



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Folsom Field Office
63 Natoma Street
Folsom, CA 95630
www.blm.gov/ca/folsom

Round Mountain Trail Reroute (CA-180-08-19) Decision Record April 2009

1.0 Introduction and Background

BLM proposes to reroute a short segment of a recreational trail on BLM-administered land at Round Mountain. Use of the existing trail segment is causing extensive erosion. The proposed reroute would cause much less erosion and would be easier and safer for hikers, mountain bikers, and other members of the public to use. Based on information in the EA, the project record, and recommendations from BLM specialists, the following constitutes my decision.

2.0 Decision

2.1 Alternatives Considered but not Selected

Under the No Action alternative, the trail would not be rerouted. Use of the existing route would continue to cause erosion. Hikers, mountain bikers, and others would continue to use the existing segment which is not a comfortable grade and does not meet BLM trail standards.

2.2 Decision and Rationale

Based on information in the EA, the project record, and consultation with my staff, I have decided to implement the proposed project as described in the EA. There are no restrictions on the time of implementation. This project will help reduce erosion and will benefit recreation within BLM's popular South Yuba River Special Recreation Management Area. The project is not expected to adversely impact any environmental resources.

3.0 Consultation and Coordination

No special status animal or plant species (or their habitat) were found; therefore, consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service is not necessary.

4.0 Public Involvement

The EA and unsigned FONSI were available for a formal 15-day public comment period in April 2009 on Folsom Field Office's internet website. BLM did not receive any comments on the proposal.

5.0 Plan Consistency

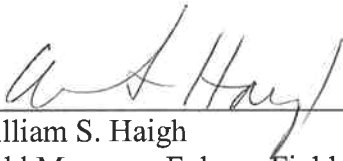
Based on information in the EA, the project record, and recommendations from BLM specialists, I conclude that this decision is consistent with the Sierra Resource Management Plan Record of

Decision approved in February 2008. This plan allocates BLM-administered land at Round Mountain, including the project area, for recreational use. The project area is located within BLM's South Yuba River Special Recreation Area and receives considerable recreational use. The plan specifically requires BLM to develop recreation sites that meet public health and safety standards (page 27).

6.0 Administrative Remedies

Administrative remedies may be available to those who believe they will be adversely affected by this decision. Appeals may be made to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior, Board of Land Appeals (Board) in strict compliance with the regulations in 43 CFR Part 4. Notices of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days after publication of this decision. If a notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, such statement must be filed with this office and the Board within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed. The notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Department of Interior, 2800 Cottage Way, E-1712, Sacramento, CA 95825.

The effective date of this decision (and the date initiating the appeal period) will be the date this notice of decision is posted on BLM's (Folsom Field Office) internet website.



William S. Haigh
Field Manager, Folsom Field Office

4-27-09
Date



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Round Mt. Trail Reroute (CA-180-08-19) Finding of No Significant Impact April 2009

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 by the Sierra RMP. Thus, the project does not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment; therefore, an environmental impact statement (EIS) 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.* Potential impacts include vegetation removal, soil disturbance and temporary noise and dust due to trail construction. However, none of these impacts would be significant at the local scale or cumulatively because of the small scale of the project and project design features that would reduce erosion and visual impacts to immeasurable levels.
- 2) *The degree of the impact on public health or safety.* No aspects of the project have been identified as having the potential to significantly and adversely impact public health or safety. In fact, the project is designed to enhance public health by providing a safer trail because it creates a trail that flows the contour of the surround area.
- 3) *Unique characteristics of the geographic area.* The project area has no unique characteristics.
- 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 this 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.* Trail maintenance/improvement is not precedent setting.

7) *Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.* No significant site specific or cumulative impacts have been identified. The project is consistent with the actions and impacts anticipated in the Sierra RMP.

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 project area does not include any sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places or sites known to be eligible.

9) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect ESA listed species or critical habitat.* No ESA listed species (or their habitat) are known to occur in the project area.

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.



William S. Haigh
Field Manager, Folsom Field Office

4-27-09
Date



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Proposed Action: Round Mountain Trail Realignment (CA-180-08-19)

Location: Nevada County, T 17 N, R 9 E, Sections 29 & 30

1.0 Purpose of and Need for Action

1.1 Need for Action

The purpose of the project is to re-route sections of the Round Mountain Trail at Coyote Overlook. Some of the existing trail is located on a steep mountain side, which makes the trail slippery and unsafe. Some sections of the trail drops down the fall line of the mountain causing erosion. Re-routing these sections of the trail will protect the area from erosion and maintain safety standards for many types of recreation. The proposed new trail route or re-route would follow along the contours of the land (15 or 20 yards) up hill of the existing trail. Both end of the new re-route trail will end up connecting back into the existing trail.

1.2 Conformance with Applicable Land Use Plans

The proposed action is consistent with the Sierra Resource Management Plan's Record of Decision, approved in February 2008. On page 26 of the ROD it states that a goal of BLM's recreation program is to "Ensure the continued availability of outdoor recreational opportunities while protecting other resources and uses." Relevant objectives for that area are to be managed in accordance with the Round Mountain Management Plan.

2.0 Proposed Action and Alternatives

2.1 Proposed Action

The proposed action would re-route sections to prevent continued erosion of the trail which dumps sedimentation into creeks that feed the South Yuba River. Rehabilitate the old segment of trail. Trail construction in this area would not entail any major disturbances, such as blasting, tree falling, boulder moving, bridging building, or trail wall construction. A simple trail trend will be constructed at a width of 2', with a moderately sloping grade < 10% (average grade 6-8%). The trail will have a minimum clearance of brush and branches at 8' high and 5' wide. The trail will be constructed using a 4X4 trail machines and hand tools. Some brush will be cut back during construction-using chainsaws clipper, shovels, rakes and Pulaski. Water bars would be placed in areas as needed when the trail is constructed. A new sign (wood, 11" x 20") would be placed at the intersection to Coyote Overlook.

2.2 Project Design Features

The project will incorporate best practice design features in its construction in accordance with BLM multi-use construction standards (Appendix A).

2.2.1 Best Management Practices

The following best management practices would be made a part of this trail re-route project.

- a. Control of trail Drainage** To disperse runoff and to minimize erosion of the trail prism by runoff from trail surface and from uphill areas, measures such as properly spaced cross drains, dips, and out sloping would be installed.
- b. Minimization of Sidecast Material** To minimize sediment production originating from sidecast material during trail construction and reconstruction, sidecasting of uncompacted material would be permitted only when necessary.

2.2.2 Maintenance of Trail

The trail would be maintained in a manner which provides for water quality protection by minimizing rutting, failures, side casting and blockage of drainages (all of which can cause sedimentation and erosion).

2.3 No Action

Under this alternative, the trail would not be re-routed and erosion will still be dumping sediments in the South Yuba River.

3.0 Affected Environment

The project area is located on a BLM- administered parcel at Round Mountain, 3.3 miles north of Nevada City, or just south of the South Yuba River canyon. The elevation here is 3200 feet above sea level. The project area is located in the Round Mountain trail system of Nevada County. Adjacent land uses are predominantly low density rural-residential.

3.1 Botanical Resources /Invasive, Non-native Species

This area is moderately a mixed deciduous and conifer forest with Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, incense cedar, black oak, blue oak and live oak. Refer to the botanical study attached, authored by the BLM botanist.

3.2 Wildlife Resources

Wildlife occurring in the upland habitat of Round Mountain is typical of wildlife found in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. A variety of wildlife makes use of the uplands above creeks and rivers. These include several species of birds, reptiles, and mammals. There are no special status species or habitat known to occur in this area.

3.3 Cultural Resources

Refer to the cultural resources study attached, authorized by the BLM archaeologist.

3.4 Recreational Resources

The project is located in an area that has an existing multi-use trail system. The reroute trail design would improve visitor enjoyment and safety, resulting in a beneficial impact to the visitor. Realignment would reduce erosion and the number of visitors going out to Coyote Point. Part of the damaged segment of trail would be closed and rehabilitated to facilitate the reestablishment of a natural drainage and vegetation cover and stabilize soils. The RMP commits the BLM to provide for visitor safety, promote programs that enhance visitor's experiences and meet the projected public demand for recreation sites.

3.5 Visual Resources

To the west (out of the tree line) is very scenic, local's call Coyote Point, this rocky overlooks give you a great view of the Rock Creek drainage. The BLM manages this parcel in accordance with visual resource management (VRM) class III standards.

4.0 Environmental Effects

The following critical elements have been considered for this environmental assessment, and unless specifically mention later in this chapter, have been determined to be unaffected by the proposal: air quality, areas of critical environmental concern, prime/unique farmlands, floodplains, water quality, hazardous waste, wetlands and riparian zones, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness, invasive/nonnative weeds, and environmental justice.

4.1 Impacts of the Proposed Action

Impacts to vegetation and soils will be limited to vegetation clearing within the 5' wide trail tread. No trees will be cut. The trail will be designed to reduce erosion and runoff (See Project Design Features, above). There will be no impacts to cultural resources, including places of Native American cultural and religious importance.

This project will have temporary impacts to recreation including noise associated with construction, dust, soil disturbance and temporary visual disturbance. In the long run the project will benefit recreation—the trail will be improved for hiking, mountain biking, etc. Trail construction will have a negligible short-term impact on visual resources (vegetation disturbance, fresh soil cuts and tread marks left by the trail machine). The project will meet VRM class III standards.

4.2 Impacts of the No Action Alternative

No impacts would be expected for soils, special species, or cultural resources. However, this alternative negatively affects recreation use. Without this project, the public's ability to use this recreation resource will be limited. Use of the existing trail will continue to cause erosion of the hillside.

4.3 Cumulative Impacts

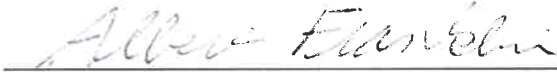
Because no site specific adverse impacts are expected soil, special status species or cultural resource, the project is not expected to cumulatively contribute to impacts at a large, watershed scale. Minor or short term impacts to recreation during trail construction are not expected to cumulatively contribute to similar impacts at a large scale because no other activities of this type are expected to be occurring at a similar time.

5.0 Agencies and Persons Consulted

5.1 BLM Interdisciplinary Team

- John Rapphahn, Recreation

-
- Al Franklin, Soils and Botany



-
- Peggy Cranston, Wildlife and Fisheries



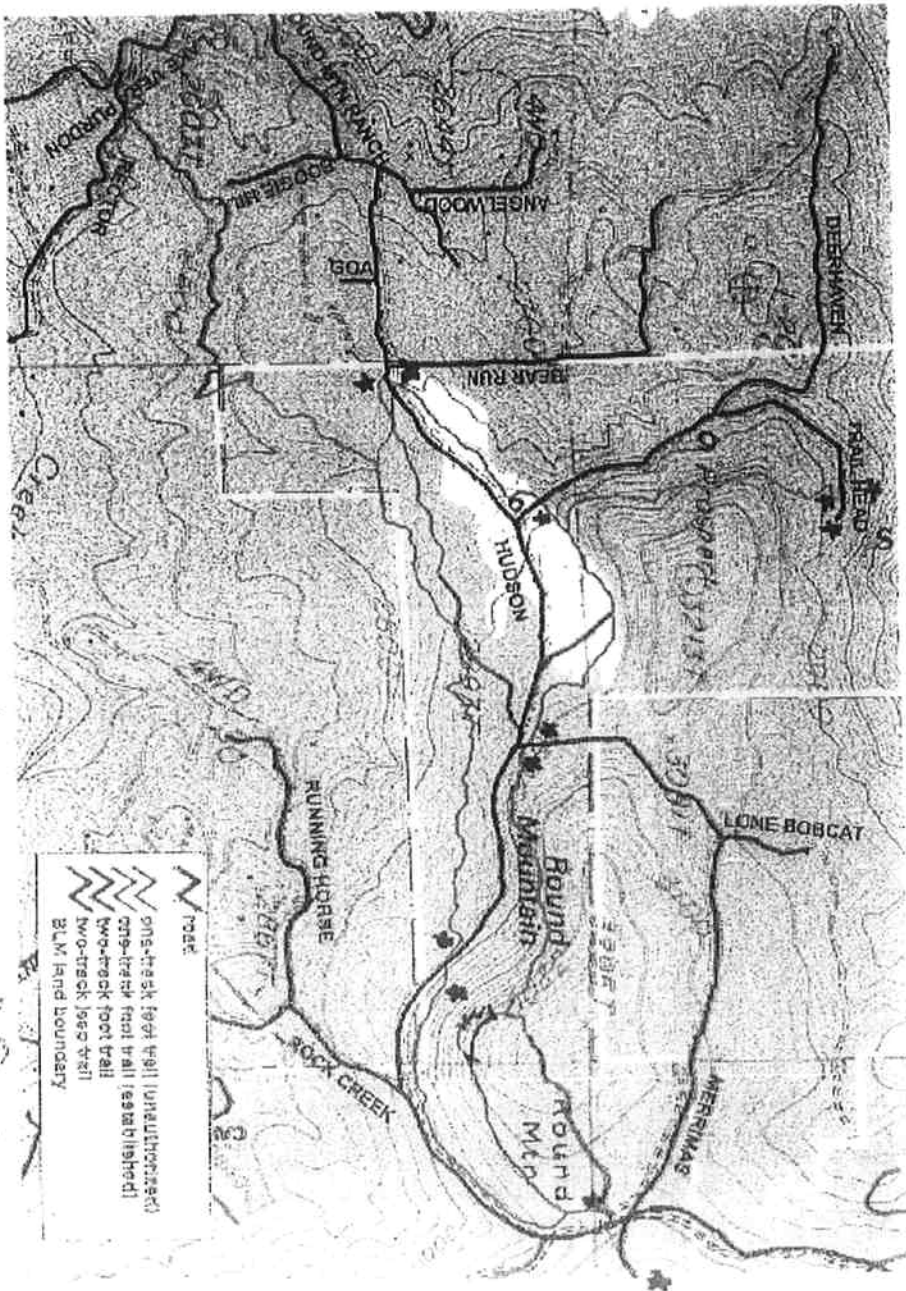
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- James Barnes, Cultural Resources
-

5.2 Consultation with Native American Tribes or other Groups

Other groups that are for this trail project: Bicyclists of Nevada County (BONC), and the Round Mountain community.

5.3 Availability of Document and Comment Procedures

The EA, posted on Folsom Field Office's website (www.blm.gov/ca/folsom) under Information, NEPA (or available upon request), will be available for a 15-day public review period. Comments should be sent to the BLM at 63 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA 95630 or emailed to us at ca180@ca.blm.gov. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.



Roads and Trails in the Round Mountain Area

* Signs

Map by Robin Mallgren, Ecogeographer, 7/28/89

O Need to Replace Signs

ReRoute Section
 Closed Section
 of Trail

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Folsom Field Office
63 Natoma Street
Folsom, California 95630

8100
CA-180.27

July 15, 2008

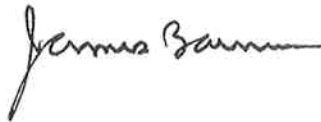
MEMORANDUM

To: Field Manager

From: James Barnes, Archaeologist

Re: Section 106 compliance for the Coyote Point trail reroute project, Nevada County
(case # CA-018-S-YN-08/05)

The Folsom Field Office (BLM) is planning to reroute 200 ft of trail on BLM-administered land at Round Mountain, 3.3 miles north of Nevada City. The area is known by locals as Coyote Point. The trail would be for non-motorized use only. On July 9, 2008 I intensively inventoried the area potentially affected by trail construction and use. I found no properties within the project's area of potential effects. We have not initiated consultations with Native Americans. I have determined that rerouting 200 ft of trail would not affect any places of Native American religious and cultural significance. In my opinion the undertaking, as proposed, would not affect significant cultural properties, and the finding of "no properties" would complete BLM's obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, pursuant to our statewide Protocol Agreement.



CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY REPORT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
FOLSOM FIELD OFFICE

1. **PROJECT NAME & CASE NUMBER:** Coyote Point trail reroute project, case # CA-018-S-YN-08/05
2. **PROJECT SPONSOR/DEVELOPMENT COMPANY:** Bureau of Land Management-Folsom Field Office, Folsom, CA.
3. **REPORT DATE:** July 15, 2008
4. **DATE(S) OF SURVEY:** July 9, 2008
5. **COUNTY:** Nevada
6. **FIELDWORK LOCATION:** The area of potential effects (APE) is located in an area, known by locals as Coyote Point, on Round Mountain, 3.3 miles north of Nevada City. The APE is administered by the Bureau of Land Management-Folsom Field Office (BLM). See the APE location/inventory coverage map (attached).

MAP: USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle Nevada City, Calif. (1948)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: MDM, T 17 N, R 9 E, Sec 30 NE ¼ NE ¼

7. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** BLM is planning to build approximately 200 ft of new trail in order to reroute an existing trail in an area known to locals as Coyote Point. The trail would be rerouted to reduce erosion and make the trail easier to use by mountain bike riders, horseback riders, and others. The trail would be for non-motorized use only. The existing trail runs through an open rocky area with a nice few to the south. In this area the trail would be covered over with brush cut nearby. There would be no ground disturbance in this area.
8. **PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION:** The APE is located on Round Mountain, just south of the South Yuba River canyon, in the central Sierra Nevada. The elevation of the APE is 3200 ft above sea level. Specifically, the general vicinity of the APE contains a mixed forest with ponderosa pine, madrone, incense-cedar, Douglas fir, black oak, blue oak, and live oak forest. Understory species includes poison oak, manzanita, and mountain misery.
9. **DESCRIPTION OF EXAMINATION PROCEDURES:** On foot I spent about an hour walking the route of the proposed trail reroute and the area of trail that

would be abandoned. I followed BLM 8100 manual Class III guidelines to inventory the APE. Ground visibility was poor due to mountain misery, poison oak, and a needle and leaf duff on the forest floor. See the APE location/inventory coverage map (attached).

10. **INVENTORY TYPE:** Class III. See the inventory coverage map (attached).

11. **CONSULTATION:** None

12. **LEGALLY DEFINABLE ACRES SURVEYED:** 1 acre

13. **NUMBER OF PROPERTIES FOUND:** None

14. **COLLECTION:** N/A

15. **HISTORIC CONTEXT:** N/A

16. **DESCRIPTION OF FINDINGS:** None

17. **EVALUATION:** N/A

18. **ACTUAL/POTENTIAL NATIONAL REGISTER PROPERTIES AFFECTED:**
No properties

19. **LITERATURE SEARCH:**

BY WHOM: James Barnes, BLM Archaeologist

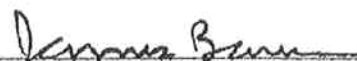
WHERE: Bureau of Land Management cultural resources and land records, on file at the Folsom Field Office, 63 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA

DATE: July 9, 2008

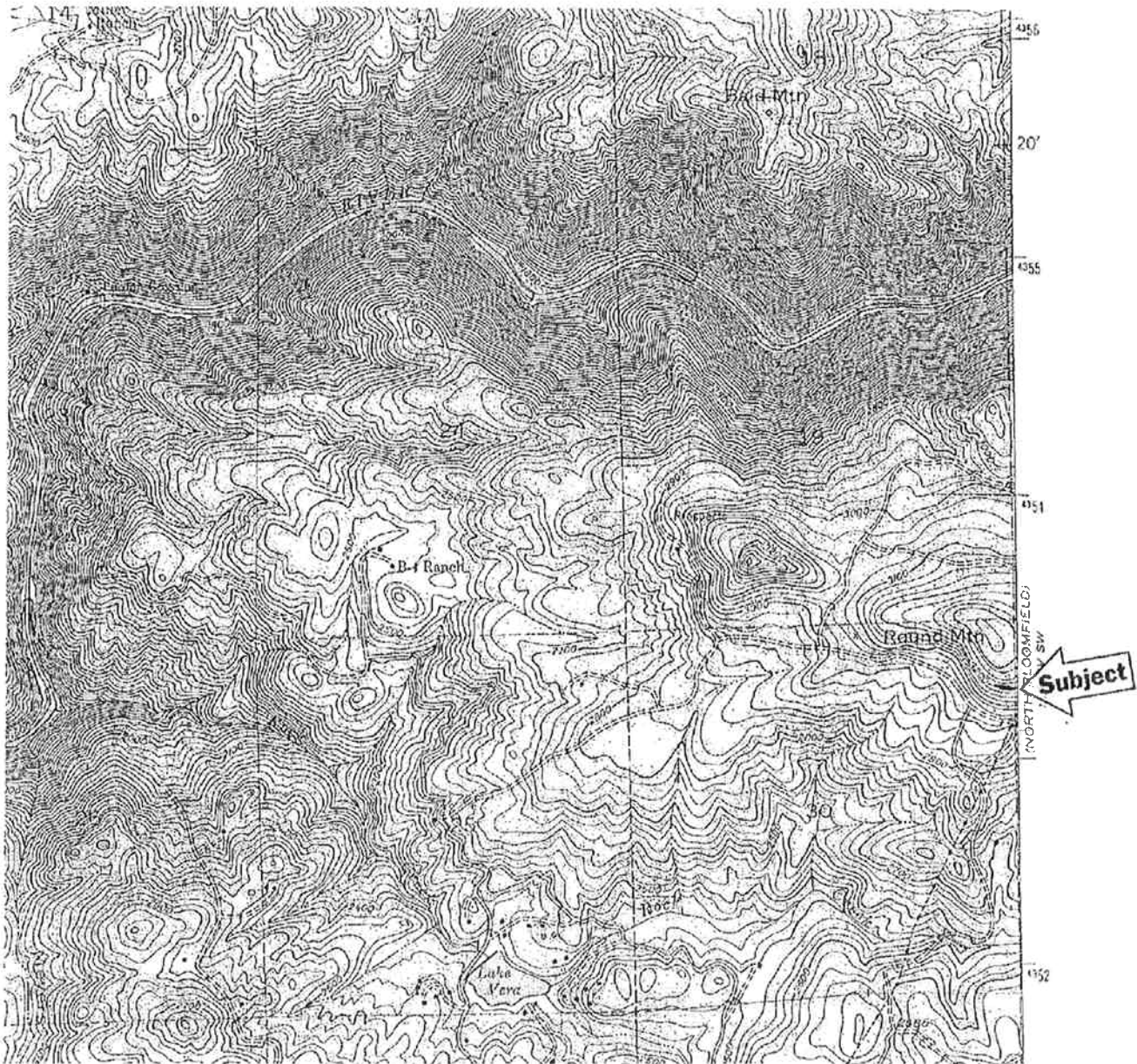
20. **LITERATURE CITED:** None

21. **CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:**
The undertaking, as proposed, would not affect significant cultural properties.

22. **FIELD SUPERVISOR/PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:**


James Barnes, Archaeologist


Date



**AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS MAP/INVENTORY
COVERAGE MAP FOR THE COYOTE POINT TRAIL REROUTE
PROJECT**

**USGS 7.5-MINUTE QUADRANGLE: NEVADA CITY, CALIF.
(1948)**

MDM, 17 N, R 9 E, SEC 30 NE ¼ NE ¼

**DRAWN LINE = AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS/AREA
INTENSIVELY INVENTORIED**

Bureau of Land Management
Bakersfield District
Folsom Resource Area

Biological Resource Inventory Report

Project name: Coyote Point trail cutoff

Project description: In the Round Mountain area, a new section of trail to be constructed, using hand tools and a trail machine, to bypass a section of trail that is unsafe and experiencing erosion, so that the old segment can be rehabilitated. Ruts in the old trail will be filled, and brush will be piled on the old trail to discourage continued use of this trail.

Size of disturbance: The new trail tread will be 2' wide. Construction will involve ground disturbance of approximately 200' X 4' or 800 sq. ft., or 0.02 acres. An additional approximately 1200 sq. ft. will be cleared of brush by cutting the brush above ground.

Project location: T. 17N, R. 9 E, sections 29 and 30.

USGS Quads: Nevada City

County: Nevada

Geographic area: Sierra foothills

Elevation range: 2900'

Geology/soils: Cohasset cobbly loam, 30% to 50% slopes.

Land form: Side slope

Plant community/vegetation: Ponderosa pine forest with black oak dominant locally. Other woody species include canyon live oak, deer brush, white leaf manzanita, buckbrush, poison oak, and mountain misery.

CNDDDB records: Three rare vascular plant species, *Clarkia biloba brandegeae*, *Fritillaria eastwoodiae*, and *Lewisia cannelorii* are reported for the quad, but none close to the project site. There is no appropriate habitat for the *Lewisia* at the project site. Two rare animal species, foothill yellow legged frog and California horned lizard are reported for the quad. There is no appropriate habitat for either animal at the project site.

Inventory description (methodology, problems, reliability, coverage): The route of the proposed trail was walked. The season of the survey was appropriate for *Clarkia biloba brandegeae*, but very late for *Fritillaria eastwoodiae*. (*Fritillaria eastwoodiae* is no longer considered BLM sensitive.)

Sensitive species particularly searched for: *Clarkia biloba brandegeae*


Sensitive species or other botanical resources at site: None found.

Weeds at site:

Project impacts: None to special status species.

Recommendations:

Date of inventory: 7/9/08

Signature: 

Date of report: 1/14/09

Title: Botanist