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PLUMAS COUNTY 2035 GENERAL PLAN CONSERVATION & OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

GOAL 7.1 Conservation and Open Space

The conservation and utilization of natural resources, including water and its hydraulic force, forests, soils, rivers and other waters, fisheries, wildlife, minerals and other natural resources, and protection of open space land for the continuation of the County's rural character; scenic beauty; recreation; the protection of natural and cultural resources; and as consideration of open spaces as an important factor in the County's quality of life.

7.1.1 Open Space Land Use Definition

The County's General Plan land use map shall include designations that indicate the available inventory of lands which serve as the "open space land." The following General Plan designations are considered open space lands: Resort and Recreation, Agriculture and Grazing, Agricultural Preserve, Mining Resource, Timber Resource, Lake, Open Space-Significant Wetlands, Scenic Area, and Historic Area.

7.1.2 Conservation and Open Space Program

The County shall inventory its open space lands through the mapping of land use designations that qualify for designation as defined in COS 7.1.1. The open space land will be protected through the administration of policies found in the Land Use, Conservation and Open Space, Agriculture and Forestry, and Water Resources Elements. These Elements in turn will be implemented through applicable zoning districts and other mechanisms including stream and watercourse restrictions, wetland restrictions, natural hazards constraints and planned development dedications.



GOAL 7.1 Conservation and Open Space cont.

7.1.3 Collaborative Open Space Land Use Management

The County will promote collaborative resource management among land management agencies, including State and Federal agencies and private entities, monitor the resource quality over time, and engage in public processes with management agencies to advance the County's interest in land management in those processes.

7.1.4 Conservation Easements

The County shall encourage private and public conservation easement programs that protect natural resource and open space lands that generate economic returns to the landowners along with continued resource production, in exchange for permanent protection of natural resource and open space values.



GOAL 7.2 Biological Resources

Conserve and protect the County's biological resources.

7.2.1 *Habitat Protection*

The County shall protect areas that have significant habitat and wetland values, including riparian corridors, wetlands, grasslands, and creeks and rivers, from incompatible rural development. The County shall also support their protection as a method to provide carbon sequestration for GHG emissions under applicable State programs.

7.2.2 *Species and Habitat Avoidance*

The County shall require new development projects to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to threatened, rare, or endangered species and critical, sensitive habitat, as defined by appropriate local, state, and federal agencies, through proper project location and design. In the event that avoidance is not feasible, the County shall require a "no-net-loss" of these sensitive natural plant or habitat communities. Wildlife habitat will be preserved and managed in a manner that will not lead to the listing of additional species as threatened and endangered or negatively impact listed threatened or endangered species.



GOAL 7.2 Biological Resources cont.

7.2.3 *Land Use Management*

The County shall restrict the density and intensity of development in wildlife habitat areas to the extent needed to avoid significant interference with the habitat. These restrictions shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, maintenance of large parcel sizes, increasing building setback lines, limiting building and fencing, and designating open space corridors.

7.2.4 *Stream Corridor Development*

The County shall only permit new development within stream corridors when there is no lesser environmentally damaging feasible alternative and where the best feasible mitigation measures have provided to minimize adverse environmental effects. This policy is not intended to affect the cleaning of stream channels to avoid the flooding or erosion of existing developed lands, stream restoration projects or permitted mining operations consistent with CEQA and the SMARA.

7.2.5 *Fishery and Stream Corridor Inventories*

The County shall cooperate with the California Department of Fish and Game in inventorying streams and lakes with spawning and rearing habitat, evaluating those streams' existing and potential habitat value, and determining current and potential fish population levels.



GOAL 7.2 Biological Resources cont.

7.2.6 *No Net-Loss of Wetland Habitats*

The County shall require new development that is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act to achieve a “no-net-loss” of wetland habitat through avoidance or appropriate mitigation in consultation with the appropriate resource protection agencies.

7.2.7 *Wetland and Riparian Habitat Buffers*

The County shall require new development that is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act to identify wetlands and riparian habitat areas and designate a buffer zone around each area sufficient to protect these habitats from degradation, encroachment, or loss. As appropriate, criteria for the development of buffer width standards shall be developed in coordination with all appropriate resource agencies and the County will continue to identify areas as Open Space and Significant Wetlands under the General Plan.

7.2.8 *Vehicle and Wildlife Conflicts*

The County shall coordinate with the California Highway Patrol, United States Forest Service, California Department of Fish and Game and other resource and public safety agencies to reduce conflicts between vehicles and wildlife on major roadways in the County.



GOAL 7.2 Biological Resources cont.

7.2.9 Wildlife Fencing

The County shall discourage the use of fencing in rural areas that is exclusionary or dangerous to wildlife, except when necessary for property protection, human safety, crop protection, or domestic animal containment through its discretionary project review and implementation process. Where fencing is necessary, wildlife friendly standards will be considered to the extent feasible.

7.2.10 Lake Davis Area

Within the Lake Davis Deer Fawning Area, the County shall establish a 20-acre minimum parcel size until a compensating area is provided, whether naturally or artificially, within the Lake Davis subunit range. Development of a future compensating area shall be developed in coordination with DFW and other appropriate agencies. Any designated compensating areas shall be clearly mapped and designated in the County's mapping system.

7.2.11 Density Transfers

The County shall permit density transfers and other TDRs as a means of protecting wildlife migration routes and habitats where such transfers will not adversely affect the adjacent wildlife area due to spill-over effect.



GOAL 7.2 Biological Resources cont.

7.2.12 Habitat Protection and Monitoring

The County shall continue to cooperate with land trusts, organizations, and local, State, and Federal agencies to ensure that adequate on-going protection and monitoring occurs within or adjacent to sensitive habitat areas.

7.2.13 Biological Resource Maps

The County shall maintain and consult biological resource maps during the discretionary permit review process in order to identify habitat concerns and guide mitigations that will reduce biological resource impacts. Additionally, the County shall require that any development project that could potentially impact a special- status species or sensitive natural community shall be required to conduct a biological survey of the site. If special-status species or sensitive natural communities are found on the site, the project biologist shall recommend measures necessary to avoid, minimize, and/or compensate for identified impacts to special-status and sensitive natural communities.

7.2.14 Natural Landscapes in Site Design

The County shall encourage the integration of natural landscapes, such as rivers streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands, and riparian areas, into new development in such a way as to enhance the aesthetic and natural character of individual sites while avoiding the destruction, disturbance, and fragmentation of these natural landscapes.



GOAL 7.2 Biological Resources cont.

7.2.15 Use of Native Plant Species for Landscaping

The County shall encourage the use of native plant species in landscaping plans and projects, where feasible.

7.2.16 Controlled Fuel Management

The County shall support the use of controlled fuel management where feasible and appropriate as a natural ecosystem process, to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire and promote healthy forest environments and habitats.

7.2.17 Private Land Management

The County shall support private land owners or organizations that acquire land in order to provide habitat protection for the maintenance of sensitive habitats and/or rare, threatened, or endangered plant/wildlife species.

7.2.18 Inter-Agency Coordination

The County shall consult with appropriate State, Federal, and trustee agencies during the environmental review process when special status species and/or sensitive habitats may be affected by a project.



GOAL 7.3 Soil Resources

Conserve and protect the County's soil resources.

7.3.1 Sensitive Soils and Mapping

The County shall encourage the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to maintain soil survey data, publish soil survey data, and to digitize all soils mapping units on the Geographic Information System (GIS).

Additionally, the County shall maintain and consult sensitive soil data as part of the development review process. Sensitive soils areas shall be designated on the basis of erosion potential and/or high groundwater levels and/or lack of suitability for septic tank usage where community sewers are not available.

7.3.2 Soil Erosion and Vegetation Protection

For development projects that require earthwork and grading, including cut and fill for roads, the County shall require the developer to minimize erosion and sedimentation, conform to natural contours, maintain natural drainage patterns, minimize impervious surfaces, and maximize the retention of natural vegetation wherever feasible. Specific standards for minimizing erosion and sedimentation shall be incorporated into the Zoning Ordinance.

7.3.3 Soil Limitations and Sewage Disposal

The County shall require low-density residential development in areas where soils have moderate or severe limitations for sewage disposal, unless infrastructure exists for a public sewer system.



GOAL 7.3 Soil Resources cont.

7.3.4 *Erosion Control Plan*

The County shall require that a runoff evaluation and erosion control plan be prepared by an engineer for erosion potential areas. The runoff evaluation and erosion control plan shall provide mitigations which preclude hazards to public health, safety and general welfare and ensure maintenance of water quality and fish and wildlife habitat.

7.3.5 *Soil Improvement Practices*

The County shall encourage agricultural property owners to use practices that reduce soil erosion and increase soil productivity.



GOAL 7.4 Mineral Resources

To encourage the production and conservation of minerals, while preserving the values related to recreation, water resources, air quality, agriculture and timber resources, aesthetics and wildlife and fisheries habitat protection.

7.4.1 Mineral Resource Area Identification

The County shall use appropriate sources to identify mineral resource areas in the County for future extraction while considering the conservation of other natural resources and minimizing land use incompatibility. Towns and Community Planning Areas may develop special management areas to identify planning considerations addressing mineral extraction.

7.4.2 Mining Resource Production Areas

The County shall identify “mining resource production areas.” These are defined as those areas where accessibility, surrounding land uses, and environmental setting will permit extraction of materials without major adverse environmental impacts. Mining resource production areas include geothermal resources. Visual impacts of the operation and proximity to residential and recreational areas will be a consideration in identifying mining resource production areas. Extraction of mineral resources, including geothermal resources and hydraulic forces of water, shall not necessarily be limited to mining resource production areas.



GOAL 7.4 Mineral Resources cont.

7.4.3 *Resource Permitting*

The County shall permit the extraction of materials and geothermal development from mining resource production areas through a permit process that provides for a case-by-case administrative review. The administrative review process may involve public notice, and shall contain conditions of approval necessary to mitigate adverse environmental impacts. Visual impacts of the operation will be a consideration in identifying mining resource production areas.

7.4.4 *Mineral Resource Preservation*

The County shall preserve future use areas with potentially important mineral resources by limiting residential or other uses that are considered incompatible with mining operations.

7.4.5 *Mineral Resource Operations*

The County shall ensure that mineral extraction operations are performed in a manner compatible with land uses on the site and surrounding area and do not adversely affect the surrounding environment. The County shall ensure that, upon the completion of mining activities, the site is restored to conform to SMARA requirements.



GOAL 7.4 Mineral Resources cont.

7.4.6 Mining Site Reclamation

The County shall ensure that resource operators implement SMARA requirements related to reclamation activities occur concurrently with extraction activities rather than after extraction has been completed. The County shall also ensure that reclamation is achieved in a manner that will protect public safety and enable lands to be put to a subsequent beneficial use.

7.4.7 Location and Maintenance of Resource Transportation Routes

The County shall require new mineral resource transportation routes to avoid incompatible areas such as landslides, highly erodible soils, residential areas, recreation areas, and schools.



GOAL 7.5 Cultural and Historical Resources

To protect and preserve historic and prehistoric sites, structures, features, objects, and properties important in Native American history for their aesthetic, historical, scientific, educational, and cultural values.

7.5.1 Cultural and Historical Resource Preservation

The County shall encourage historic preservation within all sectors, private and public, in such a manner as to promote economic development, enhance recreation, maintain quality of life, provide educational opportunities, as well as to provide revitalization of housing and business sections of existing communities.

7.5.2 Evaluation of Cultural and Archaeological Resources

The County shall support efforts to expand privately-owned rail service and support preservation of railroad rights-of-way in the County for future uses.



GOAL 7.5 Cultural and Historical Resources cont.

7.5.4 Protection of Potentially Important Historic Sites

Demolition permit applications on designated or potentially important historic sites shall be subject to County discretionary review.

7.5.5 Assessment of Impacts to Cultural and Historical Resources

The County shall encourage cultural resource preservation and ensure that new development does not adversely impact important resources. Discretionary projects involving ground disturbance shall have evaluations to determine cultural and historical significance. The County shall ensure that individuals conducting inventory and evaluation of cultural and historical resources consult with the Northeast Information Center in advance of any such assessments or studies and that those individuals undertaking such activities meet minimum standards. Any archaeological or paleontological resources discovered on a development project site shall either be preserved in their sites or adequately documented as a condition of removal. When a development project has sufficient flexibility, avoidance and preservation of the resource shall be the primary mitigation measure.



GOAL 7.5 Cultural and Historical Resources cont.

7.5.6 *Cultural Resource Education Programs*

The County shall support local, State, and national education programs on cultural and archaeological resources. As a local resource, the County shall strive to support the programs and activities administered by the Plumas County Museum and ensure that records continue to be made available to the public and to cultural resource professionals.

7.5.7 *Cooperation of Property Owners*

The County shall encourage the cooperation of property owners to treat cultural resources as assets rather than liabilities, and encourage general public support for the preservation of these significant cultural resources.

7.5.8 *Local Native American Coordination*

The County shall respect Native American culture and planning concerns.

The County shall collaborate with local Native American tribes, organizations and interests to preserve, rehabilitate, restore and interpret cultural and natural resources important in tribal culture, as per statutes such as SB 18. The County shall consult with local tribes when actions undertaken by the County or as a result of the permitting process may affect traditional cultural values. The County shall meet in good faith with local tribes as warranted and appropriate to incorporate the tribal viewpoint into County activities and policies.



GOAL 7.5 Cultural and Historical Resources cont.

7.5.9 Confidentiality of Archaeological Information

The County shall, within its power, maintain confidentiality regarding sensitive cultural resource and archaeological information in order to preserve and protect these resources from vandalism and the unauthorized removal of artifacts or other inappropriate uses.

7.5.10 Community Character

The County shall promote the appropriate preservation and or achievement of community character building design, exterior modifications, and public space improvements in areas where the community has expressed the need for improved community design and enhancement. Proposed building designs shall be developed to preserve the unique historic nature of each individual community. Where community plans are developed, these plans shall include scenic resources to be protected or preserved.



GOAL 7.6 Scenic Resources

To preserve the visual aspects of the environment which are of particular importance to the maintenance of the rural and natural character of the County. These include, but are not limited to, views of meadowlands and waterways from highways and populated areas.

7.6.1 *Scenic Areas*

The County shall identify important scenic areas. Each designated scenic area shall include a statement defining the qualities of the area which are to be protected or preserved.

7.6.2 *Development in Identified Scenic Areas and Viewsheds*

Within identified scenic areas, the County shall ensure that new development shall be consistent with and subordinate to natural contours including slopes, visible treelines and hilltops, bluffs, and rock outcroppings. Visible disturbance shall be minimized to the extent feasible. Additionally, the County shall establish development standards which provide incentives to the property owner to preserve the scenic qualities identified. The development standards may include limiting the density and intensity of development within important scenic areas, and establishing architectural review standards and procedures. Where community plans are developed, these plans shall include scenic resources to be protected or preserved.



GOAL 7.6 Scenic Resources cont.

7.6.3 *Scenic Roadway Protection*

The County shall protect the scenic quality of roadways for the enjoyment of natural and scenic resources, landmarks, or points of historic and cultural interest.

7.6.4 *Community Design*

The County shall identify Design Review Areas where the community has expressed the need for improved community design and enhancement.

7.6.5 *Scenic Impacts of Off-premise Permanent Advertising Signs and Billboards*

The County shall prohibit the location of permanent off-premise advertising signs and billboards along all roadways. The County shall develop and implement policies and ordinances that allow localized business signage in existing downtown areas and in community plan areas that serves to facilitate business district economic development without causing adverse scenic impacts.

7.6.6 *Lighting and Night Sky*

The County shall require that new lighting be designed and configured to reduce light pollution, glare, and spillage.



GOAL 7.7 Parks and Recreation

To maintain an equitable and quality system of parks, recreation areas, multi-use trail systems, and access to local, state, and federal recreation opportunities within Plumas County.

7.7.1 Recreation and Open Space Network Corridor

The County shall support the development of a network of recreational facilities and open space network corridors that highlight unique resources and recreational opportunities for a variety of users.

7.7.2 Ecotourism

The County shall create and support opportunities for ecotourism.

7.7.3 Recreation Use along Waterways

The County shall encourage increased public access and recreational uses along waterways wherever feasible and where it does not conflict with adjacent landowner rights.

7.7.4 Encourage Private Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

The County shall encourage the development of recreational uses in areas where necessary facilities and services can be provided. The County shall permit recreational uses of all land, including appropriate support facilities, where the proposed use does not conflict with other identified uses or have the potential to cause negative environmental impacts.



GOAL 7.7 Parks and Recreation cont.

7.7.5 County and Recreation District Facilities

County parks, local district facilities, trails and other recreation facilities are important to the residents of the County and to visitors to the County. The County recognizes the continuing crucial role of the Recreation and Park Districts and Community Service Districts in providing recreation facilities to the public in order to serve the present and future needs of county residents. The County shall strive to continue to maintain county parks and to provide assistance to these other local districts, including support for additional recreational facilities and opportunities while considering the long-term capabilities for the maintenance of all facilities and opportunities.

7.7.6 Park Dedication Requirements

The County shall require the dedication of land and/or payment of fees in conjunction with new development, in accordance with local authority and State law, as deemed necessary, to ensure funding for the acquisition and development of public and private recreation facilities.

7.7.7 Park Design

The County shall make efforts to involve community members in the design and development of all park facilities.



GOAL 7.7 Parks and Recreation cont.

7.7.8 Collaboration with State and Federal Land Managers

The County shall collaborate with public agencies and federal land managers to provide access to recreational areas and trails that are aesthetic and consistent with multiple community needs.

7.7.9 Recreation Area Organization and Management

The County shall consider the use of existing entities, such as Recreation and Park Districts and Community Services Districts, or the creation of other types of districts to generate funds for the acquisition and development of parkland and/or historical properties as development occurs in the County.

7.7.10 Joint User Agreements

The County shall encourage the development of parks near public facilities such as schools, community halls, libraries, museums, prehistoric sites, and open space areas and shall encourage joint-use agreements whenever possible to augment recreational activities and services to reduce costs.



GOAL 7.7 Parks and Recreation cont.

7.7.11 Community Access to Recreation Areas

When acquiring recreational lands or considering the acceptance of a parkland donation, the County shall give first priority to sites that would serve a mix of users from within the county at a reasonable cost, or are located adjacent to or close to developed areas, or are adjacent to or close to schools.

7.7.12 Recreation Uses for All County Residents

The County shall focus efforts on the acquisition and management of recreation areas that serve a broad range of County's residents from varying age groups, economic situations, and physical abilities.

7.7.13 Native Planting for Recreation Areas

The County shall emphasize the use of native grasses, shrubs, and trees as the primary focus of restoration within resource parks and other open space areas.

7.7.14 Conservation of Environmental Resources

The County shall promote the conservation of environmental resources in new and existing park and open space facilities.



GOAL 7.8 Trails and Bikeway

To update and develop a countywide multiuse trail and bikeway system that is protective of private property interests and public resources and consistent with federal land management objectives.

7.8.1 Regional Trail Network

The County shall consider development of a connected system of recreational trails to link communities and recreation areas throughout the county.

7.8.2 Planning for Multiuse Trail Needs within the County

The County shall strive to prepare a Trail and Bikeway Master Plan in collaboration with other local, state and federal land managers that addresses countywide and individual community trail and bikeway needs. The plan shall evaluate the feasibility of a variety of alternative modes of transportation and trail types.

7.8.3 Prioritize Trail Development

In developing new trail projects, the County shall consider as the highest priority those trails or bikeways that are on lands owned by the county or by cooperating State, Federal and private entities, or are located in public rights of way. Additional priorities will include those trail projects that complete a trail corridor, where only small portions are missing.



GOAL 7.8 Trails and Bikeway cont.

7.8.4 *Public Safety*

The County shall ensure that future public access trails are integrated into individual community areas and minimize impacts to surrounding property owners, agricultural operations, timber production areas, and sensitive receptors. Future trail planning and design activities will be conducted to ensure public safety and minimize public nuisance concerns.

7.8.5 *Trail Signage*

As part of future trail projects, the County shall ensure that adequate trail signage is included as part of trail design to help identify permitted trail uses, provide directions to relevant public areas, and address safety and public nuisance concerns to trail users and adjacent private property owners.

7.8.6 *Trail Fencing*

As part of future trail projects, the County shall ensure that adequate trail fencing is included as part of trail design to discourage trespass onto neighboring land and to protect sensitive resources as necessary.



GOAL 7.9 Air Quality

To maintain good air quality in Plumas County.

7.9.1 *Cooperation with Other Agencies*

The County shall cooperate with other local, regional, Federal, and State agencies in developing and implementing air quality plans to achieve State and federal Ambient Air Quality Standards. The County shall partner with the NSAQMD, CARB, the United States Forest Service, and other agencies, as appropriate, to achieve better air quality conditions locally and regionally.

7.9.2 *Air Quality and Sensitive Receptors*

The County shall ensure that new facilities in which sensitive receptors are located, such as schools, child care centers, playgrounds, retirement homes, and hospitals, are sited away from significant sources of air pollution and no new sources are sited near sensitive receptors.

7.9.3 *Dust Suppression Measures*

The County shall require developers to implement dust suppression measures during excavation, grading, and site preparation activities as required by the NSAQMD.

7.9.4 *Vehicle Trip Reduction Measures*

The County shall encourage new developments that reduce the length and frequency of vehicle trips through land use and transportation decisions that encourage mix-use developments and compact development patterns in areas served by public transit and alternative modes of travel.



GOAL 7.9 Air Quality cont.

7.9.5 *Street Design*

The County shall promote street design that provides an environment which encourages transit use, biking, and pedestrian movements within planning areas.

7.9.6 *Wood Burning Fireplaces*

The County shall regulate wood-burning fireplaces and stoves in all new development. EPA-approved stoves and fireplaces burning wood, natural gas or propane are allowed. The County shall discourage the use of non-certified wood heaters and fireplaces, and develop plans for their ongoing replacement as practicable.

7.9.7 *Purchase of Low Emission/Alternative Fuel Vehicles*

The County shall encourage County departments and agencies to replace over time existing vehicles with low emission/alternative fuel vehicles as feasible.

7.9.8 *Public Education*

The County shall develop and implement a public awareness campaign to educate community leaders and the public about the causes and effects of Plumas County air pollution and about ways to reduce air pollution.



GOAL 7.10 Climate Change

To address climate change and manage its effects by pursuing programs and strategies in order to meet or exceed state requirements for reductions in GHG emissions.

7.10.1 Inventory and Monitor GHG Emissions

The County shall inventory and monitor GHG emissions in County operations and in the community, consistent with Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District and/or State guidelines.

7.10.2 Climate Action Plan

The County shall establish a Climate Action Plan that identifies strategies for increasing energy efficiency, carbon sequestration, GHG emissions reductions, and land use and transportation strategies that are consistent with appropriate climate change regulations (i.e. State of California's Global Warming Solution Act).

7.10.3 Support Statewide Climate Change Solutions

The County shall monitor and support the efforts of CAL EPA, CARB, and the NSAQMB, under AB 32 (Health and Safety Code §38501 et seq.), to formulate mitigation strategies, if any, that may be implemented by local government, and further require the County to ultimately consider any such strategies once they become available and are appropriate for rural adaptation.



GOAL 7.10 Climate Change cont.

7.10.4 Forest Sequestration and Biomass Energy

The County shall investigate providing incentives for increased carbon sequestration on forest lands and encourage the use of forest biomass for sustainable energy generation.

7.10.5 Sustainable Business Practices

The County shall encourage all businesses to take the following actions as appropriate for each business: replace high mileage fleet vehicles with hybrid and/or alternative fuel vehicles, increase the energy efficiency of facilities, transition to the use of renewable energy instead of non-renewable energy sources, adopt purchasing practices that promote emissions reductions, and reusable materials and increased recycling.

7.10.6 Sustainable Agricultural Practices

The County shall promote GHG emission reductions by encouraging carbon efficient farming methods, such as no-till farming, crop rotation, cover cropping, installation of renewable energy technologies, protection of grasslands, open space, riparian, and forest lands from conversion to other uses, and development of energy-efficient structures.

7.10.7 Public Awareness and Education

The County shall work to increase public awareness regarding climate change and encourage County residents and businesses to become involved in activities and lifestyle changes that will aid in the reduction of GHG emissions.



GOAL 7.11 Energy Conservation

To ensure that the extension of electrical power supply is sufficiently mitigated to reduce impacts to a level of insignificance, preventing irreversible changes to significant environmental features.

7.11.1 Alternative Energy Design

The County shall encourage all new development, including rehabilitation, renovation, and redevelopment, to incorporate energy conservation and green building practices to maximum extent feasible. Such practices include, but are not limited to: building orientation and shading, landscaping, and the use of active and passive solar heating and water systems.

7.11.2 Local Energy Alternatives

The County shall amend the Zoning Code to streamline permitting for the production of biofuels, biomass, and other energy alternatives to reduce dependency on fossil fuels.

7.11.3 Energy Efficient Appliances

The County shall encourage the use of Energy Star certified appliances, such as water heaters, swimming pool heaters, cooking equipment, refrigerators, furnaces and boiler units, in all new developments.



GOAL 7.11 Energy Conservation cont.

7.11.4 Solar Energy

The County shall continue to support the provision and enhancement of incentives for the installation of solar energy and other alternate conservation measures in all development approvals.

7.11.5 Landscape Practices

The County shall encourage the use of ecologically based landscape design principles that can improve local air quality by absorbing CO₂, producing oxygen, providing shade that reduces energy required for cooling, and filtering particulates. These principles include, but are not limited to, the incorporation of parks, landscaped medians, and landscaping within development.

7.11.7 Utility Transmission Lines

The County shall review the establishment of overhead transmission lines through an administrative review process. The administrative review process may involve public notice. The review shall be to ensure that the establishment of transmission lines respects and protects the integrity of the opportunity, constraint and policy areas it affects.

7.11.8 Electric Vehicle Support

The County shall encourage and provide incentives for commercial and residential design that supports the charging of electric vehicles.



Implementation Measures

Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible
1. The County shall incorporate provisions into development regulations that in the event archaeological resources are discovered during site excavation, grading or construction, work on the site will be suspended until the significance of the features can be determined by a qualified archaeologist. If significant resources are determined to exist, the archaeologist shall make recommendations for protection or recovery of the resource.	7.5.2 7.5.5 7.5.8	Planning, Public Works
2. Human remains discovered during implementation of public and private development projects shall be treated with dignity and respect. Such treatment shall fully comply with the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and other appropriate laws.	7.5.2 7.5.5 7.5.8	Planning
3. If human remains are located during any ground-disturbing activity, work shall stop until the County Coroner has been contacted, and, if the human remains are determined to be of Native American origin, the Native American Heritage Commission and most likely descendent have been consulted.	7.5.2 7.5.5 7.5.8	Planning
4. The County shall establish and maintain a Cultural and Historical Resources Advisory Panel. This panel should include archaeological and historical experts. Activities of the panel shall include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop specific criteria necessary to determine resource sensitivity and significance. Apply criteria in the CEQA Guidelines and develop local criteria for historical resources such as Historic Roads and Historic Buildings. b. Act as an advisory group to the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission to make recommendations for inclusion in the historical resource inventory. c. Review and comment on development proposals involving re-use of historic sites and demolition permits for any listed structure with the potential for listing as an historical resource. 	7.5.2 7.5.3 7.5.4 7.5.8	Planning

Implementation Measures cont.

Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible
5. The County shall maintain copies of the historical resource inventory in the Northeast Information Center, the Plumas County Museum, and the Plumas County Planning Department.	7.5.3 7.5.4 7.5.6 7.5.7 7.5.8	Planning
6. Where warranted and feasible, the County shall establish “special plan-historical areas” and provide for an architectural and historical review process to ensure that alterations to the exterior of existing buildings and construction of new buildings preserve the historical qualities and character of the area and are not detrimental to the building’s integrity.	7.5.1 7.5.2 7.5.3 7.5.4 7.5.10	Planning
7. The County shall consult with the Northeast Information Center, the Cultural and Historical Resources Advisory Panel, and appropriate historic and preservation professionals prior to the issuance of a demolition permit for any listed structure or structure with the potential for listing as an historical resource. The County shall develop Zoning Ordinances to ensure that demolition permit applications on potentially important historic sites are subject to discretionary review.	7.5.1 7.5.2 7.5.3 7.5.4 7.5.5	Planning
8. The County shall support the registration of cultural resources in appropriate landmark designations, such as the California Register of Historic Places, National Register of Historic Places, California Historical Landmarks, Points of Historical Interest, or Local Landmark. The County shall assist private citizens seeking those designations for their property.	7.5.1 7.5.2 7.5.3	Planning

Implementation Measures cont.

Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible
9. The County shall support the efforts of private individuals, organizations, local tribes or agencies in their efforts to preserve, protect, restore and continue use of cultural and historic properties through incentives such as tax relief, low-cost loans, land use strategies, the State Historic Building Code, or other measures deemed suitable and practical.	7.5.1 7.5.2 7.5.3 7.5.4 7.5.7 7.5.8	Planning
10. The County shall establish Design Review Committees to develop specific design guidelines for evaluating building design, exterior modifications and public space improvements. Establish a review process to ensure compliance with the design guidelines.	7.5.4 7.5.10 7.6.4	Planning
11. The County shall develop a program of coordinated protection for local and regional scenic roadways with other public and private entities.	7.6.3	Planning, Public Works, CALTRANS
12. The County shall strive to prepare and maintain a Trails and Bikeways Master Plan as necessary to implement the goals, policies, and actions of the Conservation and Open Space Elements.	7.8.1 7.8.2 7.8.3 7.8.4 7.8.5 7.8.6	Public Works

Implementation Measures cont.

Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible
13. The County shall investigate the implementation of a Conservation and Recreation Easement Program.	7.7.1	Planning
14. The County shall consider the establishment of and adjust, as appropriate, a recreation area/trail development impact fee based on a level of service to provide for funding that meets the actual cost, park acquisition, and development.	7.7.1 7.5.5 7.7.6 7.8.1 7.8.2 7.8.3	Planning, Public Works
15. County staff shall pursue State and Federal grant funding, as staffing levels allow, for the acquisition and maintenance of recreational facilities, trails, and other programs consistent with the General Plan.	7.7.1 7.7.5 7.8.1 7.8.2 7.8.3	Planning, Public Works
16. During the environmental review of discretionary projects, the County shall evaluate new sources of air quality emissions using analytical methods and significance criteria used or recommended by the NSAQMD. The County shall continue to implement the District's rules in the approval of discretionary projects.	7.9.1 7.9.2 7.9.3 7.9.4 7.9.5	Planning

Implementation Measures cont.

Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible
17. The County shall require development proposals that introduce sources of toxic air pollutants to prepare a health risk assessment and establish appropriate land use buffers around those uses generating the pollutants.	7.9.1 7.9.2	Planning
18. As part of the County's Climate Change Strategy, the County shall develop a Plan for the County to identify its emission sources, its reduction potential, economic and social adaptation to the effects of climate change, and its potential regional carbon sequestration potential. Development of the plan shall include the following steps: a. conduct a baseline analysis of GHG emissions for 1990 or the most appropriate baseline year. b. Adopt an emissions reduction target. c. Develop strategies and actions for reducing emissions. d. Develop strategies and actions for adaptation to climate change. e. Implement strategies and actions. f. Monitor emissions and verify results a minimum of every five years starting in 2015.	7.10.1 7.10.2 7.10.3 7.10.4 7.10.5 7.10.6 7.10.7	Planning, Public Works, Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District, City of Portola
19. The County shall continue to monitor and update the General Plan and Zoning Code, as appropriate, to reflect the County's Plan that identifies strategies for increasing energy efficiency, carbon sequestrations, GHF emissions reductions, and land use and transportation strategies that are consistent with the State of California's Global Warming Solutions Act and new State laws and regulations for GHG emissions as they become available.	7.10.1 7.10.2 7.10.3 7.10.4 7.10.5 7.10.6 7.10.7	Planning

Implementation Measures cont.

Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible
20. The County shall use development agreements to secure commitments from developers of new projects to increase the energy efficiency.	7.11.1 7.11.2 7.11.3 7.11.4 7.11.5 7.11.8	Planning
21. The County shall develop criteria to identify and map areas in the County for exclusion of certain size mineral extraction operations. The intent is to identify areas based on resource sensitivity and land use incompatibilities for mineral extraction operations of a certain size.	7.4.2	
22. Review existing designated scenic areas for needed adjustments and updates.	7.6.1	
23. The County shall maintain best available data in the form of GIS maps for the location and extent of wetlands, critical habitats, streamside management areas, rookeries, and ranges of species identified in the California Natural Diversity Database and in consultation, through data sharing with other resource management agencies including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, United States Fish and Wildlife, and the United States Forest Service.		Planning, GIS
24. The County shall maintain efficient and timely procedures for project referral to state and federal agencies for biological review and consultation.		Planning