

# Exhibit L

## NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FILE: S13-0010

PROJECT NAME: Salmon Falls Ranch Trail and Trailhead Facility

NAME OF APPLICANT: American River Conservancy

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NOS.: 104-060-48 & -07

SECTION: 25 T: 11N R: 8E

LOCATION: East side of Salmon Falls Road approximately ¼ mile north of the Salmon Falls Bridge in the Pilot Hill area

- GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT: FROM: TO:
- REZONING: FROM: TO:
- TENTATIVE PARCEL MAP  SUBDIVISION TO SPLIT ACRES INTO LOTS  
SUBDIVISION (NAME):
- SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW: Special Use Permit request for a parking area, trailhead facility, and a trail system. The parking area would contain 30 parking spaces including 20 standard parking spaces and 10 trailer parking spaces connected to Salmon Falls Road by a driveway. The trail would consist of 5,280 linear feet of natural surface trail connecting the parking lot to the existing South Fork American River Trail.
- OTHER:

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**REASONS THE PROJECT WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:**

- NO SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS WERE IDENTIFIED DURING THE INITIAL STUDY.
- MITIGATION HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED WHICH WOULD REDUCE POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS.
- OTHER:

In accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State Guidelines, and El Dorado County Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA, the County Environmental Agent analyzed the project and determined that the project will not have a significant impact on the environment. Based on this finding, the Planning Department hereby prepares this NEGATIVE DECLARATION. A period of thirty (30) days from the date of filing this negative declaration will be provided to enable public review of the project specifications and this document prior to action on the project by COUNTY OF EL DORADO. A copy of the project specifications is on file at the County of El Dorado Planning Services, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville, CA 95667.

**This Negative Declaration was adopted by the Planning Commission on June 26, 2014.**

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Executive Secretary



**EL DORADO COUNTY PLANNING SERVICES**  
**2850 FAIRLANE COURT**  
**PLACERVILLE, CA 95667**

**INITIAL STUDY**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST**

**Project Title:** S13-0010/Salmon Fall Ranch Trail and Trailhead Facility

**Lead Agency Name and Address:** El Dorado County, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville, CA 95667

**Contact Person:** Aaron Mount, Project Planner      **Phone Number:** (530) 621-5355

**Property Owners/Applicant's Name and Address:** Alan Ehrgott, Executive Director, American River Conservancy, PO Box 562, Coloma, CA 95613

**Project Location:** East side of Salmon Falls Road approximately ¼ mile north of the Salmon Falls Bridge in the Pilot Hill area, El Dorado County.

**Assessor's Parcel Number:** 104-060-48 & 07      **Acres:** 196.36 acres

**Zoning:** Exclusive Agricultural (AE)

**Sections:** 23      **T:** 11N    **R:** 8E

**General Plan Designation:** Agricultural Lands/Rural Residential (AL/RR)

**Description of Project:** Special Use Permit request for a parking area, trailhead facility, and a trail system. The parking area would contain 30 parking spaces including 20 standard parking spaces and 10 trailer parking spaces connected to Salmon Falls Road by a driveway. The parking area would be available to the public year round from dawn to dusk with evening parking allowed with advance permission only. The trailhead at the eastern end of the parking lot would contain a kiosk with trail maps, safety guidelines, and emergency contact information, recreation information, and natural resource interpretation. The trail would consist of 5,280 linear feet of natural surface trail connecting the parking lot to the existing South Fork American River Trail.

**Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:**

	<b>Zoning</b>	<b>General Plan</b>	<b>Land Use/Improvements</b>
<b>Site</b>	AE	AL/RR	Agricultural/Undeveloped
<b>North</b>	AE/RA-20/RE-10	AL/RR	Agricultural/residential, Vacant/single family residence
<b>South</b>	RF	OS	Bureau of Reclamation, Folsom Reservoir
<b>East</b>	RF	OS	Bureau of Reclamation, Folsom Reservoir
<b>West</b>	AE	RR	Agricultural/Undeveloped

**Briefly describe the environmental setting:** The project site ranges in elevation from 650 feet to 950 feet and consists of 196.36 acres. The unimproved site is mostly oak woodland, chaparral, and annual grassland. Riparian habitat comprises approximately 5 percent of the property due to Acorn Creek and Peacock Ravine, both seasonal creeks, flowing through portions of the property. The site is access directly off of Salmon Falls Road. The project parcel is adjacent to the Folsom Reservoir.

- Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement)
1. Environmental Management-Hazardous Waste Division
  2. Air Quality Management District, condition review
  3. Building Services, building and grading permit review
  4. El Dorado County Resource Conservation District, grading permit review.

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED**

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

	Aesthetics		Agriculture and Forestry Resources		Air Quality
	Biological Resources		Cultural Resources		Geology / Soils
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions		Hazards & Hazardous Materials		Hydrology / Water Quality
	Land Use / Planning		Mineral Resources		Noise
	Population / Housing		Public Services		Recreation
	Transportation/Traffic		Utilities / Service Systems		Mandatory Findings of Significance

**DETERMINATION**

**On the basis of this initial evaluation:**

- I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect: 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards; and 2) has been addressed by Mitigation Measures based on the earlier analysis as described in attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects: a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**, pursuant to applicable standards; and b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**, including revisions or Mitigation Measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature: Aaron Mount Date: 5/19/14

Printed Name: Aaron Mount, Project Planner For: El Dorado County

Signature: Lillian MacLeod Date: 5/19/14

Printed Name: Lillian MacLeod, Acting Principal Planner For: El Dorado County

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### Introduction

This Initial Study has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts resulting from the proposed project.

### Project Description

Special Use Permit request for a parking area, trailhead facility, and a trail system.

### Project Location and Surrounding Land Uses

The site is located within a Rural Center Planning Concept Area. The surrounding land uses are Folsom Reservoir, existing single family residential, and-agricultural uses.

### Project Characteristics

1. Transportation/Circulation

The primary access to the site would be from Salmon Falls Road by a proposed encroachment. The El Dorado County Protection District (Fire District) and the El Dorado County Transportation Division (Transportation) have reviewed the proposed on-site and off-site access and circulation proposed for the project. The Fire District responded to the driveway circulation plans for safe emergency ingress/egress and access width and surfacing. Transportation applied specific conditions for the encroachment onto Salmon Falls Road and to increase site distance.

2. Utilities and Infrastructure

No utilities or infrastructure are required for this project..

3. Construction Considerations

Construction of the project would consist of grading for the parking area and trail improvements.

### Project Schedule and Approvals

This Initial Study is being circulated for public and agency review for a 30-day period. Written comments on the Initial Study should be submitted to the project planner indicated in the Summary section, above.

Following the close of the written comment period, the Initial Study will be considered by the Lead Agency in a public meeting and will be certified if it is determined to be in compliance with CEQA. The Lead Agency will also determine whether to approve the project.

## **EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is a fair argument that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of Mitigation Measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the Mitigation Measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.
5. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used, or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
  - a. the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - b. the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

<b>I. AESTHETICS. <i>Would the project:</i></b>				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				<b>X</b>
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				<b>X</b>
c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character quality of the site and its surroundings?			<b>X</b>	
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			<b>X</b>	

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect to Visual Resources would result in the introduction of physical features that are not characteristic of the surrounding development, substantially change the natural landscape, or obstruct an identified public scenic vista.

- a. **Scenic Vista:** The project site and vicinity is not identified by the County as a scenic view or resource (El Dorado County Planning Services, El Dorado County General Plan Draft EIR (SCH #2001082030), May 2003, Exhibit 5.3-1 and Table 5.3-1). There would be no impacts.
- b. **Scenic Resources:** The project site is not located near any roadway that is classified as a State Scenic Highway (California Department of Transportation, California Scenic Highway Program, Officially Designated State Scenic Highways, ([http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic\\_highways/scenic\\_hwy.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/scenic_hwy.htm))). There were no trees or historic buildings found that have been identified by submitted cultural resources study as contributing to exceptional aesthetic value at the project site. There would be no impacts.
- c. **Visual Character:** The proposed project would not degrade the visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings in ways not anticipated for lands designated by the General Plan for AL/RR land uses with an approved special use permit for trailhead facility. The property would continue to provide the natural visual character and quality that currently exist by keeping the scenic areas of the property essentially intact post construction. The removal of oak trees would be compensated for by the re-planting of oak trees around the parking area, providing an enhanced natural habitat area in the existing natural area. Impacts would be less than significant.
- d. **Light and Glare:** The project does not propose outdoor lighting for the parking area as the hours of operation would be from dawn to dusk. Any future proposed lighting would be required to meet the County lighting ordinance and must be shielded to avoid potential glare affecting day or nighttime views for those that live or travel through the area. If the special use permit is approved, any future lighting would require Development Services review prior to installation. Impacts would be less than significant.

**FINDING:** For the "Aesthetics" category, the thresholds of significance have not been exceeded. As conditioned and with adherence to County Code, impacts would be less than significant.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES.** In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by California Department of forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forrest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Locally Important Farmland (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				X
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?				X
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				X
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect to Agricultural Resources would occur if:

- There is a conversion of choice agricultural land to nonagricultural use, or impairment of the agricultural productivity of agricultural land;
  - The amount of agricultural land in the County is substantially reduced; or
  - Agricultural uses are subjected to impacts from adjacent incompatible land uses.
- a. **Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program:** Review of the Important Farmland GIS map layer for El Dorado County developed under the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program indicates that the project site contains Grazing land within the development area. An area of the project parcel that is not proposed to be development contains agricultural soils of local importance. The project site is designed for recreational uses and is not located within or adjacent to lands designated with the Agricultural Districts (A) General Plan Land Use Overlay. The proposed passive recreational uses would be compatible with any grazing that may take place on the project parcel. As such, the project related impacts would be less than significant.
- b. **Conflict with Existing Zoning Use or Williamson Act Contract:** The property is not located within a Williamson Act Contract and the project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, and would not affect any properties under a Williamson Act Contract. There would be no impact.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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- c. **Conflicts with Zoning for Forest/timber Lands:** No conversion of timber or forest lands would occur as a result of the project. There would be no impact.
- d. **Loss of Forest land or Conversion of Forest land:** Neither the General Plan nor the Zoning Ordinance designate the site as an important Timberland Preserve Zone and the underlying soil types are not those known to support timber production. There would be no impact.
- e. **Conversion of Prime Farmland or Forest Land:** The project site was historically used for grazing. The project site is designated for agricultural uses by the General Plan and is zoned for agricultural development. The proposed recreational uses have been found to be compatible with any exiting or future agricultural uses on the project parcel or adjacent to the project site and would not conflict with any future agricultural uses that could take place on the project parcel. There would be no impact.

**FINDING:** This project would have no significant impact on agricultural lands, would not convert agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses, and would not affect properties subject to a Williamson Act Contract. For the “Agriculture” category, there would be no impacts.

III. AIR QUALITY. <i>Would the project:</i>				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			X	
b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?			X	
c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?			X	
d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X	
e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			X	

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect on Air Quality would occur if:

- Emissions of ROG and No<sub>x</sub>, will result in construction or operation emissions greater than 82lbs/day (See Table 5.2, of the El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District – CEQA Guide);
  - Emissions of PM<sub>10</sub>, CO, SO<sub>2</sub> and No<sub>x</sub>, as a result of construction or operation emissions, will result in ambient pollutant concentrations in excess of the applicable National or State Ambient Air Quality Standard (AAQS). Special standards for ozone, CO, and visibility apply in the Lake Tahoe Air Basin portion of the County; or
  - Emissions of toxic air contaminants cause cancer risk greater than 1 in 1 million (10 in 1 million if best available control technology for toxics is used) or a non-cancer Hazard Index greater than 1. In addition, the project must demonstrate compliance with all applicable District, State and U.S. EPA regulations governing toxic and hazardous emissions.
- a. **Air Quality Plan:** El Dorado County has adopted the *Rules and Regulations of the El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District*, (February 15, 2000), establishing rules and standards for the reduction of stationary source air



Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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pollutants (ROG/VOC, NOx, and O3). Any activities associated with the grading and construction of this project would pose a less than significant impact on air quality because the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) would require that the project implement an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan (ADMP) during grading and construction activities. Such a plan would address grading measures and operation of equipment to minimize and reduce the level of defined particulate matter exposure and/or emissions below a level of significance.

- b. **Air Quality Standards:** The project would create air quality impacts which may contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation during construction. The project construction would involve grading and excavation operations, which will result in a temporary negative impact on air quality with regard to the release of particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) in the form of dust. The project is required to adhere to the regulations and mitigation measures for fugitive dust emissions during the construction process. In addition, the Grading Permit requires a Fugitive Dust Mitigation Plan (DMP) Application to be submitted to and approved by the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) prior to start of project construction. (Rules 223 and 223.1). The AQMD reviewed the project and determined that with the implementation of standard County measures during grading and construction activities, the project would have a less than significant impact on the air quality.

Operational air quality impacts would be minor, and would cause an insignificant contribution to existing or projected air quality violations. Source emissions would be from vehicle trip emissions, construction and facility maintenance equipment. Impacts would be less than significant as measured with current air quality standards.

- c. **Cumulative Impacts:** The AQMD reviewed the project and determined that with the implementation of standard conditions of approval for air quality the project would have a less than significant cumulative impact.
- d. **Sensitive Receptors:** As conditioned and with adherence to County Codes required during the grading permit processes, as well as for long-term operations, the proposed project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Impacts would be less than significant.
- e. **Objectionable Odors:** The project would not be anticipated to create significant levels of odors as a recreational facility. Impacts would be less than significant.

**FINDING:** The proposed project would not significantly affect the implementation of regional air quality regulations or management plans. The project would result in increased emissions due to construction and operation; however existing regulations would reduce these impacts to a less-than-significant level. The proposed project would not cause substantial adverse effects to air quality, nor exceed established significance thresholds for air quality impacts.

<b>IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. <i>Would the project:</i></b>				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			X	
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			X	

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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<b>IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?			X
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?			X
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?			X
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?			X

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect on Biological Resources would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Substantially reduce or diminish habitat for native fish, wildlife or plants;
  - Cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels;
  - Threaten to eliminate a native plant or animal community;
  - Reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal;
  - Substantially affect a rare or endangered species of animal or plant or the habitat of the species; or
  - Interfere substantially with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species.
- a. **Special Status Species:** A botanical resource inventory was completed by a botanist from the Bureau of Land Management and the study concluded that no rare gabbro soil plant populations were found at the project site. Several existing elderberry bushes were found near the eastern edge of the proposed parking lot. The elderberry bush is potential habitat for the federally listed Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB) and the project has been designed to avoid the clump of bushes by 20 feet. Standard condition of approval will require a nesting raptor survey if trees are to be removed during nesting season. Impacts would be less than significant.
- b-c. **Riparian Habitat, Wetlands:** The project parcel contains two seasonal streams. The proposed trail would cross one of the seasonal streams, however a man-made feature (historic road or trail) already exists at the stream crossing and no improvements are proposed within 30 feet of Acorn Creek or Peacock Ravine. The project has been reviewed by the applicable agencies and none had any comments about the proposed stream crossing nor is any streambed alteration permits required. Impacts would be less than significant.
- d. **Migration Corridors:** Review of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife California-Wildlife Habitat Relationship System indicates that there are no mapped critical deer migration corridors on the project site. The project proposes facilities that would be used for passive recreation. The project would not substantially interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, with any established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, nor impede the use of wildlife nursery sites. Impacts would be less than significant.
- e. **Local Policies:** El Dorado County Code and General Plan Policies pertaining to the protection of biological resources would include protection of rare plants, setbacks to riparian areas, conservation of soils, and mitigation of impacted oak woodlands. Rare plants were discussed above in the Special Status Species section.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Policy 7.1.2.2 requires the applicant to incorporate practices to control potential soil erosion. The following list contains the potential Best Management Practices (BMPs) that the applicant would be required to adhere as a part of the grading permit requirements by County Code. The County would review the submitted grading plan and verify that the plan includes BMPs consistent with the County’s California Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan issued by the State Water Resources Control Board, prior to grading permit issuance:

Erosion Control	Sediment Control	Tracking Control	Non Storm Water Management
o Hydroseeding	o Silt Fence	o Stabilized Construction Entrance	o Water Conservation Practices
o Straw Mulch	o Fiber Rolls	Waste Management	o Vehicle and Equipment Cleaning
o Geotextiles and Mats	o Gravel Bag Berm	o Material Delivery and Storage	o Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance
Erosion Control	o Street Sweeping and Vacuuming	o Material Use	Non Storm Water Management

With adherence to County Codes, the applicant would incorporate BMPs to minimize impacts on the wetlands and soils, and the project could be found to be consistent with the intent of El Dorado County General Plan Policy 7.3.3.4, the Interim Interpretive Guidelines for that Policy, and with Policy 7.1.2.2.

Policy 7.4.4.4 establishes the native oak tree canopy retention and replacement standards. Site development of the parking area would require the removal of indigenous oak trees. The applicant has submitted a Biological Resources Study, and addendum dated March 18, 2014, that analyze the removal in relation to County requirements. The Report determined the current oak canopy coverage on the project study area is 88 acres which is 89 percent of the total property area, and requires 60 percent canopy retention. 11 oaks would be removed to accommodate parking and increase line of sight along Salmon Falls Road. The oak canopy to be removed would be 0.47 acre which is 0.53 percent of the total oak canopy, within the 40 percent allowance. The project is conditioned to require planting 94 saplings or 282 acorns which be consistent with the standards under Option A of General Plan Policy 7.4.4.4 and the Interim Interpretive Guidelines of this policy.

Impacts in this Local Policy section would be less than significant.

- f. **Adopted Plans:** This project, as designed, would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. There would be a less than significant impact in this category.

**FINDING:** For the “Biological Resources” category, the thresholds of significance have not been exceeded and as mitigated and with adherence to County Code, no significant environmental impacts would result from the project.

<b>V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. <i>Would the project:</i></b>				
a.	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?			<b>X</b>
b.	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?			<b>X</b>
c.	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			<b>X</b>

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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<b>V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			X

**Discussion:** In general, significant impacts are those that diminish the integrity, research potential, or other characteristics that make a historical or cultural resource significant or important. A substantial adverse effect on Cultural Resources would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Disrupt, alter, or adversely affect a prehistoric or historic archaeological site or a property or historic or cultural significant to a community or ethnic or social group; or a paleontological site except as a part of a scientific study;
- Affect a landmark of cultural/historical importance;
- Conflict with established recreational, educational, religious or scientific uses of the area; or
- Conflict with adopted environmental plans and goals of the community where it is located.

a-b. **Historic Resources:** A cultural resource assessment and field survey was completed by the Bureau of Land Management dated February 28, 2013. Fourteen historic sites and one isolate were found within the area of potential effect. The project would impact three inventoried sites which consist of two ditches and a road; however these three sites were determined to not be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. All other inventoried sites would be avoided. The study makes the conclusion that as proposed, the project would not affect significant cultural properties, and the finding of “no historic properties affected” would complete BLM’s obligations under Section 106, pursuant to our statewide protocol agreement. A condition of approval has been added that requires a qualified cultural/archaeologist resource monitor is required during construction. Impacts would be less than significant.

c. **Paleontological Resource:** The project site is underlain with a ultramafic rock type that is not associated with any paleontological resources. There would be no impacts.

d. **Human Remains:** There is a small likelihood of human remain discovery on the project site. During all grading activities, standard conditions of approval would be required that address the protection and disposal of accidental discovery of human remains. Impacts would be less than significant.

**FINDING:** No significant cultural resources were identified on the project site. Standard conditions of approval would be required with requirements for accidental discovery during project construction. This project would have a less than significant impact within the Cultural Resources category.

<b>VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:			
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.			X
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?		X	
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			X

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. <i>Would the project:</i>			
iv) Landslides?			X
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			X
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?			X
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994) creating substantial risks to life or property?			X
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?			X

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect on Geologic Resources would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Allow substantial development of structures or features in areas susceptible to seismically induced hazards such as groundshaking, liquefaction, seiche, and/or slope failure where the risk to people and property resulting from earthquakes could not be reduced through engineering and construction measures in accordance with regulations, codes, and professional standards;
- Allow substantial development in areas subject to landslides, slope failure, erosion, subsidence, settlement, and/or expansive soils where the risk to people and property resulting from such geologic hazards could not be reduced through engineering and construction measures in accordance with regulations, codes, and professional standards; or
- Allow substantial grading and construction activities in areas of known soil instability, steep slopes, or shallow depth to bedrock where such activities could result in accelerated erosion and sedimentation or exposure of people, property, and/or wildlife to hazardous conditions (e.g., blasting) that could not be mitigated through engineering and construction measures in accordance with regulations, codes, and professional standards.

a. **Seismic Hazards:**

- i) According to the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, there are no Alquist-Priolo fault zones within El Dorado County. The nearest such faults are located in Alpine and Butte Counties. There would be no impacts anticipated.
- ii) The potential for seismic ground shaking in the project area is considered less than significant. Any potential impacts due to seismic impacts would be addressed through compliance with the Uniform Building Code (UBC) earthquake standards. All structures would be built to meet the construction standards of the UBC for the appropriate seismic zone. Impacts would be less than significant.
- iii) El Dorado County is considered an area with low potential for seismic activity. There are no known potential areas for liquefaction on the project site. There would be no impacts anticipated.

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- iv) All grading activities onsite would be required to comply with the El Dorado County Grading, Erosion Control and Sediment Ordinance. The relatively flat grade of the majority of the site and compliance with the Ordinance would ensure potential landslide impacts from the proposed development would be less than significant.
- b. **Soil Erosion:** All grading activities exceeding 250 cubic yards of graded material or grading completed for the purpose of supporting a structure must meet the provisions contained in the *County of El Dorado - Grading, Erosion, and Sediment Control Ordinance* Adopted by the County of El Dorado Board of Supervisors, August 10, 2010 (Ordinance #4949). All grading activities onsite would comply with the El Dorado County Grading, Erosion Control and Sediment Ordinance including the implementation of pre- and post-construction Best Management Practices (BMPs). The implemented BMPs are required to be consistent with the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan issued by the State Water Resources Control Board to eliminate run-off and erosion and sediment controls. Implementation of these BMPs would reduce potential significant impacts of soil erosion or the loss of topsoil to a less than significant level.
- c-d. **Geologic Hazards, Expansive Soils:** The Soil Survey for El Dorado County lists this soil type as having low shrink-swell potential. There are no excessively steep slopes on the surrounding parcels entering into the subject parcel. The site would not be subject to off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse, nor does it have expansive soils. The project would be required to comply with the El Dorado County Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance. As such, impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level.
- e. **Septic Capability:** If added restrooms or water sources are required in the future, the septic system would be evaluated by the County at the time of building permit issuance. Impacts would be anticipated to be less than significant.

**FINDING:** All grading activities would be required to comply with the El Dorado County Grading, Erosion Control and Sediment Ordinance which would address potential impacts related to soil erosion, landslides and other geologic impacts. No structures are proposed at this time, but future development would be required to comply with the Uniform Building Code which would address potential seismic related impacts. For this 'Geology and Soils' category impacts would be less than significant.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. <i>Would the project:</i>			
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			X
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			X

- a-b. **Generate Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Policy.** The prominent GHGs contributing to the greenhouse effect as specifically listed in Assembly Bill AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. Emissions of GHGs contributing to global climate change are attributable in large part to human activities associated with the industrial/manufacturing, utility, transportation, residential, and agricultural sectors; in California, the transportation sector is the largest emitter of GHGs, followed by electricity generation. California Energy Commission. 2006. Inventory of California Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990 to 2004. (Staff Final Report). Publication CEC-600-2006-013-SF.

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GHGs are a global pollutants, unlike criteria for air pollutants and toxic air contaminants, which are pollutants of regional and local concern. Carbon dioxide equivalents are a measurement used to account for the fact that different GHGs have different potential to retain infrared radiation in the atmosphere and contribute to the greenhouse effect.

Emitting CO2 into the atmosphere is not itself an adverse environmental affect. It is the increased concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere potentially resulting in global climate change and the associated consequences of such climate change that results in adverse environmental affects (e.g., sea level rise, loss of snowpack, severe weather events). Although it is possible to generally estimate a project's incremental contribution of CO2 into the atmosphere, it is typically not possible to determine whether or how an individual project's relatively small incremental contribution might translate into physical effects on the environment.

In June 2008, the Office of Planning and Research's (OPR) issued a technical advisory (CEQA and Climate Change) to provide interim guidance regarding the basis for determining the proposed project's contribution of greenhouse gas emissions and the project's contribution to global climate change. In the absence of adopted local or statewide thresholds, OPR recommends the following approach for analyzing greenhouse gas emissions: Identify and quantify the project's greenhouse gas emissions; assess the significance of the impact on climate change; and if the impact is found to be significant, identify alternatives and/or Mitigation Measures that would reduce the impact to less-than-significant levels.

CEQA now requires a Climate Change / Greenhouse Gas (GHG) section answering a couple more questions. The County and AQMD do not have an approved Climate Action Plan (CAP) nor approved GHG thresholds. AQMD, recommended the County use San Luis Obispo APCD's (SLOAPCD) thresholds for GHG, and to use the CalEEMod emissions modeling software to estimate GHG emissions.

AQMD has run the CalEEMod emissions modeling software to estimate GHG emissions with information provided by the applicant and some assumptions were made. The project's operational emissions are at 1 lb/day ROG/ VOC and 0.32 lb/day NOx. Additionally, the GHG emissions are 55 MT CO2e/yr. These are very conservative numbers and greatly overestimate emissions. The ROG & NOx numbers are well under the 82 lb/day threshold and the GHG emissions are well under the 1,150 MT CO2e/yr threshold established by the SLOAPCD. Impacts would be less than significant.

**FINDING:** The project would result in less than significant impacts to greenhouse gas emissions because of the project's size.

<b>VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			X
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			X
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			X
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?			X

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<b>VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?			X
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?			X
g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?		X	
h. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?		X	

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect due to Hazards or Hazardous Materials would occur if implementation of the project would:

- Expose people and property to hazards associated with the use, storage, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials where the risk of such exposure could not be reduced through implementation of Federal, State, and local laws and regulations;
  - Expose people and property to risks associated with wildland fires where such risks could not be reduced through implementation of proper fuel management techniques, buffers and landscape setbacks, structural design features, and emergency access; or
  - Expose people to safety hazards as a result of former on-site mining operations.
- a-b. **Hazardous Materials:** The project may involve transportation, use, and disposal of hazardous materials such as construction materials, paints, fuels, and landscaping materials. The majority of the use of these hazardous materials would occur primarily during construction and/or routine intermittent maintenance. Any uses of hazardous materials would be required to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local standards associated with the handling and storage of hazardous materials. Prior to any use of any excessive amounts of hazardous materials, the project would be required to obtain a Hazardous Materials Business Plan through the Environmental Management-Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste Division of El Dorado County. The impact would be a less than significant level.
- c. **Hazardous Materials Near Schools:** As proposed, the project would not be anticipated to emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste. As discussed in the previous section, the project is required to assure hazardous chemicals are handled per County, State, and Federal regulations. Impacts would be less than significant.
- d. **Hazardous Sites:** No parcels within El Dorado County are included on the Cortese List which lists known hazardous sites in California. There would be no impact.
- e-f. **Aircraft Hazards, Private Airstrips:** The project is not located in the vicinity of a public or private airstrip. As such, the project would not be subject to any land use limitations contained within the Airport Land Use



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Compatibility Plan and there would be no immediate hazard for people residing or working in the project area or safety hazard resulting from airport operations and aircraft over-flights in the vicinity of the project site. No impacts would be anticipated to occur within these categories.

- g. **Emergency Plan:** Neither the Transportation Division nor El Dorado County Fire Protection District responded with specific comments that the project in and of itself, would affect an emergency plan. Impacts would be less than significant.
- h. **Wildfire Hazards:** The degree of hazard in wild-land areas depends on weather variables like temperature, wind, and moisture, the amount of dryness and arrangement of vegetation, slope steepness, and accessibility to human activities, accessibility of firefighting equipment, and fuel clearance around structures. The parcel is located in a moderate to very high fire hazard area. Fire protection for wildfires is provided by Cal Fire in combination with the El Dorado County Fire Protection District. The project would not be anticipated to significantly affect their abilities to provide protection any more that it would pre-project. Impacts would be anticipated to be less than significant level.

**FINDING:** The proposed project is not anticipated to expose the area to hazards relating to the use, storage, transport, or disposal of hazardous materials. Any proposed use of excessive amounts of hazardous materials would be subject to review and approval of a Hazardous Materials Business Plan issued by the Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste Division. For this 'Hazards and Hazardous Materials' category, impacts would be less than significant.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. <i>Would the project:</i>				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?			X	
b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?			X	
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or -off-site?			X	
d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?			X	
e. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			X	
f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?			X	
g. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				X

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<b>IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
h.	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?		X
i.	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?		X
j.	Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?		X

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect on Hydrology and Water Quality would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Expose residents to flood hazards by being located within the 100-year floodplain as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
  - Cause substantial change in the rate and amount of surface runoff leaving the project site ultimately causing a substantial change in the amount of water in a stream, river or other waterway;
  - Substantially interfere with groundwater recharge;
  - Cause degradation of water quality (temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity and/or other typical stormwater pollutants) in the project area; or
  - Cause degradation of groundwater quality in the vicinity of the project site.
- a. **Water Quality Standards:** Any grading, and improvement plans required by the Development Services Division would be required to be prepared and designed to meet the County of El Dorado Grading, Erosion, and Sediment Control Ordinance. These standards require that erosion and sediment control be implemented into the design of the project. Project related construction activities would be required to adhere to the El Dorado County Grading, Erosion Control and Sediment Ordinance which would require the implementation and execution of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize degradation of water quality during construction. Impacts would be less than significant.
- b. **Groundwater Supplies:** The project does not propose any use of groundwater. Impacts would be less than significant.
- c-f. **Drainage Patterns:** The project would be required to conform to the El Dorado County Grading, Erosion Control and Sediment Ordinance, to assure the project does not negatively change existing drainage patterns. Impacts would be less than significant.
- g-h. **Flood-related Hazards:** The project site is not located within any mapped 100-year flood areas. The project would not result in the construction of any structures that would impede or redirect flood flows of the intermittent stream. There would be no impacts.
- i. **Dam or Levee Failure:** The subject property is not located adjacent to or downstream from a dam or levee that has the potential to fail and inundate the project site with floodwaters. There would be no impacts
- j. **Inundation by Seiche, Tsunami, or Mudflow:** The proposed project is not located near a coastal area or adjacent to a large body of water such as a lake, bay, or estuary, volcanoes, or other volcanic features, and the site is located

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on relatively stable soils nor surrounded by steep terrain. Due to the project location, there is no potential for impacts from seiche or tsunami, or from mudflow at this site.

**FINDING:** The proposed project would require a grading permit through the Building Services Division, and implementation of Best Management Practices that would address erosion and sediment control. As conditioned, and with adherence to County Code, no significant hydrological impacts are expected with the development of the project either directly or indirectly.

<b>X. LAND USE PLANNING. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
a. Physically divide an established community?			X
b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?			X
c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?			X

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect on Land Use would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Result in the conversion of Prime Farmland as defined by the State Department of Conservation;
- Result in conversion of land that either contains choice soils or which the County Agricultural Commission has identified as suitable for sustained grazing, provided that such lands were not assigned urban or other nonagricultural use in the Land Use Map;
- Result in conversion of undeveloped open space to more intensive land uses;
- Result in a use substantially incompatible with the existing surrounding land uses; or
- Conflict with adopted environmental plans, policies, and goals of the community.

- Established Community:** The project would not result in the physical division of an established community. As conditioned and with compliance with County Code, the project would be compatible with the surrounding residential and agricultural land uses and would not be anticipated to create land use conflicts. With an approved special use permit, the project would be compatible with the AL/RR land use designations and with the AE zoning designation. Impacts would be anticipated to be less than significant.
- Land Use Consistency:** The proposed project would be consistent with the specific, fundamental, and mandatory land use development goals, objectives, and policies of the 2004 General Plan, and would be consistent with the development standards contained within the El Dorado County Zoning Ordinance. With an approved special use permit, the project would be consistent with the project site's General Plan AL/RR land use designations, and the AE Zone District. Impacts would be anticipated to be less than significant.
- Habitat Conservation Plan:** The project site is not within the boundaries of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCCP), or a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), or any other conservation plan. As such, the proposed project would not conflict with an adopted conservation plan. There would be no impact.

**FINDING:** With an approved special use permit, the proposed uses of the land would be consistent with the zoning and the General Plan. There would be no significant impact from the project due to a conflict with the General Plan or zoning

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designations for use of the property. As conditioned, and with adherence to County Code, no significant impacts are expected.

<b>XI. MINERAL RESOURCES.</b> <i>Would the project:</i>			
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?			X
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?			X

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect on Mineral Resources would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Result in obstruction of access to, and extraction of mineral resources classified MRZ-2x, or result in land use compatibility conflicts with mineral extraction operations.
- a. **Mineral Resource Loss-Region, State:** The project site is not mapped as being within a Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) by the State of California Division of Mines and Geology or in the El Dorado County General Plan. No impacts would occur.
- b. **Mineral Resource Loss-Locally:** The Western portion of El Dorado county is divided into four, 15 minute quadrangles (Folsom, Placerville, Georgetown, and Auburn) mapped by the State of California Division of Mines and Geology showing the location of Mineral and Resource Zones (MRZ). Those areas which are designated MRZ-2a contain discovered mineral deposits that have been measured or indicate reserves calculated. Land in this category is considered to contain mineral resources of known economic importance to the County and/or State. Review of the mapped areas of the County indicates that this site does not contain any mineral resources of known local or statewide economic value. No impacts would occur.

**FINDING:** No impacts to any known mineral resources would occur as a result of the project. Therefore, no mitigation is required. For the 'Mineral Resources' category, the project would not exceed the identified thresholds of significance.

<b>XII.NOISE.</b> <i>Would the project result in:</i>			
a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?			X
b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			X
c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X
d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X

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<b>XII.NOISE.</b> <i>Would the project result in:</i>			
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise level?			X
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?			X

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect due to Noise would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Result in short-term construction noise that creates noise exposures to surrounding noise sensitive land uses in excess of 60dBA CNEL;
  - Result in long-term operational noise that creates noise exposures in excess of 60 dBA CNEL at the adjoining property line of a noise sensitive land use and the background noise level is increased by 3dBA, or more; or
  - Results in noise levels inconsistent with the performance standards contained in Table 6-1 and Table 6-2 in the El Dorado County General Plan.
- a. **Noise Exposures:** The development of a passive recreation site which would include a parking area and trail is not anticipated to be a significant generation of noise levels. The trail would be for non-motorized recreation only. Potential impacts from excessive noise levels would be anticipated to be less than significant.
- b. **Ground Borne Shaking:** The project may generate intermittent ground borne vibration or shaking events during project construction. These potential impacts would be limited to project construction. Adherence to the time limitations of construction activities to 7:00am to 7:00pm Monday through Friday and 8:00am to 5:00pm on weekends and federally recognized holidays would limit the ground shaking effects in the project area. Impacts would be less than significant.
- c. **Short-term Noise Increases:** The project would include construction activities for the grading of the parking lot and development of the trail. The short-term noise increases could potentially exceed the thresholds established by the General Plan. Standard conditions of approval would limit the hours of construction activities to 7:00am to 7:00pm Monday through Friday and 8:00am to 5:00pm on weekends and federally recognized holidays. Adherence to the limitations of construction would reduce potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level.
- d. **Long-term Noise Increases:** The development of a parking lot and trail system for passive recreation would not significantly increase the ambient noise levels in the area in excess of the established noise thresholds. Use of the site would be limited to daytime hours. The proposed uses would not be anticipated to exceed the established General Plan noise thresholds. Impacts would be less than significant.
- e-f. **Aircraft Noise:** The proposed project is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or private landing strip. There would be no impacts.

**FINDING:** For the ‘Noise’ category, the thresholds of significance have not been exceeded and no significant environmental impacts would result from the project.

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<b>XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING. <i>Would the project:</i></b>				
a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (i.e., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (i.e., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				X
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect on Population and Housing would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Create substantial growth or concentration in population;
- Create a more substantial imbalance in the County’s current jobs to housing ratio; or
- Conflict with adopted goals and policies set forth in applicable planning documents.

- a. **Population Growth:** The project would not be anticipated to induce substantial population growth in an area. There would be no impacts.
- b, c. **Housing and Population Displacement:** No existing housing stock and therefore no persons would be anticipated to be displaced by the proposed project necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. No impacts would occur.

**FINDING:** It has been determined that there would no impacts to population growth and no impacts to population or housing displacement as a result of the project proposal. For this “Population and Housing” category, impacts would be less than significant.

<b>XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES. <i>Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:</i></b>				
a. Fire protection?			X	
b. Police protection?			X	
c. Schools?				X
d. Parks?				X
e. Other government services?			X	

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**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect on Public Services would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Substantially increase or expand the demand for fire protection and emergency medical services without increasing staffing and equipment to meet the Department's/District's goal of 1.5 firefighters per 1,000 residents and 2 firefighters per 1,000 residents, respectively;
  - Substantially increase or expand the demand for public law enforcement protection without increasing staffing and equipment to maintain the Sheriff's Department goal of one sworn officer per 1,000 residents;
  - Substantially increase the public school student population exceeding current school capacity without also including provisions to adequately accommodate the increased demand in services;
  - Place a demand for library services in excess of available resources;
  - Substantially increase the local population without dedicating a minimum of 5 acres of developed parklands for every 1,000 residents; or
  - Be inconsistent with County adopted goals, objectives or policies.
- a. **Fire Protection:** The El Dorado County Fire Protection District (Fire District) and Cal Fire currently provide fire protection services to the project area. Development of the project would not be anticipated to increase the demand for fire protection services, and would not prevent either agency from meeting its response times for the project or its designated service area any more than exists today. Impacts would be anticipated to be less than significant.
- b. **Police Protection:** Police services would continue to be provided by the El Dorado County Sheriff's Department. Due to the size and scope of the project, the demand for additional police protection would not be anticipated. Impacts would be less than significant.
- c. **Schools:** The project would not result in the increased demand for school services. There would be no impact.
- d. **Parks:** The project proposes expansion of recreation uses by developing an extension of an existing trail system and a new trailhead and parking area. There would be no impact.
- e. **Government Services:** No other public facilities or services would be directly substantially impacted by the project. The impacts would be less than significant.

**FINDING:** Adequate public services are available to serve the project. There would be insignificant levels of increased demands to services anticipated as a result of the project. For this 'Public Services' category, impacts would be less than significant.

<b>XV. RECREATION.</b>				
a.	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?			<b>X</b>
b.	Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?			<b>X</b>

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect on Recreational Resources would occur if the implementation of the project would:

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- Substantially increase the local population without dedicating a minimum of 5 acres of developed parklands for every 1,000 residents; or
- Substantially increase the use of neighborhood or regional parks in the area such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur.

a-b. **Parks and Recreational Services:** The proposed project does not include any increase in permanent population that would contribute to increased demand on recreation facilities or contribute to increased use of existing facilities. The project proposes expansion of recreation uses by developing an extension of an existing trail system and a new trailhead and parking area. The project would add additional passive recreational facilities within the County. There would be no impact.

**FINDING:** No impacts to recreation would be expected for the project either directly or indirectly. For this “Recreation” category, the thresholds of significance have not been exceeded.

<b>XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
a. Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?			X
b. Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?			X
c. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?			X
d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			X
e. Result in inadequate emergency access?			X
f. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?			X

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect on Traffic would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Result in an increase in traffic, which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system;
- Generate traffic volumes which cause violations of adopted level of service standards (project and cumulative); or
- Result in, or worsen, Level of Service “F” traffic congestion during weekday, peak-hour periods on any highway, road, interchange or intersection in the unincorporated areas of the county as a result of a residential development project of 5 or more units.



Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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- a-b. **Traffic Increases, Levels of Service Standards:** The 2004 General Plan Policies TC-Xe and TX-Xf (which incorporate Measure Y) require that projects that “worsen” traffic by two percent, or 10 peak hour trips, or 100 average daily trips construct (or ensure funding and programming) of improvements to meet Level of Service standards in the General Plan Transportation and Circulation Element. Transportation has reviewed the proposed project and determined that it would not trigger the threshold described above because of its limited size and the fact the number of persons utilizing the facilities would be limited by the 30 parking spaces. Impacts would be less than significant.
- c. **Air Traffic:** The project would not result in a change in established air traffic patterns for publicly or privately operated airports or landing field in the project vicinity. No impacts would occur.
- d. **Design Hazards:** The Transportation Division applied conditions of approval to ensure that the encroachment onto Salmon Falls Road would be constructed to County standards and that line of sight requirements would be met. The access to the proposed facility would meet the development standards for the posted speed limit on Salmon Falls Road. Impacts would be anticipated to be less than significant.
- e. **Emergency Access:** The project was reviewed by the Fire District for the adequacy of the interior project road circulation and availability of adequate emergency access and egress in the project design. The Fire District requires unobstructed widths of the access roads. They have visited the site in the past and met with the owners. They did not respond with any concerns pertaining to the proposed projects emergency access and egress capabilities. Impacts would be less than significant.
- f. **Alternative Transportation:** The project would not conflict with adopted plans, polices or programs relating to alternative transportation. There would be no impact.

**FINDING:** For the “Transportation/Traffic” category, the identified thresholds of significance have not been exceeded and no significant environmental impacts would result from the project.

<b>XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. <i>Would the project:</i></b>				
a.	Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?			<b>X</b>
b.	Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?			<b>X</b>
c.	Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?			<b>X</b>
d.	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?			<b>X</b>
e.	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?			<b>X</b>
f.	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the			<b>X</b>

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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<b>XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
project's solid waste disposal needs?			
g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?		X	

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect on Utilities and Service Systems would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Breach published national, state, or local standards relating to solid waste or litter control;
  - Substantially increase the demand for potable water in excess of available supplies or distribution capacity without also including provisions to adequately accommodate the increased demand, or is unable to provide an adequate on-site water supply, including treatment, storage and distribution;
  - Substantially increase the demand for the public collection, treatment, and disposal of wastewater without also including provisions to adequately accommodate the increased demand, or is unable to provide for adequate on-site wastewater system; or
  - Result in demand for expansion of power or telecommunications service facilities without also including provisions to adequately accommodate the increased or expanded demand.
- a. **Wastewater Requirements:** No wastewater facilities are proposed. Any grading and improvement plans required by the Development Services Division would be required to be prepared and designed to meet the County of El Dorado Grading, Erosion, and Sediment Control Ordinance. The Preliminary Grading and Drainage Plan (Attachment 6) was reviewed by Development Services and found to adequately demonstrate compliance. Impacts would be less than significant.
- b. **Construction of New Facilities:** No new water or waste water facilities are proposed. Impacts would be less than significant.
- c. **New Stormwater Facilities:** Overall existing drainage patterns would not be significantly modified and pre- and post-development drainage conditions are conditioned not to change due to overall site grading. All grading activities for the parking lot exceeding 250 cubic yards of graded material or grading completed for the purpose of supporting a structure must meet the provisions contained in the Grading, Erosion, and Sediment Control Ordinance adopted by the County of El Dorado Board of Supervisors, August 10, 2010 (Ordinance #4949). All drainage facilities would be required to be constructed in compliance with standards contained in the County of El Dorado Drainage Manual. The Building Division would review the final grading plan further when it is submitted for the parking area. As such, impacts would be less than significant.
- d. **Sufficient Water Supply:** No structures are proposed. Impacts would be less than significant.
- e. **Adequate Wastewater Capacity:** No structures are proposed. Impacts would be less than significant.
- f, g. **Solid Waste Disposal:** In December of 1996, direct public disposal into the Union Mine Disposal Site was discontinued and the Material Recovery Facility/Transfer Station was opened. Only certain inert waste materials (e.g., concrete, asphalt, etc.) may be dumped at the Union Mine Waste Disposal Site. All other materials that cannot be recycled are exported to the Lockwood Regional Landfill near Sparks, Nevada. In 1997, El Dorado County signed a 30-year contract with the Lockwood Landfill Facility for continued waste disposal services. The Lockwood

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Landfill has a remaining capacity of 43 million tons over the 655-acre site. Approximately six million tons of waste was deposited between 1979 and 1993. This equates to approximately 46,000 tons of waste per year for this period.

After July of 2006, El Dorado Disposal began distributing municipal solid waste to Forward Landfill in Stockton and Kiefer Landfill in Sacramento. Pursuant to El Dorado County Environmental Management Solid Waste Division staff, both facilities have sufficient capacity to serve the County. Recyclable materials are distributed to a facility in Benicia and green wastes are sent to a processing facility in Sacramento.

County Ordinance No. 4319 requires that new development provide areas for adequate, accessible, and convenient storing, collecting, and loading of solid waste and recyclables. On-site solid waste collection for the proposed lots would be handled through the local waste management contractor. Adequate space would be available at the site for solid waste collection. Impacts would be less significant.

**FINDING:** As conditioned, and with compliance with County Code, impacts would be less than significant.

<b>XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE. Does the project:</b>			
a. Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?		X	
b. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?			X
c. Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			X

**Discussion:**

- a. No substantial evidence contained in the project record has been found that would indicate that this project would have the potential to significantly degrade the quality of the environment when using thresholds pre-established as benchmarks. These benchmarks are established by General Plan Policies, the Grading and Drainage Ordinances, in the Zoning Ordinance Sections 17.28.170 to 210 and in Chapter 17.14.210. As conditioned, and with adherence to County permit requirements, this project would not be anticipated to have the potential to substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of California history or pre-history. Any impacts from the project would be anticipated to be less than significant due to the design of the project and required standards that would be implemented by any required project specific improvements on the property.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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b. The project would not involve development or changes in land use that would result in an excessive increase in population growth. Impacts due to increased demand for public services associated with the project would be offset by the payment of fees as required by service providers to extend the necessary infrastructure services. The project would not be anticipated to contribute substantially to increased traffic in the area and the project would not require an increase in the wastewater treatment capacity of the County. Due to the small size of the proposed project, types of activities proposed, and site-specific environmental conditions, which have been disclosed in the Project Description and analyzed in Items I through XVI, there would be no significant impacts anticipated related to agriculture resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, public services, recreation, traffic/transportation, or utilities/service systems that would combine with similar effects such that the project's contribution would be cumulatively considerable. For these issue areas, either no impacts, or less than significant impacts would be anticipated.

As outlined and discussed in this document, as conditioned and with compliance with County Codes, this project would be anticipated to have a less than significant chance of having project-related environmental effects which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Based on the analysis in this study, it has been determined that the project would have less than significant cumulative impacts.

The project would result in the short term generation of greenhouse gasses, which could contribute to global climate change. However, the amount of greenhouse gases generated by the project would be negligible compared to global emissions or emissions in the county, so the project would not substantially contribute cumulatively to global climate change. Further, as discussed throughout this environmental document, as conditioned, the project would not contribute to a substantial decline in water quality, air quality, noise, biological resources, agricultural resources, or cultural resources under cumulative conditions.

As outlined and discussed in this document, as conditioned, and with compliance with County Codes, this project, as proposed, would have a less than significant chance of having project-related environmental effects which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Based on the analysis in this study, it has been determined that the project would have a less than significant impact based on the issue of cumulative impacts.

c. Based on the discussion contained in this document, no potentially significant impacts to human beings are anticipated to occur with respect to potential project impacts. Adherence to standard conditions would be expected to reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level. As discussed in the Noise section, significant noise levels exceeding the thresholds for interior or exterior noise as established by the County General Plan would not be anticipated. Short term noise increases in the project area as a result of project construction would be reduced by standard Conditions of Approval regarding hours and days of construction. Any future development of the project would require environmental review through the Special Use Permit revision process. As conditioned, and with adherence to County Code, impacts would be anticipated to be less than significant.

**INITIAL STUDY ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment 1..... Location Map
- Attachment 2..... Pilot Hill U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quadrangle
- Attachment 3..... Site Plan
- Attachment 4..... Biological Resource Study and Oak Tree Survey, Preservation, and replacement Plan, dated March 18, 2014
- Attachment 5..... United States Department of the Interior, South Fork American River recreation facilities improvements, Finding of No Significant Impact, October 2012
- Attachment 6..... United States Department of the Interior, letter from William Haigh. June 19, 2013

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCE LIST**

The following documents are available at El Dorado County Planning Services in Placerville.

El Dorado County General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report  
Volume 1 of 3 – EIR Text, Chapter 1 through Section 5.6  
Volume 2 of 3 – EIR Text, Section 5.7 through Chapter 9  
Appendix A  
Volume 3 of 3 – Technical Appendices B through H

El Dorado County General Plan – A Plan for Managed Growth and Open Roads; A Plan for Quality Neighborhoods and Traffic Relief (Adopted July 19, 2004)

Findings of Fact of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors for the General Plan

El Dorado County Zoning Ordinance (Title 17 - County Code)

County of El Dorado Drainage Manual (Resolution No. 67-97, Adopted March 14, 1995)

*County of El Dorado - Grading, Erosion, and Sediment Control Ordinance* Adopted by the County of El Dorado Board of Supervisors, August 10, 2010 (Ordinance #4949).

El Dorado County Design and Improvement Standards Manual

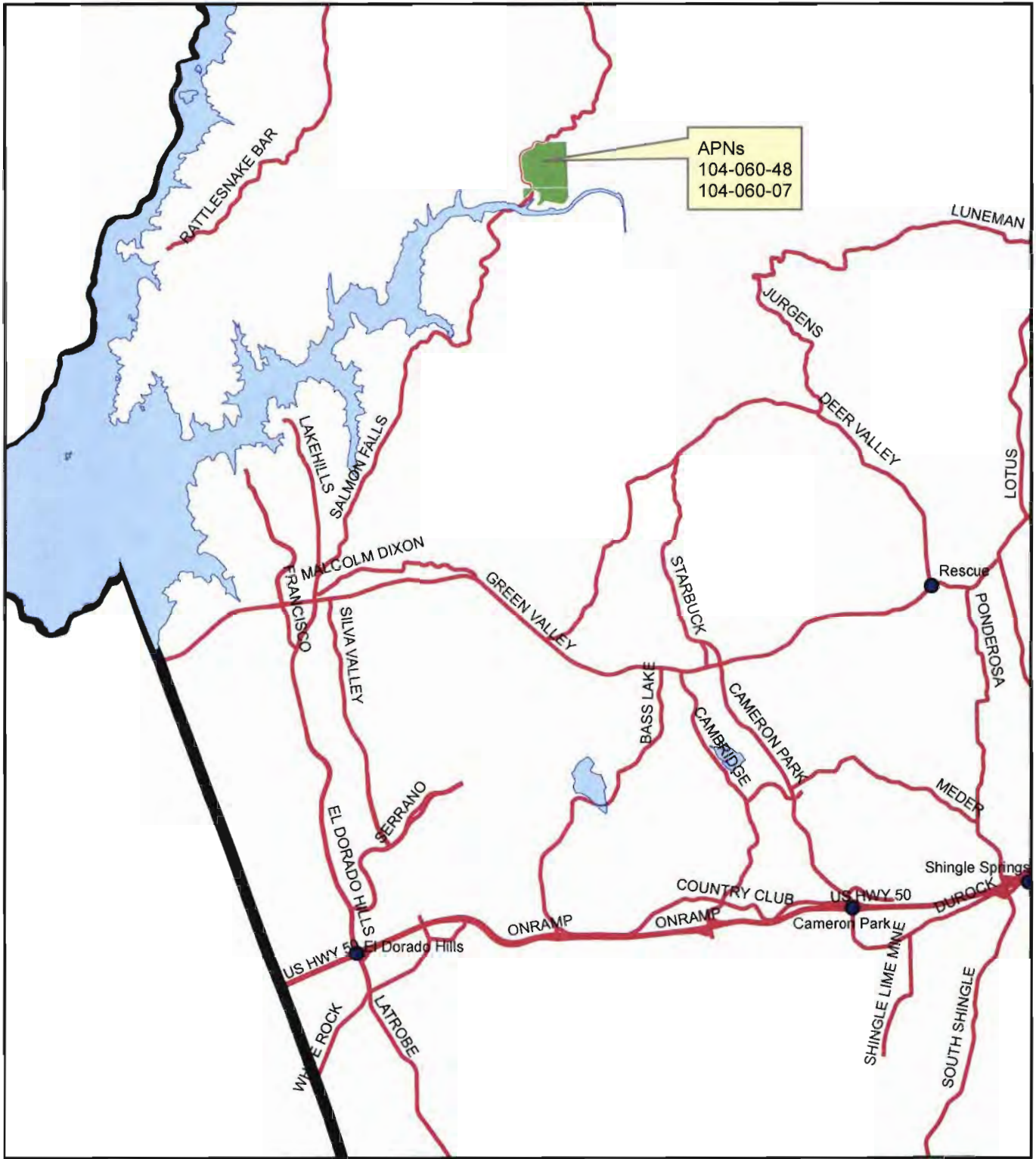
El Dorado County Subdivision Ordinances (Title 16 - County Code)

Soil Survey of El Dorado Area, California

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Statutes (Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq.)

Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3, Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (Section 15000, et seq.)

# Attachment 1: Location Map



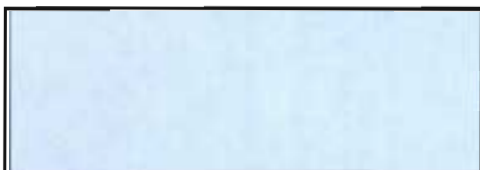
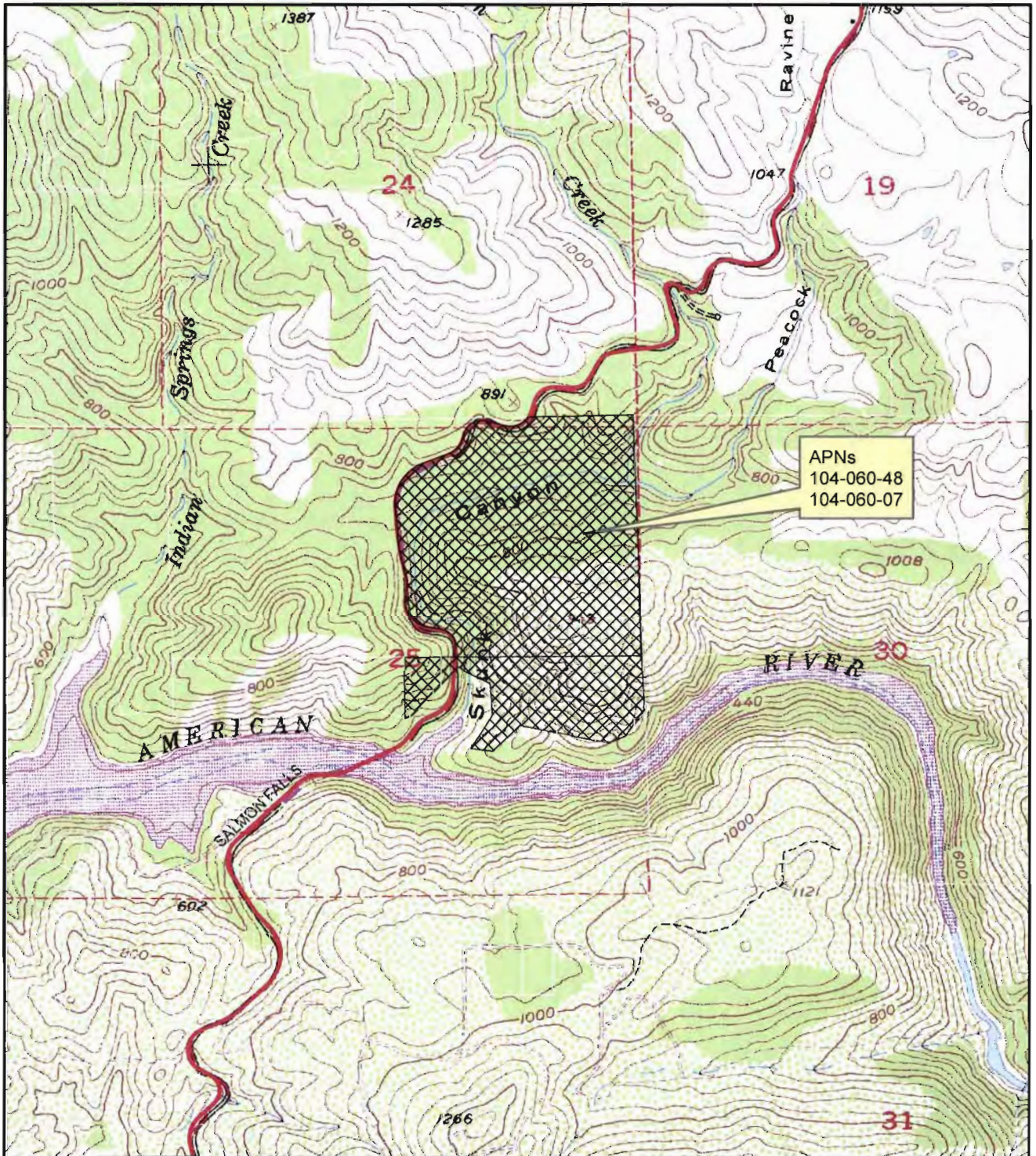
APNs  
104-060-48  
104-060-07

- PLACENAMES
- lakes
- EDC Boundary
- major\_roads
- currprcl



S13-0010/Salmon Falls Trailhead  
Prepared By Aaron Mount

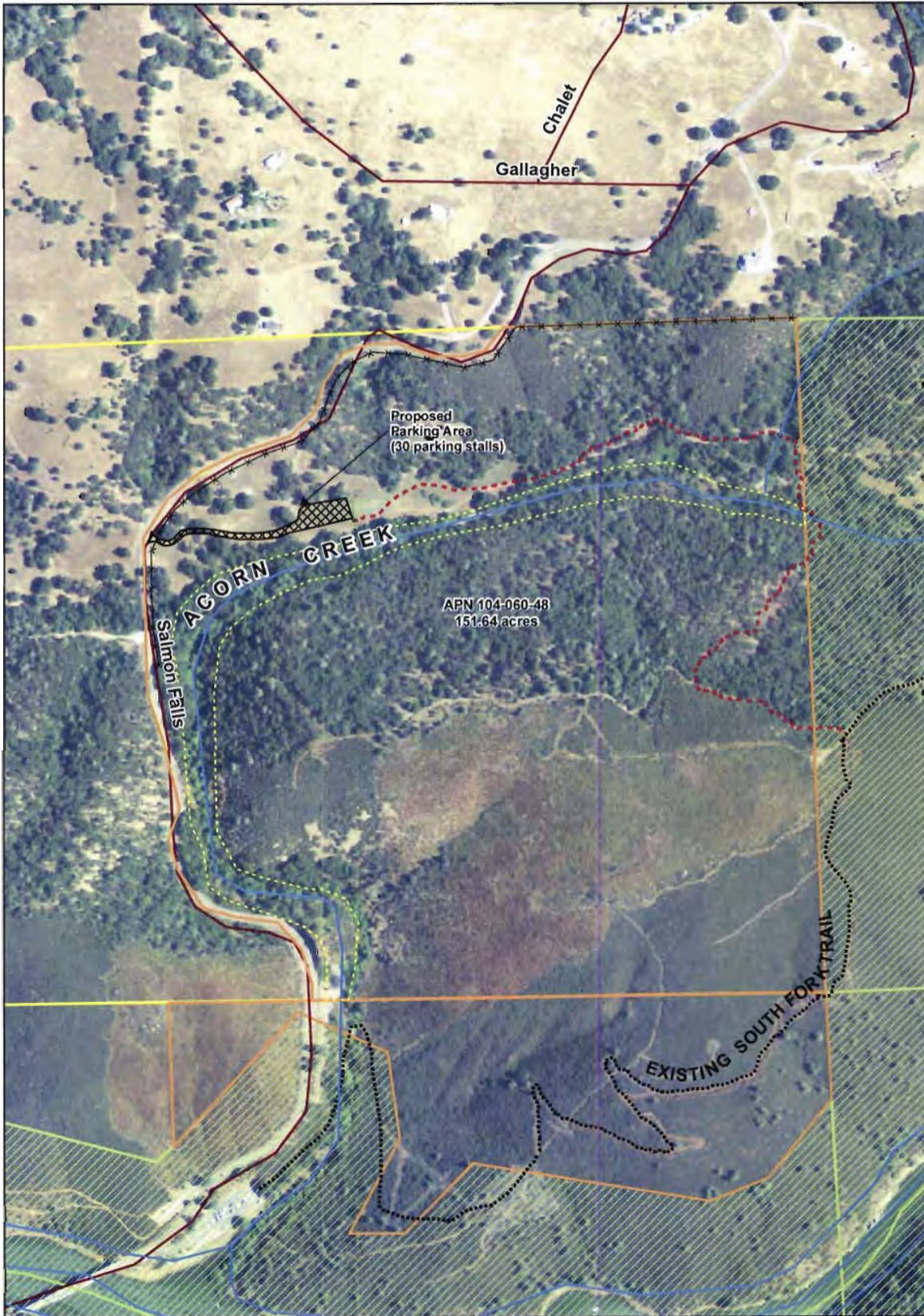
# Attachment 2: USGS Pilot Hill Quad Map



S13-0010/Salmon Falls Trailhead  
Prepared By Aaron Mount

00.0 0.1 0.2 Miles

# ATTACHMENT 3



 <p><b>AMERICAN RIVER CONSERVANCY</b> Preserving Rivers and Land for Life</p>	<p><b>Salmon Falls Ranch Trail and Trailhead Facility SITE PLAN</b></p> <p><b>American River Conservancy</b> P.O. Box 562 Coloma, CA 95613</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Salmon Falls Ranch Project Site</li> <li> Proposed Parking &amp; Driveway (18,000 sq.ft.)</li> <li> Proposed Trail</li> <li> Existing Fence</li> <li> Proposed Fence</li> <li> High Water Mark (100-year)</li> <li> Public Land (BLM or U.S.B.R.)</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">N </p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 inch = 375 feet</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Aerial Image: USDA NAIP 2009 Parcel Data: EDC Assessor 2011 Map Date: June 5, 2013</p>
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# ATTACHMENT 4

**BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES STUDY  
&  
OAK TREE SURVEY, PRESERVATION  
AND REPLACEMENT PLAN**

**Salmon Falls Ranch Trail &  
Trailhead Facility**

**Applicant:** American River Conservancy  
**Project Site:** APN 104-060-48; 151.64 acres  
**Report Completed:** June 12, 2013  
**Report Amended:** July 2, 2013 & March 18, 2014

**Report Prepared by:**  
Elena DeLacy, Qualified Wildlife Biologist  
American River Conservancy  
Conservation & Stewardship Project Manager  
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***Project Description***

The American River Conservancy (ARC) proposes the construction of a parking area, driveway and trail on approximately 152 acres (APN 104-060-48) immediately east of Salmon Falls Road and ¼ mile north of the Salmon Falls bridge crossing over the South Fork American River. This recreational facility will serve as a western terminus for the South Fork American River (SFAR) Trail.

The purpose of the project is to provide expanded parking and access for equestrians, hikers and mountain bicyclists who use the South Fork American River Trail System. Currently, the parking lot at Skunk Hollow administered by State Parks cannot accommodate trucks with equestrian trailers. Consequently, the westernmost 2.5 miles of the SFAR Trail is closed to equestrians. The proposed parking area and trailhead facility would allow equestrians full access and use of the western portion of the trail and provide additional parking for hikers and mountain bicyclists.

The proposed parking area would accommodate 30 parking spaces (car, truck and trailer spaces). The proposed parking area would be approximately 18,000 square feet. The parking area would be available to the public year-round from dawn to dusk with evening parking allowed with advance permission only (for example: Stargazing, moonlight hikes, etc.). The parking lot and trailhead facility will be monitored and managed by ARC's Stewardship Project Manager with assistance from trained volunteers. The trailhead at the eastern end of the parking lot will contain a kiosk with trail maps, safety guidelines and emergency contact information, recreation information and natural resource interpretation.

The purpose of the Salmon Falls Ranch Trail and Trailhead Facility is to enhance and improve trail-related recreational facilities associated with the South Fork American River available to County residents and visitors from surrounding areas.

### ***Project Location & Environmental Setting***

The information presented in this section is based on observations and research performed by Bureau of Land Management Staff, American River Conservancy biological staff, El Dorado Chapter California Native Plant Society botanists, GIS data from the Department of Fish and Wildlife (vegetation layer – Northern Sierra Foothills ecoregion) and recent (April 2013) California Natural Diversity Database GIS data on rare, threatened and endangered species.

The property is composed of approximately 88.63 acres of native oak habitats (including the Blue Oak Alliance, Interior Live Oak Alliance and Valley Oak Foothill Riparian Alliance) and 63.01 acres of chaparral habitat (Chamise-redshank chaparral and mixed chaparral). Elevation ranges from 650 feet to 950 feet above sea level. The property is vegetated with tree species including blue oak (*Quercus douglassii*), interior live oak (*Quercus wislizenii*) and valley oak (*Quercus lobata*). Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and foothill pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) are also present. California buckeye (*Aesculus californicus*), coffeeberry (*Rhamnus tomentella*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*) and buckbrush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*) are also present in the understory. Annual grassland species are composed entirely of introduced rye grass, oats, fescue and some legumes. Invasive annuals are also present, including yellow starthistle and medusahead. The riparian and wetland plant communities are comprised of willow, alder, blackberry, wild grape and various sedge and rush species. Old dirt roads and trails transect the subject area. The chaparral plant community is dominated by manzanita (*Arctostaphylos manzanita*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*), coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis*), deerbrush (*Ceanothus integerrimus*) and western white clematis (*Clematis ligusticifolia*).

The proposed project site is located on 151.64 acres of undeveloped privately-owned land (APN 104-060-48; “subject property” or “property”) and portions of the adjacent 160-acre BLM-owned parcel. The project site fronts Salmon Falls Road and is within the Pilot Hill 7.5 Minute USGS quad map (Section 25, Township 11N, Range 8E, Mount Diablo Basemap & Meridian). The site is mostly oak woodland, chaparral and annual grassland. Riparian habitat comprises approximately 5% of the property. Acorn Creek and Peacock Ravine (seasonal) flow through portions of the property. The elevation of the site ranges from 650 feet to 950 feet, gradually increasing in elevation from the northwest portion of the property to the southern edge of the property. Terrain ranges from level to very gentle slopes, with steeper slopes located towards the southerly portion of the property. Surrounding land uses are rural residences, recreational lands and agricultural lands (cattle grazing). The zoning for the subject property by the adopted El Dorado County General Plan is “AE.” This zoning provides for exclusive agricultural use. The site is accessed directly off of Salmon Falls Road.

## ***Regulatory Framework***

### 2004 El Dorado County General Plan

In addition to federal and state regulations, the 2004 El Dorado County General Plan defines certain goals and objectives for protecting natural resources:

*Objective 7.4.1: Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species.* The County shall protect State and Federally recognized rare, threatened, or endangered species and their habitats consistent with Federal and State laws.

*Objective 7.4.4: Forest and Oak Woodland Resources.* Protect and conserve forest and woodland resources for their wildlife habitat, recreation, water production, domestic livestock grazing, production of a sustainable flow of wood products, and aesthetic values.

*Objective 7.4.5: Native Vegetation and Landmark Trees.* Protect and maintain trees including oaks and landmark and heritage trees.

A Tree Survey, Preservation, and Replacement Plan is required whenever oak tree canopy is proposed to be removed for ministerial and for discretionary projects, to demonstrate compliance with the retention and replacement requirements of Policy 7.4.4.4 as well as Policies 7.4.5.1, 7.4.4.5, and 7.4.5.2 (B).

The El Dorado County General Plan also presents specific policies related to the objectives shown above for conservation of biological resources.

### ***Oak Woodland Habitat Resources***

This section is to specifically discuss oak woodland habitat resources and relate how the project will potentially alter oak woodland habitat. This section will also discuss specific oak trees affected by the project.

#### **Oak Tree Canopy**

Based on field observations, surveys and GIS analysis (including aerial imagery and vegetation datasets), approximately 88.63 acres (58%) of the parcel consists of oak canopy in varying degrees of coverage. The remaining 63.01 acres (42%) of the parcel is a combination of chamise chaparral, mixed chaparral and annual grasslands with 0-2% oak and pine tree canopy cover. According to the Northern Sierra Foothills Vegetation Mapping Project (California Native Plant Society and California Department of Fish and Game, 2011), oak woodland habitat at the project site consists of three vegetation alliances, as described here:

#### ***Quercus wislizeni* (Interior live oak woodland) Alliance**

At the project site, *Quercus wislizeni* dominates or at times co-dominates the stand in a variety of settings from moderately dense woodlands to open savanna with an herbaceous layer consisting of annual grasses and invasive exotics. Table 1-1 below summarizes the extent and coverage of interior live oak woodland canopy.

<b>Table 1-1 <i>Quercus wislizeni</i> (Interior live oak woodland) Alliance Canopy Coverage</b>		
<b>Alliance</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Density (% Cover)</b>
<i>Quercus wislizeni</i>	5.62	33
	4.18	36
	18.01	39
	0.10	42
	2.48	42
	9.07	45
	14.08	57
	0.03	58
	11.37	59
	0.10	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>65.03</b>	<b>Average Density: 47% Cover</b>

#### ***Quercus douglasii* (Blue oak Woodland) Alliance**

At the project site, *Quercus douglasii* co-dominates the stand in a variety of settings from moderately dense woodlands to open savanna with an herbaceous layer consisting of annual grasses and invasive exotics. Table 1-2 summarizes the extent and coverage of blue oak woodland canopy.

<b>Table 1-2 <i>Quercus douglasii</i> (blue oak woodland) Alliance Canopy Coverage</b>		
Alliance	Acres	Density (% Cover)
<i>Quercus douglasii</i>	0.09	32
	0.10	9
	2.20	42
	11.41	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.80</b>	<b>Average Density: 31% Cover</b>

#### ***Quercus lobata* (Valley oak woodland) Alliance**

At the project site, *Quercus lobata* occurs in a savanna like environment where it dominates the canopy. Valley oak stands occur where soils appeared deep, usually where annual grasses are denser and have a significant weedy component. Irregularly occurring patches of *Rubus* spp. are a common understory component to more open stands of valley oak woodlands especially near Acorn Creek. Table 1-2 below summarizes the extent and coverage of valley oak woodland canopy.

<b>Table 1-3 <i>Quercus lobata</i> (valley oak woodland) Alliance Canopy Coverage</b>		
Alliance	Acres	Density (% Cover)
<i>Quercus lobata</i>	9.8	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>Density: 11% Cover</b>

#### **Potential Impact Assessment**

During the course of construction, ten mature oak trees and one oak sapling will be removed in order to provide an acceptable sight line for the construction of an encroachment onto Salmon Falls Rd and to construct the driveway that leads to the parking area and trailhead facility. All trees have been inspected and identified. Table 1-4 identifies the oak trees that are to be removed as a result of this project. All trees appear to be healthy, and do not have any active or abandoned nests in the canopy, as of March 2014. Together, the tree canopy created by these eleven trees during full leaf is approximately 0.47 acre. Since 88.63 acres of the parcel consists of oak canopy in varying degrees of coverage, the project will remove 0.53% of the existing oak woodland canopy. This is illustrated in Table 1-4.

Oak Woodland Species	Oak Canopy Coverage Percentage		Oaks To Be Removed	
	Pre-Project	Post Project	Count	DBH (in.)
Blue oak	31%	30.81%	4 trees	18, 24, 24, 35
Interior Live oak	47%	46.66%	7 trees	2, 11, 24, 26, 32, 55 (multiple trunk), 65 (multiple trunk).
Valley oak	11%	11%		
<b>Oak Canopy Coverage Total</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>88.47%</b>		

Based on this impact assessment, the project will retain oak canopy cover well above that which is required by Policy 7.4.4.4 of the El Dorado County General Plan (2004). The removal of the identified trees and construction of a driveway, parking area and trail will not result in a significant impact to the continuity of oak woodland habitat, grassland habitat or chaparral habitat at the project site. Additionally, the project will not fragment or otherwise disturb sensitive habitat adjacent to the project parcel (Pine Hill Preserve).

The proposed driveway will use an existing dirt roadway that is currently unused. The proposed parking area will be constructed in a flat area with no oak canopy. The only vegetation present in the footprint of the proposed parking area is star thistle, medusahead grass and other non-native annual herbaceous species. The proposed trail alignment follows an existing path that was probably used by cattle when the property was grazed. The proposed trail construction will not require the removal of native oaks, but will disturb some shrub and herbaceous species in the oak understory.



### ***Tree Preservation Plan***

This section outlines specific requirements necessary to protect oak trees during and after construction.

#### **Safeguarding Trees and Wildlife During Construction**

The following guidelines will be in effect during construction:

1. There will be no grading, cutting or filling activities taking place within 5 feet of any oak tree root zone.
2. Oil, gasoline, chemicals and other construction materials or equipment which might be harmful to trees shall not be stored within the tree root zone.
3. Drains shall be installed according to County specifications so as to avoid harm to the oak trees due to excess watering.
4. Wires, signs and other similar items shall not be attached to the protected trees.
5. The existing ground surface within the tree root zone of any protected tree shall not be cut, filled, compacted, or pared.
6. No paint thinner, paint, plaster or other liquid or solid excess or waste construction materials or waste water shall be dumped on the ground or into any grate between the tree root zone and the base of the protected trees, or uphill from any protected tree where such substance might reach the roots through a leaching process.
7. For trees greater than 6" DBH located within 25 feet of grading activities, a minimum of a 4' tall temporary tree protection fence, of orange standard fencing shall be installed at the outermost edge of the tree root zone to prevent compaction and injury to a tree's surface roots. Once approved, the fences must remain in place throughout the entire construction period.
8. No person shall store building material or park vehicles or equipment within the tree root zone of any protected tree during development, unless specifically authorized by the County and under the direction of a Certified Arborist or qualified professional.
9. No person shall drive metal stakes into tree trunks or stems or the tree root zone for any purpose other than to support a protected tree. No person shall have an open flame within fifteen feet of the foliar canopy or trunk of a protected tree.
10. There will be no paving within the tree root zone of oak trees.
11. Tree removal activities will be conducted during the non-nesting season (Sept.–Feb.) to avoid any potential disturbance to nesting birds.

#### **Safeguarding Trees After Construction**

Oak trees kept on a building site and oak trees required to be planted as a condition of construction shall be maintained after completion of construction according to County requirements for the purpose of maintaining or furthering the health of such trees.

Landscaping beneath oak trees may include non-living plant materials such as wood chips, or live landscaping such as drought resistant plants. Drought resistant landscaping will be installed in areas surrounding the parking area and kiosk/trailhead. All landscaping will be at least four feet away from the trunk of any existing trees.

**Funding Mechanism**

Funding for this trailhead and trail project, including all aspects of project planning, implementation and maintenance, will be funded by the American River Conservancy. The American River Conservancy receives funding from private foundations, corporate foundations, individual supporters and grants. Funding for the majority of construction of this proposed project will most likely be provided through the Natural Resources Agency and Cal Trans (EEMP Grant Program). Matching (In-kind) contributions have been provided by the Mother Lode Office of BLM. BLM Staff will be contributing time and equipment for trail development.

### **Tree Replacement Plan**

This section outlines specific requirements necessary to replace oak woodland habitat that will need to be removed as a result of the proposed project.

### **Canopy Retention and Replacement**

Based on the information provided in this report, the proposed project will retain oak canopy cover well above that which is required by Policy 7.4.4.4 of the El Dorado County General Plan (2004).

**Table 1-5: El Dorado County Tree Canopy Retention Standards**

<b>Percent Existing Canopy Cover</b>	<b>Canopy Cover to be Retained</b>
80-100	60% of existing canopy
60-79	70% of existing canopy
40-59	80% of existing canopy
20-39	85% of existing canopy
10-19	90% of existing canopy
1-9 for parcels > 1 acre	90% of existing canopy

Because the proposed project involves the removal of eleven oak trees, or 0.53% of the existing oak tree canopy on the parcel, it complies with the County's oak woodland retention policy. However, Policy 7.4.4.4 Option A requires replacement of oak woodland habitat removed at a ratio of 1:1. The removal of 0.47 acres of woodland canopy requires the planting of 94 locally sourced oak saplings (using the replacement formula of 200 trees per acre). Alternatively, the applicant (ARC) may also use acorns to replace woodland canopy, which is recommended due to the lack of availability of irrigation water. Per El Dorado County's Policy, oak woodland habitat can be replaced with acorns using the following formula: (Replacement Area in acres) x (200 trees per acre) x (3 acorns per tree) = the total number of acorns to be replanted. Using this formula, the applicant will need to plant 282 acorns at the site.

### **Oak Replacement Management and Monitoring**

Oak replacement is subject to 10 years of management and monitoring pursuant to Policy 7.4.4.4, in addition to achieving 90% survival of oak plantings. ARC shall perform oak replacement management activities such as weeding, replacement of protective structures and periodic hand-watering to encourage growth and survival of oak trees. The following guidelines from the University of California College of Agriculture and Natural Resources shall be used to collect, store, plant and maintain acorns and oak seedlings.

### **Acorns vs. Seedlings**

Oak trees can be started by either directly planting acorns or transplanting small seedlings. The choice of whether to plant acorns or seedlings depends on a whole host of factors including

availability of planting material and conditions at the planting site. Generally, acorns are easier to plant, but the survival of seedlings may be greater if they are planted correctly at the right time of the year. Another factor that may influence the choice is what kinds of animals are present at the planting site. If there are high populations of acorn-eating rodents (ground squirrels or deer mice), it may be easier to plant seedlings than trying to protect the acorns.

### **Maintain Local Seed Sources**

Since most tree species have adapted to the specific environments where they grow, it is important to only plant a given oak species in areas where it naturally occurs or where it may have grown in the past. Even within a species, you must be careful to only plant acorns or seedlings that come from a parent tree growing in the same general environment. Acorns for the proposed project will be collected from the same property.

### **Collecting Acorns**

Acorns can be collected either directly from the trees or from the ground beneath. However, the healthiest acorns are generally those picked from the trees. Acorns collected directly from trees can be hand-picked or knocked to the ground using long poles or pieces of plastic pipe. It's easy to pick them up if tarps are placed under the trees first.

The best time to collect acorns is generally in the early fall, when they are just starting to turn from green to brown and some are falling to the ground. It's probably too early to collect them if they are all dark green and it is difficult to remove their caps (the cup covering the rounded end). Wait a couple of weeks and check them again.

### **Storing Acorns**

Prior to storage, the caps on all acorns should be taken off. They should come off easily when twisted. Acorns collected directly from the trees should be put in plastic bags and immediately placed in a refrigerator. Refrigeration slows the metabolic activity and helps prevent them from heating up or drying out both of which can be damaging. A recent study indicated that storing acorns in a refrigerator for a month or so before planting resulted in faster and more complete germination than planting acorns immediately.

Acorns picked up off the ground should be soaked for a day before they are placed in cold storage. Those that float should be discarded. "Floaters" are generally acorns that have been damaged by insects or have dried out while they were on the ground. "Sinkers" should be saved. Remove the acorns from the water and place them on cloth or paper towels for a half hour to dry their surface. Then place the acorns in plastic bags in the refrigerator. Check them occasionally for molds. If molds do develop, take the acorns out and rinse them, and then put them back in the refrigerator. Leaving the plastic bag partially open at the end seems to reduce the tendency for molds to develop.

Another problem that can develop in cold storage is premature germination. Blue oak acorns are especially prone to this. The white tip emerging from the pointed end of the acorn is actually the start of the new root system. Once these roots have grown for a few weeks, they

can start to go bad and turn dark brown or grey and mushy. Therefore, if you see the acorns starting to germinate in storage, it's best to plant them as soon as possible.

### **Acorn and Seedling Planting**

Acorns can be planted from early November (after the first rains have soaked the soil) until early March. However, it's generally better to plant acorns early in the season since the earlier they are placed in the ground, the earlier they start to grow. Early planting also reduces the problems associated with premature germination during storage.

Plant the acorns one-half to one inch below the soil surface. Dig a hole using a hand trowel, hoe, or shovel. It's best to dig the hole several inches deeper than the acorn is actually planted, and then partially fill the hole back up with loose soil. This gives the new root a chance to get a good start in soft, easy to penetrate soil. If the acorns have germinated, try not to break the root tip, and position it in such a way that the root is pointing down. Even if the tip of the root has begun to turn brown, the acorns should still be okay as long as some of the root is white and fleshy. Place un-germinated acorns on their side in the hole and cover with soil.

Planting seedlings requires a little more care since there is greater risk of transplant shock and root injury. Seedlings should be planted between December and February, when the soil is wet but not frozen. When planting potted seedlings, try to keep the soil from falling off the roots when the seedling is removed from the container. Place the seedlings in the ground such that the top of the soil from the container is even with the ground line. It is especially important not to plant the seedlings so shallow that the potting mix sticks up in the air, since this can cause moisture to "wick-out" and the seedlings to dry up. If you are planting bareroot seedlings, be sure not to "J-root" them (planting in too shallow a hole so the root bends up). Also, tamp the soil down in the planting hole so that air pockets are removed. If possible, water the transplants when they are planted. This settles the soil, ensures there is adequate moisture, and helps eliminate air pockets.

Recent studies have indicated that augering holes 1-2 feet below planting spots and backfilling with the broken-up soil can promote deep root development and stimulate vigorous growth. This is especially beneficial if you are planting in hard, compacted ground. Deep root development provides seedlings with greater access to moisture, thus reducing the ill effects of summer drought. Placing a fertilizer tablet a few inches below and to the side of the bottom of the root can also help ensure that the developing seedling will have plenty of nutrients for its initial growth.

The site where you choose to plant acorns or seedlings may also be critical for their success. Choose a sunny spot that has loose, well-drained soil and is fairly free of weeds. Also, avoid areas where there are lots of pocket gopher mounds or ground squirrel activity. If you do feel that the acorns may be threatened by rodents such as squirrels or mice, plant them a little deeper say, two inches below the surface. If they are planted deeper, it will be harder for these animals to dig them up. However, if they are planted too deep, they may rot or not be able to grow up to the soil surface.

### **Planting Layout**

The number of acorns or seedlings to plant in a given area will depend on how many oaks you eventually want to grow there. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to predict how many trees will be produced from plantings, since a whole host of uncertain factors including weather, animals and competing vegetation can influence this. When laying out the planting area, consider spacing seedlings or acorns in a naturalistic manner, rather than in straight rows, using surrounding oak trees as a model. For the proposed project, a greater density is required, which will result in plantings 15-20 feet apart.

### **Seedling Maintenance and Protection**

Another critical factor affecting young oak seedlings is competing vegetation. Adjacent plants especially grasses can use up so much of the available soil moisture that little is left for the seedlings. It is therefore recommended that a 2-3 foot radius circle around the planting spots be cleared of other vegetation. This can be done by hand weeding, hoeing, scalping, or by spraying a contact herbicide. However, with any of these methods, be sure to check back in the spring and early summer to remove any additional weeds that may have come up. It is generally best to keep the weeds away for at least 2 years after planting.

Another way of reducing weeds near seedlings is to place some type of mulch around the planting spots. Bark chips, straw, compost, mulching paper, or even black plastic can be used. Mulches have an added benefit in that they also help conserve moisture by reducing evaporation from the soil surface. In areas where water is accessible, several deep irrigations (2 gallons per seedling) during the late spring and early summer can also help ensure that the seedlings are not damaged by drought.

Since acorns are an important food source for a whole host of animals, there is always a risk some of them will be dug up and eaten. As the seedlings start to grow in the spring, there is also a chance that their tender young shoots will be eaten by livestock, rabbits, grasshoppers, or other animals. The risk of such injury to both acorns and seedlings can be reduced by placing protective tubes around the planting spots. This project will utilize blue protective tubes, called Blue-X tubes. These "tree shelters" vary in height from one to six feet. These shelters not only keep away insects and browsers, but appear to stimulate height growth as well.

### **Findings and Recommendations**

Removal of the eleven oak trees and construction of a driveway, parking area and trail will not result in a significant impact to the continuity of oak woodland habitat, grassland habitat or chaparral habitat at the project site. Additionally, the project will not fragment or otherwise disturb sensitive habitat adjacent to the project parcel (Pine Hill Preserve).

Additionally, the incorporation of suggested guidelines for the safeguarding of trees during construction will serve to provide an additional layer of protection for oak resources at the project site. Erosion control Best Management Practices required as part of our grading permit (and referenced in the grading plan) will also complement efforts to protect and retain existing oak trees at the project site. Therefore, this project will avoid or minimize impacts "sufficient to

protect" the woodland habitat resource as required by the El Dorado County General Plan and CEQA.

***Certification***

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this biological survey, and that the facts, statements, and information presented herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

SIGNED:           *Elena DeLacy*           DATED: 3/18/14



**Report Authors**

Report Author: Elena DeLacy, Conservation & Stewardship Project Manager  
Contributors: Annie Walker, CNPS El Dorado Chapter; Professional Botanist  
Beth Brenneman, BLM Mother Lode Field Office Botanist

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**Author Qualifications**

The author of this report is a qualified wildlife biologist as identified in the El Dorado County General Plan Policy 7.4.4. Elena DeLacy is employed as the Conservation and Stewardship Project Manager by the American River Conservancy. Ms. DeLacy has over eleven years of experience working in El Dorado County on watershed conservation and restoration projects within the Upper American River and Upper Cosumnes River watersheds. Elena holds a B.S. in Environmental Biology and Management from the University of California, Davis with a focus on Conservation Biology and California Flora. Ms. DeLacy holds additional continuing education credits for wildlife survey and monitoring techniques and has attended several workshops and training sessions relating to plant species identification, field methods in ecology and protocols for special status species surveys. Elena is an active member of the El Dorado Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, the Amphibian Populations Task Force and is familiar with plants and animals of the region. Ms. DeLacy also serves as a member of the El Dorado County Plant and Wildlife Technical Advisory Committee (PAWTAC) and serves on the Board of Directors of the non-profit Cosumnes Culture and Waterways.



**Salmon Falls Ranch  
Trail and Trailhead Facility  
OAK CANOPY COVER**

-  Proposed Trail
-  Proposed Parking & Driveway (18,000 sq.ft.)
-  Salmon Falls Ranch Project Site

- Vegetation Types with % Oak Canopy Cover**
-  Blue Oak Woodland (13.81 acres)
  -  Chamise Chaparral (24.84 acres)
  -  Interior Live Oak Woodland (64.88 acres)
  -  Valley Oak, Riparian Mixed Hardwood (9.8 acres)
  -  Mixed Chaparral (38.31 acres)

1 inch = 350 feet



American River Conservancy  
P.O. Box 562  
Coloma, CA 95613  
Aerial Image: ESRI World Imagery 2013  
Parcel Data: EDC Assessor 2011  
Vegetation Data: Dept. Fish and Wildlife 2012  
Map Date: June 10, 2013



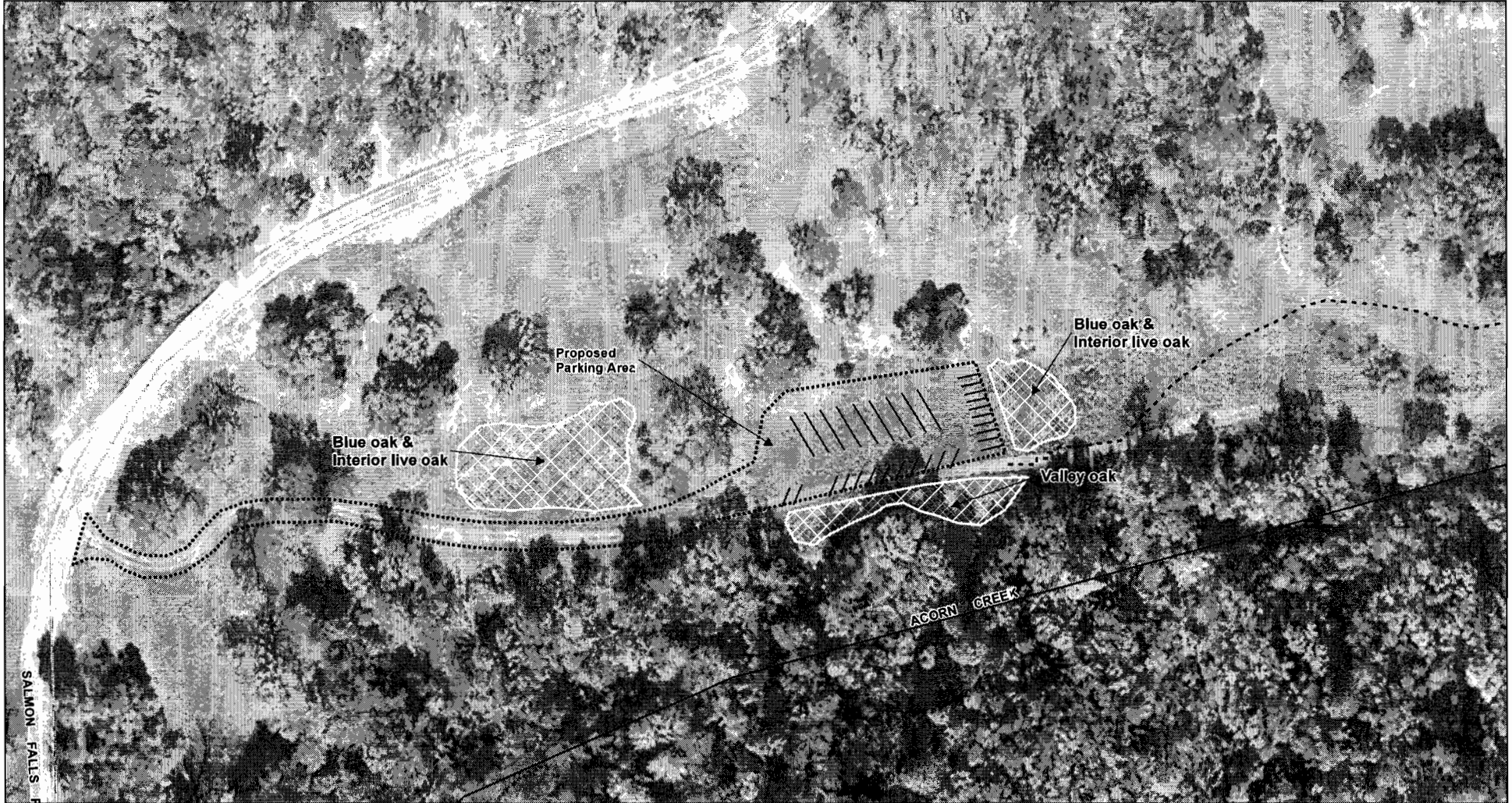
**Salmon Falls Ranch  
Trail and Trailhead Facility  
OAK WOODLAND IMPACTS**

-  Oak Woodland Impacts (0.47 acre)
-  Oak Woodland Cover (88.63 acres)
-  Proposed Trail
-  Proposed Parking & Driveway (18,000 sq.ft.)
-  Salmon Falls Ranch Project Site

1 inch = 100 feet



American River Conservancy  
P.O. Box 562  
Coloma, CA 95613  
*Aerial Image: ESRI World Imagery 2013*  
*Parcel Data: EDC Assessor 2011*  
*Oak Woodland Data: ARC Surveys 2013 - 2014*  
*Map Date: March 18, 2014*



AMERICAN RIVER CONSERVANCY



**Salmon Falls Ranch  
Trail and Trailhead Facility  
TREE REPLACEMENT AREA**

Tree Replacement Area (0.48 acre)

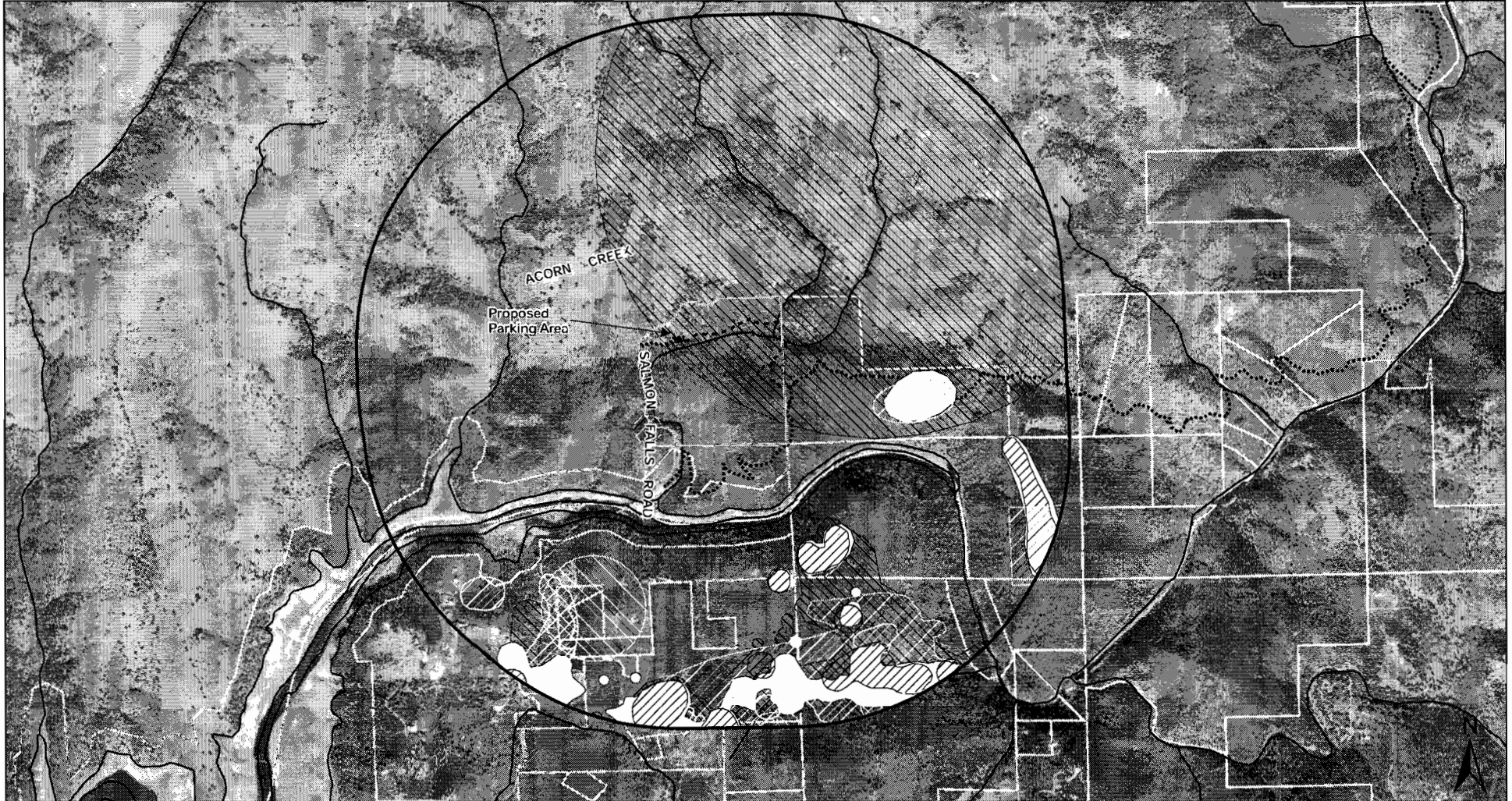
- Proposed Trail
- Proposed Parking & Driveway (18,000 sq.ft.)
- Salmon Falls Ranch Project Site

1 inch = 83.33 feet



American River Conservancy  
P.O. Box 562  
Coloma, CA 95613

Aerial Image: ESRI World Imagery 2013  
Parcel Data: EDC Assessor 2011  
Oak Woodland Data: ARC Surveys 2013 - 2014  
Map Date: March 18, 2014



**Salmon Falls Ranch  
Trail and Trailhead Facility  
SPECIAL STATUS  
SPECIES OCCURENCES**

CNDDDB Special Status Species		Layne's ragwort		1 mile buffer
Common Name		Pine Hill ceanothus		Salmon Falls Ranch Project Site
Bisbee Peak rush-rose		Red Hills soaproot		Proposed Trail
Brandegee's clarkia		Stebbins' morning-glory		Proposed Parking & Driveway (18,000 sq.ft.)
El Dorado County mule ears		tricolored blackbird		
El Dorado bedstraw				

1:21,000

American River Conservancy  
P.O. Box 562  
Coloma, CA 95613  
  
Aerial Image: ESRI World Imagery 2013  
Parcel Data: EDC Assessor 2011  
Oak Woodland Data: ARC Surveys 2013  
Map Date: June 10, 2013

**Bureau of Land Management  
Mother Lode Field Office**

### **Botanical Resource Inventory Report**

**Project name:** South Fork American River recreation facilities improvements

**Project description:** The project would include the following: building a new connector trail and trailhead/parking lot from Acorn Creek into the Salmon Falls parcel, installing vault toilets in the Cronan Ranch parcel, and realigning a small segment of existing trail in the Greenwood Creek parcel.

**Size of disturbance:** The project area would include a 0.55 acre parking area, a 4,664 foot long new connector trail, three new toilet sites (10' x 10') with access trails at the most 50' in length, and a new trail segment of approximately 400 feet.

**Project location:** T. 11N, R. 9E, Sections 9, 10, 16 & 30 and T. 11N, R. 8E, Section 25

**USGS Quads:** Placerville

**County:** El Dorado

**Geographic area:** Sierra foothills

**Elevation range:** Approx. 650-900 feet

**Geology/soils:** Mapped as schist and mafic volcanic rock.

**Land form:** Mid slope, low slope, ridge.

**Plant community/vegetation:** The plant communities in the vicinity of the South Fork American River have been classified as part of the Foothill Pine Belt, which encompasses a wide variety of plant habitats (i.e., montane hardwood-conifer, blue oak-foothill pine, mixed chaparral, riverine, and valley foothill riparian). Dominant habitats in the project area include open grassland, oak savannah, and mixed conifer forest on the north-facing slopes. A large portion of the open grassland and blue oak woodlands have been degraded by invasive plant communities.

The vegetation of the Greenwood Creek and Cronan Ranch parcels can be divided into four main regions and plant communities. On the uplands there are forest stands on the north and northeast facing slopes of both Clark Mountain and the hill west of Hastings Creek. On the south facing slopes of the hills north of the South Fork American River there is oak woodland and chaparral. Grasslands dominate the relatively flat to rolling portions of the parcel south of Highway 49. Along Greenwood Creek, Hastings Creek and the South Fork American River there are well developed riparian areas.

South facing hill slopes north of the American River are dominated by interior live oak, with black oak, California buckeye, toyon, buckbrush, white leaf manzanita, keckiella, California coffeeberry, poison oak and pipe vine. The north facing slope of Clark Mountain supports a forest stand dominated by ponderosa pine and black oak. Gray pine and incense cedar become prominent on the lower slopes. Douglas fir is a minor component. Similar vegetation is found on north facing slopes west of Hastings Creek.

The riparian area along the South Fork American River is broad and diverse. Among the prominent species are sand bar willow, arroyo willow, shining willow, valley oak, Oregon ash, white alder, Fremont cottonwood, button willow, coyote brush, mock orange, California wild grape, deer grass and scotch broom.

Grasslands are composed largely of non-native annual species. Especially in the grassland area, invasive plants are becoming monocultures, displacing both native species and other non-native species. The grassland associated invasive species of the most concern are yellow starthistle, medusahead, rush skeleton weed and oblong spurge. Scotch broom, which occurs mainly in woodland, forest and riparian communities, is also a threat to the ecosystem. Rush skeletonweed has only become common in this region in the last ten years; however, the rapid increase of this species is of particular concern.

The Norton Ravine area is an exceptionally rich and scenic mix of habitats that include riparian, mixed chaparral, grassland, blue oak woodland and montane hardwood. This area also contains sensitive plant species on rare gabbro soils. The unit is composed of east-facing slopes with oak woodlands, grasslands, and patches of chaparral.

The largest serpentine exposure in the area runs in a wide east-west band through the middle of the area north of the river. Another serpentine outcrop occurs in the southern portion of the L-shaped parcel south of the river. The serpentine is mostly covered by dense chamise chaparral. Associated shrubs include toyon, whiteleaf manzanita, buckbrush, interior live oak, bush monkey flower and pitcher sage, with Sonoma sage in the understory openings, and occasional gray pines above.

**CNDDDB records:** The closest known rare plant occurrence is the BLM sensitive Brandegee's clarkia (*Clarkia biloba subsp. brandegeae*), located less than ½ mile away. An occurrence of the federally threatened Layne's butterweed (*Packera layneae*) is located within a ½ mile of the project.

**Inventory description (methodology, problems, reliability, coverage):** The project site was inventoried by the FO Botanist and the Pine Hill Preserve Manager.

**Sensitive species particularly searched for:** Brandegee's clarkia and other rare Pine Hill plants.

**Sensitive species or other botanical resources at site:** No rare plants were found in the project areas.

**Weeds at site:** Large infestations of invasive weeds, such as yellow starthistle and medusahead, occur throughout the Cronan Ranch and Greenwood Creek parcels. Norton Ravine has much lower densities of weed species.

**Project impacts:** No impacts will occur to special status plant species.

**Recommendations:** Trail building equipment will be washed prior to entry to prevent new weed introductions into Pine Hill Preserve.

**Date of inventory:** June 3, 2012

**Date of report:** 9/12/12

**Signature:**

**Title:** Botanist



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>FAMILY</b>	<b>GENUS</b>	<b>COMMON</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>LIFE FORM</b>	
2	AGAVACEAE	Chlorogalum pomeridianum	soap root			
3	ANACARDIACEAE	Toxicodendron diversilobum	poison oak			
4	APIACEAE	Conium maculatum	poison hemlock	invasive		
5	APIACEAE	Daucus pusillus	wild carrot			
6	APIACEAE	Torilis arvensis	beggar lice			
7	APONCYNACEAE	Asclepias fascicularis	narrow leaf milkweed			
8	APONCYNACEAE	Asclepias speciosa	showy milkweed			
9	ARISTOLOCHACEAE	Aristolochia californica	Dutchman's pipe			
10	ASTERACEAE	Artemisia douglasiana	mugwort			
11	ASTERACEAE	Baccharis pilularis	coyotebush			
12	ASTERACEAE	Carduus pycnocephalus	Italian thistle	invasive		
13	ASTERACEAE	Centaurea solstitialis	starthistle	invasive		
14	ASTERACEAE	Chondrilla juncea	rush skeleton weed	invasive		
15	ASTERACEAE	Erigeron (Coryza) canadensis	horseweed	invasive		
16	ASTERACEAE	Eriophyllum lanatum	Oregon sunshine			
17	ASTERACEAE	Grindelia sp.	sticky bur gum weed			
18	ASTERACEAE	Hypochaeris glabra	catsear	exotic		
19	ASTERACEAE	Madia gracilis	tar weed			
20	ASTERACEAE	Micropus californica	native			
21	ASTERACEAE	Silybum marianum	milkthistle	invasive		
22	ASTERACEAE	Solidago sp.	goldenrod			
23	ASTERACEAE	Sonchus sp.	sowthistle	exotic		
24	ASTERACEAE	Wyethia mollis	mules ear			
25	ASTERACEAE	Wyethia angustifolium	long leaf wyethia			
26	ASTERACEAE	yellow comp	tidy tips			
27	ASTERACEAE					
28	ASTERACEAE	Madia glomerata				
29	ASTERACEAE	Hemizonia fitchii				
30	ASTERACEAE	Bidens sp.				
31	BORAGINACEAE	Amsinckia intermedia	native			
32	BORAGINACEAE	Eriodictyon californicum	yerba santa			
33	BRASSICACEAE	Barbarea orthocerus	mustard			

	A	B	C	D	E	F
34	BRASSICACEAE	Hirschfeldia incana	short pod mustard	invasive		
35	CAPRIFOLIACEAE	Lonicera	honeysuckle			
36	CARYOPHYLLACEAE	Mystery plant	small capsules			
37	CARYOPHYLLACEAE	Scleranthus annuus	knawel			
38	CONVULACEAE	Calystegia occidentalis				
39	CORNACEAE	Cornus sericea				
40	CYPERACEAE	Carex sp.	sedge			
41	CYPERACEAE	Cyperus eragrostis?	cyperus			
42	CYPERACEAE	Eleocharis (small)				
43	CYPERACEAE	Carex barbarea				
44	DRYOPTERIDACEAE	Dryopteris arguta?	wood fern			
45	ERICACEAE	Arctostaphylos viscida	whiteleaf manzanita			
46	EUPHORBIACEAE	Croton setigerus	dove weed			
47	FABACEAE	Acmispon (Lotus)scoparius	deer pea			
48	FABACEAE	Cercis occidentalis	redbud			
49	FABACEAE	Lathyrus sulphureous	lathyrus			
50	FABACEAE	Lathyrus sulphureous	sulphur pea			
51	FABACEAE	Lotus sp. fuzzy	lotus			
52	FABACEAE	Lupinus albifrons	bush lupine			
53	FABACEAE	Melilotus officinalis	sweet clover	invasive		
54	FABACEAE	Trifolium hirtum	rose clover	exotic		
55	FABACEAE	Trifolium	clover			
56	FABACEAE	Trifolium (dubium)	little hop clover			
57	FABACEAE	Trifolium subterraneanum	weed			
58	FABACEAE	Trifolium arvense				
59	FABACEAE	Hoita macrostachya				
60	FAGACEAE	Quercus douglasii	blue oak			
61	FAGACEAE	Quercus kelloggii	black oak			
62	FAGACEAE	Quercus wislizeni	interior live oak			
63	FAGACEAE	Quercus X morehus	oracle oak			
64	GERANIACEAE	Erodium cicutarium	filaree	exotic		
65	GERANIACEAE	Geranium molle				
66	GERANIACEAE	Geranium dissectum				

	A	B	C	D	E	F
67	HYPERICACEAE	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Klamathweed	invasive		
68	IRIDACEAE	<i>Iris hartwegii</i>	iris			
69	JUNCACEAE	<i>Juncus balticus</i>	baltic rush			
70	LAMIACEAE	<i>Lepechinia calycina</i>	pitcher sage			
71	LAMIACEAE	<i>Mentha sp. (spicata)</i>	spearmint	exotic		
72	LAMIACEAE	<i>Trichostema lanceolata</i>	vinegar weed			
73	LICHEN	<i>Cladonia sp.</i>	lichen			
74	LICHEN	<i>Evernia sp.</i>	lichen			
75	LICHEN	<i>Peltigera</i>	dog foot lichen			
76	LILIACEAE	<i>Calochortus albus</i>	fairy lantern			
77	LINACEAE	<i>Linum (bienne)</i>	wild flax			
78	LIVERWORT	<i>Marchantia ?</i>	liverwort			
79	MORACEAE	<i>Ficus carica</i>	fig	invasive		
80	Mystery compound lf.	<i>Acer? negundo?</i>	box elder	not confirmed		
81	ONAGRACEAE	<i>Clarkia rhomboidea?</i>	clarkia			
82	ONAGRACEAE	<i>Epilobium torreyi</i>	boisduvalia			
83	ONAGRACEAE	<i>Epilobium minutum</i>				
84	ONAGRACEAE	<i>Clarkia biloba</i>				
85	ONAGRACEAE	<i>Clarkia unguiculata</i>				
86	OROBANCHACEAE	<i>Kopsiopsis strobilacea</i>	Boschniakia			
87	PHILADELPHACEAE	<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>				
88	PHYRMACEAE	<i>Mimulus guttatus</i>	sticky monkeyflower			
89	PHYRMACEAE	<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	bush monkeyflower			
90	PHYRMACEAE	<i>Mimulus cardinale</i>				
91	PINACEAE	<i>Pinus sabiniana</i>	gray pine			
92	PLANTAGINACEAE	<i>Keckiella lemmonii?</i>	bush penstemon			
93	PLANTAGINACEAE	<i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i>	foothill penstemon			
94	PLANTAGINACEAE	<i>Plantago major</i>	broadleaf plantain	exotic		
95	PLANTAGINACEAE	<i>Veronica americana</i>	speedwell			
96	PLANTAGINACEAE		chinese houses			
97	POACEAE	<i>Aegilops triuncialis</i>	goatgrass	invasive		
98	POACEAE	<i>Aira caryophyllea</i>	hair grass	exotic		
99	POACEAE	<i>Avena fatua</i>	wild oats	exotic		

	A	B	C	D	E	F
100	POACEAE	Briza minor	little quaking grass	exotic		
101	POACEAE	Bromus carinatus	california brome			
102	POACEAE	Bromus hordeaceus	soft chess	exotic		
103	POACEAE	Bromus diandrus	ripgut brome	exotic		
104	POACEAE	Bunch grass	grass			
105	POACEAE	Cyanosurus echinatus	spiny dog tail	exotic		
106	POACEAE	Cynodon dactylon	<del>erab</del> grass? bermuda grass	invasive		
107	POACEAE	Elymus caput-medusae	medusahead	invasive		
108	POACEAE	Elymus glaucus	native			
109	POACEAE	Hordeum marinum	one of them	invasive		
110	POACEAE	Lolium multiflorum	weed			
111	POACEAE	Melica imperfecta	melica			
112	POACEAE	Muhlenbergia rigens	deergrass			
113	POACEAE	Phalaris aurundinaceae	reed grass reed canary grass	exotic		
114	POACEAE	Polypogon monspeliensis?	rabbit foot grass	invasive		
115	POACEAE	Stipa sp.	stipa			
116	POACEAE	Lolium multiflorum	annual rye	invasive		
117	POACEAE	Bromus rubens	red brome	invasive		
118	POACEAE	Bromus japonicus	Japanese brome	invasive		
119	POLEMONIANCEAE	Linanthus sp.	leptosiphon?			
120	POLEMONIANCEAE	Navarretia (intertexta)	Navarretia			
121	POLEMONIANCEAE	Navarretia divaricata	Navarretia			
122	POLEMONIANCEAE	Navarretia purple fls.	Navarretia			
123	POLYGONACEAE	Eriogonum nudum ssp.	buckwheat			
124	POLYGONACEAE	Polygonum avicular ssp. depressum	door weed	exotic		
125	POLYGONACEAE	<del>Persicaria</del>	lady's thumb			
126	POLYGONACEAE	Rumex crispus	dock	exotic		
	POLYTRICACEAE???					
127	DRYOPTERIDACEAE?	Polytrichum Polystichum	juniperinum????			
128	PTERIDACEAE	Adiantum jordanii	maidenhair fern			
129	PTERIDACEAE	Pentagramma triangularis	gold back fern			
130	RHAMNACEAE	Ceanothus cuneatus	buck brush			
131	RHAMNACEAE	Frangula rubra	red coffeeberry			

	A	B	C	D	E	F
132	RHAMNACEAE	Frangula tomentella	coffeeberry			
133	RHAMNACEAE	Rhamnus ilicifolia	holly leaf redberry			
134	ROSACEAE	Adenostoma fasciculatum	chamise			
135	ROSACEAE	Heteromeles arbutifolia	toyon			
136	ROSACEAE	Prunus cerasiformis	wild plum			
137	ROSACEAE	Rubus armeniicus	blackberry	invasive		
138	ROSACEAE	Rosa sp. (domestic), thornless	in Big Ravine			
139	RUBIACEAE	Galium porrigens	climbing bedstraw			
140	SALICACEAE	Salix sp.	red willow?			
141	SALICACEAE	Salix goodingii or laevigata	tree willow			
142	SAPINDACEAE	Aesculus californica	buckeye	newfamily name		
143	SCROPHULARIACEAE	Scrophularia californica	bee plant			
144	SOLANACEAE	Solanum sp?	nightshade			
145	STYRACACEAE	Styrax redivivus	snow drop bush			
146	THEMIDACEAE	Dichelostemma volubile	twining brodiaea			
147	THEMIDACEAE	Triteleia laxa or?	brodiaea			
148	THEMIDACEAE	Triteleia bridgesii	Bridge's triteleia			
149	TYPHACEAE	Typha latifolia	cat tail			
150	URTICACEAE	Urtica dioica ssp. gracilis?	stinging nettle			
151	VALERIANACEAE	Plectritis macrocera	plectritis			
152	VISACEAE	Arceuthobium campylopodum	mistletoe			
153	VITACEAE	Vitis californica	wild grape			

# ATTACHMENT 5



## United States Department of the Interior

### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Mother Lode Field Office  
5152 Hillside Circle  
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762  
www.blm.gov/ca/motherlode



### South Fork American River recreation facilities improvements FY 2012 (CA-180-12-56)

### Finding of No Significant Impact October 2012

It is my determination that this decision will not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment. Anticipated impacts are within the range of impacts addressed in the Sierra Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement. The proposed action does not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment; therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared. This conclusion is based on my consideration of CEQ's following criteria for significance (40 CFR §1508.27), regarding the context and intensity of the impacts described in the EA, and based on my understanding of the project:

- 1) *Impacts can be both beneficial and adverse and a significant effect may exist regardless of the perceived balance of effects.* None of these impacts would be significant at the local level or cumulatively because of the extremely small scale of the project. Impacts to special status species and significant cultural resources would be avoided.
- 2) *The degree of the impact on public health or safety.* No aspects of the proposed action have been identified as having the potential to significantly and adversely impact public health or safety.
- 3) *Unique characteristics of the geographic area.* The project area is located, in part, within the proposed South Fork American Wild and Scenic River corridor with unique characteristics. Two of the unique characteristics of this area are cultural resources and whitewater recreation. Both have been identified as outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) that help make the South Fork American River eligible to become a national Wild and Scenic River. The proposed action would benefit the ORVs. A very small portion of the project area is located within the Pine Hill Preserve ACEC which has unique characteristics. These characteristics are rare gabbro soils formation and association rare plant community with endemic species. The ACEC unique characteristics would not be negatively impacted; the proposed connector trail would be routed on an existing road within the ACEC. This section of the road is very short and would not damage or degrade special status plants or rare soils.
- 4) *The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial effects.* No anticipated effects have been identified that are scientifically controversial. As a factor for determining within the meaning of 40 C.F.R. § 1508.27(b)(4) whether or not to prepare a detailed environmental impact statement, "controversy" is not equated with "the existence of opposition to a use." *Northwest Environmental Defense Center v. Bonneville Power Administration*, 117 F.3d 1520, 1536 (9th Cir. 1997). "The term 'highly controversial' refers to instances in which 'a substantial dispute exists as to the size, nature, or effect of the major federal action rather than the mere existence of opposition to a use.'" *Hells Canyon Preservation Council v. Jacoby*, 9 F.Supp.2d 1216, 1242 (D. Or. 1998).

5) *The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are likely to be highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.* The analysis does not show that the proposed action would involve any unique or unknown risks.

6) *The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.* These types of recreational facilities improvements (trail construction, trail realignment, and vault toilet installation) on BLM-administered land is not precedent setting.

7) *Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.* No significant cumulative impacts have been identified.

8) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect National Historic Register listed or eligible to be listed sites or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural or historical resources.* The proposed action would not adversely affect cultural resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

9) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect ESA listed species or critical habitat.* Elderberry shrubs were found within the project area at Acorn Creek. Elderberry shrubs are potential habitat for the federally listed Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle. The BLM has proposed routing the connector trail to avoid impacts to the elderberry shrubs. The BLM has also proposed using hand tools only around the shrubs and implementing the project during the time of year when impacts to the beetle are the least. The BLM is informally consulting with the US Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA to ensure that the proposed action would not jeopardize the beetle.

10) *Whether the action threatens a violation of environmental protection law or requirements.* There is no indication that this decision will result in actions that will threaten such a violation.

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William S. Haigh  
Field Manager, Mother Lode Field Office

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Date



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Mother Lode Field Office  
5152 Hillsdale Circle  
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762  
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**EA Number:** CA-180-12-56

**Proposed Action:** South Fork American River recreation facilities improvements FY 2012

**Location:**

El Dorado County, CA  
(please refer to the project area maps attached)

*New connector trail and trailhead/parking area, Acorn Creek:* MDM, T 11 N, R 9 E, Section 30 and T 11 N, R 8 E, Section 25 (Salmon Falls parcel and private land)

*Vault toilets, Cronan Ranch:* MDM, T 11 N, R 9 E, Sections 9 and 16 and  
*Vault toilet, Magnolia Ranch:* MDM, T 11 N, R 9 E, Section 10

*Realignment of existing trail, Hastings Creek:* MDM, T 11 N, R 9 E, Section 10  
(Greenwood Creek parcel)

## 1.0 Purpose of and Need for Action

### 1.1 Need for Action

The BLM manages thousands of acres of public lands along the South Fork American River, between Salmon Falls and Chili Bar, in El Dorado County. Some of these lands are original public domain lands; other lands have been acquired by the BLM through donation within the last 20 years as a result of the work of various partners, with an overarching vision to preserve the river corridor's outstanding environmental values and recreational potential. Since 2008, the South Fork lands have been managed by the BLM as part of the South Fork American River Special Recreation Area (SRMA). The management goals for this area are to provide for high-quality recreation opportunities (including hiking, horseback riding, and river boating and swimming access) while preserving the natural scenery, cultural resources, and the other terrific environmental values of this area. The BLM has already built trails, trailhead/parking areas, and other recreation facilities to accommodate low-impact recreational use of these lands, especially the Greenwood Creek, Cronan Ranch, Norton Ravine, and Salmon Falls (Pine Hill Preserve ACEC) parcels. Additional recreation facilities and improvements are now needed to enhance visitor experience and protect sensitive environmental resources. The proposed actions (building a new connector trail and trailhead/parking lot from Acorn Creek into the Salmon Falls parcel, installing vault toilets in the Cronan Ranch and Greenwood Creek parcels, and realigning a small segment of existing trail in the Greenwood Creek parcel) respond to these needs.



## **1.2 Conformance with Applicable Land Use Plans**

The proposed action is consistent with the Sierra Resource Management Plan, approved in February 2008. Under this plan (page 26 of the Record of Decision), the goal of the recreation program is to ensure the continued availability of outdoor recreational opportunities while protecting other resources and uses. Specific management actions for the South Fork American River SRMA (pages 28 and 19 of the Record of Decision) include managing this SRMA in accordance with the 2004 South Fork American River Management Plan and its amendments including the 2007 Cronan Ranch Plan; expand the trail network; increase public access; and develop facilities for interpretation and sanitation.

The proposed action is consistent with the South Fork American River Management Plan and Decision Record. Under this plan (page 29), the BLM decided to give management priority to protecting the natural and cultural values of the entire Greenwood Creek parcel while providing opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. Cultural sites are to be protected under this plan. The plan (page 31) also directs the BLM to construct multiple use trails within the Greenwood Creek parcel as appropriate to connect the Highway 49 parking area with the rest of the parcel. For the Salmon Falls parcel (which is also a unit of the Pine Hill Preserve), the plan (page 38) directs the BLM to plan and construct a trails system for hiking and the use of mountain bikes.

The proposed action is consistent with the 2008 Pine Hill Preserve Management Plan. Page 38 of this plan indicates that proposals for use of trails for equestrian or mountain bike use will be considered by the BLM in areas where impacts to listed plant populations can be avoided. Such proposals would need to include strategies and demonstrate the ability of users to address potential problems resulting from trail use, such as trail maintenance and weed control.

The proposed action is also consistent with the 2007 Cronan Ranch Management Plan and Decision Record. On page 7 of this plan, the BLM is directed to provide permanent restroom facilities at the parking lot, and on the beach.

## **2.0 Proposed Action and Alternatives**

### **2.1 Proposed Action**

The proposed action involves three separate recreation projects for BLM-administered public lands (and some private lands) along the lower South Fork American River, between Greenwood Creek and Salmon Falls. These projects are designed to enhance the public's enjoyment of these lands, while preserving the river corridor's outstanding environmental values. The proposed projects include building a new trail and trailhead/parking area connecting Acorn Creek to an existing trail in the Salmon Falls area; installing three vault toilets at Cronan Ranch; installing one vault toilet at Magnolia Ranch Trailhead (Greenwood Parcel); and realigning a small segment of existing trail in the Greenwood Creek/Hastings Creek area. Each action is described in detail in the following.

#### *New connector trail and trailhead/parking area at Acorn Creek, Salmon Falls area*

In 2009 the BLM, with the help of partners, planned and built the South Fork American River Trail, from the State Parks trailhead/parking area at Salmon Falls to BLM-administered land at

Cronan Ranch. Just east of the Stake Parks trailhead, the trail traverses a ridgeline within the Salmon Falls parcel/unit of the BLM's South Fork American River Special Recreation Management Area and Pine Hill Preserve. The trail continues east through BLM-administered lands in the Norton Ravine area to Cronan Ranch. From here, the trail connects to a network of trails within the Cronan Ranch and Greenwood Creek parcels, both administered by the BLM. This trail network eventually terminates near the Greenwood Creek confluence to the east. The network was developed by the BLM from 2004 to 2006. In 2011, the nonprofit American River Conservancy (ARC) acquired a 152-acre parcel on Acorn Creek off of Salmon Falls Road. The BLM and ARC are now proposing to build a trail and trailhead/parking lot that connects the 152-acre parcel to the existing South Fork American River Trail on BLM-administered land within the Salmon Falls parcel. The new facilities would help accommodate equestrian, mountain bicycling, hiking, and other non-motorized public use. The trailhead/parking area and much of the new connector trail would be located on ARC-owned private land along Acorn Creek and Peacock Ravine. The ARC may eventually donate the land to the BLM. The trail would have a minimum width of 4 feet and would be approximately 4664 feet in length. The BLM would build the trail using a SWECO trail-building machine. Construction of the connector trail would impact a segment of less than 200 feet long and 4 feet wide (mostly on an existing abandoned roadbed) within the Pine Hill Preserve. The parking area would be 25,380 square feet, or approximately 0.55 acres, with a driveway (approximately 639 feet long and probably single lane) connecting to Salmon Falls Road at approximately the existing gate. The parking area/driveway may or may not be paved. A future non-motorized trail of approximately 810 feet may connect the future parking area with non-motorized trails (not yet developed) to the west of Salmon Falls Road. As you will notice in the project area maps attached, the BLM and ARC are considering slightly different trail alignments, east of the proposed parking area, to avoid a group of elderberry shrubs which is potential habitat for the federally listed valley elderberry longhorn beetle.

#### *Vault toilet installation at Cronan Ranch*

The BLM would install three CXT vault toilets at three separate sites at BLM-administered Cronan Ranch. These toilets would replace eight portable toilets currently in this area. All three sites would be excavated with a backhoe to 4 feet deep by 10 feet wide by 18 feet long. A crane would then be used to place the vault toilet structure into the excavated area. Some minor road work on existing access roads within the parcel may be needed to get the backhoe and crane to the three installation sites. The road work may include grading, tree trimming, and installing drainage culverts and water bars. Once the vault toilets are installed, short trails would be constructed to direct users to the toilets. The trails would be no more than 3 feet wide and up to 50 feet long. Site 1 would be at the primary existing trailhead/parking lot off of Pedro Hill Road. Site 2 would be in the middle of the commercial whitewater boating zone not far from the South Fork American River. Site 3 would be three fourths of a mile to the west of Site 2, also in the commercial zone. The vault toilets would substantially reduce the costs of toilet maintenance within the parcel.

#### *Vault toilet installation at Magnolia Ranch Trailhead (Greenwood Parcel)*

The BLM would install one CXT vault toilet at the BLM-administered Magnolia Ranch Trailhead Parking Lot. The toilet would replace two portable toilets currently in this area. The site would be excavated with a backhoe to 4 feet deep by 10 feet wide by 18 feet long. A crane would then be used to place the vault toilet structure into the excavated area. Once the vault toilet is installed, a

short trail would be constructed to direct users to the toilets. The trail would be no more than 3 feet wide and up to 20 feet long. The vault toilet would substantially reduce the costs of toilet maintenance within the Greenwood Creek parcel.

*Realignment of existing trail in the Hastings Creek area (Greenwood Creek parcel)*

A short segment of existing non-motorized trail, near Hastings Creek (in the BLM-administered Greenwood Creek parcel), would be put to bed using hand tools/methods. It would be replaced by a new non-motorized trail segment that reduces grade steepness and erosion, thus enhancing the trail user's experience. The new trail segment would also increase the amount of shade along the trail and provide scenic views of Hastings Creek. The BLM would build the trail using a SWECO trail-building machine. The trail segment to be built would be approximately 929 feet long. It would have the same width (4 feet) and compacted dirt surfacing as existing trails in the Greenwood Creek parcel and elsewhere on BLM-administered land. A portion of the new trail would be built on an old ranch track. The segment to be put to bed would be approximately 408 feet long.

**2.4 Project Design Features**

**Air, water, and soils** – During construction and grading, trail-building equipment will stay at least 30 feet away from Acorn Creek/Peacock Ravine to prevent siltation and damage to riparian vegetation and aquatic life. Fill material will not be placed in this creek or Hastings Creek and its tributaries. The South Fork American River will not be affected. The connector trail would be built on an existing road. The drainage crossings on this road are adequate and will be maintained.

**Vegetation/Invasive Weeds** – A major issue, regarding constructing the proposed connector trail at Acorn Creek (and the subsequent public use of this trail over the long-term) is the potential introduction, reintroduction, and spread of noxious invasive weeds, such as yellow star thistle, into Pine Hill Preserve ACEC and other lands that still have ecological integrity. All equipment and tools used to build the connector trail will be cleaned of adhering soil or plant material prior to arrival within the project area for the connector trail. For the long-term, a plan for controlling the spread of weeds will be developed by the BLM, with input from BLM partners. Interpretive signs will be placed at the new trailhead at Acorn Creek to inform members of the public of the weed issue, and what they can do to prevent weed spread.

No project design features are included to avoid weed spread within the Greenwood Creek and Cronan Ranch parcels because several weed species are so well distributed across these parcels, and make up such a large part of the vegetative cover, that such efforts would not be effective. Weed mapping of the entire parcel in 2010 showed the extent of this problem.

**ACEC values** – No federally listed plants are present in the area along the proposed segment of the connector trail. As stated under Vegetation/Invasive Weeds, all trail-building equipment and tools used within the Pine Hill Preserve ACEC (and vehicles entering this area) will be cleaned of adhering soils and plant material prior to arrival, and extra precautions will be taken, to prevent the introduction and spread of non-native plants. At the conclusion of trail construction, annual monitoring along the trail to detect and eradicate weed infestations will be established and implemented by the BLM's Pine Hill Preserve ACEC staff and volunteers.

Wildlife – In the Acorn Creek area, where the connector trail and parking area/trailhead are proposed, there is a population of elderberry, which is potential habitat for the federally listed Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle. The proposed trail alignment will be routed to avoid elderberry bushes and clumps of bushes in this area by 20 feet. Only hand construction will occur in this area.

Cultural Resources – If any cultural resources are found during implementation of the proposed action, work will cease until a qualified professional archaeologist examines the discovery and makes management recommendations. Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act may continue at this point. If the cultural resources are significant, the proposed action will not proceed until appropriate measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects are taken.

Fuels/Fire Management – To minimize the risk of wildfire ignition, earth-moving equipment used to implement the proposed action will be equipped with spark arresters. Other motorized vehicles used will not be parked where vegetation may come in contact with exhaust systems and catalytic converters.

General – An “Adopt-A-Trail” program, along with a citizen trail patrol, will be established to monitor trail use and facilitate regular maintenance. Weed control will be part of trail maintenance. These citizen groups meet regularly to foster community acceptance of this project, and inform BLM of public use, trail problems, parking issues, etc.

## **2.5 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis**

The BLM did not consider any other alternatives in detailed analysis.

## **3.0 Affected Environment**

The areas affected by the proposed action are located within west-central Sierra Nevada foothills. Specifically, the project areas are located within the BLM-administered Greenwood Creek, Cronan Ranch, and Salmon Falls parcels as well as private land owned by the American River Conservancy on Acorn Creek. A detailed description of the BLM-administered parcels (including what are now the project areas) can be found in the notebook (BLM 2000) produced by the BLM for public meetings regarding the 2004 South Fork American River Management Plan, as well as the 2007 Cronan Ranch Management Plan.

The lands are located along the South Fork of the American River – the dominant feature of the area – and the river’s tributaries including intermittent Hastings Creek and Acorn Creek. The vegetation of the project areas and the immediate surroundings has been inventoried by BLM botanists, most recently in June 2012. A mosaic of vegetation types are found within these areas.

The Greenwood Creek parcel consists of approximately 732 acres. The parcel is bisected by the South Fork American River. The northern portion of the parcel includes segments of Greenwood and Hastings creeks. South-facing hill slopes are dominated by interior live oak woodland with black oak, California buckeye, toyon, buckbrush, white leaf manzanita, keckiella, California

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coffeeberry, poison oak, and pipe vine. A broad riparian habitat along the river includes sand bar willow, arroyo willow, shining willow, valley oak, Oregon ash, white alder, Fremont cottonwood, button willow, coyote bush, mock orange, California wild grape, deer grass, and scotch broom. Hastings Creek includes Douglas fir and incense cedar, as well as riparian species such as Oregon ash. Blue oak savannah grasslands composed largely of non-native annual species dominate the relatively flat portions of the parcel, between the two creeks, along Highway 49.

The 1400-acre Cronan Ranch parcel contains vegetation includes blue oak savannah, foothill woodland, and riparian areas. There is a significant population of noxious weeds, especially yellow-star thistle and medusa head.

Gabbro substrate in the Salmon Falls unit of the Pine Hill Preserve ACEC supports chamise and gray pine chaparral plant community with two endemic plant species and one nearly endemic plant species. The area along Acorn Creek, to the north, contains interior live oak, black oak, gray pine, walnut, buckeye, toyon, coffeeberry, hollyleaf redberry, white leaf manzanita, and poison oak. Riparian areas along the creek include white alder, Himalayan blackberry, and California wild grape.

Several wildlife species use these habitats, and are typical of the west-central Sierra Nevada foothills. Mammals include mule deer, coyote, grey fox, bobcat, striped skunk, black-tailed jackrabbit, grey squirrel, deer mice and woodrat. Bird species include turkey vulture, red-tailed hawk, California brown towhee, spotted towhee, California quail, wild turkey, acorn woodpecker, northern flicker, Anna's hummingbird, Bewick's wren, plain titmouse, common bushtit, ash-throated flycatcher, house finch, lesser goldfinch, and several sparrow species. Amphibian and reptiles species include Pacific treefrog, western fence lizard, Gilbert's skink, western whiptail, and gopher snake. This list is not intended to be comprehensive, but is a list of species that are commonly seen and/or evidence of these species is commonly encountered.

Recreational use of BLM-administered land in the Greenwood Creek and Cronan Ranch parcels is extremely high. This is among the most popular recreational areas managed by the BLM. The BLM and its partners have built trails, trailheads/parking lots, and other visitor facilities to facilitate low-impact non-motorized recreational use (hiking, nature viewing, horseback riding, mountain biking, whitewater rafting) within these parcels. Within the Cronan Ranch parcel there are approximately 12 miles of trails. Beaches along the river are used by boaters as a lunch spots. The parcel has been the location for Hollywood movie productions. Since the BLM and its partners built the South Fork American River Trail in 2009 connecting the State Parks parking lot/trailhead at Salmon Falls and the network of trails within the Cronan Ranch/Greenwood Creek parcels, recreational use within the Salmon Falls parcel has also increased markedly.

Portions of the project area fall within areas with a special designation. Much of the project area is located within a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). The Salmon Falls parcel/unit is located within the Pine Hill Preserve Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Also, the BLM has recommended that the South Fork American River corridor, from Chili Bar to Salmon Falls, be incorporated into the national Wild and Scenic River system due, in part, to its

outstandingly remarkable whitewater recreation and cultural resource values. The segment's classification is Recreational.

The BLM manages the BLM portions of the project areas in accordance with class II visual resource management (VRM) standards. (Of note, there is a small area of BLM-administered land nearby within the Greenwood Creek-Clark Mountain parcel managed under class I standards.) The BLM's objective for class II is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

#### **4.0 Environmental Effects**

The following critical elements have been considered in this EA, and unless specifically mentioned later in this EA, have been determined to be unaffected by the proposed action: areas of critical environmental concern, prime/unique farmlands, floodplains, wetlands, wilderness, and environmental justice.

##### **4.1 Impacts of the Proposed Action**

**Air, water, and soils** – The proposed action would not negatively affect air, water, or soil resources. Construction and use of the new recreational facilities, as proposed in this EA, might create some temporary dust but not enough to seriously affect air resources. Long-term use of these facilities would not affect air resources. The impact to air resources would be negligible to none. Likewise, the impact to water resources would be negligible to none. Rainwater runoff is causing erosion of sediment, but not enough to seriously affect water quality in Hastings Creek or the South Fork. Trail realignment and construction would neither benefit nor degrade water resources. During construction and grading, trail-building equipment would stay 30 feet away from Acorn Creek/Peacock Ravine to prevent siltation and damage to riparian vegetation and aquatic life. Fill material would not be placed in this creek or Hastings Creek. The South Fork American River would not be affected. Drainage crossings on existing roads are adequate and would be maintained (please refer to the project design features in section 2.4). A unique soil formation—the Pine Hill gabbro formation—exists in a very small portion of the project area near Acorn Creek. The proposed connector trail would tie into the existing South Fork American River Trail within the Salmon Falls unit of the Pine Hill Preserve ACEC. This ACEC was designated to help preserve this soil formation and associated rare plant communities. The proposed connector trail would be routed on an existing road, and therefore soil disturbance within the gabbro formation would be negligible. The other affected soils of the project area are not unique or geologically significant.

**Vegetation/invasive weeds** – The BLM botanist and Pine Hill Preserve manager analyzed the impacts of the proposed action on vegetation, particularly special status plants. The analysis is designed to help the BLM meet its obligations under the Endangered Species Act and meet other BLM policies with respect to special status species. The analysis included a background records search through the California National Diversity Database and other records, as well as rare plant

surveys and inventory in June 2012. The BLM botanist and Pine Hill Preserve staff determined that the proposed action would not directly negatively impact special status plants. Also, a potential issue is the introduction, reintroduction, and spread of noxious invasive weeds (which could be an indirect impact caused by the proposed action). The proposed action would be implemented in a way that avoids the introduction, reintroduction, and spread of weeds (please refer to the project design features in section 2.4).

**Wildlife** – The BLM wildlife biologist analyzed the impacts of the proposed action on wildlife, particularly on special status wildlife. Her analysis is designed to help the BLM meet its obligations under the Endangered Species Act and meet other BLM policies with respect to special status species. In the Acorn Creek area, where the connector trail and parking area/trailhead are proposed, there is a population of elderberry, which is potential habitat for the federally listed Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle. The proposed trail alignment would be routed to avoid elderberry bushes and clumps of bushes in this area by 20 feet. The alternative alignment for the connector trail to avoid the elderberry is shown in the attached project area maps. Only hand construction would occur in this area. If the proposed action is implemented in the ways outlined above and in the project design features in section 2.4, it would have no effect on the federally listed Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle or other special status wildlife.

**Cultural resources/Native American issues** – The BLM archaeologist is in the process of analyzing the impacts of the proposed action to determine whether significant cultural resources could be affected. The BLM archaeologist is conducting field inventories, background cultural resource data searches, tribal consultations, and other reasonable-and-good-faith efforts to identify significant or potentially cultural resources that might be affected by the proposed action, as required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and other authorities. The BLM archaeologist has already found numerous cultural resources within and near the project area. Our goal is to avoid adverse effects to significant cultural resources.

**Recreation** – Without question, the proposed action would be beneficial to the recreating public. The proposed action would enhance recreation within this Special Recreation Management Area over the long run. The proposed connector trail at Acorn Creek would provide an additional access for equestrian and other users. The proposed vault toilets within the Cronan Ranch and Greenwood Creek parcels would replace existing portable toilets, substantially reducing maintenance costs in the long run and improving the recreating public's experience. The new trail alignment near Hastings Creek should be acceptable to all trail users due to the decrease in grade steepness, increase in shade, and scenic views of Hastings Creek and a tributary.

**Visual resources** – The proposed action would not negatively impact visual resources. BLM manages the area in accordance with VRM class II standards, and the proposed action is in line with the management objective for this class, which is to retain the existing character of the landscape.

**Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) values** – A very small portion of the proposed connector trail near Acorn Creek would be routed into the Salmon Falls unit of the Pine Hill Preserve ACEC where it would connect to the existing South Fork American River Trail. Similar

to the other portions of the Preserve, the ACEC values here are rare soils and special status plants. To minimize impacts to these values, the proposed trail would follow an existing 8-foot wide dirt road. The proposed trail would be less than 200 feet long within the ACEC. Construction of the proposed connector trail would not negatively impact the ACEC values. Because the special status plants at the Pine Hill Preserve may benefit from some type of disturbance, such as removal of shrubs, there is a possibility that some of the plants may colonize open spaces that were not available before the construction activities. However, a major issue is the introduction, reintroduction, and spread of noxious invasive weeds. As outlined the project design features in section 2.4, all trail-building equipment and tools used within the Pine Hill Preserve ACEC (and vehicles entering the ACEC) would be cleaned prior to arrival in the project area, and extra precautions would be taken, to prevent the introduction and spread of non-native plants. At the conclusion of trail construction, annual monitoring along the trail to detect and eradicate weed infestations would be established and implemented by the BLM's Pine Hill Preserve ACEC staff and volunteers. If the proposed action is implemented in this way and in accordance with the project design features in section 2.4 of this EA, it would not negatively affect the ACEC values.

Wild and Scenic River outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) – The two alternatives would not negatively impact any of the ORVs identified by the BLM for the proposed South Fork American Wild and Scenic River. In fact, the proposed action would help to enhance whitewater recreation and cultural resources which are considered ORVs. The proposed action would not affect the river's classification as Recreational.

#### **4.2 Impacts of No Action**

Air, water, and soils – The no action alternative would not impact air, water, or soil resources.

Vegetation/invasive weeds – The no action alternative would not impact vegetation resources.

Wildlife – The no action alternative would not impact wildlife.

Cultural resources/Native American issues – The no action alternative would not impact cultural resources or Native American issues.

Recreation – Recreation would be negatively impacted if the proposed action is not implemented. The BLM would miss opportunities to follow the recreation management goals and objectives of its land-use plans; the BLM would miss opportunities to expand the trail network; increase public access; and develop facilities for interpretation and sanitation (where impacts to listed plant populations, significant cultural resources, and other important environmental resources can be avoided). For example, page 7 of the 2007 Cronan Ranch Management Plan and Decision Record directs the BLM to provide permanent restroom facilities at the parking lot, and on the beach.

Visual resources – The no action alternative would not impact visual resources.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) values – The no action alternative would not impact ACEC values.



Wild and Scenic River outstandingly remarkable values – The no action alternative would not impact wild and scenic ORVs or the river’s classification as Recreational.

#### 4.3 Cumulative Impacts

Negative cumulative impacts are not anticipated. The proposed action would not negatively impact air, water, soil, biological, cultural, visual, wild and scenic, or ACEC values. The proposed action is, however, expected to have long-term beneficial cumulative impacts on recreation along the lower South Fork.

#### 5.0 Agencies and Persons Consulted

The BLM is informally consulting with the US Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. We are recommending to the US Fish and Wildlife Service that, due to the project design features we have put in place, the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the federally listed Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle.

#### 5.1 Authors

James Barnes, BLM NEPA coordinator/Archaeologist  
Jeff Horn, BLM Outdoor recreation planner

#### 5.2 BLM Interdisciplinary Team/Reviewers:

NEPA coordinator/Archaeologist	Date
<i>/s/ Jeff Horn</i>	<i>10-18-12</i>
Outdoor recreation planner/VRM specialist	Date
<i>/s/ Beth Brenneman</i>	<i>10-17-12</i>
Botanist	Date
<i>/s/ Graciela Hinshaw</i>	<i>10-16-12</i>
Pine Hill Preserve Manager	Date
<i>/s/ Peggy Cranston</i>	<i>10-16-12</i>
Wildlife biologist	Date

### **5.3 Availability of Document and Comment Procedures**

This EA, posted on Mother Lode Field Office's website ([www.blm.gov/ca/motherlode](http://www.blm.gov/ca/motherlode)) under Information, NEPA (or available upon request), will be available for a 15-day public review period. Comments should be sent to the Mother Lode Field Office, 5152 Hillside Circle, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762 or emailed to [jjbarnes@blm.gov](mailto:jjbarnes@blm.gov).

### **5.4 References Cited**

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

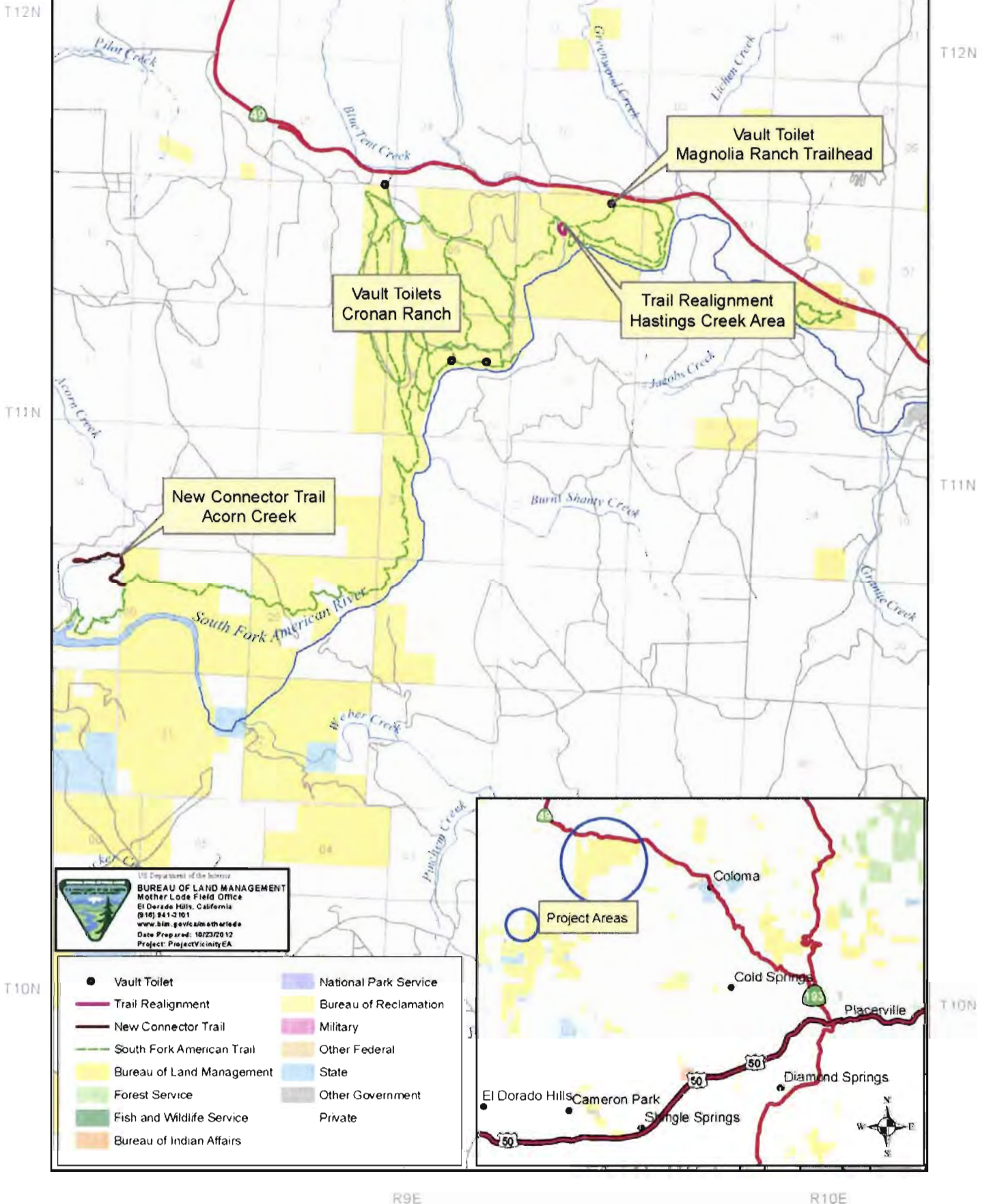
2000 South Fork of the American River Community-Based Planning Project Notebook. Bureau of Land Management-Folsom Field Office, Folsom, California. On file, at the BLM Mother Lode Field Office, El Dorado Hills, CA.

US Fish and Wildlife Service

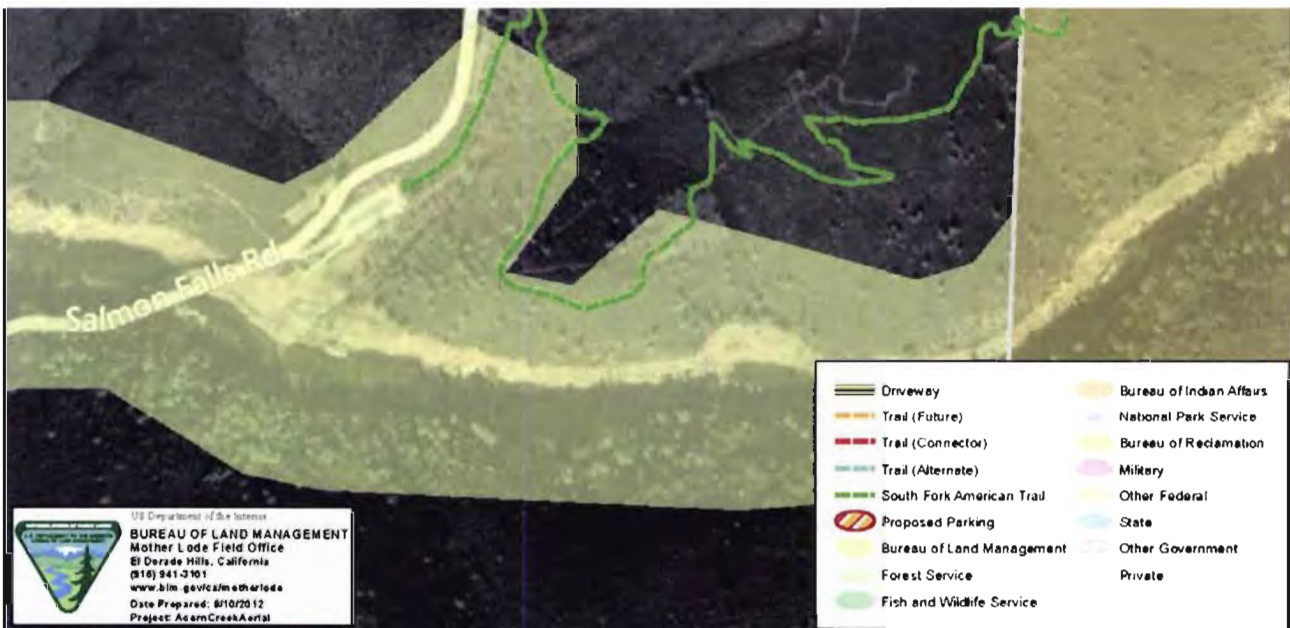
1999 *Conservation guidelines for the valley elderberry longhorn beetle*. Available online at [www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/...Guidelines/.../velb\\_conservation.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/...Guidelines/.../velb_conservation.pdf)



# Recreation Projects - Vicinity Map

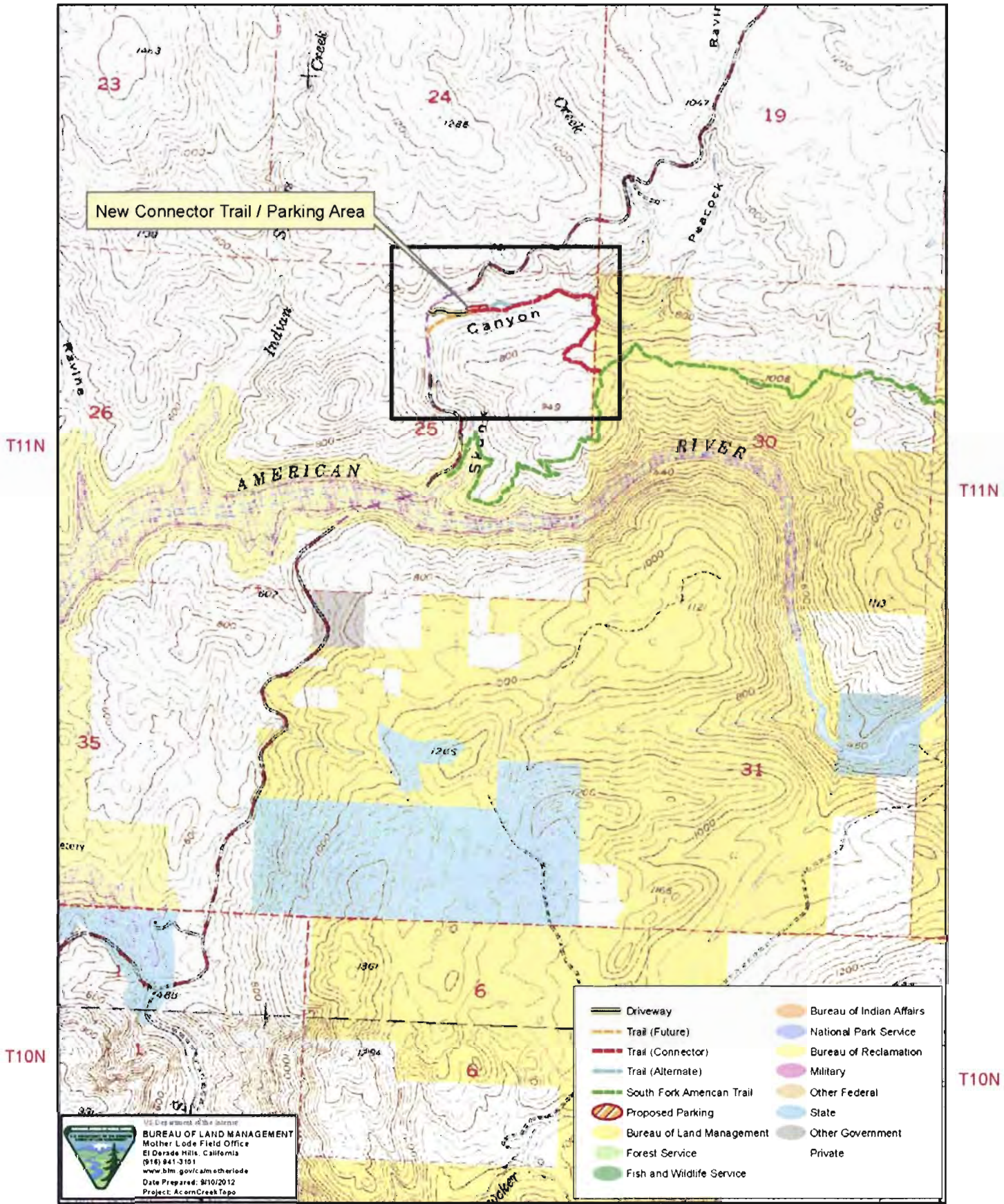


# New Connector Trail, Acorn Creek




 US Department of the Interior  
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**  
 Mother Lode Field Office  
 El Dorado Hills, California  
 (916) 941-3101  
 www.blm.gov/calmotherlode  
 Date Prepared: 8/10/2012  
 Project: AcornCreekAerial

# New Connector Trail, Acorn Creek



New Connector Trail / Parking Area

Canyon

AMERICAN

RIVER

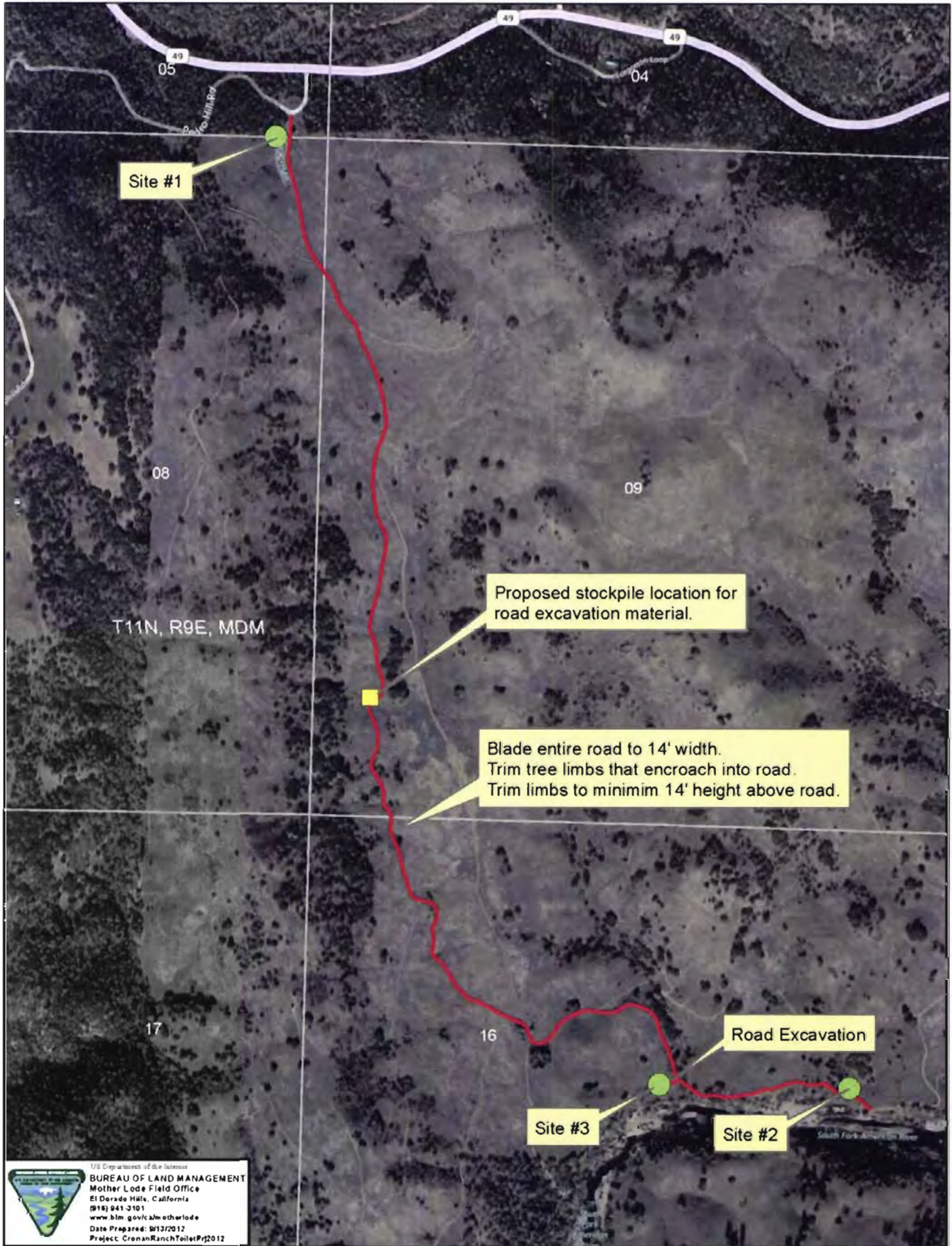
U.S. Department of the Interior  
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**  
 Mother Lode Field Office  
 El Dorado Hills, California  
 (916) 841-3101  
 www.blm.gov/calm/other/loade  
 Date Prepared: 9/10/2012  
 Project: AcornCreekTopo

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Driveway                  | Bureau of Indian Affairs |
| Trail (Future)            | National Park Service    |
| Trail (Connector)         | Bureau of Reclamation    |
| Trail (Alternate)         | Military                 |
| South Fork American Trail | Other Federal            |
| Proposed Parking          | State                    |
| Bureau of Land Management | Other Government         |
| Forest Service            | Private                  |
| Fish and Wildlife Service |                          |

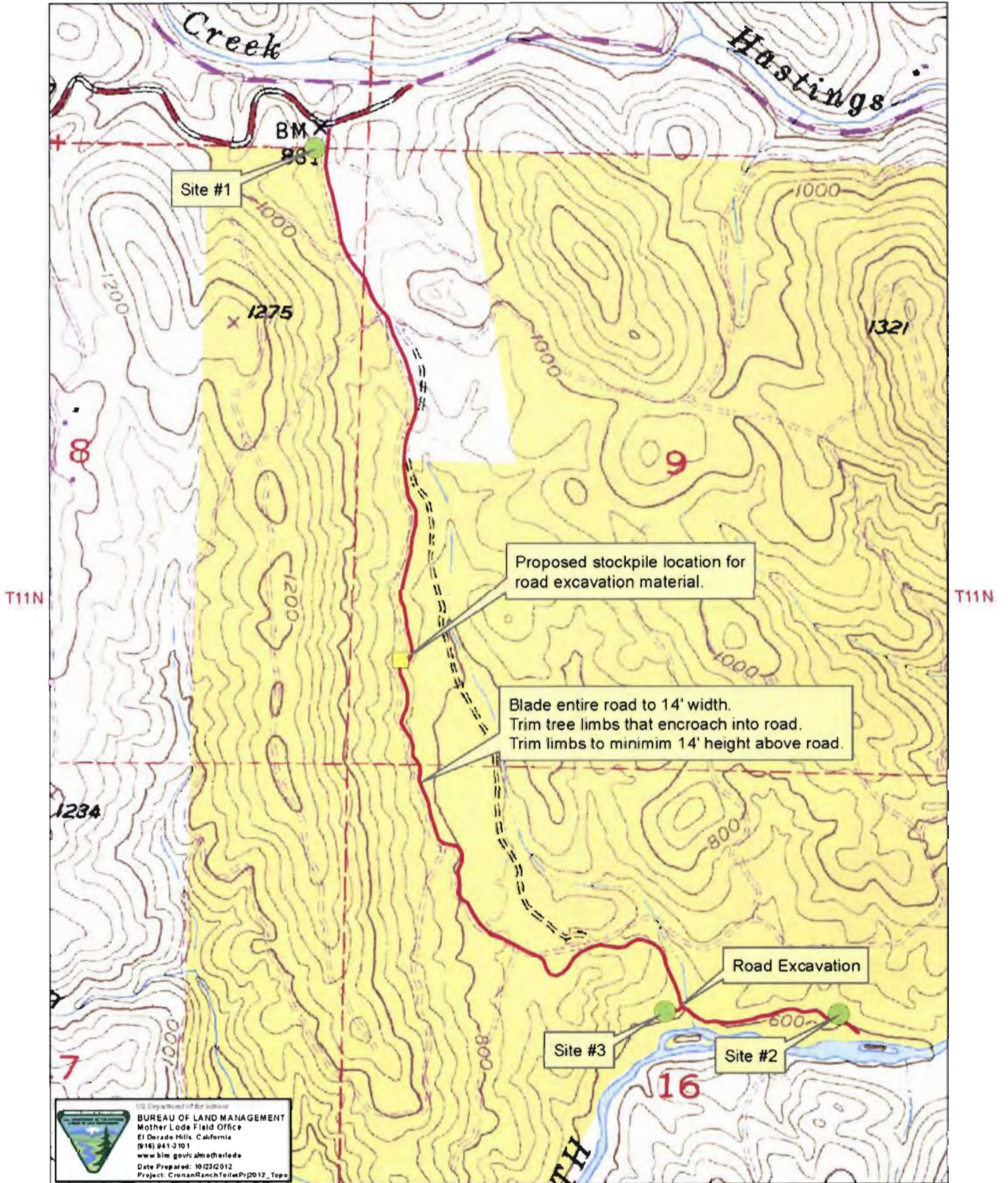
R8E

R9E

# Vault Toilet, Cronan Ranch



# Vault Toilet, Cronan Ranch

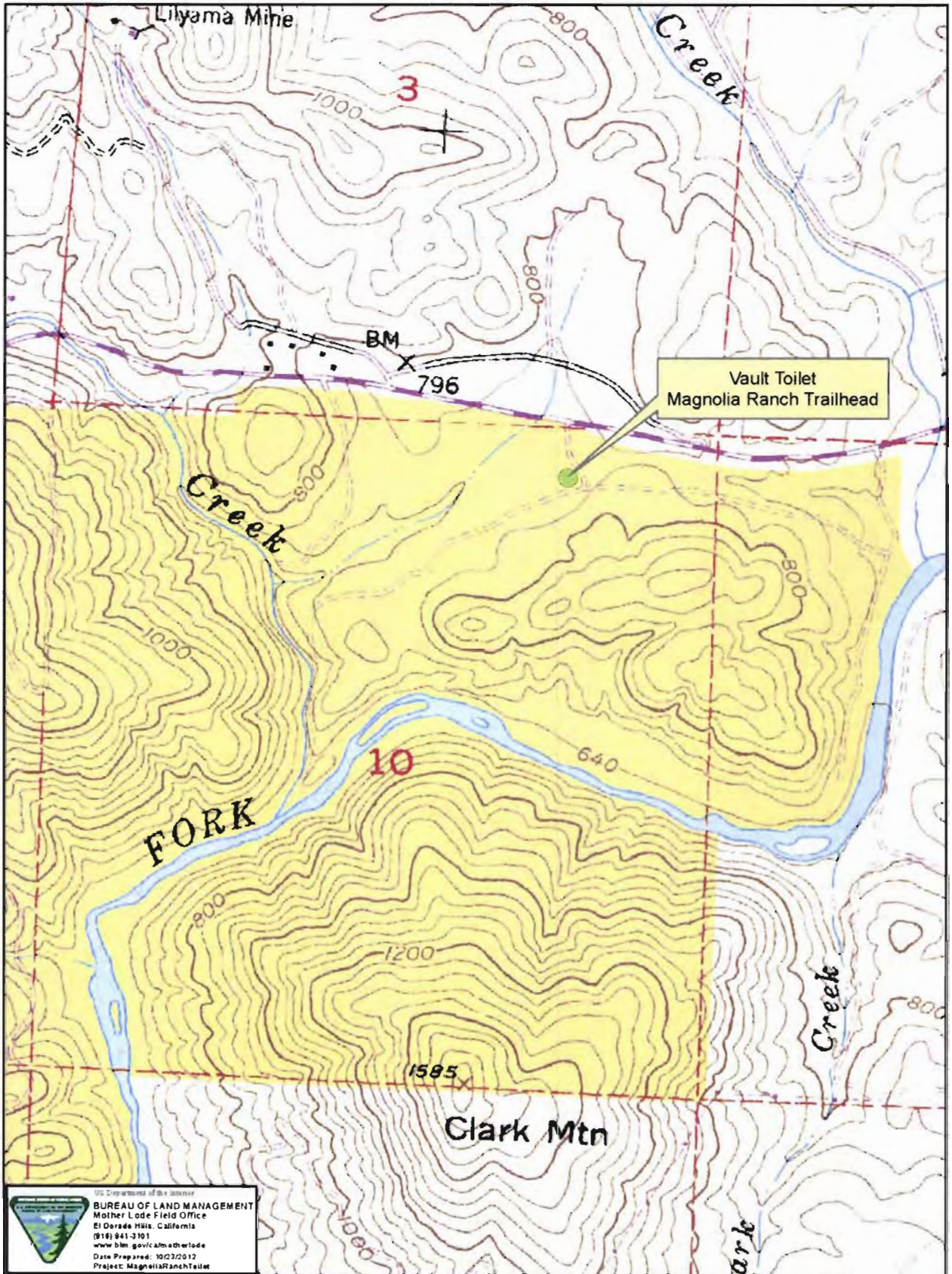




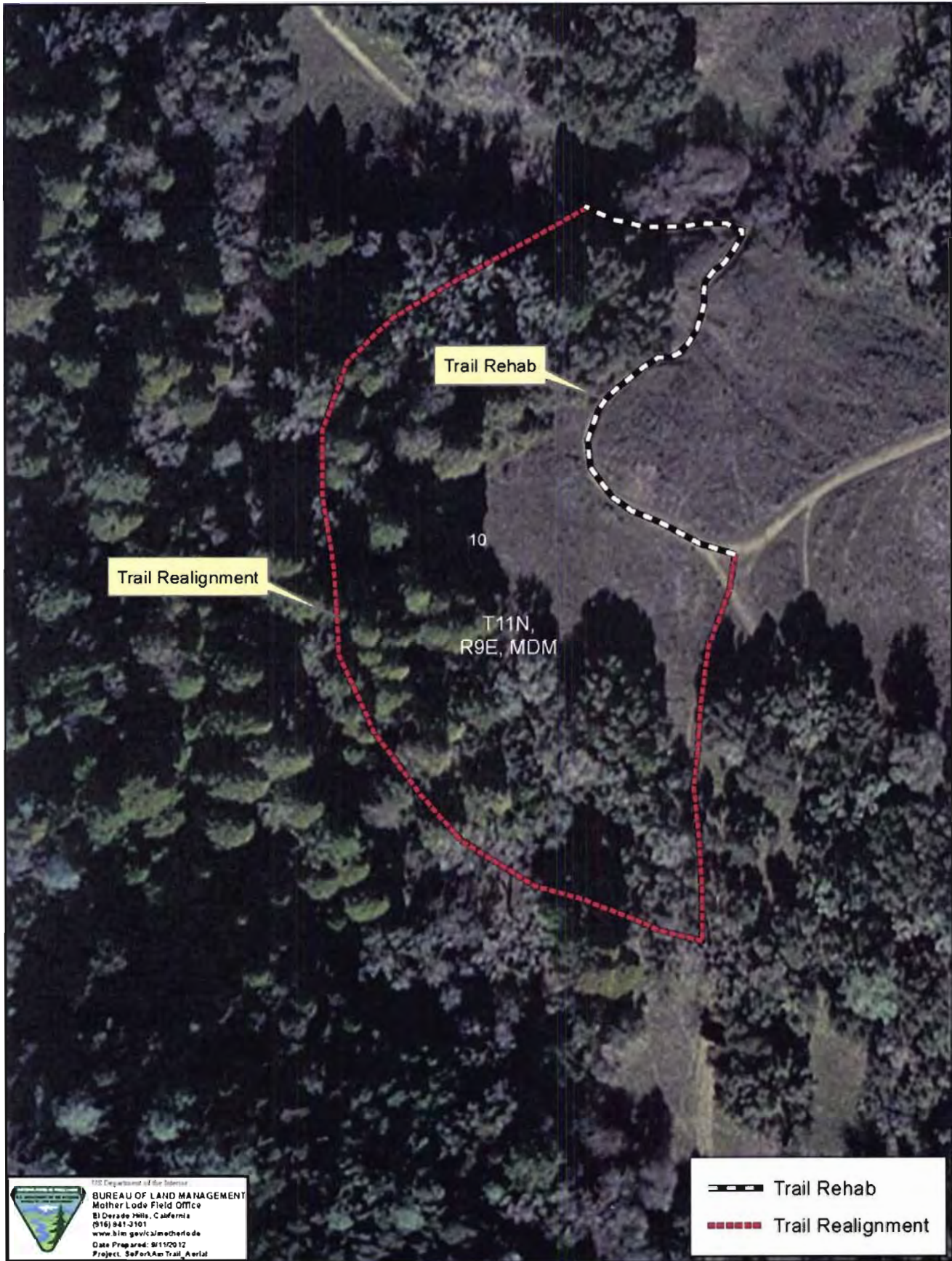
# Vault Toilet, Magnolia Ranch Trailhead



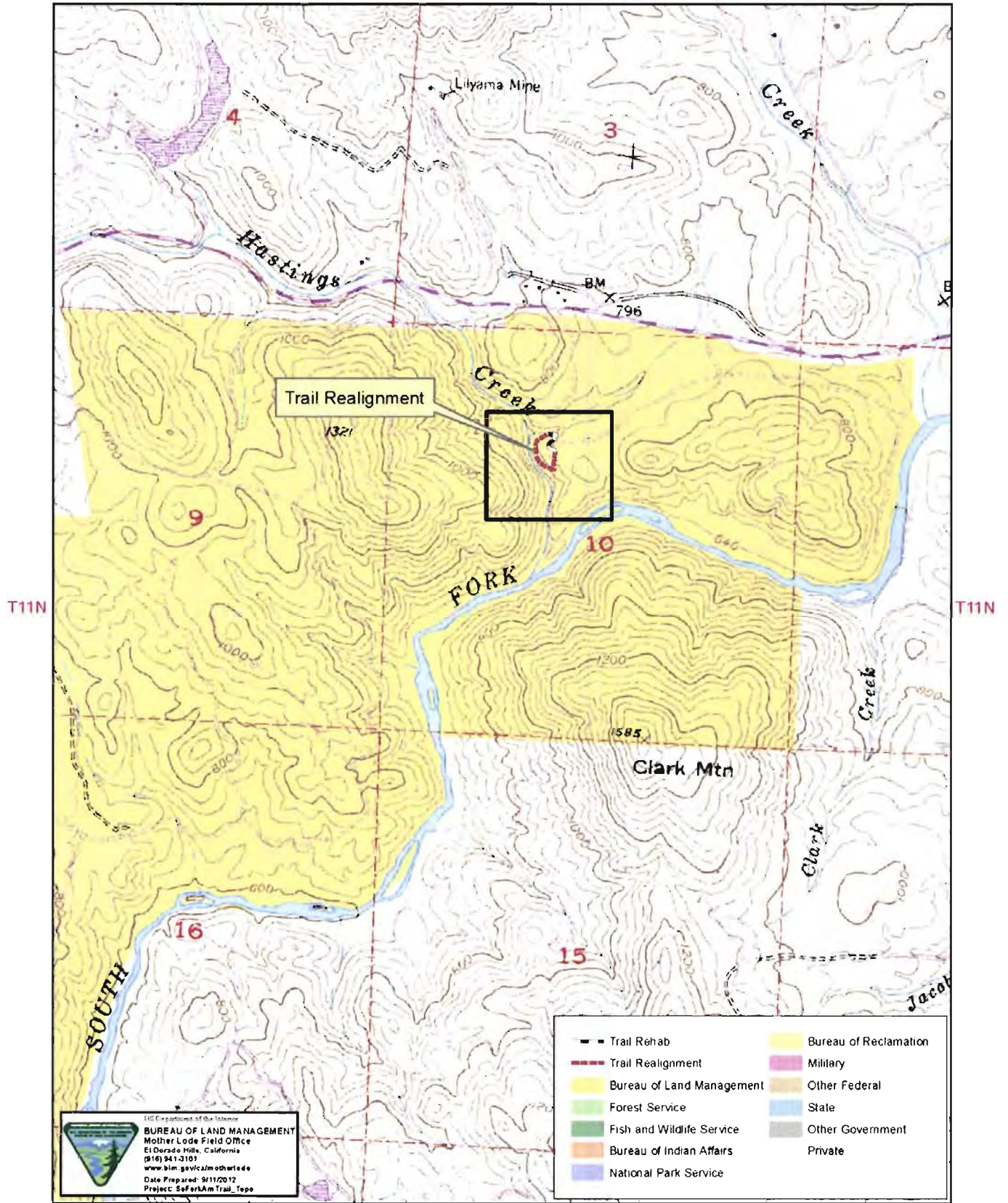
# Vault Toilet, Magnolia Ranch Trailhead



# Trail Realignment, Hastings Creek Area



# Trail Realignment, Hastings Creek Area



# ATTACHMENT 6



## United States Department of the Interior

### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Mother Lode Field Office  
5152 Hillsdale Circle  
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762  
[www.blm.gov/ca/motherlode](http://www.blm.gov/ca/motherlode)



6840  
CA-180.10

JUN 19 2013

Attn: Aaron Mount  
Planning Services  
El Dorado County  
2850 Fairlane Court  
Placerville, CA 95667

Re: Salmon Falls Trailhead Project – Special Use Permit,  
Applicant: The American River Conservancy

RECEIVED  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
13 JUN 21 PM 1:50

Dear Mr. Mount,

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Mother Lode Field Office has been working with the American River Conservancy (ARC) to complete the South Fork American River Trail by constructing a second trail, trailhead and parking lot accessible by trucks and trailers of equestrian trail users.

The BLM Botanist and the Pine Hill Preserve Manager analyzed the impacts of the proposed action on vegetation, with emphasis on special status plants. The analysis included a species background search through the California National Diversity Database and Pine Hill Preserve records, as well as rare plant surveys conducted during June 2012 along the proposed trail, parking lot and access road areas. The analysis conclusion is that no known rare gabbro soil plant populations will be impacted by the new proposed trail, parking lot and access road associated to the ARC's special use permit application submitted to El Dorado County Planning Services.

Surveys by the BLM botanists and Wildlife Biologist found several existing elderberry bushes near the eastern edge of the proposed parking lot. The elderberry bush is potential habitat for the federally listed Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB); the ARC project has been designed to avoid the clump of bushes by 20 feet. Therefore, the project implementation would not have a direct impact on the federally listed VELB.

If you have any questions, please contact Graciela Hinshaw, Pine Hill Preserve Manager, at (916) 941-3134 or [ghinshaw@blm.gov](mailto:ghinshaw@blm.gov).

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Haigh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

William Haigh  
Field Manager, Mother Lode Field Office

Cc: Alan Ehrgott, American River Conservancy