

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 21
was approved as Minute Item
No. 21 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 6/29/82
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

21

6/29/82
W 22484
Shimer

APPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT PLANS
AND AUTHORIZATION FOR
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
TO PROCEED WITH FOREST DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS
ON TWO PARCELS OF STATE SCHOOL LAND
IN SHASTA AND TRINITY COUNTIES

In June 1980, the Commission authorized entering into an Inter-agency Agreement with California Department of Forestry, by which California Department of Forestry would manage certain parcels of forested State school lands to demonstrate forestry practices for small forest land owners. Subsequently, an agreement was entered into covering ten parcels of State school land.

One of the provisions of the agreement was that California Department of Forestry provide a management plan for each parcel for State Lands Commission staff review and for authorization from the Commission to proceed. California Department of Forestry has submitted plans of management for two parcels, one in Shasta County and one in Trinity County.

The Shasta County parcel near Viola contains 200 acres. It has a history of fire and trespass logging. Growth rates on low vigor old growth trees are quite low. Harvest is planned on about 116 acres under a combination of evenaged and unevenaged management, which will provide for more acceptable growth rates on the younger trees and reproduction that will replace the existing stands. Twenty-five acres of brush land were cleared and planted to pine in 1979, under the State Lands Commission reforestation project. This area will be managed for a commercial harvest at 70 years. Another 60 acres will remain in browse and cover plants for wildlife, principally deer.

The Trinity County parcel is a 280-acre tract near Weaverville. A harvest of both conifers and hardwoods is planned on about 160 acres, which will then be planted to conifers, mainly douglas-fir and pines. An area of 80 acres will be improved for wildlife use by rejuvenating the brush cover. On an additional area of 17 acres, experiments will be made in planting hardwoods for fuel wood and in using mycorrhizal inoculations to improve conifer and hardwood seedling survival.

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Staff review indicates the plans have merit and should provide for optimum utility of the sites consistent with associated wildlife habitat and watershed values.

A final EIR was prepared and certified by the California Department of Forestry, pursuant to CEQA and the State EIR Guidelines. The Department of Forestry found that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

The project is situated on lands not identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to P.R.C. 6370.1.

AB 884: N/A.

EXHIBITS: A. Site Maps.
B. EIR Summary.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. DETERMINE THAT AN EIR, SCH 81082617, HAS BEEN PREPARED AND CERTIFIED FOR THIS PROJECT BY CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY.
2. CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE EIR HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION.
3. FIND THAT CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS HAVE BEEN REQUIRED IN, OR INCORPORATED INTO, THE PROJECT WHICH MITIGATE OR AVOID THE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS THEREOF AS IDENTIFIED IN THE FINAL EIR (AS INCORPORATED IN EXHIBIT "B", PAGE 2, "MITIGATION MEASURES".)
4. AUTHORIZE THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY TO PROCEED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN SUBMITTED FOR PARCELS 3 AND 7, DESCRIBED IN THE INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENT (LC 0380-B) DATED JULY 1, 1980.

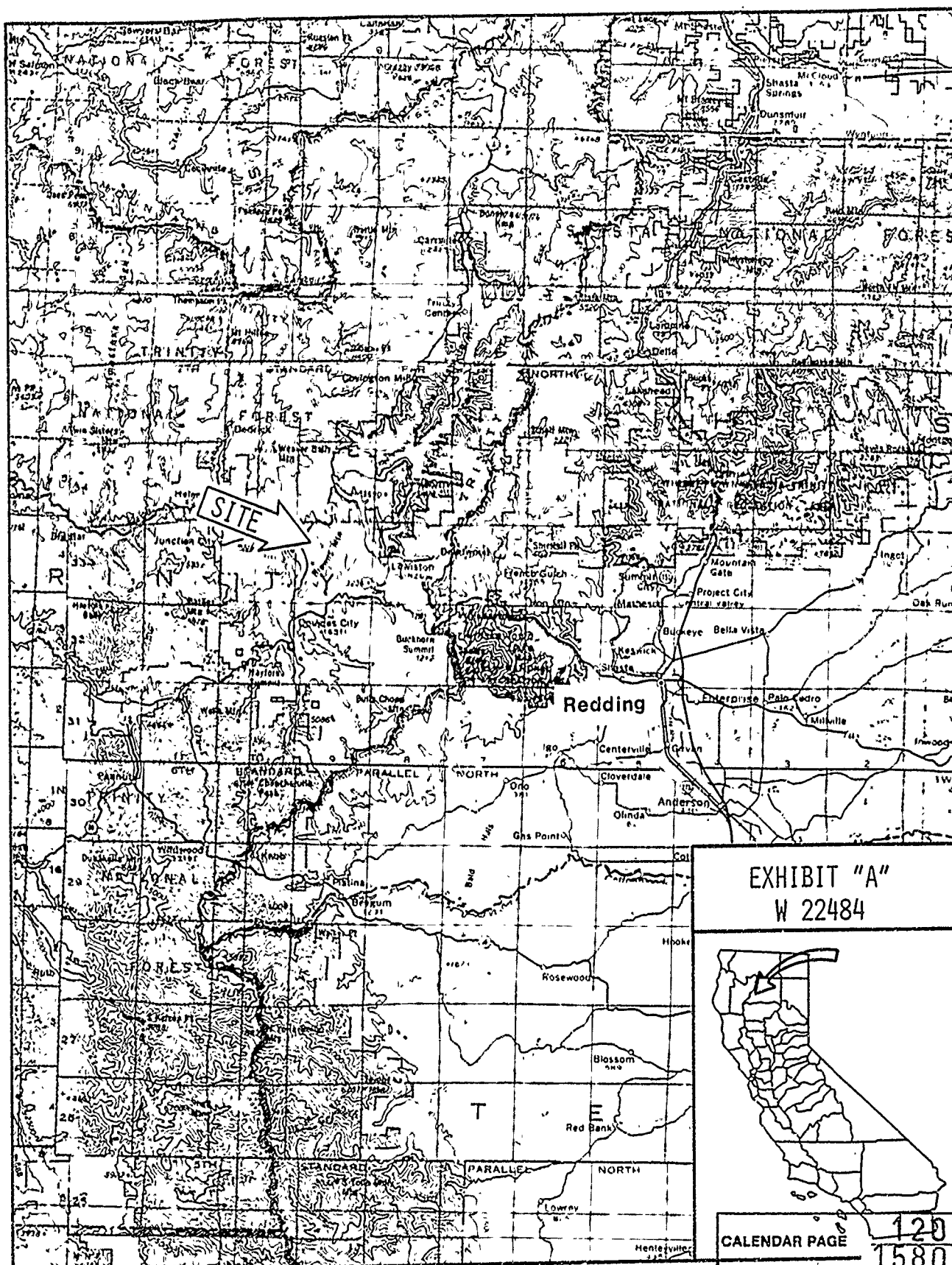
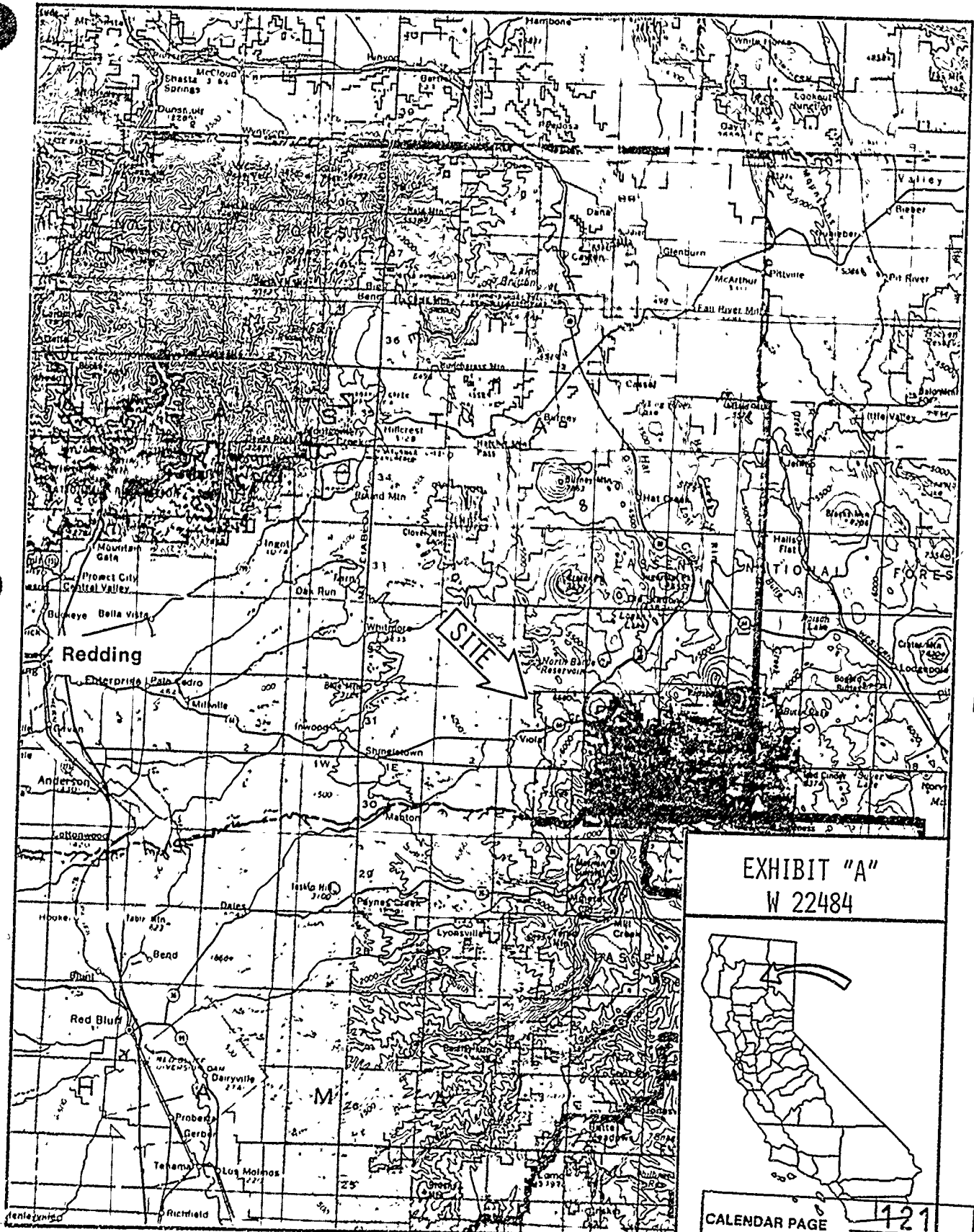


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SITE

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The following is a summary of a final environmental impact report for the management of State Lands Commission parcels by the California Department of Forestry which was prepared by the California Department of Forestry.

1. Project Description. California Department of Forestry, through an interagency agreement with the State Lands Commission, proposes to manage the surface resources on ten State School Lands' parcels. The following types of projects are likely to comprise the management program: road construction, timber harvesting, site preparation, planting, timber stand improvement, brush conversion, forest land conservation measures, fish and wildlife habitat improvement, fuel reduction, and recreational opportunity development.

2. Environmental Setting. Eight of the parcels are scattered throughout Shasta County with an additional parcel in both Trinity and Lake Counties. Vegetation on the parcels is varied but can generally be classified into seven types or communities: 1) mixed conifer, 2) ponderosa pine, 3) digger pine, 4) oak woodland, 5) chaparral, 6) riparian, and 7) meadow.

3. Environmental Impacts. Significant impacts resulting from the project implementation involve water quality, air quality, soil erosion, change in vegetation (both type and quantity), change in wildlife habitat and wildlife, possible archeological resources disturbance, visual quality, noise and a short-term increase in fire hazards.

Air quality will suffer temporary degradation due to dust caused by timber harvesting and smoke from burning vegetation.

Water quality will suffer with removal of ground cover, road building and the use of heavy equipment causing increased sediment in streams.

Soil erosion and compaction will take place in some areas as a result of road building.

Vegetation will change as a result of introduction of young timber and a decrease in old timber, and further by the introduction of new plant species and a corresponding decrease in existing plant species.

Wildlife changes will result from changes in the vegetation. There is a strong possibility that the rare Shasta Salamander may exist on one of the parcels and will therefore need to be protected. In addition, aquatic habitat may be affected by management activities which may cause changes in stream bottom material and turbidity, cover, water temperature, dissolved oxygen content and introduction of migration barriers.

Timber harvesting activities may disturb archeological sites and lessen their potential for scientific study.

There will be a short-term increase in fire hazard but a long-term reduction of fire hazard is expected.

4. Mitigation Measures. Mitigation of air quality impacts include: burning in accordance with air pollution regulations and the use of dust abatement procedures on logging operations.

Fire hazards will be avoided by burning when fire hazard is lowest. Equipment will have spark arrestors and all personnel will be equipped with means to extinguish fires.

Water quality and erosion impacts will be mitigated by retaining riparian vegetation to maintain stream temperature, keeping heavy equipment off of soils when moisture content is at or above field capacity, leaving a buffer strip on both sides of all blue line streams, keeping heavy equipment off potential slide areas and clearing stream of debris and any accidental deposits.

No program will be permitted within areas critical to survival of rare or endangered species unless the program will improve species' habitat. Special provisions will be made to protect potential bald eagle nesting trees. Wildlife habitat improvement projects will rejuvenate stagnating brush stands.

Visual impacts will be mitigated by utilizing mosaic patterns, by avoiding straight line boundaries and using natural boundaries when possible. One hundred percent burns will be avoided on highly visible slopes.

Archeological impacts will be mitigated by avoiding operations on presently identified sites unless the operation would improve the protected resources. Known areas will be marked for easy identification by work crews. Special treatment areas will be designated, as necessary.

5. Unavoidable Adverse Impacts.

- a. Short-term reduction in scenic and aesthetic qualities as a result of cleared areas for reforestation.
- b. Short-term reduction in local populations of small mammals and birds during management activities. Some species of wildlife will decrease and some will increase.
- c. On some parcels, the natural quality of landscape patterns will change permanently.

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- d. Harvesting near streams may cause a short-term increase in water temperature which may have a small impact on aquatic life.
- e. Use of heavy equipment, burning, and other management activities will cause soil erosion, compaction, and damage to microflora.
- f. Burning will cause temporary degradation of air quality.
- g. Burning will create potential for escaped fires.
- n. Some undiscovered archeological resources may be disturbed.
- i. Temporary noise will result from use of heavy equipment.

6. Alternatives. A number of possible management activities will be considered for each parcel. Harvesting alternatives include tractor, skyline, helicopter and horse logging. Log and scatter, chipping, and burning are slash disposal alternatives.

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