

Feather River Watershed

Comment	Commenter	Edit to Vol II Made	Response
FEATHER RIVER WATERSHED			
North Fork Feather River Planning Unit			
<p>One glaring omission is the lack of consideration for flatwater paddler use of the reservoirs in the canyon. Even though access to Cresta, Rock Creek, and Poe are extremely challenging, canoeists and kayakers do paddle these areas. I have personally paddled on these several times over the past couple of years. Simple, safe, trails, restrooms, trash, and adequate parking will greatly increase use.</p>	<p>Dan Efsaaff</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Existing Conditions map depicts non-motorized boating as occurring on the reservoirs and the Existing Conditions text states that boaters use informal river access sites. The text has been modified to clarify that this access also occurs on the small reservoirs. As part of FERC relicensing, PG&E has agreed to enhance access at Belden Forebay and Poe Reservoir. Studies conducted within the canyon for FERC relicensing have not indicated that similar enhancements are needed at Rock Creek or Cresta Reservoirs.</p>
<p>Caribou Crossing - Language has improved from staff concept to this draft (FR-81) to "evaluating the concession for resource impacts, aesthetics and facility condition to identify needed improvements". This evaluation, when conducted, should allow for a range of suggestions and methods.</p> <p>Upstream on Caribou Road - The new map (FR-76) and the narrative neglects to either visualize, define or describe a management plan for the substantial, existing [non-hydro] PG&E facilities (buildings, grounds, parking etc.) upstream on the Caribou Road. These should absolutely be part of Council management planning and possibly be included in other PG&E private leases (e.g. Caribou Crossing).</p>	<p>John Sheehan</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The buildings referred to at Caribou Village are owned by PG&E but are on USFS lands, and therefore are not under the purview of the Stewardship Council. (However, within the Upper North Fork Feather River (UNFFR) Project Settlement Agreement, PG&E has agreed to maintain the exterior of the buildings and the landscaping, in consultation with U.S. Forest Service (USFS).)</p>

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<p>Forestry: All forestry activities in Plumas County should specifically mandate coordination with the community specific prescriptions in the Plumas County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, adopted by the State Fire Marshall, the Board of Supervisors and the Plumas County Fire Safe Council on private land as well as the Herger Feinstein Quincy Library Group Act on National Forest lands. Objectives should stress collaboration with these two efforts, any future county policies affecting forestry and fuels management.</p> <p>PG&E is currently (actively promoting carbon offset opportunities for its ratepayers. P G & E also controls and manages a substantial land base in "timbered acres" (V.1, Appendix 6-2). The 51,700 acres statewide (including 5,350 acres in Plumas County) could be managed in ways designed to enhance carbon sequestration and "additionality". This would assist the implementation of AB 32 (global warming response) for both the state and the ratepayers.</p>	John Sheehan	Yes	<p>Text has been added to the Supporting Analysis for Recommendations and main Volume II documents to include coordination of development of the forest and fuels management plans with relevant county plans. Coordination with U.S. Forest Service (USFS) management prescriptions and practices is currently included as part of the potential measures, and would provide the coordination suggested related to the Herger Feinstein Quincy Library Group Act. Details regarding how forest resources would be managed in the future, including timber management and forest prescriptions, and addressing carbon sequestration, would be developed as part of the potential measure to develop a forest management plan for this planning unit. Conservation easements, and overall objectives for management plans, will be developed as part of the disposition process and will be included in the Disposition Packages (Volume IIIs). Specifics of management plans will likely be developed post transaction.</p>

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<p>The photo looking downstream from Highway 70 also includes an abandoned trail that runs along the west (river right) side of the North Fork. The trail, while not seen from the highway, closely follows the river in the deep shadows at the center of the photo. The trail is approximately 3 miles in length and can be walked with little difficulty. The trail begins just below the Bardees Bar road approximately three-quarters of a mile downstream from Bardees Bar and ends in Section 25 near the Poe Powerhouse access road. Reopening the trail would provide several river oriented recreational opportunities. The trail runs through PG&E property in Sections 13 and 25, T. 22 N., R. 4 E. It is requested that disposition of the PG&E lands occupied by the trail include provision for a public right of way at such time that the trail is reopened for public use.</p>	Mike Taylor	No	<p>As per the Settlement Agreement and Stipulation, PG&E must protect the Watershed Lands with perpetual conservation easement, or some equivalent legal mechanism, to preserve and enhance the six Beneficial Public Values (BPVs), including outdoor recreation by the general public. The Stewardship Council has made every effort to identify opportunities to enhance multiple BPVs in each planning unit without adversely impacting others. Conservation easements will be developed as part of the disposition process and will be included in the Disposition Packages. The easements will describe all prohibited uses to maintain open space values, including the level of uses allowed. There will be opportunities for the public and stakeholders to engage with the Stewardship Council and other stakeholders on topics related to the disposition and future management and stewardship of the lands. The Stewardship Council will provide public notice and encourage participation in meetings, workshops, and other appropriate methods of participation in the planning process. See response to comment below for more information.</p>
<p>Outdoor Recreation: It is recommended that the discussion of opportunities be edited to include river access provided by reopening of the trail described above.</p>	Mike Taylor	No	<p>The Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Poe Project (March 2007) contains a recommendation by FERC that PG&E conduct a feasibility study on improving the existing abandoned trail as described in the prior comment, and use this and other information to make a determination for the best option for development of a hiking trail in the Poe bypass reach. Because this opportunity is being addressed in the context of the Poe Project relicensing, it was not included as a potential measure in the LCP.</p>

Public Comments and
Response to Comments on LCP Volume II

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