

LAKE SPAULDING PLANNING UNIT

Yuba-Bear River Watershed

Existing Conditions & Uses

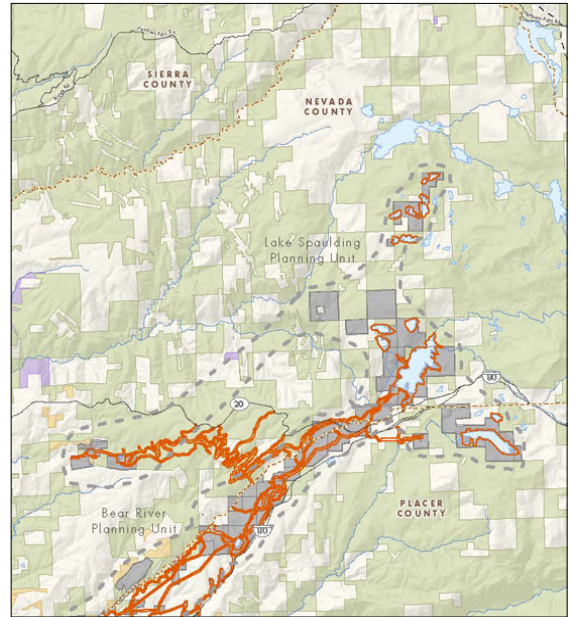
Overview

- Highly scenic, forested area with many lakes of exceptional beauty
- 8,308 acres in Nevada and Placer Counties; 6,525 acres outside the FERC boundary and 1,783 acres inside
- Drum-Spauldung Project (FERC #2310); License expires in 2013, relicensing expected to begin in 2007

As shown in Figure YB-3, the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit encompasses many scenic lakes in the high elevation mountains of the Sierra Nevada. Lake Spaulding is located 26 miles from Nevada City and 19 miles from Truckee, and the planning unit is primarily surrounded by the Tahoe National Forest and private lands. With an elevation range of 5,200 to 7,000 feet, the topography of the planning unit ranges from exposed outcroppings to forested slopes surrounding remote lakes and canyons. This area is a popular recreation destination for hikers, boaters, anglers, cyclists, OHV riders, cross-country skiers, and other nature and outdoor enthusiasts. In addition, this planning unit is an important area for watershed protection as it contributes to the source water supply of



Lake Valley Reservoir



Lake Spaulding Planning Unit
Nevada & Placer Counties

the Placer County Water District and Nevada Irrigation District.

This planning unit is within the FERC Drum-Spauldung Project and contains four powerhouses and other associated infrastructure such as canals and flumes.

Fish, Plant, and Wildlife Habitat

The Lake Spaulding Planning Unit offers a variety of habitat for both plants and wildlife. Various special status plant species have been identified in the vicinity of the planning unit, including shore sedge, Oregon fireweed, Stebbins' phacelia, Butte County fritillary, and Cantelow's lewisia. Similarly, special status wildlife species such as Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare, Pacific fisher, Sierra marten, foothill yellow-legged frog, and the Federally endangered mountain yellow-legged frog have been surveyed in the vicinity of the planning unit. Many parcels abut USFS California spotted owl Protected Activity Centers (PACs), which protect this species in late successional forest habitats. Throughout the planning unit, there are key winter and summer deer range, fawning areas, and major deer migration corridors. Rainbow,

Lake Spaulding Planning Unit

Existing Conditions

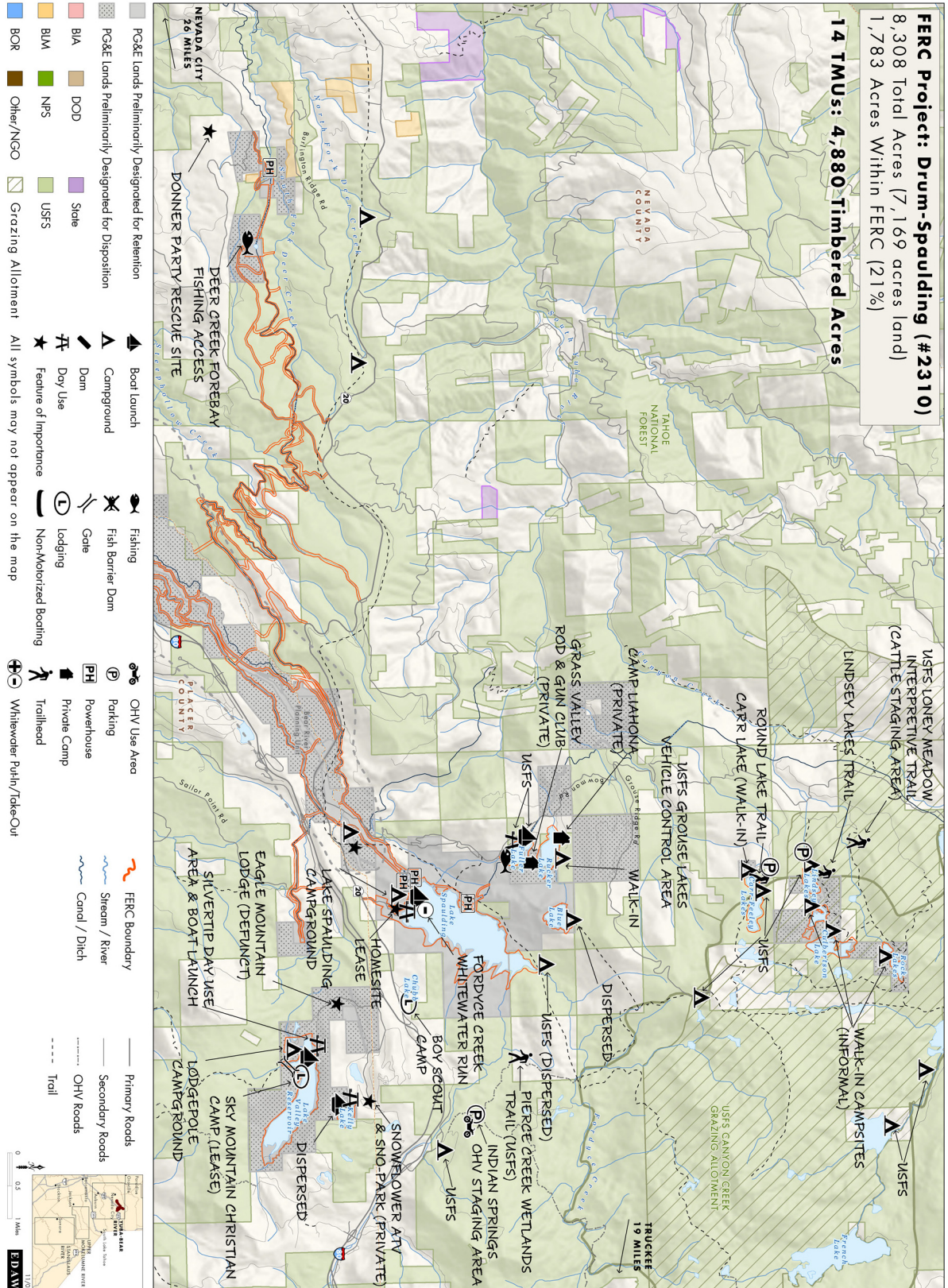


Figure YB-3

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brook, and brown trout, as well as smallmouth bass, are among the fishery opportunities, many of which are of high quality.¹

Open Space

The open space character of the Sierra Nevada is maintained throughout the planning unit. As elevation increases, the vegetation transitions from mixed conifer hardwood forest to lodgepole pine and fir forest. Other habitat types include lakes, riparian corridors, wet meadows, fens, and patches of alder and willow. Barren mountain slopes and rock cover other portions of the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit.

Outdoor Recreation

With its diverse natural setting and abundance of scenic lakes, the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit is an ideal recreation spot. As shown in Figure YB-3, Lake Spaulding is the largest of the lakes and offers boating, camping, angling, and whitewater boating opportunities. Lake Spaulding recreation facilities include a campground with 25 forested sites, a day use area with formal boat launch, restrooms, and a large parking area. In addition, a dispersed and primitive boat-in camping area is located on the northeastern shore. For whitewater boaters, the Fordyce Creek and Spaulding Runs terminate in Lake Spaulding. There is one homesite lease located south of Lake Spaulding.

To the northwest of Lake Spaulding, Fuller Lake is a popular angling lake with a PG&E-managed day use area and boat launch on USFS lands. Fishing access is available on PG&E lands adjacent to the south side of the dam. The Grass Valley Rod and Gun Club is located on the northern shore on private lands.

Rucker Lake provides fishing, non-motorized boating, parking for a rustic trailhead, and camping at a PG&E-managed walk-in campground on USFS lands. The site is not heavily used due to a difficult access road, the walk-in nature of the campground, and the shallowness of the lake. Camp Liahona,

a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) camp for girls, is located on the northern shore of Rucker Lake on USFS land. To the east, Blue Lake is an attractive lake with a heavily forested shoreline. Dispersed, walk-in only campsites are available at this lake. Blue Lake is reached by an unimproved road that is only passable with a four-wheel drive vehicle. Private residences and PG&E lands are found around Blue, Rucker, and Fuller Lakes.

To the north, Carr and Feeley Lakes provide hike-in camping opportunities. Day use activities include an extensive network of non-motorized trails for such activities as hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian riding. Carr and Feeley Lakes are located within the Grouse Lakes Vehicle Control Area, which provides a variety of recreation opportunities in a remote, non-motorized setting. With many scenic lakes, the area has been proposed for Federal Wilderness designation and offers a semi-primitive experience for outdoor enthusiasts.

Further north, Lower Lindsey Lake allows car camping on the western shoreline in a USFS campground. Walk-in only sites and dispersed camping options for backpackers and anglers are found at Middle and Upper Lindsey Lakes, Culbertson Lake, and Lower and Upper Rock Lakes, as well as on the surrounding USFS lands. These lakes offer picturesque settings that are historically less crowded and more tranquil, with remote hiking and fishing opportunities.



Floating on Lake Valley Reservoir

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Marked cedar tree at Lake Valley Reservoir

As shown in Figure YB-3, the Lake Valley Reservoir and Kelly Lake provide additional recreation opportunities. The PG&E-operated day use area at Kelly Lake to the north of Lake Valley Reservoir is accessed via a gated entrance at the private Snowflower Resort. On the northwestern shore of Lake Valley Reservoir, PG&E operates the Silvertip Day Use area; across the reservoir, the Lodgepole Campground offers 35 sites in a forested setting. The Sky Mountain Christian Camp holds a lease from PG&E along the reservoir shoreline for a recreational camp. Sky Mountain maintains a lodge with spectacular views of the reservoir and includes facilities such as cabins, gymnasium, soccer field, and shoreline swimming area.

North of Lake Valley Reservoir, the former Eagle Mountain Lodge currently remains unoccupied. This facility once served as a popular base for snow sport activities such as cross-country skiing and included a small store, outdoor camping area, sweat lodge, river access, ample parking, and a bicycle obstacle course.

West on Highway 20, the Deer Creek Forebay Fishing Access is found along the USFS-operated Pioneer Trail, which extends from Lake Spaulding to Nevada City. The day use area is generally frequented by nearby residents and provides angling opportunities.

Forest Resources

Historic fire suppression has left the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit stocked with timber resources that have been divided into 14 Timber Management Units (TMUs), totaling 4,880 acres. Almost 85% of the TMUs are managed under a Multiple-Use management category. Multiple-Use management promotes sustained timber production, balanced with the goal of protecting and using other resources and facilities in the TMU, which may preclude timber harvesting as the primary focus.

The remaining TMU acreage is under the management categories of Sustainable Timber, Salvage, or Recreation and Sustainable Timber. Under the Sustainable Timber category, the principal activity is timber extraction with an emphasis on protecting water quality, wildlife and fisheries habitat, soils, carbon sequestration, and cultural resources. The Salvage category is not primarily managed for sustained forest production; rather, it is managed for reducing fuel loading, removing hazard trees, and improving forest aesthetics. Similarly, the Recreation and Sustainable Timber Management category emphasizes providing recreation opportunities that are compatible with timber management, while reducing fuel loading, removing hazard trees, and improving forest aesthetics.

A timber harvest of 240 acres is scheduled for 2008 on lands in the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit. Lands in the Lindsey Lakes area of the



Aquatic vegetation in Rucker Lake

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Grouse Lakes region area are included in this harvest of about one million board feet. In 2001, the catastrophic Gap Fire destroyed the majority of mature forests on PG&E lands in the northern and western portion of Lake Valley Reservoir. Since the fire, PG&E has restocked the area with seedlings to promote revegetation.

Agricultural Uses

There are no grazing leases in the planning unit, but PG&E lands are included in the Canyon Creek allotment, which is managed by the USFS. This allotment surrounds the northern lakes in the Grouse Lakes area and supports 75-80 cattle in an area of approximately 25,000 acres. The lessee has been grazing the area for decades and uses the USFS Loney Meadow as a staging area (see Figure YB-3).

Historic Resources

Native American history and culture are present in the Lake Spaulding region. Several petroglyphs are found in the area, and the non-profit group, Friends of Sierra Rock Art, has worked in coordination with the USFS to protect these prehistoric sites from vandalism. The Maidu, Washoe, and Nisenan-Southern Maidu groups are historic inhabitants of the area. In total, 16 archeological sites have been found during studies conducted as part of the Drum-Spaulding Project, of which half are historic and half are prehistoric.

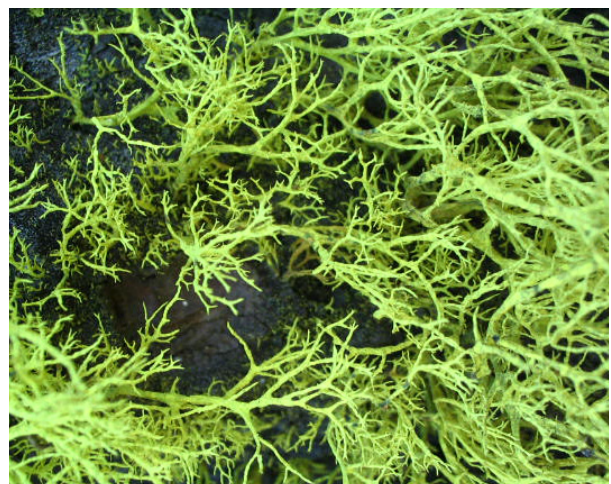
Early California history is still evident in the planning unit with the Overland Emigrant Trail that crosses the Deer Creek portion of the planning unit. Early settlers camped in various parts of this area, and the Donner Party passed through this area. Among the historic sites is an old logging railroad to the west of Lake Spaulding.



Rucker Lake

Stewardship Council Recommendations

The Stewardship Council recommends that the land and land uses at the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit be preserved and enhanced by focusing primarily on public access and recreation, sustainable forestry, as well as biological and cultural resources protection. In presenting the Recommended Concept provided here, our objective is to preserve and enhance habitat, open space, recreation, and cultural resources, while also protecting and preserving important forest resources. Last, we also recommend that an evaluation be undertaken to consider potential enhancement of grazing opportunities. All of these efforts must be conducted in close coordination with PG&E and



Lichen at Kelly Lake

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the upcoming FERC relicensing efforts for the area.

Objective: Preserve and enhance biological and cultural resources, enhance public access, recreation opportunities, and sustainable forestry management, and evaluate the potential for enhanced grazing opportunities.

As shown on Table YB-2, the Stewardship Council has identified a number of preservation and/or enhancement measures that may contribute to the conservation management program for the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit. Additional detail and background regarding these potential measures can be found in the Supporting Analysis for Recommendations, provided under separate cover. These measures are intended to be illustrative in nature, not prescriptive, and will be amended, deleted, or augmented over time in coordination with future land owners and managers to best meet the objective for this planning unit.

Fish, Plant, and Wildlife Habitat

Objective: Preserve and enhance habitat in order to protect special biological resources.



Day use area at Fuller Lake

The Lake Spaulding Planning Unit offers a variety of habitat for both plants and wildlife. In order to preserve and enhance the habitat and resources found here, the Stewardship Council recommends that baseline studies and plans be developed to gain a clear understanding of the resources (particularly outside the relicensing study area where little information is currently available or will be provided by relicensing studies). These studies will likely be followed by management plans to ensure implementation of preservation and enhancement measures for specific resources. Management of the property to preserve and enhance habitat will also include addressing noxious weeds. The Stewardship Council encourages close coordination with the USFS and other resource-focused organizations working in the region, and that all planning be considered in conjunction with fuels, forest, and recreation management plans, as well as any future FERC license required plans.

Open Space

Objective: Preserve open space in order to protect natural and cultural resources, the wilderness character of the region, and continued low-intensity recreation experiences.

The Lake Spaulding Planning Unit is located in a scenic and remote landscape. This concept would preserve open space by limiting the construction of human-made features to low impact recreation improvements, as well as through permanent conservation easements. Conservation easements would describe all prohibited uses to maintain open space values, including the level of uses allowed and the requirement to maintain scenic qualities.

Outdoor Recreation

Objective: Enhance recreational facilities in order to provide additional public access, and enhance recreation opportunities and management.

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Recreation opportunities in this remote and scenic setting include camping, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, OHV use, and boating. Located near the Tahoe National Forest and the Grouse Lakes region, this planning unit and surrounding region have a variety and abundance of recreation opportunities. As shown in Figure YB-4, the Stewardship Council looks to enhance these opportunities by recommending additional trail opportunities and recreation experience enhancements. We recommend enhancements focused on developing a recreation management plan, expanding available trail networks and signage, coordinating with the USFS on trail integration, expanding fishing access with ADA accessible facilities, and investigating the potential to reopen a public lodge at the former Eagle Mountain Camp. We recommend these enhancements be considered in close cooperation with PG&E as well as upcoming FERC relicensing efforts and related recreation planning.



Boating on Lake Spaulding

the noxious weed and wildlife and habitat management plans, as well as future FERC license required plans. We expect that all of these plans would be developed in coordination with management and practices of the USFS and Placer and Nevada Counties, as appropriate.

Sustainable Forestry

Objective: Develop and implement forestry practices in order to contribute to and promote a sustainable forest, preserve and enhance habitat, as well as to ensure appropriate fuel load and fire management.

The Lake Spaulding Planning Unit is heavily forested and managed to balance natural resources protection with forest health, public safety, and timber harvesting (when appropriate). The recent catastrophic fire and scheduled timber harvest underscore the complexity of managing this valuable and important resource. The Stewardship Council recommends that future care and management of the property include developing a long-term vision for forest management in the area which addresses silvicultural practices, holistic watershed management, fuels management, and fire management and response. The fire management and response, fuels, and forest management plans should be developed in conjunction with

Agricultural Uses

Objective: Identify potential grazing opportunities in order to enhance agricultural resources and related economic benefits.

While there are no active grazing leases in the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit, the Stewardship Council looks to enhance agricultural opportunities and associated important economic uses as part of the long-term management of the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit. This would be achieved by evaluating the potential for grazing opportunities in coordination with the adjacent USFS Canyon Creek allotment. To support this effort, we anticipate that a baseline conditions report will be required to describe current agricultural, physical, and overall biological conditions of the area. From this, specific determinations can be made to identify and manage grazing practices in balance with other uses and values of the property.

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Preservation of Historic Values

Objective: Identify and manage cultural resources in order to ensure their protection, as well as to support opportunities for public education.

Native Americans and early California pioneers were once inhabitants of the area, and various cultural resources have been found within the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit. The Stewardship Council aims to support an increased understanding of cultural resources and ensure they are appropriately protected. To meet this objective, we recommend that cultural resource studies be conducted to understand the resources found throughout the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit (particularly outside the relicensing study area where less information is available or will be provided by relicensing studies). The Stewardship Council recommends that appropriate management plans be developed and implemented, and that opportunities to support public education regarding cultural resources be considered. Throughout this effort, the Stewardship Council recommends close coordination with Native American entities, as well as PG&E and upcoming FERC relicensing efforts. When developing a plan that affects religious or sacred places, special effort will be undertaken to consult with spiritual religious leaders of the tribes.

Endnote

¹ In addition, DFG augments native lake populations by stocking trout when the lake is not already dominated by bullhead catfish.

Table YB-2 Objectives to Preserve and/or Enhance – Recommended Concept

Planning Unit Objective: Preserve and enhance biological and cultural resources, enhance public access, recreation opportunities, and sustainable forestry management, and evaluate the potential for enhanced grazing opportunities.		
Beneficial Public Value	Objective	Potential Measures to Preserve and/or Enhance BPVs – Not Requirements*
Protection of the Natural Habitat of Fish, Wildlife, and Plants	Preserve and enhance habitat in order to protect special biological resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct surveys outside the relicensing study area to identify biological resources and enable their protection. • Develop a wildlife and habitat management plan in coordination with adjacent landowners. • Develop a noxious weed management plan in coordination with noxious weed abatement efforts. • Assess the adverse impacts of recreation and agricultural use on habitat.
Preservation of Open Space	Preserve open space in order to protect natural and cultural resources, the wilderness character of the region, and continued low-intensity recreation experiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply permanent conservation easements to ensure a higher level of open space protection.
Outdoor Recreation by the General Public	Enhance recreational facilities in order to provide additional public access, and enhance recreation opportunities and management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a recreation management plan for lands outside the FERC boundary. • Support the expansion and integration of the trail network throughout the planning unit, in coordination with the USFS. • Improve trail signage to promote navigation and proper trail use. • Build and connect the trail system between Spaulding, Rucker, and Fuller Lakes.** • Investigate the potential for an ADA fishing platform at Fuller Lake.** • Investigate the potential to re-open the Eagle Mountain Lodge, in cooperation with an interested party, for outdoor recreation and educational opportunities.**
Sustainable Forestry	Develop and implement forestry practices in order to contribute to and promote a sustainable forest, preserve and enhance habitat, as well as to ensure appropriate fuel load and fire management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate existing timber inventory data and supplement as appropriate. • Develop a forest management plan for the planning unit to promote natural forest development and promote structural and physical diversity in forests for long-term ecological, economic, social, and cultural benefits. • Develop a fire management and response plan in the planning unit to ensure fire preparedness. • Develop a fuels management plan for the planning unit to ensure long-term forest health and reduce fuel loading and fire hazard. • Assess the potential to develop a demonstration forest for sustainable forestry research and management. • Promote forest connectivity in coordination with adjacent landowners, especially in areas abutting USFS California spotted owl Protected Activity Centers.
Agricultural Uses	Identify potential grazing opportunities in order to enhance agricultural resources and related economic benefits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the potential for grazing opportunities within the planning unit, in coordination with the adjacent USFS Canyon Creek allotment.
Preservation of Historic Values	Identify and manage cultural resources in order to ensure their protection, as well as to support opportunities for public education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct surveys outside the relicensing study area to identify cultural resources and enable their protection. • Develop a cultural resources management plan for the planning unit. • Install an interpretive kiosk about early California history at the Lake Spaulding Day Use Area.** • Coordinate with Native American entities when conducting cultural resource measures.

* This is a set of recommended possibilities for the preservation and enhancement of BPV's, and is not intended to be a set of requirements for future land management.

** Denotes site specific measure.

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Lake Spaulding Planning Unit Recommended Concept

POTENTIAL MEASURES:

- EVALUATE EXISTING TIMBER INVENTORY DATA & SUPPLEMENT AS APPROPRIATE
- DEVELOP A FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN TO PROMOTE NATURAL FOREST DEVELOPMENT & PROMOTE STRUCTURAL & PHYSICAL DIVERSITY IN FORESTS
- DEVELOP A FUELS MANAGEMENT PLAN, FIRE MANAGEMENT & RESPONSE PLAN & NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN
- PROMOTE FOREST CONNECTIVITY IN COORDINATION WITH ADJACENT LANDOWNERS, ESPECIALLY ABUTTING USFS CA SPOTTED OWL PROTECTED ACTIVITY CENTERS
- ASSESS THE POTENTIAL TO DEVELOP A DEMONSTRATION FOREST FOR SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT
- CONDUCT SURVEYS OUTSIDE THE FERC RELICENSING STUDY AREA TO IDENTIFY BIOLOGICAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES & ENABLE THEIR PROTECTION
- DEVELOP A CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN
- COORDINATE WITH NATIVE AMERICAN ENTITIES WHEN CONDUCTING CULTURAL RESOURCE MEASURES
- DEVELOP A WILDLIFE & HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN IN COORDINATION WITH ADJACENT LANDOWNERS
- DEVELOP A RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR LANDS OUTSIDE THE FERC BOUNDARY
- SUPPORT THE EXPANSION & INTEGRATION OF THE TRAIL NETWORK THROUGHOUT THE PLANNING UNIT IN COORDINATION WITH USFS
- IMPROVE TRAIL SIGNAGE TO PROMOTE NAVIGATION & PROPER TRAIL USE
- EVALUATE THE POTENTIAL FOR GRAZING OPPORTUNITIES IN COORDINATION WITH THE ADJACENT USFS CANYON CREEK ALLOTMENT

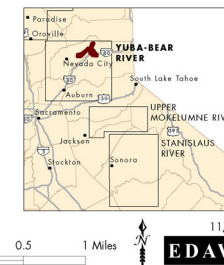
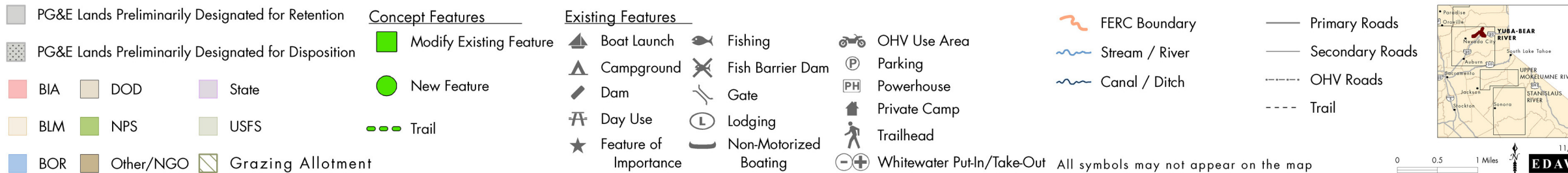
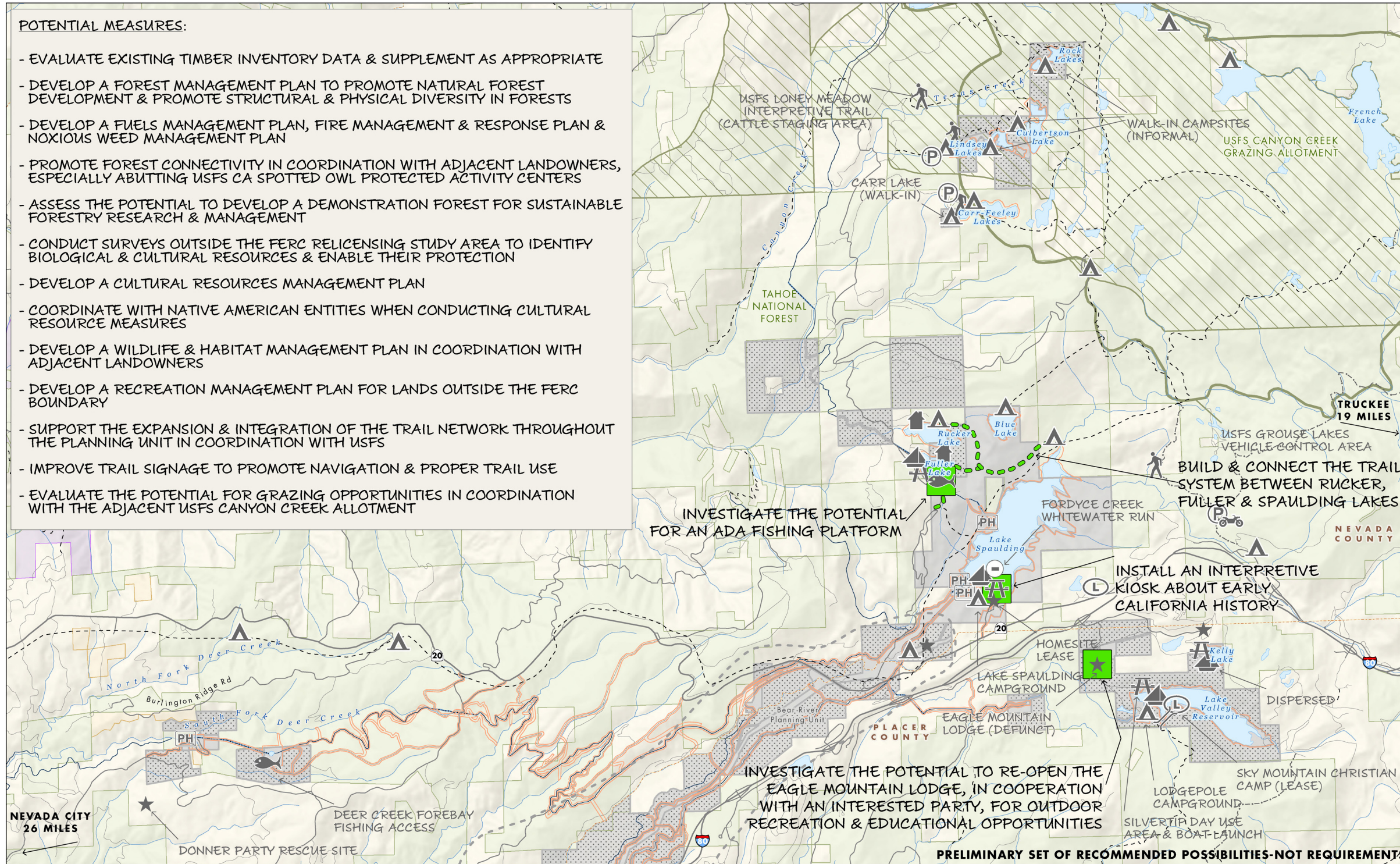


Figure YB-4

Lake Spaulding Planning Unit

Above all, the Stewardship Council recommends close coordination with the upcoming relicensing effort to ensure consistency with proposed studies and subsequent actions to avoid any inconsistency or duplication of efforts. Given the range of biological, recreation, and cultural studies to be conducted and the study area boundaries, it is expected that most information needs on lands inside the FERC boundary will be met. Recommended additional study efforts or assessments are intended to provide only information that may not be obtained by the relicensing studies and that are considered necessary to fully support the LCP.

Fish, Plant, and Wildlife Habitat

Potential Measures:

- *Conduct surveys outside the relicensing study area to identify biological resources and enable their protection.*
- *Develop a wildlife and habitat management plan in coordination with adjacent landowners.*

The Stewardship Council recommends promoting the protection and enhancement of habitat values by conducting surveys outside the FERC relicensing study area to identify biological resources. Due to the great diversity of flora and fauna already identified in previously studied areas in the planning unit, such as special status species, a wildlife and habitat management plan would be developed. This plan would be coordinated with adjacent landowners such as the USFS to ensure consistent management. Forest connectivity would be promoted through coordinated protection of lands adjacent to the many USFS California spotted owl Protected Activity Centers (PACs). Wildlife corridors would be identified and enhanced through the development of buffers to enhance species recovery and reduce the potential impact of forest fragmentation. Consistent with the forest management plan, harvesting would not occur in areas determined critical and important for special status species or sensitive habitats, such as late successional forest.

Potential Measure:

- *Develop a noxious weed management plan in coordination with noxious weed abatement efforts.*

Additionally, an inventory of noxious weeds throughout the planning unit would be performed to determine the threat of invasive species. As noxious weeds have been previously identified in the planning unit, a noxious weed management plan would be developed to eradicate and control them. This plan would be coordinated with the proposed noxious weed abatement effort in Placer County.

Potential Measure:

- *Assess the adverse impacts of recreation and agricultural use on habitat.*

Recreation and agricultural use have contributed to negative impacts on both habitat and visual quality around various lakes and on roads in the Grouse Lakes region. The Stewardship Council recommends an assessment of erosion impacts on habitat from recreation activities such as OHV use and shoreline campsites to determine potential restoration needs. Measures would be adopted at roads and recreation areas to reduce detrimental habitat impacts, especially near water courses.

The assessment of adverse impacts would also be conducted in areas with cattle grazing. These habitat enhancement activities would be coordinated with the USFS, PG&E, and FERC as necessary.

Open Space

Potential Measure:

- *Apply permanent conservation easements to ensure a higher level of open space protection.*

The Stewardship Council recommends preserving open space values through permanent conservation easements. Minimal development is recommended, and the aesthetic quality of the scenic lakes throughout the planning unit would be protected.

Outdoor Recreation

Potential Measure:

- *Develop a recreation management plan for lands outside the FERC boundary.*

Recreation uses on lands within the FERC boundary are managed under the existing Recreation Plan for the Drum-Spaulling Project, which may be updated as part of relicensing. However, there is no management guidance for recreation occurring on lands outside of the FERC boundary, which includes approximately 78% of the planning unit. Therefore, the Stewardship Council recommends developing a recreation management plan for lands outside the FERC boundary. Suggested elements of the recreation management plan include developing a recreation monitoring program, evaluating recreation needs, developing a dispersed recreation use management component, and developing an operations and maintenance program for any facilities developed outside of the FERC boundary. Development of the recreation management plan should be coordinated with relicensing efforts and any future FERC license required measures and plans.

Potential Measures:

- *Support the expansion and integration of the trail network throughout the planning unit, in coordination with the USFS.*
- *Improve trail signage to promote navigation and proper trail use.*
- *Build and connect the trail system between Spaulding, Rucker, and Fuller Lakes.*

Potential recreation improvements would include the expansion, connection, and improvement of hiking trails throughout the planning unit in coordination with the USFS, PG&E, and interested stakeholders to ensure public safety and non-conflictive use with present hydropower operations. Many hiking trails already exist in the area, and right-of-way easements through both USFS and PG&E lands would be necessary to expand and integrate this extensive trail network.

Additionally, the Stewardship Council recommends development of a trail that connects Lake Spaulding with Fuller and Rucker Lakes. Connecting with the USFS Pioneer Trail, this new trail would allow hikers and anglers a non-motorized access to these neighboring lakes. This trail would promote greater use of the less popular Rucker Lake for angling and camping as well as provide visitors with additional hiking opportunities. The Stewardship Council also recommends improving trail signage in the Lake Spaulding and Grouse Lakes areas. The improved signage,

indicating destination and distance along the trail and at selected landmarks, would not only assist visitors in navigating the extensive trail network, but also promote greater adherence to trail use designations. A large map of the trail network at each trailhead that includes information about the regulations and amenities – fire rings, the number of undesignated campsites, and activities supported – would inform visitors of the recreation opportunities available in the area.

Potential Measure:

- *Investigate the potential for an ADA fishing platform at Fuller Lake.*

Additionally, the Stewardship Council recommends facility improvements to enhance the recreation experience in the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit. One improvement would be to investigate the potential to install an ADA fishing platform at Fuller Lake. Fuller Lake is popular for shoreline and boat angling, and this fishing platform would be the first in the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit.

Potential Measure:

- *Investigate the potential to re-open the Eagle Mountain Lodge, in cooperation with an interested party, for outdoor recreation and educational opportunities.*

Additionally, the re-opening of the defunct Eagle Mountain Lodge, in coordination with an interested lessee, would be investigated to meet the demand for a winter recreation destination in this area. The facility has the possibility to be used as a recreation lodge with year-round access. Eagle Mountain is located near a river, scenic meadow, and a short distance from Lake Valley Reservoir, and could be used as a starting point for hiking, nature appreciation, mountain biking, and snow sports such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. It is close to Interstate 80 and is the closest snow sport location for Sacramento and Bay Area residents. Also, it would be possible to utilize the site for youth programs for both day and overnight use. In addition to outdoor recreation, educational and interpretive activities could be conducted at the facility and the surrounding environs.

Sustainable Forestry

Potential Measures:

- *Evaluate existing timber inventory data and supplement as appropriate.*
- *Develop a forest management plan for the planning unit to promote natural forest development and promote structural and physical diversity in forests for long-term ecological, economic, social, and cultural benefits.*
- *Promote forest connectivity in coordination with adjacent landowners, especially in areas abutting USFS California spotted owl Protected Activity Centers.*

A large percentage of the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit is under the Multiple-Use Timber Management Unit (TMU) category, warranting a measure that promotes sustainable forestry and other values inherent to the planning unit. Under the Stewardship Council recommendations, a forest management plan would be developed through the evaluation of existing forest inventory data and supplemented with additional information, when appropriate. This baseline information would be used to determine appropriate forest management practices, as well as forest monitoring and timber extraction goals. In addition to supporting natural forest development, the forest management plan would promote holistic watershed management, compatible with recommended

enhancements, such as the wildlife and habitat management plan and the rangeland management plan to ensure consistent and complementary actions.

In areas where timber extraction is consistent with the forest management plan, timber harvesting techniques would be promoted that maintain mosaics of forest stands of different age, size, and rotation period. In addition to utilizing PG&E's uneven-age selection harvest system, the Stewardship Council recommends including harvesting practices and a monitoring program to protect watercourses and lakes and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests. Measures such as maintaining large woody debris near watercourses for wildlife habitat and wider riparian buffers, beyond the thresholds of the California Forest Practice Rules, would be essential to minimize sedimentation and water quality issues. Additionally, snags and downed woody debris would be maintained in forest stands of TMUs under the Salvage management prescription for wildlife habitat and forest regeneration when not a safety, fire, or disease hazard. Post-harvest, a monitoring plan would be developed to ensure that forest management and the proposed harvesting schedule would be consistent with the forest management plan, promoting natural forest development in perpetuity.

Potential Measures:

- *Develop a fuels management plan for the planning unit to ensure long-term forest health and reduce fuel loading and fire hazard.*
- *Develop a fire management and response plan in the planning unit to ensure fire preparedness.*

Furthermore, the Stewardship Council recommends developing a fuels management plan to ensure long-term forest health and reduce fuel loading and fire hazard throughout the planning unit. This area has been historically fire-suppressed, and a fuels management plan would aid in the prevention of high intensity fires, promote forest structure and composition, as well as foster natural regeneration in these forests. Currently, the USFS is managing adjacent lands for fire management to reduce fire hazard and promote wildlife habitat, recreation, and visual quality. Coordination with USFS management, adjacent landowners, and fire and vegetation management plans in the area would foster a holistic approach to the forest, habitat, and recreation resources in the vicinity of the planning unit. Additionally, the Stewardship Council recommends developing a fire management and response plan for the planning unit, especially for lands that are developed or located at the urban interface. The fire management and response plan would include fire prevention measures to promote public awareness about fire danger as well as identify the provisions and staffing needs to carry out an appropriate response to fire.

Potential Measure:

- *Assess the potential to develop a demonstration forest for sustainable forestry research and management.*

The Stewardship Council recommends assessing the potential for the development of a demonstration forest to promote sustainable forest management and research. This demonstration forest would represent forests of the northern Sierra Nevada area and include a variety of forest types found in the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit. Research would focus on developing best management practices focused on such research themes as biodiversity conservation, soil conservation, habitat protection, and fire management consistent with the natural fire regime. Management would also include monitoring, silvicultural practices to promote habitat and biological diversity, and studies related to carbon sequestration. The development of a

demonstration forest would be consistent with the goals and objectives of the forest management plan for the planning unit.

Agricultural Uses

Potential Measure:

- *Evaluate the potential for grazing opportunities within the planning unit, in coordination with the adjacent USFS Canyon Creek allotment.*

Additionally, the Stewardship Council recommends evaluating the potential for grazing opportunities within the planning unit, in coordination with the adjacent USFS Canyon Creek allotment. Although the acreage needed to graze cattle is dependent on available forage and overall allotment conditions, substantial amounts of land are required for grazing at higher elevations. This recommendation would help provide forage resources for cattle in this area. Large portions of the allotment are barren rock, and the forage on PG&E lands could supplement existing grazing resources.

In the event that grazing is extended to the planning unit, a baseline conditions report would be developed to ensure the existence of adequate grazing conditions. This report would describe the current physical and biological conditions of the area, including current land uses and state of improvement. Additionally, a rangeland management plan for grazing could be developed to detail the goals and objectives for agricultural land use. This plan would ensure that grazing use within the planning unit meets the Stewardship Council policy for agricultural uses on Watershed Lands.

Any potential grazing opportunity would not significantly impact cultural resources, habitat or recreation opportunities. In the event that grazing is extended to the planning unit, the rangeland management plan would be coordinated with the cultural resources management plan, and wildlife and habitat management plan.

Preservation of Historic Values

Potential Measures:

- *Conduct surveys outside the relicensing study area to identify cultural resources and enable their protection.*
- *Develop a cultural resources management plan for the planning unit.*
- *Coordinate with Native American entities when conducting cultural resource measures.*

Due to the prominent Native American and pioneer history in the area, cultural surveys would be performed in areas not previously surveyed, such as areas outside the FERC relicensing study area, to identify and protect cultural resources. Petroglyphs have been found in the Lake Spaulding Planning Unit, and the Stewardship Council recommends avoiding any conflicting use in areas deemed culturally important. Based on the results of cultural resource surveys, a cultural resources management plan would be developed to determine protection measures for cultural and historic sites. Such protection measures could include education, fencing, patrolling, and the relocation of trails and public access to non-sensitive areas. Documentation of cultural sites and development of the cultural resources management plan would be coordinated with Native American entities. Additionally, the cultural resources management plan would be developed in

cooperation with PG&E to ensure compatibility with hydropower operation activities. When developing a plan that affects religious or sacred places, special effort will be undertaken to consult with spiritual religious leaders of the tribes.

Potential Measure:

- *Install an interpretive kiosk about early California history at the Lake Spaulding Day Use Area..*

In the Lake Spaulding Day Use Area, an interpretive kiosk would be installed to inform visitors of the rich, early California history found in the area. This kiosk would provide visitors with information related to pioneer life, the Overland Emigrant Trail, gold mining, and the Donner Party. This kiosk would be constructed in coordination with interested stakeholders, Native American entities, and the historians from the Donner Party State Park in Truckee. Additionally, the development of the early California history kiosk would be coordinated with the cultural resources kiosk in the Bear River Planning Unit to provide a breadth of interpretive information related to cultural resources in the area.