

## Butt Valley Reservoir Planning Unit

### Outdoor Recreation

#### Potential Measure:

- *Develop a campfire interpretive program with topics such as Native American use of the area, special status species, and the history of hydropower development.*

The Stewardship Council recognizes opportunities to provide new recreation facilities and interpretation opportunities, as well as enhance safety as complementary measures to those already recommended as part of the UNFFR Project relicensing. The UNFFR Final EIS recommends creating an interpretation and education plan, including improvements such as signs, kiosks, and brochures on a variety of topics. However, the interpretation and education program does not include any live interpretation, such as interpretive talks. Recognizing the rich cultural history of the area and the large nighttime audience from the two campgrounds, the Stewardship Council recommends developing a campfire interpretive program that would focus on giving interpretive talks and demonstrations on topics such as Native American use of the area, history of hydropower development, and special status species in Butt Valley. Facilitators could include USFS rangers, local Native Americans, historians, archeologists, and biologists.

#### Potential Measure:

- *Develop a simple outdoor amphitheater at Ponderosa Flat Campground.*

In conjunction with developing this program, the Stewardship Council recommends the installation of a simple outdoor amphitheater for talks and demonstrations at the Ponderosa Flat Campground. Providing such an interpretive program and facility would increase visitor education on a range of topics, foster stewardship for natural and cultural resources, and teach visitors how to interact with and protect natural and cultural resources. Development of the campfire interpretive program should be coordinated with development of the UNFFR interpretation and education plan for consistency.

#### Potential Measure:

- *Implement dust control measures for the Prattville-Butt Reservoir Road in conjunction with the USFS and Plumas County.*

The Prattville-Butt Reservoir Road, maintained by Plumas County, provides the only vehicle access to the recreation facilities and the shoreline. As it is gravel, it can be very dusty, creating a potential driving hazard. To reduce this potential safety hazard and enhance the recreation setting for users, the Stewardship Council recommends implementing road dust control measures in conjunction with Plumas County and with the USFS, as the road crosses Plumas National Forest lands. The priority for this measure would be from the upstream end of the reservoir to Cool Springs Campground, the road section with the highest use.

#### Potential Measure:

- *Assess the potential to use solar energy to heat the proposed showers in the two campgrounds.*

Additionally, PG&E has agreed in the UNFFR Project Settlement Agreement to install two non-heated outdoor showers, one at each campground. Though it can be warm at the reservoir in the summer, the air temperature is not always warm enough to enjoy a non-heated shower. Therefore the Stewardship Council recommends investigating the use of solar energy to heat the proposed showers to extend the seasonal use for the showers and provide a more enjoyable recreation experience. An ancillary benefit would be the potential to educate the public about renewable energy resources through interpretive information near the shower facilities. Efforts related to this management Measure would be coordinated with UNFFR Project recreation development plans resulting from relicensing.

## **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 for the planning unit, consistent with the USFWS Biological Opinion for the UNFFR Project.*

To identify biological resources and enable their protection, biological surveys would be conducted outside the relicensing study area. The surveys may reveal additional special status plants and wildlife and habitat. Once surveys are completed, potential habitat enhancements, consistent with the USFWS Biological Opinion for the UNFFR Project, would be identified and developed into a comprehensive plan describing habitat and species goals and objectives, as well as measures to enhance and protect both wildlife and plant species. Monitoring of species and/or habitats would also be developed as a component of the plan. The wildlife and habitat management plan should be developed in conjunction with the other plans related to vegetation management, such as the noxious weed plan and fuels management plan.

### **Potential Measure:**

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

The UNFFR Final EIS notes that noxious weeds have been found in the same vicinity as sensitive plants at Butt Valley Reservoir. Although a vegetation and invasive weed management plan is recommended in the Final EIS, it would not apply to lands outside the FERC boundary. Therefore, the Stewardship Council recommends development of a noxious weed management plan for lands outside the FERC boundary. Such a plan would include baseline surveys and monitoring of noxious weeds and common invasive weeds (not listed as noxious), in addition to strategies for the management and eradication of noxious weeds. This plan should be developed in conjunction with UNFFR Project efforts to ensure management consistency.

## **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 adjacent management and the proposed UNFFR vegetation management plan and fire prevention and response plan.*

A forest management plan would be developed to promote natural forest development and structural and physical diversity in forests for long-term ecological, economic, social, and cultural benefits. In support of this plan, existing timber inventory data would be evaluated and supplemented as appropriate. The forest management plan would be developed to be consistent with the fuels treatment requirements of any future FERC license required vegetation management plan and fire prevention and response plan, as recommended by FERC in the Final EIS. Management would be coordinated with relevant county plans, as well as USFS management prescriptions for the adjacent Plumas National Forest to the extent possible to support forest connectivity and management consistency and foster a consistent approach to forest resources in this area. Increasing forest connectivity would benefit such species as osprey, bald eagle, and the California spotted owl.

### **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, consistent with the proposed UNFFR vegetation management plan and fire prevention and response plan.*

A fuels management plan would also be developed for the portion of the planning unit outside the FERC boundary to promote forest regeneration and prevent fuels build-up. Most of the over 350 acres of the planning unit outside the Project boundary are forested. Although fire is an historic component of the ecosystem in the area and aids in forest regeneration, a fuels reduction plan would reduce both unnatural fire severity and intensity. Together, both management plans would promote healthy ecosystem functioning and the maintenance of wildlife habitat. Like the recommended forest management plan, the recommended fuels management plan would be coordinated with relevant county plans and consistent with the fuels treatment requirements of any future FERC license required vegetation management plan and fire prevention and response plan, as recommended by FERC in the Final EIS.

## **Preservation of Historic Values**

### **Potential Measure:**

- *Conduct surveys outside the relicensing study area to identify cultural resources and enable their protection in coordination with Native American entities.*

The Stewardship Council also recommends surveys on planning unit lands outside the FERC relicensing study area to identify cultural resources and enable their protection. This measure would be coordinated with Native American entities. If determined necessary, a cultural resources management plan would be developed to identify protection and enhancement measures for these resources, consistent with the historic properties management plan (HPMP) to

be finalized after issuance of the New License. Many cultural sites have already been identified, and these proposed recommendations would provide the measures necessary to ensure the long-term protection of cultural resources in the planning unit.

## **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. It does not include development of any new sites and is therefore not expected to decrease the scenic quality of the viewsheds.

## **Agricultural Uses**

None recommended.