_8967	-	Overview of flat riparian areas near Drainage 1 on south side of APE	NE
10/28/2022	IMG_8973	-	Overview of flat meadow-type areas centrally located within APE and between Drainages 1 and 2	E
10/28/2022	IMG_8975	-	Overview of flat meadow-type areas centrally located within APE and between Drainages 1 and 3	W
10/28/2022	IMG_8987	-	Overview of heavily vegetated areas on east side of APE near Drainage 5	W
10/28/2022	IMG_8988	-	Overview of heavily vegetated areas on east side of APE near Drainage 5	NE



IMG_8133



IMG_8141



IMG_8151



IMG_8152



IMG_8153



IMG_8957



IMG_8966



IMG_8967



IMG_8973



IMG_8975



IMG_8987



IMG_8988