

Oroville Planning Unit

Fish, Plant, and Wildlife Habitat

Potential Measures:

- *Conduct surveys of the planning unit to identify biological resources and enable their protection.*
- *Assess and implement measures to protect vernal pool habitat and species at Western Canal parcels.*

Little specific data are available within the planning unit regarding terrestrial, botanical, and aquatic resources. Despite this lack of data, habitats within the planning unit likely provide for a variety of species. Therefore, the Stewardship Council recommends conducting surveys of the planning unit to identify biological resources and provide needed information for future management decisions. Based on currently available information, the parcel with the highest potential for habitat enhancement seems to be the southern Western Canal parcel adjacent to Highway 99, which needs to be further assessed for vernal pool habitat and associated special status species. Another area with potential to be protected is the area around the Diversion Pool with its oak woodland, deciduous forest habitat, and related aesthetic and recreational values. Other locations, especially ones that may experience minor physical improvements and/or are close to urban areas (especially at the Diversion Pool and at Miocene Canal, Lime Saddle, and Kunkle Reservoir locations) would also be assessed for their biological resources and respective habitat values and enhancement opportunities.

Potential Measure:

- *Develop a noxious weed management plan for the planning unit consistent with the proposed invasive species management plan for the adjacent Oroville Facilities FERC Project.*

The Stewardship Council also recommends development of a noxious weed management plan in coordination with the invasive species management plan that is proposed for the Oroville Facilities Hydroelectric Project to eradicate existing populations of noxious weeds where possible and implement preventative measures to minimize the spread of weeds in the future.

Outdoor Recreation

Potential Measure:

- *Assess flume trail access at Miocene Canal.*

Recreation enhancements include assessing access to the Miocene Canal Flume trails, as well as preserving the landscape near existing and recommended recreation facilities by maintaining the natural character, and thus the viewsheds, of the larger Lake Oroville State Recreation Area (LOSRA). Other recreation enhancements focus on supporting proposed Protection, Mitigation, and Enhancement measures for the Oroville Facilities Hydroelectric Project.

Potential Measures:

- *In coordination with the Oroville Facilities Recreation Management Plan, provide an easement for a mountain bike/hiking trail on the south side of the Diversion Pool.*
- *Assess the Parish Camp site for recreation use and the potential for youth program opportunities.*

The first of two enhancements is providing an easement for a new mountain bike/hiking trail on the south side of the Diversion Pool. It would provide another trail for mountain bikers, helping to reduce existing conflicts with equestrians on portions of the Dan Beebe Trail. The trail would be in proximity to and easily accessible from the City of Oroville, and would provide more trail opportunities for the local population. The other enhancement is located at the Parish Camp site near the Lime Saddle Marina. The Stewardship Council recommends assessing the site for potential uses, including youth program opportunities, and recreation uses that could complement existing uses on adjacent land. Providing for recreation or youth program use at Parish Camp potentially could require the removal of any remaining cabins and other facilities.

Agricultural Uses

Potential Measures:

- *Develop a baseline conditions report that describes current agricultural, physical, and overall biological conditions of the area, including current uses and state of improvement.*
- *Develop a rangeland management plan for the grazing use that includes goals and objectives and a monitoring and adaptive management strategy, and specifies grazing practices that address soil and water conservation, erosion control, pest management, nutrient management, vegetation management, and habitat protection.*

To appropriately address grazing operations, the development of a baseline conditions report is recommended. This report would detail the current agricultural, physical, and overall biological conditions of the grazing lease areas north of the Diversion Pool and summarize the conditions in preparation for development of a rangeland management plan. The rangeland management plan would include goals and objectives and an adaptive management strategy, and may address topics including soil and water conservation, erosion control, pest management, nutrient management, vegetation management, habitat protection, and cultural resources management. It would also address resolution of any conflicts with recreation users in the area, potentially by adding appropriate fencing. These measures would maintain existing beneficial agricultural use close to the urban area and simultaneously provide open space protection.

Sustainable Forestry

Potential Measure:

- *Develop a fuels management plan for all urban interface areas to ensure long-term forest health and reduce fuel loading and fire hazard.*

The larger Oroville area has a continuous fire history, and fuel load management is an important factor in the Butte County landscape. Therefore, the Stewardship Council recommends developing a fuels management plan for all urban interface areas in coordination with the Butte County Safe Fire Council, DPR, and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

Apart from fuel load management close to the urban areas, the extent of forest resources in the planning unit is not sufficient to warrant additional management plans focused on forest resources.

Preservation of Historic Values

Potential Measures:

- *Assess old powerhouses for historic value and eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP.*
- *Conduct surveys in enhancement areas to identify cultural resources and enable their protection.*
- *Incorporate cultural resource protection measures in the conservation easements to protect any cultural resources found in the future.*
- *Coordinate with Native American entities when conducting cultural resource measures.*

The Stewardship Council recommends assessing the 100-year-old powerhouses at Coal Canyon and Lime Saddle for their historic value and possible eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP and surveying for cultural resources in other areas that are recommended for enhancement. Such areas include those with current uses, such as the grazing lease parcels on the north side of Diversion Pool where cultural resources are likely to exist. The Stewardship Council also recommends including the identification and protection of any cultural resources by precluding development in the planning unit and by defining cultural resource protection language in permanent conservation easements. For example, if any cultural resources were found during ground-disturbing activities, these measures would describe the process for protecting them. The NRHP eligibility evaluation, cultural resource surveys, and development of cultural resource protection measures in conservation easements should be coordinated with Native American entities.

Open Space

Potential Measures:

- *Apply permanent conservation easements to ensure a higher value of open space protection.*
- *Protect viewsheds and provide buffers from encroaching population growth.*

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. Maintaining open space would protect viewsheds within the planning unit and create a buffer from encroaching population growth from the City of Oroville, particularly in the Diversion Pool area.

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