

Doyle Springs Planning Unit

All of the recommended measures are for the 40-acre parcel at Doyle Springs. No measures are recommended for the three acres of transmission line corridor land downstream of Doyle Springs, as there is no known potential for enhancement, and the lands are needed for their current use.

The Doyle Springs Association (Association) has been interested for many years in acquiring the remaining small portion of their development that is still under lease from PG&E. The Association has made both PG&E and the Stewardship Council aware of their desire to trade undeveloped land owned by the Association at Doyle Springs for the lease area and possibly some additional surrounding land. The total land to be traded would be less than five of the 40 acres contained in the parcel. No recommended measures are intended to conflict with this potential land exchange. If additional lands were added to the planning unit due to such an exchange, the measures intended for the undeveloped portion of the lands would be extended to those new areas.

Preservation of Historic Values

Potential Measures:

- *Conduct surveys outside the FERC Project APE to identify cultural resources and enable their protection.*
- *Conduct an ethnographic study of the Doyle Springs parcel to identify traditional uses areas.*
- *Coordinate with Native American entities when conducting cultural resource measures.*

The Stewardship Council recommends investigating whether other historic resources are present in the planning unit in addition to known historic hydroelectric features. Currently, there is little information available regarding Native American cultural resources for the planning unit. The planning unit may also have remnants of pioneer development, former homestead, and traces from construction of hydroelectric facilities from the early 1900s. Cultural resource surveys conducted for FERC relicensing were limited to the Tule River Project Area of Potential Effects (APE), and lands outside the APE were not surveyed. Therefore, the Stewardship Council recommends conducting surveys of the Doyle Spring parcel outside the APE to identify cultural resources and enable their protection. In addition, to determine whether Native American ethnographic resources exist, the Stewardship Council recommends conducting an ethnographic study of the Doyle Springs parcel to identify any traditional use areas.

Potential Measures:

- *Develop a cultural resources management plan to ensure that cultural resources are provided adequate protection.*
- *Coordinate with Native American entities when conducting cultural resource measures.*

The Stewardship Council recommends developing a cultural resources management plan to ensure that cultural resources are provided adequate protection in the future. The plan would include appropriate measures for the identification, evaluation, and treatment of cultural resources (archaeological and historical), as well as traditional use areas. Treatment measures could include avoidance, specific protective measures (e.g., fencing), site monitoring, and methods to preserve, restore, or enhance cultural resource values through conservation easements, management agreements, or through public interpretation and education programs. The cultural

resource surveys and ethnographic study, and development of the cultural resources management plan, should be coordinated with Native Americans entities.

Outdoor Recreation

Potential Measure:

- *Install trailhead signage providing a map, information on trail routes, and informing hikers of private property that the trail crosses.*

The planning unit provides important access to the Doyle Trail, which leads to the higher elevation portions of the North Fork of the Middle Fork (NFMF) Tule River, as well as into Sequoia National Forest and National Monument. Currently, the signage at the Doyle trailhead is lacking trail distances, a map, and general information regarding the extraordinary surrounding resources that can be accessed within several miles. The Stewardship Council recommends installing trailhead signage providing information on trail routes to the river, routes to sequoia groves, as well as providing a map of area trails. Trailhead signage could also inform hikers of the private property crossed by the trail (the Doyle Springs private cabin development) to encourage hikers, backpackers, and anglers to respect private property and stay on the trail. Signage design and installation would be coordinated with the Sequoia National Forest (SNF), as the trailhead is located on, and provides access to, USFS lands.

Potential Measures:

- *Investigate potential for use of the flat, open area on the east side of the river as a day use and river access site.*
- *Provide interpretive signage of the area including information about Doyle's homestead, the Wishon family, and hydroelectric development.*

The flat and relatively open portion of the parcel at Doyle Springs on the east side of the NFMF Tule River has potential for development into a day use and river access area. The Stewardship Council recommends investigating opportunities and constraints of opening this area up for public access and use. Currently, no formal day use opportunities exist in this area, and the bridge over the river is blocked with a chain-link fence. Opportunities at this site could include use of the attractive, flat, grassy area in the vicinity of the old apple orchard as a day use facility. Interpretive features could also be installed at this site to enhance awareness and knowledge of the several aspects of area history and varied historic resources present. Possible constraints to providing public access to this site exist; these include potential vandalism and safety issues related to hydropower features (diversion dam, weir, trash rack, and canal), the Wishon cabin (if PG&E does not demolish it) and other structures, and the D.L. Wishon grave site. Consideration would need to be given to minimizing potential security and safety problems. The appropriateness of pedestrian access to the bridge, which has no railings, would also need to be assessed, as well as the potential fire risk and maintenance issues arising from introducing public use to the area. DFG recommends use of bear-proof dumpsters if recreation development occurs at this location to avoid wildlife conflicts.

Fish, Plant, and Wildlife Habitat

Habitat enhancements are also recommended with an emphasis on the approximately 20-acre undeveloped portion of the Doyle Springs parcel, which is outside the FERC boundary and outside the Association lease area.

Potential Measures:

- *Conduct surveys of lands outside the FERC boundary to identify biological resources.*
- *Develop a wildlife and habitat management plan for the Doyle Springs parcel.*

One special status plant species, the Springville clarkia is known to occur in three locations within the Tule River Project area, but it is not known if other sensitive species are also present on the majority of the parcel that lies outside the FERC boundary. Available data indicate that special status wildlife species such as the foothill yellow-legged frog and American marten may be present in the area. Because little data are available, the Stewardship Council recommends conducting surveys of lands outside the FERC boundary to identify biological resources and gain more complete knowledge of the wildlife, plants, and habitats located on the parcel to enable their protection. Following the surveys, a wildlife and habitat management plan for the parcel would be developed describing goals and objectives for habitat and species, as well as measures to enhance and protect habitat for both plant and wildlife species. Monitoring of species and/or habitats would also be a component of the plan.

Sustainable Forestry

Potential Measure:

- *Develop a fuels management plan for the Doyle Springs parcel.*

Due to the fire risk and presence of recreation development in the area, forest resources would be managed to reduce fuels and protect the viewshed and recreation setting. The existing Salvage prescription for 23 acres of timberland on the Doyle Springs parcel would be continued. Additionally, the Stewardship Council recommends incorporating forest management that minimizes fire risk in this high hazard and valuable resource area. To do this, a fuels management plan would be developed to minimize fire risk and ensure protection of the viewshed and recreation setting. The fuels management plan should be developed in conjunction with the wildlife and habitat management plan.

Potential Measure:

- *Develop a fire management and response plan, incorporating evaluation of the potential for construction of a fire break with the Sequoia National Forest and protections needed in response to proposed new recreation uses.*

The Stewardship Council also recommends developing a fire management and response plan for the Doyle Springs parcel to ensure fire preparedness and enhance fire prevention. A primary component of plan development would be an evaluation of constructing a fire break in coordination with SNF. The CDF already has installed a water tank for fire fighting on the parcel, primarily to protect the Doyle Springs cabin community. The plan would include fire prevention measures that take into account potential expanded recreation uses on the parcel, and the need to promote public awareness about fire danger and provide the provisions and staff for

an appropriate response to fire. The plan would be developed in coordination with the CDF and the SNF.

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. Recommendations include the potential development of a new recreation day use and river access site; however, it is not expected to decrease the scenic quality of the viewshed. Conservation easements would describe all prohibited uses to maintain open space values, including the level of uses allowed. Conservation easements would ensure protection of scenic surroundings to benefit Doyle Springs and general public recreation visitors.

Agricultural Uses

None recommended.