

Narrows 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 through permanent conservation easements. These easements, especially for the western parcel which is bordered by the Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center (SFREC), would create watershed continuity in this reach of the lower Yuba River, as well as provide habitat connectivity with the SFREC. As easements would limit or preclude development on the planning unit, the public would be able to appreciate the scenic qualities and natural beauty of this rocky canyon landscape from the Englebright Lake area and surrounding environs.

Fish, Plant, and Wildlife Habitat

Potential Measures:

- *Conduct surveys outside the FERC relicensing study area to identify biological resources and enable their protection.*
- *Conduct surveys throughout the planning unit to identify noxious weeds and develop measures for their control.*
- *Develop a wildlife and habitat management plan for the planning unit.*

The grasslands and grey pine-oak forest of the planning unit support a variety of biological species. The Stewardship Council recommends conducting surveys to identify biological resources outside the FERC relicensing study area. The results of these surveys would supplement biological studies conducted during relicensing in 1993. In addition, a survey of noxious weeds would be conducted throughout the planning unit to determine the presence of noxious species and develop measures for their eradication or control. The information from these surveys would provide the foundation for the development of a wildlife and habitat management plan for the planning unit. This plan would incorporate recommendations from various relicensing evaluations, including the monitoring and evaluation plan for steelhead and chinook salmon developed by the Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA), to create a management vision for the protection and enhancement of biological resources throughout the Narrows Planning Unit.

Potential Measures:

- *Support oak and river restoration efforts in coordination with local stakeholders.*
- *Develop an oak and river restoration test and demonstration site in coordination with interested stakeholders.*

Additionally, the wildlife and habitat management plan would support oak and river restoration efforts in collaboration with local stakeholders, including the YCWA. Regeneration has been a critical issue for this community type. With the results of the aforementioned biological surveys,

which would include a survey of oak woodlands, an oak and river restoration test and demonstration site would be developed on the planning unit lands. The goal of this measure would be to study the structure and dynamics of grey pine-oak forest, a common Sierra foothill ecosystem, as well as conduct research to foster an understanding of oak regeneration in situ. Due to the existence of large oaks in the planning unit as well as the proximity to the ongoing research at the SFREC, the planning unit would provide a unique opportunity to advance restoration efforts in oak woodland landscapes.

Potential Measure:

- *Support fisheries habitat monitoring, studies, and enhancements in coordination with the Lower Yuba River Accord.*

The riparian component of restoration efforts would be coordinated with the proposed Lower Yuba River Accord. The Lower Yuba River Accord aims to improve fisheries habitat, perform long-term fisheries monitoring, and promote physical restoration in the Lower Yuba River. The Stewardship Council recommends supporting riparian enhancements, as well as any subsequent restoration efforts, developed from this multi-institutional effort.

Potential Measure:

- *Support mercury contamination research, monitoring, and restoration efforts.*

Similarly, the Stewardship Council recommends supporting mercury contamination research, monitoring, and restoration efforts in the Yuba River Watershed. The planning unit would be made available for aquatic and wildlife assessments and monitoring led by the various groups involved with this issue. Assessments would relate to mercury loading in streams and soils as well as concentrations in fish and wildlife. Subsequent monitoring would be beneficial to fully understanding this complex situation throughout the watershed. The Stewardship Council recommends supporting and participating in restoration efforts identified and carried out by interested stakeholders.

Preservation of Historic Values

Potential Measure:

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

Lastly, a survey outside the FERC relicensing study area would be conducted to identify cultural resources in coordination with Native American entities. Based on the results of this survey, necessary protection measures would be developed to preserve cultural resources within the Narrows Planning Unit.

Outdoor Recreation

None recommended.

Recreation opportunities within the planning unit are limited due to the difficult access and steep and rocky slopes. Some opportunities may be supported in the planning unit, such as increased angling access; however, no specific measures have been recommended at this time due to the extensive coordination required between the SFREC and angling groups.

Sustainable Forestry

None recommended.

Agricultural Uses

None recommended.