



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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

South Fork American River Trail (CA-180-09-34) Finding of No Significant Impact May 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. Impacts to rare plants and their habitat will not be significant due to the design features and construction practices.
- 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 safe trail facility.
- 3) *Unique characteristics of the geographic area.* The project area is within the Pine hill Preserve, which contains western El Dorado County Gabbro Soil formations. Trail construction stipulations have been drafted to protect this unique area.
- 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.* Facilities 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.*

There are five federally listed plant species (*Calystegia stebbinsii*, *Ceanothus roderickii*, *Ferromontodendron decumbens*, *Galium californicum sierra*, and *Packera laynea*), and three BLM sensitive species (*Chlorogalum grandiflorum*, *Helianthemum suffrutescens*, and *Wyethia reticulate*) (or their habitat) known to occur in part the project area. With the exception of Laynes Butterweed (*Packera Laynea*), none of the species will be impacted by the construction of this project. Mitigation Measures have been developed for an existing population of Laynes Butterweed outside the project area to avoid and adverse impacts to these plants. BLM is in consultation with US fish and Wild life to insure this action has no adverse impacts related to this project.

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

Date

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT COVER SHEET

EA Roster Number: CA-018-09-34

Tiered to EA# CA-180-03-025 and CA-018-05-12

TYPE OF EA

Application(s) (Non-BLM)

Standard

BLM Proposal(s)

Programmatic

Type of Application(s) or Proposals(s):

Trail Construction, South Fork American River

Assessment Title:

South Fork American River Trail Phase 2

Name of Applicant(s):

Folsom Field office, Bureau of Land Management.

Legal Description:

MDM, T11 N, R 9 E, Sections 30, 29, 28, 21, and 16
T11 N, R 8 E, Section 25

County:

El Dorado, County CA.

Planning Unit and Management Area:

South Fork American River, Cronan Ranch, Norton Ravine Planning Unit, and Pine Hill Preserve-Salmon Falls Planning Unit

Prepared by:

Jeff Horn, Folsom Field Office.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

South Fork American River Trail Phase 2

FOLSOM FIELD OFFICE

EA Number: CA-018-09-34

Proposed Action: Construction of a multi-use trail along the South Fork American River.

Location: T 11 N, R 8 E Section 25, T 11 N, R 9 E, Sections 30, 29, 28, 21, and 16, MDM, El Dorado County, California (See the attached map)

Applicant: Folsom Field Office

1.0 Introduction

The proposed action is to construct a multi-use recreational trail along the South Fork of the American River. The trail would be called the South Fork American River Trail (SFART) and it would be a proposed multiple-use trail that would parallel the South Fork of the American River on the north side of the river from BLM-administered land at Cronan Ranch to the Skunk Hallow parking area at Folsom Lake (managed by Bureau of Reclamation and California State Parks). This would be a non-motorized trail.

The goals of the proposed action are to provide visitors with the added recreational opportunity of a long-distance trail, minimize construction and use of unauthorized trails through the Pine Hill Preserve and adjacent public lands, and protect public lands from environmental degradation caused by unauthorized trails. Existing roads and fire breaks would be used where possible and practical.

This action is consistent with BLM's South Fork American River Management Plan approved in 2004. It is part of a larger vision to build a multi-use trail that would connect the town of Coloma with the Folsom Lake Recreation Area, and potentially the Sacramento metropolitan area. The potential of connecting the historic gold discovery site at Sutter's Mill in Coloma with Sutter's Fort in Sacramento has obvious appeal, but many challenges. For the purposes of this Environmental Assessment the focus is narrowed to new trail construction on the public lands from Cronan Ranch to Folsom Lake. This is Phase 2 of the project. Phase 1 of the SFART has already been completed (see EA # CA-180-05-12) on BLM-administered land near Greenwood Creek and on the Cronan Ranch. Recreation opportunities allowed on BLM-administered land associated with Phase 1 of the SFART include hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, hunting, and rafting/kayaking.

The Cronan Ranch is approximately 1418 acres of rolling grass lands and oak savannah, and was grazed heavily until it was recently brought into public ownership. This area was a cattle ranch for 150 years and was acquired by BLM through donations, grants, and land acquisitions. There are many old dirt ranch roads throughout this large parcel and some of these roads are now part of the larger SFART project. The trails connect to BLM-administered land near Greenwood Creek (now called Magnolia Ranch) which consists of both public domain and acquired lands with a total of approximately 732 acres located approximately 3 miles downriver from the town of Coloma. This area receives heavy use by recreationists, mostly river rafters. The SFART was completed in the Cronan Ranch and Greenwood Creek areas in 2006 as part of Phase I.

Phase 2 of the SFART would be routed through the Norton Ravine parcel which consists of approximately 939 acres of public land. The geology changes here as the river cuts through fault zones of amphibolite and chert. This area is an exceptionally rich and scenic mix of habitats that include riparian, mixed chaparral, grassland, blue oak woodland and montane hardwood. The SFART would also be routed through the northern portion of the Salmon Falls unit of the Pine Hill Preserve.

The relevant lands requiring environmental analysis are managed by the Bureau of Land Management-Folsom Field Office (BLM), Bureau of Reclamation, and California State Parks. BLM has agreed to be the lead agency for NEPA compliance on the project described in this EA.

The trail would be routed through two small parcels of land, the Bolder Glen (40 acres) and the Klein property (45 acres), both of which are currently privately owned. The American River Conservancy has acquired the Klein property with the intent of donating it to the BLM for the purposes of constructing and completing the SFART. The American River Conservancy currently has acquired an easement through the Bolder Glen parcel (SW1/4 of NW1/4, Section 30 T 11 N R 9 E) for the construction of the proposed trail (see the attached letter dated 4/29/2009).

1.1 Purpose and Need

Phase 2 of SFART is needed because a long-distance trail does not exist along the South Fork between Cronan Ranch and Folsom Lake. Both areas have extensive recreational trails managed by BLM and California State Parks respectively. The lack of a connector trail limits recreational opportunities for hikers, horseback riders, and mountain bikers. The SFART would fulfill the need for a long- distance, multiple-use trail system that serves a diverse group of recreationist. It also takes a step forward in realizing the vision of a trail that connects Sutter's Fort in Sacramento with the site of Sutter's Mill in Coloma.

Demand for the SFART has been demonstrated by the extensive public involvement in and support for BLM's South Fork American River Management Plan approved in 2004. The SFART is considered a high-priority action in the plan. This community-based plan was the culmination of over 40 public meetings. The BLM held two public meetings to discuss the potential of a trail, as described in the introduction. Over 200 people attended and the public's response was overwhelmingly in favor of this action. The demand for a long-distance multi-use trail has been clearly demonstrated. The availability of funding to pursue planning efforts has

also prompted BLM to address the issue at this time.

The goal of this EA is to guide planning and decision-making for Phase 2 of SFART between Cronan Ranch and Folsom Lake. To achieve this goal, two alternatives have been proposed and BLM decision-makers have been provided with the potential environmental consequences of each alternative.

1.2 Conformance with Applicable Land Use Plan

The proposed action is consistent with the Sierra Recourse Management Plan Record of Decision (ROD), approved in February 2008. On page 29 of the ROD it states under Management Actions, that BLM will expand trail networks. The proposed action is also consistent with the South Fork American River Management Plan, approved in 2004.

2.0 Proposed Action and Alternatives

The proposed action alternative (2.1) is to build Phase 2 of the SFART as described below in 2.1. This would allow for quality recreation opportunities for the public, and facilitate construction of later phases of the SFART. No Action Alternative (2.3) is to not build the trail. This would deny a quality trail experience to thousands of recreationists.

2.1 Description of the Proposed Action

The proposed action is to construct a non-motorized, multi-use trail on public lands managed by BLM, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), California State Parks, and private land currently owned by a private landowner and the American River Conservancy. The trail would be for non-motorized use only. The trail would be built along the South Fork American River, from Cronan Ranch (through the Norton Ravine parcel and the Pine Hill Preserve) to public land at Skunk Hollow owned by the Bureau of Reclamation and managed by California State Parks. Phase 1 was completed in 2006 and is described in EA-CA-180-05-12, which the present environmental assessment is tiered to.

The new trail would be constructed using a combination of mechanized equipment and hand labor. A Sweco Trail building machine (a small dozer with backhoe attachments) would be used to rough grade much of the trail, with hand labor used to accomplish the more detailed aspects of the trails construction.

The grade has been set to not exceed 8% where possible. New trail construction would be 2.6 miles in length. The trail route makes use of existing roads and fire breaks wherever possible, especially in the Pine Hill Preserve. Some of these existing roads and breaks have grades that may at times exceed 8%, but during construction some can be adjusted to meet this goal. Where this is not possible, using the already disturbed and compacted areas for the trail tread far outweighs disturbing new ground

Brush removal and chipping would occur on the proposed route as needed to accomplish construction. The trail tread would be approximately four feet in width with a 15-foot brush

clearance horizontally and 10-feet vertically. Trees larger than 10 inches DBH would not be removed and every effort would be made to minimize the removal of trees along the trail route.

The proposed trail route would cross several drainages. The most significant of these crossings would be at Norton Ravine and Skunk Canyon. These crossings would need to be bridged, but in the short term they would remain wet crossings. The creeks are dry during the summer and fall months so it is not expected to present a problem to users. During the spring and winter months, the creeks can be crossed safely by trail users, but in the long term bridges would need to be placed at the crossings. The construction of bridges would be handled in a separate NEPA/CEQA documents.

A trailhead would be established at the Skunk Hollow parking area managed by State Parks. This would consist of a kiosk and signage to inform and direct trail users.

Upon completion of the trail, signs would be placed directing users along the trail informing them of the use restrictions. Trail head kiosks, gates, and some fencing would be necessary to inform and protect trail users and environmental resources.

Permanent toilet facilities would be installed, but portable toilets would be utilized until funding becomes available. The installation of these facilities would be covered in a separate NEPA document.

2.2 Project Design Features

Water quality and soils: A buffer of 30 feet would be used by mechanized equipment during construction and grading to minimize the potential of siltation into Norton Ravine and Skunk Canyon. Best management practices including water bars, culverts, straw waddles, etc. would be used near all drainages to minimize erosion and siltation.

Botanical/ACEC values: A portion of the proposed trail would be routed through the northern portion of the Pine Hill Preserve's Salmon Falls unit. The portion of the proposed trail would be 4-foot wide and approximately 0.75 miles long. To minimize impacts to the Pine Hill Preserve ACEC, the proposed trail would either follow an existing 8-foot wide dirt road/fuel break or be constructed using areas with < 8% slope. It is estimated that the trail would overlap for at least 0.5 miles with the existing dirt road and that construction of new trail sections would not exceed 0.25 miles in length.

At least 0.5 miles of the proposed trail would overlap with the existing 10-foot wide road and no adverse effects on special status plants would occur as a consequence of the trail. A survey of the area where the trail is to be constructed found no occurrences of special status plant species. Because the exact route may vary slightly from the survey route, and botanical surveys in dense chaparral are limited by very short sight lines, observation for special status plants will be continued during the construction phase. If special status plants are found, the layout of the trail would be adjusted to avoid the special status plant population. In either case, no adverse effects on special status plants should occur. Conversely, because the special status plants at the Pine Hill Preserve may benefit from some type of disturbance such as the removal of shrubs, there is a

possibility that some of the plants may colonize open spaces that were not available before the construction activities.

A known population of Layne's Butterweed (*Packera layneae*), a federally threatened species, occurs on an old dirt road above the South Fork American River near Norton Ravine. This old road is already used as a trail. With the construction of the new trail sections proposed here, this trail segment will become part of the larger trail system connecting Coloma and Salmon Falls. Traffic past the Layne's butterweed population is likely to increase when the additional trail is completed.

Also, a population of elderberry occurs in Skunk Canyon, near the downstream terminus of the new trail construction. The trail will cross the creek in Skunk Canyon. Elderberry is potential habitat for the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle, also a special status species.

To minimize the potential impacts on special status species as a consequence of implementing the proposed action, the BLM proposes the following measures:

1. The design of the trail would be adjusted to avoid special status plants if occurrences are found. Surveys indicate that the trail route as planned, avoids all special status species occurrences.
2. People participating in the construction of the trail would be given a biological orientation before commencing work to recognize and avoid the rare plants.
3. In areas where rare plants are present only hand crews would be used for the trail construction activities, and rare plants will be avoided.
4. All construction equipment used within Preserve lands and vehicles entering Preserve lands should be cleaned and extra precautions should be taken to prevent the introduction and spread of non-native plants within Preserve boundaries.
5. All miscellaneous items associated with construction would be removed from the site immediately after construction activities.
6. At the conclusion of construction, a program of yearly monitoring along the trail to detect and remediate infestations by non-native plants would be established and implemented.
7. In the Skunk Hollow area, where the trail is currently expected to terminate, there is a small population of elderberry. In accordance with guidance from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the trail has been aligned to avoid this plant population by 30 feet. Only hand construction would occur in this area, and construction would be timed to avoid impact to the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle.
8. To mitigate for any impacts to the Layne's butterweed population at Norton Ravine, BLM will:
 - (A) Monitor trail use before and after trail construction:
 - Baseline 2009
 - First year after construction
 - Third year after construction
 - (B) Monitor plant population before and after construction:
 - Baseline 2009
 - First year after construction
 - Third year after construction

If the plant population is down by 20% relative to baseline both times we conduct post-trail monitoring, and if trail use is up by > 25% relative to baseline, BLM will reinitiate consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

(C) In this Laynes' butterweed habitat BLM will not use motorized vehicles on the road, even for administrative purposes. (The road is already closed to public use.)

(D) BLM will also post this section of the trail with signs advising trail users to stay on the center of the trail.

Cultural Resources: If any cultural resources are unearthed during trail construction, work would cease until, depending on the jurisdiction, a BLM or State Parks archaeologist inspects the discovery and makes management recommendations. Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act/CEQA may continue at this point. If the cultural resources are significant, the trail work would not proceed until appropriate measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects are taken.

Fuels/Fire Management: To minimize the risk of wildfire ignition, earth-moving equipment used during this project would be equipped with spark arresters. Other motorized vehicles used on this project would not be parked where vegetation may come in contact with exhaust systems and catalytic converters.

Noxious Invasive Weeds: A major concern, regarding opening habitat to construct the trail, and the consequent public use of the trail, is the potential introduction and spread of non-native plants, such as yellow star thistle, Italian thistle, Scotch broom, rush skeletonweed, medusahead into Pine Hill Preserve lands and other public lands.

The dozer and other equipment used on the project would be cleaned to help prevent spread of noxious invasive weeds before and after the project. For the long-term, a plan for controlling the spread of weeds has been discussed with BLM partners on this project. For the oak woodland and chaparral portions of the trail, a "weed free zone" would be established extending a minimum of five feet from center line of the trail tread. This zone would be monitored and cleared of weeds on a regular basis to prevent trail users from picking up weed seed and transporting it to new locations. A scotch broom occurrence in close proximity to the Layne's butterweed population along the trail would be pulled and this area would be monitored in the future as part of the overall weed control effort. Most of the grassland portions of the trail run through fields heavily infested with medusahead and yellow starthistle. Mowing and other measures would be used to minimize weed spread. However, creating a true weed free zone in these grassland areas does not seem possible at this time. Interpretive signs would be placed at trailheads to inform the public of the noxious weed problem, and what they can do to prevent weed spread.

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

2.3 Description of the No Action Alternative

Under this alternative, construction of Phase 2 of the SFART would not take place. Continued use of the public land would likely lead to unauthorized trail use and construction. These trails could have negative effects on water quality, biological resources, and public safety. The public's desire for a long-distance trail would be ignored, potentially denying a quality trail experience for thousands of recreationists.

The no action alternative is counter to the management objectives and goals of BLM's South Fork American River Management Plan and the desires of hundreds of participants in this community-based planning effort. This alternative is not in the public interest.

2.4 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

The "single-use trails" alternative would allow for the creation of three single-use trails (one for mountain biking, hiking, and equestrian use). The trails would run from Cronan Ranch to Skunk Hollow. Having multi-trails would minimize conflicts among users and would allow for variations on trail design specific to the user group. However, three trails would affect a much larger area of public land, causing more negative impacts on the environment. Also, the regulation of users is more difficult. The multi-trail design would call for much more funding which might delay the trail construction indefinitely. This alternative is inconsistent with BLM policy. This alternative was considered but eliminated from detailed analysis.

3.0 Affected Environment

The area from Norton Ravine to the Pine Hill Preserve contains considerable areas of blue oak/interior live oak woodland/savannah with gray pine, California buckeye, toyon, California coffeeberry, mountain mahogany, poison oak, silver lupine, and pipe vine. Woodland including canyon live oak, ponderosa pine, black oak, interior live oak, white leaf manzanita, toyon, storax, and scotch broom are found on north- and northeast-facing slopes north of the river and north of the serpentine band. Riparian areas along the river include white alder, valley oak, Oregon ash, sand bar willow, dusky willow, Himalayan blackberry, California wild grape, mugwort, elderberry and poison hemlock. Gabbro substrate in the Pine Hill Preserve supports chamise and gray pine chaparral plant community with two endemic plant species and one nearly endemic plant species.

An existing portion of the trail near Norton Ravine, supports a small population of the federally listed threatened plant species, *Packera layneae*, Layne's butterweed. Although no trail construction will occur in this area, this area may be affected by increased trail traffic. A recent survey found 226 Layne's butterweed plants. The trail is on an old road that no longer has vehicle access. Although the width of the road is accessible to trail users, there is narrow trail that has developed on the old road surface. The road width supports the majority of the Layne's butterweed plants (132). There were two mature plants right in the trail. Forty two percent (94) of the plants are on the road cut above the road, and the slope above the road cut. Very few of the plants are growing on ground that had not been affected by grading for the road. Aerial photos from 1962 do not show the road, so the surfaces that most of the plants are growing on are less than 50 years old.

A population of blue elderberry, potential habitat for valley elderberry longhorn beetle, (VELB), a federally listed threatened species, is found in the lower portion of Skunk Canyon. Although many of the plants are small and unlikely to support VELB, some larger trees are also present. With growth, the smaller plants have potential to support VELB in the future.

The animal species that use this area are typical of the western Sierra Nevada foothills with abundant mule deer, spotted skunk, coyote, gray fox, ring-tail cat, brush rabbit, plain titmouse, canyon wren, wild turkey, California thrasher, brown towhee, red hawk, vulture, and the California quail, among many other species. Refer to the natural resources section of BLM's South Fork of the American River Community-Based Planning Project notebook (2000) for detailed lists of planning area wildlife.

Cultural resources commonly found in the area include tailings, ditches, and mined areas associated with early placer gold mining, and roads, stock ponds, and other resources associated with cattle ranching.

Suburban sprawl emanating from Sacramento has pushed residential development into the general area over the last 10 years. Private properties containing large family homes with river-front views commonly adjoin public lands in the area. Ranching and farming have taken a back seat to automobile tourism and river-rafting tours which currently drive the area's economy.

3.1 Environmental Impacts

The following critical elements have been considered for this environmental assessment, and unless specifically mention later in this document, have been determined to be unaffected by the proposal: air quality, prime/unique farmlands, floodplains, wilderness, and environmental justice.

3.2 Impacts of the Proposed Action

Any project that involves earth moving, even on a small scale, has impacts. These impacts are often temporary in nature, and to the extent possible minimized by design and construction scheduling. Noise, dust, vegetation and tree removal, are anticipated and would not have long-term impacts. Some wildlife may be displaced, but over time they will adjust to human activity.

Water quality: The route of the proposed trail has been selected to maximize the use of existing roads as the trail tread. This would help to limit new trail construction and vegetative removal to a 2.6 mile 15 foot swath. Stream crossings would be designed to minimize erosion.

Soils: Unique soil formations exist in the project area. Soils derived from the weathering of gabbro bedrock are different from the surrounding area, and support plant communities that could not exist without them. The Pine Hill gabbro formation has been featured in several scientific publications. Soil disturbance would be minimal and best practice construction practices would be employed to minimize dust during construction.

Cultural/Native American Concerns: See the Section 106 compliance report attached. The project would not cause adverse affects on significant cultural resources. Native Americans were

contacted to determine whether they would like to comment on the project. To date, they have not responded. No Native American issues have been identified. No Native American places of traditional and cultural importance have been found within the project area. The project is not expected to affect such places.

Botany/ACEC values: See attached Biological Resource Inventory Report attached. The proposed action would affect a small portion of the Pine Hill Preserve ACEC. The ACEC values include Pine Hill ceanothus (*Ceanothus roderickii*), Brisbee Peak rush-rose (*Helianthemum suffrutescens*), Stebbins' Morning-glory (*Calystegia stebbinsii*), El Dorado Mule-ears (*Wyethia reticulata*), El Dorado Bed straw (*Galium californicum ssp. sierrae*), Pine Hill flannel bush (*Fremontodendron californicum ssp. decumbens*), Red Hill soap root (*Chlorogalum grandiflorum*), and Layne's butterweed (*Packera layneae*). However, the area where trail construction will occur is at the periphery of the Preserve, an area with few reported rare plant occurrences. After surveying the proposed trail route and finding no rare plant species, the Preserve manager analyzed potential effects of the project and concluded that ACEC values will not be impacted.

The small population of Layne's Butterweed (*Packera Layneae*), a federally listed threatened plant species, on a post-1962 dirt road in the Norton Ravine area may be affected by increased trail traffic in this area. No new trail construction will occur in this area. Because many plants occur on the road surface, and two plants were found in the trail itself, trail use will impact this plant population will occur. If trail use does increase, there is the potential for some change of impacts. BLM has consulted with US Fish and Wildlife Service about the potential for impacts to this Layne's butterweed population. The greatest potential for impacts would stem from trail users leaving the existing trail and traveling other portions of the adjacent road surface that supports a substantial. To prevent this impact BLM will use signs to advise users to stay on the existing trail. Also, to assess whether additional impacts are occurring, BLM will monitor trail use in the Norton Ravine area before and after new trail construction. And BLM will monitor the plant population after trail construction; a pre-construction survey has already occurred. These monitoring results will be used to assess whether additional mitigations are warranted. BLM has agreed to reinitiate consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service if monitoring reveals both an increase in trail traffic and a decline in the plant population beyond specified thresholds.

The elderberry within the project area at Skunk Canyon on land managed by the Bureau of Reclamation and California State Parks. Elderberry is potential habitat for Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle, which is another special status species. Because the trail is routed more than 40 feet from any of the elderberry shrubs, and construction will occur in a time period where valley elderberry longhorn beetle are not active, i.e., moving away from shrubs, no impact to VELB should occur. Only hand tools will be used for construction in the vicinity of elderberry habitat. BLM has consulted with US Fish and Wildlife Service on this issue and is following USFWS guidance.

Noxious Invasive Weeds: The spread of noxious invasive weeds is a major concern. Several invasive species are located on public lands associated with the project area including Scotch broom, yellow star thistle, Italian thistle, rush skeletonweed and medusahead. Every effort would

be made at the trailheads to inform the public of this problem and what they can do to minimize the spread. During and after construction of the trail, measures would be taken to minimize the spread (see 2.2 Project Design Features).

Wildlife and Fisheries: Refer to the discussion on the elderberry in the botanical section above. If the project design features (2.2) are implemented, the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle habitat should not be negatively affected. Therefore, the project would not affect special status animal species or their habitats. The area of disturbance is very small and there would be negligible short-term impacts to common wildlife species.

Recreation: Over the long term, the proposed action would greatly benefit recreation. In the short term, during construction, the action would have temporary negligible impacts to recreation. The noise associated with construction, dust and soil disturbance and temporary visual disturbance. Temporary displacements of recreational users may occur, but are not anticipated. The proposed action could result in possible conflicts between different uses (i.e., mountain biker users, and, horseback riders). While this issue was considered, it was decided that potential conflicts arising from increased recreation use could be sufficiently addressed and managed according to BLM's South Fork American River Management Plan. None of these impacts would be long term or permanent. This project would have great long-term benefits on the public's enjoyment and use of public lands in this area. Some parking problems can be anticipated. Holiday weekends may overwhelm the existing parking. This would be monitored. Sanitation issues would also be addressed by the installation of temporary sanitation facilities, and permanent ones as funding is available. Litter and trash may increase, but this occurs generally at the trail heads and by roads. It is hoped that the formation of citizen patrols would keep this problem under control (as described in 2.2 Project Design Features).

Visual Resources: The trail project would have some short-term visual impacts: vegetation disturbances, fresh soil cuts, tread marks left by the trail machine, but these would be temporary, and would not violate BLM's VRM Class II management goals for this area.

Fires/Fuels: This project would have some benefits to fire management because the trail would act as a maintained fire break. The impacts to vegetation would be limited to the 4-foot wide trail tread and a 15-foot brushing swath. No large trees would be cut. The surrounding project area would be unaffected. However, wildfire ignition is always a concern when the public has increased access to backcountry areas. This threat is mitigated somewhat by the trail being between the river and Highway 49. In times of high fire danger, no smoking signs would be placed at the trail heads. In extreme fire danger the trail may be closed temporarily. Trail use is expected to be much lower during extreme fire danger (warm weather periods).

Socioeconomics: Recreation visitors from out of the area are an important component of the economic base for local communities. Their purchases help contribute to local incomes and provide incentive for investment. The proposed action may provide additional income for local residents to the extent recreation visitors purchase gas, supplies, lodging, and other services. This contributes to overall economic stability of the area. As more recreation opportunities become available in the area it becomes more attractive to the public. This could result in an increase in local income and economic growth. However, an economic increase cannot be quantified

specifically in relation to the proposed action.

3.3 Impacts of the No Action Alternative

Water quality: Continued use and construction of unauthorized trails would likely lead to increased erosion, which could degrade water quality in streams like Norton Ravine.

Soils: Soil disturbance would not occur due to construction. However, there would be continued use and construction of unauthorized trails, which would likely lead to erosion and soil impacts caused by improperly built trails.

Cultural/Native American Concerns: No impacts

Botany: Continued use and construction of unauthorized trails would likely lead to impacts to botanical resources. The small population of Layne's Butterweed may be impacted by the unmanaged use of the dirt road in the Norton Ravine parcel where the population occurs.

Noxious, Invasive Weeds: No impacts

Wildlife and fisheries: No impacts

Recreation: The public's desire for a long-distance trail connecting public lands at Cronan Ranch with Folsom Lake would be ignored and would create a negative management situation and deny a quality trail experience to thousands of recreationists. The use of the public land would lead to unauthorized trail construction and use and trespass on adjoining private lands. These trails could have negative effects on water quality, vegetation, and public safety. This alternative is counter to the management objectives and goals of BLM's South Fork American River Management Plan, and the desires of hundreds of participants in this community-based planning effort.

Visual Resources: No impacts

Fires/Fuels: The proposed action would have some benefits to fire management because the trail would act as a maintained fire break. With this alternative there would be no benefit. Of course, this benefit might be negated by the increased risk of a fire caused inadvertently by trail users.

Socioeconomics: Recreation visitors from out of the area are an important component of the economic base for local communities. Their purchases help contribute to local incomes and provide incentive for investment. This alternative may hinder the potential for additional income for local residents to the extent recreation visitors purchase gas, supplies, lodging, and other services.

4.0 Cumulative Impacts

The proposed action is not expected to have negative cumulative impacts at the watershed scale. Impacts resulting from this project would be very negligible. Perhaps the biggest issue with

respect to cumulative impacts is preservation of the El Dorado County gabbro soils formation that occurs within the Pine Hill Preserve and supports several rare plant species. BLM would do everything possible to avoid impacts to Pine Hill Preserve special status plants/gabbro soils/ACEC values. One small population of Layne's Butterweed and elderberry found outside of the ACEC could be affected by the proposed action. BLM is working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to find ways to avoid impacts to these species. At the watershed scale, the potential impacts to these species are not significant.

4.1 Persons and Agencies Consulted


Consulted with Al Franklin, BLM Botanist
Graciela Hinshaw Pine hill Preserve Manager
James Barnes, BLM Archeologist, NEPA coordinator
Jeff Babcock, BLM Engineering Tech.
Dan Lusby, BLM Heavy Equipment Operator
The American River Conservancy
County of El Dorado
US Fish and Wildlife
California State Parks

EA Prepared by:

Date:



Jeff Horn, Outdoor Recreation Planner



5/4/09

4.2 BLM Interdisciplinary Team

Reviewers:



NEPA Coordinator/Cultural Resources



Recreation

Alber Funder

Botany

Peggy Cranston

Wildlife

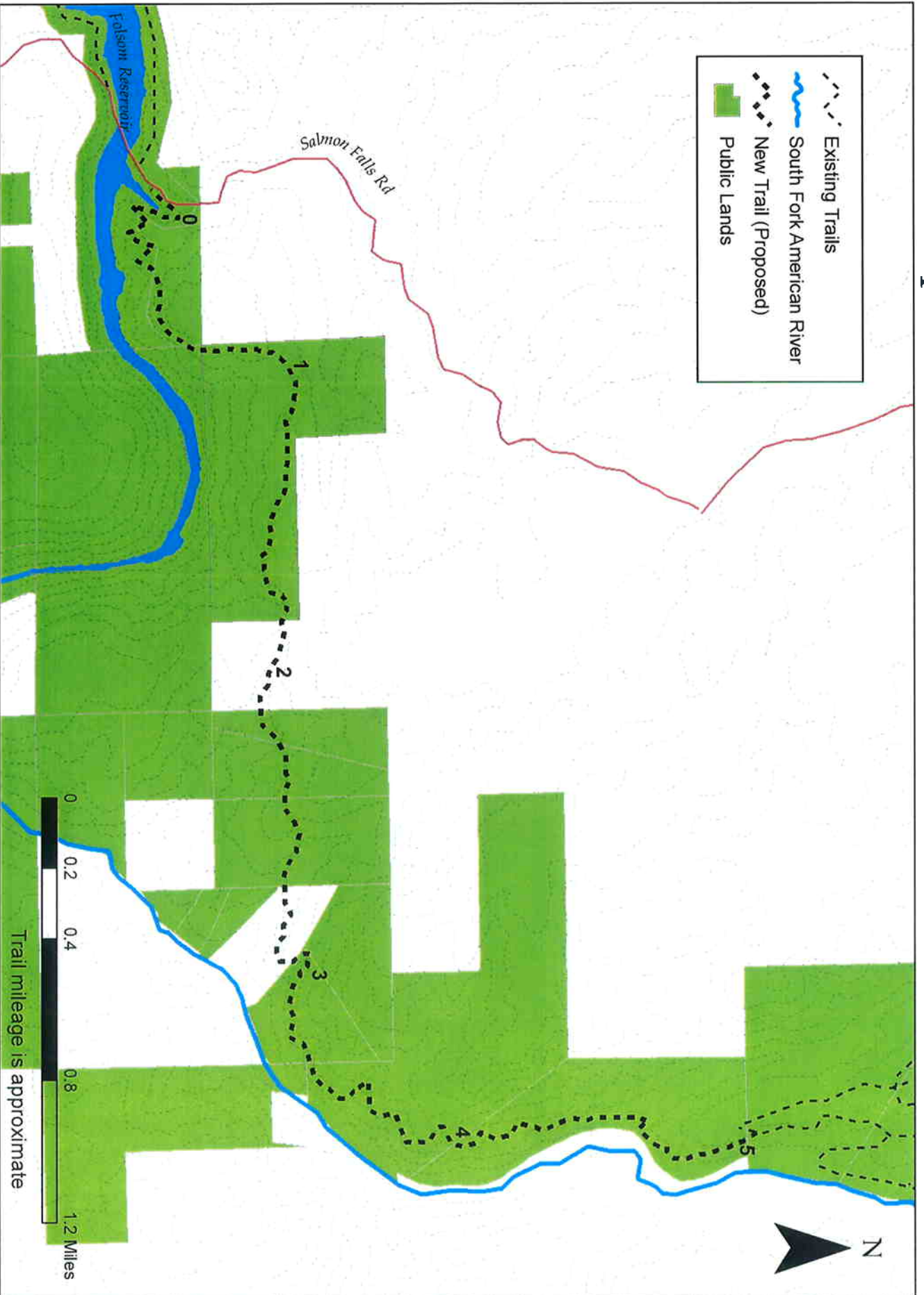
Smu

Pine Hill Preserve Manager

4.3 Availability of Document and Comment Procedures

The EA, posted on the Folsom Field Office's website (www.blm.gov/ca/folsom) under NEPA (or available upon request), would 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@blm.gov. After May 15th 2009, please send mailed comments to the Mother Lode Field Office, attention Jeff Horn, 5152 Hillside Circle, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762.

Proposed South Fork American Trail Route



Bureau of Land Management
Bakersfield District
Folsom Field Office

Biological Resource Inventory Report

Project name: SFAR Trail

Project description: foot trail construction. Much of the trail will be along existing trails. There will be some new trail construction.

Size of disturbance: ½ mile or less of new trail construction.

Project location: T: 11N R: 8E Sections: 25

USGS Quads: Pilot Hill

County: El Dorado

Elevation range: 500-900

Plant community/vegetation: Dense chaparral and manzanita.

CNDBB records: 11N 9E 19 - tri-colored blackbird

Inventory description (methodology, problems, reliability, coverage): Field Visit

Results: Just off of Salmon Falls Road along Skunk Creek, elderberry bushes were observed in the riparian area. The bushes could potentially support the threatened valley elderberry longhorn beetle. Several of the bushes were small seedlings with the main stem being less than one-inch in diameter, and therefore are highly unlikely to support elderberry beetles. A few bushes are larger, and could potentially support the beetle. BLM will avoid any large (main stem greater than one-inch diameter) shrubs by a minimum of 30 feet, no grubbing activities will occur with 30 feet of the drip line of the shrubs, and trail construction will occur outside of the adult flight season. These mitigation measures have been developed in consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Animal species or sign observed:

Anna's hummingbird

Recommendations: Proceed with project.

Date of inventory: 02/11/2009

Date of report: 03/06/2009

Signature:

Peggy Cranston

Title: Wildlife biologist

Smith

Graciela Hinshaw
April 2009

SFAR trail portion on Pine Hill Preserve lands.

Area description. The BLM-managed Pine Hill Preserve (Preserve), located in portions of Sections 2 and 3 of T9N, R9E, portions of Sections 4-7, 9, 10, 14, 16, 18 and 34 of T10N R9E, a portion of Section 36 of T11N R8E and portions of Sections 29-32 of T11N R9E of the Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, is comprised of five non-contiguous units: the Cameron Park, Pine Hill, Penny Lane, Martel Creek and Salmon Falls. The Preserve provides protection and management for eight species of rare plants growing on gabbroic soils and, during February 2008, was designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (BLM 2008).

Habitat description. Habitat types in the northern portion of the Salmon Falls unit are northern mixed chaparral and pine-oak forest. Main shrub and tree species present in the area are chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), white leaf Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos viscida*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), California redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversiloba*), grey pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) and California black oak (*Q. kelloggii*).

Special status Species. Three herbaceous BLM Special Status Plants are known to occur in the area where the SFAR trail route is proposed. These species are the federally listed Stebbins' morning glory (*Calystegia stebbinsi*), and the BLM Sensitive Species the El Dorado mule-ears (*Wyethia reticulata*) and the Red Hills soaproot (*Chlorogalum grandiflorum*). Critical Habitat has not been defined by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for these Special Status Plants.

Project description. A portion of the proposed SFAR foot trail will cross the northern portion of the Preserve's Salmon Falls unit. The portion of the proposed trail within Preserve lands will be 4-foot wide and approximately 0.75 miles long. The proposed trail will either follow an existing 8-foot wide trail or be constructed using areas with < 8% slope. It is estimated that the SFAR trail will overlap for at least 0.5 miles with the existing Preserve trail, and that construction of new trail sections will not exceed 0.25 miles in length.

Species baseline. Stebbins' morning glory was listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act October 18, 1996 and, in 1981, the state of California listed this species as Endangered. Stebbins' morning glory is an herbaceous perennial plant with below ground rootstocks, it typically blooms between May and June. This species requires pollination by insects, especially bees, for successful seed production. Nosal (1997) found that this species is capable of producing large amounts of seed; however, this species is subject to low recruitment under minimal disturbance regimes. Stebbins' morning glory prefers open habitat. In the absence of disturbance, adults are shaded out over time, and the species persists only as a seed bank (USFWS 2002).

To date, 440 acres of occupied habitat for Stebbins' morning-glory have been documented at the Cameron Park (98 acres) and Salmon Falls (285 acres) units (Hinshaw 2009). The estimated number of individuals for this species during 2008 was more than 3,500 for the Cameron Park unit and more than 5,200 for the Salmon Falls unit. This species only becomes evident after the

green-up (early spring) and is more easily identifiable during the blooming season (spring). During dormancy, the aerial parts of the plant disappear completely and this species becomes unidentifiable in the field from mid-summer until early spring. Hundreds of seeds of this species germinated during 2008 at the Ponderosa 50 parcel of the Cameron Park unit after a 2007 fire event (Palmer fire) opened habitat previously occupied by shrubs.

El Dorado mule-ears, is a BLM Sensitive Species, and it is an edaphic endemic of the gabbro soils of western El Dorado County. El Dorado mule-ears is a clonal perennial species, with populations dominated by a few large clone individuals with an extensive rhizome system (Ayres and Ryan 1999). El Dorado mule-ears typically appears as a low growing member of the chaparral. The species flowers in late spring and is pollinated by native bees (Ayres 1997). It can reproduce vegetatively by sending new above-ground stems off its root system. In response to fire and disturbance, this species has a short-lived, period of prolific flowering. This species is self-incompatible and may have limited mating success with neighbors. Without disturbance, there is low seed set in El Dorado mule-ears and low seedling establishment. Growth within standing clonal growth stands is limited without disturbance indicating that it is fire-adapted species (Ayres 1997).

A total of 781 acres of occupied habitat for this species have been documented at all Preserve units. The total estimated number of individual stems for El Dorado mule-ears at all documented sites is more than 80, 150 (Hinshaw 2009). The total acreage and estimated number of individual stems for El Dorado mule-ears at the Salmon Falls unit are 350 and more than 35,000, respectively. This species, although well distributed throughout all the Preserve units is exclusively restricted to the Pine Hill area. Also, although the number of individuals stems at defined patches can be relatively high (hundreds or thousands), it is known that those patches represent the same individual (Ayres 1997) connected at the root system. Patches of this species are extensively proliferating at the recently Palmer fire area of the Cameron Park unit. However, size and stem numbers for patches previously recorded decreased from numbers recorded during 2007, as it was the case for patches at the Martel Creek, Penny Lane and Salmon Falls units (Hinshaw 2009).

Red Hills Soaproot, is a BLM Sensitive Species. It occurs on both serpentine and gabbro soils in California. This perennial has a persistent bulb; a basal rosette emerges in during late winter. The whitish flowers open in the evening and close by the next morning during May and June (Hoover 1940 in FWS 2004). To some extent, this species is thought to utilize insects for pollination, though little has been recorded. Given the nocturnal presence of the flowers, a moth pollinator is considered likely. No recorded information is available regarding demographic or ecological patterns for Red Hills Soaproot (FWS 2004). Reproduction for the species is primarily seeds; the species has not been documented to reproduce vegetatively. Little is known about conditions for seed germination; however, it is speculated that this species may be similar to other native bulbous plants that do not require temperature treatments for germination (Schmidt 1980 in FWS 2004).

This species is well distributed over the different Preserve units, including the Salmon Falls unit. Up to date, acreage of occupied habitat and estimated numbers for this species at the Preserve has not been tallied, but it is likely to exceed 1,000 acres and 100,000 individuals, respectively. This species responds favorably to disturbances such as removal of shrubs by fire or mechanical methods.

Impacts of project on Special Status Species. At least 0.5 miles of the proposed trail will overlap with the existing 8-foot wide trail and no adverse effects on BLM Special Status Plan will take place as a consequence of the SFAR trail designation. In areas where the trail will be constructed and existing habitat will be removed, the layout of the trail will be designed to avoid the Special Status Plants areas and, therefore, no adverse effects on Special Status Plants are expected to occur as a result of the trail construction. Because the rare plants at the Preserve may benefit from some type of disturbance, such as removal of shrubs, there is a possibility that some of the rare plants may colonize open spaces that were not available before the construction activities.

A main concern regarding opening habitat to construct the trail, and the consequent public use of the trail, is the potential introduction and spread of non-native plants, such as star thistle and Mediterranean grasses, into Preserve lands.

Minimization of Impacts. To minimize the potential impacts on rare plants as a consequence of implementing the SFAR trail, the BLM proposes that:

1. The design of the SFAR trail will be adjusted, as needed, to avoid patches of rare plants.
2. During construction activities individual rare plants (if present) will be flagged and avoided.
3. People participating in the construction of the trail will be given a biological orientation before commencing work to recognize and avoid the rare plants.
4. In areas where rare plants are present only hand crews will be used for the trail construction activities.
5. All construction equipment used within Preserve lands and vehicles entering Preserve lands should be cleaned and extra precautions should be taken to prevent the introduction and spread of non-native plants within Preserve boundaries.
6. All trash will be removed from the site immediately after construction activities.
7. At the conclusion of construction, a program of yearly monitoring along the trail to detect and remediate infestations by non-native plants will be established and implemented.

Conclusion. Because rare plants will be avoided during the construction of the SFAR trail within Preserve boundaries, the actions of the proposed project are not likely to adversely affect the rare

plants of Pine Hill Preserve. Additionally, because the majority of the rare plants favor some type of disturbance, the proposed trail project may result in a net benefit to these species.

Literature Cited

- Ayres, D. R. 1997. The clonal and population biology of *Wyethia reticulata* (Asteraceae), a rare perennial of the chaparral. Ph.D. dissertation, University of California, Davis, CA.
- Ayres, D. R., and R. J. Ryan. 1999. Genetic diversity and structure of the narrow endemic *Wyethia reticulata* and its congener *W. bolanderi* (Asteraceae) using RAPD and allozyme techniques. *Am. J. of Botany* **86**: 344-353.
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM). 2008. Sierra Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision. Folsom Field Office, Folsom, California. 11-16; 72-92.
- Hinshaw G., 2009. Pine Hill Preserve 2008 Rare Plant Surveys Activity Report. BLM report to USFWS. 16 pp.
- Nosal, T. R. D. 1997. A demographic study of Stebbins' Morning Glory, (*Calystegia stebbinisii*, Brummit, Convolvulaceae), a California state listed and federally listed endangered plant species. MSc. thesis, California State University, Sacramento, CA.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2002. Recovery Plan for Gabbro Soil Plants of the Central Sierra Nevada Foothills, California.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2004. A Draft Recovery Plan for Fifteen Plants of the Southern Sierra Nevada Foothills, California.


Jeremiah M
Karuzas/SAC/R1/FWS/DOI@
FWS

04/30/2009 03:42 PM

To Albert Franklin/CASO/CA/BLM/DOI@BLM

cc Jeff Horn/CASO/CA/BLM/DOI@BLM

bcc

Subject Re: South Fork American River trail and Packera layneae
occurrence 

Al,

I have the opinion pretty much written (not a usual timeline for this type of thing), but in talking with my supervisor, he would like for us to receive an "official" consultation request. I think for simplicity a quick letter requesting consultation and informing us that the project information has already been submitted to our office. Essentially a paragraph or two.

Thanks

Jeremiah

Jeremiah M. Karuzas, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Forest & Foothills Branch
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825

916-414-6736

916-414-6713 (fax)

jeremiah_m_karuzas@fws.gov


Jeremiah M
Karuzas/SAC/R1/FWS/DOI@
FWS

04/30/2009 03:50 PM

To Jeff Horn/CASO/CA/BLM/DOI@BLM

cc

bcc

Subject Re: South Fork American River trail and Packera layneae
occurrence 

History:  This message has been replied to and forwarded.

Jeff,

Elderberry shrub avoidance...Based on the information you have provided me regarding the elderberry shrub, I do not think it is an issue. It is my understanding that BLM will be avoiding the shrub by a minimum of 30 feet, the elderberry shrubs will be marked and avoided by a minimum distance of 30 feet, no grubbing activities will occur with 30 feet of the drip line of the shrubs, and trail construction will occur outside of the adult flight season. Is this correct?

Jeremiah

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

8100
CA-180.19

April 22, 2009

MEMORANDUM

To: Field Manager

From: James Barnes, Archaeologist

Re: Section 106 compliance for the South Fork trail project,
El Dorado County
(case # CA-018-S-PE-09/02)

The Folsom Field Office (BLM) and its partners are planning to build a trail along the South Fork of the American River. The trail would extend from Cronan Ranch to Folsom Lake. It would cross lands owned/administered by BLM, private landowners, and the Bureau of Reclamation (managed by California State Parks). BLM and its partners are in the process of acquiring rights to use private lands. Much of the trail would follow existing dirt roads built after 1962. Only a small amount of new trail would need to be constructed. Motorized vehicles would not be allowed on the trail. BLM is the lead agency on the project.

In March and April 2009 I intensively inventoried the area potentially affected by the proposed undertaking (APE). I worked with State Parks archaeologist Jennifer Padgett to inventory the portion of the APE administered by the Bureau of Reclamation (managed by State Parks). In all, three cultural properties were identified within and near the APE:

PE-306 is a historic-era ditch, probably used for placer mining. The ditch is located on BLM-administered land.

PE-307 is a historic-era earthen dam. The dam is located on BLM-administered land.

PE-308 is a historic-era ditch, probably used for placer mining. The ditch is located on Bureau of Reclamation/State Parks-administered land and private land.

A 144-yard-long portion of the PE-306 would be negatively affected by trail construction. I believe that this segment is not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. PE-307 would not be affected. It is outside of the APE. A very small portion of PE-308 (less than a few yards long) may be negatively affected. Trail builders would do their best to avoid affecting the ditch, per the instructions of the State Parks archaeologist. Refer to my report attached for more information.

Native Americans were contacted by letter to find out if they want to comment on the proposed undertaking. To date, they have not responded to our letters. We have not identified any places of Native American traditional cultural and religious significant within the APE.

Pending a Native American response, it is my opinion that the undertaking, as proposed, would not affect significant cultural properties, and the finding of "no historic properties affected" would complete BLM's obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, pursuant to our statewide Protocol Agreement.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John R.", is centered on the page.

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

8100
CA-180.19

April 22, 2009

LETTER TO FILE

SUBJECT: Section 106 compliance for the South Fork trail project, El Dorado County

PROJECT: South Fork trail project

REPORT #: CA-018-S-PE-09/02

DATE(S) COMPLETED: April 22, 2009

TYPE OF SURVEY: Class III

CULTURAL PPROPERTIES PRESENT: 3

ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES: PE-306 not eligible; the rest undetermined

DETERMINATION OF EFFECT: No historic properties affected

SHPO CONSULTATION/SECTION 106 STEPS COMPLETED: All

DISCUSSION: This letter to the file documents that I have reviewed the above listed Cultural Resource Inventory Report. Pursuant to the Protocol Agreement (2004) between BLM California and the State Historic Preservation Officer, I affirm that all necessary steps have been taken to identify, record, and determine effects on cultural properties with the undertaking's area of potential effects. This report has been completed by an approved staff specialist and is in accordance with all standards and guidelines as outlined in the Protocol Agreement (2007).

I concur with the findings of this analysis.



William S. Haigh, Field Manager (CA-180)

4-27-09

Date

CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY REPORT

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

1. **PROJECT NAME & CASE NUMBER:** South Fork trail project, case # CA-018-S-PE-09/02
2. **PROJECT SPONSOR/DEVELOPMENT COMPANY:** Bureau of Land Management-Folsom Field Office, Folsom, CA.
3. **REPORT DATE:** April 22, 2009
4. **DATE(S) OF SURVEY:** March 19, March 31, April 7, and April 9, 2009
5. **COUNTY:** El Dorado
6. **FIELDWORK LOCATION:** The area of potential effects (APE) is located along the South Fork of the American River, between Cronan Ranch and Skunk Canyon at the head of Folsom Lake. The APE is administered by the Bureau of Land Management-Folsom Field Office (BLM), private landowners, and Bureau of Reclamation (managed by California State Parks). Refer to the APE location maps (attached).

MAP: USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles Coloma, Calif. (1949) and Pilot Hill, Calif. (1954)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: MDM, T 11 N, R 9 E, Section 30, 29, 28, 21, and 16
MDM, T 11 N, R 8 E, Section 25
7. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** BLM is planning to build a trail (for non-motorized use), connecting public lands at Cronan Ranch and Folsom Lake. Most of the proposed trail (approximately 4 miles) would be located on existing dirt roads that were built after 1962. A small portion of the trail (approximately 1 mile) would be constructed using heavy equipment.
8. **PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION:** The APE is located along the South Fork of the American River in the central Sierra Nevada foothills. Elevations range from approximately 700 to 1000 ft above sea level. The route of the proposed trail crosses various plant communities, including chamise chaparral, blue oak woodland, and mixed oak/gray pine/ponderosa pine woodland.
9. **DESCRIPTION OF EXAMINATION PROCEDURES:** On foot, I intensively inventoried the portion of the APE owned by BLM and a private landowner (Witt).

I walked the proposed trail, from just northeast of Norton Ravine to section line between sections 25 and 30. Here, the existing fuel break road terminates on a brushy ridge above Skunk Canyon and the South Fork. Much of the route of the proposed trail is located on existing roads (sections 16, 21, 28, and 30) built after 1962. I focused on the portion of the trail that would be constructed through oak woodland/private property. This area is mostly located in Section 29 (west half) and a portion of Section 30 (Witt). I felt that the oak woodland/private property within the APE had the best potential for cultural resources. I followed BLM 8100 manual Class III guidelines to inventory these areas.

A portion of the APE has been previously inventoried for cultural resources. During the early 1990s Dana Supernowicz inventoried the Lorang property in sections 28 and 21 (west of the river) for a proposed parcel split. His report dates to 1992 and is titled Archaeological Survey Report of Assessors Parcel Number 104:08:09 – A Proposed Parcel Split near the South Fork of American River, El Dorado County, California. His report was prepared for the landowners L. J. and Shirley Lorang. Supernowicz did not find any cultural resources within the APE for the trail project.

A portion of the APE near the Salmon Falls bridge/Skunk Canyon is administered by Bureau of Reclamation (managed by State Parks) and a private landowner (formerly Klein, and now the American River Conservancy). This portion of the APE is located within Section 25, T 11 N, R 8 E. To inventory this area, I worked in the field for three hours with State Parks archaeologist Jennifer Padgett. West of Skunk Canyon, the route of the proposed trail is on the steep hillside below the Salmon Falls Road. East of Skunk Canyon Creek, the route of the proposed trail crosses a brushy hillside and has yet to be fully defined. This portion is covered with dense chamise chaparral. Jennifer Padgett and I walked within an area recently burned by wildfire and within existing fuel breaks. Because of the limited access caused by the dense vegetation, our inventory coverage is considered not as intensive as other portions of the proposed trail APE; however, based on our inventory experience on similar terrain in nearby areas for other projects (i.e., in the Pine Hill Preserve), I believe that the portion of the APE in the brushy steep area east of Skunk Canyon Creek in Section 25 has very low potential for cultural resources and our inventory coverage is adequate.

10. **INVENTORY TYPE:** Class III. See the APE inventory coverage map (attached).
11. **CONSULTATION:** See letters attached
12. **LEGALLY DEFINABLE ACRES SURVEYED:** 10 acres
13. **NUMBER OF PROPERTIES FOUND:** 3

14. COLLECTION: N/A

15. HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Since the cultural resources found within the APE related to historic-era (probably early historic-era) placer mining, the following historic context is tailored to identify possible associations.

The APE is located along the South Fork of the American River in the vicinity of Salmon Falls. The town of Salmon Falls was located along the river near the confluence of Sweetwater Creek (now under Folsom Lake). Salmon Falls was among the earliest successful gold camps. It was probably established by Mormons from Sutter's grist mill before July 1848. Rich diggings were found around New Year's day 1851 which caused the population to jump to 3000 (Gudde 1975:302).

The research files of former State Parks employee John Plimpton provides insight into historical activities in and around Salmon Falls, as well as other parts of the north, middle and south forks of the American River. A copy of his files can be found at the El Dorado County history museum in Placerville. His files contain correspondence and other primary-source information about the Salmon Falls area, including a letter written on August 21st 1850 by miner Joseph Chaffee to his parents in New York. The letter provides a sense of gold-rush activity (and excitement) in the vicinity of the APE:

We are about 4 miles above Salmon Falls. We brought all our Provisions and Cradles upon our Backs for about 4 weeks, and then we Brought a Mule . . . We formed ourselves into a Stock Company of 19 and since that time, we have taken in another man so that our Co. consists of 20 shares all Drawing Equal when they work, and when they can't they lose whatever the Dividend for the last month [which] was \$275.00 after having all debts, dues & demands. And we have our Canal nearly completed for turning the River. We think that we shall do well when we Get into the Bed of the River and we have the advantage of most daming companys [sic] for we have washed all the dirt that we took out of the canal and as you see by the above Statement got well paid for it.

Plimpton compiled information on a number of gold-rush mining companies and mining locations he believed were associated with the South Fork—from Salmon Falls to the Cronan Ranch/Greenwood Creek area and further upstream. Based on his examination of county mining location notices, newspaper articles, letters, and other sources, Plimpton arranged mining companies and mining locations (i.e., bars, claims, etc.) in geographical order starting at Salmon Falls and moving upstream. The following names may be relevant to the portion of the South Fork associated with the APE:

Mineral Bar/Indiana & Missouri Mining Company; Dutch Bar/Enterprise Mining

Company (three miles upstream from Salmon Falls); Chesapeake Mining Company; Whites Damming Company (on the north side of the river, four miles upstream from Salmon Falls); Six Nation Damming Company (three miles upstream from Salmon Falls); Kanaka Bar/ William Willard & Company/Winfield & Co. (four miles upstream from Salmon Falls); Wolverine Bar/Quicksilver Bar; Share Few & Co. (near the Weber Creek confluence); F. Steele & Company (six miles upstream from Salmon Falls); Missouri Bar/Alabama & Missouri Mining Company (six miles upstream from Salmon Falls); Baltimore Union Mining Company (half a mile upstream from Missouri Bar); Union Dam Mining Company; Ledge Bar; Deep Diggings Bar; Poverty Bar (on the south side of the river, half a mile upstream from Hastings Ravine,); Rock Bridge/Donevan Ranch/G. D. Hall & Co./Thomas Ross & Co. Quartz Mining Co.; Baltimore Daming Company; N.Y. Volunteer Mining Company; Red Hill/ Brooks, Clark & Co. (6 miles downstream from Coloma); and Charles Smith's Ranch/Ciota Diggings.

Plimpton's geographical arrangement of mining companies and location is admirable given the nature of the historical evidence. Mining location notices dating to the 1850s, for example, often used trees as property boundary markers or contained other vague location information. Accounts in newspapers, letters, and diaries use different names/different spellings for the same place or company. The names of some places likely changed as miners and mining companies came and went, selling and buying claims.

Additional research is needed to connect known gold-rush companies and mining locations with actual places on the South Fork. There is little doubt, however, that the Gold Rush was waning on the South Fork by the late 1850s and perhaps earlier in some areas. Most of the mining locations identified by Plimpton had probably been abandoned by the late 1850s. Mining camps like Dutch Bar, Missouri Bar, Rock Bridge, and Smith's Ranch that are listed in the *Mountain Democrat* as voting precincts for the 1854 general election and even the 1855 special election (concerning the placement of the county seat). These places were not listed as precincts in 1858 or later years. Their populations had likely dwindled to a few miners. There is historical and archaeological evidence that Chinese miners reworked these areas (during the 1860s) after miners of Euro-American, European, and other ethnicities had left.

After the Gold Rush (getting into the 1870s), lands along the South Fork were used mainly for ranching, often by people who lived elsewhere (i.e., Salmon Falls, Lotus, etc.). Prominent ranchers like Baachi, Bassi, and Gerle sought to consolidate their holdings. Many sections of government land along the river were granted by Congress to the Central Pacific Railroad Company (CPRR) during the late 1860s to facilitate the construction of the transcontinental railroad. In all, CPRR was granted millions of acres of land in the West during the 1860s to build the railroad. Much of this land was never used for railroad construction and CPRR eventually sold it off. County records indicate that CPRR's South Fork

lands were still being sold well into the 1900s. Other South Fork lands in the public ownership and suitable for ranching remained in the public domain into the 1880s and 1890s when they were patented, often by local ranchers under public land laws like the Homestead Act of 1862. Some lands were withdrawn for power site development or have remained in public ownership for other reasons.

The following provides historical information about lands associated with the APE, section by section, starting at Skunk Canyon and moving upstream to the Cronan Ranch.

Section 25, T 11 N, R 8 E

The relevant General Land Office (GLO) plat, completed in 1866, shows a "trail" on the line between Section 25 and Section 30 (in T 11 N, R 8 E). In his notes, the GLO surveyor called it as a road rather than a trail. There's no additional information in the surveyor's notes regarding the trail/road. Based on the way it is drawn on the GLO plat, it may have connected to another road/trail shown in the northeast quarter of Section 30 and running north and northwest to "Mountain Cottage" in Section 19 and "J. A. Peacock's field" in Section 18. This would be part of the road that connected Salmon Falls and Centerville/Pilot Hill.

The GLO plat shows two ditches (probably two segments of the same ditch) on the section line near the confluence of Peacock Ravine and Skunk Canyon in the northwest quarter of Section 25. According to the GLO surveyor's notes, the ditch on the north side of the drainage is 5 links wide (about 40 inches) and runs east. The ditch on the south side of the drainage has the same width and runs west. Skunk Canyon is shown as an unnamed "stream" on the GLO plat.

The 1895 county map shows J. L. Clark and the Natoma Water & Mining Company as owing land on Skunk Canyon in Section 25. The 1925 county map shows S. B. Smith as being the owner of the north half of this section. Folsom Lake was built in the 1950s, affecting land in Section 25.

Section 30, T 11 N, R 9 E

GLO records indicate that a relevant portion of Section 30 was acquired by Miner A. Miller, under the Homestead Act. The patent for this land was issued to him in 1890. Miller also acquired adjacent land, to the north, in Section 19 as well as other lands in the general area. The 1895 and 1909 county maps indicate that the relevant portion of Section 30 was owned by Miller. The rest of Section 30 (including the relevant portion in the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$) was withdrawn for power site development in 1915. The withdrawn land has stayed in public ownership and is now managed by BLM.

The 1902 Great Register indicates that Miner Miller was a 47-year-old (born circa 1855) farmer from Wisconsin. His residence was listed as being in Salmon Falls. Miller appears to be a well known person and he was periodically mentioned in the *Mountain Democrat* between around 1890 and 1900. The newspaper noted

that Miller was a rancher, "lumberman", and "road overseer" for the Salmon Falls District. On 1/20/1900, the newspaper reported that Miller was "quite sick" and was "at home" in Salmon Falls. Other newspaper articles around the turn of the century mentioned his trips into the mountains during the summer to obtain lumber. An obituary for Miller was published in the *Mountain Democrat* on June 26, 1941. The obituary indicates that Miller died on June 20, 1941 and was an "old and respected" resident of Salmon Falls for over 60 years. The obituary noted that he was born in Wisconsin and had come to the Sacramento area with his parents in a covered wagon in 1860. In 1881 Miller married Mary Louise Gains, whose father was justice of the peace in Salmon Falls. Miller and his wife had two children: Will and Florence (Kyburz). Miller was buried at the Mormon Island Cemetery.

The 1925 county map puts the "Pilot Mutual Mining" company on public land in the northwest quarter of Section 30. The 1925 county map indicates that the Section 30 lands owned by Miner Miller were now owned by Sam A. Kyburz. A deed record indicates that Kyburz took title to the land in 1924 (Deed 100: 171). On 6/3/1931 the *Mountain Democrat* listed Sam Kyburz on the list of delinquent taxpayers. Kyburz had apparently failed to pay taxes on a number of his properties in the Salmon Falls School District including his interest in all of the E ½ NE ¼, NW ¼ NE ¼, and NE ¼ NW ¼ of Section 30, T 11 N, R 9 E. Stanley S. and Wesley L. Lovejoy acquired the Miller/Kyburz land in Section 30 in 1949 (Deed 269:218).

A map titled Western El Dorado County, dating to 1954, shows the Kyburz's house along Salmon Falls Road, just north of Acorn Creek, in the southwest quarter of Section 19. The map also shows Miller's house in Salmon Falls. The map was included in a Division of Mines publication called Mines and Mineral Resources of El Dorado County (Clark and Carlson 1956). The map was prepared by the California Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry using USGS and US Forest Service records. The 1954 USGS 7.5' Pilot Hill quadrangle shows the same building as a barn or outbuilding. Of note, the map titled Western El Dorado County shows the original road from Salmon Falls to Pilot Hill (mostly under Folsom Lake). Near the intersection of this road and Salmon Falls Road in Section 25, the map shows an unpaved road extending east, crossing Skunk Canyon, into the north half of Section 30.

Section 29, T 11 N, R 9 E

This section was granted to the Central Pacific Railroad (CPRR) in 1867. In 1884, Thomas Anderson purchased 240 acres (NW ¼ and the N ½ SW ¼, west of the South Fork) in Section 29 from CPRR. The deed for this transaction (Deeds 29:317) makes no mention of ditches or any other property on this land. He also acquired other lands in the general area from CPRR. The 1895 and 1908 county maps indicate that the relevant portion of Section 29 (NW ¼ and the N ½ SW ¼) was owned by Thomas Anderson. The 1890 Great Register indicates that Thomas Anderson was a 61-year-old farmer (born circa 1839) from

England. His residence was in Salmon Falls. He was naturalized in 1857.

The 1895 and 1908 county maps indicate that the rest of Section 29 (west of the river) was owned by CPRR. A road (probably the current Equestrian Way alignment) runs northwest-southeast through the section, crossing the South Fork near the middle of the section. This road is shown on the 1866 GLO plat and the 1895 and 1908 county maps, but not on the 1893 USGS Placerville topographic map. The 1925 county map shows the road on the south side of the river only. The 1949 USGS Coloma topographic map does not show the road. The 1954 forestry map titled Western El Dorado County (included in Clark and Carlson 1956) shows the road.

The 1925 county map indicates a change in ownership in east half of Section 29 (including the relevant portion of Section 29, west of the river). The map shows this area s being owned by Mortimer Fleishhacker, a prominent banker and philanthropist based in San Francisco. By the 1910s, a considerable amount of land along the South Fork had been acquired by Fleishhacker. The 240 acres in the northwest quarter and the north half of the southwest quarter (previously owned by Thomas Anderson) is shown on the 1925 county map as being owned by Mamie Elder. The *Mountain Democrat* reported on 9/6/1902 that Mamie and Thomas Elder had transferred interest in this land (perhaps just the rights to mine it) to the Missouri Bar Mining Company. The newspaper reported on 5/30/1914 that the company was delinquent in paying "fencing, taxes, penalties, and costs" for this land. On 4/26/1919 the newspaper published a summons for the company to appear in county court. Mamie Elder was noted as the plaintiff. The purpose of the legal action was to "decree quieting title of plaintiff to real property".

In 1948, Mamie (spelled Mayme) Elder sold the 240 acres in Section 29 to Annette Stephens c/o Ralph H. Lewis of Sacramento (Deed 259:227). In 1949, Annette Wilkinson and Frank Kyne of Sacramento acquired the land (Deed 273:337). The east half of Section 29 (west of the South Fork) was acquired by the Luneman Brothers in 1950 (Deed 289:372). The 1954 map titled Western El Dorado County (included in Clark and Carlson 1956) shows Luneman's house along the west side of Salmon Falls Road in the northwest corner of Section 19. The house is also shown in the same area on the 1954 USGS 7.5' Pilot Hill quadrangle. With help from partners, BLM acquired lands within Section 29 from various landowners during the 1990s.

Section 28, T 11 N, R 9 E

The 1895 and 1908 map shows Section 28, west/north of the river, as public land. The heirs of Sarah Russell acquired the north half of the northwest quarter of this section under the Homestead Act. The patent was issued to them in 1907. The 1925 county map shows Section 28, west of the river, as being owned by J. C. Hill. In 1950 Roy Applegate and Raymond Niegel acquired this land (Deeds 289:370). L. J. and Shirley Lorang bought the land from them in 1952 (Deeds

310:310). County assessment records indicate that they had a Colfax, CA mailing address.

Section 21, T 11 N, R 9 E

The General Land Office plat, completed in 1866, shows "mines at Norton's Ravine" in Section 16 (above this stream's confluence which is located in Section 21). Section 21 was granted to CPRR in 1867. The 1895 and 1908 maps indicate that Section 29, west of the river, was owned by CPRR. The 1925 county map indicates that Section 21, west of the river, was owned by Mortimer Fleishhacker.

Roy Applegate and Raymond Niegel acquired the land in 1950 (Deed 289:370). J. T. and Shirley Lorang bought the land from them in 1952 (Deed 310:310). County assessment records indicate that the Lorang's had a Colfax, CA mailing address. With help from partners, BLM acquired land in sections 21 and 28 (west of the South Fork) from the Lorang family during the 1990s.

Aerial photo evidence indicates the existing road that the trail would follow in Sections 30, 29, 28, 21, and 16 was built after 1962. In fact, the road was probably built after 1973 since the USGS 7.5' Coloma and Pilot Hill quadrangles, photorevised in 1973, do not show the road.

Section 16, T 11 N, R 9 E

This section was granted to the state of California in 1866. Michael Cronan purchased portions of the land in 1888. Land along the river was also sold to Swiss rancher George Bassi, who established a dairy ranch on the South Fork during the 1870s. The 1895 and 1908 county maps indicate that the relevant portions of Section 16 (in the SW 1/4, west of the river) were owned by Michael Cronan and George Bassi.

During the 1920s, the Cronan family sold the land to George and James Murphy, brothers from California. James Murphy was reportedly a life-long friend of James Marshall, discoverer of gold at Coloma in 1848. The Murphy brothers drove their cattle to Lake Tahoe during the summer. They were among the first to operate a resort on the lake at Meeks Bay. The 1925 county map indicates that the relevant portion of Section 16 was owned by George and James Murphy as well as by Daniel Bassi.

Byron W. and H. Francis Bacchi acquired a relevant portion of Section 16 (in addition to other lands in sections 16, 17, 11, and 9, totaling 534 acres) in 1945 (Deed 214:460). County assessment records indicate that the Bacchi's had a Lotus, CA mailing address. The Bacchi family has been ranching along the South Fork since the 1860s when William Bacchi, a native of Switzerland, established a ranch on the South Fork not far from the APE. In 1952, Daniel Bassi sold his land in Section 16 (west of the South Fork) to Joe J. Vicini of Placerville (Deeds 318:208). With help from partners, BLM acquired the relevant

land in Section 16 from the Bacchi family in the early 2000s.

16. DESCRIPTION OF FINDINGS:

PE-306 is a historic-era ditch, probably used for placer mining. There are small piles of tailings and other subtle evidence of placer mining in the unnamed drainage located nearby. A portion of the ditch (approximately 144 acres long) would be destroyed by trail construction.

PE-307 is a historic-era earthen dam. The dam would not be affected by trail construction. It is outside of the APE.

PE-308 is a historic-era ditch, probably used for placer mining. The ditch is located on Bureau of Reclamation/State Parks-managed land and private land. A very small portion of the ditch (less than a few yards) may be damaged by trail construction.

Equestrian Way (existing road) appears to have the same alignment as a road dating to the 1860 (and probably earlier). The road is modern and no resource record was prepared for this road. The proposed trail would cross the road but the road would not be affected by the project/trail construction.

See cultural resource location map (attached)

See historical resource record (attached)

- 17. EVALUATION:** PE-306, a segment of ditch, does not appear to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The segment has poor integrity and lacks historical associations, probably because it was an 1850s-era ditch that fell out of use during or shortly after the Gold Rush. The segment is located along an unnamed drainage in Section 29, five to six miles upstream from Salmon Falls. The Plimpton files indicate that there may have been various mining companies operating along the river in this area during the early 1850s. The mining companies include the Alabama & Missouri Mining Company at Missouri Bar. This bar was apparently a mining camp—this place was listed in the *Mountain Democrat* newspaper as a voting precinct in 1854, but not in later years, suggesting that it was fading by the late 1850s. Plimpton was able to ascertain from the Great Register that a man named H. B. Nielson was living here in 1857. The actual location of Missouri Bar has yet to be determined, but there is some evidence that it was located on the river in Section 29, possibly near the terminus of Equestrian Way or at the mouth of the unnamed drainage. Accounts in the *Mountain Democrat* indicate that the Missouri Bar Mining Company was located on Mamie Elder's land in the west half of Section 29 during the early 1900s. No records of this company's operations have been found. The name Missouri Bar Mining Company suggests that the company was located at (or at least in the vicinity of) Missouri Bar. Not much is known about 1850s mining activity at Missouri Bar. Plimpton found a *Sacramento Union* article, published on 10/11/1852, indicating that the "Missouri Co." (probably a

reference to the Alabama & Missouri Mining Company), consisting of five men, had found 40 pounds of gold in two days. The article goes on to mention that the discovery caused considerable excitement in Salmon Falls. Without doubt, miners in the area used ditches to placer mine along the South Fork and up drainages in Section 29, including near PE-306. The role that PE-306 played during the Gold Rush is undetermined and may never be determined because of the lack of detailed records for this period. It is quite clear, however, that PE-306 is one of countless ditches built for placer mining during this period. There is nothing remarkable about its physical remains. It does not have any unique engineering qualities. The ditch does not appear to be significant.

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

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: March and April 2009

20. LITERATURE CITED:

W. B. Clark and D. W. Carlson

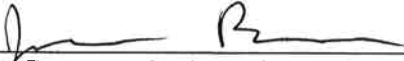
1956 Mines and Mineral Resources of El Dorado County. In *California Journal of Mines and Geology*, Vol. 52, No. 4, pages 369-592, Division of Mines and Geology, State Printing Office, Sacramento.

Gudde, E. G.

1975 *California Gold Camps*. UC Press, Berkeley.

21. CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS: The undertaking, as proposed, would not affect historic properties. A portion of the PE-306 (approximately 144 yards long) would be negatively affected by trail construction. I believe that this property is not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Other, better preserved portions of the ditch would not be affected. PE-307 would not be affected. It is outside of the APE. A very small portion of PE-308 would be negatively affected. Trail builders would do their best to avoid affecting the ditch, per the instructions of the State Parks archaeologist. Refer to my report attached for more information.

22. FIELD SUPERVISOR/PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:


James Barnes, Archaeologist

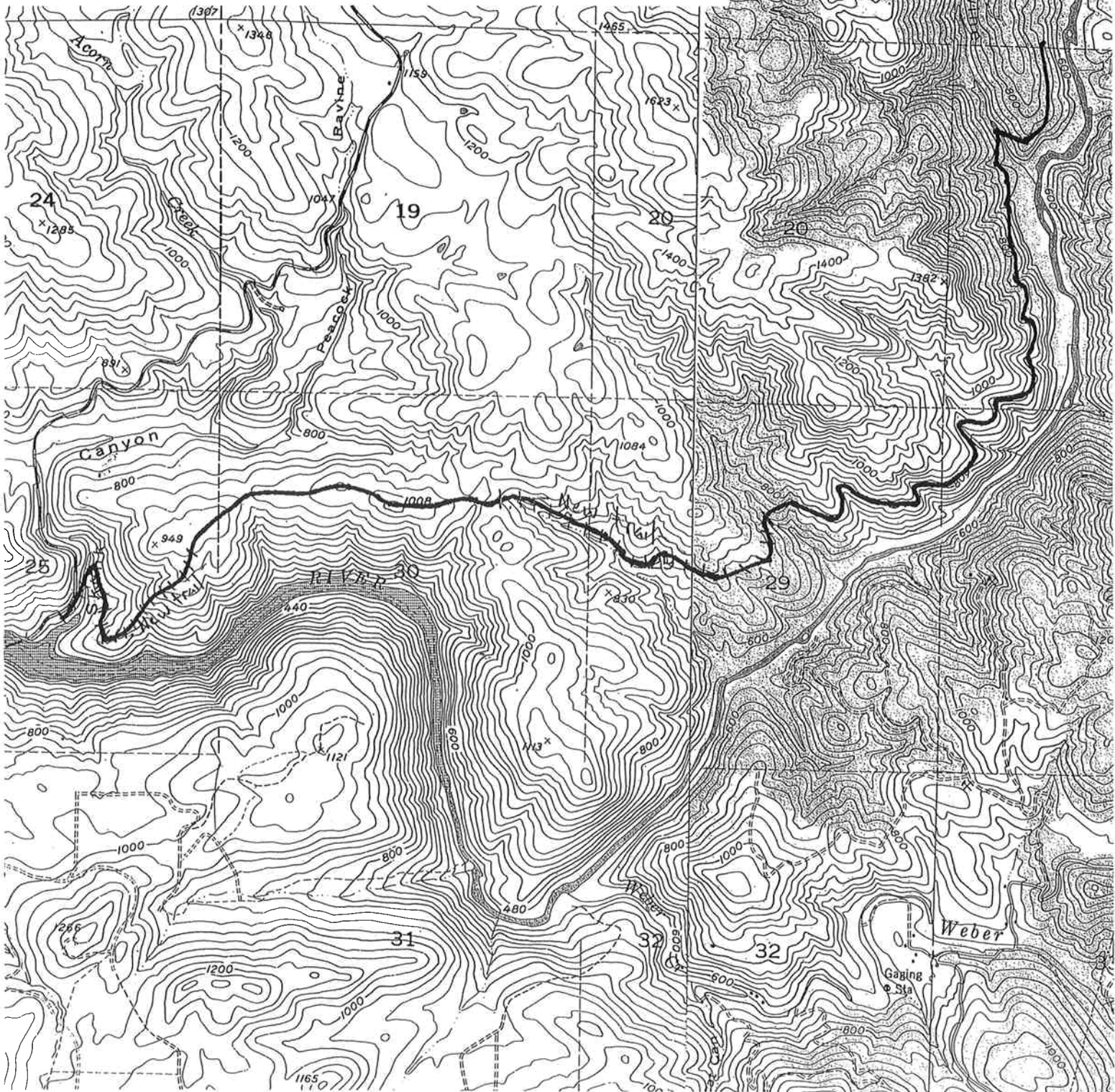
4 | 22 | 09
Date

APE LOCATION MAP FOR THE SOUTH FORK TRAIL PROJECT

USGS 7.5-MINUTE QUADRANGLES: COLOMA, CALIF. (1949) AND
PILOT HILL, CALIF. (1954)

MDM, T 11 N, R 9 E, SEC 30, 29, 28, 21, AND 16
MDM, T 11 N, R 8 E, SEC 25

DRAWN LINE = APE/PROPOSED TRAIL

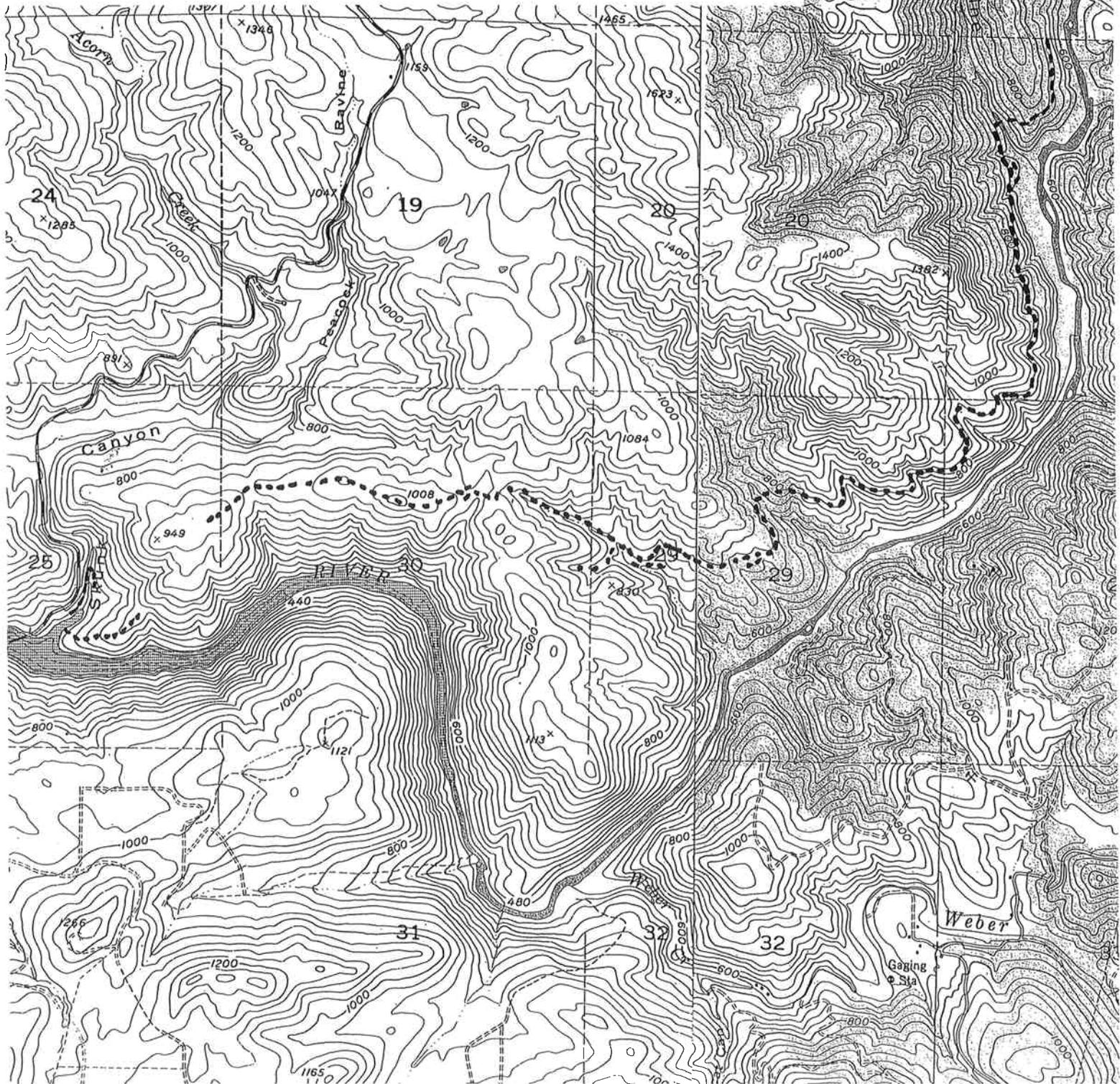


INVENTORY COVERAGE MAP FOR THE SOUTH FORK TRAIL PROJECT

**USGS 7.5-MINUTE QUADRANGLES: COLOMA, CALIF. (1949) AND
PILOT HILL, CALIF. (1954)**

**MDM, T 11 N, R 9 E, SEC 30, 29, 28, 21, AND 16
MDM, T 11 N, R 8 E, SEC 25**

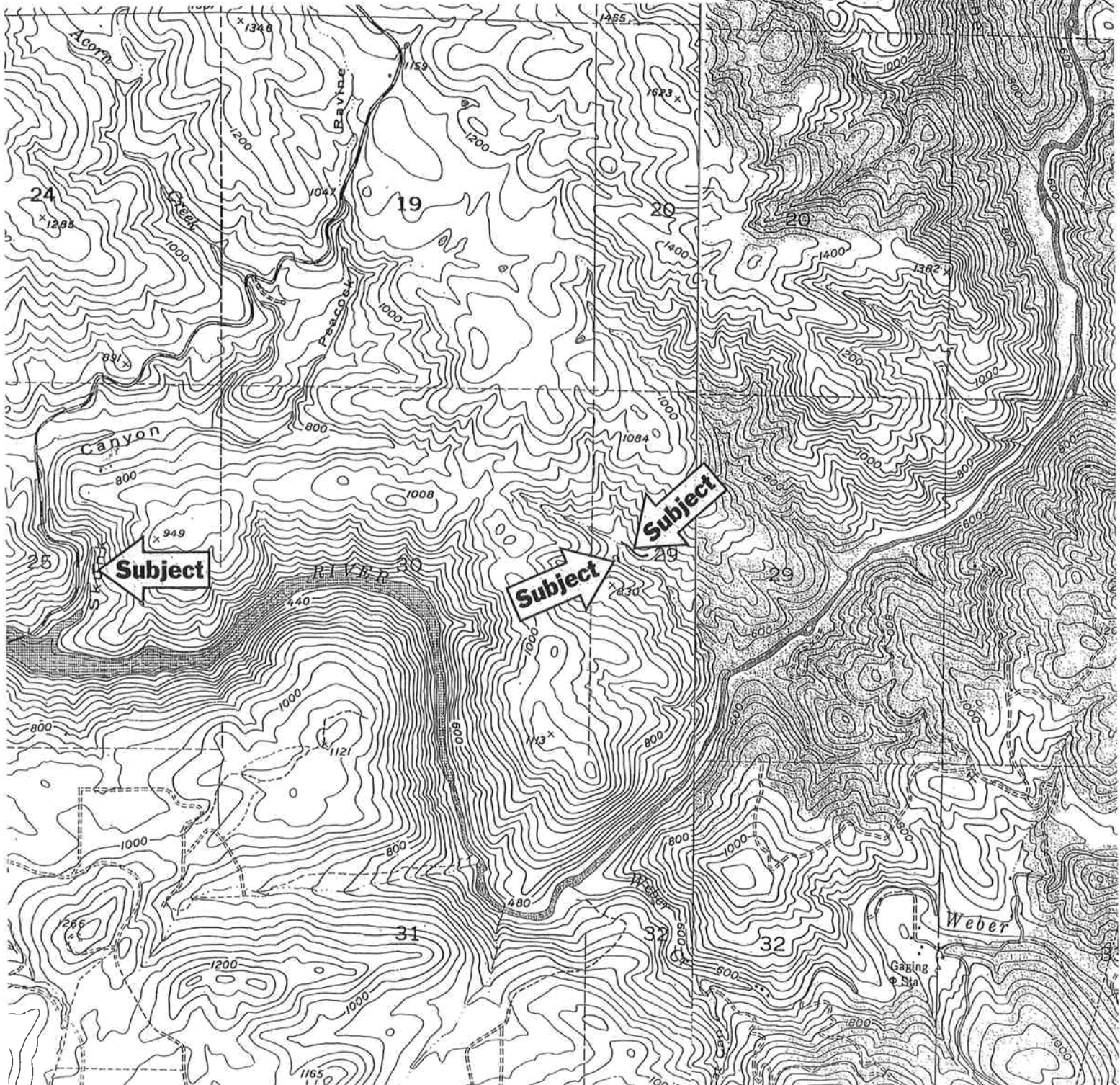
DASHED LINE = INVENTORY COVERAGE



**CULTURAL RESOURCE LOCATION MAP FOR THE
SOUTH FORK TRAIL PROJECT**

**USGS 7.5-MINUTE QUADRANGLES: COLOMA, CALIF. (1949) AND
PILOT HILL, CALIF. (1954)**

**MDM, T 11 N, R 9 E, SEC 30, 29, 28, 21, AND 16
MDM, T 11 N, R 8 E, SEC 25**



SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

Jessica Taveras, Chairperson
 UAIC Tribal Office
 10720 Indian Hill Rd.
 Auburn, CA 95603

JB

2. Article Number

(Transfer from service label)

7007 2560 0002 4735 3245

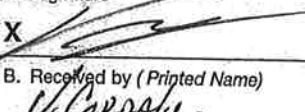
PS Form 3811, February 2004

Return Receipt

102595-02-M-1540

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

X 

- Agent
- Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)

W. S. Haigh

C. Date of Delivery

D. Is delivery address different from item 1?

If YES, enter delivery address below:

- Yes
- No

3. Service Type

- Certified Mail
- Registered
- Insured Mail
- Express Mail
- Return Receipt for Merchandise
- C.O.D.

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee)

- Yes

the Interior



IN REPLY REFER TO:
 8100
 CA-180.27

UAIC Tribal Office
 10720 Indian Hill Road
 Auburn, CA 95603

Re: proposed trail along the South Fork of the American River

Dear Jessica Taveras:

The Folsom Field Office (BLM), the American River Conservancy, and other partners are planning to build a trail along the South Fork of the American River, El Dorado County, CA. Please refer to the maps attached showing the location of the proposed trail. The trail would extend from Cronan Ranch to Folsom Lake. It would cross lands held by BLM, a private landowner, and the Bureau of Reclamation (managed by California State Parks). Much of the trail would follow existing dirt roads built decades ago. Only a small amount of new trail would need to be constructed. The trail would be available for public use including by hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders. Motorized vehicles would not be allowed on the trail. BLM is taking the lead on the project. BLM and State Parks archaeologists are examining the proposed route of the trail to determine if it would affect any prehistoric cultural resources. If you want to learn more about the proposed trail project or possibly become involved in helping to plan it, please contact James Barnes at the BLM Folsom Field Office in Folsom at 916-985-4474. We welcome your ideas, suggestions, comments, and concerns, particularly with respect to preserving places of Native American traditional cultural and religious

U.S. Postal Service™
CERTIFIED MAIL™ RECEIPT
 (Domestic Mail Only; No Insurance Coverage Provided)
 For delivery information visit our website at www.usps.com

OFFICIAL USE

Postage	\$
Certified Fee	
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)	
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)	
Total Postage & Fees	\$

Postmark Here

Sincerely,

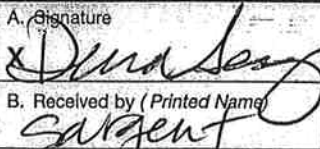

 William S. Haigh
 Field Manager

area of potential effects

Sent to Jessica Taveras

Street, Apt. No.,
 or P.O. Box No.
 City, State, ZIP+4

See Reverse for Instructions

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired. Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you. Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits. 	A. Signature  <input type="checkbox"/> Agent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Addressee B. Received by (Printed Name) <i>Sargent</i> C. Date of Delivery <i>4/2/09</i>
1. Article Addressed to: Daniel Cruz, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Washoe Tribe of NV & CA 919 Hwy 395 South Gardnerville, NV 89410	D. Is delivery address different from item 1? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If YES, enter BLM MOTHER RUDE F.O. EL DORADO HILLS, CA APR 6 2009 3. Service Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Express Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Registered <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt for Merchandise <input type="checkbox"/> Insured Mail <input type="checkbox"/> C.O.D. 4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)	7007 2560 0002 4735 3252 PS Form 3811, February 2004 Domestic Return Receipt 102595-02-M-1540

the Interior



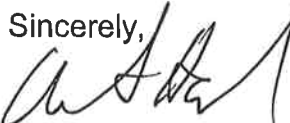
IN REPLY REFER TO:
 8100
 CA-180.27

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
 919 Highway 395 South
 Gardnerville, NV 89410

Re: proposed trail along the South Fork of the American River, El Dorado County, CA

Dear Mr. Cruz:

The Folsom Field Office (BLM), the American River Conservancy, and other partners are planning to build a trail along the South Fork of the American River, El Dorado County, CA. Please refer to the maps attached showing the location of the proposed trail. The trail would extend from Cronan Ranch to Folsom Lake. It would cross lands held by BLM, a private landowner, and the Bureau of Reclamation (managed by California State Parks). Much of the trail would follow existing dirt roads built decades ago. Only a small amount of new trail would need to be constructed. The trail would be available for public use including by hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders. Motorized vehicles would not be allowed on the trail. BLM is taking the lead on the project. BLM and State Parks archaeologists are examining the proposed route of the trail to determine if it would affect any prehistoric cultural resources. If you want to learn more about the proposed trail project or possibly become involved in helping to plan it, please contact James Barnes at the BLM Folsom Field Office in Folsom at 916-985-4474. We welcome your ideas, suggestions, comments, and concerns, particularly with respect to preserving places of Native American traditional cultural and religious importance.

Sincerely,

 William S. Haigh
 Field Manager

Attached
 maps of the proposed trail/area of potential effects

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1., 2., and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

El Dorado Miwok Tribe
 Jeri Scambler, Chairperson
 P.O. Box 1284
 El Dorado, CA 95623

2. Article Number

(Transfer from service label)

7007 2560 0002 4735 3269

PS Form 3811, February 2004

Domestic Return Receipt

102595-02-M-1540

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

X *Shirley Mendoza* Agent
 Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)

Shirley Mendoza

C. Date of Delivery

4/6/09

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? Yes

If YES, enter delivery address:
**BLM/MOTHER LODEING.
 EL DORADO HILLS, CA**

APR 7 2009

3. Service Type

- Certified Mail
- Registered
- Insured Mail
- Return Receipt for Merchandise
- C.O.D.

RECEIVED

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee)

Yes

the Interior



**TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA**

IN REPLY REFER TO:

8100

CA-180.27

Jeri Scambler, Chairperson
 PO Box 1284
 El Dorado, CA 95623

Re: proposed trail along the South Fork of the American River

Dear Jeri Scambler:

The Folsom Field Office (BLM), the American River Conservancy, and other partners are planning to build a trail along the South Fork of the American River, El Dorado County, CA. Please refer to the maps attached showing the location of the proposed trail. The trail would extend from Cronan Ranch to Folsom Lake. It would cross lands held by BLM, a private landowner, and the Bureau of Reclamation (managed by California State Parks). Much of the trail would follow existing dirt roads built decades ago. Only a small amount of new trail would need to be constructed. The trail would be available for public use including by hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders. Motorized vehicles would not be allowed on the trail. BLM is taking the lead on the project. BLM and State Parks archaeologists are examining the proposed route of the trail to determine if it would affect any prehistoric cultural resources. If you want to learn more about the proposed trail project or possibly become involved in helping to plan it, please contact James Barnes at the BLM Folsom Field Office in Folsom at 916-985-4474. We welcome your ideas, suggestions, comments, and concerns, particularly with respect to preserving places of Native American traditional cultural and religious importance.

Sincerely,

William S. Haigh
Field Manager

Attached

maps of the proposed trail/area of potential effects

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

Nicholas Fonseca, Chairperson
 c/o John Tayaba, Tribal Vice-
 Chairperson
 Shingle Springs Band of the
 Miwok Indians
 P.O. Box 1340
 Shingle Springs, CA 95682

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature
 X *Mary Adams* Agent Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name) *Mary Adams* C. Date of Delivery *4-9-09*

D. Is delivery address different from Item 1? Yes
 If YES, enter delivery address NO
 BLM OTHER F.O.
 EL DORADO HILLS, CA

APR 10 2009

3. Service Type
 Certified Mail Express Mail
 Registered Return Receipt for Merchandise
 Insured Mail C.O.D.

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) Yes

2. Article Number

(Transfer from service label)

7007 2560 0002 4735 3276

PS Form 3811, February 2004

Domestic Return Receipt

102595-02-M-1540

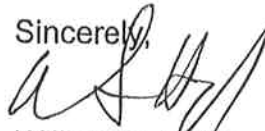
c/o John Tayaba, Tribal Vice-Chairperson
 Shingle Springs Band of the Miwok Indians
 Post Office Box 1340
 Shingle Springs, CA 95682

Re: proposed trail along the South Fork of the American River

Dear Mr. Tayaba:

The Folsom Field Office (BLM), the American River Conservancy, and other partners are planning to build a trail along the South Fork of the American River, El Dorado County, CA. Please refer to the maps attached showing the location of the proposed trail. The trail would extend from Cronan Ranch to Folsom Lake. It would cross lands held by BLM, a private landowner, and the Bureau of Reclamation (managed by California State Parks). Much of the trail would follow existing dirt roads built decades ago. Only a small amount of new trail would need to be constructed. The trail would be available for public use including by hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders. Motorized vehicles would not be allowed on the trail. BLM is taking the lead on the project. BLM and State Parks archaeologists are examining the proposed route of the trail to determine if it would affect any prehistoric cultural resources. If you want to learn more about the proposed trail project or possibly become involved in helping to plan it, please contact James Barnes at the BLM Folsom Field Office in Folsom at 916-985-4474. We welcome your ideas, suggestions, comments, and concerns, particularly with respect to preserving places of Native American traditional cultural and religious importance.

Sincerely,



William S. Haigh
 Field Manager

Attached

maps of the proposed trail/area of potential effects

Interior



TAKE PRIDE
 IN AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO:

8100

CA-180.27

State of California — The Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #
 HRI #
 Trinomial
 NRHP Status Code

Other Listings
 Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 3

*Resource Name or #: CA-018-PE-306

P1. Other Identifier: None—Undetermined

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County: El Dorado

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Salmon Falls, Calif.

Date: 1954 T 11 N; R 9 E; SW ¼ of NW ¼ of Sec 29; M.D.B.M.

c. Address: N/A

City:

Zip:

d. UTM:

Point A Zone: 10;

673514 mE/

4293717 mN

Point B Zone: 10;

673414 mE/

4293776 mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate): None

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)
 This historical resource is segment of a mining ditch, probably used for placer mining during the mid1800s. The segment is about 144 yards long. It is located along the north side of an unnamed tributary of the South Fork of the American River. The channel depth is undeterminable due to erosion. The berm is no longer evident. The ditch appears to cross the drainage, just above where two forks converge. There is a fairly well preserved portion of the ditch, outside of the APE, just on the south side of the drainage, at 673377 m easting and 4293808 m northing on the peninsula of land between the two forks. Here the ditch's berm is made of rock and earth. It is 72 inches wide. The ditch's channel is 48 inches wide at the top. The depth of the channel is 24 inches. The ditch appears to continue around the forks of the drainage and run along the south side of the drainage.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) AH6. Water conveyance system

*P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) Digital photo; view to the southeast; March 2009

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: Historic Prehistoric Both

*P7. Owner and Address: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 63 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA 95630

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address) James Barnes, BLM archaeologist, 63 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA 95630

*P9. Date Recorded: March 2009

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe) Intensive

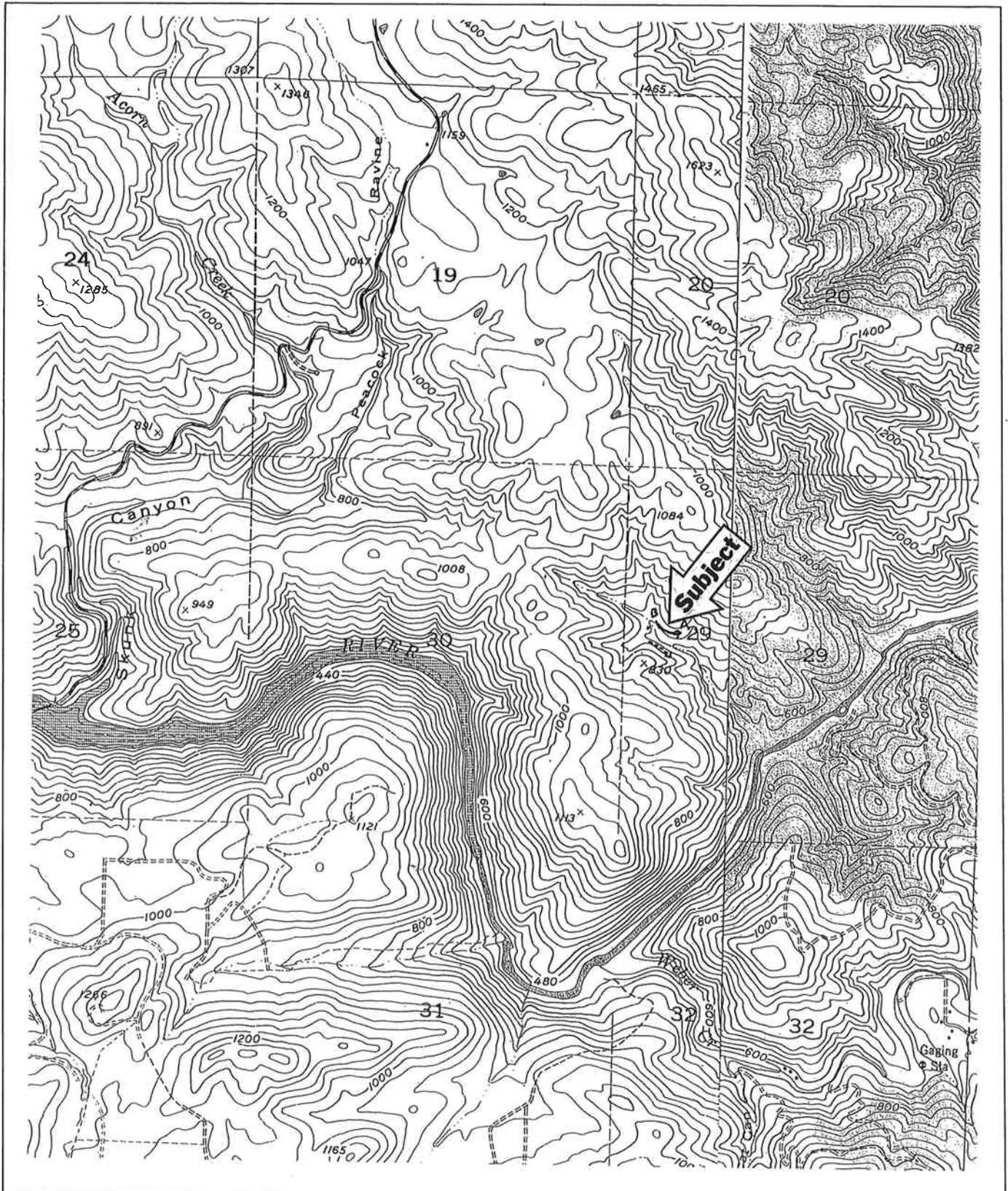
*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey

report and other sources, or enter "none.") James Barnes (2009), Section 106 compliance for the South Fork trail project, El Dorado County (BLM case # CA-018-S-PE-09/02)

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):

DPR 523A (1/95)

*Required information



LINEAR FEATURE RECORD

L1. **Historic and/or Common Name:** Undetermined

L2a. **Portion Described:** Entire Resource Segment Point Observation **Designation:** None

b. **Location of point or segment:** (Provide UTM coordinates, legal description, and any other useful locational data. Show the area that has been field inspected on a Location Map) See Primary Record (page 1) P2d.

L3. **Description:** (Describe construction details, materials, and artifacts found at this segment/point. Provide plans/sections as appropriate.) See Primary Record (page 1) P3a.

L4. **Dimensions:** (In feet for historic features and meters for prehistoric features)

a. **Top Width:** 48 inches

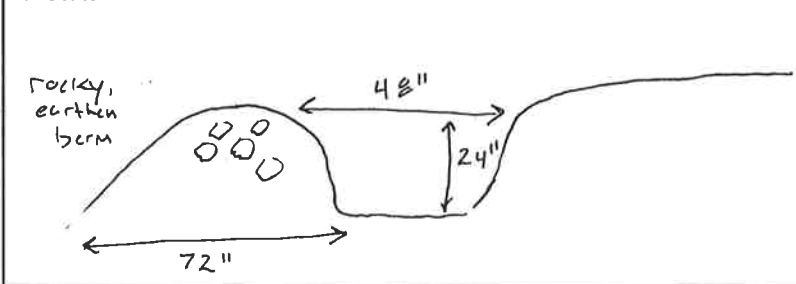
b. **Bottom Width:** 36 inches

c. **Height or Depth:** 24 inches

d. **Length of Segment:** 144 yards

L5. **Associated Resources:** Piles of placer tailings, apparent mined ground in drainage.

L4e. **Sketch of Cross-Section** (include scale) **Facing:** South
No scale



L6. **Setting:** (Describe natural features, landscape characteristics, slope, etc., as appropriate.) Oak woodland with sparse understory

L7. **Integrity Considerations:** The integrity is generally poor. The measurements were taken at a point between the two forks of the drainage

L8a. **Photograph, Map or Drawing**



L8b. **Description of Photo, Map, or Drawing** (View, scale, etc.)

Point where measurements were taken.

L9. **Remarks:** I didn't find any historic information about the ditch. This suggests that it is an early (1850s) ditch.

L10. **Form Prepared by:** (Name, affiliation, and address) James Barnes, archaeologist, Bureau of Land Management, 63 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA 95630

L11. **Date:** March 2009

PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial
NRHP Status Code

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 3

*Resource Name or #: CA-018-PE-307

P1. Other Identifier: None—Undetermined

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted
and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*a. County: El Dorado

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Salmon Falls, Calif.

Date: 1954 T 11 N; R 9 E; NW ¼ of SW ¼ of Sec 29; M.D.B.M.

c. Address: N/A

City:

Zip:

d. UTM: Zone: 10; 673380 mE/ 4293700 mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate): None

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)
This historical resource is an earthen dam. It is located in the south fork of of an unnamed tributary of the South Fork of the American River. The ditch is 125 ft across. It has a breach in it. It is unclear whether it is associated with a nearby ditch (identified as CA-018-PE-306).

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) AH8. Dams

*P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) Digital photo; view to the southwest; March 2009

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: Historic

Prehistoric Both

*P7. Owner and Address: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 63 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA 95630

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address) James Barnes, BLM archaeologist, 63 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA 95630

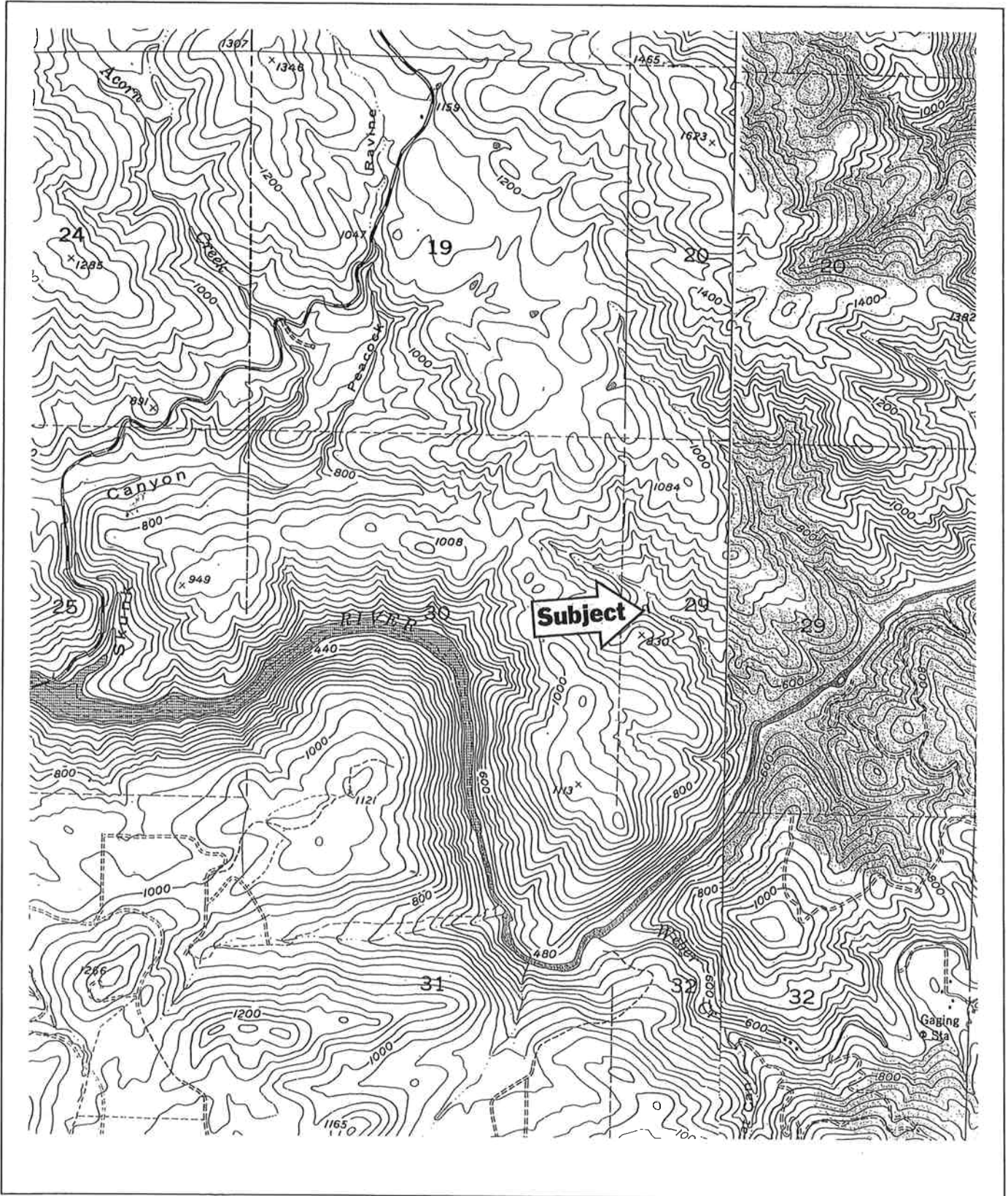
*P9. Date Recorded: March 2009

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe)
Intensive

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey

report and other sources, or enter "none.") James Barnes (2009), Section 106 compliance for the South Fork trail project, El Dorado County (BLM case # CA-018-S-PE-09/02)

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):



CONTINUATION SHEET

*Recorded by: James Barnes

*Date: March 2009

Continuation

Update



Digital photo; view to the southeast, earthen dam with breach in it.

PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #

HRI # _____

Trinomial

NRHP Status Code _____

Other Listings _____

Review Code _____

Reviewer _____

Date _____

Page 1 of 2

*Resource Name or #: Skunk Canyon Ditch

P1. Other Identifier:

***P2. Location:** Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County El Dorado

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Pilot Hill, CA Date: 1954, photorevised in 1973 T11N; R9E; SW¼ of NE¼ of Sec. 25; MDB.M.

c. Address__ City__ Zip

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone10S; 0670999 mE/ 4293589 mN (NAD 27 conus). The UTM data was acquired with a Garmin GPS map 60CS

e. **Other Locational Data:** (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate) The site is located northeast of the Salmon Falls Bridge which crosses over the South Fork of the American River. The ditch, which is on the east side of Skunk Canyon at approximately the 520 foot contour interval northeast of the Skunk Hollow parking area, is largely obscured by dense vegetation. The most visible segment of the ditch is located approximately 600 meters northeast of the northeastern corner of the Skunk Hollow parking area.

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries) This linear site is a segment of ditch which is located on approximately the 520 foot elevational contour on the eastern side of Skunk Canyon. The ditch does not appear on the current topographic maps and is unnamed. In the most visible section of the ditch, the downhill side is partially reinforced with indigenous rocks from one to seven courses high. The ditch was created by the cut and fill method. The rock walls were often constructed to hold the fill in place. One of the rock lined segments is located at a UTM reading of 10S 0671013 mE/4293565 mN (NAD 27 conus). The width of the ditch is 48 inches. There is no channel depth which implies that it was either piped or flumed along its course. The actual length and destination of the ditch is indeterminable because of the dense brush; only a small segment of the ditch is visible. The UTM cited above is the location where the ditch probably intersected with the drainage in Skunk Canyon. No artifacts were found associated with the ditch. However, artifacts associated with the ditch could well be hidden under the dense brush that obscures most of its course.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** AH-6 Water conveyance system.

***P4. Resources Present:** Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo: View north at segment of rock-lined ditch. Note the stacked rock alignment on the left of frame.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** Historic

Prehistoric Both

Possibly the 1860's. On the 1866 Government Land Office (GLO) Plat map of the area, a segment of ditch is shown upstream on the north/south line between sections 25 and 30. The GLO plat map doesn't record the elevational contour.

***P7. Owner and Address:**

The current ownership of the land is in flux. Once held privately, it is in the process of being acquired by a public agency.

PRIMARY RECORD

Page 2 of 2

Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) Skunk Canyon Ditch

P8. Recorded by: James Barnes, BLM archaeologist and Jenifer Padgett, DPR archaeologist.

P9. Date Recorded: 4-08-09

P10 Survey Type: Pedestrian survey

P11. Report Citation:

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List)

L1. Historic and/or Common Name:

L2a. Portion Described: Entire Resource Segment Point Observation **Designation:**

b. Location of point or segment: (Provide UTM coordinates, legal description, and any other useful locational data. Show the area that has been field inspected on a Location Map)

USGS 7.5' Quad: Pilot Hill, CA **Date:** 1954, photorevised in 1973
T11N; R9E; SW¼ of NE¼ of Sec. 25; M.D.B.M.

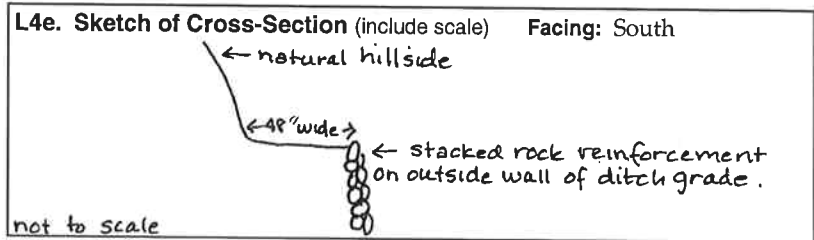
The segment of ditch was recorded between the following UTM points: Zone10S; 0670999 mE/ 4293589 mN to 0671013 mE/4293565 mN. It is approximately on the 520 foot elevational contour. The ditch continues south towards the South Fork of the American River but is completely obscured by dense brush.

L3. Description: (Describe construction details, materials, and artifacts found at this segment/point. Provide plans/sections as appropriate.) This linear site is a segment of ditch which is located on approximately the 520 foot elevational contour along the eastern side of Skunk Canyon. The ditch does not appear on the current topographic maps and is unnamed. In two places along the visible section of ditch, the downhill side is rock reinforced with indigenous rocks from one to seven courses high. The ditch was created by the cut and fill method and the fill was held in place by the stacked rock walls. The width of the ditch is 48 inches. The flat grade has no channel depth which implies that it was either piped or flumed along its course. No artifacts were found associated with the segments of ditch located. However, artifacts associated with the ditch could well be hidden under the dense brush that obscures most of its course

L4. Dimensions:

- a. **Top Width:** 48 inches
- b. **Bottom Width:** N/A
- c. **Height or Depth:** No channel depth.
- d. **Length of Segment:** ~20 meters

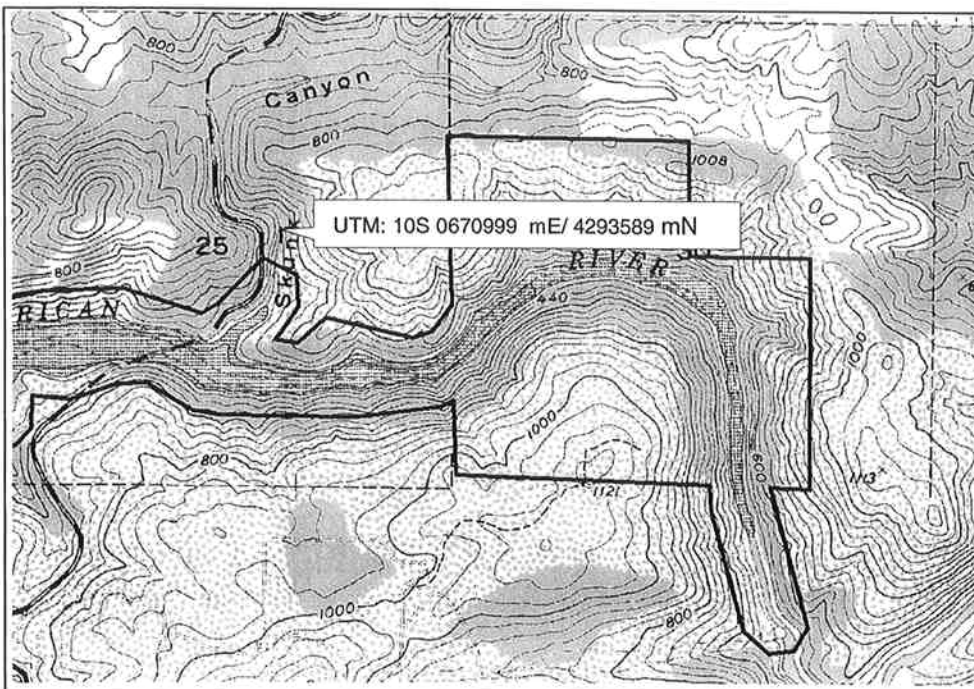
L5. Associated Resources: None observed.



L6. Setting: (Describe natural features, landscape characteristics, slope, etc., as appropriate.) The ditch segment is located on the slope above the Skunk Canyon drainage. The ditch appears to be diverted from the drainage at UTM Zone10S; 0670999 mE/ 4293589 mN and goes south. The ditch is only visible for about 20 meters before it is obscured by brush.

L7. Integrity Considerations: The integrity of the recorded segment is excellent. Because the ditch disappears into the underbrush, the integrity of the rest is unknown.

L8b. Description of Photo, Map, or Drawing: Topographic map at left shows the location of the ditch segment. The current boundary of land owned by Bureau of Reclamation and managed by California State Parks is located between the red lines.



The current boundary of land owned by Bureau of Reclamation and managed by California State Parks is located between the red lines.

L9. Remarks: It is possible that the ditch directed water to mining work areas on the northern side of the South Fork of the American River. Mineral Bar, Chilialiar Bar and Dutch Bar were located less than a mile from the recorded segment of ditch along the South Fork.

L10. Form Prepared by: Jenifer Padgett, Associate State Archaeologist, California State Parks.

L11. Date: 4-8-09