

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. C17
was approved as Minute Item
No. 11 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 12/29/82
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

C 17

10/28/82
WP 6194
Shimer
PRC 6194

APPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT PLANS AND
AUTHORIZATION FOR
THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY TO
PROCEED WITH FOREST DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS
ON THREE PARCELS OF STATE SCHOOL LAND IN
SHASTA COUNTY

The interagency agreement with the California Department of Forestry under which certain State school lands are managed by the California Department of Forestry requires Commission approval of management plans. The California Department of Forestry has submitted plans for the last three of the ten parcels included in the current agreement and an amendment to the previously approved plan for the Lake Britton parcel.

Campbell Creek Parcel

This is a 640-acre parcel, 24 miles north of Redding of which 465 acres are now covered with scrub and brush and 175 acres are in timber. It is planned to harvest mature and diseased timber under a variety of methods that will encourage growth on leave trees and provide for regeneration of preferred species.

The non-timbered portion of the parcel is on a south slope within view of Interstate 5. The harsh climatic conditions, poor soils and steep slopes indicate this is not a suitable

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site for conversion to timber. It is planned to improve wildlife habitat by burning portions of the brush field to achieve favorable age and size diversification of the brush.

McCloud Arm Parcel:

This is a remote 640-acre parcel just north of the McCloud Arm of Shasta Lake. Management objectives are timber production, wildlife habitat improvement and reduction of fire hazard. About half of the parcel is timbered with a total of five million board feet. Because of steep slopes, innovative cable logging will be favored. Timber to be harvested will be selected to improve the vigor of leave trees. Brush fields interspersed within the harvest area will be cleared and planted to commercial species. The remainder of the parcel is non-timbered and not suitable for conversion to timber. It will be managed for wildlife habitat and fire hazard reduction through use of prescribed burns in appropriate areas of the existing brushfield.

Montgomery Creek Parcel:

This is a 43-acre parcel, 37 miles east of Redding. Most of the parcel is timbered with second growth conifers with a total merchantable volume of 265,000 board feet. The plan calls for selective logging and thinning to improve growth conditions for leave trees. The parcel has high fish and wildlife values due to a perennial stream, riparian habitat and variety in forest vegetation types. Timber management activities will be guided by recommendations of the Department of Fish and Game so as to maintain the excellent habitat.

Lake Britton Parcel:

At the March 1982 meeting, the Commission approved the plan prepared for the 68-acre Lake Britton parcel, 15 miles northeast of Burney in Shasta County. It is proposed to amend that plan to provide for wildlife habitat improvement activities that will complement similar work being done on nearby federal lands in cooperation with the Department of Fish and Game. Prescribed burning will be done to stimulate new grass growth, reduce old brush plants and cause germination of wedgeleaf ceanothus seeds, a preferred deer browse in the open areas of the parcel. Under the existing pine stand,

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the burning will reduce the needle litter to improve conditions for germination of pine seed.

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.

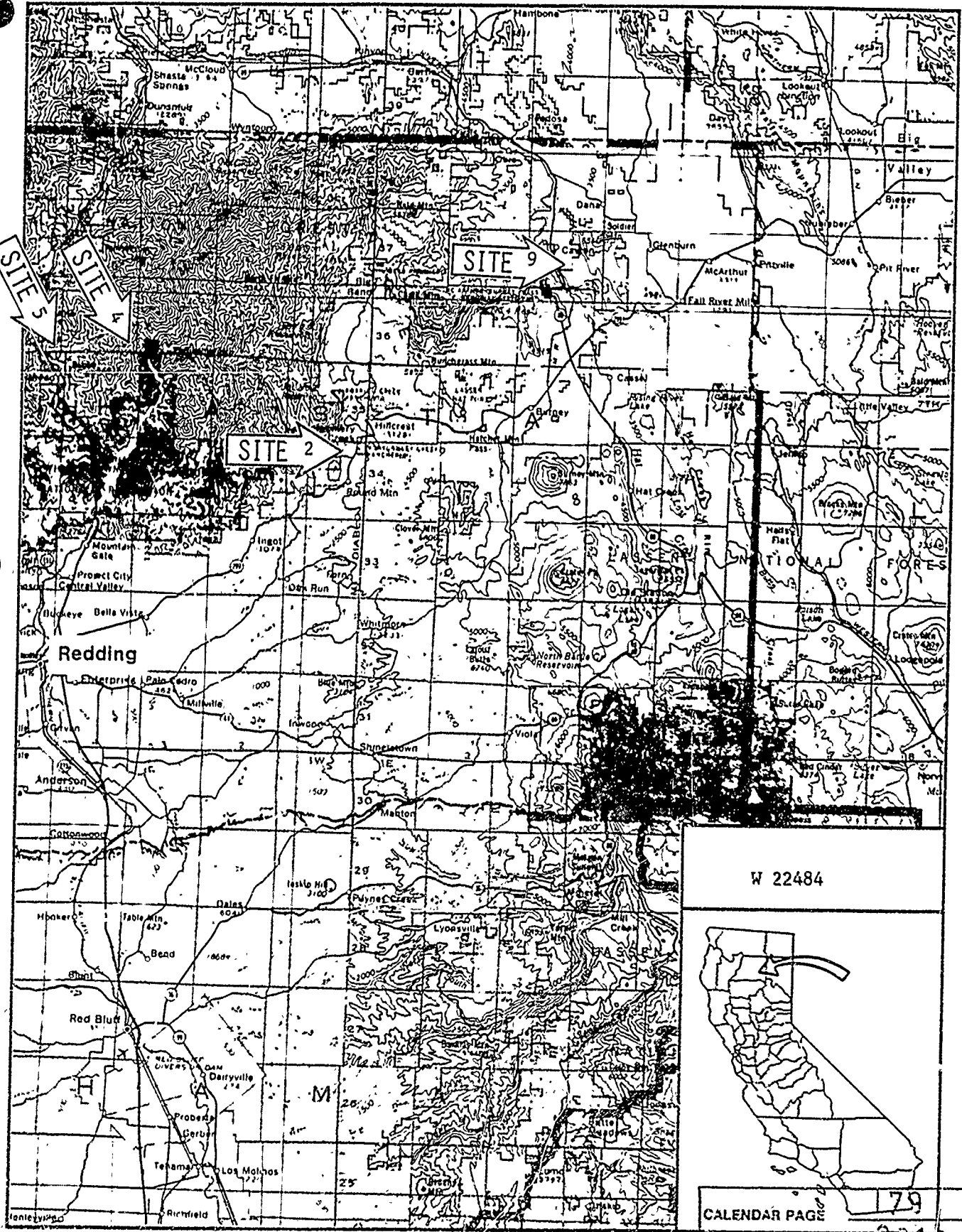
The project is situated on lands not identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to P.R.C. 6370.1.

AB 884: N/A.

EXHIBITS: A. Site Map.
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 THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY.
2. CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE EIR HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION.
3. DETERMINE THAT THE PROJECT WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT. 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 PLANS SUBMITTED FOR PARCELS 2, 4, 5 AND 9, DESCRIBED IN THE INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT (LC 0380-B) DATED JULY 1, 1980.



SITES 3 & 4

SITE 9

SITE 2

Redding

W 22484



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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT SUMMARY

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 temperatures, 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.
- h. 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. Lop and scatter, chipping, and burning are slash disposal alternatives.

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