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**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** May 4, 2020

## **Decision Memo Mattley Meadow Restoration Project (56125)**

This decision memo provides documentation pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the Mattley Meadow Restoration Project (56125) located on the Calaveras Ranger District of Stanislaus National Forest (STF) and private lands. The project is located in the headwaters of the North Fork Mokelumne River watershed at 7,200 feet elevation within Calaveras County, approximately forty miles east of Jackson, CA (T7N, R17E, Sec. 8 & 17, MDBM). The project involves two distinct meadows: Mattley Meadow, a large meadow that spans both STF and private lands, and Mattley Creek Meadow, a smaller peripheral meadow on STF land (Figures 1 and 2).

### **Purpose and Need for Action**

The purpose of the project is to restore natural ecosystem function in Mattley and Mattley Creek meadows. The project is guided by current management direction contained in the Stanislaus National Forest Plan Direction, which is based on the 1991 Forest Plan as modified through the Forest Plan appeals and amendment process (USDA 2017)<sup>1</sup>. The “Desired Conditions” of meadows are identified in the Forest Plan and characterized in the following way:

Meadows are hydrologically functional. Sites of accelerated erosion, such as gullies and headcuts are stabilized or recovering. Vegetation roots occur throughout the available soil profile. Meadows with perennial and intermittent streams have the following characteristics: (1) stream energy from high flows is dissipated, reducing erosion and improving water quality, (2) streams filter sediment and capture bedload, aiding floodplain development, (3) meadow conditions enhance floodwater retention and groundwater recharge, and (4) root masses stabilize stream banks against cutting action (p. 188).

Where existing conditions are degraded and fall short of desired conditions, the Forest Plan recommends implementing restoration practices in “areas with compaction in excess of soil quality standards, areas with lowered water tables, or areas that are either actively down cutting or that have historic gullies (p. 191).”

Historically, the Mattley meadow complex lacked deep stream channels and water travelled as sheet flow and through shallow swales on the surface of the meadows. Existing remnant vegetation indicates Mattley Meadow once supported a large aspen stand and a vigorous wet meadow plant community. However, natural and human caused disturbances over the past 100

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<sup>1</sup> USDA 2017. Stanislaus National Forest, Forest Plan Direction. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, Stanislaus National Forest. Sonora, CA. March 2017. 192 p.



years have caused the formation of three large gully channels in Mattley Meadow and one gully in Mattley Creek Meadow which have resulted in meadow degradation and impaired ecological function. The gullies prevent surface flows from accessing the floodplain and cause accelerated erosion. The gullies have also effectively drained the meadow by lowering groundwater elevations, reducing groundwater storage, and altering stream flows. These hydrologic alterations in turn have negatively impacted the plant community and wildlife habitat. The aspen stand has suffered mass die-offs and has been encroached by conifers as the meadow has dried. There has been a conversion of moist plant communities to drier plant communities, increased conifer encroachment, and an overall deterioration of aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

To meet the intent of the Forest Plan and move the Mattley meadow complex toward desired conditions, project restoration activities are intended to achieve the following objectives:

- Restore meadow hydrologic function (i.e., channel/floodplain connectivity; increased ground water elevation and recharge; increased dry season stream flows).
- Improve water quality by reducing fine sediment input through restoration of eroding channels and other unstable areas.
- Improve the extent and vigor of meadow vegetation and aspen.
- Improve meadow habitat for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife.

Due to the severity of the channel incision, Mattley and Mattley Creek meadows are unlikely to recover naturally without intervention and would continue to erode if left untreated. Management action is necessary to prevent further meadow degradation and restore meadow function in order to move them toward desired conditions.

## **Proposed Action**

### Meadow restoration

The project would restore approximately 45 acres of riparian and meadow habitat on National Forest System (NFS) and private lands (Figure 2). The proposed action incorporates Best Management Practices (BMPs)<sup>2</sup> to protect resource values. Meadow restoration work would be implemented during the low flow period, generally late summer through fall. Work would be accomplished using equipment such as excavators and wheeled/tracked loaders. Equipment would access the project area on existing roads and trails and designated temporary routes. Temporary routes would be restored and blocked at the conclusion of project implementation.

The restoration design concept is to implement a near-complete gully fill for the middle and east gullies in Mattley Meadow and the single gully in Mattley Creek meadow. The incised west channel in Mattley Meadow would not be treated or directly impacted as part of the project due to the presence of a population of Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs (SNYLF), a state and federally listed endangered species. The middle and east gullies would be filled with a series of five gully plugs created using onsite material (totaling 15,632 cubic yards) excavated from eight

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<sup>2</sup> USDA 2011. R5 FSH 2509.22 - Soil and Water Conservation Handbook, Chapter 10 - Water Quality Management Handbook, Vallejo, CA. 261p.

USDA 2012. National Best Management Practices for Water Quality Management on National Forest System Lands, Volume 1: National Core BMP Technical Guide, FS-990a, Washington DC. 177p.

borrow ponds (totaling 3.2 acres) within and along the margins of the meadow. In Mattley Creek Meadow, the gully would be filled with one plug using material (286 cubic yards) from one borrow pond (0.1 acre).

Topsoil would be removed and stockpiled adjacent to the plug fill zone and then spread over the completed plugs to promote reestablishment of native vegetation. All plugs and borrow ponds are sited and configured to accommodate surface and subsurface through flow as well as adjacent hillslope-generated surface and groundwater inflows. Plugs would be constructed with wheel loaders to provide wheel compaction of the fill. The compaction levels are intended to match the porosity/transmissivity of the native meadow soils to allow moisture to move freely within the plug soil profile and support erosion resistant meadow vegetation for long term durability as well as preventing preferential pathways for subsurface flows either in the plug or the native material. Woody debris (existing dead/down material and green trees removed during excavation) would be strategically placed or to disperse flows and reduce erosion on plugs and floodplains while vegetation becomes established. Live vegetation salvaged during construction (e.g. sod mats, willow wads) would be transplanted at key locations where needed to aid in revegetation. Additional measures to reduce erosion and promote revegetation such as wood chips, spreading of native seed, live staking, or other techniques may also be used.

Although the principal function of the borrow ponds is to provide native fill material for plug construction, since the ponds will fill with groundwater and maintain ponded water year-round, habitat features and diversity would be incorporated into the construction. Specifically, these may include varying water depths, islands, peninsulas, basking logs, etc., to provide diverse thermal refugia for SNYLF and other species. Construction and placement of habitat features would occur in consultation with aquatic wildlife experts from USFS and other agencies.

A 0.1 mile segment of a motorized trail (17EV16) that crosses Mattley Creek Meadow would be rerouted outside of the meadow. The new rerouted trail segment would be approximately 0.2 – 0.4 miles in length. The existing trail segment within the meadow would be restored by scarifying the trail surface and placing woody debris and/or vegetation as needed to promote vegetation regrowth.

Cattle grazing would be restricted within meadow restoration areas until the sites have revegetated and stabilized, generally a minimum of 2 – 3 years. In Mattley Meadow, range fencing on the north property boundary and east edge of the meadow would be reconstructed. Temporary fencing would be constructed around the immediate restoration area in Mattley Creek Meadow. An off-channel water source may be constructed to increase dispersal of cattle.

### Project Monitoring

The Mattley Meadow Restoration Project is expected to benefit multiple resources by restoring the hydrological and ecological functions of the meadow floodplain system. The purpose of project monitoring is to measure project effectiveness on water quality, timing of flows, and enhancement of wildlife and aquatic habitats. Monitoring parameters and methods that would be utilized are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1. Project Effectiveness Monitoring of the Proposed Action

Monitoring Parameter	Method	Responsible Party
Water Temperature	Water temperature data loggers installed below project area May-Sept*	Plumas Corporation**
Aquatic Habitat	California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM)	Plumas Corporation (CRAM); USFS
Groundwater	6 groundwater wells and 4 co-located piezometers (approximately 8 to 15 ft in depth) made of perforated PVC pipe, measured monthly*	Plumas Corporation**; USFS as time allows
Stream Flow	Staff gage and pressure transducer installed at the bottom of project area; monthly* manual calibration flow measurements; quarterly* collection of oxygen isotope samples and measurement of electrical conductivity (EC) from inflows, springs, and wells	Plumas Corporation**
Sediment Supply	Channel cross-section surveys; CRAM	Plumas Corporation (CRAM)
Meadow Vegetation	All revegetation areas would be monitored for three years following project completion. Monitoring will quantify willow survival and percent cover of native meadow vegetation.	USFS
Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog Population	Existing SNYLF population in the untreated “West” channel would be monitored annually, as well as the remnant channel and borrow ponds in the restored area of Mattley Meadow for potential SNYLF dispersal.	USFS
Water Quality/BMPs	BMP Implementation and Effectiveness monitoring; BMP checklist; USFS BMPEP National Protocol	USFS

\*As access permits

\*\*Plumas Corporation has secured funding for monitoring through 2020. Additionally, Plumas Corporation is working with the ACCG so that this group can continue monitoring outside of the existing funding window.

### Additional Management Requirements

The Proposed Action also includes the following management requirements:

#### Aquatics

- The project activities will conform to the conservation measures and terms and conditions requirements in the Biological Opinion (USFWS 04/29/2020), and Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (CDFW anticipated fall 2020), which appends this to those documents.
- During restoration work within Mattley Meadow, a qualified biologist must be on site during all activities. Survey the immediate work area for listed amphibians before commencement of daily work and following work stoppages exceeding one hour.
- Maintain an 82-foot limited operating area around the SNYLF occupied western channel in Mattley Meadow where mechanical operation for conifer removal is prohibited.

- If Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs are detected within the work area, the following procedures will be followed: Each Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog or Yosemite toad encounter shall be treated on a case-by-case basis, but the general procedure is as follows: (1) Leave the non-injured animal alone if it is not in danger; or (2) move the animal to a nearby safe location if it is in danger. These two actions are further described below:
  - a. When a Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog or Yosemite toad is encountered within the project site, the first priority is to stop all activities in the surrounding area that may have the potential to result in the harassment, injury, or death of the individual. Then, the situation shall be assessed by a Forest Service biologist or Service approved biologist in order to select a course of action that will minimize adverse effects to the individual.
  - b. Avoidance is the preferred option if an individual of the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog or Yosemite toad is not moving or using a burrow or other refugia. A Forest Service biologist or Service-approved biologist shall inspect the animal and the area to evaluate the necessity of fencing, signage, or other measures to protect the animal.
  - c. If appropriate, the listed amphibians shall be allowed to move out of the hazardous situation on their own volition to a safe location. An animal shall not be picked up and moved based on it not moving fast enough or it is an inconvenience for activities associated with rehabilitation or operation. This only applies to situations where individuals are encountered when they are moving during conditions that make their upland travel feasible. It does not apply to individuals that are uncovered, exposed, or in areas where there is not sufficient adjacent habitat to support the species should the animal move outside the immediate area.
  - d. Individuals of the two listed species shall be captured and moved by hand only when it is necessary to prevent harassment, injury, or death. If suitable habitat is located immediately adjacent to the capture location, then the preferred option is relocation to that site. An individual shall not be moved outside of the radius it would have traveled on its own.
  - e. Only Forest Service biologists or Service-approved biologists may capture the two listed amphibians. Nets or bare hands may be used to capture the animals. Soaps, oils, creams, lotions, repellents, or solvents of any sort cannot be used on hands within two hours before and during periods when the biologist is capturing and relocating individuals. If the animal is held for any length of time in captivity, they shall be kept in a cool, dark, moist environment with proper airflow, such as a clean and disinfected bucket or plastic container with a damp sponge. Containers used for holding or transporting shall not contain any standing water, or objects or chemicals.
- Existing waterholes and other aquatic sites including ponds, lakes and streams used for water drafting would be surveyed for Aquatic Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive (TES) species and flow levels taken prior to use. In the event TES species are found to occur at drafting sites; sites will not be used and future surveys would be conducted by an aquatic specialist to determine presence of potential populations.
- The use of low velocity water pumps and screening devices for pumps (per S&G 110) will be utilized during drafting for project treatments to prevent mortality of eggs, tadpoles, juveniles, and adult SNYLF. A drafting box measuring 2 feet on all sides covered in a maximum of 0.25 inch screening is required.
- Mechanical operation would be prohibited on days where >0.5 inches of rain are predicted and within 24 hours of such rain events.

## Wildlife

- Notify the District wildlife biologist if any federally Threatened, Endangered, Candidate, or Region 5 Forest Service Sensitive species are discovered during project implementation so that protective measures can be applied, if needed.

#### Botany/Invasive Species

- If sensitive botanical species are observed in the project area during implementation, flag and avoid occurrences with a ten foot buffer where possible. Where populations may impede implementation, contact the District/Forest Botanist for further conversation and possible mitigations.

To minimize the spread of invasive species:

- All equipment, including earthmoving, must be free of soil, mud (wet or dried), seeds, vegetative matter or other debris that could contain seeds in order to prevent new infestations of invasive plants in the project area. Dust or very light dirt that would not contain invasive plant seed is not a concern.
- Any gravel, soil, rock or other materials brought in must be from inspected sources with a low risk of invasive plant introduction.
- Any temporary roads shall be blocked effectively so that public vehicles do not continue to use them and possibly spread invasive species into the project area.
- Invasive plant removal will happen before implementation and will include any additional populations found within treatment areas.
- If large invasive plant populations are discovered, consider how to work in areas with the least amount of invasive plants first and leaving areas with the most invasive plants for last.
- Clean machinery in between working in areas with invasive plants and areas with no invasive plants.
- Minimize walking through areas infested by invasive plants.

#### Hydrology/Soils

- Prepare an erosion control plan prior to project implementation. The erosion control plan will consist of the BMPs incorporated into the proposed action as well as any additional measures required by regulating agencies as part of the project permitting process (e.g., 404/401 permits, Streambed Alteration Agreement, etc.).
- Follow BMP checklist during project implementation.

#### Heritage

- Flag and avoid all heritage resources of interest within the project area to protect from potential disturbance during project implementation
- Historic property boundaries shall be delineated with coded flagging and/or other effective marking prior to project implementation
- Convey location of properties to contractors and employees responsible for implementation

#### Range

- Construct and maintain livestock fencing to USFS specifications
- Remove temporary fencing/exclosures when no longer needed
- Avoid disturbance to the range monitoring plot and plot marker. The plot and plot marker will be flagged prior to implementation.

#### Recreation

- Block temporary access routes to prevent unauthorized motor vehicle use
- Repair any project related damage to trail 17EV16

## Decision

My decision is to implement the Proposed Action as described above and shown in Figure 2. The Proposed Action is excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) because no extraordinary circumstances<sup>3</sup> exist and it falls within the following categories of action: *Timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than 1 mile of low standard road construction [36 CFR 220.6(e)(6)]* and *Construction and reconstruction of trails [36 CFR 220.6(e)(1)]*.

Appendix A documents the “Review of Extraordinary Circumstances” supporting my determination that no extraordinary circumstances exist with respect to the Proposed Action. An interdisciplinary team of resource specialists (representing archaeology, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, botany, hydrology, soils, range, and recreation) provided project input which is available in the project record.

Because this project is located on both National Forest System (NFS) lands and private lands, the Forest Service responsible official (District Ranger) can only make a decision on what is to occur on NFS lands. The private land portion of the project is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A regulatory state agency with discretionary permitting authority or a local special district would be the lead agency (i.e. decision-maker) on the private land. The proposed action could not be implemented without the coordination and cooperation of both public and private land decision-makers. Therefore, the effects analysis for this project includes the entire project area but there are two deciding entities and the decision of one entity will not influence the decision of the other.

### Reasons for the Decision:

I selected the Proposed Action for the following reasons:

- The meadow restoration treatments are designed to restore meadow function and improve conditions in degraded areas, in accordance with Forest Plan Direction
- Due to the severity of the channel incision, Mattley and Mattley Creek meadows are unlikely to recover naturally without intervention and would continue to erode if left untreated. Management action is necessary to prevent further meadow degradation and restore meadow function in order to move them toward desired conditions.

## Public Involvement

The project was first proposed by the Forest Service in collaboration with the Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG) as part of the Cornerstone Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration project. A public field trip to the project area was held in 2014 and attended by a diverse group of stakeholders, including the Calaveras Enterprise newspaper who wrote an article about the project. Tribal consultation was initiated with the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk in 2015 during an annual meeting followed by a later field trip to the project. Tribal consultation

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<sup>3</sup> The mere presence of one or more of these resource conditions does not preclude use of a categorical exclusion (CE). It is the existence of a cause-effect relationship between a proposed action and the potential effect on these resource conditions and if such a relationship exists, the degree of the potential effect of a proposed action on these resource conditions that determine whether extraordinary circumstances exist. (36 CFR 220.6(b))

with the Calaveras Band of Miwuk and Washoe was initiated in 2015 through an annual consultation letter followed by a field trip to the project. The Forest Service listed this project in STF Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) in May 2019. The SOPA is distributed to about 160 parties and is available on the internet [<http://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/forest-level.php?110516>]. A Scoping Letter outlining the Proposed Action and soliciting public comments was posted to the internet in December 2019 [<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56125>]; no public comments were received.

### **Findings Required by Other Laws**

This action is consistent with the Forest Plan, the National Historic Preservation Act, and all other applicable laws and regulations (Appendix A).

### **Administrative Review (Objection) Opportunities**

This decision is not subject to administrative review<sup>4</sup>.

### **Implementation Date**

The project is expected to be implemented during late summer - fall in 2021.

### **Contact Person**

For additional information about this project, contact Zachary Croyle at the Calaveras Ranger District, 5519 Highway 4, Hathaway Pines, CA 95233; or by email at [zachary.croyle@usda.gov](mailto:zachary.croyle@usda.gov) or phone at (209) 813-6034.



DAWN COULTRAP  
District Ranger (Acting)

ENCLOSURE: Figure 1, Figure 2, and Appendix A

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<sup>4</sup> The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-76; January 17, 2014) directs that the 1992 and 2012 legislation establishing the 36 CFR 215 (post-decisional appeals) and 36 CFR 218 (pre-decisional objections) processes shall not apply to any project or activity implementing a land and resource management plan that is categorically excluded under NEPA. The Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79; February 7, 2014) repealed the Appeals Reform Act (P.L. 102-381) and directs that the pre-decisional objection process established in the Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2012 shall not apply to categorically excluded projects or activities.



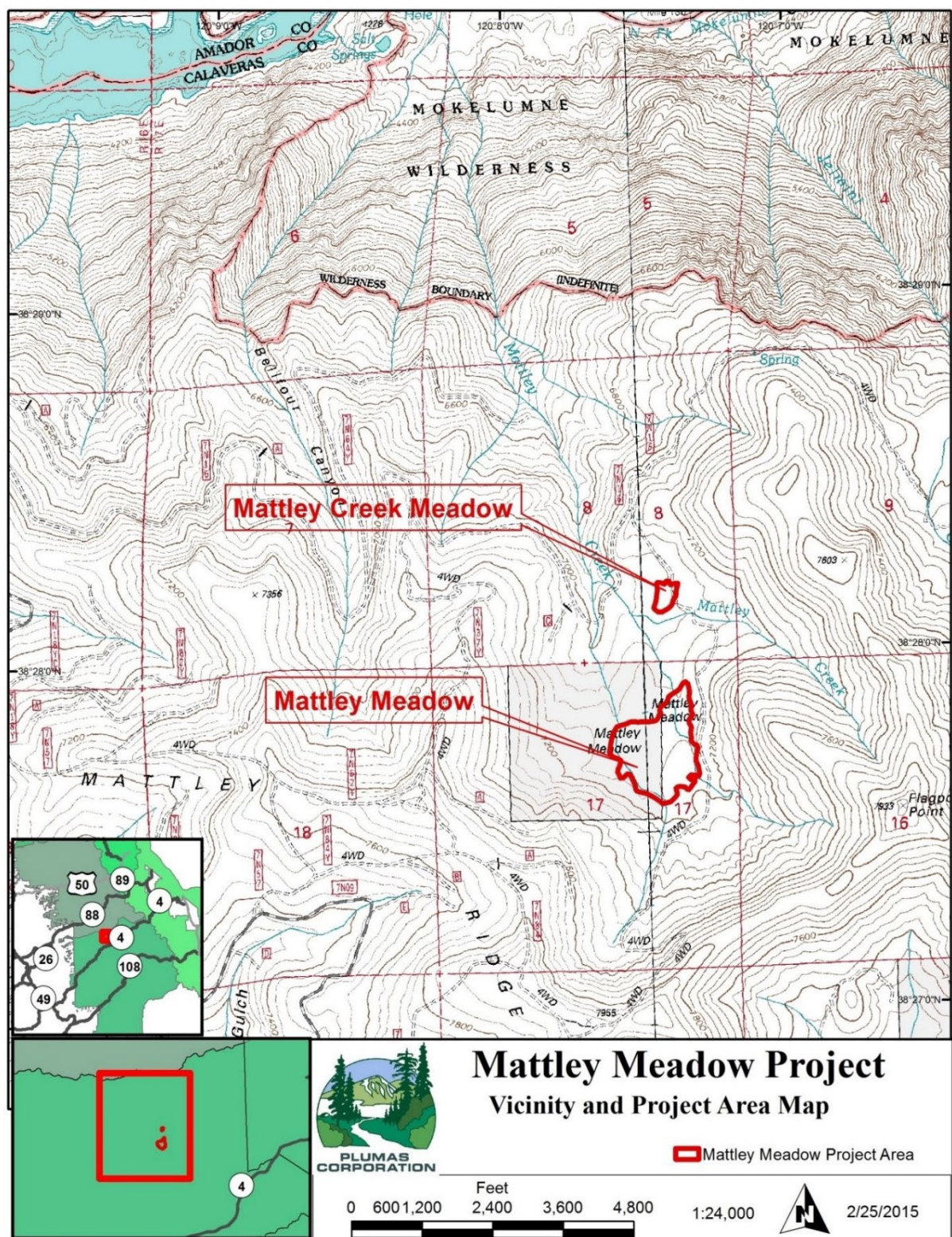


Figure 1. Project location map



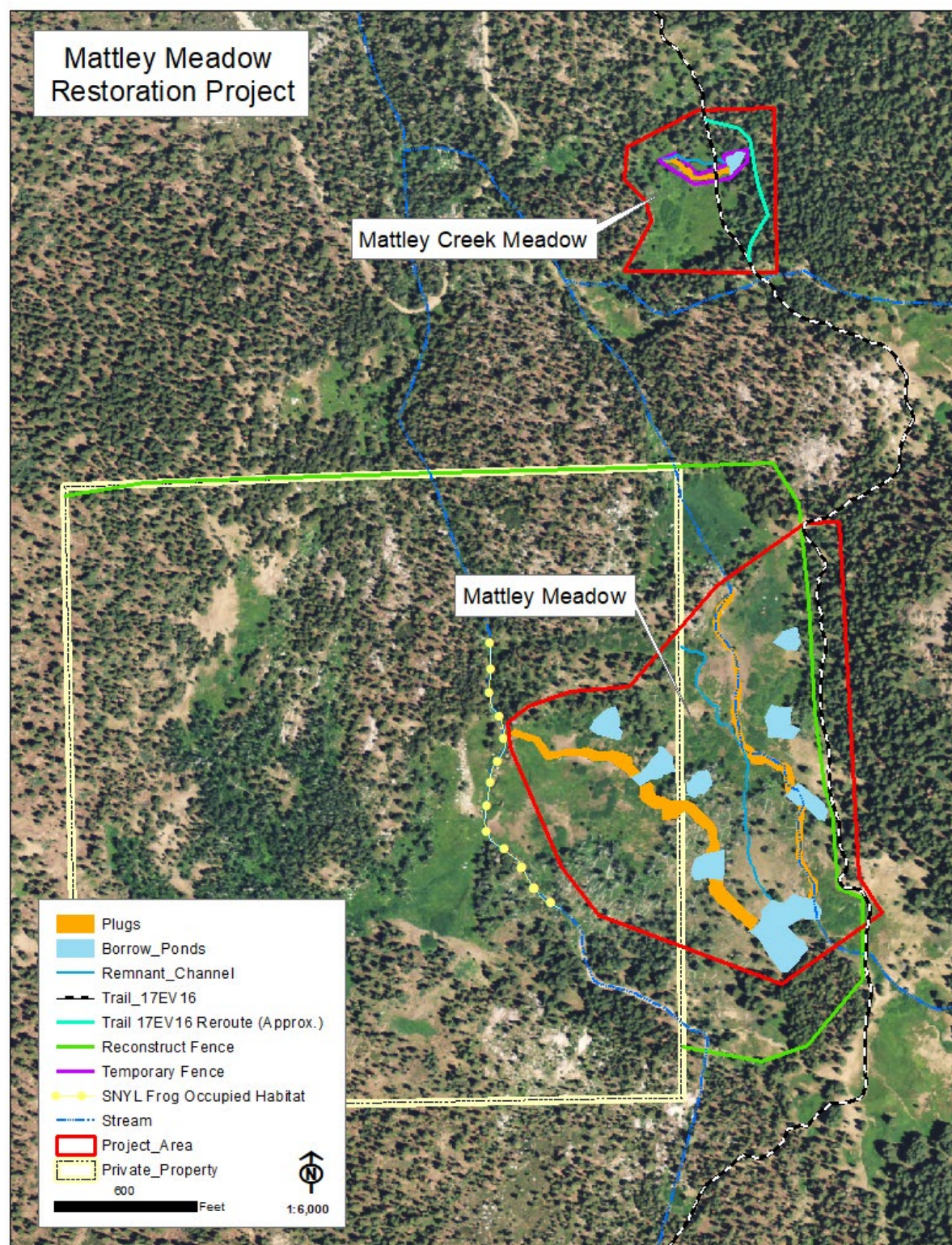


Figure 2. Proposed action map. All lands surrounding private property are NFS lands.

## APPENDIX A

### Review of Extraordinary Circumstances

In accordance with FSH 1909.15 Section 30.3(2), the Responsible Official considered the following resource conditions in determining whether extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action would warrant further analysis and documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

#### **1. Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species.**

##### **Terrestrial Wildlife Species:**

The proposed action will not affect the following species: California wolverine, Pacific fisher, bald eagle, Sierra Nevada red fox, or fringed myotis. The proposed action may affect individuals, but is not likely to result in a trend toward Federal listing or loss of viability for the following species: northern goshawk, great gray owl, California spotted owl, willow flycatcher, Pacific marten, Townsend's big-eared bat, pallid bat or western bumblebee (Melinda Benton, Wildlife Biologist, Stanislaus National Forest; Biological Evaluation and Management Indicator Species Report; 02/12/2020).

##### **Aquatic Wildlife Species:**

The project area contains suitable and occupied habitat for the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog. Because there are known occurrences in the action area, individuals would be at risk of harm, harassment, injury, and mortality as a result of project activities within occupied habitats. No actions are proposed within the occupied habitats and project design features should mitigate the risk to individuals to a minor level. The project would eliminate existing unoccupied stream habitat which is of poor quality and create pond habitat with potentially increased suitability for breeding and rearing, while effects to occupied habitat should be minor and potentially positive.

The project area contains suitable habitat for the Yosemite toad. The risk of harm to individuals as a result of mechanical operations in suitable aquatic and upland habitats is insignificant because of the extremely low likelihood that toads occur in the action area given negative survey results and poor habitat conditions. Meadow restoration activities should increase the amount and quality of wet meadow habitat suitable for the toad breeding.

Formal consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) has occurred and a Biological Opinion (BO) with a "no jeopardy" determination has been issued (USFWS 04/29/2020). Through informal consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) it was determined that the risk of take was low enough that a state consistency determination was not warranted (Lucas Wilkinson, Aquatic Biologist, Stanislaus National Forest; Biological Assessment; 10/09/2018).

##### **Botanical Species:**

The proposed action will have no effect on sensitive botanical species of interest or result in federal listing of any of these species, as there were no sensitive botanical species of concern found in the project area. (Crispin Holland, Botany Program Manager, Stanislaus National Forest; Biological Evaluation; 02/18/2020)

## 2. Floodplains, wetlands or municipal watersheds.

**Floodplains:** Executive Order 11988 defines floodplains as, “. . . the lowland and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and coastal waters including flood prone areas of offshore islands, including at a minimum, that area subject to a one percent [100-year recurrence] or greater chance of flooding in any one year.”

- Floodplains are found along stream channels within the meadows. Implementation of meadow restoration activities would improve floodplain function by restoring channel-floodplain connectivity. BMPs have been incorporated into the project design and would ensure any potential disturbance to floodplains during project implementation would be short term and minor. (Zachary Croyle, Hydrologist, Calaveras Ranger District; Hydrology Report; 11/2019)

**Wetlands:** Executive Order 11990 defines wetlands as, “. . . areas inundated by surface or ground water with a frequency sufficient to support and under normal circumstances does or would support a prevalence of vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas such as sloughs, potholes, wet meadows, river overflows, mud flats, and natural ponds.”

- Wetlands within the project area include the meadows and stream channels. Implementation of meadow restoration activities would improve stream and meadow stability and function and would, therefore, have a beneficial effect on wetlands in the project area. BMPs have been incorporated into the project design and would ensure any potential disturbance to wetlands during project implementation would be short term and minor. (Zachary Croyle, Hydrologist, Calaveras Ranger District; Hydrology Report; 11/2019)

**Municipal Watersheds:** FSM 2542.05 defines municipal watersheds as: “A watershed that serves a public water system as defined in the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 300f, et seq.); or as defined in state safe drinking water statutes or regulations.”

- The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board lists the Mokelumne River from its sources to Pardee Reservoir as a municipal and domestic supply. This project is not expected to negatively affect beneficial uses of water. Implementation of meadow restoration activities is expected to reduce channel erosion and, therefore, result in an improvement to water quality and beneficial uses overall. BMPs incorporated into the project design as well as any other measures required by 404/401 permits would prevent any potential negative effects to beneficial uses during project implementation. (Zachary Croyle, Hydrologist, Calaveras Ranger District; Hydrology Report; 11/2019)

## 3. Congressionally designated areas such as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, or national recreation areas.

There are no existing or proposed congressionally designated areas within or immediately adjacent to the project area. The Mokelumne Wilderness boundary is located about 1 mile from the project area. A proposed Wild and Scenic River segment of the Mokelumne River is located about 1.8 miles from the project area. Given the distance separating the project from these areas



and the screening provided by the steep topography and vegetation, the project is unlikely to affect wilderness and wild and scenic river values.

#### **4. Inventoried Roadless Areas.**

There are no Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA) within or immediately adjacent to the project area. The Mt. Reba IRA is about 0.5 miles from the project area and would be unaffected by the project.

#### **5. Research Natural Areas.**

There are no existing or proposed Research Natural Areas (RNAs) within or adjacent to the project area.

#### **6. American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites.**

From the Project Compliance Letter for Mattley Meadow Restoration Project 2016 CRMR 05-16-2305 (Rebecca Wong, Archaeologist, Calaveras Ranger District, 10/12/2016):

- Tribal consultation was initiated in 2015 with the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk, Calaveras Band of Miwuk, and Washoe. The Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk and Washoe also visited the project area on field trips in 2015. There are no known Native American traditional collection areas within the project boundary and to date no input has been received from the Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council regarding any such locations. This project is not anticipated to have any effect on cultural values, particularly plant species important to California Indian Basketweavers or other Native American gatherers.

#### **7. Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas.**

From the Project Compliance Letter for Mattley Meadow Restoration Project 2016 CRMR 05-16-2305 (Rebecca Wong, Archaeologist, Calaveras Ranger District, 10/12/2016):

- See item 6 (American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites) above. The area has been surveyed for archaeological sites and historic properties; all known sites will be avoided and protected. A no effect recommendation was made for the undertaking in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Programmatic Agreement Among the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5), California State Historic Preservation Officer, Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Regarding the Process for Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for Management of Historic Properties by the National Forests of the Pacific Southwest region (Regional PA), signed February 2013.