

FEE TITLE DONEE AND FEE TITLE RETENTION RECOMMENDATIONS LAKE ALMANOR PLANNING UNIT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

The Lake Almanor planning unit, located in Plumas County, consists of 205 parcels encompassing approximately 30,000 acres of land, of which approximately 1,629 acres have been identified as available for fee title donation (see attached map). Stewardship Council staff received land stewardship proposals (LSPs) from two organizations interested in receiving a donation of fee title to lands located in this planning unit – the Maidu Summit Consortium (MSC) and Plumas County.² In February 2011, the Stewardship Council Board (Board) approved a recommendation for a fee title donation of 57 acres in the Lake Almanor planning unit to Plumas County. In their LSP, the Maidu Summit Consortium expressed interest in acquiring the remaining acreage that is available for donation, totaling approximately 1,572 acres of land located in 21 parcels (parcels 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 393, 394, 400, 408, 410, 411, 426, 428, 457, 479, 483, 494, 508, 509, 511, and 514). However, after further consideration of the parcels available for donation, MSC refined its request for fee title to five parcels at the Lake Almanor planning unit.

Based on a review and evaluation of the MSC's LSP, the supplemental information provided by the MSC, follow-up discussions with the MSC, and a field tour, Stewardship Council staff has developed the following recommendation, which has been endorsed by the Watershed Planning Committee (Planning Committee), for this planning unit:

1. **The Maidu Summit Consortium** is recommended to receive a fee title donation to approximately 441 acres of land available for donation within five parcels (parcels 373, 375, 377, 426, and 457) subject to compliance with all of the requirements of the Land Conservation Commitment, including the following terms:
 - The Summit agrees to enter into a legally binding agreement to ensure that the conservation easement and other agreements executed pursuant to the Land

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

² The acreage Plumas County and the Maidu Summit Consortium have interest in are distinct and their respective fee title interests do not overlap.

Conservation Commitment remain enforceable in perpetuity; and

- Prior to the Land Conservation and Conveyance Plan (LCCP) for the Lake Almanor planning unit being adopted by the Stewardship Council Board of Directors (Board), the Summit successfully completes certain initial milestones established pursuant to a capacity-building grant awarded by the Stewardship Council.
2. **PG&E** to retain fee title to approximately 1,131 acres made available for donation within twenty parcels (parcels 374, 375, 376, 377, 393, 394, 400, 408, 410, 411, 426, 428, 457, 479, 483, 494, 508, 509, 511, and 514). This acreage is in addition to the approximately 28,041 acres originally designated by PG&E for retention.

Donation of the subject five parcels of land to the MSC would enable the MSC to manage all of the donated land consistent with Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and to explore and pursue the future establishment of a cultural center within parcel 457. Since the Lake Almanor lands are located in close proximity to the MSC's office in Chester, MSC would be well positioned to prevent unauthorized uses on those lands that could significantly harm the BPVs. Moreover, the MSC is the most qualified entity to protect cultural resources that are present on the parcels. The parcels are also relatively easy to access and would provide an opportunity for cultural interpretation educational programs and other types of enhancement projects. Lastly, owning lands that have timber resources and lease revenue would allow the MSC to generate income that could support its management of these parcels as well as the Humbug Valley property.

The MSC's interest in protection of cultural resources that are or may be present on the land in the twenty parcels recommended for retention by PG&E could possibly also be addressed via the establishment of conservation easements that result in the monitoring and protection of cultural resources present on these parcels.

If this recommendation is approved by the Board, Stewardship Council staff would work with the MSC on the development of a management and funding agreement. This agreement would be developed in coordination with the development of a Land Conservation and Conveyance Plan (LCCP). The proposed management and funding agreement and proposed LCCP would then be presented to the Planning Committee and Board for consideration and approval.

In addition, Stewardship Council staff will make a recommendation, to be endorsed by the Planning Committee, of a prospective conservation easement holder at Lake Almanor as part of a separate recommendation at a future board meeting. To date, a prospective conservation easement holder (the Feather River Land Trust) has only been selected for the lands in the Lake Almanor planning unit to be donated to Plumas County.

The public will have an opportunity to review and provide comment on the draft LCCP and the comments received will be shared with the Planning Committee before the Planning Committee forwards the proposed LCCP to the Board for its review and approval. Adoption of the LCCP by the Board would be the final step in the Stewardship Council's process for selecting donees.

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

a. *Planning Unit Description*

The Lake Almanor planning unit consists of approximately 30,000 acres of land currently owned by PG&E and located in Plumas County (see attached map). The planning unit is comprised of 205 legal parcels, most of which (approximately 27,000 acres) are inundated by Lake Almanor. The lands that are available for donation are primarily located along the southeastern shore, western shore, and the northern arm of the reservoir, known as Last Chance Marsh.

Lake Almanor is primarily surrounded by United States Forest Service (USFS) land and private property. Adjacent USFS lands on the western and northwestern shores are managed by the Lassen National Forest. Adjacent USFS lands along the southwestern and southeastern shores are managed by the Plumas National Forest. Lake Almanor is adjacent to the towns of Chester and Prattville, as well as several small communities and summer resorts.

The lands along the western and northern shores near Chester, as well as the northernmost arm of the reservoir, are primarily undeveloped and provide the highest habitat values in the planning unit. With habitat that transitions from shallow open water to marsh, these areas are particularly important habitat for waterfowl and other birds, and several rare plants. In addition, the reservoir area supports a gradually increasing number of nesting Bald Eagles and Osprey. The California Audubon Society has designated the entire reservoir area an Important Bird Area due to its importance to nesting and wintering waterfowl, but also for a number of special status species such as Willow Flycatcher, Sandhill Crane, and Yellow Warbler.

Lake Almanor, and the undeveloped forest lands around the reservoir, has additional value as open space by providing a natural and scenic viewshed for recreational users on the lake as well as travelers on the Lassen Scenic Byway.

Water-based recreation is a primary use of Lake Almanor by both visitors and residents. Most use occurs during the summer, when area facilities host many boaters, anglers, campers, and other outdoor enthusiasts. Recreation needs are served by the many public and private facilities dispersed around most areas of the shoreline. The marsh is popular for waterfowl hunting during the fall and provides good bird watching opportunities. Many of the facilities along the west shore of the lake are linked by the Lake Almanor Recreation Trail (LART), a paved 9.5-mile USFS-managed pedestrian and bike trail that traverses public and private property.

Forested lands within the planning unit encompass approximately 2,400 acres and are located within the boundaries of six PG&E Timber Management Units (TMUs). Five of the TMUs are managed entirely or primarily under a Sustainable Timber Management prescription. This means that sustained timber production is regarded as the highest and best use of the land while emphasis is also placed on protecting water quality, wildlife and fisheries habitat, soils, carbon sequestration, and cultural resources. The sixth TMU encompasses lands on the lake shore and is primarily managed under a salvage prescription, where harvests are primarily conducted for forest and watershed health purposes.

Although grazing does not currently occur on the planning unit, the meadows near Chester and Last Chance Marsh did support grazing under PG&E leases until the late 1990s. Grazing was discontinued due to water quality concerns.

The area now covered by Lake Almanor was once known as Big Meadow, part of the ancestral homeland of the Mountain Maidu tribe of Native Americans, and the location of several Maidu villages. Many cultural sites associated with the Maidu were inundated by the reservoir, however important sites (including burial sites) still exist on and near the shoreline. The Maidu and other Native Americans continue to reside in the area and maintain an active interest in cultural resources and traditional practices in the Lake Almanor vicinity.

b. Description of Parcels 373, 426, 457, 377, 375

Parcel 373

Parcel 373 is approximately 183 acres and located entirely outside FERC Project boundaries. Located on the west side of Last Chance Marsh, the parcel is flat and contains a mixture of open grasslands and timber stands. The parcel is bordered by U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands to the north, private lands to the south and west, and PG&E to the east. Benner Creek passes through the parcel as well as several seasonal drainages. Private properties must be crossed for vehicles to reach the three dirt roads running through the parcel. Access rights across adjacent third-party private lands may need to be acquired by the donee prior to closing. One of these roads includes a wet crossing of Benner Creek. PG&E will reserve water rights along Benner Creek.

Parcel 426

Parcel 426 includes approximately 141 acres on the east side of Last Chance Marsh, of which two acres are located within the FERC boundary. Mud Creek crosses this parcel in a wide, marshy channel with private dirt roads running along both sides of the channel. The MSC is only interested and recommended for approximately 70 acres to the immediate north and south of Mud Creek. The parcel abuts private timber lands to the east and has a private dirt road running through it. Access rights to the parcel may need to be acquired. PG&E land borders the parcel to the west. There are prominent rock formations just north of the mouth of Mud Creek. Private logging roads exist within the parcel at multiple locations. Most of the parcel is moderately steep and moderately timbered. PG&E will reserve water rights along Mud Creek.

Parcel 457

Parcel 457 includes approximately 24 acres on the western side of the lake, all of which has been preliminarily designated as available for fee title donation. This parcel is comprised of two separate portions. The MSC is only interested and recommended for a southern 21-acre portion of the parcel. This portion of the parcel is immediately east of State Highway 89. It is bordered by private lands to the west and by PG&E land to the east. State Highway 89 provides the western border of the parcel. This portion has a mild grade and is moderately timbered. A private dirt road runs through this property to the shoreline.

Parcel 377

Parcel 377 contains approximately 190 acres located southwest of Lake Almanor at the intersection of State Highway 89 and Prattville-Butt Reservoir Road. Due to FERC project boundaries, hydroelectric operations, and maintenance activities, staff recommends that only the land south of State Highway 89 and east of Prattville-Butt Reservoir Road (approximately 150 acres) be donated to the MSC.

The parcel abuts Lassen National Forest to the north and west and privately owned timber lands to the south and east. Access to the northern area of the property is via Highway 89 and Prattville-Butt Reservoir Road, which passes through the northern and central areas of the parcel. The entire parcel is fairly flat and has a seasonal drainage that runs through the middle of the parcel from south to north. There is a large meadow in the center of the southern half of the parcel with a dirt road running along the eastern edge. The remainder of the parcel is moderately timbered. The parcel contains a small, spring-fed pond in the meadow as well as remnants of a cement foundation.

Parcel 375

Parcel 375 is located on the southeast side of Lake Almanor and is divided into three distinct portions by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, which owns a right-of-way which divides the parcel. The MSC is only interested and recommended for the southern portion.

The southern portion of the parcel encompasses approximately fifteen acres and is located between the railroad and the highway. It is fairly flat and is accessible by a dirt road directly off the highway. The paved County Road 327 runs adjacent to the western edge of this portion of the parcel and serves private residences. State Highway 147 runs adjacent to a section of the western side. Part of this portion of the parcel is leased by PG&E to Lake Cove Resort for a recreation site. This agreement would be assigned to the MSC at closing. A tribal cemetery that is fenced and managed by the MSC is located on this portion of the property. PG&E has an existing electric distribution pole line running through the area for which rights will be reserved by PG&E in an easement.

c. Donee Evaluation Process

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

- Plumas County
- Maidu Summit Consortium
- Native American Land Conservancy

On November 12, 2010, LSPs were received from Plumas County and the MSC. Plumas County expressed interest in one parcel of land encompassing 57 acres. This parcel was recommended for donation to Plumas County by the Board on February 15, 2011. The MSC's LSP expressed

interest in receiving a donation of all the lands available for donation within the subject planning unit.

In evaluating the MSC's LSP, the following factors were considered:

- An evaluation of MSC's programmatic, financial, and legal capacity to maintain the property interest so as to preserve and/or enhance the beneficial public values of the planning unit;
- Anticipated funding needs of the MSC;
- The management objectives for the Lake Almanor Planning Unit as set forth in Volume II of the Land Conservation Plan (LCP);
- Public comments received regarding the desired qualifications of potential donees and the future stewardship of the planning unit;
- The requirements of the Settlement and Stipulation; and,
- Other relevant policies, procedures, and goals adopted by the Stewardship Council.
- The capacity of the MSC to receive, own, and manage lands in the Lake Almanor planning unit in addition to the lands previously recommended for donation to the MSC at Humbug Valley.

II. EVALUATION

Based on the MSC's latest request, they are interested in acquiring approximately 441 acres of land within five parcels (parcels 373, 375, 377, 426, and 457) located around Lake Almanor. Staff evaluated the LSP and the supplemental information that was submitted by the MSC. The results of this evaluation are summarized below.

a. Organizational and Financial Capacity

The Summit is a consortium comprised of nine Mountain Maidu tribes with aboriginal ties to the land within the Lake Almanor planning unit, including federally recognized and petitioning tribes, non-profit organizations, and grassroots groups. The group formed in 2003, and has been operating since that time, acquiring 501(c)(3) nonprofit status from the IRS in 2010. The Summit was formed primarily in response to PG&E's Land Conservation Commitment and suggestions by the Stewardship Council for collaboration early in the Stewardship Council's process. Their home office is in Chester, California, which is adjacent to parts of Lake Almanor.

The mission of the MSC is the "preservation and protection of Mountain Maidu prehistoric and historic sites, education, consultation, coordination and cooperation with all interests in our homeland, including Native tribes and organizations, industries, natural resource agencies, conservation groups and residents and the conservation, preservation and protection of land and its natural resources and historic sites." The MSC Board consists of nine representatives of member organizations and six alternates, and is served by two staff and 13 volunteers.

Although the MSC as an organization does not own fee title to any land, the MSC's member organizations have relevant land ownership and/or management experience (e.g., Maidu Cultural and Development Group's National Pilot Stewardship Project, Roundhouse Council Traditional

Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Camps, Susanville Rancheria's 160 acre Cradle Valley Project and Tasmam Koyom Foundation's agreement with PG&E to implement a fencing site protection project in the nearby Humbug Valley planning unit. The MSC also includes board members, volunteers affiliated with organizations represented on the MSC Board, as well as a community stewardship team (volunteers that act as stewards of parcels that contain culturally significant sites such as cemeteries and traditional gathering and resource processing areas in Lake Almanor and Humbug Valley). If lands in the Lake Almanor planning unit are donated to the MSC, the MSC plans to institute a volunteer group of scientists and consultants from the region as part of a Resources Advisory Committee, to advise on land management plan development, project design and implementation.

Over the past two years, several actions have been taken by the Stewardship Council to support and enhance the organizational development of the MSC as summarized below.

- In November, 2013, the Stewardship Council Board recommended the donation of 2,325 acres of land available for donation at the Humbug Valley planning unit to the MSC subject to certain conditions, including the development of a capacity-building grant agreement with the MSC to ensure that the MSC develops and maintains sufficient capacity for the preservation and enhancement of the BPVs at Humbug Valley.
- In March, 2014, the Stewardship Council Board approved a grant award to the MSC in an amount not to exceed \$105,000 for the first phase of capacity building to help ensure that the MSC develops and maintains sufficient organizational capacity for the preservation and enhancement of the beneficial public values at the Humbug Valley planning unit. This work is currently underway.

The above described actions have been taken to support and enhance the MSC's organizational development. While these actions were directly related to the MSC's activities at Humbug Valley, they would support and enhance the MSC's capacity as a land manager at other sites, such as Lake Almanor.

MSC member organizations have committed some financial resources (Tsi-Akim Maidu and Tasmam Koyom Foundation have each committed funds to help grow organizational capacity), and members and partners have identified in-lieu contributions to the MSC including staff time and expertise, grant writing, capacity building, and office supplies.

The MSC member organizations appear to exhibit strong ties to the local community and have worked collaboratively with various organizations in the region (e.g., County of Plumas, Feather River Land Trust; Sierra Institute; the Lake Almanor Watershed Group (formerly the Almanor Basin Watershed Advisory Committee); Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group; Ecological Resources Committee, and the Plumas Corporation) and exhibit a commitment to do so in the future. The MSC has established an MOU with the Native American Land Conservancy for capacity-building assistance. The Lassen National Forest has indicated a desire to partner with the MSC on resource management issues and on potential grant opportunities and is currently working to establish a Master Stewardship Agreement with the MSC, paving the way for substantial funding for a network of restoration projects to occur throughout the region.

The MSC has developed a website and initiated the “Friends of Humbug Valley,” which has successfully cultivated approximately 240 private donors and registered members. The MSC has launched a regular newsletter (semiannual) and has begun providing tours and events at the nearby Humbug site to interested parties. In addition, the MSC has created a dedicated “MSC Fundraising Team” and secured the services of a trained grant writer and has established consultation from other successful grant writers with extensive experience in that field.

The MSC has identified a number of potential funding sources, some of which have already been secured as partners. Letters of interest were sent out to over 30 potential funders. In 2010, the MSC followed up on this work with targeted outreach to three potential funders: 7th Generation Fund, the Christensen Fund, and the Lannan Foundation. Each has since awarded funding to the MSC.

b. Management Objectives

Volume II of the LCP established certain management objectives for the Lake Almanor Planning Unit (see Volume II Planning Unit Report with attachments). The MSC is proposing to undertake certain activities that would be consistent with these management objectives. The specific activities being proposed by the MSC at each of the seven parcels that are the subject of this recommendation are described below.

Parcels 373

The MSC has provided the following description of proposed activities at the subject parcel:

“These heavily timbered parcels have been harvested somewhat recently would benefit from fuels reduction and propagation of certain native species reliant on light distribution. A known Maidu cemetery lies on an adjacent property. Establishing the MSC cultural resource protection measures on these parcels would improve the MSC’s ability to protect sites in the general area.”

Parcel 375

The MSC has provided the following description of proposed activities at the subject parcel:

“This parcel has been a critical cultural resource protection objective of the highest degree for the MSC. It is felt throughout the Maidu community that the on-site Indian cemetery can only be legitimately and permanently protected if owned by the MSC. The site also provides for a small economic opportunity via the on-site recreational vehicle park that operates seasonally. An established lease agreement would be honored by the MSC and the current owners would be allowed to operate as usual during the period agreed to by lease. This is a component of the MSC’s long-term fiscal plan that will finance work on all lands recommended to the MSC.”

Parcel 377

The MSC has provided the following description of proposed activities at the subject parcel:

“The forest and the meadow on this parcel offers the MSC the chance to further demonstrate traditional ecological knowledge while also maintaining a legitimate measure of protection of environmental and cultural resources on this site. This site was historically the allotment land of a local Maidu family. The substantial timber resources at this site would allow for implementing sustainable forestry management in the foreseeable future. Critical conditions exist for several native variations of willow and other woody plant species. A recent tour evidenced the need for clean-up and better protection of the area. Overall, this site grants the MSC an ideal location for expansion of their ongoing research of local environmental strains related to loss of management principles of Indigenous Peoples. Easy access will also make the site an ideal place to do interpretive programs for the public that relates to the local Maidu culture.”

Parcel 426

The MSC has provided the following description of proposed activities at the subject parcel:

“We plan to use anthropogenic burns, in conjunction with the United States Forest Service personnel as needed, as a means of restoring this wetland to a place of abundance and proper management from the Maidu perspective.

There is a great need for edible plant cultivation in our community and based on our findings there is enough presence of such species on this site, albeit they are drastically in need of improved managed, site #426 offers us the ability to cultivate and to transplant these species at other receptive areas within the sites applied for.

The close proximity of this site to our office, and its generally central location between schools at Chester, Westwood, Greenville, and Susanville, make it an ideal site to carry out youth engagement projects throughout the dry months. There will be a mutually beneficial scenario presented as we gain from the assistance provided by youth volunteers as we do thinning, coppicing, pruning, etc., while the schools gain new access to such educational opportunities.

Another intention of ours here is to be able to provide regular monitoring of the site, which shows much evidence of trespassing and crime, such as illegal camping and irresponsible off-road vehicle use. Our ongoing restoration work there will provide regular site presence and will aid in preventing the type of illicit activities described.”

Parcel 457

The MSC has provided the following description of proposed activities at the subject parcel:

“This site is intended for use as the Mountain Maidu Cultural Center and Museum. This site presents the ideal location for the center, it has paved to access site and is proximate to lakeshore habitat, offering a unique opportunity for MSC to develop and share traditional marshland ecology programs. The site would also serve as the permanent hub for all work being done by the MSC in protecting cultural properties on the site and other properties owned by the MSC. This site offers easy access to Humbug Valley, it will also provide the critical link between the mainstream traffic of the tourist industry in and around the greater Lake Almanor

recreational zone. Thus, allowing MSC the best chance to educate the public on how they are preserving and enhancing the beneficial public value objectives for the lands they have been recommended.

If granted the land at Lake Almanor Planning Unit parcel #457, the Maidu Summit Consortium (MSC) intends to immediately begin seeking funding to develop plans and secure all required approval and permitting for the construction of a single story, multi-purpose building. It will be used by the Maidu as a cultural and linguistic learning center for the public benefit, as well as an administrative center from which all management activities on our properties can be managed.

We seek a recommendation from the Stewardship Council to assume ownership of this parcel that will provide for a development envelope for the construction of a building approximately 2,500 square feet. The structure would be built to all specifications of California construction code, approved by all necessary regulatory bodies, designed and constructed by California licensed professionals, and completed within a timely manner.

Major funding for the construction of our site will be gained through support of Indian education resources such as the Administration for Native Americans, a group which our tribe received a \$400,000 grant from in recent years to complete a three year project to revitalize language use among our people. We intend to re-apply for education funding from this and other groups in order to realize our goals of establishing a site to house and share our historic, linguistic, environmental, and religious heritage with our tribal youth and with the public, among the sites many other proposed uses.

Designs for the site would be informed by input from the County of Plumas Planning Department, tribal council meetings, public meetings, and insights gained from completed projects in other regions.

Concept Features

- *Round in design, with a covered open-air central meeting space*
- *Loose aggregate parking area*
- *Design elements drawn from Maidu cultural imagery*
- *Direct line of site to Mount Lassen and a panoramic view of Lake Almanor*
- *Central location among the various towns within the traditional Mountain Maidu homeland*
- *Ideal location in regards to vehicular and foot traffic provided by the seasonal tourism of the surrounding region.”*

c. Funding and Financial Costs

The Stewardship Council has adopted a Land Conservation Program Funding Policy pertaining to funding certain costs associated with the transfer of fee title, enhancements to the beneficial public values, and the establishment and monitoring of conservation easements. The Stewardship Council has also adopted a policy and guidelines on funding property tax neutrality. In

accordance with these policies and guidelines, the Stewardship Council will work with Plumas County to determine the payment methods and amounts necessary to satisfy the property tax neutrality obligation, and staff will develop a management and funding agreement with the MSC that will be presented to the Board for approval at a later date.

d. Requirements of the Settlement and Stipulation

A recommendation for the MSC to receive fee title to lands available for donation within this planning unit would be subject to compliance with all the requirements of the Land Conservation Commitment. Several of these requirements are highlighted below.

- The Stewardship Council would work with PG&E and Plumas County to ensure the conveyance of these parcels to a tax exempt entity achieves property tax neutrality.
- The grant deed and conservation easement would include an express reservation of right for continued operation and maintenance of hydroelectric facilities and associated water delivery facilities, including project replacements and improvements required to meet existing and future water delivery requirements for power generation and consumptive water use by existing users, compliance with any Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license, FERC license renewal, or other regulatory requirements.
- The conservation easement would honor existing agreements for economic uses and protect reasonable public access.
- The Summit would enter into a legally binding agreement to ensure that the conservation easement and other agreements executed pursuant to the Land Conservation Commitment remain enforceable in perpetuity

e. Conservation Partners

The permanent protection of the Lake Almanor planning unit, and the future preservation and enhancement of the BPVs, may involve, and benefit from, the participation of land conservation partners. Land conservation partners are defined as organizations other than PG&E or the conservation easement holders that become involved in future activities on the donated lands that contribute to the preservation and enhancement of the BPVs. Land conservation partners may be organizations that expressed interest in enhancement activities on the properties via a land stewardship proposal or organizations otherwise identified during or after the development of the LCCP. Such organizations and activities may be eligible for Stewardship Council funding, depending on the type of organization, proposed activities, availability of funds, and other factors. Staff would work with the recommended donees and the holders of the conservation easements and evaluate opportunities for land conservation partners.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Stewardship Council has implemented a public outreach program to engage stakeholders and solicit public input on the development and implementation of the land conservation plan. A summary of key public outreach activities and public comments associated with the Lake Almanor planning unit is attached.

IV. NEXT STEPS FOLLOWING PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

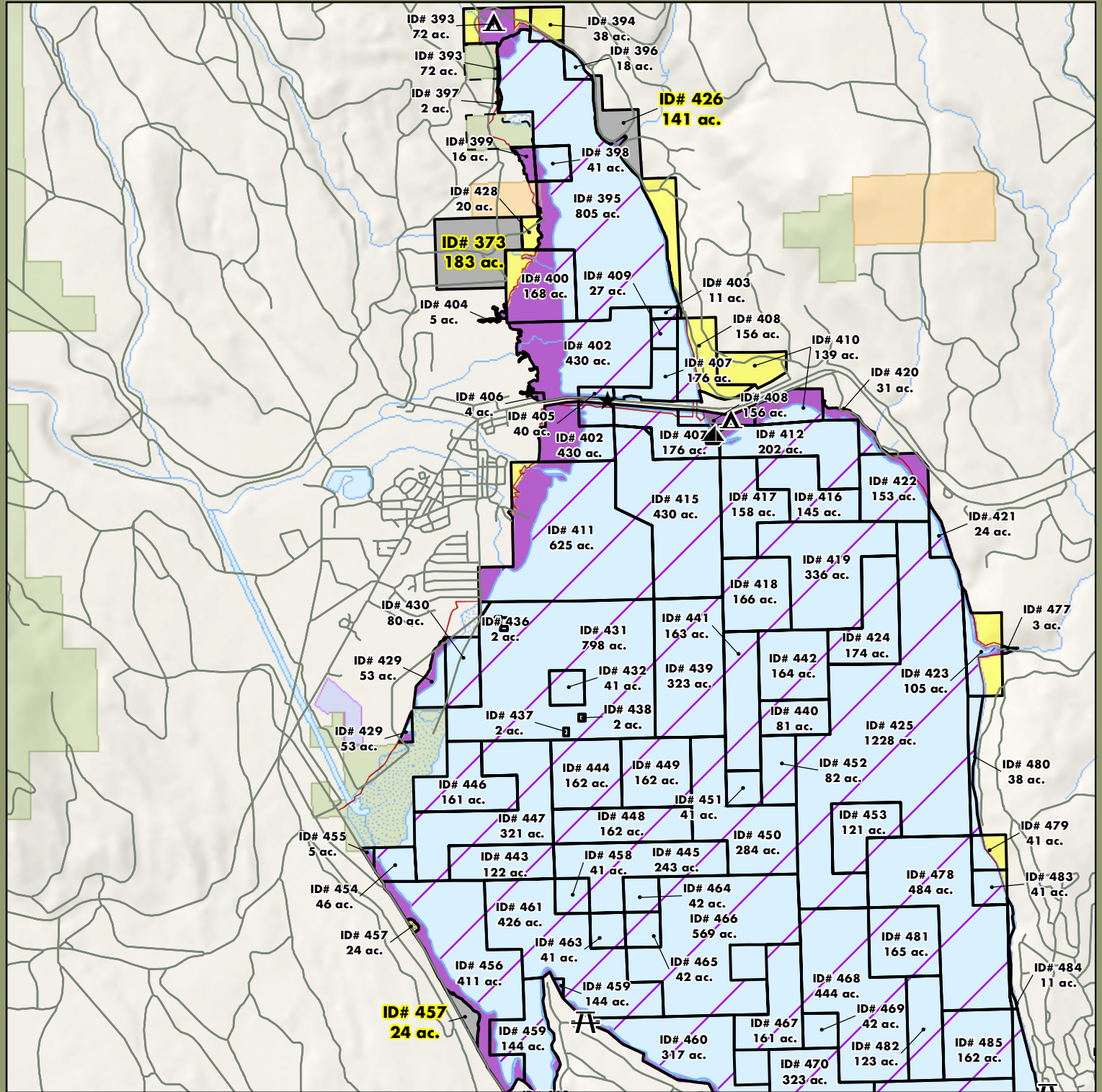
If the Board approves this recommendation on November 19, 2014, staff would invite the MSC to negotiate specific terms of the transaction with PG&E and the prospective easement holder. Once that entity has been selected the prospective conservation easement holder would also negotiate a separate conservation easement with PG&E for the lands PG&E will retain.

After review by the Stewardship Council, the proposed conservation easements will be incorporated into a Land Conservation and Conveyance Plan (LCCP) developed for the planning unit. The public will have an opportunity to review and provide comment on the proposed LCCP. Comments received will be shared with the Planning Committee before the Planning Committee forwards the proposed LCCP to the Board for its review and approval. Adoption of the LCCP by the Board would be the final step in the Stewardship Council's process.

ATTACHMENTS AND REFERENCE MATERIAL

- Lake Almanor Planning Unit Map
- LCP Volume II Planning Unit Report for Lake Almanor Planning Unit
- List of Registered Organizations That Submitted SOQs for Lands Available in the Lake Almanor Planning Unit
- Summary of Key Public Outreach Activities and Public Comments Associated with the Lake Almanor Planning Unit

Lake Almanor Planning Unit



- PG&E Lands Preliminary Designated for Donation
- PG&E Lands Preliminary Designated for Retention
- # Legal Parcel Boundary and Id Number
- Additional Lands Proposed for PG&E Retention
- Lands of Interest to Maidu Summit Consortium
- PG&E Lands Under Water
- BLM
- Private
- State
- USFS

~ FERC Boundary

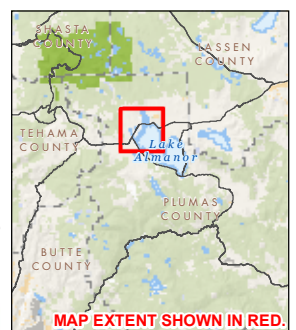
- ▲ Boat Launch
- △ Campground
- ⌘ Day Use Area
- ▬ Dam
- ★ Feature of Importance

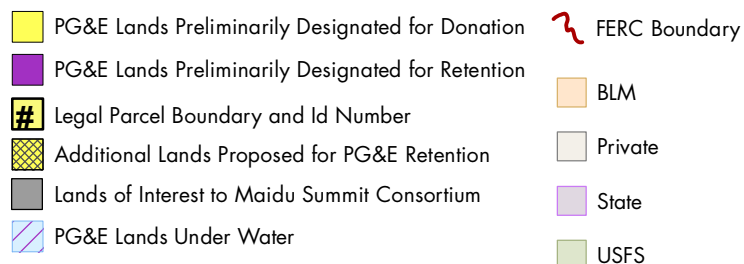
- 🐟 Fishing
- L Lodge
- P Parking
- PH Powerhouse
- 🏠 Private Camp











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

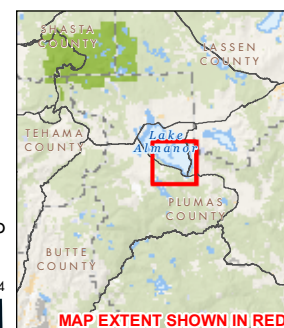
0 0.5 1 Mile

September 2014
AECOM





	Boat Launch		Fishing
	Campground		Lodge
	Day Use Area		Parking
	Dam		Powerhouse
	Feature of Importance		Private Camp



Lake Almanor Planning Unit

Link to Lake Almanor Planning Unit Report:

[Lake Almanor Planning Unit Report](#)

Link to Lake Almanor Aerial Map:

[Lake Almanor Aerial Map](#)

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

PUBLIC REVIEW OF VOLUMES I AND II OF THE LCP

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

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

- Prohibit unauthorized uses on the watershed lands, particularly on wetland areas and critical habitat.
- The tribes should be notified first, before the museums or collection agencies, when Native American remains are discovered.
- All forestry activities should be planned in collaboration with the community specific prescriptions in the Almanor Basin Fire Plan.
- The timbered acres should be managed in ways to enhance carbon sequestration.
- Ensure that the extension of the Lake Almanor Recreation Trail is completed on the west side and easements are provided for trail access on non-FERC lands.
- Concern that land donations and conservation easements will impact Plumas County's economic future.
- Provide accessible restroom facilities at the proposed parking area and wildlife viewing platform, preferably on the east side of Chester where it would be used more.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING FOR THE LAKE ALMANOR PLANNING UNIT

A public information meeting for the Lake Almanor, Butt Valley Reservoir, Humbug Valley, and Mountain Meadows Reservoir Planning Units was hosted by the Stewardship Council on October 22, 2009 at the Chester Memorial Hall in Chester, California. A total of 61 people attended and participated in the meeting, representing a wide variety of interests, including local and federal governments; community organizations, and community members. The primary purpose of this meeting was to solicit public input on the development of the Land Conservation and Conveyance Plans (LCCP) to preserve and enhance the Lake Almanor, Butt Valley Reservoir, Humbug Valley, and Mountain Meadows Reservoir Planning Units. The Stewardship Council will consider all public input.

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

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

- Support for the Lake Almanor Recreation Trail to Chester
- Extension of the Lake Almanor Recreation Trail is not a priority since it currently does not get use
- Development of conference center similar to Asilomar (Pacific Grove) at possible locations either near the causeway or near Bailey Creek – emphasis on youth groups focusing on the abundant outdoor activities of the area
- Dock/ramp on east side of lake that would provide public access at no cost
- No OHV [off highway vehicle] use
- Limit hunting access along [southwest] shoreline
- Maintain public access for recreation

Important Qualifications of Future Landowners and Conservation Easement Holders

- Able to work with others in the watershed areas (e.g., forestry, fuels, fish and wildlife)
- Must have a holistic view (not piecemeal or only one concern)
- Must have prior interest in area, and not come from out of the area

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE SUBMITTED

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

- Social justice should be addressed when selecting donees by returning the lands to the Native Americans as just compensation for what they lost.
- Concerns about how cultural resources would be protected on the watershed lands, including inadvertent discoveries.
- Ensure and secure funding for the protection of cultural resources, especially newly discovered sites (such as fencing, monitoring, etc.)
- Interest expressed in implementing needed preservation and enhancements projects on PG&E retained lands.
- Concern about the scope of PG&E's reserved rights and the potential impact the exercise of these rights could have on resource protection.

- Concerns about how the requirements of the PG&E Settlement Agreement and Stipulation could affect tribal interests.
- Concern expressed about water quality impacts to fish and wildlife.



Lake Almanor Planning Unit

Organizations That Submitted a Statement of Qualifications for Fee-Title Interests

County of Plumas
Environmental Education Council of Marin
Feather River Land Trust
Maidu Summit Consortium
Native American Land Conservancy
Plumas Corporation
US Forest Service – Lassen National Forest