

Chapter 3: Proposed Action

The **Proposed Action** for this Plan prioritizes protection of resource values while secondarily providing for compatible recreational uses.

The Proposed Action applies to resource management actions and recreational use occurring on public lands managed by BLM, CDFG, and Yolo County Parks.

The Cache Creek CRMP plan area is divided into six zones designated A through F and depicted on the Vicinity Map. The zones are primarily geographical in nature, but also represent differing levels of visitor use and relative amounts of public land.

For the most part the zone boundaries follow easily identifiable landmarks, such as roads, rivers, ridgelines, etc. Because of this there are varying amounts of private land within the overall boundary of each zone. However the management guidelines in the Proposed Action of this CRMP apply only to lands managed by BLM, CDFG, or Yolo County Parks.

Overview of Zones:

Zone A includes the block of BLM land along Perkins Creek Ridge and the Pluth Ranch acquisition, as well as CDFG lands along the Redbud Trail from the Redbud Trailhead to Baton Flat. This stretch of the Redbud Trail can receive heavy visitor use throughout the year.

Zone B includes BLM lands in the Benmore Canyon area east of Spring Valley and other BLM lands to the west of Walker Ridge Road and Indian Valley Dam Road. Public use in this zone occurs primarily along these two roads and is very limited throughout the remainder of the zone due to lack of additional roads and trails.

Zone C corresponds with a majority of the Rocky Creek/Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area (WSA) as originally designated in 1979. It is by far the largest of the zones, encompassing most of the WSA and the Lake County portion of the Payne Ranch acquisition.

Zone D corresponds to the major part of the Payne Ranch acquisition, including that portion recently purchased from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF). This zone is expected to receive a significant increase in public use. Many of the issues in this CRMP are particularly pertinent to this zone.

Zone E includes BLM lands to the north of Highway 20 near the Lake/Colusa county line.

Zone F is an area with concentrated recreational use centered on Cache Creek from Buck Island downstream to the Rumsey area. Also included are Blue Ridge Trail, Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park (Yolo Co.), and County Road 40 (Rayhouse Rd.)

Issues Critical to this CRMP

1. Closure of the CCNA to Motorized Vehicles

The Proposed Action recommends that all roads and trails within the CCNA be officially designated as closed to public motorized vehicle use unless signed open. Any vehicular travel off these roads would also be prohibited. This will be implemented through publication of a formal Federal Register Notice. A vehicle closure is already in place on lands managed by CDFG and on Yolo County Park lands. Exceptions to this proposed BLM closure will be allowed for valid existing rights (leases, rights-of-ways, legal existing inholder access), authorized academic research, emergencies, and administrative uses. Administrative uses are defined as those uses involving employees performing official duties for which vehicular access is necessary to get the job done. This can include BLM, CDFG, and California Department of Forestry employees and others with special authorization, as well as contractors conducting official work for these agencies.

Additionally the following roads within the CCNA which have been traditional routes of travel will remain open to vehicular use outside of any seasonal closures implemented locally: Yolo County Road 40 from Highway 16 to the Morgan Valley Road in Lake County (Rieff-Rayhouse Road, the Langs Peak Road to Buck Island; the Fiske Creek Road to the southern terminus near the top of Blue Ridge; and the Walker Ridge and Indian Valley Dam Roads to Indian Valley Dam. As mentioned, any vehicular travel off these roads into the CCNA will be prohibited.

Existing and future parking areas and trailheads will provide access points for nonmotorized public use leading from the periphery to the remote interior of the CCNA.

The majority of respondents on this issue (44 out of 52) to the September, 2002 draft of this CRMP supported this closure.

Additionally if portions of the CCNA become designated wilderness, the public vehicle closure will be automatic; other administrative uses of motor vehicles will likely be eliminated or severely curtailed.

For those users interested in off-road vehicle use, they will be referred to nearby areas on BLM lands where this use is allowed, including the Knoxville OHV area east of Lower Lake, limited use in the Walker Ridge area, and the Cow Mountain OHV area west of Lakeport.

2. Other Closures

A. Seasonal Wildlife Closures

In 1991 a seasonal closure of the Wilson Valley area to all public use from April 1 - June 30 was instituted. The purpose of this closure was to eliminate human disturbance to tule elk during the very sensitive time just before, and for a period after, the birth of the elk calves.

In a previous study by O'Connor (1987), on-the-ground monitoring, and various aerial surveys by CDFG, Wilson Valley was identified as an important calving area in the spring for this sub-herd. The closure was instituted cooperatively by BLM and CDFG when it became apparent that elk use here during the calving season significantly diminished shortly after becoming legally accessible to the public.

Overflights of the Wilson Valley area in recent years by CDFG showed that elk are no longer using this area for calving. Therefore in keeping with the intent of seasonal closures, the current tule elk closure was modified to allow for an acceptable level of public use in Wilson Valley from April 1 – June 30. An ongoing monitoring effort by CDFG throughout the range of the Cache Creek tule elk herd utilizing GPS collars on several elk is providing year-round location data which will help to identify seasonally-sensitive habitat. It is likely that the elk that previously used Wilson Valley in the spring have moved to a location which while suitable as calving habitat, has less human disturbance at this time of the year.

Once the elk's sensitive habitats have been documented, further monitoring will show if public use is causing negative impacts. If it is determined necessary to close a particular area or trail(s) to public use to prevent disturbance during the calving season or other sensitive times, these areas will be designated as closed to public use during the sensitive period.

This closure is designed to be flexible, i.e. if the elk move from these areas, the closure area will be adjusted accordingly. The closure period and location will be mutually agreed upon by BLM and CDFG.

Besides special closures for the tule elk, other closures may be implemented, if warranted. This can include closures to protect federally-listed species during sensitive times, such as breeding bald eagles. Closures for breeding bald eagles will last through the breeding season, typically February through June. The minimum requirements are a ¼-mile

buffer around any nesting tree. This may be increased as necessary if human activity impacts the eagles' nesting activities.

B. Closure of Specific Sites and Activities

Other closures may include sensitive habitats, cultural sites, or trails which are being impacted by an incompatible level of public use. An example of the latter is CDFG's seasonal closure of the Judge Davis Trail to equestrian and mountain bike use from the 3rd Saturday in November through the 3rd Saturday in April. If warranted, other areas may be temporarily closed if they experience an unacceptable level of disturbance from public use.

The CCNA will also be closed to non-hunting shooting (including paintball guns), and target shooting. This will make the policy consistent with lands managed by CDFG and Yolo County Parks, where these activities are already prohibited. For those users seeking an area for these types of shooting, they will be referred to suitable sites on nearby BLM lands at Knoxville or Walker Ridge.

3. Livestock Grazing

There are no grazing leases within the CCNA and none are included under the Proposed Action. Prescribed grazing by contract under tightly controlled conditions is being proposed however to reduce noxious weeds where feasible. This method of grazing is significantly different than a typical grazing lease and allows BLM to limit grazing to specifically prescribed measures necessary to reduce weeds with minimal impacts to soils, water, wildlife, and vegetation. Under prescription grazing BLM has the

flexibility to pay a livestock operator to graze utilizing those methods determined to optimize weed reduction. These methods can be very restrictive and require significant labor on the part of the operator. This is described further in this section below.

Previously grazing occurred on the Payne Ranch for many years while under private ownership and also under a grandfathered lease for a short time after the BLM began the acquisition of this property. The terms of this lease were fairly broad and did not specifically limit the stocking rate or season of use. Heavy livestock grazing typically occurred from late November through mid-June. Over time this use contributed to a conversion from palatable annual and perennial grasses to noxious weeds, as well as serious impacts to riparian habitats and localized soils damage.

The private grazing lease expired in June of 2001, and there has been no authorized livestock grazing since August of 2001 when the last of the remaining cattle were rounded up and removed.

The Proposed Action includes resting the range until 2005, at which time a carefully managed grazing regime is proposed to decrease and to help control the further spread of noxious weeds.

Past livestock grazing has occurred in other parts of the CCNA. Previously there were two grazing leases in the Perkins Creek Ridge area in Zone A. These leases were both cancelled due to the sale of the private base ranches. One of these, the former Pluth Ranch was sold to BLM in 1997.

Before the Wilson Valley area was acquired by BLM in 1985, grazing

occurred along the North Fork from Highway 20 downstream to Wilson Valley. There were a few instances of trespass grazing following BLM's acquisition of this property, but since that time this has not recurred, nor will any authorized grazing be considered here, even for noxious weed control.

Additionally grazing occurred in the County Line Ridge area (Zone E) prior to BLM's purchase in 1993. Since that time there has been occasional trespass grazing from adjacent private lands, but no authorized grazing.

During the past several decades, noxious weeds have invaded millions of acres of rangelands throughout the West (Thomsen, 1994). This problem is particularly severe in parts of the Payne Ranch acquisition. The proliferation of weeds here is the most serious habitat issue to resolve in this portion of the CCNA. The spread of these weeds likely was exacerbated in part by the grazing practices which occurred here over many years.

Research has shown that carefully-timed grazing can be used as a tool to help reduce weed populations when the following conditions are met: (1) target plants are acceptable as forage, (2) grazing can be timed to inflict damage at vulnerable periods in the weed's life cycle, (3) water is available for livestock, and (4) livestock are controlled to minimize damage to non-target species and other ecosystem components (Thomsen et al, 1996.)

On the Payne Ranch acquisition, the three most serious upland weed species include yellow starthistle, medusahead, and barbed goatgrass. To help reduce the amount of these weeds and prevent their further spread throughout this area,

a prescribed grazing program is proposed to complement other weed eradication tools including prescribed burning, herbicides, mowing, bio-control, planting native grasses, and hand-pulling.

In the absence of grazing on the Payne Ranch acquisition for the past several years, weeds have multiplied unchecked. This has been particularly evident with medusahead. When livestock were present, much of the medusahead thatch was broken up by the hoof action of the grazing animals, giving other plants a chance to grow and also making it easier for grazing animals to feed on this new growing vegetation. But when this thatch is neither broken up nor removed, it creates an ideal environment for more medusahead to germinate, while significantly decreasing the germination of other grasses and forbs (Thomsen et al, 1993). If prescribed burning cannot be accomplished in these areas, it is important to initiate a prescribed grazing program to reduce this thatch (Thomsen, 1997).

A high-intensity short-duration grazing program can benefit other plants by breaking up the medusahead thatch. By moving a limited number of cattle from area to area and confining them with easily-movable electric fencing, the thatch can be broken up, allowing more sunlight to the soil surface and improving germination of other grasses and forbs. In the late winter and spring months, cattle will feed on yellow starthistle from the rosette stage on up through the bolting stage. Cows will also feed on medusahead and barbed goatgrass through the flowering stage.

To complement cattle grazing, goat

herds can be utilized to forage on plants that cattle typically don't heavily feed on (Olson et al, 1999). Goats are primarily browsers rather than grazers, and are known to forage on starthistle well after spines have appeared and through the flowering period when no other animals will browse this plant.

As mentioned this type of prescription grazing would amount to a high intensity-short duration grazing regime, requiring a contractor to move livestock frequently from one area to another. Easily-movable (and less visually intrusive) electric fencing would be necessary to confine grazing and browsing animals to identified areas, and also to restrict entry into sensitive habitats. Additionally, goat and/or sheep herds can be managed by an onsite herder to control the locations and time line for those areas to be managed. Grazing would be limited to the key infested areas including the meadows found in upper Thompson and Brophy Canyons and along the upper 3-mile portion of BLM-managed Bear Creek, totaling approximately 1,000 acres.

It is estimated that to have an optimum effect on reducing noxious weeds, a prescribed grazing program will require at least five years of intensive grazing management.

It is important to stress that grazing is but one of the management tools that will be employed in the noxious weed control efforts. For maximum benefit, an integrated approach to weed management should be undertaken concurrently with prescribed grazing as appropriate, including prescribed fire, mowing, use of herbicides, use of biocontrol agents, planting of native species, and in the case of small

manageable populations, hand-pulling (Thomsen, et al, Publication 21541, 1996).

Due to the seriousness of the spread of noxious weeds on public lands, the BLM will soon be requiring the use of certified weed seed-free forage for recreational users who bring pack and saddle stock, outfitters, and other contractors and operators who use straw or other mulch for habitat restoration purposes.

4. Wildlife Habitat Management

The CCNA is comprised of a variety of natural habitats, some of which are more suitable for restoration, protection, or improvement than others.

Since the 1970's a variety of projects have been implemented within the CCNA. These have included brush-to-grass conversions, prescribed burns, water developments, irrigated pasture development, and noxious weed control, among others. Initial projects began in the late 1970's in chaparral habitat, before BLM and CDFG began acquiring sensitive oak woodland, meadow, and riparian habitats.

In recent years much work has been completed on CDFG and BLM land primarily in Zones A and E to reduce the spread of noxious weeds in key habitats, replacing these weeds with native species. Several water developments have also been completed in these areas. These types of projects have greatly benefited the tule elk population in Zone A particularly, as subsequent surveys confirmed that elk numbers increased shortly after the completion of these projects. Monitoring of project areas by BLM and CDFG personnel has documented a significant increase of

habitat use at these sites by elk. Undoubtedly these projects benefit many other game and nongame wildlife species as well.

The focus of BLM's wildlife habitat management program is to improve key habitat areas, especially those which have been degraded by past uses. Prescribed burning will continue to be used as a tool for treating dense overage chaparral habitat. The type of burns to be implemented here will prioritize those which maximize benefits to wildlife habitat, i.e. early season burns completed before January 31st each year. Burns to reduce the fuels build-up and reinforce firebreaks may be implemented in those areas closer to the urban interface, such as the Perkins Creek Ridge area east of the city of Clearlake. Burning will also be used as a tool in the battle against the spread of noxious weeds.

Noxious weed control in key habitats will be a top priority, especially on recent land acquisitions. The BLM has been mandated to control the spread of these weeds on public lands and will focus this effort where control is most likely to be effective in improving habitat conditions and beneficial to the needs of wildlife. Other control methods proposed include prescribed grazing, mowing, burning, reseeding with native vegetation, bio-control, hand-pulling, and use of herbicides. The herbicide clopyralid (Transline) has shown promising results in yellow starthistle control both as a pre-emergent and a post-emergent (DiTomaso, 1999). Transline was initially used in the CCNA for a yellow starthistle reduction project in meadows adjacent to Bear Creek in April, 2004.

In recent years several water

development projects have been completed. These have included the construction of wildlife guzzlers with tanks buried in the ground, and on recently-acquired lands, reconstruction of old breached livestock ponds that have been adapted to benefit wildlife.

Critical wildlife habitat within the CCNA is found in riparian and oak woodland/grassland habitats. Both Cache Creek and the North Fork are considered to be in Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) according to BLM's guidelines for evaluating the condition of riparian areas. There is not much habitat work needed here, other than removal of noxious plants including scattered saltcedar, ravengrass, and arundo. Bear Creek on the other hand has not attained PFC and is currently classified as Functioning At Risk (FAR), primarily due to the dominance of saltcedar and downcutting of the creek channel.

The Payne Ranch acquisition includes the most critical upland wildlife habitat within the CCNA. Extensive oak woodlands and meadow habitats are found between Cache Creek Ridge and Highways 16 and 20. This property was historically used for livestock grazing, consequently there are several dozen reservoirs scattered throughout the upland areas, which now serve to spread out habitat use for a variety of species including elk. The majority of the Cache Creek tule elk herd used this area until the early 1960's (McCullough, 1969), then began to spread out onto adjacent BLM lands and neighboring private lands. Today about forty elk use the Payne Ranch acquisition year-round.

The occurrence of tule elk has drawn the interest of the Rocky Mountain Elk

Foundation (RMEF) to this area. The RMEF was a key partner in helping the BLM in acquiring the Payne Ranch and other critical habitats, recently selling their 1,419 acres back to the BLM. The BLM and the RMEF partnered here to showcase habitat management for California's tule elk. While this property has serious problems with noxious weeds, the potential is there to restore important habitat found in meadows and riparian areas. Once serious efforts have been made to control the spread of weeds, which will take several years, elk use and numbers will likely increase.

Year-round upland water sources are found in the scattered livestock ponds. Some of these ponds are functioning as excellent riparian and aquatic habitats; others show the impact of improper design, past unrestricted grazing and lack of maintenance. Opportunities exist to improve habitat conditions at these ponds. Some will improve by a change in grazing management under BLM's Standards and Guidelines; others will benefit from the establishment of vegetation around the banks. A few ponds are in a state of disrepair and are eroding away, contributing to soils loss and severe channeling in areas. Some sites will require extensive work, including rebuilding the impoundments, adding spillways, and other measures to prevent further soils loss. However any proposed project work will be evaluated in a separate Environmental Assessment.

Changes in elk use patterns are anticipated to occur over the next several years due to changes in grazing management on the Payne Ranch acquisition. It has already been observed that since the expiration of the

private grazing lease in June 2001, elk are utilizing much more of the habitat here. It may not be apparent for several years how the elk will respond in the long run to a change in grazing management, but during this interim period it is vital that extensive monitoring be undertaken to document changes in elk distribution and the location of any sensitive areas. With this thought in mind, public use will be allowed only in those areas where serious conflicts with elk, or other resource values for that matter, do not occur. This could lead to seasonal closures of sensitive areas and re-routing of certain trails to avoid locations which are sensitive to disturbance year-round.

5. Future Wilderness Designation

In 1986 Wilderness Recommendations and the accompanying Final Environmental Impact Statement were issued for the 33,582-acre Rocky Creek/Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The BLM recommended non-wilderness for this WSA based on the following reasons, as quoted in the 1986 report: “(1) the wilderness characteristics of the area are not outstanding, (2) if additional energy and non-energy mineral development were to take place, wilderness characteristics would be further degraded, and (3) wildlife management and recreation objectives can be better achieved without the restrictions that wilderness designation would bring. In many locations throughout the WSA there is evidence of past and present human activity. This is particularly evident when the area is viewed from the air.”

Despite the BLM position

recommending no Wilderness designation, the WSA has been managed and continues to be managed in strict compliance with the Wilderness Interim Management Guidance to ensure non-impairment of wilderness characteristics until official designation or release from WSA status is made.

With the recent introduction of Senate Bill 738 by Senator Boxer, 30,870 acres of the CCNA within Congressional District 1 have been proposed for wilderness designation. This decision now rests with Congress.

Acquisition of the 12,769-acre Payne Ranch, the 950-acre Pluth property in 1997, and the Wilson Valley area in 1985 has added significant acreage to BLM holdings adjacent to the existing WSA.

Wilderness designation would prohibit certain types of recreational activities including use of mountain bicycles and horse-drawn buggies (as per a recent request for a Special Recreation Use Permit). Administrative vehicle uses could be eliminated or severely curtailed except for emergencies, depending upon specific wording included in the legislation.

A policy change in September, 2003, implemented by the BLM's Washington Office prevents any new WSAs from being designated after 1993. Wilderness characteristics can still be protected in these areas, but only through the BLM's planning process. This new policy applies to over 18,000 acres of lands acquired by BLM since 1993 and includes the Kerwin (949 acres, 1994), Leal (1,476 acres, 1993), Johnson (2,032 acres, 1994), Pluth (950 acres, 1997), and Payne (12,769 acres, 1999-2001) acquisitions.

6. Withdrawal of the CCNA from Mineral Entry

The Proposed Action of this CRMP is to manage the CCNA for protection of resource values, while accommodating a compatible level of recreational use. Indeed the primary focus driving the BLM's and CDFG's land acquisition program is the protection, improvement, and restoration of biological values, as well as the preservation of other natural and cultural values. Therefore, all management actions included under the Proposed Action will focus on preventing surface disturbance to natural and cultural resources, scenic values, and primitive recreational pursuits. This is the BLM's intended purpose in developing this CRMP. To achieve this goal and to protect the BLM's and public's investment in recent land acquisitions of sensitive resource lands, it is recommended to pursue a withdrawal from mineral location or surface entry. This would prevent the surface disturbance and subsequent impacts to sensitive resource values which are often the result of mineral development. If mineral development was proposed within the CCNA, this would be in stark contrast to the Proposed Action.

No saleable minerals activities, such as the mining or processing of sand and gravel or stone, will be allowed. Mineral leases such as geothermal or oil and gas could be allowed, but only if the authorization includes a "no surface occupancy clause". No surface disturbing activities will be allowed that would have adverse impacts on or would otherwise destroy or damage natural or cultural values, scenic values, or

primitive recreational pursuits. Using this approach, withdrawing the CCNA to mineral entry requires approval by Congress.

However there are two other ways that an area can be designated as completely closed to mineral entry, including any slant drilling, which "no surface occupancy" would still allow. Closure can be implemented as part of the BLM's planning process during the preparation of a Resource Management Plan (RMP), which for the Ukiah Field Office is scheduled to have completed by September, 2006. A Wilderness Designation will also completely withdraw these areas from all mineral entry.

7. Mountain Bike Use within the CCNA

Recreational use of mountain bikes has increased significantly during the past 15 years as the sport has become more popular in many areas throughout the country, including the CCNA.

Currently mountain bikes are allowed in the CCNA, including limited use within the WSA. When the public lands at Cache Creek were being studied during the WSA evaluation process in 1978-1979, an inventory was completed of all roads and vehicle ways on public lands within the boundary of this area. (According to BLM Manual H-8550 - Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review a way is defined as "a trace maintained solely by the passage of vehicles which has not been improved and/or maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use").

When the roads and ways inventory

was compiled, lands that were in private ownership at that time were not included. This list of roads and vehicle ways is documented on maps, photos, and tables within the Cache Creek WSA inventory file. All roads existing at the time in the WSA were included within this inventory, as well as the *majority* of vehicle ways. For WSA inventory purposes, if a vehicle way becomes a nonmotorized "trail" over time because of lack of use by vehicles, it is still considered a vehicle way. Per BLM policy based on Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), those roads and ways identified in this inventory are currently open to mountain bike use. Additionally, Section 603 is also the basis for determining that any travel by mountain bikes off these ways is prohibited, effectively limiting use to the actual road or way. In the event of Wilderness designation, however, all mountain bike use will be prohibited within the designated area.

In 1980 when the Record of Decision for IMP Guidelines for WSA's was signed, it became BLM policy that for any new trails constructed within WSAs from that date forward, use of any mechanical transport (including mountain bikes) would be prohibited. Per BLM policy this does not include short reroutes of roads and ways constructed to bypass sites with washouts, sensitive habitats, or extreme grades. Since that time, there have been no new trails constructed within the original boundary of the WSA. There have been a few reroutes built as indicated above, which bypass washouts, sensitive habitats, or short stretches of extreme grade. One of

these is located on the Perkins Creek Ridge Trail west of the junction with the Redbud Trail and was built in order to route users away from a very steep drop that was experiencing soils impacts, as well as being a serious safety hazard for those attempting to negotiate this route. At this location a ¼-mile long switchback was constructed to more gradually lessen the grade. Along the Judge Davis Trail within the original boundary of the WSA, a few short re-routes were constructed in the mid-1990's to bypass areas experiencing severe erosion on the original vehicle way leading down to Wilson Valley. In addition to these, several reroutes were constructed along the Redbud Trail including a ½-mile reroute just past the Baton Flat crossing to bypass a major slide on the south bank of Cache Creek; another ¼-mile reroute with several switchbacks that bypassed the original vehicle way which had a grade too steep for BLM standards; and a third short reroute that bypassed a population of the BLM sensitive plant adobe lily. These last three locations are not within the original boundary of the WSA, but are part of the Wilson Valley acquisition of 1984.

There are a few minor vehicle ways within the WSA that were not identified in the roads and vehicle ways inventory probably because of oversight, and by policy these are not open to mountain bikes. These include a ½ mile stretch of a vehicle way leading from Cache Creek Ridge to the New Cacheville subdivision that crosses through the WSA, and a ½ mile stretch of a vehicle way in the upper Stemple Canyon watershed that also crosses through the WSA. Many of the ways identified in this inventory are no longer passable due to heavy brush

encroachment during the past 25 years effectively eliminating passage by mountain bikes, and making even foot travel extremely difficult.

While mountain bikes are allowed on the roads and ways within the WSA identified in the 1978 inventory, it is BLM's policy to not actively promote this use here. Ukiah Field Office literature and website information simply notes where mountain bikes are allowed; it does not promote the WSA as a mountain biking destination.

Most mountain bike use in the CCNA occurs outside of the designated WSA, such as the Redbud Trail from the BLM boundary near Baton Flat to Wilson Valley. The bike use in Wilson Valley is occurring on vehicle ways that have existed for at least 60-70 years and weren't inventoried in 1978 since this was all private land then. Other areas where mountain bike use is occurring outside of the WSA include the Colusa County portion of the Payne Ranch acquisition, the County Line Ridge area in Zone E, portions of Yolo County Road 40, Fiske Creek Road, Fiske Creek Trail, Frog Pond Trail, and to a lesser extent, the Blue Ridge Trail.

On CDFG's Cache Creek Wildlife Area, mountain bike use is currently permitted along the Redbud Trail from the trailhead to the BLM boundary near Baton Flat, a distance of about 2.4 miles. Some use also occurs along both trails originating at the Judge Davis Trailhead, including the Judge Davis (hiking) Trail (1.5 miles to BLM boundary from trailhead), as well as the fire road that leads to Cache Creek Ridge (also 1.5 miles to BLM boundary from trailhead). However effective July 1, 2004 the closure on the Judge Davis hiking trail

and fire road was modified to additionally restrict mountain bikes during this same time and same location (officially known as the Harley Gulch Unit of CDFG's Cache Creek Wildlife Area).

Additionally in 1999 a ¼-mile link-up was constructed on acquired Payne Ranch lands to connect the Judge Davis Trail from non-WSA BLM land to Cache Creek Ridge. The amount of mountain bike use on this trail segment is unknown.

Overall the use of mountain bikes to date has been relatively light particularly within the WSA, and there are no known instances where this activity has been documented as negatively impacting resource values here.

In the event of Wilderness designation, mountain bike use will no longer be allowed. Mountain bikers will be directed to adjacent areas of the CCNA where this use will continue to be allowed such as those portions of Zones A, B, D, E, and F that are not designated as Wilderness. However these areas will not be promoted as mountain biking destinations.

Despite the fact that the majority of the CCNA has been proposed for Wilderness designation, the BLM has no authority to prohibit the use of mountain bikes in the interim, except in the case of threats to human health and safety (emergency closure) or route designation closures implemented through the planning process.

If the decision is made to not designate these lands as wilderness, the BLM's policy will continue to allow use of mountain bikes, while still not actively promoting the CCNA as a mountain biking destination.

Additionally competitive biking events

will not be allowed within the CCNA, as this area is more suitable for casual low-key biking.

As a follow-up to this CRMP, a Trails Plan will be formulated for the CCNA that will include a detailed description of the designated trail network as well as guidelines for trail users. A key component of this policy will be the "Leave No Trace" philosophy. As with other proposed projects within the CCNA, any new trails will not be constructed prior to completion and approval of an Environmental Assessment (EA).

It is BLM policy that any authorized mountain bike use will be limited to designated trails, with no use allowed off trail. All trails within the CCNA will be multi-use trails shared by all users, except in those areas designated as Wilderness where mountain bikes will be prohibited. This integrated trail system will ensure that there will not be separate trails for different recreational uses. If any trails problems outside of designated Wilderness are attributed to mountain bike use, these will be dealt with on a site-specific basis, rather than banning this use from the area.

8. Boating Use on Upper Cache Creek

Boating upstream of Buck Island (referred to as upper Cache Creek in this plan) is possible at differing times of the year, with put-in generally at the Redbud Trailhead off Highway 20 in Lake County. Currently the stretch of Cache Creek from Cache Creek Dam to the confluence with the North Fork receives little, if any boating due to the lack of legal access over the dam and the difficulty in accessing this run of the

creek which requires a long hike prior to any possible put-in. Additionally an extremely hazardous rapid requiring portage is located just upstream of Deadman Canyon.

Boating on upper Cache Creek has been an activity which for the most part has not been regulated. Use has generally been by individuals or small private parties, while the two current rafting concessionaires focus on the stretch of river from Buck Island downstream to the Camp Haswell area (referred to as lower Cache Creek for purposes of this plan).

Following are descriptions of the general boating periods and recommendations on use for upper Cache Creek. Special closures and conditions which may apply during these periods as part of the Proposed Action are discussed.

Boating use occurs during:

(A) Major winter storms when water levels can rise significantly in a short period of time, enabling put-in at the Redbud Trailhead. The predominant use at this time is by parties of expert rafters and kayakers. Time is of the essence due to shortened daylight hours and colder temperatures. This 22.5-mile float from put-in at the Redbud Trailhead to take-out at the confluence with Bear Creek can be completed in as little as 2-3 hours when water flows exceed 2000 cfs.

Recommendation: Boating available, recommended for experts only. All boaters are required to wear personal flotation devices and headgear during major winter storms. No user permits are required at this time, however if conditions warrant, permits may be required in the future.

(B) Spring/Summer Irrigation releases.

When flows from Indian Valley Reservoir are sufficient (minimum 200 cfs), put-in is possible at the Redbud Trailhead. From here it is 2¼ miles to the confluence with Cache Creek.

Irrigation releases typically begin by mid-April and continue through the summer, with a gradual tapering in late July, continuing until flows are back to the pre-irrigation release level by the end of September. Flows can alternate or be a combination from both Indian Valley Reservoir and Clear Lake. This is dependent upon several variables including the daily water demand and the water level of each reservoir, and does impact access by boaters.

In previous years the Wilson Valley tule elk calving season closure prohibited boating on the upper stretch from April 1 through June 30th. Now that the annual spring closure has been discontinued in this particular area, boating at this time will be carefully monitored due to the presence of nesting bald eagles further down this run. If it is determined that boating use at this time is negatively impacting eagle nesting activity, this use will be temporarily discontinued until any young eagles have fledged, approximately by the end of June. Boating can then resume at this time. Despite the lifting of the elk calving closure, there will still be an on-the-ground closure to all public use covering an area of ½-mile radius around the nest tree. This closure area will be marked so that users may know which area must be avoided. However this closure area is considerably smaller than the previous elk calving closure. It should also be remembered that the elk closure may be reinstated if tule elk return to this area to

calve.

Recommendation: Boating available April through June if monitoring shows no impact to nesting bald eagles. If impacts to eagles are documented, boating use will be discontinued until after June 30. At this time user permits may be required if visitor increase results in congestion at the Redbud Trailhead, or lowering of wilderness experience from contact with other boaters.

The recommended type of watercraft at this time of the year is smaller 1-2 person inflatable kayaks or rafts. Canoes and inner tubes are not safe on this stretch because of the shallow rocky nature of the creek, as well as the long distance required before take-out is possible. Boating becomes very difficult (and slower) by mid-September when flows fall below 200 cfs.

All boaters will be encouraged to put in by 11 a.m. The rationale to this recommendation is (1) to minimize impacts to water-based wildlife species, (2) to ensure a wilderness recreational experience with opportunities for a true sense of solitude, and (3) to ensure sufficient time for boaters to reach the take-out point before dark. Additionally, all boaters will be required to wear personal flotation devices and strongly recommended to wear protective headgear while boating during the spring/summer irrigation releases.

Proposed Action – Protection and Management of Resource Values While Providing for Compatible Recreational Uses.

Goal:

Protect and appropriately manage all natural and cultural resource values as the primary goal. The secondary goal involves making provisions for diverse forms of primitive recreation which are compatible with this goal.

Incorporate the management guidelines of future planning efforts, or other pertinent legislation such as the upcoming Resource Management Plan or a congressional wilderness designation for the CCNA.

Objectives Common to All Zones:

A. Implement habitat improvements, including prescribed burns, noxious plant control, water developments, riparian enhancements, and other actions where appropriate. For all proposed actions, an Environmental Analysis will be prepared as discussed in the Overview.

Prescribed burns of chaparral habitat implemented specifically for wildlife habitat improvement will be conducted during the period following the first two inches of rain during the fall months up until January 31.

Additional prescribed burns in chaparral for fuel hazard reductions may be implemented as late as May if suitable burning prescriptions are met.

An integrative approach will be applied to combat the proliferation of invasive weeds and other noxious plants

including yellow starthistle, medusahead, barbed goatgrass, perennial pepperweed, saltcedar, arundo, and others where these infestations are seriously impacting habitat values.

Control methods can include prescribed burning, prescribed grazing, application of BLM-approved herbicides (Garlon, Transline, Roundup, Rodeo), mowing, revegetation with native species, bio-control, and hand-pulling. For each site-specific noxious plant control project proposed, an Environmental Assessment will be prepared and posted on the Ukiah Field Office website accessible at www.ca.blm.gov/ukiah

Water developments can include construction of new projects and repair of existing facilities. Types of projects can include reservoirs with earthen dams (requiring coordination with the California Division of Water Rights), wildlife drinkers which catch rainfall (both the buried tank design and the flying saucer type), and spring improvements with spring boxes and nearby drinkers.

Riparian enhancements can include planting of native species, fencing to exclude prescribed grazing, removal of noxious plants, and various erosion control techniques.

B. Monitor critical resource values to determine long-term impacts from management actions (see Monitoring

Plan in Chapter 5), provide follow-up recommendations, and then implement these recommendations. This will include effects of habitat improvements, as well as impacts to trail conditions by recreational uses. This information will assist in making management decisions such as the implementation of seasonal closures and any necessary trail maintenance or trail closures.

C. Protect biological and cultural resource sites from the impacts of increased visitor use by carefully planning the trail system and access locations. Direct recreational activities away from the immediate area of these sites or if necessary, close or reroute certain trails that may be causing unacceptable impacts. Where possible, protect cultural sites from erosion.

If any specific recreational activity is shown to be unacceptably impacting resource values, steps will be taken to reduce this impact, and if necessary, limit the type of activity causing impacts.

D. Continue land acquisition efforts on priority parcels. Management of lands acquired by BLM, CDFG, or Yolo County Parks will be incorporated into the Proposed Action.

E. Withdraw the entire CCNA from mineral entry.

F. Revoke existing Power Site withdrawals affecting only BLM lands on or adjacent to Cache Creek.

G. Manage any authorized grazing according to specifically prescribed criteria in order to maximize resource benefits to rangelands i.e., controlling

noxious plants, promoting perennial grass re-establishment, and preventing overgrazing.

H. Formulate a Trails Plan for the CCNA that will include a detailed description of the designated trail network as well as guidelines for trail users. Provide an adequate trail system to help disperse and minimize contact between visitors. Trails will be single track and multi-use, shared by all users. Develop adequate signing to mark private/public land boundaries, trailheads and trails, activity restrictions, closures, etc.

Allow the use of mountain bikes on designated trails within the CCNA, but limit this to non-competitive use. In the event of Wilderness designation, mountain bike use will be prohibited.

I. Complete and implement an Interpretive Plan for the CCNA. Develop adequate visitor map including trails, access points, etc. Map will be accompanied with information on trails, safety concerns, applicable closures, important wildlife and cultural values, etc. Provide adequate visitor information and education through interpretive kiosks, brochures, and environmental education hikes and presentations.

J. Coordinate with CDFG to provide adequate law enforcement and other on-the-ground staff to patrol and monitor the CCNA. Seek public and other agency assistance to inform BLM and CDFG of conflicting or unauthorized activities occurring on public lands.

K. Minimize development while ensuring adequate sanitation and safety facilities for visitors.

L. Close all public lands to vehicular use, except for those uses previously identified in *Issues Critical to the CRMP (#1)*. All unnecessary vehicular access points into the CCNA will be gated or otherwise closed off to prevent unauthorized vehicular access.

M. Prohibit non-hunting shooting including target shooting, plinking, and use of paintball guns within the CCNA (target shooting and plinking are already prohibited by state regulation within CDFG's Cache Creek Wildlife Area and by county regulation in Yolo County's Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park).

N. Evaluate commercial recreation permit applications i.e. rafting concessions, trail rides, outfitters, etc. on a case-by-case basis to promote primitive recreation opportunities as long as these activities adhere to resource protection goals.

O. Welcome assistance from outside sources such as the use of volunteers for trail maintenance, clean-up projects, National Public Lands Day events, etc. Keep in contact with local and regional politicians to maintain political support for the CCNA. Support fundraising, to the extent allowable, to include the formation of a "Friends of Cache Creek" or similar group to assist financially or voluntarily with CRMP management objectives.

Zone A (Proposed Action)

1) Continue current level of habitat development and project maintenance, focusing primarily on CDFG and non-

WSA BLM lands for permanent projects such as water developments, prescribed burns, and seedings. This includes that portion the 950-acre Pluth Ranch acquisition located south and west of the North Fork Cache Creek.

Approximately 80% of the BLM lands within Zone A are included within the WSA and are subject to certain limitations on permanent or surface-disturbing activities. Prescribed burning is an exception here as long as it is implemented without surface disturbance, i.e. by using a helitorch, but no bulldozers will be allowed to create firebreaks. This is also the case in the event that this area is designated wilderness.

In addition, monitor local elk population movements and use of existing habitat improvements.

2) Control, and where possible, eradicate noxious plants (saltcedar, arundo, ravengrass) growing within the riparian zone of the North Fork and Cache Creek. Control the spread of other noxious upland weeds (yellow starthistle, medusahead, perennial pepperweed, and barbed goatgrass) in key wildlife habitat.

3) Ensure that private inholders will retain reasonable access rights to their land. However, before initiating any road maintenance through federal or state lands, landowners must first obtain the appropriate authorization from BLM or CDFG.

4) Make provisions for suitable access by Native Americans to traditional gathering sites if feasible.

5) Current regulations allow camping on CDFG land beginning at a point ½ mile from the Redbud Trailhead in order to discourage overnight camping in the parking area, which is not allowed. If camping in the authorized area increases to the point of causing unacceptable environmental problems or crowding, future management will limit camping to designated areas only. Such designated areas could include BLM land at Baton Flat and other suitable sites which are located at least 100 feet from the creek in order to minimize disturbance to the aquatic and riparian environments, as well as the wildlife using these habitats. These will be primitive camping areas with no improvements.

6) Develop an appropriate multi-use trail link-up to the Pluth Ranch acquisition, consistent with protecting wildlife values on this land. This access could connect the Redbud Trailhead to an old jeep trail which forms a 5-mile loop. Additionally, designate the connector trail from the Perkins Creek Ridge Trail to the unnamed ridge northwest of Perkins Creek. This trail provides access to the Pluth Ranch acquisition near Bally Peak and will also serve as an additional multi-use loop trail.

7) Design and construct a universally-accessible interpretive loop trail on the flats beginning at the Redbud Trailhead.

8) Develop a new trailhead for the Perkins Creek Ridge Trail. Limit the existing access to public nonmotorized use, while maintaining appropriate access for property owners, and remove the existing parking area overlooking the

landfill. Clean up, rehabilitate, and permanently close the target shooting area located just beyond the existing parking area. The current use as a shooting site is in direct conflict with interim management of Wilderness Study Areas and designated Wilderness Areas. Develop an alternate parking area at a suitable location nearby for nonmotorized public access into the CCNA that will tie into the Perkins Creek Ridge Trail.

9) Exclude *commercial* rafting put-in at Redbud Trailhead on the North Fork.

Zone B (Proposed Action)

1) Barricade known rare plant habitat along the Walker Ridge Road which is currently or likely to be impacted by vehicle use. Maintain existing barriers which prevent vehicular access into sensitive habitats along this road.

2) Acquire key parcels to obtain a non-vehicular public access to the BLM lands in Benmore Canyon. In lieu of this, acquire an easement which would best facilitate this access. If legal access is acquired, provide suitable multi-use trails into this area.

3) Expand and maintain an overflow area for Blue Oak Campground.

Zone C (Proposed Action)

1) The primary wildlife management concern in this zone during the spring is the sensitivity of wildlife species to human disturbance during the breeding

season. Beginning in 2005 a seasonal closure will be implemented to protect nesting bald eagles in the Wilson Valley area. This closure will last throughout the breeding season, from February 1 through June 30. A ½-mile buffer around the nest site will be posted as seasonally closed to all public use. If necessary, the closed area may be enlarged if certain activities such as gunfire or other impacts from too many visitors in too close proximity to the nest site cause unexpected disturbance. Additionally if all bald eagle breeding activity is absent from this area for three consecutive years, this closure will be lifted until future evidence of breeding activity is documented.

Seasonal monitoring of the Wilson Valley area for elk activity will also confirm any necessity to reinstitute the elk closure.

2) Implement additional elk habitat improvements on suitable habitat on BLM and CDFG lands. Habitat improvements on BLM lands within the WSA or designated wilderness will be limited to non surface-disturbing activities, primarily prescribed burns. Improvements on CDFG lands and BLM lands outside of the WSA or designated wilderness can include water developments, prescribed burns, riparian habitat improvement, noxious plant control, and native plant seedings.

3) Eradicate saltcedar and giant reed from Grizzly Canyon.

4) Protect high density cultural sites by avoiding any new trail construction which could impact these sensitive areas. If disturbance is associated with the

proximity of existing trails, close and reroute trails away from cultural sites.

5) Develop a multi-use trail system to accommodate hiking and horseback riding (and mountain bikes on those roads and ways where this use is currently allowed. In the event of designated wilderness, all trail development will be consistent with wilderness guidelines. All trails will be designed to avoid sensitive environmental areas. Trail projects may include the following:

- a) Brushy Sky High Trail from Baton Flat to Brushy Sky High, providing a multi-use loop trail if feasible.
- b) Construction of the Confluence Loop Trail from the Redbud Trail to the confluence of the North Fork and Cache Creek.
- c) Re-establish trails along former ranch roads leading from Cache Creek Ridge to Cache Creek. These trails will tie in with the trail system to be laid out in Zone D.
- d) Maintain and improve the existing 2½-mile trail in the Twin Sisters area.
- e) Designate a link-up site from the Redbud Trail to the Judge Davis Trail in Wilson Valley. This will require identifying a site for trail users in either direction to cross Cache Creek, as a footbridge will not be built in this remote location to link these trails.
- f) Develop additional trails, spurs, loops, as needed and as funding and priorities allow. All trails within the WSA or any designated wilderness must be built consistent with Interim Management Guidelines or Wilderness Management Guidelines as applicable, with the precise

routing to be evaluated to avoid impacts to sensitive biological or cultural resources. By BLM policy, these new trails that are within the WSA or designated wilderness will be closed to mountain bike use. Other trails such as those located on the former Payne Ranch which descend from Cache Creek Ridge to Cache Creek will use existing jeep trails as much as possible, with minimum new development.

6) Construct a suitable equestrian/foot bridge across Cache Creek in the vicinity of Baton Flat for safe non-motorized access along the Redbud Trail during periods of high water flows. This will eliminate the current practice of having to ford the creek, at times under unsafe conditions. In past years access at this location has been restricted for as long as eight months of the year due to winter flood releases followed by spring and summer irrigation releases.

7) Provide an alternate equestrian and mountain bike access from the Judge Davis trailhead (in Zone C) to BLM lands on the former Payne Ranch (in Zone D) during the wet weather closure on CDFG lands (3rd Saturday in November through 3rd Saturday in April). Assist CDFG in signing this area during the closure period, and make sure any necessary barriers are in place.

8) Ensure that private inholders will retain reasonable access rights to their property. However, before initiating any road maintenance across federal or state lands, landowners must first obtain the appropriate authorization from BLM or CDFG.

Zone D (Proposed Action)

1) Implement additional elk habitat improvements in suitable habitat on BLM lands on the former Payne Ranch, including that portion just purchased from the RMEF. Habitat improvements can include prescribed burns, water developments, riparian habitat improvement, and noxious plant control. Additionally monitor elk population and use of habitat throughout the zone.

2) Maintain ponds on the Payne Ranch currently functioning as perennial wildlife water sources. Repair and improve as necessary those impoundments in need of revegetation, erosion control work, or improvements to spillways or other necessary engineering work in order to prevent failure of these dams in the future. Eliminate those dams which have breached and are not feasible to repair. Techniques will be employed to reduce any future erosion at these sites.

3) Implement erosion control practices where there are ongoing problems such as active head cuts, gullies, or washouts along roads.

4) Enhance Bear Creek riparian and fisheries habitats by removing saltcedar, perennial pepperweed, and other noxious plants, replanting with suitable native vegetation as necessary, properly managing grazing for maximum resource benefit, and implementing aquatic habitat improvements such as those involving bio-engineering for erosion control.

5) Any authorized livestock grazing on the former Payne Ranch will be

implemented under strict prescriptions for noxious weed reduction (see Grazing Management discussion at the beginning of this chapter). A grazing plan will be designed to avoid conflict with elk and could use a combination of cattle, goats, or sheep. The overall focus of this plan is habitat improvement through a reduction in noxious weeds.

Academic involvement by researchers from local universities to assist the efforts of BLM will improve the chances of success. As with most experiments, a control area will be identified where no weed reduction work is done. Monitoring of results will be critical, because it may show the need to adjust grazing techniques. Throughout this process habitat improvement goals and milestones will be developed.

6) Protect high density cultural sites by avoiding any new trail construction which could impact these sensitive areas. Carefully evaluate the need for continuing the current level of use on other existing trails in the vicinity of these sensitive cultural sites. If necessary, reroute or close trail segments which could seriously impact these sites.

7) Encourage academic study of invasive weeds, native plant revegetation, oak regeneration, elk management, cultural resources, and other values on the former Payne Ranch. This could be accomplished in cooperation with the University of California, California State Universities, or other academic entities.

8) Develop suitable public access points for non-motorized access to the former Payne Ranch along Highway 16 (see

Proposed Action Map). These locations will become the principle access points to the Colusa County portion of the CCNA and will include parking areas for large and small vehicles, maps, and visitor use information, along with minimal facilities such as a restroom and picnic tables.

Cowboy Camp Trailhead, located at Milepost 1.0 on Highway 16, is currently being developed as a multi-use access site. Facilities being constructed include short-term and long-term parking areas, restrooms, wildlife viewing area with interpretive panels, tables, maps, and other user information. Parking will accommodate larger vehicles such as horse trailers, as well as smaller vehicles. Visitor use will be directed downstream along the existing trail. A crossing point on Bear Creek has been designated to direct users to the existing trail that proceeds up Craig Canyon. Due to the heavy seasonal use by tule elk of the nearby meadow habitat just west of Cowboy Camp Trailhead, this site may be closed as an access point from January 1-March 31 each year if the elk are subjected to an unacceptable level of human disturbance.

Develop an additional access site at High Bridge (milepost 4.5) just south of the second bridge crossing over Bear Creek. This location can include additional facilities for equestrian use, such as camping areas and high lines, and can remain open year-round. It will be necessary to construct up to one mile of new trail links to join with the existing trail that climbs the ridge line near the mouth of Brophy Canyon, as well as constructing a new loop directly to the west of the High Bridge site. Access to these new trail links will also require

crossing Bear Creek at a designated site.

9) Provide an alternate equestrian and mountain bike access from the Judge Davis Trailhead (Zone C) to BLM lands on the former Payne Ranch (Zone D) during the wet weather closure of CDFG lands (3rd Saturday in November through 3rd Saturday in April).

10) Explore options for providing a summer watering source for equestrian use near Roadkill Café.

Zone E (Proposed Action)

1) Manage this area primarily as tule elk habitat and maintain existing habitat improvements in the County Line Ridge area. These improvements include seedings, water developments, and prescribed burns.

2) Barricade known rare plant habitat along the Walker Ridge Road which is currently, or likely to be, impacted by vehicle use. Maintain existing barriers which prevent vehicular access into sensitive habitats along this road (same as for Zone B, as the first mile of the Walker Ridge Road is the dividing line between Zones B and E).

3) Construct and maintain barriers as needed to prevent unauthorized vehicle access from adjacent private lands.

4) Cooperate with private landowners to protect unique resource values such as the rare Townsend's big-eared bat, rare indigenous insect species, and unusual geological features with associated

mining structures found in the Sulphur Creek watershed near Wilbur Springs Resort.

5) Continue to eradicate and control saltcedar on BLM land in the upper tributaries of Sulphur Creek. Seek the cooperation of landowners and the assistance of UC Davis to include this program on private property where these plants have invaded, infesting additional public lands downstream.

6) Allow prescription grazing (see Grazing Management section at the beginning of this chapter) if feasible and effective in achieving vegetation management objectives which benefit elk and other wildlife.

7) Continue current uses on the existing trail for mountain biking, hiking, equestrian use, and hunter access to the public lands. Provide minimum maintenance on the back road from Highway 20 to Wilbur Springs for emergency purposes. Clearly sign all public land so users know when they have reached private property that is not legally accessible.

Zone F (Proposed Action)

1) Coordinate with Yolo County Parks to develop a trail system to accommodate nonmotorized access for hiking, hunting, horseback riding, and mountain biking use. Use established existing routes wherever possible to minimize ground disturbance. Construct connector trails and reroute unacceptably steep and erodible portions of existing routes where necessary. The trail system will

tie in with established public access points. Work with Yolo County to address the issue of an acceptable level of use of summer concessionaire traffic on Road 40 and the Langs Peak Road, along with associated resource damage, dust, etc.

Extend the Blue Ridge Trail further to the south, with possible spur trails to the Knoxville Wildlife Area as opportunities become available. Eventually this trail may extend beyond the boundaries of this CRMP and into the Blue Ridge/Berryessa Natural Area.

2) Continue yearly maintenance of Langs Peak (Buck Island) and Fiske Creek Roads for vehicle access. Yolo County will continue to maintain Road 40 annually from the low water crossing at Cache Creek to the Lake County line.

3) Expand existing facilities at the Yolo County Upper Recreation Site to develop a boating put in/take out. This expansion will facilitate public safety and parking concerns that have been issues at the current site being used at the confluence of Bear and Cache Creeks. Close coordination with Yolo County Regional Parks will be necessary to coordinate use between private and commercial parties.

4) Manage Buck Island for rafting, camping, and other compatible primitive recreational uses. Provide adequate access, camping, and sanitation facilities. Restrict vehicles outside of designated Buck Island recreational access system by signage and installing barriers as needed. Coordinate with Yolo County Regional Parks to ensure an effective permit system for commercial

rafting outfitters who put in at Buck Island.

5) Maintain the Blue Ridge Ranch house and barn, and also reduce vandalism to the house by using as a base of operations. Possibilities include use by Native American tribal members working in the area, Boy Scouts, lodging for a caretaker, use by volunteers, employees working the area on temporary assignment, academic researchers, etc. If this can't be done, and vandalism continues to accelerate the maintenance costs of the house, it may become necessary to remove the house. The barn however will remain, as it is an historic structure.

6) Work with permitted recreation concessionaires in the area to further public recreational opportunities, while maintaining the overall natural character of this part of the CCNA. This may require special stipulations in their permits to prevent incompatible activities from occurring here.

7) Provide adequate roadside parking near the Blue Ridge Ranch house and trailheads for public access. Install signs, barriers, and/or gates to restrict vehicular access into the closed areas off County Road 40 where vehicle use has caused soils damage by encroaching onto trails and into the open oak-meadow habitat. Enforce the vehicle closure by increased BLM and CDFG law enforcement patrols. Install suitable barriers along Fiske Creek Road past Fiske Lake where vehicles have accessed onto CDFG lands in the Knoxville Wildlife Area.

8) Develop and implement an interpretive site plan for the Blue Ridge ranch house area.

9) Provide minimal facilities at Fiske Lake for camping use.