

# **Land Stewardship Proposal for the Bucks Lake Planning Unit**



*Proposal Team:*

**Enterprise Rancheria  
Greenville Rancheria  
Plumas County**

**Submitted to the  
Pacific Forest and Watershed  
Lands Stewardship Council**



**February 6, 2009**

## **Executive Summary**

Bucks Lake is a unique resource that deserves special respect and a high level of perpetual stewardship. The area hosts visitors year-round for recreation, provides irreplaceable habitat, and has historically been a gathering area for the Native American people rich in cultural and heritage assets. There are many people who are uniquely attached to Bucks Lake – attached by years or even decades of personal experience, as well as by ancestry and by the history of the Native American people who have inhabited these lands from time immemorial. These people share a vested interest in ensuring that Bucks Lake is preserved, appropriately managed, and enhanced so that future generations will inherit the many things that we enjoy and experience at Bucks Lake today.

The Stewardship Council's primary tool for conservation of the watershed lands under its charge is the establishment of perpetual conservation easements. For Bucks Lake, the Greenville Rancheria and the County of Plumas propose to jointly hold a conservation easement over the entire planning unit. The only exception will be those areas that are donated in fee to Plumas County, for which Greenville Rancheria would be the sole holder of the conservation easement.

Of the lands available for donation in fee, Enterprise Rancheria proposes to receive most of the area south of Mile High Road and west of Haskins Bay to construct an interpretive center and a camp facility for educational, cultural, spiritual healing, and health and wellness use. Plumas County proposes to receive the lands available on the south side of Haskins Bay, part of which would continue to be managed as open space and available for low-impact recreation activities with supporting amenities, with the forested portions being managed for fire safety, habitat preservation, and carbon sequestration. Allowances will be included in the conservation easement to allow future expansion of the Bucks Lake fire station to house additional apparatus and to provide a multi-purpose meeting room for the community. Plumas County also proposes to receive most of the lands available on the south side of Bucks Creek inlet, where trails will be developed and a portion of which would be reserved for a future outdoor education area set within a model managed forest, balancing forest uses and sequestering carbon. Of all the lands available for donation, two areas on the south side of the lake encompassing existing leach fields that serve the recreation homesites would continue to be owned by PG&E.

A significant challenge in long-term management of the Bucks Lake area is reconciling the Stewardship Council's vision and objectives for these lands with the limited funds that are available to support the Land Conservation Plan. As long as the Land Conservation Plan is not approached as something that has to be self-contained and self-executing, there are opportunities to work in concert with other planning and management efforts. Rather than undertaking a number of immediate surveys or management plans under the Land Stewardship Proposal, a long-term Bucks Lake Coordinating Committee is proposed to provide an ongoing framework for efficient planning and coordination. The Coordinating Committee will consist of the potential donees participating in the Stewardship Council process (the proposal team along with the U.S. Forest Service, Feather River Land Trust, and Plumas Corporation) as well as PG&E, the Bucks Lake cabin owners, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other interested stakeholders. The Coordinating Committee will serve as a conduit for information and promote coordinated planning and resource management across PG&E and other private lands and the

National Forest through various processes, such as implementation of the Land Stewardship Proposal, update of the Plumas County General Plan, and license implementation and eventual FERC relicensing of PG&E's Bucks Creek Project.

An endowment is proposed to provide annual financial resources for the Coordinating Committee, and expenditures would be prioritized each year depending on the needs for resource surveys, management plans, matching funds for grant opportunities, or matching funds for actions carried out by PG&E under its FERC license.

While the Coordinating Committee will turn to other various actions over time, certain immediate needs and opportunities were identified through the Stewardship Council process and development of this Land Stewardship Proposal. The following actions will be undertaken by the donees and community partners in the near term:

- The Coordinating Committee will work with the Plumas County Fire Safe Council and Plumas Corporation with the support of local matching funds to develop a fuels management plan that is appropriate for the Bucks Lake area, taking into consideration habitat needs, recreation development, and other factors.
- The Coordinating Committee will work with the Plumas County Fire Safe Council and Plumas Corporation with the support of local matching funds to develop a fire response, management, and evacuation plan for the Bucks Lake area.
- The Coordinating Committee will work with Trails for Plumas County, Plumas Corporation, and other stakeholders to complete a trails plan for the Bucks Lake area that is integrated with the Plumas County Master Trails Plan and the Plumas County General Plan. Trail planning will include determination of trail routes to connect existing trails and popular use areas as well as establishing any necessary easements across PG&E's non-FERC lands.
- The Coordinating Committee will work with the Enterprise Rancheria with the support of matching funds to develop a youth, elder, and Tribal wellness camp and interpretive center that is appropriate for the Bucks Lake area, taking into consideration habitat needs, recreation development, and other factors.
- The Coordinating Committee will work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service staff biologists, botanists, and foresters in order to determine best management principles for the Bucks Lake area and develop a framework management plan.

We have endeavored to meet the Stewardship Council's timeline for moving forward with this process, but with the procedures involved in reconciling and approving a proposal between two tribal governments and a county government, we have not been able to fully circulate the final proposal and receive meaningful feedback from all of the parties we would have liked to engage. We submit this proposal to the Stewardship Council as our current concept for the Bucks Lake Planning Unit, and we look forward to further developing the details of this proposal through negotiation with the Stewardship Council and direct engagement with other interested stakeholders.

## Proposal Information

For proposals that involve collaboration among multiple organizations, please include the below proposal information for the full proposal team, including all partners.

### *Proposal Team*

If the Land Stewardship Proposal represents the interests of several organizations, indicate the specific interest or role for each.

The proposal team consists of Enterprise Rancheria, Greenville Rancheria, and Plumas County. All three donees will participate in the Bucks Lake Coordinating Committee to implement this Land Stewardship Proposal in conjunction with other community partners.\* The three donees will play the following roles in receipt of fee title or in holding conservation easements:

#### Greenville Rancheria

Greenville Rancheria would hold a conservation easement over the lands donated in fee title to Plumas County.

Greenville Rancheria and Plumas County would jointly hold a conservation easement over all other lands in the planning unit.

#### Enterprise Rancheria

Enterprise Rancheria would receive fee title to certain lands south of Mile High Road and west of Haskins Bay (**Parcel #1**) to construct an interpretive center and a camp facility for educational, cultural, spiritual healing, and health and wellness use. An area encompassing the existing leach field serving the south shore cabins will remain in PG&E ownership.

Allowances will be included in the conservation easement to allow future expansion of this property to develop a facility that will afford a full range of programs to provide Tribal Youth the opportunities to practice their cultural customs within historical territory. These lands will be used to educate the public on the Native American historical significance of the area, to strengthen the native family unit, and to provide opportunities to Tribal Elders to teach our customs and practices to our Tribal Citizens. This property will provide a spiritual wellness and healing environment to all Native communities. It is the vision of the Tribe to use these lands in conjunction with all Tribal Government granting access to this facility to Tribal People who may not have access to their own lands. This facility will include a Community Center, including but not limited to, a recreation hall, cafeteria, bathroom facilities, etc. The property will be enhanced with camp style cabins to house youth and elders for educational and recreational needs. It is also the vision of the Tribe to develop the land to accommodate the modern day

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\* The overall Land Stewardship Proposal reflects collaboration on the part of the proposal team (Enterprise Rancheria, Greenville Rancheria, and Plumas County) and all three parties plan to work together as members of the Coordinating Committee, along with other stakeholders, to implement the proposal. However, by participating in the proposal team Plumas County has not predetermined or endorsed any future land use approvals or other local government approvals that may be required to fully implement certain aspects of the proposal. Any such approvals necessary to implement the proposal will be processed through normal administrative and legislative processes.

recreational needs of Tribal Citizens as well as maintaining a great portion of the land for cultural activities, native plant harvesting and ceremonial use.

### Plumas County

Plumas County would jointly hold a conservation easement with Greenville Rancheria as described above.

Plumas County would receive fee title to a portion of the lands available on the south side of Haskins Bay, part of which would continue to be managed as open space and available for low-impact recreation activities with supporting amenities, with the forested portions being managed for fire safety, habitat preservation, and carbon sequestration. **(Parcel #2)** Allowances will be included in the conservation easement to allow future expansion of the Bucks Lake fire station to house additional apparatus and to provide a multi-purpose meeting room for the community (similar in concept to the Graeagle fire station, although not necessarily on the same scale). One of the Stewardship Council's recommended concepts is to consider installation of a portable chemical toilet in this area. However, the fire station is also in need of restroom facilities, and our concept is to pursue a single solution or a coordinated solution that will address both needs.

Plumas County would receive fee title to most of the lands available on the south side of Bucks Creek inlet, where trails will be developed and a portion of which would be reserved for a future outdoor education area set within a model managed forest, balancing forest uses and sequestering carbon. **(Parcel #3)** An area encompassing the leach field serving the cabins on Bucks Creek inlet will remain in PG&E ownership.

One of the Stewardship Council's recommended concepts is the placement of restrooms on the south side of Bucks Creek inlet in the vicinity of Parcel #3. However, there is also the possibility that PG&E will place restrooms at the nearby Mill Creek trailhead as one of the final recreation enhancements under the current FERC license. Regardless of whether the improvements are made by PG&E or Plumas County and the Coordinating Committee, restrooms, parking, and other amenities in the area would serve both the Mill Creek trailhead and outdoor education or other activities.

The conservation easements for Parcel #2 and Parcel #3 would both allow for trail development and other future enhancements related to low-impact, recreational use.

## *Overall Approach*

Describe your team's overall approach to the future management of the planning unit.

A significant challenge in long-term management of the Bucks Lake area is reconciling the Stewardship Council's vision and objectives for the lands under its charge with the limited funds that are available to support the Land Conservation Plan. As long as the Land Conservation Plan is not approached as something that has to be self-contained and self-executing, there are opportunities to work in concert with other planning and management efforts. Rather than undertaking a number of immediate surveys or management plans under the Land Stewardship Proposal, a long-term Bucks Lake Coordinating Committee is proposed to provide an ongoing framework for efficient planning and coordination. The Coordinating Committee will consist of the potential donees participating in the Stewardship Council process as well as PG&E, the Bucks Lake cabin owners, and other interested stakeholders. The Coordinating Committee will serve as a conduit for information and promote coordinated planning and resource management across PG&E and other private lands and the National Forest through various processes such as implementation of the Land Stewardship Proposal, update of the Plumas County General Plan, and license implementation and eventual FERC relicensing of PG&E's Bucks Creek Project.

An endowment is proposed to provide annual financial resources for the Coordinating Committee, and expenditures would be prioritized each year depending on the needs for resource surveys, management plans, matching funds for grant opportunities, or matching funds for actions carried out by PG&E under its FERC license.

## *Land Interests Sought*

Describe the scope of your proposal. Is the proposal for the entire planning unit or just select parcels or areas (specify which parcels or areas are included)? Does the proposal include both the proposed fee title recipient and conservation easement holder? Does the proposal require a legal parcel split or subdivision of the subject land?

This proposal addresses the entire planning unit and includes fee title and conservation easements. A map is attached showing the approximate location of the proposed fee title donations. The three fee donations are numbered for reference.

### Greenville Rancheria

Greenville Rancheria will hold a conservation easement over the lands donated in fee title to Plumas County.

Greenville Rancheria and Plumas County will jointly hold a conservation easement over all other lands in the planning unit.

### Enterprise Rancheria

Enterprise Rancheria will receive fee title to certain lands south of Mile High Road and west of Haskins Bay which will be accomplished via a lot line adjustment based on PG&E's two existing parcels in the planning unit. **(Parcel #1)**

Plumas County

Plumas County will jointly hold a conservation easement with Greenville Rancheria for all of the planning unit lands not donated in fee title to Plumas County.

Plumas County will receive fee title to a portion of the lands available on the south side of Haskins Bay through a parcel division undertaken via simplified procedures due to the transfer of the property to a public entity. **(Parcel #2)**

Plumas County will receive fee title to a portion of the lands available on the south side of Bucks Creek inlet through a parcel division undertaken via simplified procedures due to the transfer of the property to a public entity. **(Parcel #3)**

## *Preservation and Enhancement Measures*

For each applicable beneficial public value present in the planning unit, describe any specific preservation and enhancement measures that your organization/team proposes to implement in the first ten years. For each measure, explain the connection to the objectives listed in the LCP Volume II for the relevant beneficial public value. Describe how your overall approach is consistent with the overall management objectives for the planning unit as adopted by the Stewardship Council in LCP Volume II.

For each of the beneficial public values, we will respond to the Stewardship Council's recommended concepts and add any additional preservation or enhancement measures that we are currently proposing.

### **Protection of the Natural Habitat of Fish, Wildlife, and Plants**

The Coordinating Committee will work with PG&E and the Forest Service to conduct appropriate comprehensive biological surveys for the Bucks Lake area in conjunction with the surveys that will be required as part of the relicensing of FERC Project 619, which should begin in the next three to four years. In the interim, the Coordinating Committee will work with the Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service to determine whether there are any immediate needs to protect species. Updated wildlife and habitat management plans for the Bucks Lake area will be coordinated with any required managements plans developed through the FERC relicensing. In the interim, the Coordinating Committee will ensure that any management actions or improvements on donated lands are consistent with existing wildlife and habitat management plans.

One of the Stewardship Council's recommended concepts is to manage north shore lands as a buffer for the Bucks Lake Wilderness Area. The affected lands were preliminarily designated for retention by PG&E, and we are assuming those lands will be retained by and managed by PG&E.

### **Preservation of Open Space**

Greenville Rancheria and Plumas County will both hold permanent conservation easements, as described above in section 16, which will ensure protection of open space.

### **Outdoor Recreation by the General Public**

The Coordinating Committee will work with the Bucks Lake Fire Department to assess the needs for restroom facilities around the south shore of Haskins Bay for both recreational visitors and the fire department. There are physical and environmental constraints in establishing restrooms in this area, and we will work on a single solution or a coordinated solution that will address both needs.

The Coordinating Committee will also work with Trails for Plumas County and other stakeholders to complete a trails plan for the Bucks Lake area that is integrated with the Plumas County Master Trails Plan and the Plumas County General Plan. Trail planning will include determination of trail routes to connect existing trails and popular use areas, as well as establishing any necessary easements across PG&E's non-FERC lands.

One of the Stewardship Council's recommended concepts was to provide public day use area amenities and improved pedestrian shoreline access at the existing site at Lakeshore Resort. We understand this recommendation is already being addressed in the current lease negotiations for Lakeshore Resort.

Another one of the Stewardship Council's recommended concepts was to consider installation of a portable chemical toilet and bear-proof refuse container at an appropriate site near the south shore of Bucks Creek inlet. The current plan for recreation improvements under the Project 619 license includes the possible installation of restrooms at the Mill Creek trailhead. However, this item is one of the last recreation improvements to be addressed, and it will only be constructed if PG&E has not already reached the cap on its required expenditures. Information on the current status of PG&E expenditures could not be provided and PG&E plans for the Mill Creek trailhead have not been determined.

### **Sustainable Forestry**

In consultation with the Coordinating Committee, Plumas County will evaluate existing timber inventory data on the parcels proposed for donation to the County and develop a sustainable forestry management plan that will achieve long-term ecological, economic, social, and cultural benefits.

The Coordinating Committee will work with the Plumas County Fire Safe Council to develop a fuels management plan and a fire management, response, and evacuation plan.

### **Preservation of Historic Values**

Cultural resources surveys will be conducted on the lands that are donated to identify cultural resources and ensure their protection. Also, while no surveys are proposed on the lands retained by PG&E, members of the Coordinating Committee would like to promote education with the homeowners association for the identification and respect of any cultural resources that are encountered by homeowners.

The Coordinating Committee will develop a cultural resources management plan in conjunction with the relicensing of Project 619.

The central role of Enterprise Rancheria and Greenville Rancheria in the proposal team and on the Coordinating Committee will ensure ongoing Native American input and coordination with other Native American entities and interests in addressing cultural resource issues.

**How will the proposal preserve and enhance the land's beneficial public values while honoring existing agreements for economic uses?**

The proposal does not eliminate and is not inconsistent or incompatible with any existing agreements for economic uses.

Enterprise Rancheria's proposed use of the donated land is in full compliance with the existing agreements for economic uses. The proposed development of donated lands mirrors the

development of the current PG&E camp on the west side of Haskins Bay (the old 4-H camp). The proposal compliments the surrounding development and will enhance the lands current access and greatly strengthen the preservation of the area. In addition, the proposal will implement the protection of unique culture and historically sacred sites in the area.

Plumas County's proposed use of the land can accommodate the existing lease for the Bucks Lake fire station, the grazing lease, and the recreation homesite leases outside the FERC boundary.

The two existing leases for leach fields cover lands that will remain in PG&E ownership.

Provide a timeline for proposed preservation and enhancement measures for the first ten years.

An estimated timetable is provided below for anticipated preservation and enhancement measure for the first ten years. Some of the proposed actions may be subject to the availability and timing of funding from various sources.

#### Coordinating Committee Actions

Year One – Conduct preliminary resource surveys and assess any immediate needs to protect resources; begin development of regional trails plan; begin development of community fire plan; conduct archeological survey on all donated lands; conduct forest health and timber management assessment; assess need for restrooms and other public facilities following receipt of updated information from PG&E on status of license obligations for recreation improvements.

Year Two – Complete regional trails plan; complete community fire plan; develop forest/timber management plan and assess evolving opportunities for income from carbon credits for forest management.

Year Three – Begin resource surveys related to FERC relicensing; begin development of updated cultural resources management plan.

Year Nine – Complete FERC relicensing.

#### Enterprise Rancheria

Year One – Planning, securing funding, any and all legal requirements for fee status ownership. Consult with surrounding communities and home owners.

Year Two – Beginning stages to implement planning, such as design plans, infrastructure development, etc. Develop cultural programs, land stewardship education, and staff development for the preservation of the area.

Year Three – Complete construction phases begin soft opening of facilities. Further enhance programs and outreach to other Tribal entities. Consult with surrounding communities and home owners ensuring preservation of the area. Begin harvesting and replanting of traditional native plant life.

Year Four – Open facility to wider Native American base. Begin building relationships with surrounding community to facilitate education. Begin outreach to open facility to non-native youth education.

Year Five – Expand development of wellness and healing programs. Begin internal program evaluation for next five years. Possibly expand services and staff. Consult with surrounding communities and home owners.

Year Six – Review facilities and modernization of infrastructure. Further develop the integration of horticulture of traditional native plant life.

Year Seven – Implement strategies identified from the five year evaluation. Consult with surrounding communities and home owners.

Year Eight – Expand recreational opportunities and re-invest revenues to purchase equipment.

Year Nine – Continue to enhance all programs.

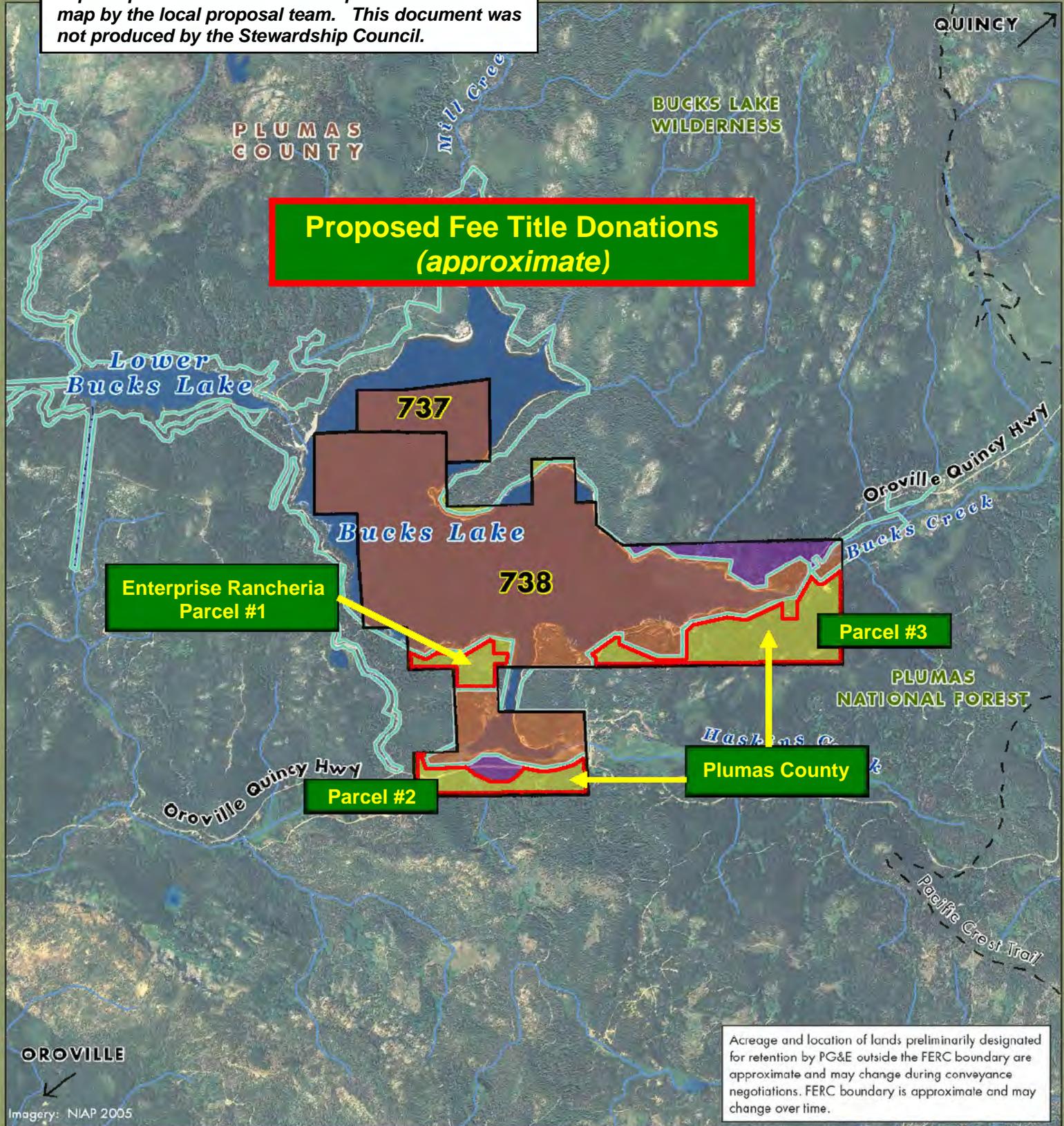
Year Ten – Continue to enhance all programs.

### *Youth Investment Program Synergies*

How will the proposal create opportunities for youth engagement, education, and the development of a future generation of land stewards? Please describe.

The Enterprise Rancheria's main objective in the donation of the proposed lands (Parcel 1) is to promote the education of Tribal Youth. Historically the Native American people were the first and most efficient land stewards. Our customs and culture, by its very nature, teach the principles needed to engage not only our youth, but Tribal Elders and Citizens to reconnect with their lands, producing a renewed understanding and obligation to care for these lands. This property and facility will promote and accommodate the Tribe helping to provide education to the surrounding communities as to the importance of land stewardship on this sacred parcel.

**Note:** The proposed donations have been superimposed on the Stewardship Council's familiar map by the local proposal team. This document was not produced by the Stewardship Council.



Acreage and location of lands preliminarily designated for retention by PG&E outside the FERC boundary are approximate and may change during conveyance negotiations. FERC boundary is approximate and may change over time.

- PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Donation
- PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Retention Outside FERC Boundary
- PG&E Lands Preliminarily Designated for Retention Within FERC Boundary

- Legal Parcel Id Number
- FERC Boundary

