

6.0 OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION



age from 150 to nearly 400 years, though the most common blue oak stands are currently 80 to 120 years in age.

Oak Woodlands Conservation Act

In 2004, Senate Bill 1334 (The Oak Woodlands Conservation Act) was passed by the California Legislature. This legislation added Section 21083.4 to the Public Resources Code related to oak woodland conservation. The Act requires the consideration of oak woodland conservation as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

In accordance with SB 1334, Tehama County Board of Supervisors adopted the *Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Plan* in 2005. The purpose of this document was to expand upon, refine, and improve voluntary oak protection guidelines that had been established by the County in 1994, and to provide a consistent policy for conservation and use of oak woodland habitats throughout the County.

NATURAL GAS AND MINERAL RESOURCES

Natural gas fields are located in the southern portion of the County, on both sides of Interstate 5. Geothermal springs are located in the Eastern and Western Planning Areas and in the Lassen National Forest (which includes portions of the Eastern Planning Area of Tehama County, as well as portions of Plumas, Lassen and Shasta Counties.) The thermal springs in Lassen National Park are of a moderate surface temperature ranging from 66°C to 129°C (150°F to 264°F).

The majority of Tehama County's mineral wealth is derived from the extraction of non-metallic sand, gravel, and volcanic cinder, which are used primarily by local paving and construction industries. Other mineral resources found in the County include aragonite, borax, chalcopyrite, chromite, copper, cristobalite, galena, garnet, opal, pectolite, penninite, sassolite, and Wallstonite.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Tehama County is rich in recreational resources and lands. Hiking, fishing and boating opportunities abound, as well as the opportunity for more passive recreation. The Tehama County valleys and mountains have diverse and unique scenic resources including rivers, lakes, wetlands, large expanses of grassland, spectacular forests and high mountains. Included in this inventory are: USDA Forest Service lands; National Park Service lands (under the US Department of the Interior); Bureau of Land Management (BLM) properties; California State Parks facilities and areas; US Army Corps of Engineers lakes and parks; and County regional parks.

HISTORIC, ARCHAEOLOGICAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Prehistoric

A variety of Native American tribes have settled in what is now Tehama County. For example, prior to Euro-American settlement, Wintun Indian Tribes populated the upper Sacramento Valley and the foothill areas to its east. The Yana and Yahi tribes also lived most of the year along creeks to the west of Lassen Peak. Cultural resources have been found at major archaeological sites such as the "Los Molinos Vicinity – Ishi Site" in Deer Creek Canyon, and the "Sulphur Creek Archaeological District" in the Mill Creek vicinity. Both areas are listed on the Federal Register of Historic Places. In addition, excavations

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have uncovered several hundred prehistoric sites, including burial sites, west of the Sacramento River where the Nomlaki Tribe is known to have settled. Other tribes that may have occupied the Tehama County area include the Konkow, Maidu, Patwin, and Nisenan. Additionally, over 250 settlement sites have been identified along the Sacramento River and along river tributaries in the foothill regions of the County.

Archeological Resources

In contrast to historic resources, the archaeological resources of Tehama County are not presented to be accessible to the general public. This is primarily due to the sensitive nature of prehistoric sites and artifacts, but also to the lack of areas where public access can be controlled to prevent artifact damage. However, sites in Tehama County with visible surface indications of past cultural activity could possibly be utilized for interpretive displays. These would include rock shelters, midden sites in association with prehistoric dwellings, rock walls/circles, and petroglyph or pictograph sites.

Historic

Several historic sites in Tehama County are under the protection and management of the state or federal government. Plaques designate the location and describe the significance of sites identified by the State Historic Landmarks program and the Federal Register of Historic Places. In Tehama County, two of these California Registered Historic Landmarks have been further utilized. The Residence of General William B. Ide, with support from the State Department of Parks and Recreation, has been designated as a Historical/Cultural Area Park and provides picnicking facilities as well as historic information. Other locally significant historic sites in Tehama County include the original Masonic Lodge, the original Tehama County Jail in the City of Tehama, and the former Leland Stanford Ranch in Vina. Additionally, Mineral Headquarters is designated and managed by the National Park Service as a historic district.

PARKS AND FORESTS

Three National Forests manage lands within Tehama County: Mendocino, Lassen, and the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Many recreation resources occur on these public lands, most of which are found at higher elevations throughout the County. Recreation resources are discussed for each of the forests and parks in the County.

Mendocino National Forest

The Mendocino National Forest straddles the eastern spur of the Coastal Mountain Range in northwestern California, covering a total of 894,399 acres that span portions of seven counties: Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Mendocino, Tehama, and Trinity. The Mendocino National Forest extends from the Yolla Bolly Mountains in the north (just west of the City of Red Bluff), to Clear Lake in the south. This includes 137,787 acres of designated wilderness and over 40 campgrounds, with a total of 514 recreation sites. Elevations range from approximately 1,000 feet to over 8,000 feet, providing a variety of vegetation and wildlife.

The Mendocino National Forest offers an array of recreation opportunities to the visitor, including fishing in lakes and streams, camping, picnicking, boating, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, hang-gliding, a large off-road vehicle trail system, winter snow play, hunting, wilderness experiences and mountain biking. The Mendocino National



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Policy OS-9.3

The County shall seek inter-jurisdictional cooperation and coordination on natural resources practices and recreation plans with an emphasis on economic impacts.

Implementation Measure OS-9.3a

Actively pursue opportunities to market and capitalize on the County's abundant natural resources to enhance economic development activities throughout the County.

Policy OS-9.4

The County shall actively promote outdoor recreation opportunities such as agri-tourism, nature-tourism, and environmental learning tourism.

Implementation Measure OS-9.4a

Identify opportunities for outdoor recreation within the County and work with the Chamber of Commerce, Tehama Economic Development Council, Tri-County Economic Development Corporation, and local businesses to market and attract visitors.

HISTORIC, ARCHAEOLOGICAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

GOAL OS-10

To preserve the historic and archaeological resources of the County for their scientific, educational, aesthetic, recreational, and cultural values.

Policy OS-10.1

The County should protect and preserve significant archaeological and cultural resources.

Implementation Measure OS-10.1a

Refer all new development proposals on undisturbed land to the Northwest Information Center at California State University, Chico for an evaluation of potential impacts to archaeological and cultural resources.

Implementation Measure OS-10.1b

Encourage the nomination and registration of significant historic, archaeological, and cultural sites, resources, and buildings to the National Register of Historic Places and inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources, California Historical Landmarks, and California Points of Historical Interest.

Implementation Measure OS-10.1c

Encourage public and private agencies and organizations to develop interpretive and educational programs in order to safely utilize historic and prehistoric sites for community benefit.

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Implementation Measure OS-10.1d

Require appropriate surveys and site investigations when needed as part of the initial environmental assessment for development projects in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Surveys and investigations shall be performed under the supervision of a professional archaeologist or other person qualified in the appropriate field, and approved by the County.

It is recognized that Timber Harvest Plans have been declared by the State to be functionally equivalent to environmental assessments required by CEQA.

Implementation Measure OS-10.1e

Impose the following conditions on all discretionary projects in areas which do not have a significant potential for containing archaeological or paleontological resources: "The Planning Dept. shall be notified immediately if any prehistoric, archaeological, or paleontological artifact is uncovered during construction. All construction must stop and an archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards in prehistoric or historical archaeology shall be retained to evaluate the finds and recommend appropriate action.

Policy OS-10.2

The County shall encourage the rehabilitation, preservation, and utilization of historic buildings that are representative examples of the County's heritage.

Implementation Measure OS-10.2a

The County should work with local historical societies and interested parties to support the inventory of the historic resources in Tehama County. The State Office of Historic Preservation has determined that buildings or structures 45 years or older have the potential to be historically significant and should be evaluated for historical significance.

Implementation Measure OS-10.2b

Encourage property owners to register structures determined to be of federal, state, local historic significance in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the California Inventory of Historic Resources.

Policy OS-10.3

The County shall provide incentive programs and encourage cooperation with the private sector for the preservation, protection, or enhancement of historic, archaeological, and cultural resources.

Implementation Measure OS-10.3a

Provide information on potential private, state, and federal grants to the public and provide incentive programs to the private sector to preserve Historical and Cultural Resources.

Policy OS-10.4

The County shall encourage and support inter-agency cooperation to protect historic, archaeological, and cultural resources.



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Implementation Measure OS-10.4a

Consult with local, State, and federal agencies as well as local Native American communities in cases where new development may result in disturbance to historic, archaeological, and/or cultural resources.

AESTHETIC AND VISUAL RESOURCES

GOAL OS-11

To protect the scenic views and aesthetic qualities of Tehama County.

Policy OS-11.1

The County shall identify significant scenic viewsheds for public viewing areas in the County designated scenic highways, such as views of Mt. Shasta, Mt. Lassen, the Sacramento River, and the Coastal Range, and protect the visual integrity of the view shed.

Implementation Measure OS-11.1a

Identify public viewing areas and corresponding scenic viewsheds on the County's designated scenic highways (State Routes 89, 172, 36, 32). Protect these areas from visually intrusive development that would alter the qualities of the view shed by establishing guidelines regulating development heights and lighting.

Policy OS-11.2

The County shall strive to protect the aesthetic and scenic beauty of its regional locations.

Implementation Measure OS-11.2a

Develop view shed preservation standards. Require that new development be designed to integrate building design, natural landforms, and vegetation in order to minimize alteration of scenic vistas.

Implementation Measure OS-11.2b

To the extent feasible, new development will be required to retain existing trees and vegetation and ensure that these resources are incorporated into project design wherever feasible.

Implementation Measure OS-11.2c

Require that cellular towers be designed and located in order to minimize visual impacts of the tower and protect the scenic views for surrounding existing uses.

Implementation Measure OS-11.2d

The County may develop design standards regulating the appearance and design of hilltop and side-slope development.