

LAND STEWARDSHIP PROPOSAL  
FOR  
FEATHER RIVER WATERSHED AREA  
**HUMBUG VALLEY PLANNING UNIT**

BY  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME



November 12, 2010



## PART 1 – ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

### Contact Information

1. a) Primary LSP Contact:

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b) Secondary LSP Contact:

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California Department of Fish and Game  
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c) Regional Manager:

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California Department of Fish and Game  
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## Executive Summary

2. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) seeks fee-title interest in Humbug Valley to manage the property as a State of California Wildlife Area. The primary purposes of this acquisition are as follows:
  - 1) Protect the fish, wildlife, and plant life in this unique mountain meadow system with its associated cultural resources from overgrazing, residential and recreational development;
  - 2) Guarantee continued public access for the education, use, and enjoyment of future generations;
  - 3) Restore wet meadow and riparian ecosystems.

The mission of the California Department of Fish and Game is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public. This includes habitat protection and maintenance in a sufficient amount and quality to ensure the survival of all species and natural communities. CDFG is also responsible for the diversified use of fish and wildlife including recreational, commercial, scientific and educational uses.

California Department of Fish and Game is one of California's largest landowners. The CDFG manages over 1,000,000 acres of fish and wildlife habitat in a total of 711 properties throughout the state. These properties provide habitat for a rich diversity of fish, wildlife, and plant species and comprise habitats from every major ecosystem in the state. The CDFG acquires wildlife areas to protect and enhance habitat for wildlife and to provide for public uses that are compatible with the long-term well-being of wildlife and habitat. The CDFG oversees 106 State Wildlife Areas located throughout the state, totaling over 627,500 acres. CDFG operated State Wildlife Areas range in size from only a few acres to the 46,482-acre Tehama Wildlife Area in Tehama County.

The CDFG state operations support budget for FY 2010-11 is \$385,033,000 from all sources and includes Local Assistance of \$15,043,000. Funding for CDFG state operations comes from approximately 49 different fund sources. The CDFG budget supports 2,466.9 total personnel years, which includes temporary help. CDFG has statewide and regional specialists in many areas of expertise that can manage the proposed State Wildlife Area or provide technical assistance: wildlife biology, fisheries biology, engineering, hydrology, fluvial geomorphology, botany, fish pathology, GIS, timber management, vegetation management, fish and wildlife education and outreach, invasive species, entomology, herpetology, statistics, water quality, water rights, and other areas.



Humbug Valley is a unique place in the lands of the northern Sierra Nevada. Because of its location with respect to the surrounding forest lands, Humbug Valley has an excellent prospect for long-term ecological viability. This acquisition proposal is for a total resource ecosystem in Humbug Valley which contains a large mid-elevation Sierra Nevada meadow, rather than a specific species or habitat type.

The California Department of Fish and Game has decades of experience in managing the fisheries and working to improve fish habitat in Yellow Creek, within Humbug Valley. Yellow Creek is a California Fish and Game Commission (CFG) designated Wild Trout stream. The CFG adopted a Wild Trout Policy in 1971 that provides for the designation of "aesthetically pleasing and environmentally productive" streams and lakes to be managed exclusively for wild trout, where the trout populations are managed with appropriate regulations to be "largely unaffected by the angling process." The CFG recognized the importance of high quality habitat for the maintenance of wild trout populations and the Policy states: "All necessary actions, consistent with State law, shall be taken to prevent adverse impact by land or water development projects affecting designated Wild Trout Waters." A Wild Trout Management Plan was drafted by the CDFG to direct fishery management in Yellow Creek during 1981. The CDFG has also conducted fish habitat restoration projects to restore eroding stream banks and assisted California Trout with maintenance of the cattle enclosure fence that once protected Yellow Creek from cattle grazing.

Humbug Valley would be managed as a State Wildlife Area (in recognition of its multi-cultural, multi-habitat features), with management directed to the restoration of wet meadow and riparian ecosystems, and to promoting the return of both plant and animal species endemic to this system. It would be open to the public, and to hunting, fishing, and botanical gathering, guided by a Wildlife Area Land Management Plan which would be developed and adopted by the CDFG.

Important cultural and archeological values in Humbug Valley would be protected by acquisition and designation as a State Wildlife Area because development and destruction would be prevented. CDFG will coordinate with the Maidu Summit Consortium and local entities for maintenance and ongoing protection of sites and structures. CDFG proposes specific measures and activities to protect and enhance Maidu access to Humbug Valley.

The California Department of Fish and Game has been conserving California's wildlife since 1870. The CDFG is likely to persist indefinitely into the future and this document speaks to the organizational vitality of the CDFG and our intent to maintain the fish, wildlife, plant species and natural communities of Humbug Valley for their intrinsic and ecological value and their benefits to the people of California.



## Organization Information

- 3.) The California Department of Fish and Game is part of the Resources Agency of the State of California.
- 4.) The California Department of Fish and Game is a government agency.
- 5.) Department of Fish and Game.
- 6.) The organization is commonly known as the California Department of Fish and Game, DFG, CDFG, Cal Fish and Game, and the Department.
- 7.) Letter attached (Part 3).

## Rationale for Applying

- 8.) The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) seeks Fee-title interest in Humbug Valley to manage the property as a State of California Wildlife Area. The purpose of acquisition was identified in the CDFG Humbug Valley Lands Acquisition Evaluation (LAE) completed in 2001:

Primary Purpose of Acquisition:

Protect the fish, wildlife, and plant life in this unique mountain meadow system with its associated cultural resources from overgrazing, residential and recreational development.

Additional Purposes of Acquisition:

Guarantee continued public access for the education, use, and enjoyment of future generations.

Restore wet meadow and riparian ecosystems.

Humbug Valley, elevation 4,400 feet, is the central drainage feature of the surrounding 35 square mile upper Yellow Creek basin that rises to 7,063 feet at Eagle Rocks. It lies within the zone where the Sierra and Cascade provinces merge; and within the geologically unique upper Feather River fracture zone that lies between the Sierra crest and the Great Basin. Large inter-mountain valleys were common in this zone, but most have been developed or have become reservoirs. Humbug Valley has been agricultural/ grazing since 1850, but its location and climate, and its early purchase as a potential reservoir site have kept it relatively pristine. Humbug Valley is a unique place in the lands of the northern Sierra Nevada. Because of its location with respect to the surrounding forest lands, Humbug Valley has an excellent prospect for long-term ecological



viability. This acquisition proposal is for a total resource ecosystem in Humbug Valley which contains a large mid-elevation Sierra Nevada meadow, rather than a specific species or habitat type. The property encompasses a wide range of habitat types, eco-tones, and edge types; and these in turn provide for a wide range of fish, wildlife, and plant species. Humbug Valley contains numerous springs and seeps that support fen bog habitat. The property includes 1300 contiguous acres of mountain meadow and the forested perimeter; and the following features of note:

- Substantial existing or recoverable wet meadow and riparian habitats
- 3 miles of spring-fed trout stream (20-40 cfs)
- 6 miles of small trout stream
- 162 possible bird species, including willow flycatcher
- 64 potential mammal species
- Yellow Creek is a designated Wild Trout and Catch-and-Release Water
- Soda Springs Historic Site
- Maidu burial ground
- Grinding rocks, and other cultural sites
- 10-site public campground

The purpose of the acquisition would be to place this unique natural system in public ownership to protect it, and to guarantee public access for the education, use, and enjoyment of future generations. Humbug Valley is at risk for housing development which would fragment a functioning meadow ecosystem. Past grazing use has degraded the stream and meadow.

The land would be managed as a State Wildlife Area (in recognition of its multi-cultural, multi-habitat features), with management directed to the restoration of wet meadow and riparian ecosystems, and to promoting the return of both plant and animal species endemic to this system. It would be open to the public, and to hunting, fishing, and botanical gathering, guided by a Wildlife Area Land Management Plan which would be developed and adopted by the CDFG.

The California Department of Fish and Game has met with the Maidu Summit Consortium regarding fee title ownership of Humbug Valley. At this point, both groups seek ownership of Humbug Valley. The Department has been active at Humbug Valley for many years with meadow and fisheries habitat restoration efforts. The Maidu Summit Consortium uses the valley for cultural purposes and has also been a steward of this land. If the Department acquires the land, the Department intends to seek a partnership with the Maidu Summit to ensure their continued access to these lands and utilize their knowledge of these lands. The Department believes that ownership as a State Wildlife Area will better guarantee access to these lands to the general public, while still maintaining access to the Maidu Summit Consortium members for their unique needs.



## Organization's Mission

- 9). The mission of the California Department of Fish and Game is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.

The CDFG maintains native fish, wildlife, plant species and natural communities for their intrinsic and ecological value and their benefits to people. This includes habitat protection and maintenance in a sufficient amount and quality to ensure the survival of all species and natural communities. The CDFG is also responsible for the diversified use of fish and wildlife including recreational, commercial, scientific and educational uses.

Important cultural and archeological values in Humbug Valley would be protected by acquisition and designation as a State Wildlife Area because development and destruction would be prevented. The CDFG will coordinate with the Maidu Summit Consortium and local historical societies for maintenance and ongoing protection of sites and structures. Members of the Maidu Summit Consortium and the Maidu tribe have expressed concern about the impacts of cattle grazing and off-road vehicle use to the cultural resource sites. These tribal members would continue to have access to these sites, which would be protected by public ownership. CDFG is a department within the Natural Resources Agency. Also within that state agency is the Native American Heritage Commission. As both CDFG and the Native American Heritage Commission are within the same agency, CDFG would expect to also work closely with that Commission to protect and continue cultural resources practices at Humbug Valley.

Agricultural uses, such as cattle grazing, have been permitted on Wildlife Areas where such uses are compatible with fish and wildlife values. Grazing can reduce fire hazard, promote growth of native plants, and remove invasive plants and is used as a management tool by CDFG to improve the quality of habitat.

Timber has been harvested on CDFG Wildlife Areas to open canopy and promote forage for wildlife; also to improve re-growth of grasses and shrubs. Timber has also been harvested to remove burned timber, and could be potentially removed to reduce fire hazard in CDFG Wildlife Areas.

Public ownership will compliment the conservation efforts of the Lassen and Plumas National Forests, and create a nearly contiguous stretch of public land through a uniquely resource rich area. Restoration efforts in Humbug Valley have been conducted by CDFG, Lassen National Forest, California Trout, and other groups over the course of the past 25 years. Acquisition of Humbug Valley would allow for continued coordination of restoration efforts, and promotion of



partnerships with Lassen and Plumas National Forests, California Trout, the Maidu Summit Consortium, and other groups.

A large amount of information, including webpages and downloadable PDF documents, which attest to the CDFG's commitment to stewardship of fish and wildlife resources can be found on the website: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>.

## Geographic Focus

- 10.) The CDFG has decades of experience in managing the fisheries and working to improve fish habitat in Yellow Creek, within Humbug Valley. Yellow Creek is a California Fish and Game Commission (CFG) designated Wild Trout stream. In the early 1970's, the CFG adopted a Wild Trout Policy that provides for the designation of "aesthetically pleasing and environmentally productive" streams and lakes to be managed exclusively for wild trout, where the trout populations are managed with appropriate regulations to be "largely unaffected by the angling process." All designated Wild Trout Waters must meet the following CFG Wild Trout Policy criteria: 1) Open to public angling; 2) Able to support, with appropriate angling regulations, wild trout populations of sufficient magnitude to provide satisfactory trout catches in terms of number or size of fish; 3) Domestic strains of catchable-size trout shall not be planted but suitable hatchery-produced wild or semi-wild strains may be planted in designated waters, but only if necessary to supplement natural reproduction. The CFG recognized the importance of high quality habitat for the maintenance of wild trout populations and the Policy states: "All necessary actions, consistent with State law, shall be taken to prevent adverse impact by land or water development projects affecting designated Wild Trout Waters."

The CDFG has managed the fisheries and conducted fish population monitoring for decades in Yellow Creek, a creek that crosses Humbug Valley. A Wild Trout Management Plan was drafted by the CDFG to direct fishery management in Yellow Creek during 1981. The CDFG has also conducted fish habitat restoration projects to protect stream banks from erosion due to past cattle grazing. The CDFG assisted California Trout with maintenance of the cattle enclosure fence which protected Yellow Creek from cattle grazing impacts. California Trout has since removed most of the enclosure fence with the resting of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) owned meadow from cattle grazing.

In 2001, CDFG did a comprehensive evaluation of lands owned by Pacific Gas & Electric Company and identified Humbug Valley as a priority acquisition. CDFG prepared an internal evaluation document in 2001 for Humbug Valley in the event the land became available for acquisition.





CDFG pathologists have conducted studies on the status of whirling disease and have found it present in both rainbow and brown trout collected from Yellow Creek in Humbug Valley.

CDFG game wardens patrol Plumas County and enforce the California Fish and Game code. CDFG wildlife biologists manage hunting regulations for a variety of game species including deer, black bear, wild turkeys, mountain quail, and blue grouse. Humbug Valley is in summer range of the East Tehama deer herd and the CDFG conducts population surveys throughout the Lake Almanor/Feather River basin. CDFG conducts surveys on other wildlife species such as willow flycatchers, great gray owls, and various furbearers. CDFG interacts with the County Fish and Game Commission and other local government entities on various fish and wildlife issues in Plumas County.

## **Organizational Experience and Capacity**

The CDFG is one of California's largest landowners. These lands are managed for fish and wildlife values for the people of the State of California. Section 11 describes in general how these lands are managed, and Section 12 provides scope on the lands managed by the CDFG.

- 11.) The CDFG manages over 1,000,000 acres of fish and wildlife habitat. In total the CDFG manages 711 properties throughout the state. These properties provide habitat for a rich diversity of fish, wildlife, and plant species and comprise habitats from every major ecosystem in the state. Most of the land managed by the CDFG is in State Wildlife Areas or Ecological Reserves. The CDFG acquires wildlife areas to protect and enhance habitat for wildlife and to provide for public uses that are compatible with the long-term well-being of wildlife and habitat. The ecological reserve system, authorized by the California Legislature in 1968, is designed to conserve areas for the protection of rare plants, animals and habitats, and to provide areas for education and scientific research. In addition, the CDFG Lands Program also administers several private lands conservation programs designed to assist landowners with the management of wetlands, riparian habitats, native grasslands and wildlife-friendly farmlands. The CDFG Lands program provides statewide support and coordination for regional programs.

The Mission Statement of the Lands Program is to work in partnership with the CDFG's Regions to ensure that the state's lands are managed and maintained to provide optimal benefits for fish, wildlife, and plants by:

- Developing uniform, statewide policies and planning guidance relative to the acquisition, protection, restoration, enhancement, and management of lands;



- Providing statewide policy and programmatic coordination with conservation groups and local, state, and federal resource agencies to conserve privately owned lands;
- Developing uniform guidelines and regulations for public use and land management plans that focus on the needs of fish, wildlife, and plants.
- Providing budgetary and technical assistance to Regional land managers; and Fostering public use, knowledge, and enjoyment of lands.

It is CDFG policy to write management plans for its State Wildlife Areas and Ecological Reserves. Management plans are written to provide the necessary information for consistent and effective management of CDFG lands, fulfill environmental analysis requirements, and support operational and infrastructural funding. The CDFG has expended tremendous effort toward land management planning within the last several years and has received funding from recent bond acts to help accomplish this mandate. Many new properties are undergoing planning efforts, while other existing plans are being revised based on recent parcel additions, updated land management practices or any other substantive changes needed to update the original plan.

- 12.) The CDFG oversees 106 wildlife areas located throughout the state, totaling over 627,500 acres. CDFG operated wildlife areas range in size from only a few acres to the 46,482-acre Tehama Wildlife Area in Tehama County. CDFG management of these areas range from custodial care, in that the goal is to protect the area from destructive activities, to annual intensive habitat manipulation to maximize wildlife populations. While these areas still support hunting and angling, as provided for in law, they offer many more opportunities to the public who visit them. The variety of management approaches employed now has yielded a diversity of wildlife species and subsequently broadened the experiences available. The CDFG has developed informative brochures to guide visitors in activities such as bird watching, hunting, fishing and nature walks. Efforts are also underway to increase the number of informational kiosks, tour routes (viewing wildlife from an auto), observation platforms, fishing and disabled access sites.



### Lands Inventory Fact Sheet

Classification <sup>1</sup>	Number of Properties	Total Acreage
Wildlife Areas	110	704,355
Ecological Reserves	130	193,970
Undesignated Lands	240	158,976
Public Access	159	4,907
Fish Hatcheries	21	898
Miscellaneous Lands	38	238
Marine Reserve	11	38,348
<b>Total</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>1,101,693</b>

### Acreage administered by the Department of Fish & Game.

Primary Management Purpose <sup>2</sup>	Owned in fee title	Administered through MOU'S, leases, easements, management agreements	Total Acreage <sup>3</sup>
Bighorn Sheep Habitat	32,111	235,220	267,331
Coastal Wetland Habitat	56,168	24,439	80,608
Deer Habitat	136,503	34,091	170,593
CDFG Facilities	381	752	1,133
Fisheries Habitat	1,753	553	2,306
Grasslands/Uplands Habitat	20,282	11,678	31,960
Interior Wetland Habitat	120,465	35,174	155,639
Marine Habitat	0	39,192	39,192
Property Rights Only	1	0	1
Public Access	8,063	4,181	12,244
Right of Way Easements	0	0	0
Riparian Habitat	38,563	15,458	54,021
Special Habitats	50,506	42,251	92,757
T&E Species Habitat	154,608	39,300	193,097
<b>Total<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>619,403</b>	<b>482,290</b>	<b>1,101,693</b>

Notes:

<sup>1</sup>Undesignated Lands classification includes conservation easements totaling 121,270 acres.

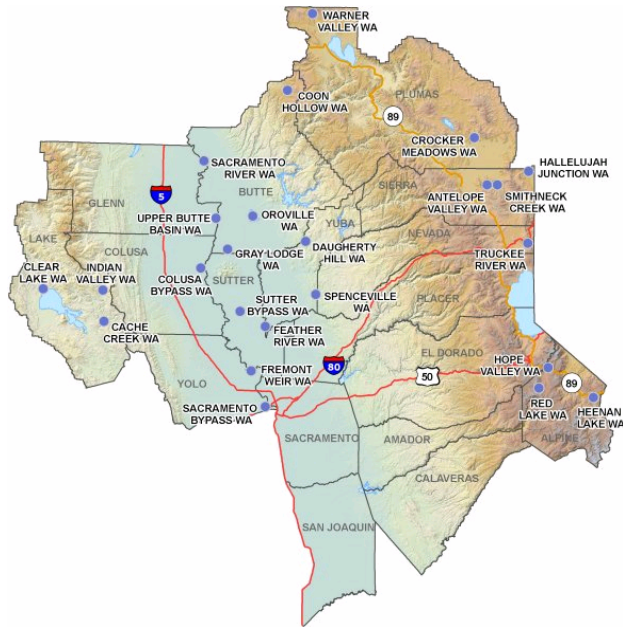
<sup>2</sup>This is an overview of CDFG-managed or owned lands, not a detailed report. Many properties have multiple management objectives; only the primary purpose is listed here.

<sup>3</sup>Discrepancies in total acreage between tables and columns are due to rounding of numbers.

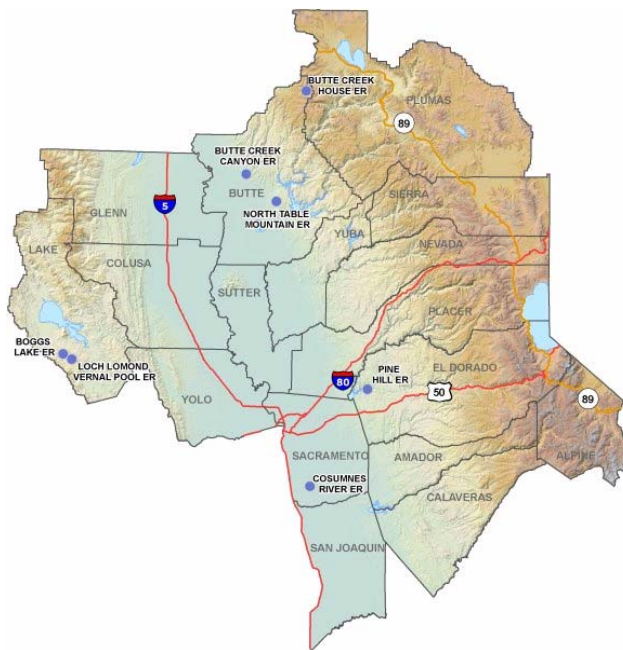


The following maps show Wildlife Areas and Ecological Reserves in the North Central Region of California managed by the CDFG, in the proximity of Humboldt Valley. The statewide system of CDFG lands can be viewed on our website: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/>.

### Wildlife Areas - North Central Region



### Ecological Reserves - North Central Region





## Organizational Finances

- 13.) **The California Department of Fish and Game 2010-11 Budget Overview**  
 The CDFG state operations support budget for FY 2010-11 is \$385,033,000 from all sources and includes Local Assistance of \$15,043,000. The Capital Outlay budget for FY 2010-11 is 2,600,000. Funding for the CDFG state operations comes from approximately 49 different fund sources, which includes 23 dedicated accounts, within the Fish and Game Preservation Fund (FGPF). In total, the CDFG budget supports 2,466.9 personnel years (PY), which includes temporary help.

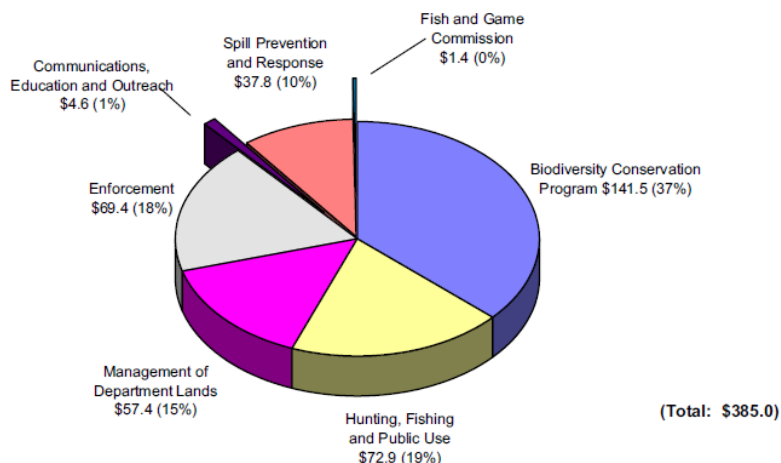
### Program Funding (State Operations, Local Assistance & Capital Outlay)

Program	PYs	State Operations*	Local Assistance*	Total*
20 Biodiversity Conservation	911.1	\$127,876	\$13,666	\$141,542
25 Hunting, Fishing, Public Use	510.1	\$72,907	\$0	\$72,907
30 Management of Department Lands & Facilities	415.9	\$57,358	\$0	\$57,358
40 Law Enforcement	364.8	\$69,385	\$0	\$69,385
45 Communications - Education	14.7	\$4,643	\$0	\$4,643
50 Spill Prevention & Response	241.2	\$36,421	\$1,377	\$37,798
61 Fish & Game Commission	9.1	\$1,400	\$0	\$1,400
*70 Administration	381.1	\$44,711	\$0	\$44,711
*70 Administration	-381.1	-\$44,711	\$0	-\$44,711
<b>Total Support Budget</b>	<b>2,466.9</b>	<b>\$369,990</b>	<b>\$15,043</b>	<b>\$385,033</b>
Capital Outlay				\$2,600
<b>Total Department Budget</b>				<b>\$387,633</b>

\* dollars in thousands

- \* The cost of Administration is included in program funding and is therefore, shown for display purposes only and subtracted out to avoid overstating totals.

2010-11 Proposed Program Budget (Dollars in Millions)



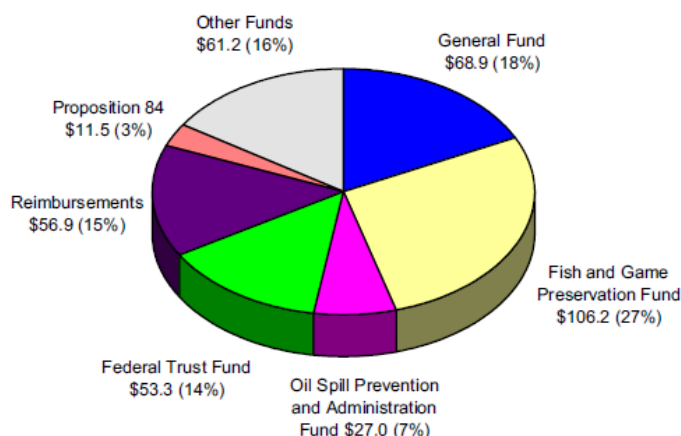


### Fund Sources (50+)

Fund Title	Total*
0001 General Fund	\$68,912
0005 Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, Coastal Bond Fund	\$500
0140 California Environmental License Plate Fund	\$14,905
0200 Fish and Game Preservation Fund (includes 23 dedicated accounts)	\$106,208
0207 Fish & Wildlife Pollution Cleanup/Abatement Account	\$2,795
0211 California Waterfowl Habitat Preservation Account	\$243
0212 Marine Invasive Species Control Fund	\$1,325
0235 Public Resources Account, Cigarette & Tobacco Products Surtax Fund	\$2,118
0320 Oil Spill Prevention and Administration Fund	\$27,037
0322 Environmental Enhancement Fund	\$356
0404 Central Valley Project Improvement Sub Account	\$58
0405 Bay-Delta Agreement Subaccount	\$2,090
0516 Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund	\$2,619
0546 Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Account	\$10,750
0890 Federal Trust Fund	\$53,319
0942 Special Deposit Fund	\$1,606
0995 Reimbursements	\$56,886
3103 Hatchery and Inland Fisheries Fund	\$16,763
3104 Coastal Wetlands Account	\$0
6027 Interim Water Supply & water Quality Infrastructure & Management Sub Account	\$2,194
6031 Water Security; Clean Drinking Water, Coastal & Beach Protection Act of 2002	\$38,020
6051 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Prop 84)	\$11,481
8018 Salton Sea Restoration Fund	\$2,786
8047 California Sea Otter Fund	\$140
<b>Total Funds:</b>	<b>\$385,033</b>

\* dollars in thousands

2010-11 Proposed Program Budget (Dollars in Millions)



(Total: \$385.0)



14. N/A - Fish and Game is a governmental organization
15. Funding from the WCB, State Parks, Conservation Innovation Grant Program (NRCS) & other applicable NRCS grants, McConnell Foundation, Simpson Foundation, USFWS Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Grant Program, Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (Caltrans & Natural Resource Agency), and any other potential grant fund source applicable to watershed, wildlife, fisheries, plant and habitat enhancement, restoration and conservation will be sought to supplement funding needs for proposed enhancement activities on the Humbug Valley Wildlife Area. The CDFG has received several grants from the funding sources described above for various projects. This funding cannot be sought until the CDFG owns fee title to the land.
16. The California Department of Fish and game is proposing to acquire fee title to lands of Humbug Valley. Revenues from summer home leases, campground use, timber sales or grazing leases could be used to maintain campground and other maintenance of lands in Humbug Valley. CDFG proposes to use an entity such as the Feather River Resource Conservation District (FRRCD) to collect revenues and manage summer home leases, and potential grazing leases and timber sales. Any funding received pursuant to those activities described above and/or provided by the Stewardship Council for management activities on the Humbug Valley Wildlife Area could be deposited into a mitigation account per Fish and Game Code with taxation neutrality as a county 13014A(2) account. This mitigation account is not available to the Governor or the California Legislature and would be for use exclusively on the Humbug Valley Wildlife Area.

### **Supporting Financial Documentation (Attachments)**

2010-2011 Fish and Game Budget Fact Book  
2009-2010 Fish and Game Budget Fact Book  
2008-2009 Fish and Game Budget Fact Book



## Key Personnel/ Staff

- 17.) North Central Region staff positions which will have involvement with the Humbug Valley property:

<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Position Title/Specialty</u>
Mr. Kent Smith	Regional Manager
<u>Fisheries:</u>	
Ms. Katherine Hill,	Environmental Program Manager
Mr. William Somer	Senior Fisheries Biologist/Wild Trout Project
Mr. Stafford Lehr	Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor
Mr. John Hanson	Associate Fisheries Biologist/Wild Trout Project
Ms. Amber Rossi	Fisheries Biologist/Plumas District
Mr. Jason Roberts	Environmental Scientist/Invasive Species
Mr. Mitch Lockhart	Fisheries Biologist/Amphibian Restoration
Mr. Greg Whitaker	Fisheries Habitat Supervisor/Screen Shop
<u>Wildlife:</u>	
Ms. Tina Bartlett	Wildlife Program Manager
Mr. Jason Holley	Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor/Wildlife
Mr. Andy Atkinson	Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor/Lands
Ms. Terri Weist	Plumas County Wildlife Biologist/Unit Manager
Mr. David Wright	Staff Environmental Scientist/Resource Assessment
Ms. Adrienne Truex	Research Analyst II/ GIS
Mr. Chris Ball	Research Analyst II/ GIS
<u>Forest Resources Conservation Planning:</u>	
Ms. Laurie Soule	Staff Environmental Scientist
Mr. Dave Richter	Staff Environmental Scientist/Timber Management
Mr. Tim Nosal	Environmental Scientist/Botany
<u>Enforcement:</u>	
Mr. Kyle Kroll	Game Warden
Mr. Steve Ulrich	Game Warden
Mr. Zeke Awbrey	Game Warden
<u>Environmental Services:</u>	
Mr. Jeff Drongeson	Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor
Ms. Julie Newman	Staff Environmental Scientist/CEQA, CESA, NCCP
Ms. Jennifer Navicky	Staff Environmental Scientist/Lands Coordinator
Ms. Mary Lisa Lynch	Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor
Ms. Lori Powers	Associate Fisheries Biologist/FERC





Ms. Beth Lawson Civil Engineer/Hydrology  
Ms. Carol Oz Staff Environmental Scientist/Water Quality

Lake and Streambed Alteration Program:

Ms. Laurie Soule Staff Environmental Scientist  
Mr. Bob Hosea Environmental Scientist/1600 Agreements

Conservation Education

Mr. Bruce Forman Fish and Wildlife Interpreter III  
Ms. Lori Dieter Fish and Wildlife Interpreter II – GLWA

In addition to the regional personnel with various scopes/specialties of expertise listed, the CDFG has statewide and regional specialists in the following areas of expertise that can provide technical assistance: engineering, hydrology, fluvial geomorphology, botany, wildlife biology, wild trout management, fish pathology, GIS, impacts of timber management, vegetation management, fish and wildlife education and outreach, invasive species, entomology, herpetology, statistics, water quality, water rights, and other areas.

## **Community Engagement and Collaboration**

18. CDFG collaborates with many partners both statewide and locally on the management, restoration, and protection of fish and wildlife. CDFG works with both the Lassen and Plumas National Forests on a variety of projects and management actions including deer herd and fisheries management projects. CDFG coordinates with other State agencies such as Cal Fire, Caltrans, University of California Extension, and the Department of Water Resources on landscape protection, landowner education, watershed management, and restoration and preservation of fish, wildlife, and plants. CDFG works with the Plumas County Fish and Game Commission to coordinate local programs, including projects funded by fines levied due to fish and game citations from CDFG game wardens.

Yellow Creek is designated as Wild Trout stream by the California Fish and Game Commission. This designation, reserved for particularly productive waters, requires management exclusively for wild trout (trout that are born and spend their entire life cycle in the wild). The designation draws the attention and support of diverse angler groups and brings anglers from throughout the nation (for more information see:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Resources/WildTrout/Waters/index.asp>). CDFG works closely with California Trout, Trout Unlimited, Northern California Council of Federation of Fly Fishers, and other smaller clubs and organizations to restore and protect designated Wild Trout streams. CDFG and California Trout



have partnered through the years to protect Humbug Valley from impacts of cattle grazing by building and maintaining the fence corridor on the creek, and conducting various stream habitat improvement projects.

CDFG, as a signatory to the FERC 1962 Rock Creek Cresta Settlement Agreement, is active on the Environmental Resources Committee (ERC) and contributes to management decisions regarding stream and meadow restoration efforts in Humbug Valley.

Local CDFG staff routinely work with Feather River College, Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group, Plumas Corp, Lake Davis Steering Committee, Plumas County Environmental Health Department, Feather River Land Trust and the Sierra Institute on a variety of local permitting, watershed restoration and planning, wildlife studies, land management, and public education projects.

CDFG wildlife management staff work with the Mule Deer Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and California Deer Association.

Some examples of collaboration:

- Feather River Coordinated Resource Management- this group is a partnership of 24 public and private sector groups who formed in 1985 to collectively improve watershed health in the upper Feather River Watershed. CDFG has assisted with projects and consultations in the past.
- Feather River College- CDFG supports the local junior college fish hatchery program and has donated fish in the past.
- Downieville and Chester High School- CDFG supports the “Trout in the Classroom” program that both schools provide. This program allows students to raise trout from eggs to fry, monitor tank water quality, engage in stream habitat study, learn to appreciate water resources, begin to foster a conservation ethic, grow to understand ecosystems, and ultimately release their fish in a state approved water.
- Lake Davis Steering Committee- CDFG has worked intimately with this committee throughout the duration of the Lake Davis project.
- Plumas County Environmental Health- CDFG has worked closely with this agency pre and post chemical treatment of Lake Davis to ensure the safety of the groundwater and the lake itself.
- Plumas and Sierra County Fish and Game Commission- CDFG interfaces with both commissions on a regular basis. CDFG has worked cooperatively with the commissions to host fishing derbies for both kids and adults.
- Headwaters Honkers Preserve- CDFG holds two Junior Pheasant hunts located at Headwaters Honkers Preserve (a private hunt club) in Plumas County. Sierra County Fish and Game Commission helps support this event.



- Trout Unlimited (TU)- CDFG has cooperated with TU for kid's fishing derbies.
- Chico Fly Fisherman- CDFG has maintained a relationship with this organization to keep them abreast of the conditions of the waters in Plumas and Sierra County.

CDFG has a Regional Interpretive Services staff which assists with a variety of projects to interface with the public and promote understanding and support of fish and wildlife management and conservation. CDFG interpreters recently acquired funding and worked with consultants to design and install new interpretive signs on several wildlife areas. CDFG interpreters conduct tours and have developed docent tours on wildlife areas. CDFG Interpretive Services Staff have also had experience with:

- Outreach programs such as "Nature Bowls" and other programs to draw youth into better understanding fish and wildlife.
- Trail development.
- Providing interpretive (educational and recreational) services directly in nature to at risk youth and youth underserved (by nature education and experiences).
- Fishing clinics for youth and families
- Multi-agency partnerships with many programs (exhibits, trail, wildlife festivals, video production, Nature Bowl, fishing clinics, etc)
- Classroom Aquarium Education Program (Salmon in Classroom)
- Invasive Species education campaign in Plumas county (Portola focus)

19. Transfers of land to the CDFG are overseen by the Wildlife Conservation Board which holds publicly noticed meetings to discuss and vote on land acquisitions. The official designation of a property as a wildlife area or ecological reserve plus any site-specific public use regulations must be approved by the California Fish and Game Commission. The designation and associated regulations are publicly noticed, include a public comment period and are on the agenda at a minimum of three of the Commission's monthly, open-to-the public meetings (a "notice" meeting, a minimum of one "discussion" meeting, and a meeting where the designation and any associated regulations are voted upon). The Commission maintains contact lists of interested parties and notifies them of upcoming meetings. Relevant announcements, documents, agendas, and recordings of the meetings are available via the Commission's web site ([www.fgc.ca.gov](http://www.fgc.ca.gov)).

CDFG develops and approves Land Management Plans (LMP) for State Wildlife Areas and Ecological Reserves which document the management goals and actions to be taken on these properties. These management plans are California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliant documents that guide management



of habitats, species, and programs on CDFG lands to achieve the Department's mission to protect and enhance their ecological values. The LMP provides the following functions:

- Serves as a guide for appropriate public uses
- Provides a descriptive inventory of fish, wildlife, and native plant species and habitats that occur on the property
- Provides an overview of the property's operation and maintenance and personnel requirements associated with implementing management goals
- Serves as a budget planning aid for annual regional budget preparation
- Presents the environmental documentation necessary for compliance with federal and state statutes and regulations
- Describes potentially significant environmental impacts that may occur during plan implementation and identifies mitigation measures to avoid or lessen these impacts

Preparation of an LMP for a CDFG Wildlife Area involves public notice and review under provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Notification for stakeholder input can be accomplished through mailings, posting at Plumas County offices, notices in local newspapers, and on the CDFG website (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/mgmtplans/index.html>). CDFG often conducts outreach to, and meets with, representatives of interested constituent groups before and during the development of LMPs. In recent years CDFG has developed or revised management plans on the following Wildlife Areas in the North Central Region: Heenan Lake, Hallelujah Junction, Antelope Valley/Smithneck Creek, and Upper Butte Basin. This process would be applied to Humbug Valley should it become a CDFG Wildlife Area.

A properly developed LMP outlines all foreseeable management goals and projects so that they are addressed in the CEQA compliant LMP. Future CEQA review for projects addressed in the plan then generally becomes minimal. However, if due to unforeseen circumstances in the future, there is consideration of a project that is not addressed in the LMP, that project would be required to undergo the CEQA process. Thus, any projects conducted or approved by the CDFG on Humbug Valley property would be subject to the CEQA process and require the public review and comment as prescribed. The required environmental review imposes both procedural and substantive content requirements. An initial review of the project and its environmental effects must be conducted. If a project (such as a LMP) is found to have no significant environmental effects or if any effects are mitigated to a less-than-significant level by measures that are incorporated into the project, a negative declaration is prepared. When any project is found to have unmitigated significant effects or typically, when a project is large and/or controversial, an Environmental Impact



Report (EIR) is prepared. The procedures for both types of documents include requirements for public notice and opportunity for public input.

## **Legal Compliance and Best Practices**

- 20.) The CDFG is audited and reviewed by the Department of General Services, Department of Finance, Bureau of State Audits, California State Controllers Office, Department of Personnel Administration, Attorney Generals Office, and other State agencies to insure best practices, standards, and principles of the organization ensure all operations are legally and ethically sound and in the public interest.
- 21.) N/A – CDFG is a government agency
- 22.) The CDFG and its preceding agencies have been conserving California’s wildlife since 1870. The CDFG is a department within the Natural Resources agency of the State of California, formed in 1849. The CDFG is likely to persist indefinitely into the future and has not made any provisions for assignment and assumptions of its’ lands.
- 23.) There are no known current violations of law that may involve the CDFG with this project.
- 24.) No law or policy precludes the California Department of Fish and Game from accepting a conservation easement on the Humbug Valley watershed lands.

## **Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

- 25.) The CDFG is a member of the Stewardship Council’s Board of Directors. The CDFG has appointed Mr. Kevin Hunting as a Board Member, and Ms. Nancee Murray as an alternate. The CDFG is a member of the Stewardship Council’s Planning Committee. The CDFG has appointed Mr. Kevin Hunting as a member of that committee, and Ms. Nancee Murray as an alternate. The CDFG is not aware of any personal or financial relationships between agency staff or directors and members of the Stewardship Council’s board, their family members, or the board member’s constituent organization.



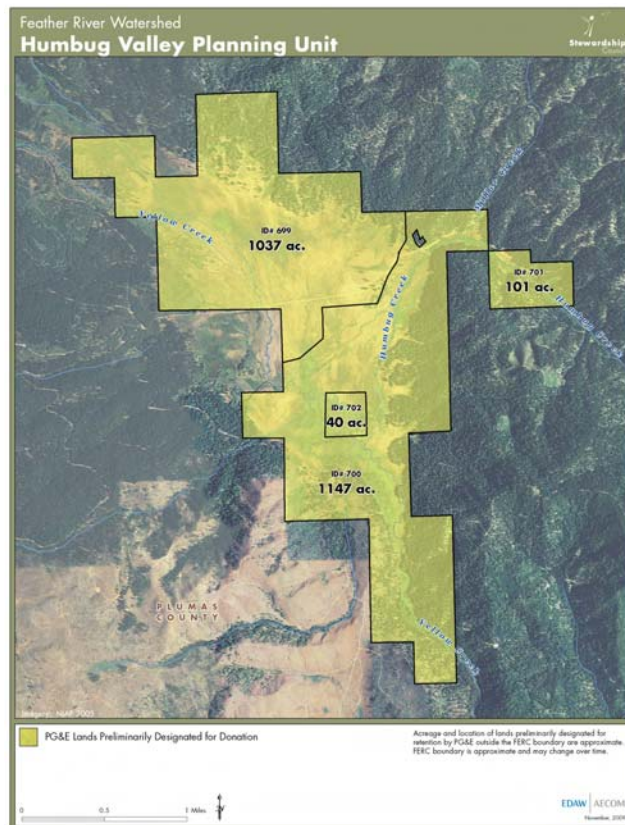
## PART 2 – LAND STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION

### Land Interests Sought

26. The CDFG is interested in receiving fee title to the following Humbug Valley parcels:

<u>Parcel</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
699	1,037 acres
700	1,147
701	101*
702	40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,325 acres</b>

\* If amenable to the Stewardship Council, the PG&E and the Maidu Summit Consortium, the CDFG proposes that the Humbug Valley parcel #701 (101 acres) be donated in fee title to the Maidu Summit Consortium with the remainder of parcels and acreage to be donated to the CDFG.





27. CDFG is unaware of the need for lot line adjustments and does not propose to split any parcels.

It is likely that only minimal boundary surveys are required, with property boundary marking. There are 38 external corners, of which 29 are USFS or otherwise known to have been surveyed. The other corners are on boundaries with Collins Pine Co. CDFG will need an accounting from PG&E of boundary corners previously surveyed to better estimate the actual need and cost for future boundary surveys.

The boundary survey is necessary to identify accurate land ownership boundaries to ensure that future timber harvest activities are not conducted on land owned by other entities. In addition, property boundaries should be clearly identified to ensure the appropriate owner is taking care of management issues on their own land and to identify and facilitate potential partnership discussions when similar management needs occur on adjacent lands (e.g. shared fencing repairs, fire fuel management, etc.).

The CDFG can request funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to complete the remaining necessary boundary surveys, however, securing those funds is not assured.

28. Each Region of the CDFG identifies acquisition priorities within their geographic boundary. Acquisition priorities are detailed in documents which are prepared by the CDFG staff for internal use. The internal documents are reviewed by regional staff and approved by the regional manager before the final approval from a statewide committee, comprised of executive staff from the CDFG and the WCB. After final approval, the documents are transmitted by the Director of the CDFG to the Executive Director of the WCB. The WCB staff completes the real estate transaction by reviewing the land acquisition documents, appraisals, title exceptions, agreements and any other associated documents. The WCB staff also coordinates with the Department of General Services (DGS) during their review and approval of the appraisal and during the DGS transaction review. The WCB staff will present the acquisition to the WCB Board during a quarterly meeting. The WCB also provides funding for escrow costs, appraisals, associated start-up costs identified in internal acquisition documents, and the required DFG review and approval.

## **Baseline and Enhanced Land Management**

29. CDFG has presented baseline and enhanced management activities in a logical progression of how State Wildlife Areas are established and managed. Each paragraph has been assigned an activity number (e.g. Activity I) and can be cross-referenced with the budget estimate spreadsheet (*Humbug Valley Budget\_CDFG\_11-5-10.xlsx*). Each activity may have several line items in the budget spreadsheet and is identified as a baseline or enhanced activity. Activities may also be identified throughout the remainder



of this document (not just here in item 29). In developing the following proposed management activities, the CDFG considered the beneficial public values and the recommended priority measures developed by the Stewardship Council.

### Wildlife Area Management

CDFG proposes to designate the Humbug Valley parcels as a State Wildlife Area (SWA). The parcels will need to be surveyed, if not completed already, to determine property lines and the CDFG's area of responsibility. The CDFG would need to develop a Land Management Plan (LMP) for the SWA. The purpose and need for the LMP was described in section 19. The LMP would require a public review process under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), including public outreach and meetings as described previously. Management plans generally include the following sections: 1. Introduction, 2. Property Description, 3. Habitat and Species Description, 4. Management Goals and Environmental Impacts, References, and Attachments. The best applicable land management practices for the Humbug Valley watershed lands will be identified through the LMP process. Development of the LMP should begin after acquisition of the property by the CDFG and will provide an enhancement over the current PG&E management of the watershed lands. Plans are updated periodically, and can be adjusted or changed to suit changing conditions or situations. (Activity I)

The SWA Land Management Plan will be used to develop appropriate rules, regulations, and compatible public uses, for submission to the Fish & Game Commission, and inclusion in Title 14 for that specific wildlife area. It is anticipated that hunting and fishing regulations will remain unchanged. This property would probably be designated as a Type 'C' wildlife area that would allow hunting of all legal species. It could be open to hunting from July 31 through January 31<sup>st</sup>. Sensitive biological sites and important cultural sites to the Maidu can be identified and public access restrictions initiated through the management plan and Commission process in the California Code of Regulations, Title 14. Regulations regarding camping (campers and trailers allowed in campground only) and any other special regulations would have to be developed and adopted into California Code of Regulations, Title 14. Adoption of SWA regulations would follow completion of the LMP. (Activity II)

CDFG will develop a baseline of existing species and then perform periodic surveys of conditions. These data can be used to evaluate ecosystem health and management and could also inform management actions such as grazing and timber harvesting. This enhanced management activity will inform future activities to enhance BPVs and has not been accomplished on the Humbug watershed lands. A baseline inventory of existing species should be conducted soon after acquisition as a SWA. Periodic resurveys of existing species should be conducted every 5 to 10 years, as resources permit. (Activity III)

Public access and use will be maintained and enhanced, as it is identified as one of the primary reasons of acquisition. Future projects could be identified to develop trail





networks within the SWA. Access roads within the area will be maintained as an ongoing baseline activity and any need for seasonal restrictions or gates will be evaluated. Some roads could conceivably be decommissioned to control vehicular access. Vehicle use in the SWA will be restricted to developed roads. The use of off highway vehicles and all terrain vehicles (ATV's) is prohibited on a SWA. (Activity IV)

CDFG, as a signatory to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) 1962 Rock Creek Cresta Settlement Agreement, is active on the Environmental Resources Committee (ERC) and contributes to management decisions regarding restoration and enhancement efforts in Humbug Valley. Meadow restoration projects are needed to restore natural vegetation and recover the system from past grazing practices. This needs to be coordinated with the ERC to keep it consistent with their work/funding from PG&E.

CDFG may consider the implementation of grazing to maintain meadow plant community and manage invasive plants. CDFG may conduct timber harvesting for ecosystem health, consistent with habitat conditions and requirements for wildlife species and to reduce fuels for wildfires. The CDFG would develop a contract with an entity such as the Feather River Resource Conservation District (FRRCD) to manage grazing and timber harvest operations. Funds received from these activities would be managed by the FRRCD to put into operations of the SWA to cover the costs of administering these activities. Costs of any additional fencing may be covered by these revenues. The FRRCD could also help administer the lease revenues from the summer home leases. The RCD contracts are renewed every 5 years. Initiation of these land management practices is expected to occur within the first contract period. If the CDFG is unable to develop an agreement and lease with FRRCD these leases will need to be put out to competitive bid with a state contract developed with the individual permittee. Part of the contract with the permittee would be to keep the cattle allotment fenced and the cows under control. As far as can be determined from information supplied by PG&E, no negative impacts to existing economic uses is expected to occur. Should the CDFG acquire the Humbug watershed lands for management as a State Wildlife Area, proposed enhancement activities for logging to enhance wildlife habitat should provide modest enhancements to the local economy. Similar modest economic enhancements may also be possible should grazing be reinitiated. (Activity V)

Baseline operational and maintenance expenses are expected for road maintenance, trash removal, fencing, signing, and operation of the campground. Road maintenance may include annual grading. Trash removal can be conducted by CDFG staff, or perhaps assisted by volunteer groups coordinated by CDFG staff. Some of these activities can be conducted by CDFG fish habitat specialists, tractor operators, or other skilled employees with heavy maintenance equipment. The CDFG fish habitat and screen shop can perform maintenance and has heavy equipment and can assist with stream habitat restoration projects and other maintenance within the SWA. (Activity VI)



Because the SWA would not require intensive management, current staff levels would be adequate to conduct baseline management of the property. Periodic inspections (during the May through November accessible season) of the parcel can be made by 1) regional wild trout biologists, 2) regional lands coordinator, 3) district fishery biologist, 4) unit wildlife manager and other staff as outlined in the budget spreadsheet. Patrol by the local game warden could be made without appreciable change from current activity. It would be desirable to fund and hire a seasonal employee to perform maintenance of the SWA. (Activity VII)

### Fishery Management

The Yellow Creek Wild Trout Management Plan (1981) directs fishery management actions by the CDFG Wild Trout program in Yellow Creek. A revision of the CDFG fisheries management plan in coordination with and consistent with the ERC will provide enhanced fishery management. Revision of the fishery management plan would likely follow completion of the SWA Land Management Plan. This plan will identify critical fisheries management issues and outline efforts needed to address these issues. (Activity VIII)

Baseline fish and wildlife management activities would continue such as fishery and creel surveys, public outreach and communication through regulations and information posting. CDFG surveys fish populations in Yellow Creek every five to ten years, as resources and scheduling allow. CDFG has surveyed Yellow Creek using snorkeling, back pack and boat electrofishing equipment. The CDFG operates and maintains angler survey boxes in the vicinity of the campground. The angler survey boxes are visited and restocked with forms on several occasions during a season. Angler survey boxes provide information as to the quality of angling on Yellow Creek. Enhancement of the angler survey box program will occur with designation as a SWA. The CDFG conducted an angler survey of the fishery during 1989. Future angler surveys of Yellow Creek may be conducted should angler use change dramatically as indicated by the angler survey boxes or other sources of information. Designation of Humbug Valley as a SWA may lead to higher public use due to increased awareness of the watershed lands. This will likely result in enhanced management of the fishery for the public use as identified in Wild Trout policy (see Section 10) above that provided as a PG&E property. Fishery management baseline and enhanced activities will improve public use and protect the wild trout resources of Yellow Creek. (Activity IX)

### Fish and Riparian Habitat Restoration

A settlement agreement for the Rock Creek-Cresta FERC 1962 relicense provides funding for fencing and habitat mitigation projects in three phases following issuance of the project license (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 2000). The agreement also provides for a Humbug Valley mitigation fund in the amount of \$25,000 annually for the years 2011 through 2020, and \$12,000 annually from 2021 through expiration of the license in 2030, or possibly later to coincide with other neighboring FERC license renewals. This fund is intended for further habitat enhancement work. CDFG as a



member of the Ecological Resources Committee will coordinate land management projects with ERC restoration projects (stream channel, restore meanders, bank stabilization, etc.) Additional costs can be expected for stream improvement projects such as bank stabilization and re-vegetation of the upper meadow. (Activity X) Some key enhancement projects to benefit fish, wildlife, and riparian habitat which have been identified by CDFG fisheries biologists are listed in Section 30 under Capitol Improvements, and will need be conducted with the ERC.

### Wildlife Management

CDFG will continue baseline management of hunting regulations for a variety of game species including deer, black bear, wild turkeys, mountain quail, and blue grouse. Humbug Valley is in summer range of the East Tehama deer herd and the CDFG conducts camera surveys of the herd in various locations. CDFG also conducts surveys on other wildlife species such as willow flycatchers, great gray owls, and various furbearers throughout the Sierra Nevada. Should CDFG acquire the watershed lands of Humbug Valley, it is likely that wildlife biologists would conduct enhanced surveys of wildlife populations specific to Humbug Valley on a seasonal basis. Surveys for rare plants will be conducted as resources allow. The results of these surveys will contribute to protection of wildlife populations and their habitat. (Activity XI)

CDFG could enhance deer habitat through logging and brush maintenance projects. Deer fawning habitat could be improved through meadow enhancement and aspen regeneration projects. CDFG could seek funding opportunities through the Plumas County Resource Advisory Committee grants (for habitat work on public lands, usually on USFS) and other sources to fund restoration activities. Designation of the Humbug watershed lands may increase the visibility of the lands as a potential hunting area for the public. Enhanced CDFG management and restoration activities for wildlife and their habitat would occur in the Humbug Valley watershed lands as a result of acquisition and designation as a SWA. (Activity XII)

### Invasive Species Management

Enhanced CDFG invasive species monitoring efforts would occur in the Humbug Valley watershed lands as a result of acquisition and designation as a SWA. CDFG would provide public education on invasive species, including non-native plants, aquatic and terrestrial animals. Public education can be done at informational kiosks, such as at the mineral springs and at the campground. Additional education of the public occurs with the media in public releases and advertisements. CDFG will conduct surveys for presence of invasive species. CDFG will identify remedial actions should the SWA become infested with invasive species. However, CDFG efforts to eradicate pepperweed or thistle on the nearby Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area and Smithneck Creek Wildlife Area have not been entirely successful. Non-native plant eradication efforts are very time consuming and expensive. (Activity XIII)



### Law Enforcement/Warden Activity

Fish and game laws as well as SWA regulations can be enforced by CDFG game wardens and other peace officers such as county sheriffs and U.S. Forest Service enforcement personnel as baseline site security. Patrol of the Humbug watershed lands could be accomplished as part of the normal duty of the CDFG game wardens and would be a higher priority with SWA designation, and would not result in additional expenses to the CDFG. CDFG warden patrol could occur periodically throughout the season as needed. On occasion, warden squads can perform enhanced patrol “sting” operations should fish and wildlife enforcement problems arise. Enhanced CDFG warden patrol would occur in the Humbug Valley watershed lands as a result of acquisition and designation as a SWA.

Sensitive biological or archeological sites can be protected with area closures set into State Wildlife Area regulations; these closures can be enforced by CDFG game wardens and other peace officers as previously described. The regulatory authority would provide CDFG enhanced protection and preservation of historic values over existing management of the watershed lands. (Activity XIV)

### Public Education/Outreach

Baseline public education at the Humbug watershed lands occurs with posting of angling regulations. Enhanced CDFG public education and outreach would occur in the Humbug Valley watershed lands as a result of acquisition and designation as a SWA. Public use of the Humbug watershed lands as a designated SWA is a priority of acquisition. Fish and wildlife laws and regulations are posted on CDFG websites as well as public announcements and press releases: these activities constitute ongoing baseline management. Fishing regulations are posted on the CDFG website (also can be found in California Code of Regulations, Title 14):

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/regulations/FreshFish/ccr-t14-ch3-art3.html> . Wildlife Area regulations can be found in Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 550.

CDFG regional interpretive staff can provide enhanced outreach projects to interface with the public and promote understanding and support of fish and wildlife management, conservation, history of the watershed lands, and cultural resources. CDFG interpreters may work to design and install graphic interpretive signs on the WLA to inform the public of biological and cultural features, as appropriate. CDFG interpreters may conduct tours and/or develop docent tours on the SWA during the summer visitation season. CDFG interpreters can also develop brochures or simple cards with information about the State Wildlife Area to be handed out by campground host, other CDFG personnel, or available at informational kiosks. (Activity XV)

### Real Estate

Current home site leases would be maintained. (Activity XVI)

Because of public use, the campground should be maintained as a baseline operation. CDFG has little experience in operating a campground. A number of opportunities



could be explored to ensure continued operation, maintenance, and potential future enhancement of the campground. For example, in the past members of the Maidu tribe have served as campground host and could be approached to continue that responsibility. Members of the Maidu have served as the campground host at the Yellow Creek Campground in Humbug Valley and could provide valuable feedback regarding improvements needed in the campground and management concerns to address. In addition, a portion of the campground is on USFS lands, so CDFG could seek assistance from the USFS in operating the campground. Lastly, local groups, such as the Feather River Resource Conservation District might be interested in assisting with the management of the campground. Fees would continue to be charged to offset costs. CDFG would support the restructuring of the campground to better facilitate public education and increase outdoor use activities including encouraging youth on the land as well as expanding interpretive activities such as hunting, hiking, fishing, and Maidu cultural awareness. (Activity XVII)

#### Cultural Heritage Sites

The property is rich in Maidu tribe cultural resources which include camping sites, grinding rock sites, a cemetery, and various locations with accumulations of assorted artifacts. Humbug Valley contains plants important to the Maidu for food and ceremonial purposes, and because of the intensive grazing it is not known whether these still exist in the seed bank. The Maidu tribe also considers Humbug Valley to contain important sacred religious sites. If needed, an archaeological survey will be conducted to identify the cultural resources on site to better inform the management objectives and goals. (Activity XVIII)

Important cultural and archeological values would be protected and preserved by the acquisition of Humbug Valley. The tribe has expressed concern about the impacts of cattle grazing and off-road vehicle use to the cultural resource sites. The Maidu tribe would continue to have access to these sites, which would be protected by public ownership. The CDFG has reviewed the Maidu Summit Consortium Land Management Plan Proposal (2007) and proposes the following actions to promote Maidu cultural values (Activity XIX):

- Collaborate with the Maidu tribe to develop a name for the wildlife area.
- Donate or transfer fee – title parcel 701 (101 acres) to the Maidu Summit Consortium for development of a cultural center and ceremonial facilities. The Maidu Summit Consortium could use this land to construct a cultural center and interpretive village. These facilities could be linked to interpretive trails in Humbug Valley. This could be done by Stewardship Council in the original transaction (preferred), or later by the WCB.
- Explore the option of granting an easement to the Maidu Summit Consortium in perpetuity for their protection of important documented cultural sites such as the Humbug Valley Indian Cemetery, grinding stone areas, village sites, and the soda springs.



- Develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the Maidu Summit Consortium to allow for collection of native plants for cultural use. The CDFG will also evaluate the potential to work with the Maidu Summit to use Traditional Ecological Knowledge techniques in managing the SWA. Designation of Humbug Valley as a State Wildlife Area can allow for a collaboration to evaluate Traditional Ecological Knowledge land management methods with modern scientific methods.
- Seek partnership with the Maidu Summit Consortium and/or the FRRCD to manage the campground (please refer to real estate section above).

The California Department of Fish and Game invested funds over the past few decades in ongoing fisheries management and restoration projects to benefit the fish and their habitat within Yellow Creek. CDFG has a great investment in Yellow Creek that would be fortified through designation of Humbug Valley as a State Wildlife Area. Having a designation as a State Wildlife Area, CDFG would have a greater ability to seek and obtain funding through various entities which would provide enhancements as outlined above. The CDFG is likely to persist indefinitely into the future and this document speaks to the organizational vitality of the CDFG and our intent to maintain the fish, wildlife, plant species and natural communities of Humbug Valley for their intrinsic and ecological value and their benefits to the people of California.

## Physical Enhancements/ Capital Improvements

30. Stream habitat restoration projects have been identified by CDFG and others (Streamwise 2001). These projects will provide enhancements to protect natural habitat and promote outdoor recreation by the general public. Fencing and signage will also protect historic values by controlling public access, and providing education. CDFG will seek funding to develop engineering and cost estimates for the more substantial of the following projects (Activity XX):

Projects to be completed years 0 through 3:

- **Installation of gates.** It may be necessary to install gates to close roads on the proposed State Wildlife Area to control or restrict vehicular access. Two gates are proposed to be installed at entrance to property.
- **Property Owner Signage.** CDFG will post property owner signs along boundaries and at entrances to identify the property. Owner signage will need be reposted occasionally as signs age or are vandalized.
- **Angling Signage.** CDFG will post angling regulation signs at heavily used areas and major access points. Angler signage will need be reposted annually as signs are vandalized or age, or in the case of a change in angling regulations.
- **Angler Survey Boxes.** CDFG will construct and install additional angler survey boxes in high use areas and access points to gain additional information on catch rates and use of Yellow Creek by the angling public.



Projects to be completed years 3 through 7:

- **Graphic Interpretive Signage.** CDFG will contract design and construction of graphic interpretive signage that will introduce the public to the wildlife area and the biological and cultural resource values. Graphic interpretive signs may also contain historical, cultural and regulatory information specific to the Humbug Valley property.
- **Fencing of Property.** The split rail fencing surrounding the Big Springs needs to be repaired. It may be desirable to fence cultural sites threatened by off road vehicle use or vandalism. Should grazing be reinstated, the campground perimeter will need to be fenced. It may also be desirable to fence a riparian corridor along the stream, depending on the intensity of grazing prescribed.

Projects to be completed years 5 through 10:

- **Fencing of Property.** The split rail fencing surrounding the Big Springs needs to be repaired. It may be desirable to fence cultural sites threatened by off road vehicle use or vandalism. Should grazing be reinstated, the campground perimeter will need to be fenced. It may also be desirable to fence a riparian corridor along the stream, depending on the intensity of grazing prescribed. Fencing will require ongoing maintenance that will extend through the life of the wildlife area.
- **Improve parking areas and road/trail networks.** CDFG will develop or contract to develop engineering and cost estimates to implement plans to improve parking areas, roads, and establish new trails to minimize public use impacts.
- **ADA and other State compliance of public facilities on site.** CDFG will develop or contract out to develop information to improve campgrounds and restroom facilities to ADA compliant standards.

The CDFG has identified additional projects that are desirable and beyond the initial scope of development of the State Wildlife Area. These projects will enhance outdoor recreation by the public and the natural habitat of the fish, wildlife, and plants. CDFG will seek funding to develop engineering and cost estimates for the following projects (Activity XX): It is likely with the engineering and environmental review requirements these projects may extend beyond a 10 year timeframe:

- **Interpretive board walks.** CDFG will conduct feasibility and engineering studies for the construction of an interpretive board walk to show case the Big Springs. Interpretive board walks will enhance the outdoor recreation by the general public. Depending on location and final project description, this may need be coordinated with the ERC.
- **Bank stabilization to protect campground.** Yellow Creek is eroding the streambank along the western side of the campground. The CDFG will conduct feasibility and engineering studies to protect the campground and streambank from further erosion by Yellow Creek. Stabilization of the streambank along the



campground will protect the outdoor recreational facility and provide protection of the fish habitat. This project would be coordinated, conducted, and potentially funded in part or whole by the ERC group.

- **Meadow drainage through Humbug Road.** The Humbug Road bisects the meadow complex of Humbug Valley within the PG&E properties. The Humbug Road has been identified as a blockage to natural water flow through the meadow system. The CDFG will evaluate or contract evaluation of the water flow problem caused by the road and identify solutions. Enhancement of the Humbug Valley meadow will enhance habitat in Humbug Valley that will protect special biological resources. This project would be coordinated, conducted, and potentially funded in part or whole by the ERC group.
- **Restoration of evulsed stream channel and lost channel meander pattern.** CDFG biologists have identified a reach of Yellow Creek upstream of the campground in which the stream is thought to have cut a new channel during the 1960's and in doing abandoned an existing series of natural meanders. CDFG has measured down cutting of the stream channel in the current alignment of Yellow Creek. Evidence of the old stream channel meander pattern can be found from old channel remnants and existing willows. The CDFG will evaluate or contract the evaluation of the engineering costs for stream realignment. Channel realignment in Yellow Creek will enhance fishery and riparian habitat within Humbug Valley which will protect biological resources. This project would be coordinated, conducted, and potentially funded in part or whole by the ERC group.

The California Department of Fish and Game invested funds over the past few decades in projects to build fencing, log revetments and other in-stream structures to protect and enhance fish habitat within Yellow Creek. CDFG has a great investment in Yellow Creek that would be fortified through designation of Humbug Valley as a State Wildlife Area. Having a designation as a State Wildlife Area, CDFG would have a greater ability to seek and obtain funding through various entities which would provide enhancements and capital improvements as outlined above. The CDFG is likely to persist indefinitely into the future and this document speaks to the organizational vitality of the CDFG and our intent to maintain the fish, wildlife, plant species and natural communities of Humbug Valley for their intrinsic and ecological value and their benefits to the people of California.

## Land Conservation Partners and Youth Opportunities

31. CDFG recognizes the value in establishing collaborative management of Humbug Valley in strengthening the foundation for management of the SWA in the local community. CDFG has identified the following potential land conservation partners to be involved in proposed management and enhancement activities on the SWA (Activity XXI):





- Maidu Summit Consortium (management of campground and cultural center areas; collaboration on grazing and lands management)
- California Trout (Implementation of ERC funds for restoration projects, public education in support of Yellow Creek fishery, support efforts to monitor and limit impacts of whirling disease to the Yellow Creek fishery).
- Plumas Corporation/Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group (K-12 educational activities and watershed restoration planning, design & implementation)
- Feather River Resource Conservation District (grazing and lands management advisory role)
- Feather River Land Trust (conservation easement holder, partner in management of property with expertise in hazardous fuels reduction, rangeland management, and use of prescribed fire for vegetation management).
- Plumas and Lassen National Forest (forestland management advisory role).
- Ecological Resources Committee ERC (determine and implement stream and riparian habitat restoration as part of the FERC 1962 license).
- Sierra Institute (educational tours)
- Feather River College (outdoor recreation, fisheries, and wildlife projects)
- Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (habitat and avian monitoring; habitat management advisory role)
- Audubon Society (educational walks; outreach activities)
- UC Extension (land management advisory role and education/research)
- Plumas County Fish and Game Commission (county liaison for fish and wildlife management).
- Calfire (assistance with forestry management)

Other groups may include: Trout Unlimited, Northern California Council of Federation of Fly Fishers, Chico Fly Fishermen, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, California Deer Association, Mule Deer Foundation, Downieville and Chester High School, Plumas County Environmental Health, Headwaters Honkers Preserve, Caltrans, and Department of Water Resources.

32. CDFG has previous experience with proposed land conservation partners detailed below:

- **California Trout:** collaboration with CalTrout is identified elsewhere in this document, which spans decades.
- **Plumas Corporation:** CDFG has collaborated with stream and restoration projects in Plumas County since the 1980's. The first effort was with the Coordinated Resource Management group in Red Clover Creek with a project to restore meadow function using a series of check dams. CDFG and the Plumas Corporation are currently working with the ERC group on a similar project in upper Yellow Creek.



- **Feather River Resource Conservation District:** The mission of the FRRCD is to advocate resource conservation through education and collaborative efforts with willing landowners and organizations that promote economic and ecological sustainability. The FRRCD is involved in the implementation of stream restoration and erosion control projects to improve fisheries habitat, hydrologic response, riparian health, and conserve soil resources on private and public lands. The FRRCD has participated in the development and implementation of policies and programs to improve and maintain watershed health. Although CDFG has not yet directly worked with FRRCD, CDFG has grazed Wildlife Areas and Ecological Reserves for many years and has used a lease process either administered by local Resource Conservation Districts, other agencies and/or NGO's.
- **Feather River Land Trust:** CDFG has coordinated and collaborated with the FRLT on identifying and prioritizing parcels for public ownership and protection of fish and wildlife.
- **Plumas and Lassen National Forest:** CDFG has worked on landscape management of fish and wildlife on forest lands for many decades. Recent large scale collaborations have been the chemical treatment of Lake Davis during 1997 and 2007 to remove northern Pike, an exotic invasive species capable of severe ecological damage in Northern California.
- **Maidu Summit Consortium:** Although the Maidu are a competing organization for fee title, we view their organization as a valuable and necessary collaborator. CDFG has experience in working with tribal entities. During the years 2006, 2007, 2009, CDFG issued a letter permit to authorize the Tsi-Akim Maidu Tribe to take fall run salmon for use in a traditional tribal ceremony at Bridgeport State Park. CDFG fisheries staff have interacted with Paiute tribal members and their professional staff in meetings of the Lahontan cutthroat trout Truckee River Restoration Implementation Team. CDFG fisheries staff have also interacted with Washoe tribal members and their professional staff in meetings of the Lahontan cutthroat trout Tahoe Basin Restoration Implementation Team.

33. CDFG has initially identified and sought letters of support and/or collaboration from the following organizations:

- California Trout
- Plumas Corporation
- Feather River Resource Conservation District
- Feather River Land Trust
- Lassen National Forest



## Public Input

34. The CDFG has reviewed and considered the public comments provided for the Humbug Valley Planning Unit in preparation of this proposal. There were many public comments provided regarding the transfer and management of this planning unit, however, only a subset of the comments that seemed most pertinent are discussed below:
- Tax neutrality – The CDFG is requesting the Stewardship Council and/or PG&E to continue to pay for the property taxes associated with the Humbug Valley parcels that may be donated to the CDFG.
  - Cultural resource protection – The CDFG created an internal document over a decade ago that prioritizes the protection of cultural resources with the acquisition of this land. Additionally, the CDFG has heard the desires of the Maidu Summit Consortium regarding the cultural sites during this Stewardship Council process. The CDFG would like to work with the Maidu Summit Consortium to incorporate the desired protection, education and use of the cultural sites by the Maidu into our Land Management Plan.
  - Clarity on role of ERC – The CDFG will remain engaged in the ERC to understand the decisions that have been made and the mechanism used to formalize those decisions if they differ from the language in the Settlement Agreement.
  - Forestry activities – The CDFG will promote forest and ecosystem health in the Land Management Plan for Humbug Valley. Forest management will include coordination and consistency with the Plumas County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and applicable laws and regulations to manage forest fuels and to provide essential habitat for forest species.
  - Roads – The CDFG will evaluate the effects of the road that runs across the center of the valley to determine feasible measures to reduce negative impacts from the road usage to Yellow Creek and the associated meadow system.
  - Meadow/Creek Restoration – The CDFG is a member of the ERC and will coordinate with the group in efforts to restore Yellow Creek and the surrounding meadow habitat from the impacts of cattle grazing. In addition, the CDFG may propose restoration activities and participate in the ERC's evaluation of the proposal to restore the watershed functions and values.

## Budget and Funding Plan

35. Please see attached Excel spreadsheet (*Humbug Valley Budget\_CDFG\_11-5-10.xlsx*).



## **Addendum Questions:**

1.) The CDFG is required to perform a bid process if contracting out work for various projects, including: boundary surveys, development of land management plans including all CEQA documents (e.g. EIR, MND, etc.), installation of fences, grazing leases, timber management, improvements to roads, parking areas and public facilities, and any public works project. Any work done by CDFG personnel and CDFG owned equipment would not require a bid process. CDFG biological and administrative staff would conduct the bidding process for projects as part of their normal duties. Additional funding would not be necessary to cover the staff expense of the CDFG bid process. (Activity XXII)

2.) If CDFG receives funds from the Stewardship Council for the express purpose of protecting, conserving, restoring, enhancing, managing, or maintaining fish, wildlife, native plants or their habitats, in Humbug Valley then CDFG can deposit those funds into a designated account set up for that purpose. The moneys in that account are considered continuously appropriated to the CDFG for expenditure without regard to the fiscal year. Thus, these funds are not subject to the annual legislative budget appropriation process. The funds may only be spent for the stated purpose and could not be taken and reallocated by the Legislature or the Governor. The CDFG maintains several of these accounts, has standard procedures for setting up these accounts and receives quarterly statements to track the accounts (Activity XXIII)

3.) CDFG has grazed Wildlife Areas and Ecological Reserves for many years and has used a lease process either administered by local Resource Conservation Districts, other agencies and/or NGO's. The Fish and Game Code (Section 1010) provides that "The CDFG, by and with the approval of the CDFG of General Services, may sell grazing permits or otherwise dispose of excess vegetation or other products, produced on lands acquired by the CDFG." The California Code of Regulations (§ 550 and § 630, Title 14, CCR) allows the CDFG to use grazing to manage its properties, and various DFG properties have ongoing grazing programs designed to meet habitat management goals.

The CDFG uses a variety of methods to manage vegetation and habitat on its lands, including water management, livestock grazing, prescribed fire, and mechanical treatment. These methods are used as appropriate to achieve specified habitat objectives consistent with the purpose of acquisition, state and federal laws and regulations, and CDFG approved management plans. Management practices are used individually, or in combination where necessary for the protection of habitats, species, and/or public health and safety, to restore wetland and riparian habitats, enhance endangered species habitat, native grasses, and vernal pool communities, control invasive species, reduce fuel loads, decrease vegetation height or density, and increase overall biodiversity.

Goals, objectives and activities for management of CDFG lands are implemented through its land management planning process. Prior to engaging in any significant management program



such as grazing, a Land Management Plan (LMP) must be written that documents the purpose, goals and ecological suitability of the proposed management activities. Management plans propose goals and activities for management of habitat and species, and describe appropriate public uses for properties the CDFG manages. They also include an assessment and monitoring element to evaluate baseline conditions, assess effectiveness of actions, and provide for adaptive management strategies as new information becomes available.

4.) The California Department of Fish and Game has been in existence since 1870. The mission of the California Department of Fish and Game is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public. This document speaks to the organizational vitality of the CDFG and our intent to maintain the fish, wildlife, plant species and natural communities of Humboldt Valley for their intrinsic and ecological value and their benefits to the people of California.



## REFERENCES

- California Department of Fish and Game. 1981. California Wild Trout Management Program Yellow Creek Wild Trout Management Plan. California Department of Fish and Game, Rancho Cordova. 18 pages.
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. 2000. Rock Creek –Cresta Project FERC Project No. 1962 Relicensing Settlement Agreement. 22 pages with Appendices.
- Maidu Summit Consortium Land Management Plan Proposal and Working Document for the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council. 2007. Maidu Summit Consortium. Greenville, CA. 74 pages.
- Streamwise. 2001. Stream Assessment Yellow Creek – Humbug Valley Plumas County, California. Prepared for California Trout. Fall River Mills, CA. 12 pages.



Document Preparers:

William Somer, Senior Fisheries Biologist  
California Department of Fish and Game

Jennifer Navicky, Staff Environmental Scientist  
California Department of Fish and Game

With assistance from the following CDFG staff:

Andy Atkinson  
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Bruce Forman  
Kathy Hill  
Julie Horenstein  
Sherry Howell  
Teresa Le Blanc  
Stafford Lehr  
Nancee Murray  
Julie Newman  
Lori Powers  
Amber Rossi  
Richard Smith  
Terri Weist



## **PART 3 – SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **Included with Humbug LSP:**

1. - N/A -
2. Letter from the North Central Region Manager of Fish and Game (LSP Item #7)

### **Attachments to Humbug LSP:**

#### Supporting Financial Documentation

1. 2010-2011 Fish and Game Budget Fact Book
2. 2009-2010 Fish and Game Budget Fact Book
3. 2008-2009 Fish and Game Budget Fact Book
4. Budget and funding plan: “Humbug Valley Budget\_CDFG\_11-5-10.xlsx”
5. Letters from potential collaborating organizations:
  - California Trout
  - Plumas Corporation
  - Feather River Resource Conservation District
  - Feather River Land Trust
  - Lassen National Forest





California Natural Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
 North Central Region  
 1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A  
 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
 (916) 358-2900  
 http://www.dfg.ca.gov

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor  
 John McCamman, Director



October 13, 2010

Ms. Allene Zanger  
 Executive Director  
 Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council  
 San Mateo Office  
 15 North Ellsworth Avenue, Suite 100  
 San Mateo, CA 94401

Subject: Humbug Valley Land Acquisition

Dear Ms. Zanger:

The California Department of Fish and Game (Department) seeks fee-title interest in Humbug Valley, Plumas County, to manage the property as a State of California Wildlife Area. The purposes of acquisition are: 1) protect the fish, wildlife, and plant life in this unique mountain meadow system with its associated cultural resources from overgrazing, residential and recreational development; 2) guarantee continued public access for the education, use, and enjoyment of future generations; 3) restore wet meadow and riparian ecosystems.

Humbug Valley is a unique meadow system located in the northern Sierra Nevada. With respect to the surrounding forest lands, Humbug Valley is an excellent candidate for long-term ecological viability. This 2,325 acre acquisition proposal has the potential for holistic ecosystem management in Humbug Valley that contains a large mid-elevation Sierra Nevada wet meadow complex. Humbug Valley contains numerous springs and seeps that support fen bog habitat. The property includes 1,300 contiguous acres of mountain meadow and the forested perimeter; and the following features of note:

- substantial existing or recoverable wet meadow and riparian habitats
- 3 miles of spring-fed trout stream (20-40 cfs)
- 6 miles of small trout stream
- 162 possible bird species, including willow flycatcher
- 64 potential mammal species
- Yellow Creek is a designated Wild Trout and Catch-and-Release Water
- Soda Springs Historic Site
- a Maidu burial ground
- grinding rocks, and other cultural sites
- 10-site public campground

I approve the submission of this Land Stewardship Proposal and the Department's participation in the Stewardship Council's land conservation process for the Humbug Valley Planning Unit.

  
 Kent Smith  
 Regional Manager

*Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870*



Ms. Allene Zanger  
Executive Director  
Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council  
San Mateo Office  
15 North Ellsworth Avenue, Suite 100  
San Mateo, CA 94401

October 27, 2010

Dear Ms. Zanger,

California Trout would like to express its support for the California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG) fee-title interest in Humbug Valley, Plumas County, to manage the property as a State of California Wildlife Area. The purposes CDFG's acquisition are: 1) Protect the fish, wildlife, and plant life in this unique mountain meadow system with its associated cultural resources from overgrazing, residential and recreational development. 2) Guarantee continued public access for the education, use, and enjoyment of future generations. 3) Restore wet meadow and riparian ecosystems.

California Trout's mission is to protect and restore wild trout, steelhead and salmon waters throughout California. We achieve our mission through the work of regional offices focusing on restore steelhead and salmon waters, saving imperiled native trout and protecting California's best fisheries. Yellow Creek certainly qualifies as one of California's premier fisheries and best spring creeks, resembling angling waters more familiar to Wyoming and Montana than California.

California Trout has a long history of involvement in Yellow Creek beginning in the 1970's when countless volunteer hours resulted in the building of a split rail fence to protect fragile spring creek banks from cattle grazing. We have worked to fund and implement specific restoration and monitoring efforts. More recently, we secured the removal of cattle from PG&E lands along Yellow Creek and obtained funding for future restoration projects through the Rock Creek Cresta Settlement Agreement. Today, as a member of the Ecological Resources Committee, CalTrout and other stakeholders are determining how best to implement these restoration dollars.

Humbug Valley is a unique place in the lands of the northern Sierra Nevada. Because of its location with respect to the surrounding forest lands, Humbug Valley has an excellent

Bay Area Office 870 Market St. #528, San Francisco CA, 94102  
**Phone:** (415) 392-8887 ext. 109 **Fax:** (707) 392-8895 **E-mail:** [jthompson@caltrout.org](mailto:jthompson@caltrout.org)

prospect for long-term ecological viability. This acquisition proposal is for a total resource ecosystem in Humbug Valley which contains a large mid-elevation Sierra Nevada meadow, rather than a specific species or habitat type. The property encompasses a wide range of habitat types, eco-tones, and edge types; and these in turn provide for a wide range of fish, wildlife, and plant species. Humbug Valley contains numerous springs and seeps that support fen bog habitat. The project area acreage is 2,325 and would include all of Humbug Valley. The property includes 1,300 contiguous acres of mountain meadow and the forested perimeter.

We are interested in serving as a potential land conservation partner in the management of this property with the CDFG. We are committed in pursuing the following activities and responsibilities with CDFG:

- Implementing ERC funds for the on-the-ground restoration projects.
- Ensuring long-term monitoring of the trout fishery.
- Raising awareness about the Yellow Creek fishery.
- Monitoring the impacts of whirling disease and developing plans to control or eradicate this threat to the fishery.

California Trout strongly supports the proposal by the CDFG to seek fee-title interest in Humbug Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" being more prominent and the last name "Thompson" following in a similar style.

Jeff Thompson  
Executive Director

# FEATHER RIVER



# LAND TRUST

*Protecting the Places that Make the Feather River Country Special*

PO Box 1826  
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FAX: 530.283.5745  
Email: [frlt@frlt.org](mailto:frlt@frlt.org)  
Web: [www.frlt.org](http://www.frlt.org)

Ms. Allene Zanger  
Executive Director  
Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council  
San Mateo Office  
15 North Ellsworth Avenue, Suite 100  
San Mateo, CA 94401

### Mission Statement

To conserve land in the Feather River region and steward its ecological and cultural values for current and future generations.

*October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010*

### **RE: Letter of Support from the Feather River Land Trust as a Conservation Partner at Humbug Valley**

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) seeks fee-title interest in Humbug Valley, Plumas County, to manage the property as a State of California Wildlife Area. The purposes of acquisition for the CDFG are: 1) Protect the fish, wildlife, and plant life in this unique mountain meadow system with its associated cultural resources from overgrazing, residential and recreational development, 2) Guarantee continued public access for the education, use, and enjoyment of future generations, and, 3) Restore wet meadow and riparian ecosystems.

The Feather River Land Trust (FRLT) has applied to hold conservation easement(s) on the Humbug Valley properties. In addition, we are interested in serving as a potential land conservation partner in the management of this property with the CDFG, should they be selected to hold fee title. Our organizational experience and staff level expertise can help CDFG effectively address locally important issues including forest management for hazardous fuels reduction, rangeland management, and use of prescribed fire at Humbug Valley.

### Board of Directors

**Bob Cobb**  
*President*

**Betsy Kraemer**  
*Vice President*

**Tom Wood**  
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Staff  
**Paul Hardy**  
*Executive Director*

**Katie Bagby**  
*Development Associate*

**Karen Kleven**  
*Development Director*

**Gabe Miller**  
*Stewardship Coordinator*

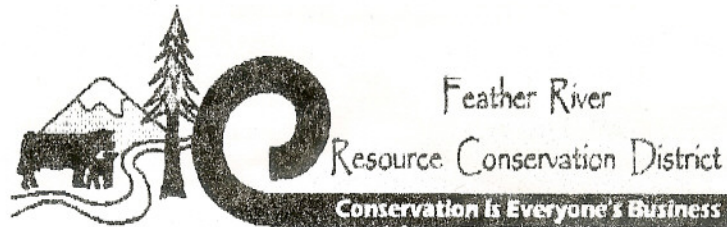
**Jason Moghaddas**  
*Conservation Director*

**Susan Payne**  
*Operations Director*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Moghaddas'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jason Moghaddas  
Conservation Director



November 9, 2010

Ms. Allene Zanger  
 Executive Director  
 Specific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council  
 San Mateo Office  
 100 North Ellsworth Avenue, Suite 100  
 San Mateo, CA 94401

The Feather River Resource Conservation District (Feather River RCD) is supportive of the proposal by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to seek Fee-title interest in Humbug Valley, Plumas County, and manage the property as a State of California Wildlife Area. The purposes of acquisition for the CDFG are: 1) Protect the fish, wildlife, and plant life in this unique mountain meadow system with its associated cultural resources from overgrazing, residential and recreational development. 2) Guarantee continued public access for the education, use, and enjoyment of future generations. 3) Restore wet meadow and riparian ecosystems.

Humbug Valley is a unique place in the lands of the northern Sierra Nevada, owing to its location with respect to the surrounding forest lands, the area has excellent prospect for long-term ecological viability. This acquisition proposal is for a total resource ecosystem in Humbug Valley which contains a large mid-elevation Sierra Nevada meadow, rather than a specific species or habitat type. The property encompasses a diversity of habitat types, eco-tones, and edge types; and these in turn provide for a wide range of fish, wildlife, and plant species. Humbug Valley contains numerous springs and seeps that support fen bog habitat. The project area acreage is 2,325, encompassing all of Humbug Valley, including 1300 contiguous acres of mountain meadow and the forested perimeter. Successful management of this unique area will require the collaborative efforts of local and regional organizations.

The Feather River RCD is willing to participate in the long-term management of Humbug Valley and its resources. The Feather River RCD, instated in 1954, is empowered to manage soil water resources for conservation, as well as related resources such as wildlife and fish habitat. We work closely with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and are a signatory of the Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group and a participant in the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) plan for the Upper Feather River Watershed. Recently, the Feather River RCD has continued to enhance its outreach efforts in working with landowners to promote sustainable watershed management, and to assist the NRCS in developing a community fuels reduction strategy for East Quincy. We are also working with several other local organizations to control the spread of noxious weeds in Plumas County through public education and implementing on-the-ground projects.

Since 2005, the Feather River RCD has worked with CalTrans to manage the Crescent Mills Wetland Mitigation Site. Management of the area includes control and eradication of noxious weeds, and re-establishment of native wetland and riparian plant species to improve wildlife habitat. Collaboration with the Sierra Institute and Greenville High School Natural Resources Academy has allowed the Mitigation site to be used as an outdoor education tool where high school students can get hands-on experience in resource management.

The Feather River RCD is committed to its mission statement, "to advocate resource conservation through education and collaborative efforts with willing landowners and organizations that promote economic and ecological sustainability." Our organization feels that it is qualified to serve as a potential land conservation partner in the management of the Humbug Valley project with the CDFG, assisting in the administration of activities on the lands that generate revenues, such as recreational homesite leases, campground, potential grazing leases, and timber sales, with respect and sensitivity for the cultural importance of the area.

Sincerely,



Phillip Noia, President  
Feather River Resource Conservation District



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Lassen  
National  
Forest

2550 Riverside Drive  
Susanville, CA 96130  
(530) 257-2151 Voice  
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File Code: 5400

Date: November 9, 2010

William Somer  
Senior Fisheries Biologist  
California Department of Fish and Game  
1701 Nimbus Road  
Suite A  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Dear Mr. Somer:

The Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council (Stewardship Council) administers a land conservation program that seeks, in part, to convey selected Pacific Gas and Electric Company lands to federal, state and local government agencies, non-profit conservation organizations and qualified California Indian Tribes. As part of this process, the Stewardship Council has identified a range of beneficial public values (BPV's) including outdoor recreation, sustainable forestry, agriculture, habitat protection, open space preservation, and the protection of cultural resources. The Stewardship Council also desires to identify potential conservation easement holders and conservation partners that would ensure BPV's are met over time.

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is seeking fee-title interest in the Humbug Valley parcel in Plumas County as part of the Stewardship Council's Round 1 process for the conservation and conveyance of lands within the Feather River watershed. Humbug Valley is located directly adjacent to public lands administered by the Lassen National Forest (Forest). The CDFG seeks to manage the property as a State of California Wildlife Area. The purposes of acquisition for the CDFG are: 1) to protect the fish, wildlife, and plant life in this unique mountain meadow system with its associated cultural resources from overgrazing, residential, and recreational development, 2) Guarantee continued public access for the education, use, and enjoyment of future generations, and 3) Restore wet meadow and riparian ecosystems.

Humbug Valley is a unique place in the lands of the northern Sierra Nevada. Because of its location with respect to the surrounding Forest Service lands, Humbug Valley has an excellent prospect for long-term ecological viability. This acquisition proposal is for a total resource ecosystem in Humbug Valley, which contains a large mid-elevation Sierra Nevada meadow, rather than a specific species or habitat type. The property encompasses a wide range of habitat types, eco-tones, and edge types, and these in turn provide for a wide range of fish, wildlife, and plant species. Humbug Valley contains numerous springs and seeps that support fen bog habitat. The project area acreage is 2,325 and would include all of Humbug Valley. The property includes 1300 contiguous acres of mountain meadow and the forested perimeter.

The Lassen National Forest manages 1,700 square miles of diverse ecosystems within the northern Sierra Nevada, the Cascade Ranges, and the Modoc Plateau. The Forest frequently partners or collaborates with other federal, state, and local agencies, with private landowners and organizations, as well as with Indian Tribes in meeting its mission.



The Lassen National Forest is committed to working effectively with partners to enhance ecosystem health, provide stewardship opportunities, and promote effective cultural resource management on public and private lands alike. As such, the Forest is interested in serving as a land conservation partner with eligible organizations, Tribes, state, and local governments and agencies such as CDFG to help meet the Stewardship Council's BPV's at Humbug Valley. If you or the Stewardship Council has any questions or need additional information, please contact Christopher O'Brien, Public Services Staff Officer, at 530-252-6698, or by email at [cjobrien@fs.fed.us](mailto:cjobrien@fs.fed.us). We appreciate your strong interest in working collaboratively with the Lassen National Forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry Bird". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

JERRY BIRD  
Forest Supervisor





PLUMAS  
*Corporation*

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[www.plumas.ca.us](http://www.plumas.ca.us)  
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*Economic Development,  
Tourism, Stream Restoration*

11/11/10

William Somer, M.S.  
Senior Fisheries Biologist (Specialist)  
California Department of Fish and Game  
North Central Region  
Heritage and Wild Trout Project  
1701 Nimbus Rd, Suite A, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Re: Humbug Valley

Dear William Somer:

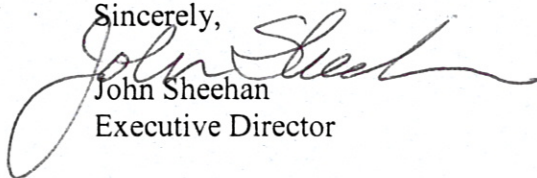
DFG was a charter member of the Feather River Coordinated Resource Management group (FRCRM) since its formation in 1985. DFG provided funding for the first CRM project that year and has worked closely with the CRM and Plumas Corporation on scores of restoration projects since then <see [www.feather-river-crm.org](http://www.feather-river-crm.org)>.

We understand the Department wishes to assume a larger role in activities in Humbug Valley thru the PG & E Forest Stewardship Council process. As you know, the CRM has worked most recently on designs for possible stream/meadow restoration work in Humbug Valley. We look forward to on-the ground activities beyond the studies and analyses.

We will cooperate and collaborate with the Department on restoration work in Humbug Valley. We are supportive of the increased role being requested by the Maidu Summit Consortium and will also cooperate with their efforts.

Our entire staff here looks forward to a closer relationship with DFG in Humbug Valley.

Sincerely,

  
John Sheehan  
Executive Director

Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council  
 Land Stewardship Proposal Budget and Funding Plan  
 Humbug Valley Planning Unit

**PROJECT BUDGET - TRANSACTION COSTS**

**A. Document Preparation Costs**

Task	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	Total Cost	Funding Request	Comments
DGS Appraisal Review	Each	1	2,000.00	2,000	-	
DFG Staff Coordination and Document Preparation Pursuant To The Stewardship Council Land Conveyance Process	Hour	650	59.85	38,903		Internal coordination meetings, Stewardship Council coordination meetings, SOQ and LSP document preparation
DFG Regional Land Acquisition Coordinator Review/Negotiation With PG&E	Hour	30	62.75	1,883	-	
DFG Fisheries Staff Review/Coordination With PG&E	Hour	40	53.29	2,132	-	
Property Appraisal For DFG Fee Title	Each	1	8,000.00	8,000	-	
Property Appraisal For Maidu Consortium Fee Title	Each	1	8,000.00	8,000	-	
WCB Staff Review Of Documents/Appraisal & Coordination With The DFG/PG&E/DGS For The CDFG Fee Title Transfer & Parcel #701 Fee Title To The Maidu Consortium	Hour	150	63.11	9,467	-	WCB Review Of Documents/Appraisal & Coordination With The DFG/PG&E/DGS and presenting the acquisition at a quarterly WCB Board meeting
<i>To add a row: right click on the row above -&gt; select copy -&gt; right click again -&gt;select insert copied cells</i>						
<b>A. Total Document Preparation Costs</b>				<b>70,383</b>	-	

**B. Closing Costs**

Task	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	Total Cost	Funding Request	Comments
Title Insurance For The DFG Fee Title	Each	1	3,000.00	3,000	-	
Escrow Fees For the DFG Fee Title	Each	1	3,000.00	3,000	-	
Recordation For The DFG Fee Title	Each	1	50.00	50	-	
Title Insurance For The Maidu Consortium Fee Title (Parcel #701)	Each	1	3,000.00	3,000	-	
Escrow Fees For the Maidu Consortium Fee Title (Parcel #701)	Each	1	3,000.00	3,000	-	
Recordation For The Maidu Consortium Fee Title (Parcel #701)	Each	1	50.00	50	-	
<i>To add a row: right click on the row above -&gt; select copy -&gt; right click again -&gt;select insert copied cells</i>						
<b>B. Total Closing Costs</b>				<b>12,100</b>	-	

**C. Other: Start Up**

Task	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	Total Cost	Funding Request	Comments
Boundary Surveys (Activity I)	Each	1	100,000.00	100,000	50,000	Preliminary discussions with engineering indicate that survey costs could be between \$25,000 and \$100,000 for this property. Further information would be needed to determine exact costs.
<i>To add a row: right click on the row above -&gt; select copy -&gt; right click again -&gt;select insert copied cells</i>						
<b>C. Total Other</b>				<b>100,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	
<b>TOTAL TRANSACTION COSTS</b>				<b>182,483</b>	<b>50,000</b>	

Additional Notes:

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**PROJECT BUDGET - BASELINE LAND OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES (SEE NOTE 1)**

**PROJECT REVENUES**

Non- SC Sources of Funding

**Committed Funds (cash received or award made)**

Revenue Source	Description								One-Time Funding	Ongoing Funding	Comments
Campground Income	\$20/night fee for public use of 10 campgrounds during the summer months (100 days)									20,000	This estimate is based on 100% occupancy at all 10 campsites for 4 months each year
Lease Revenues	Durkee and Camper leases									2,350	\$1175 annual lease for each homesite (as stated in information packet and subject to change with land transfer)
DFG Various Fund Sources For Personnel	Personnel costs associated with baseline management									44,537	Multiple funding sources are used for personnel detailed in this spreadsheet. More details regarding the various funding sources can be found in the LSP response to item #13. This amount can be increased to make up for other funding revenues that were not realized in any given year
PG&E Mitigation Funds	funds provided for restoration efforts on Yellow Creek pursuant to the settlement agreement									25,000	This revenue and expense will cancel each other out, but was provided to show that the CDFG recognizes that \$25,000 per year will be provided by PG&E to enhance the land pursuant to the settlement agreement. The CDFG will cooperate with these activities and assist with the necessary action items required of the landowner, in addition to a trustee agency participating in the ERC, to implement the projects
<b>Total Committed Funds</b>									-	<b>91,887</b>	

**Pending Funds (no award made to date)**

Revenue Source	Description								One-Time Funding	Ongoing Funding	Comments
Grant Awards											Funding from the WCB, State Parks, Conservation Innovation Grant Program (NRCS) & other applicable NRCS grants, McConnell Foundation, Simpson Foundation, USFWS Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Grant Program, Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (Caltrans & Natural Resource Agency), and any other potential grant fund source applicable to watershed, wildlife, fisheries, plant and habitat enhancement, restoration and conservation will be sought to supplement funding needs for proposed enhancement activities on the Humbug Valley property. This funding cannot be sought until the CDFG owns fee title to the land
<b>Total Pending or Potential Funds</b>									-	-	

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**TOTAL PROJECT REVENUES** - 91,887

**PROJECT EXPENSES**

**A. Baseline Management Activities**

SC Funding Request

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Task	Description	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs	One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs	Comments
Waste Management	removal of trash and waste associated with campground/bathrooms and public use	Weekly	52	100.00		5,200.00			
ERC/PG&E Restoration (Activity V)	work with the ERC to implement proposed restoration work pertaining to Humbug Valley pursuant to the settlement agreement	Annual	1	25,000.00		25,000.00		-	This revenue and expense will cancel each other out, but was provided to show that the CDFG recognizes that \$25,000 per year will be provided by PG&E to enhance the land pursuant to the settlement agreement. The CDFG will cooperate with these activities and assist with the necessary action items required of the landowner, in addition to a trustee agency participating in the ERC, to implement the projects
Maintain Roads (Activity IV & VI)	Fish screen & other staff time/equipment	Annual	1	50,000.00		50,000.00			
Campground Operations (Activity VI)	Staff time to meet with campground operator and coordinating yearly activities needed for maintenance and repair of facilities	Annual	16	59.85		957.60			
Lease & Tenant Management	staff time to administer the tenant leases	Annual	16	59.85		957.60			
<b>A. Total Baseline Management Activities</b>						<b>82,115</b>			

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**B. Baseline Land Ownership Costs**

Task	Description	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs	SC Funding Request		Comments	
							One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs		
Property Taxes		Annual	1	9,722				9,772	The DFG pays in-lieu fees subject to legislative approval, but does not normally pay property taxes. The portion of this tax that is appropriated to the County could be paid by the Stewardship Council through an endowment held by the County. The endowment amount should be sufficient to provide the regular annual tax received by the County (the County does not receive the entire \$9,722)	
<b>B. Total Baseline Land Ownership Costs</b>							-	-	-	<b>9,772</b>

Task	Description	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs	SC Funding Request		Comments	
							One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs		
<b>C. Total Other</b>							-	-	-	-

**TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES** \$ **91,887.20**

**NET REVENUE/(EXPENSE) - BASELINE LAND OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES** \$ -

Additional Notes:

[Redacted area]

**Note 1:** According to the Stewardship Council's Land Conservation Program Funding Policy, the Stewardship Council will require future land owners to demonstrate that they have the funding and other capacity to maintain that property interest so as to preserve and/or enhance the beneficial values on the Watershed Lands. Exceptions to this guideline will be rare and considered only in circumstances where,  
 1) The funding of baseline land ownership and management activities will clearly lead to enhancement of the beneficial public values on the lands; and/or,  
 2) The funding of baseline land ownership and management activities is only temporary (≤5 years).

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**PROJECT BUDGET - ENHANCEMENTS TO BENEFICIAL PUBLIC VALUES**

**PROJECT REVENUES**

Source	Description	Non-SC Sources of Funding						Annual Funding	Comments
		One-Time Grants	Other Grants	Other Revenues	Other Income	Other	Other		
<b>Committed Funds (cash received or award made)</b>									
Timber Revenues									Costs to be determined after coordination with CalFire or other registered professional forester to determine timber values and silviculture options.
Grazing Lease									Yet to be determined after consultation with FRRCD and CDFG staff. Grazing lease could include fencing maintenance and repair which would reduce income, but also reduce management costs
DFG Various Funding							189,373		Multiple funding sources are used for personnel detailed in this spreadsheet. More details regarding the various funding sources can be found in the LSP response to item #13. This amount will be adjusted up if not all requested funding (detailed in spreadsheet items below) is received from the Stewardship Council.
<b>Total Committed Funds</b>							<b>189,373</b>		
<b>Pending Funds (no award made to date)</b>									
Grant Awards									Funding from the WCB, State Parks, Conservation Innovation Grant Program (NRCS) & other applicable NRCS grants, McConnell Foundation, Simpson Foundation, USFWS Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Grant Program, California Wildlife Foundation, Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (Caltrans & Natural Resource Agency), and any other potential grant fund source applicable to watershed, wildlife, fisheries, plant and habitat enhancement, restoration and conservation will be sought to supplement funding needs for proposed enhancement activities on the Humbug Valley property. This funding cannot be sought until the CDFG owns fee title to the land.
<b>Total Pending or Potential Funds</b>									
<b>TOTAL PROJECT REVENUES</b>								<b>189,373</b>	

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**PROJECT EXPENSES**

**A. Enhanced Land Management Activities**

Task (Activity # from LSP)	Description	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs	SC Funding Request		Comments
							One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs	
Prepare/Submit Grant Funding Proposals for Enhanced Land Management Activities	Senior Biologists and other staff to prepare grant proposals and coordinate with grant programs to obtain necessary funding to implement proposed enhancement activities	Hour	240	\$ 59.85		\$ 14,364.00			Each grant proposal will take approximately 80 hours to prepare, including coordination with sub-contractors for estimated budgets and engineered plans for Enhanced Land Management Activities proposed. This cost could be associated with the Land Management Plan/CEQA development and approval process, timber harvesting assessment, stream and meadow enhancements and creation of baseline report.
DFG vehicle maintenance/repair	Maintenance and repair of DFG vehicles used for Enhanced Land Management Activities	Miles	5,280	\$ 0.50		\$ 2,640.00			This cost accounts for oil changes, tire rotations and minor repairs for vehicles and is calculated at the \$0.50/mile reimbursement rate the State pays for personal vehicle use
DFG vehicle fuel	Fuel costs associated with DFG vehicle use for Enhanced Land Management Activities	Miles	18	\$ 80.00		\$ 1,440.00			This is based on 18 tanks of gas to travel 5,280 miles (300miles/tank) for staff based out of Rancho Cordova or Sacramento, CA. Humbug Valley to Rancho Cordova is 176 miles, one way.

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Enforcement Presence (Activity XIV)	warden patrol, coordination with local authorities	Hour	40	\$ 54.62		\$ 2,184.80			This estimate could be more or less based on the enforcement needs identified
Seasonal employee for maintenance/other tasks (Activity VII)	Seasonal help may be solicited to provide assistance to permanent staff on various activities	Hour	300	\$ 20.00				\$ 6,000.00	
Monthly Inspections (Activity VII)	biologists from fisheries, wildlife, wild trout, and lands will conduct inspections (may include wardens)	Hour	144	\$ 59.85		\$ 8,618.40			This accounts for a 12 hour work day (travel and time to inspect property) per month at a rate of \$35/hour (12*12*\$30=\$5,040)
Develop Land Management Plan (Activity I)	development of land management plan and EIR, review and modification of documents, CEQA fees, public scoping meetings	Each	1	\$ 100,000.00			\$ 100,000.00		This estimate is based on a Mitigated Negative Declaration and could be higher if an Environmental Impact Report is required. Cost shares could be negotiated with the DFG and the Stewardship Council if grant funding is received by the DFG
Wildlife Area Designation Process (Activity I & II)	staff will coordinate on and prepare regulations proposed for Title 14, California Code of Regulations, and present the Humbug Valley Wildlife Area proposal to the Fish and Game Commission	Hour	40	\$ 59.85	\$ 2,394.00				
Bid Process Implementation for Enhanced Land Management Activities (Activity I)	staff time (staff service analyst?) to solicit bids, compare quotes and create contract with vendor	Hour	100	\$ 62.75		\$ 6,275.00			Tasks include any contracted work performed for: boundary survey, CEQA compliance documents (land management plan, EIR/MND, etc.)
Stream & Meadow Enhancements (Activity VI)	restore meanders, reconnect channel to floodplain, bank stabilization and revegetation	Hour	150	\$ 59.85			\$ 8,977.50		Depending on technical level of project, this estimate will change
Baseline Report (Activity III)	species/habitat inventory	Each	1	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00				
Archaeological Survey (Activity XVIII)	survey to provide information to the lead agency on cultural resources for the CEQA document	Each	1	\$ 50,000.00			\$ 50,000.00		Surveys may not be needed if existing surveys are available
Deer Population Survey (Activity III)	East Tehama Deer Herd	Hour	150	\$ 59.85		\$ 8,977.50			
Native & Invasive Species Education (Activity IX)	pamphlets, news releases, advertisements, interpretive services, docent lead walks	Hour	80	\$ 59.85		\$ 4,788.00	##		
Invasive Species Surveys (Activity XIII)	aquatic and terrestrial inventory of invasive species	Hour	70	\$ 59.85		\$ 4,189.50			
Invasive Species Management (Activity VI)	development invasive species management plan and incorporate into the land management plan	Hour	150	\$ 59.85	\$ 8,977.50				
Wild Trout Assessment (Activity IX)	acquire population data, including: species composition, size and age class structure, and estimates of biomass and density	Hour	560	\$ 59.85		\$ 33,516.00			This accounts for a 14 hour work day for 10 staff (travel and time to perform study) per year. This activity could be conducted every 5 years.
Adaptive Management	staff and conservation partner coordination to evaluate management techniques and adapt tasks as necessary	Hour	40	\$ 59.85		\$ 2,394.00			
Coordinate With The ERC (Activity V & VIII)	obtain necessary permits and compliance with the law regarding proposed activities, ensure proposed stream restoration/enhancements are consistent with work conducted by ERC and provide labor and/or other assistance with ERC projects	Hour	60	\$ 62.75		\$ 3,765.00			
Update 1981 Yellow Creek Management Plan (Activity VIII)	Update plan to incorporate new information and management developed in conjunction with the ERC and the Land Management Plan developed for the Humbug Valley Wildlife Area	Hour	100	\$ 59.85	\$ 5,985.00				
Creel surveys (Activity IX)	collect data from anglers regarding their catch	Hour	56	\$ 24.47		\$ 1,370.32			
Coordination regarding Timber Management (Activity V)	staff time to coordinate with a Registered Professional Forester and to seek grant funds to pay for fees associated with the preparation of a timber harvesting plan to enhance wildlife values and reduce fuel loads	Hour	40	\$ 59.85		\$ 2,394.00			
Creation & Installation Of Additional Angler Survey Boxes (Activity IX)		Each	3	\$ 300.00			\$ 900.00		
<b>A. Total Enhanced Land Management Activities</b>						<b>\$ 92,356.50</b>	<b>96,917</b>	<b>159,878</b>	<b>6,000</b>

**B. Capital Improvements**

**Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council**  
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Task	Description	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs	SC Funding Request		Comments
							One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs	
Install Gates (Activity IV, VI & XX)	2 gates to be installed at entrance to property	Each	2	3,000.00			\$ 6,000.00		
Property Owner Signage (Activity VI & XX)	post property owner signs along boundary and at entrances	Each	20	\$ 200.00			\$ 4,000.00		No labor costs associated with this task as it could be conducted in conjunction with the posting of angling signs
Angling Signage (Activity VI & XX)	post angling regulation signs at heavily used areas	Each	10	\$ 10.00	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00		installation of sign would occur during monthly inspection
Angler Survey Box (Activity IX & XX)	check the angler survey box	Hour	-	\$ 59.85		\$ -			This task is include in time spent on property during the monthly inspection
Graphic Interpretive Signs (Activity IX & XX)	signs to describe the wildlife, fisheries, plant and cultural resources on site and historical uses	Each	3	\$ 4,500.00			\$ 13,500.00		
Install/Repair/Remove Fencing (Activity VI & XX)	install fencing to protect resources from degradation (e.g. cultural sites, the stream channel, and campground)	Each	1	\$ 50,000.00			\$ 50,000.00		Take down (drop) or other fencing consistent with timbered areas that are under heavy may be installed in the future, but would be coordinated with grazing if proposed through the ERC. PG&E funding should be used to provide this type of fencing for any proposed future grazing to maintain the habitat on the mitigation lands pursuant to the settlement agreement. This estimate is based on the most expensive fencing project the CDFG has implemented in timber/snow habitat.
Improve parking areas and road/trail networks (Activity IV & VI)	develop engineering and cost estimates to implement plans to improve parking areas, roads and establish new trails to minimize public use impacts	Hours	200	59.85			\$ 11,970.00		This task should also include CEQA fees of \$120,000 if the plans are not incorporated into CEQA completed for the Wildlife Area Management Plan
ADA and other State Compliance Of Public Facilities On Site	improve bathrooms and campgrounds to ADA compliant standards	Each	1	225,000.00			\$ 225,000.00		
Bid Process Implementation for Capital Improvement Activities (Activity IX)	Staff of various levels to acquire bids and work through process to contract out capital improvement work to be performed	Hours	100	62.75			\$ 6,275.00		
<b>B. Total Capital Improvements</b>					\$	100.00	-	316,845	-

Task	Description	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs	SC Funding Request		Comments
							One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs	
<b>C. Total Other</b>									
					\$	-	-	-	-

<b>TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES</b>	\$	92,456.50	96,917	476,723	6,000
<b>NET REVENUE/(EXPENSE) - ENHANCEMENT OF BENEFICIAL PUBLIC VALUES</b>	\$	(92,456.50)	(96,917)	476,723	195,373

Additional Notes: