

Lake McCloud Planning Unit

Fish, Plant, and Wildlife Habitat

Potential Measure:

- *Conduct surveys of lands outside the FERC boundary to identify biological resources and enable their protection.*

Currently, there is very little biological information available for the planning unit. Though most of the planning unit lies within the FERC boundary and would therefore be incorporated into habitat and species studies conducted for relicensing, it is likely that lands outside the FERC boundary would not be studied as part of relicensing. Therefore, the Stewardship Council recommends conducting surveys of lands outside the FERC boundary, located around and south of the dam, to identify biological resources and thus gain a broader understanding of existing habitats and species to better enable their protection. Such information would be valuable in making future management decisions.

Potential Measure:

- *Work with the USFS to investigate stability measures for the area around the access road below the dam to reduce erosion.*

There are road stability issues with the USFS access road on planning unit lands from the dam south approximately one mile, where landslides are known to occur and the road washes out. Currently, road width has decreased due to rockfall. To reduce further sedimentation and erosion, the Stewardship Council recommends working with the USFS to investigate stability measures for the area around the access road. This measure could also provide safer, more reliable access for recreationists.

Potential Measure:

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

There are potentially nine species of noxious weeds within the McCloud-Pit FERC Project area, including one known population of yellow starthistle at Lake McCloud. The planning unit may also contain several special status plants. There is also potential for vehicles to bring noxious weeds into the planning unit (seeds in the tires) along the access road below the dam, which is located on lands outside of the FERC boundary. To enhance habitat for native and special status plants, the Stewardship Council recommends developing a noxious weed management plan for lands outside the FERC boundary, consistent with existing PG&E noxious weed efforts, and relevant measures and/or plans developed as part of relicensing.

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. Conservation easements would describe all prohibited uses to maintain

open space values, including the level of uses allowed. Recommendations do not include development of any new sites and are therefore not expected to decrease the scenic quality of the viewsheds.

Outdoor Recreation

Potential Measure:

- *Monitor recreation use below the dam along the McCloud River and manage recreation use consistent with the McCloud River Coordinated Resource Management Plan.*

The extent to which recreation use immediately below the dam is occurring is unknown, as well as whether any impacts to other resources are occurring. Anglers can access the river via the stairs down to the PG&E stream gage below the dam. It is likely that any recreation use below the dam (perhaps hiking and fishing) is focused on the river area, which is included in the McCloud River Coordinated Resource Management Plan boundary. The plan mandates that recreation within the lower McCloud area be dispersed and accessed by trails. The Stewardship Council recommends monitoring (and documenting) recreation use below the dam around the river and managing any recreation use that is occurring in a manner consistent with the McCloud River Coordinated Resource Management Plan to enhance recreation and protect habitat.

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 structural and physical diversity in forests for long-term ecological, economic, social, and cultural benefits, consistent with the McCloud River Coordinated Resource Management Plan.*

The planning unit contains forest resources primarily below the dam, as this is the main land acreage within the planning unit. Forest stands are located along the access road and the McCloud River and include some old-growth trees, which could provide habitat for a variety of late successional habitat dependent species. The McCloud River Coordinated Resource Management Plan outlines fuels and wildlife management objectives and allowable practices, which apply to 80 acres of planning unit lands below the dam as well as all public and private lands along the McCloud River. The Stewardship Council recommends developing a forest management plan for the planning unit that is consistent with the McCloud River Coordinated Resource Management Plan. The forest management plan would be developed through the evaluation of existing forest inventory data and supplemental information, when appropriate. In addition to supporting natural forest development, the forest management plan would promote holistic watershed management, supporting the enhancement of other BPVs over the long term. Additionally, the forest management plan should be developed in coordination with any relevant plans that are developed as part of relicensing.

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, harvesting practices and a monitoring program would be developed to protect watercourses and lakes and

promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests. 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 Measure:

- *Develop a fuels management plan for lands outside the FERC boundary to ensure long-term forest health and reduce fuel loading and fire hazard.*

To protect late successional habitat and reduce fire risk, the Stewardship Council recommends developing a fuels management plan for lands outside the FERC boundary as most forest resources within the planning unit are located outside of the FERC boundary. The fuels management plan should be consistent with relevant measures and/or plans developed as part of relicensing.

Preservation of Historic Values

Potential Measure:

- *Incorporate cultural resource protection measures in conservation easements to protect any cultural resources found in the future in coordination with Native American entities.*

The Stewardship Council also recommends protecting any cultural resources found in the future through permanent conservation easements that include cultural resource protection measures. These measures would describe the process for addressing any cultural materials found during ground-disturbing activities. Development of appropriate cultural resource protection measures would be coordinated with Native American entities.

Agricultural Uses

None recommended.

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