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United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Arcata Planning Area

April 1992



Record of Decision

Arcata Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement



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BLM Mission Statement

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the balanced management of Public Lands and resources and their various values so that they are considered in a combination that will best serve the needs of the American people. Management is based upon the principles of multiple use and sustained yield; a combination of uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources. These resources include recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness, and natural, scenic, scientific and cultural values.

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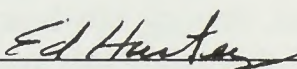
RECORD OF DECISION
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
for
ARCATA RESOURCE AREA

Humboldt, Mendocino, Trinity & Sonoma Counties
California

Prepared by
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Arcata Resource Area
Ukiah District

This document constitutes the Bureau's multiple-use Resource Management Plan (RMP) for 125,000 surface and subsurface acres, and 132,000 subsurface-only (mineral estate) acres of public land in the Arcata Resource Area of California.

The RMP is being implemented after consideration of the alternatives described and analyzed in the Draft and Final Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statements (RMP/EIS). Future land use decisions related to management of the Northern Spotted Owl and its critical habitat (as identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) will be determined through the Bureau's plan amendment process after consideration of the State of California Habitat Conservation Planning effort.



State Director, California

For further information contact: Lynda J. Roush, Area Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Arcata Resource Area
1125 16th Street, Room 219
Arcata, CA 95521

Phone: (707) 822-7648

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ARCATA RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN RECORD OF DECISION

SUMMARY

November 8, 1991

The Arcata Resource Management Plan (RMP) covers approximately 125,000 acres of public lands and 132,000 acres of split estate lands in Humboldt, Mendocino, Trinity and Sonoma Counties. Split estate is where the surface is privately owned and the sub-surface is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The RMP does not include the King Range National Conservation Area.

Seven management areas have been identified for effective analysis and alternate development, as well as to focus the planning effort on issues that involve particular areas.

Management areas:

1. Samoa Peninsula
2. Lacks Creek
3. Butte Creek
4. King Range vicinity
5. Red Mountain
6. Covelo
7. Scattered Tracts

This Plan contains the decisions on all land use proposals presented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). However, the listing of the Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) under provisions of the Endangered Species Act (July 23, 1990), prompted the Arcata Resource Area to reconsider decisions related to the spotted owl and old growth forest values made in the Arcata RMP. The decisions not affected by new information concerning spotted owls and old growth habitat will be implemented. The remainder of the Plan that is affected by this issue will incorporate a decision to preserve management options until further regional planning is completed.

The State of California Habitat Conservation Planning (HCP) effort and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) identification of critical habitat are regional planning efforts which will shape management decisions related to old-growth values. After consideration of these two efforts, an amendment to the Arcata RMP will be prepared with full public participation and environmental review. Public notice will be published in newspapers and the Federal Register. Planning decisions from the amendment process will be subject to public comment and a protest period.

The following issues were addressed in the Resource Management Plan. The decisions contained in this Record of Decision are related to these five issues:

- Spotted owls and other old-growth forest values
- Availability of timber to market
- Land tenure adjustment
- Botanical values (including wetlands) and passive recreation (Samoa Peninsula)
- OHV recreation use (Samoa Peninsula)

Land use decisions dealing with the five major issues are summarized below:

1. Spotted owls and other old-growth values - Four areas totalling about 7,000 acres are designated as RNA/ACEC's to protect approximately 3,680 acres of old growth habitat. Cedar Creek, which is included in the existing Red Mountain ACEC, was previously designated and is brought forward as the fifth area to protect old-growth values. These five (5) old-growth RNA/ACEC's, in addition to the existing Elder Creek (NCCRP) RNA/ACEC, comprise a total of six (6) RNA/ACEC's within the resource area that protect old-growth values. (See Table A.)

Approximately 5,600 acres are identified for acquisition to protect and enhance old growth values.

2. Availability of timber to the market - Sixty-three hundred (6,300) acres of the area's available commercial forest land (CFL) will be removed from the timber base to protect/enhance resource values. Approximately 5,300 acres of CFL are identified for acquisition. Thirteen thousand (13,000) acres of CFL identified for disposal will be reconsidered in light of the State of California HCP effort and the and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) identification of critical habitat.

Approximately 31,400 acres of CFL are available for forest management. However, timber harvests will not be implemented nor available to the market until the State of California HCP and USFWS identification of critical habitat directs management strategies for management of the spotted owl and other old-growth dependent wildlife. This means no "green" timber sales will be offered until this determination is made, and an RMP amendment is completed.

However, the Plan does honor and/or recognize two existing timber sales -- Hoaglin Valley and Elkhorn Ridge. The Hoaglin Valley Timber Sale was sold in 1990. The Arcata Resource Area is presently preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Elkhorn Ridge Timber Sale that will be published for public comment and review in February 1992.

Forest improvement actions such as tree planting, conifer and hardwood thinning will be implemented on 31,400 acres to enhance wildlife habitat, provide greater forest protection, and increase the overall health of the forest.

3. Land tenure adjustment - The Arcata RMP originally identified 76,520 acres of public lands for disposal. Of the 76,520 acres, 45,000 acres (Big Butte Wilderness and WSA - 9,400 acres; Eden Valley-Thatcher Ridge WSA - 24,000 acres, and scattered public lands adjacent to USFS boundaries - 11,600 acres) were to be transferred to the United States Forest Service (USFS). The remaining 31,520 acres would be available for disposal by exchange, sale, etc.

The final RMP/ROD revises acreages for land tenure adjustment. Of 45,000 acres initially recommended for transfer to the USFS, only the Big Butte Wilderness and WSA (9,400 acres) will be transferred. The remainder of the 45,000 acres (35,600 acres) will be retained in public (BLM) ownership.

The remaining 31,520 acres initially identified for disposal are also to be retained in public ownership. After consideration of the State of California HCP effort and the USFWS identification of critical habitat, an RMP amendment will be completed which re-analyzes land tenure for this acreage. However, scattered tracts considered non-essential for these planning efforts may be considered for disposal on a case-by-case basis.

4. Botanical values and passive recreation (Samoa Peninsula) - Passive recreation opportunities are protected and enhanced on the Samoa Peninsula (including Manila Dunes) by fencing the designated closed areas to OHV use. The closed areas will consist of critical sensitive plant and wetland habitat areas. Approximately 240 acres are closed to OHV use.

A regional-wide Humboldt County plan for the coastal dune areas (The Beach and Dunes Management Plan) is presently under preparation. Management actions will be consistent with the county plan.

5. OHV recreational use levels (Samoa Peninsula) - OHV recreational use is enhanced by designating open riding areas and developing facilities on the Samoa Peninsula, thereby substantially increasing visitor use in the area. Approximately 172 acres are open to OHV riding.

A regional-wide Humboldt County plan for the coastal dune areas (The Beach and Dunes Management Plan) is presently under preparation. Management actions will be consistent with the county plan.

TABLE A

ARCATA RESOURCE AREA
RNA/ACEC

NAME	BLM ACEC ACRES	OLD GROWTH HABITAT ACRES	DESIGNATION	MANAGEMENT AREA
1. LACKS CREEK	800	800	RMP/ROD	LACKS CREEK
2. IAQUA BUTTES	1080	390	RMP/ROD	SCATTERED TRACTS
3. BUTTE CREEK	2500	390	RMP/ROD	BUTTE CREEK/ LARABEE
4. GILHAM BUTTES	2550	1320	RMP/ROD	SCATTERED TRACTS
5. CEDAR CREEK	--	810	EXISTING RED MTN. ACEC	RED MOUNTAIN
6. ELDER CREEK (NCCRP)	80	--	ADDITION TO EXISTING ACEC	RED MOUNTAIN
SUBTOTAL	7010	3680	--	--
CEDAR CREEK/ RED MOUNTAIN	6000	--	EXISTING ACEC	RED MOUNTAIN
ELDER CREEK (NCCRP)	3695	1200 (EST.)	EXISTING ACEC	RED MOUNTAIN
TOTAL	16705	4880		

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INTRODUCTION

The Arcata Resource Management Plan (RMP) contains the decisions on all land use proposals presented in the September 1989 Final Environmental Impact Statement. It describes in general terms the monitoring and amendment processes, as well as how each resource will be managed, and what support will be needed.

The decisions not affected by new information and subsequent designations concerning the spotted owl and old-growth habitat will be implemented as described in the Final RMP and outlined below. The remainder of the plan that is affected will incorporate a decision to preserve the management options pending the outcome of new information and in accordance with existing policies for threatened and endangered (T&E) species. These decisions will be revisited and issues resolved in an RMP amendment consistent with the State of California HCP effort, USFWS identification of critical habitat designation, and subsequent recovery plan for the spotted owl. The appropriate level of environmental analysis and public involvement will be conducted.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

The RMP provides a broad framework for multiple-use management on public lands in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) for land use planning (43 CFR 1600). The RMP makes land use allocations, sets broad production goals, and establishes restrictions on resource programs to protect important resource values.

Section 202 of FLPMA requires the Bureau of Land Management to prepare, maintain, and use land use plans. In addition, the CEQ Regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) list land use plans as generally being significant Federal actions requiring preparation of environmental impact statements (40 CFR 1508.18[b][2]). Thus, the Bureau's land use planning process follows procedures outlined in both 43 CFR 1600 and 40 CFR 1500.

The process follows the general outline typical of any decision analysis:

1. Define goals.
2. Scope the issues and collect relevant data.
3. Develop information from the data and scoping process.
4. Evaluate the information and develop alternatives to address significant problems and conflicts.

5. Make a decision (Record of Decision).
6. Implement the decision.
7. Monitor the resources and track implementation of the planning steps.
8. Amend the decision and/or revise the plan when necessary.

In addition to meeting the requirements in FLPMA, the RMP will satisfy specifically the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Arcata Resource Area/Ukiah District's intent to:

1. Identify specific lands suitable for State indemnity selections subject to regional spotted owl and habitat conservation planning.
2. Identify land which the BLM should acquire/consolidate to enhance its mission and to increase overall efficiency and effectiveness of public land management. This would also be subject to regional spotted owl and habitat conservation planning.
3. Identify public lands for permanent forest management. These areas will be managed to enhance wildlife habitat and accelerate recruitment of potential mature forest habitat.
4. Establish criteria and identify public lands for management of old-growth values, especially the northern spotted owl.
5. Identify appropriate uses for public lands on Samoa Peninsula and to identify public land as open, closed or limited to off-road vehicle use (Executive Orders 11644 and 11989).

PLAN STRUCTURE

The Arcata Resource Planning Area has been subdivided into seven (7) individual management areas (MA's) for ease in developing specific land use decisions that more effectively focus on issues that involve particular areas. These MA's will be addressed on an individual basis, describing resource management objectives, land use allocations, management actions, and brief rationale for the particular management direction chosen.



LOCATION MAP

MAP 1-1

GENERAL POLICY AND STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (References are to FLPMA)

1. Management will be on the basis of multiple use (Section 102[a][7]).
2. Management will be on the basis of sustained yield (Section 102[a][7]).
3. Public lands to be disposed of are difficult and uneconomic to manage as part of the public lands and are not suitable for management by another Federal department or agency (Section 203[a][1]).
4. Public lands are to be retained in Federal ownership unless disposal serves the national interest (Section 102[a][1]).
5. Public lands will be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archaeological values; that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition; that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals; and that will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use (Section 102[a][8]).
6. Public lands will be managed in a manner which recognizes the nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber and fiber from the public lands, including the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970, as it pertains to the public lands (Section 102[a][12]).
7. The Bureau will give priority to the designation and protection of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (Section 202[c][3]).
8. The Bureau will weigh long-term benefits to the public against short-term benefits (Section 202[c][7]).
9. The Bureau will consider simplicity of execution of management schemes.
10. Manageability of public lands will consider:
 - a. Safety of the public and BLM personnel with regard to road maintenance, illegal land uses, etc.
 - b. Relative cost-effectiveness of managing individual tracts.
 - c. Fiscal ability of BLM to effectively manage lands and interests (including easements) in the long term.
 - d. Alternative management schemes--creative partnerships with other agencies and organizations.

- e. Willingness of other organizations and agencies to implement their land use plan decisions.
11. The BLM will not dispose of Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's), Research Natural Areas, and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, or other resources of high national interest to non-Federal agencies. Disposal of the habitat of endangered, threatened or sensitive species to non-Federal agencies or nonprofit organizations (e.g., counties, State, The Nature Conservancy) may be considered only if the protection and conservation that would be afforded the habitat following transfer of title equals or exceeds the level afforded by Federal ownership. Such determination would be made by the State Director. Disposal of the habitat of officially listed endangered or threatened species would occur only after consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.
 12. The general areas identified for acquisition are high priority areas which give the BLM direction for land and resource consolidation in order to protect significant resource values, improve manageability and cost-effectiveness. These proposed acquisitions are not intended to be an exhaustive list of every opportunity. Acquisition depends on willingness for sale or exchange, and other opportunities which arise that meet the resource condition objectives.
 13. In instances where the legal descriptions for Special Designation are done by section only, the intent is to automatically include under the designation lands which may be acquired in those sections.
 14. Special Designations for Red Mountain RNA/ACEC and the Northern California Coast Range Preserve ACEC and their management thrusts are not reanalyzed.
 15. This plan establishes the following priorities for disposal of lands and resources (disposal is defined as the transfer of public lands out of BLM administration and includes sales and exchanges, R&PP sales and leases, indemnity selection, and transfer to another Federal trustee):
 - Bureau of Land Management exchange base lands;
 - Other Federal agencies;
 - State agencies;
 - Local governments;
 - Individuals;
 - Any other person (corporations).
 16. BLM will continue to cooperate with the California Department of Fish and Game with regard to deer herd management plans.

17. Site-specific inventories and analyses for threatened and endangered (T&E) species, historic properties (cultural resources), and mineral values are required prior to disposal of public lands and interests. Disposal tracts will also be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for other resource values through a lands feasibility report and environmental review process.
18. Proposed actions, other than land disposals, which would affect T&E species and their habitat will also follow Section 7 consultation pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (1973) as amended.
19. Public lands not discussed in this document, but which are later acquired or identified because of survey error or through resurvey, will follow the resource condition objectives and land use allocations as specified for the management area.
20. Management actions within the coastal zone will be implemented in accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act and implementing regulations. This requires actions to be consistent with approved State coastal zone management programs.

INCORPORATION OF OTHER PLANS

Decisions and recommendations made in the following documents are still valid and are incorporated by reference.

1. Yokayo Grazing EIS. The management of livestock will follow prescriptions of the Yokayo Grazing Record of Decision (Appendix 1-2 regarding Manageability is located in the Arcata RMP FEIS). Unless specifically prohibited by a particular alternative, all "manageable" public land is available for livestock grazing.
2. Wilderness Studies. Wilderness studies for four WSA's (Red Mountain, CA-050-132; Eden Valley, CA-050-241; Thatcher Ridge, CA-050-212; and Big Butte, CA-050-211) are incorporated into this RMP by reference. Refer to Red Mountain EIS, Eden Valley/Thatcher Ridge EIS and Statewide Section 202 (Nonsuitable) EIS.
3. SYU-13 Timber Management Plan/EIS. The BLM is committed to cost-effective, long-term timber management in northwestern California. The basic timber management parameters as presented in the SYU 13 EIS/ROD are not changed. The concept of managed old-growth (MOG) as the preferred silvicultural prescription is still valid. (Appendices 2-1 and 2-2 located in the Arcata RMP FEIS). The 300 acres per spotted owl pair (p. A-12 of Appendix 2-2 located in the Arcata RMP FEIS) may or may not be applicable, depending on the management area and alternatives being addressed. (See Land Use Allocations in Chapter 2 and Environmental Consequences, Chapter 4 of the FEIS).

4. California Vegetative Management EIS. Any herbicide use will be consistent with procedures and limitations outlined in the California Vegetation Management FEIS and Record of Decision (November 1988). The herbicide treatment of 135 acres of grass referenced on p. A-6 of Appendix 2-1 in the FEIS is no longer an identified project.
5. Samoa Dunes OHV Plan. The management of recreation activities on the Samoa Dunes portion of the Samoa Peninsula management area will follow the prescription outlined in the Samoa Dunes Off-Road Vehicle Plan (1982) which is incorporated by reference. An abbreviated description of the project is outlined in Chapter 3 (p. 3-6) of the FEIS document. Also see Chapter 2 (p. 2-4).
6. Mad River Slough and Dune Cooperative Management Plan

A cooperative management plan was finalized and approved in 1990 to cooperatively manage approximately 400 acres of TNC, Louisiana-Pacific and BLM land in the Manila Dunes area.

AREA-WIDE DECISIONS

- No public lands in the planning area are suitable or available for agricultural entry, including Indian Allotments (43 CFR 2530) because of the rugged topography, small tract size, unsuitable soils, and lack of access. No public lands are desert in character (43 CFR 2520); therefore, no public lands are available for disposal under the desert land laws.
- Public lands (including mineral reserve lands) are available for mineral leasing and mineral material sales, and are open to entry under the Mining Law of 1872. All mineral actions must be consistent with Management Area Resource Condition Objectives.

DETERMINATIONS NOT MADE IN THIS PLAN

Bureau planning guidance requires certain decisions to be made during the land use planning process unless they can be derived from other decisions, the resource is not present in the area or has no interest, or if such a decision would be premature at this time. The following determinations meet one or more of these conditions were not addressed in the plan.

- Access Routes. Specific access routes have not been identified, but access which is necessary to meet the resource condition objectives and fully implement the land use allocations will be required.

- VRM Class. Due to the scattered nature and remoteness of the public lands, visual resource management classes are considered to be inventory standards rather than planning decisions; VRM classes will be determined on a site-specific basis through standard VRM inventories, and contrast ratings will be used to mitigate projects which may significantly impact visually sensitive areas.
- Rights-of-Way. Rights-of-way determinations cannot be made at this planning level with any degree of credibility. Federal tracts do not control rights-of-way such as highways or utility corridors. Proposals will be addressed on a site-specific basis.
- Fire. Due to the scattered nature, remoteness, and the relative inaccessibility of the public lands, the California Department of Forestry is responsible for general fire suppression. Deviations from CDF's fire policy will be made on a site-specific basis (Wilderness, ACEC's). Prescribed fire is generally allowed and will be addressed on a site-specific basis through the demands of resource objectives.
- Air Quality. BLM must secure permits from State and local agencies for projects impacting air quality. No specific decisions will be made in this plan.
- Soil and Water Resources. Decisions regarding soil and water objectives will not be made in this plan. Best Management Practices (BMP's) such as the operating parameters for the SYU 13 and Yokayo Grazing Management Records of Decision and the Soil Conservation Service Soil Survey Guidelines will determine general soil and water objectives.
- Historic Properties. Cultural resource values will be assessed on a site-specific basis, generally in response to other resource objectives. All Bureau actions will comply with the National Historic Preservation Act (1966) for the protection of significant cultural resources. An appropriate level of inventory will be done for all actions with a potential to affect these resources. The Bureau will also make a reasonable and good-faith effort to identify and consider contemporary Native American concerns where projects might affect socio-cultural and religious values.
- Minerals Management. Due to the scattered nature of public land, low economic mineral potential, and lack of interest in mineral development within the Resource Area, restrictions and stipulations for mineral development will be determined on a case-by-case basis and consistent with the Resource Condition Objectives prescribed for each MA. The process for reviewing hardrock mineral development proposals will include considerations of California's Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA), and associated coordination with "lead agencies" as defined by SMARA.

MONITORING

Following final approval of this plan, the monitoring plan will include a yearly review of the RMP to determine if it still meets the objectives and goals, public demands, and resource needs as identified in the planning area. Land use allocations and management actions will be tracked and monitored using the Decision Plan Tracking Data Base System.

Every five years, consolidation of adjustments as a result of the annual review will be accomplished by a plan amendment or other means identified in the monitoring plan. A resource monitoring plan for the District has been developed. It identifies standards and guidelines for detailed resource monitoring within the Ukiah District.

MAINTENANCE

This plan will be maintained as necessary to reflect minor changes in data. This maintenance will be limited to refining or documenting previously approved decisions. It will not expand the scope of resource uses or restrictions or change the terms, conditions and decisions of the plan. Maintenance will be documented in supporting records. Formal public involvement will not be necessary to maintain the plan.

AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS

This RMP may be amended or revised as warranted by Manual 1617.4. Major changes are likely to result due to the ongoing regional spotted owl habitat planning. Monitoring and evaluation findings, new data, new or revised policy, a change in circumstances or a proposed action that may result in a change in the scope, terms, or conditions of the plan could warrant an amendment or revision. Amendments are prepared in accordance with provisions under 43 CFR 1610.4-1 through -9. The public and other agencies will be informed of the amendment and revision processes.

AREA-WIDE MANAGEMENT

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING AREA

The planning area is in northwestern California and includes the Arcata Resource Area (except for the King Range National Conservation Area) and those portions of the Clear Lake Resource Area which were not addressed in the recent Clear Lake Management Framework Plan (MFP) or Cow Mountain MFP. The majority of public lands involved in this plan are in Humboldt and Mendocino Counties; small tracts are also in Trinity and Sonoma Counties (Map 1-1). The plan covers approximately 257,000 acres of public land: 125,000 acres of public land and 132,000 acres of split estate where the surface is privately owned and the subsurface managed by the BLM.

For purposes of analysis, the Planning Area was subdivided into seven Management Areas (MA's) based on common features, problems, opportunities, and/or management needs. These MA's represent vegetation types varying from old-growth forests in the north to chaparral, small acreage in the south.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES ANALYZED IN THE PLAN

Spotted Owls and Other Old-Growth Forest Values

The Record of Decision for Sustained Yield Unit 13 recognized the need for protecting habitat of the northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis*). Absent official guidance, a minimum of 300 acres was set aside for each pair of spotted owls. As of 1986, 10 of 19 timber sales in the 10-year timber plan have, or are suspected to have, spotted owls. About 24 million board feet (MMBF) of the 50 MMBF scheduled to be harvested under this plan are affected by this mitigation measure. The trade-off between spotted owls and harvest of old-growth timber needs to be reassessed in view of the unanticipated loss of timber available for harvest, recent research on the habitat requirements of the spotted owl, and BLM policies regarding sensitive species. Remaining spotted owl habitat may not only be threatened by BLM-initiated timber management, but also by disposal to other entities which may not have a multiple-use mandate.

BLM's plan to preserve (at a minimum) old-growth habitat and owls in five management areas provides islands of old-growth to link not only these five areas on BLM-managed lands, but are preserved to link with Forest Service Spotted Owl Management Areas (SOHA's) and with other Federal and State Park lands.

Availability of Timber to Market

There are currently 20,000 acres of commercial forest land which are non-stocked and in need of reforestation. Funding for reforestation has traditionally been limited. In addition, there is a demand for forest lands for non-timber uses such as wilderness, sensitive species and rural residential.

Lands within the Resource Area have also been used for exchange and to settle the in-lieu entitlement (about 5,775 acres of standing volume of 74 MMBF have been selected by the State Lands Commission [SLC] for in-lieu entitlement and about 5,720 acres with standing volume of 41 MMBF have been exchanged with the SLC for desert lands since 1981; 4,300 acres with standing volume of about 90 MMBF [Big Butte unit] were designated wilderness in 1984; and 6,500 acres with 150 MMBF of standing volume have been used for Bureau exchanges). The Federal government still owes the State of California about 52,000 acres worth of in-lieu entitlement. Also, the Bureau's forest land policy, the King Range Act, and other demands for Federal land uses and consolidation present both threats and opportunities for improvement of timber management.

The current commercial forest land base permits harvesting about 6 MMBF per year on a sustained yield basis.

Considering these factors, the issue analyzed was which lands were best retained in the forest base and managed as commercial forest land, and which were best suited for other uses. Analysis focused on costs of reforestation against potential timber production, conflicts between timber management and surrounding land uses, and habitat values gained or lost with timber management emphasis.

Land Tenure Adjustment

There is a need to improve the efficiency and quality of management of the public lands, to enhance the public's use of that land, and to help satisfy the State's in-lieu entitlement. Small, isolated parcels of public land scattered throughout the resource area are difficult to manage, and lack of legal access limits or precludes public use of many of these parcels. Through exchange or disposal of isolated parcels, the BLM would have opportunities to accommodate public works projects and to meet the need for recreation and for residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural land. Such actions could eliminate or reduce management burdens and costs and enhance resource values and land ownership patterns.

Botanical Values (including Wetlands) and Passive Recreation (Samoa Peninsula)

Motorized vehicle use is a major component of recreational activities on the Samoa Peninsula and is expected to increase. This use, if not managed, may adversely impact habitat for Menzies' wallflower, beach layia, and associated communities on the Manila Dunes and Samoa area. Additional attention is needed to protect this habitat and balance its protection with the increasing demand for motorized recreational use.

OHV Recreation Use (Samoa Peninsula)

OHV use in the Samoa and Manila Dunes area is steadily increasing. At the same time, OHV use opportunities within the Resource Area, and particularly coastal areas, are diminishing. Possible restrictions applied in this area would control future OHV use despite a growing demand.

Humboldt County has initiated a Peninsula Plan for recreation use. In the interim, BLM will protect critical dune area, spruce forest, and wetlands and continue to work toward more intensive OHV management.

AREA-WIDE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

A. NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL/HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANNING COORDINATION (SPOTTED OWLS AND OTHER OLD GROWTH VALUES)

The Record of Decision (ROD) preserves management options involving the northern spotted owl and old-growth habitat until after consideration of the State of California HCP and the USFWS identification of critical habitat.

As a result of written input from the public concerned with old-growth values, recommendations from the Ukiah District Advisory Council and additional input solicited from an old-growth study group, five areas will be given old-growth reserve status in this plan and designated as RNA/ACEC's. They include: Lacks Creek (800-acre old-growth reserve will be designated as an 800-acre RNA/ACEC), Butte Creek (360-acre old-growth reserve will be incorporated into a 2,500-acre RNA/ACEC), Iaqua Buttes (390-acre old-growth reserve will be incorporated into a 1,080-acre RNA/ACEC), and Gilham Buttes (1,320-acre old-growth reserve will be incorporated into a 2,550-acre RNA/ACEC). Cedar Creek (810-acre old-growth reserve) will be identified within the existing Red Mountain ACEC). Charles Creek/White Slide, Jewett Rock and Hulls Creek old-growth reserves were again looked at during the DEIS review process but were not included into the reserve system.

These five (5) old-growth RNA/ACEC's, in addition to the existing Elder Creek (NCCRP) RNA/ACEC, comprise a total of six (6) RNA/ACEC's within the resource area that protect old-growth values. (See Table A.)

Approximately 5,600 acres are identified for acquisition to protect and enhance old growth values.

B. FOREST MANAGEMENT (AVAILABILITY OF TIMBER TO THE MARKET)

Forest management will be tied in directly with all aspects of forest development and improvement to provide future wildlife habitat, watershed rehabilitation and biodiversity within the Resource Area's available CFL.

Sixty-three hundred (6,300) acres of the area's available commercial forest land (CFL) will be removed from the timber base to protect/enhance resource values. Approximately 5,300 acres of CFL are identified for acquisition. Thirteen thousand (13,000) acres of CFL identified for disposal will be reconsidered in light of the State of California HCP effort and the and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) identification of critical habitat.

Approximately 31,400 acres of CFL are available for forest management. However, timber harvests will not be implemented nor available to the market until the State of California HCP and USFWS identification of critical habitat efforts provide direction and management strategies for management of the spotted owl and other old-growth dependent wildlife. This means that no "green" timber sales will be offered until this determination is made.

However, the Plan does honor and/or recognize two existing timber sales -- Hoaglin Valley and Elkhorn Ridge. The Hoaglin Valley Timber Sale was sold in 1990. The Arcata Resource Area is presently preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Elkhorn Ridge Timber Sale that will be published for public review and comment in February 1992.

Timber stand improvement (TSI) work will be implemented on approximately 31,400 acres to accelerate the recruitment of mature (old growth) forests as well as improve existing forest land. TSI work will also be used, as needed, to prevent and/or control insect or fire damage, and to reduce fire hazard and would include limited salvage sales, pre-commercial thinning of conifers and hardwoods, brush control and tree planting. All silvicultural activities will be subject to the Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation process involving T&E species and critical habitat.

CFL within designated old-growth reserves (RNA/ACEC) will not be subject to forest improvement practices until activity level plans are written to address forest improvement.

Inventory of the Resource Area forest land for stand structure, condition and wildlife species occurrence would continue in order to gather data for regional habitat conservation planning efforts.

C. DISPOSAL AND ACQUISITION (LAND TENURE ADJUSTMENTS)

The Arcata RMP originally identified 76,520 acres of public lands for disposal. Of the 76,520 acres, 45,000 acres (Big Butte Wilderness and WSA - 9,400 acres; Eden Valley-Thatcher Ridge WSA - 24,000 acres, and scattered public lands adjacent to USFS boundaries - 11,600 acres) were to be transferred to the United States Forest Service (USFS). The remaining 31,520 acres would be available for disposal by exchange, sale, etc.

The final RMP/ROD revises acreages for land tenure adjustment. Of 45,000 acres initially recommended for transfer to the USFS, only the Big Butte Wilderness and WSA (9,400 acres) will be transferred. The remainder of the 45,000 acres (35,600 acres) will be retained in public (BLM) ownership.

The remaining 31,520 acres initially identified for disposal are also to be retained in public ownership. After consideration of the State of California HCP effort and the USFWS identification of critical habitat, an RMP amendment will be completed which re-analyzes land tenure for this acreage. However, scattered tracts considered non-essential for these

planning efforts may be considered for disposal on a case-by-case basis. State-wide pooling agreements and lands outside of the resource area will also be utilized to acquire lands containing critical wildlife habitat, to improve manageability of public lands, and to protect other significant resource values.

D. OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

1. As part of the management actions for the Scattered Tracts, Covelo and Red Mountain Management Areas.

Complete activity plans for main stem Eel, South Fork of the Eel, North Fork Eel, Middle Fork Eel, and Van Duzen Wild and Scenic Rivers. In the interim, these rivers will be managed as wild and scenic rivers using one-quarter mile corridor on either side. A Wild and Scenic River eligibility determination will be completed (1991-1992) for the Arcata Resource Area and certain portions of Clear Lake Resource Area (Scattered Tracts Management Area) to determine significant tributaries and creeks meeting Wild and Scenic River eligibility.

2. Wilderness/WSA Management

The areas studied for wilderness within the Resource Area (excluding the King Range area) are the Red Mountain (CA-050-132), Big Butte (CA-050-211), Thatcher Ridge (CA-050-212), and Eden Valley (CA-050-214). These areas will be managed so as not to impair their suitability for preservation as wilderness under IMP guidelines. Final Wilderness Study Reports were submitted to Washington Office in 1990 to begin the process for Congressional decision on wilderness designation. In July 1991, Congress received the Bureau's recommendations for wilderness consideration.

Wilderness consideration for the Cahto Peak (CA-050-131), Elkhorn Ridge (CA-050-134), Brush Mountain (CA-050-135) blocks was re-addressed in public comment on the Draft Arcata Resource Management Plan (RMP) in 1987.

Public comment strongly urged that the Bureau reconsider its recommendation for wilderness based on the acquisition of private lands within the watershed. Based on this public concern, the BLM did another inventory of the lands in Elkhorn Ridge and Brush Mountain, including acquired lands along the South Fork Eel River. The new inventory considered wilderness criteria as identified in the Wilderness Act of 1964: Size (at least 5,000 acres of contiguous, roadless area of public lands), Naturalness and Outstanding Opportunities for either Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation. It was determined from this inventory that the area does not qualify for wilderness study and, therefore, is not recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

The Decision was appealed again (the original inventory in 1979 was also appealed) to IBLA. The Board upheld the Bureau's decision that the area did not qualify for wilderness study.

The Yolla Bolly/Big Butte Wilderness Area (California Wilderness Bill 1986) will be managed jointly until transfer with the USFS is completed.

3. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

Current ACEC's covered by the RMP and managed by the Arcata Resource Area are the Red Mountain ACEC and the Elder Creek ACEC (managed in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy and University of California). The Red Mountain ACEC includes one old-growth area (Cedar Creek) which will be managed as a research natural area along with four other areas that are being designated by this plan (ACEC's/RNA).

MANAGEMENT AREA DECISIONS

LAND USE DECISIONS/RATIONALE BY MANAGEMENT AREA

MANAGEMENT AREA 1: SAMOA PENINSULA - 412 acres

I. RESOURCE CONDITION OBJECTIVES

Samoa Dunes

1. Provide opportunities for off-road vehicle recreation.
2. Protect specific populations of Menzies' wallflower (*Erysimum menziesii*), beach layia (*Layia carnososa*), coastal wetlands, and other natural values.
3. Provide opportunities for other non-consumptive recreational uses (hiking, sightseeing, bird watching, picnicking).

Manila Dunes

1. Enhance natural values.
2. Facilitate research and educational uses of unique dune ecosystems.
3. Provide limited opportunities for off-road vehicle recreation.

II. LAND USE ALLOCATIONS (See Map 2-1)

1. Public lands are not available for disposal. Cooperative management agreements with local government or interest groups may be acceptable.
2. Protect sensitive species according to the BLM Sensitive Species Policies (Appendices 2-3 and 2-4 located in the Arcata RMP FEIS). T&E species management will follow Section 7 consultation procedures in accordance with the Endangered Species Act. Species proposed for listing, such as the beach layia, will follow USFWS conferencing requirements concerning the conservation and recovery of proposed federally listed species.
3. Off-Road Vehicle Designations pursuant to 43 CFR 8340:

Samoa Dunes:	175 acres - CLOSED
	125 acres - OPEN
Manila Dunes:	65 acres - CLOSED
	47 acres - OPEN

4. Develop OHV park (staging area, riding trails, etc.) on the Samoa Dunes (see Appendix 3-1 of RMP-FEIS). First phase of OHV park was completed in May 1989. Minor improvements and maintenance will continue.
5. Designate the entire 112 acres of the Manila Dunes as an Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) and Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) for protection and interpretation of natural values. Allow for limited, controlled OHV use.

T.6N., R.1W., HM, Sections 26, 27, 34, 35.

6. Entire MA is closed to firearm shooting.
7. Public lands are not available for mineral material sales.
8. Public lands are not available for livestock permits or leases.
9. Forty (40) acres on Samoa Dunes are available for temporary use on a periodic basis by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for jetty construction and maintenance.

III. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

1. Federal Register notices:
 - a. OHV designations;
 - b. ONA/ACEC designation.
2. Prepare an ACEC activity plan for Manila Dunes after completion of Humboldt County Beach and Dunes Management Plan. ACEC plan to be consistent with this plan.
3. Continue to apply for "Green Sticker" funds for Samoa Dunes.
4. Monitor cultural resources, Menzies' wallflower, and beach layia.
5. Contact universities, local schools, and The Nature Conservancy for expression of interest in research and cooperative management of the Manila Dunes (Cooperative management plan developed in 1990 for portion of Manila Dunes area and the Mad River Slough and Dunes CMA).
6. Continue to seek local government assistance for management.
7. Post boundaries.

Rationale

PRESENT SITUATION - SAMOA PENINSULA

Samoa Dunes. The Samoa Dunes Off-Road Vehicle Plan was completed in 1982. The objective was to regulate and manage OHV use by segregating recreational uses into zones to limit use conflicts. The majority of the project has been funded through the California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Commission.

This plan will protect the unique biotic and wetland values, while at the same time allow for OHV use and other more passive recreational activities. A 40-acre portion of the area has already been fenced to protect the existing Menzies' wallflower habitat. Design plans for the area have already been completed.






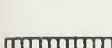
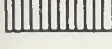

Manila Dunes. This area is unique both to BLM and to California. It contains active and stabilized sand dunes, wetlands, and sensitive plants. This area is only a few miles from Arcata and Eureka, and will provide an outstanding opportunity for environmental education through local schools and Humboldt State University.

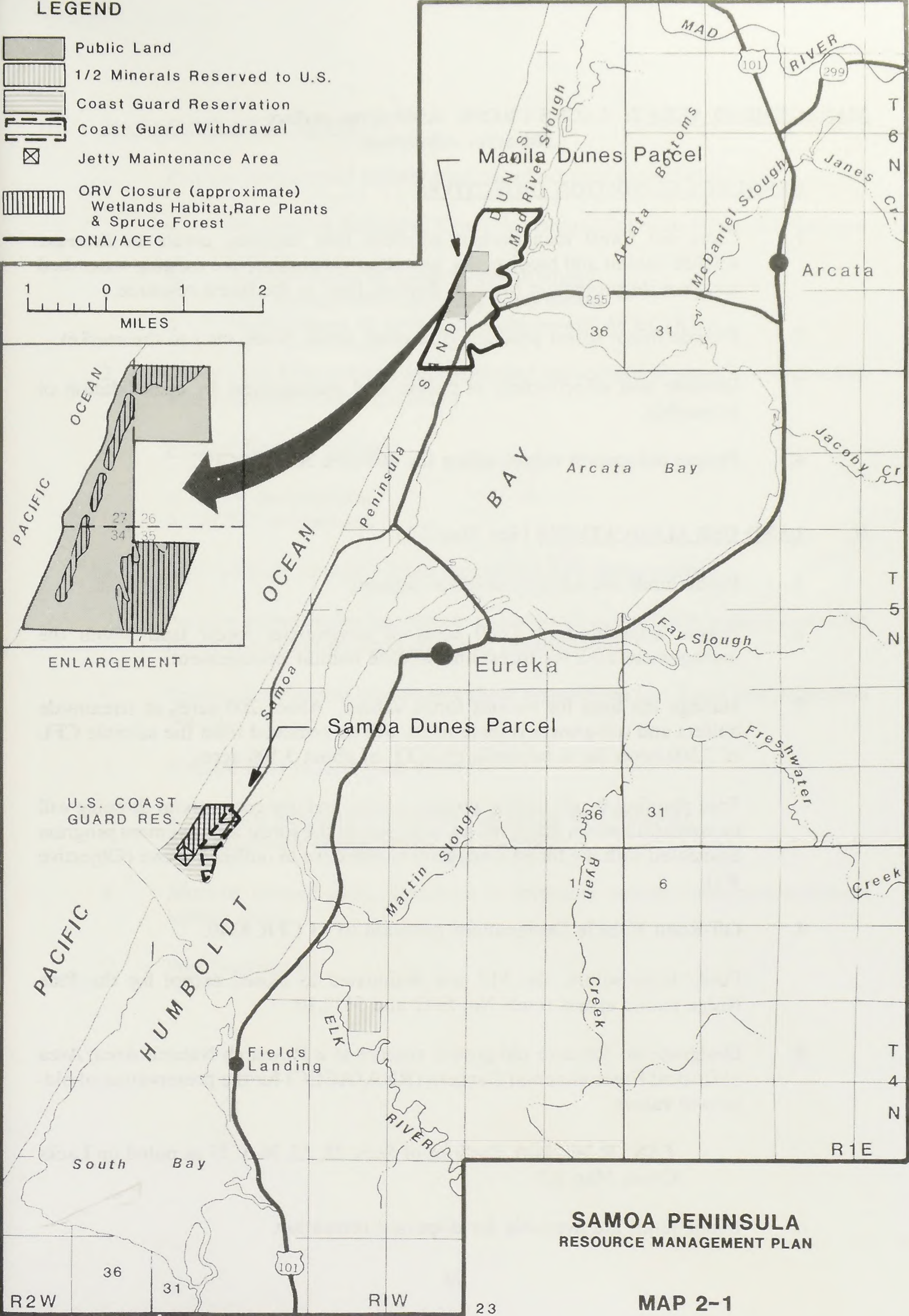
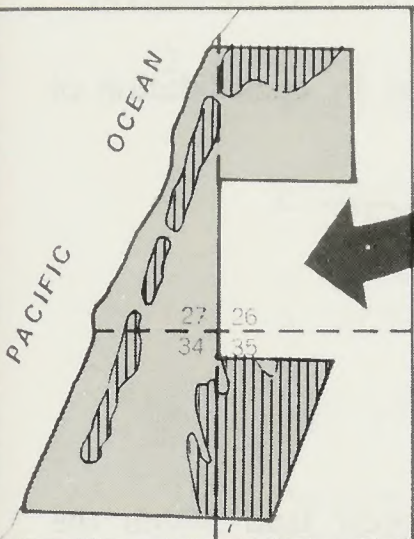
Much of the area is being used by OHV's. The use has caused extensive damage to the dune communities throughout the area and is unacceptable. Therefore, OHV use is confined to 47 acres of mostly unvegetated sand dunes. Approximately 65 acres of foredune habitat and spruce forest is closed to all OHV use.

Because of its unique natural values, this area will be designated as an ACEC. The area itself will be managed through cooperative agreements with Louisiana-Pacific and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Seek assistance from TNC and Humboldt State students to develop a plan for the area and to do much of the on-the-ground work.

An activity plan for the Manila Dunes area will be prepared after the completion of the regional wide beach and dunes county plan for the coastal dune areas. Management direction and all on-the-ground activities on the peninsula will be consistent with this plan.

LEGEND

-  Public Land
-  1/2 Minerals Reserved to U.S.
-  Coast Guard Reservation
-  Coast Guard Withdrawal
-  Jetty Maintenance Area
-  ORV Closure (approximate)
-  Wetlands Habitat, Rare Plants & Spruce Forest
-  ONA/ACEC



**SAMOA PENINSULA
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

MAP 2-1

MANAGEMENT AREA 2: LACKS CREEK 4,500 acres surface
500 acres subsurface

I. RESOURCE CONDITION OBJECTIVES

1. Carry out forest management activities that improve, create or increase wildlife habitat and biodiversity, as well as rehabilitate the existing watershed and provide protection (insects, disease, fire) to the forest resource.
2. Provide minor forest products (firewood, seeds, poles, etc.) to the market.
3. Improve cost effectiveness of public land management by consolidation of ownership.
4. Protect old-growth values within the 800-acre RNA/ACEC.

II. LAND USE ALLOCATIONS (See Map 2-2)

1. Public lands are not available for disposal.
2. Pursue acquisition of 1,800 acres of commercial forest land within the management area for forest and wildlife habitat management.
3. Manage the area for various forest values. About 200 acres of streamside buffers and old-growth reserve areas will be removed from the suitable CFL of 3,300 acres for a net available CFL of about 3,100 acres.

Tree planting, brush and hardwood release and pre-commercial thinning will be concentrated on this 3,100 acres as part of the forest improvement program associated with the forest management objective as outlined above (Objective #1).

4. Off-Road Vehicle Designations pursuant to 43 CFR 8340.

Public lands within the MA are designated as closed except for the Pine Ridge public access roads No. 5111 and 5111.10.

5. Designate an 800-acre old-growth reserve as a Research Natural Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern (RNA/ACEC) for the preservation of old-growth values.

T.8N., R.3E., HM, Portions of Secs. 22, 23, 26 & 27 as noted on Lacks Creek Map 2-2.

6. Public lands are available for dispersed recreation.

III. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

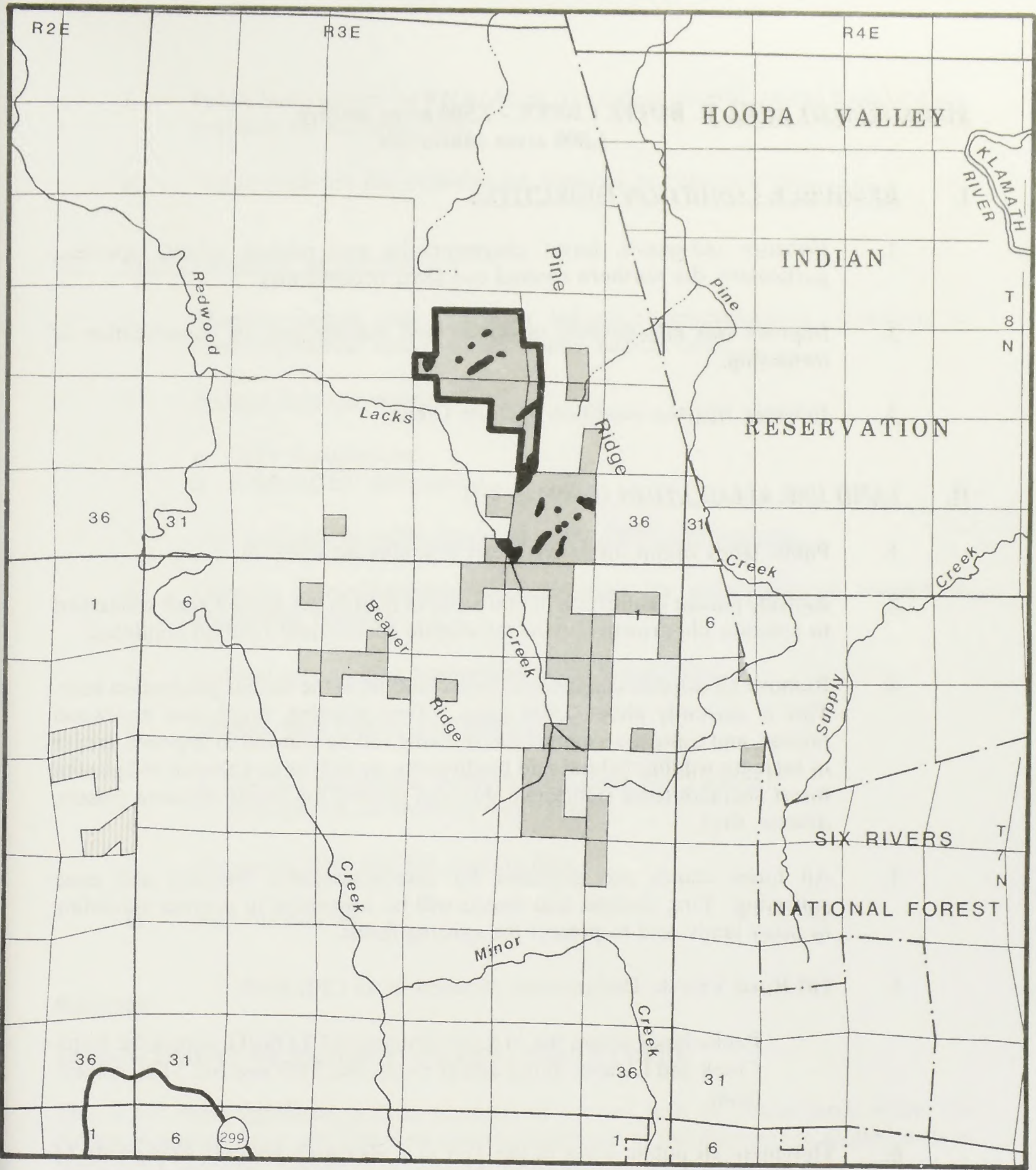
1. Prepare a watershed activity plan to reflect (not exclusively):
 - a. Monitoring Redwood Creek in conjunction with Redwood National Park;
 - b. Rehabilitation of Lacks Creek drainage.
 - c. Fire management, including suppression.
 - d. Management of an 800 acre old-growth ACEC/RNA .
2. Include this MA in forest improvement/ rehabilitation plans in coordination with Redwood National Park.
3. Federal Register notices:
 - a. OHV designations;
 - b. ACEC designation.
4. Sign entrance to public lands regarding OHV designations.
5. Acquire nonexclusive/permanent access to all public lands without access for forest enhancement, protection and rehabilitation.
6. Contact surrounding landowners about acquisitions (re: Land Use Allocation No. 2).
7. Prepare land reports(s) to address:
 - a. Specific acquisition methods (regarding No. 6 above);
 - b. Site-specific requirements and problems.
8. Monitor spotted owls. Continue to inventory habitat conservation/critical habitat areas.
9. Post boundaries.

Rationale

FOREST MANAGEMENT/WATERSHED PROTECTION - LACKS CREEK

Approximately 800 acres of this area are identified as an old-growth reserve area. This will help protect downstream resources on BLM and Redwood National Park lands, as well as provide a significant amount of old-growth habitat to enhance the Resource Area's old-growth reserve system.

This area contains significant resource values. The area is readily accessible; most of the necessary road system is in place. Significant wildlife, recreational, and watershed resources exist, along with 32 MMBF of commercial softwoods and 7,000 cords of fuelwood (hardwoods) on about 3,100 acres of available CFL.



LEGEND

- Public Land
- Minerals Reserved to U.S.
- "Old-growth" Timber Stand
- RNA/ACEC



**LACKS CREEK
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

MANAGEMENT AREA 3: BUTTE CREEK - 2,500 acres surface
1,500 acres subsurface

I. RESOURCE CONDITION OBJECTIVES

1. Enhance old-growth forest characteristics and related wildlife species--particularly the northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis*).
2. Improve cost effectiveness of public land management by consolidation of ownership.
3. Enhance riparian condition in Butte Creek.

II. LAND USE ALLOCATION (See Map 2-3)

1. Public lands within the MA are not available for disposal.
2. Actively pursue acquisition of 900 acres of land in the Butte Creek watershed to enhance old-growth dependent wildlife species and riparian condition.
3. Remove all suitable commercial forest land from the timber production base. This is currently about 2,100 acres. Tree planting, brush and hardwood release, and some pre-commercial thinning will be allowed to improve, create or increase wildlife habitat and biodiversity, as well as to enhance old-growth forest characteristics (Objective #1) and protect the forest resource (insect, disease, fire).
4. All forest stands are available for nonconsumptive research and cone collecting. Fire, disease, and insects will be controlled to prevent spreading to other lands, and to protect the existing forest.
5. Off-Road Vehicle Designations pursuant to 43 CFR 8340:

Public lands within the MA are designated CLOSED, except for Butte Creek and Larabee Butte access roads, No. 5107 and No. 5112, respectively.

6. Designate all public lands in the MA as a Research Natural Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern (RNA/ACEC) for the preservation of old-growth and wildlife habitat values.

T.1N., R.4E., HM, Secs. 17, 20-23, 27, 34, 35.

T.1S., R.4E., HM, Secs. 1, 2, 3.

7. Public lands within the RNA/ACEC (including mineral reserve lands) are not available for material sales.
8. Public lands are not available for livestock permits or leases.

III. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

1. Monitor spotted owls and other old-growth characteristics. Continue to inventory habitat conservation/ critical habitat areas.
2. Federal Register notices:
 - a. OHV designations;
 - b. RNA/ACEC designation.
3. Sign entrance to public lands regarding OHV designations.
4. Contact universities/research institutions for expressions of interest in conducting research.
5. Contact surrounding landowners about acquisitions.
6. Prepare land report(s) to address:
 - a. Specific acquisition methods (regarding No. 5 above);
 - b. Site-specific inventories/requirements.
7. Prepare a RNA/ACEC Activity Plan.
8. Post boundaries.

Rationale

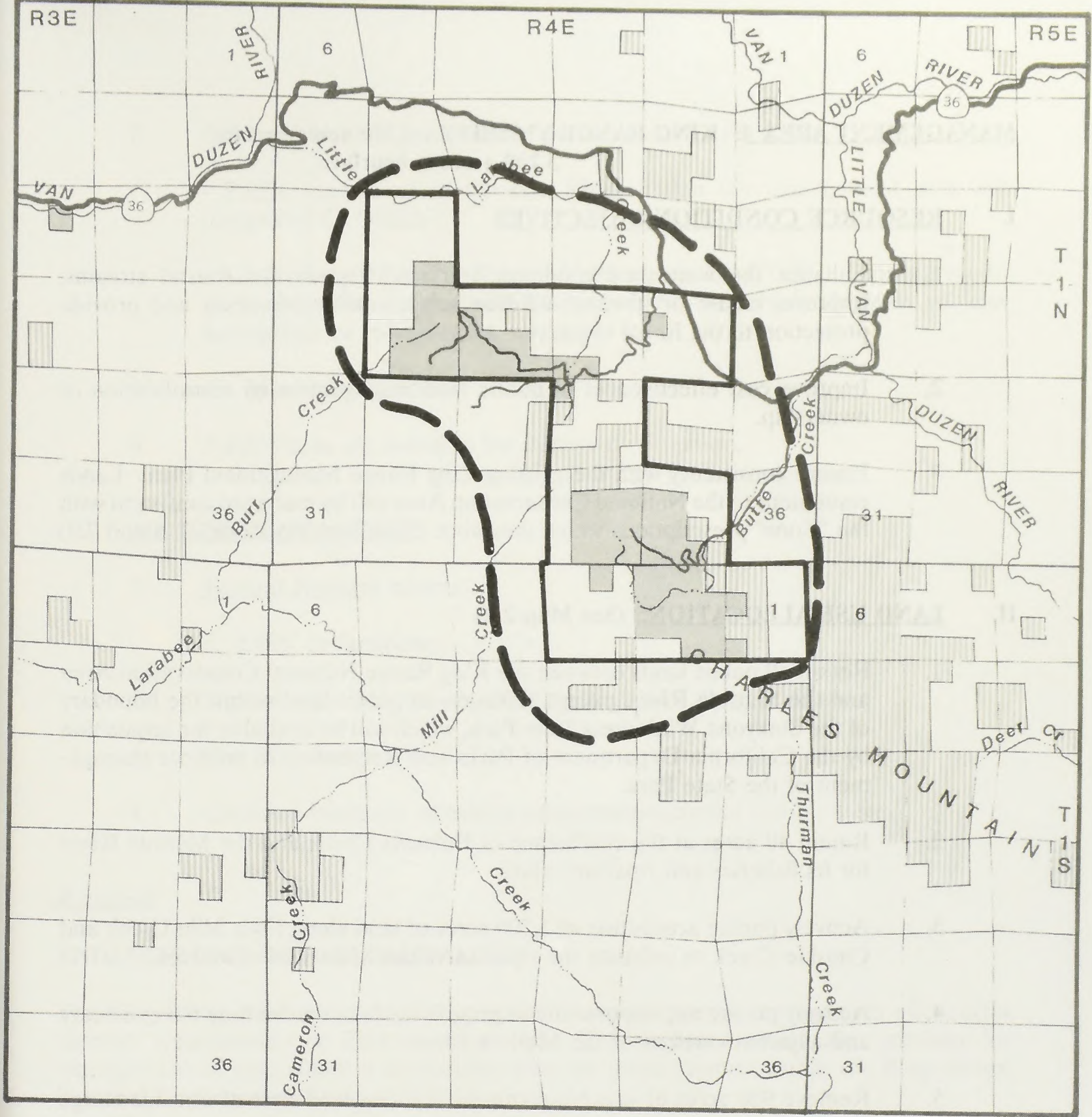
ENHANCEMENT OF NATURAL VALUES - BUTTE CREEK

This is the most significant area in numbers of spotted owls on public lands within the Arcata Resource Area, and this area may be significant to the dispersal of spotted owls in Northern California. While it is also the Resource Area's most productive timberland, realistically, spotted owls and intensive timber management cannot be expected to coexist indefinitely on the same small block of land.


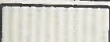


Specific considerations:

- Bureau Manual 6850 states, in part, "The fundamental objective is to maintain or increase current population levels of sensitive animals."

- The Bureau's policy for T&E species management as outlined in the ESA has a goal of "preventing deterioration of T&E species habitat, thereby precluding the need for continued listing of the species," and that to do this the Resource Area will "promote the enhancement of T&E species habitat."
- Area contains four breeding pair of spotted owls.
- Inadequate information exists for spotted owls generally within their range, on juvenile survival, first reproductive age and rate, and dispersal of birds (Audubon 1986). Until there is more information available, the Resource Area will be cautious in making resource decisions. Regional habitat conservation planning and identification of critical fish and wildlife habitat may show this to be vital in the overall recovery of the spotted owl and old-growth related species.
- The Butte Creek area is about 10 miles from Forest Service Spotted Owl Habitat Areas (SOHA's) and from State Parks containing old-growth forests. The Butte Creek management area may provide an island, or stepping stone (connectivity), to aid owls in dispersal, breeding and gene pool mixing.
- Area has excellent old-growth characteristics with a large owl population, and is an outstanding candidate for RNA/ACEC status.



LEGEND

-  Public Land
-  Minerals Reserved to U.S.
-  Management Area Boundary
-  RNA/ACEC

**BUTTE CREEK
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**



MANAGEMENT AREA 4: KING RANGE VICINITY - 3,780 acres surface
3,200 acres subsurface

I. RESOURCE CONDITION OBJECTIVES

1. Enhance the watershed condition and visual quality of coastal streams. Improve, create or increase wildlife habitat and biodiversity and provide protection to the forest resource.
2. Improve cost effectiveness of public land management by consolidation of ownership.
3. Ensure consistency with the existing King Range Management Plan. Lands contiguous to the National Conservation Area will be managed consistent with the "Zone" prescriptions which they abut. This involves Zones 2, 6 and 7.

II. LAND USE ALLOCATIONS (See Map 2-4)

1. Retain all public lands between the King Range National Conservation Area and the Mattole River, except 120 acres of public land within the boundary of the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park, which will be available for acquisition by the California Department of Parks and Recreation to enhance management of the State Park.
2. Retain 40 acres at the confluence of Eubanks Creek and the Mattole River for its fisheries and riparian values.
3. Actively pursue acquisition of 1,200 acres of land along Four Mile Creek and Cooskie Creek to enhance the riparian values and visual resources.
4. Actively pursue any opportunity to acquire lands in the Mattole River estuary and adjacent corridor of the Mattole River.
5. Remove 900 acres of suitable commercial forest land west of Cooskie Ridge from the timber production base. Include all other suitable commercial forest land in the management area, except for streamside buffers, in the CFL production base. No annual allowable cut is planned for the next 100 years. Forest management activities include tree planting, brush/hardwood release and pre-commercial thinning as part of the forest improvement program.
6. Actively pursue acquisition of 1,000 acres of forest land adjacent to Zone 6 in the King Range National Conservation Area (Jewett Ridge and Bear Creek) for long-term forest and wildlife habitat management.

7. Off-Road Vehicle Designations pursuant to 43 CFR 8340:
 - Public lands west of Cooskie Ridge within the management area are designated CLOSED.
 - Lands east of Cooskie Ridge: Vehicles are LIMITED to existing roads; roads are defined as transportation facilities designed for highway vehicles having four or more wheels.
8. No Special Designations.
9. Public lands are available for dispersed recreation.

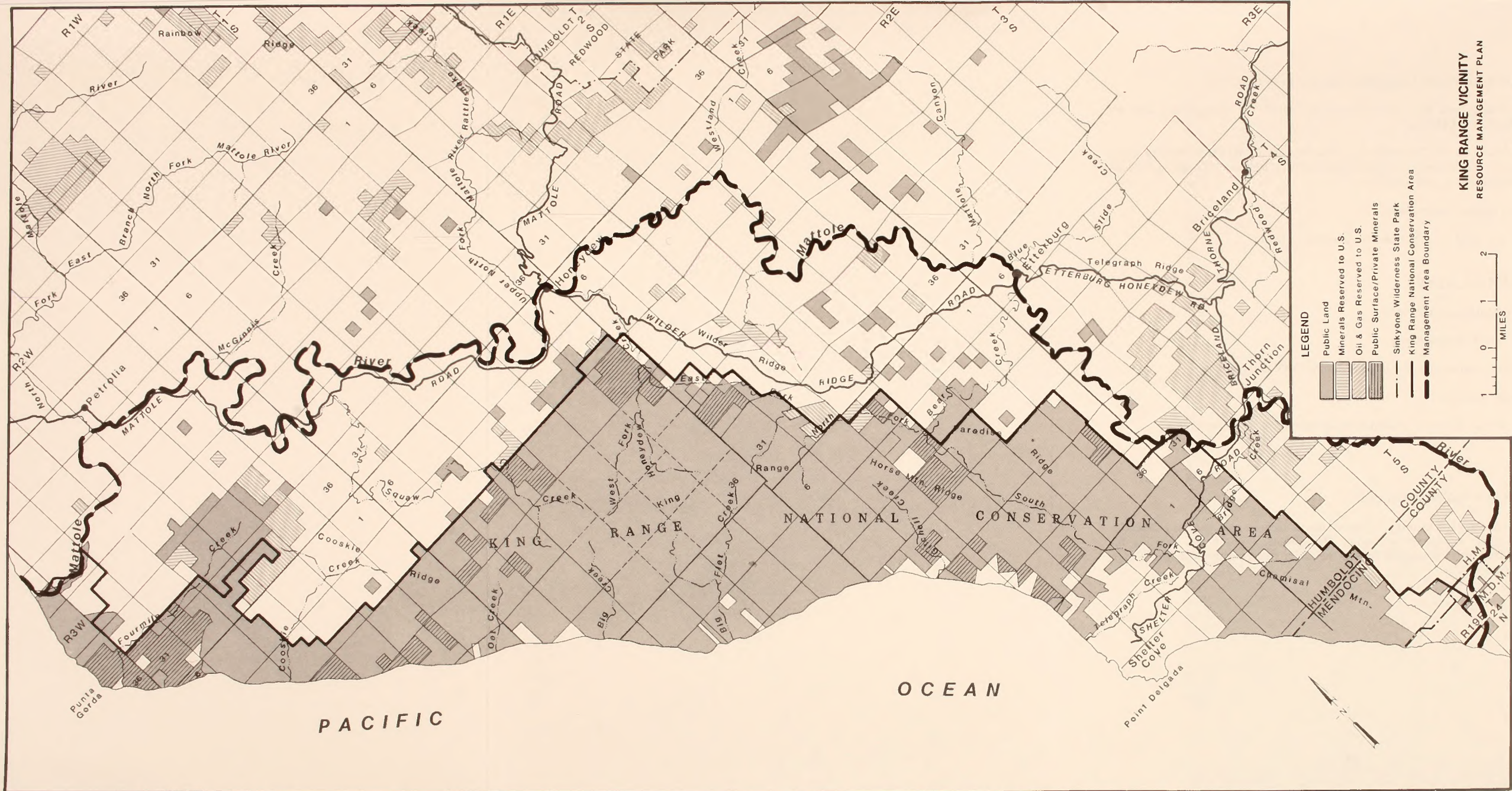
III. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

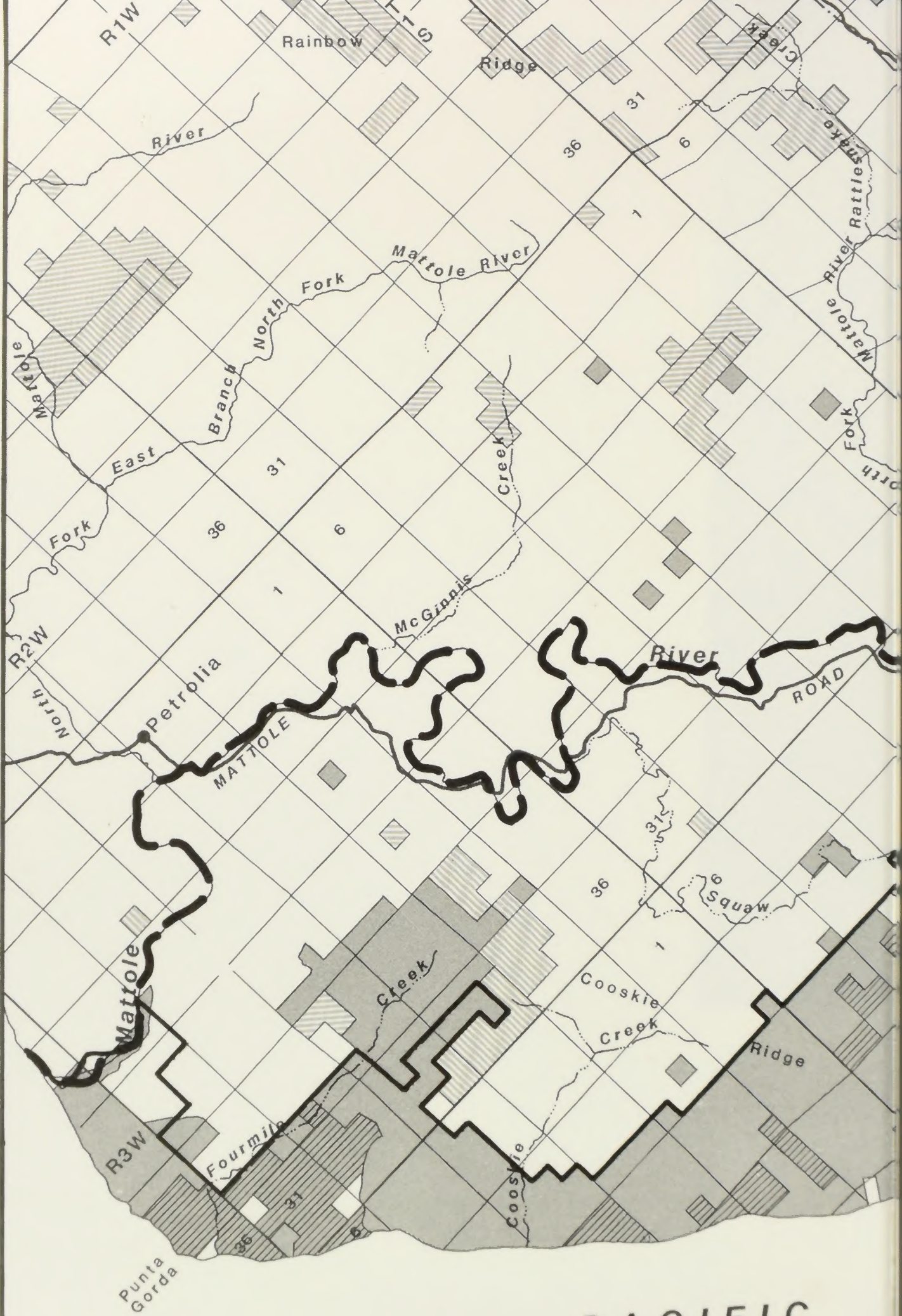
1. Federal Register notices:
 - a. OHV designations.
2. Sign entrance to public lands regarding OHV designations.
3. Post boundaries.
4. Continue inventory of habitat conservation/critical habitat areas.

Rationale

ENHANCEMENT OF NATURAL VALUES

The King Range Vicinity is a logical geographic area to improve management efficiencies through consolidation of Federal ownership. The proposed action also provides for management of land which is compatible with the major themes within the King Range National Conservation Area.





PACIFIC

**MANAGEMENT AREA 5: RED MOUNTAIN 31,300 acres surface
14,000 acres subsurface**

I. RESOURCE CONDITION OBJECTIVES

1. Enhance old-growth forest characteristics and related wildlife species. Provide islands of old-growth, mixed-evergreen forest.
2. Enhance and facilitate protection of unique botanical values--particularly (*Arabis mcdonaldiana*).
3. Protect nests and foraging habitat of peregrine falcons.
4. Enhance riparian habitat and anadromous fish streams.
5. Facilitate and encourage scientific research of the unique soils on Red Mountain.
6. Enhance the natural values within the Northern California Coast Range Preserve.
7. Protect and enhance natural and recreational values along the federally designated portions of the South Fork Eel River Wild and Scenic River Corridor.
8. Carry out forest management activities that improve, create or increase wildlife habitat and biodiversity, and provide protection to the forest resource (insects, disease & fire).
9. Improve cost effectiveness of public land management by consolidation of ownership.

II. LAND USE ALLOCATIONS (See Map 2-5)

1. Retain 31,300 acres of public lands within the MA. The following 3,000 acres will be assessed for disposal on a case-by-case basis, subject to the State of California HCP and USFWS identification of critical habitat.

T.4S., R.5E., HM, Sections 14, 15, 22, 27, 33, 34.

T.5S., R.5E., HM, Sections 2-4, 8, 14, 15, 17-19, 20, 22, and 23.

T.5S., R.4E., HM, Sections, 25-27, 32 and 33.

T.24N., R.15W., MDM, Sections 11 and 12.

T.23N., R.15W., MDM, Sections 17, 18, and 20.

2. Actively pursue acquisition of:
 - a. Approximately 3,500 acres of commercial forest land within the management area for forest management. This would include wildlife habitat enhancement and biodiversity as outlined in Objective #8 and Land Use Allocation #4.
 - b. Up to 2,600 acres of land in the Charlton Creek and Bell Springs Creek watersheds to protect peregrine falcon nesting sites and foraging areas.
 - c. 900 acres of land along the South Fork Eel River between Elkhorn Ridge and Brushy Mountain to protect riparian values.

Identified acquisitions will be consistent with regional conservation planning and the identification of critical habitat effort.

3. Remove suitable commercial forest land in the following areas from the timber production base:
 - a. Northern California Coast Range Preserve.
 - b. Cedar Creek portion of the Red Mountain ACEC (T.23N., R.17W., MDM, Section 1).
 - c. Wild and Scenic River Corridor.
 - d. Stream buffers as specified in SYU 13 environmental impact statement.
4. Implement forest management activities on about 16,000 acres which includes tree planting, brush and hardwood release, and pre-commercial thinning as part of the forest improvement program.
5. Protect sensitive species according to the BLM California Sensitive Species Policies (Appendices 2-3 and 2-4 of RMP-FEIS).
6. Off-Road Vehicle Designations pursuant to 43 CFR 8340:
 - Public lands within the Wild and Scenic River Corridor and the NCCRP and Red Mountain ACEC's are designated CLOSED.
 - All other public lands: Vehicles are LIMITED to roads; roads are defined as transportation facilities designed for highway vehicles having four or more wheels.
7. Add about 80 acres in Stoten Opening to the Northern California Coast Range Preserve ACEC:
 - T.21N., R.15W., MDM, Section 6, that portion in the Elder Creek watershed.

8. Manage the South Fork of the Eel River Wild and Scenic River Corridor (measured horizontally, 1/4 mile from normal high water line on either side of the river) in accordance with the Department of Interior's Wild and Scenic River Guidelines, Appendix 2-5 of RMP-FEIS (Federal Register, Volume 47, No. 173, pg. 39454, Section III) until a management plan is completed.
9. Public lands are available for dispersed recreation. (There are some restrictions on recreational uses within the NCCRP which still apply--no shooting, hunting or fishing, camping, equestrian use.)
10. The Red Mountain RNA/ACEC is not available for mineral material sales. The NCCRP is to be withdrawn from entry under the 1872 Mining Law and is not available for mineral leasing or material sales. (See Rationale, Page 39.)
11. The RNA/ACEC's are not available for livestock grazing.

III. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

1. Implement *Arabis* Recovery Plan.
2. Fully implement ACEC plans for Red Mountain and the Northern California Coast Range Preserve.
3. Prepare a wild and scenic river management plan for the portion of South Fork of the Eel River administered by BLM. Complete remaining management plans on the Eel River utilizing an interagency cooperative management planning approach. Provide interim management protection to these river corridors until plans are completed.
4. Federal Register notices:
 - a. OHV designations;
 - b. ACEC designation (regarding Land Use Allocation No. 7).
5. Sign entrance to public lands regarding OHV designations.
6. Acquire easements to public lands without adequate access.
7. Contact universities and other research institutions for expressions of interest in conducting research.
8. Contact surrounding landowners about acquisitions (see Land Use Allocation No. 2).

9. Prepare land report(s) to address:
 - a. Site-specific problems;
 - b. Specific acquisition methods (regarding Management Action No. 8 above).
10. Monitor peregrine falcons, spotted owls and other unique resources. Continue inventory of habitat conservation/critical habitat areas.
11.
 - a. Submit "Withdrawal Petition" to the Director, BLM, for transmittal to the Secretary of the Interior for approval regarding Land Use Allocation No. 10.
 - b. Upon approval of 11a., public Federal Register notice stating a withdrawal proposal has been made.
12. Post boundaries.

Rationale

ENHANCEMENT OF NATURAL VALUES - RED MOUNTAIN

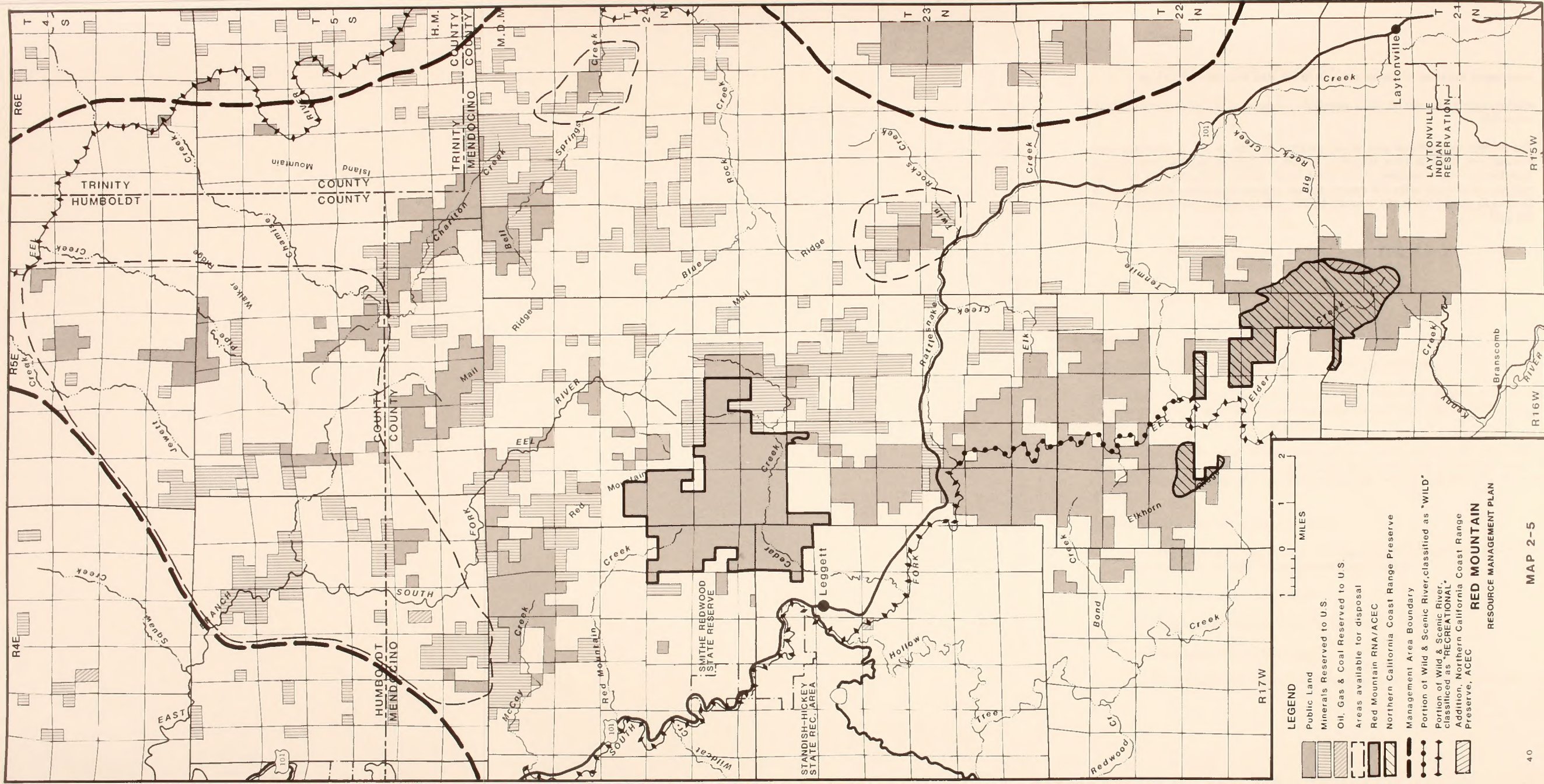
The Decision protects wildlife (owls and fisheries), endangered animal species (peregrine falcons), and allows for forest improvement to enhance these wildlife habitat values and provide protection to the forest resources.

Much of the area in which timber management would conflict with other significant resources have been removed from the timber production base (Wild and Scenic River Corridors, Northern California Coast Range Preserve, Cedar Creek ACEC, and streamside buffers).

Benefits resulting from this alternative include:

- providing large, consolidated areas of old-growth, mixed evergreen forest (Northern California Coast Range Preserve and Cedar Creek);
- forest improvement and protection;
- protecting unique botanical values (*Arabis mcdonaldiana*);
- protecting peregrine falcon habitat;
- enhancing riparian and anadromous fisheries habitat (Eel River and Cedar Creek);

- encouraging the study of unique red soils in the Red Mountain ACEC; and
- making scattered parcels of land available for exchange to consolidate Federal land ownership.
- The primary management goal of the preserve and the ACEC is to protect and maintain the lands in their natural condition, as free as possible from human disturbance. The withdrawal of the Elder Creek ACEC within the NCCRP from mineral and material sales will ensure that the pristine watersheds and old-growth Douglas fir ecosystems in this area will be left undisturbed and will help to achieve this goal.



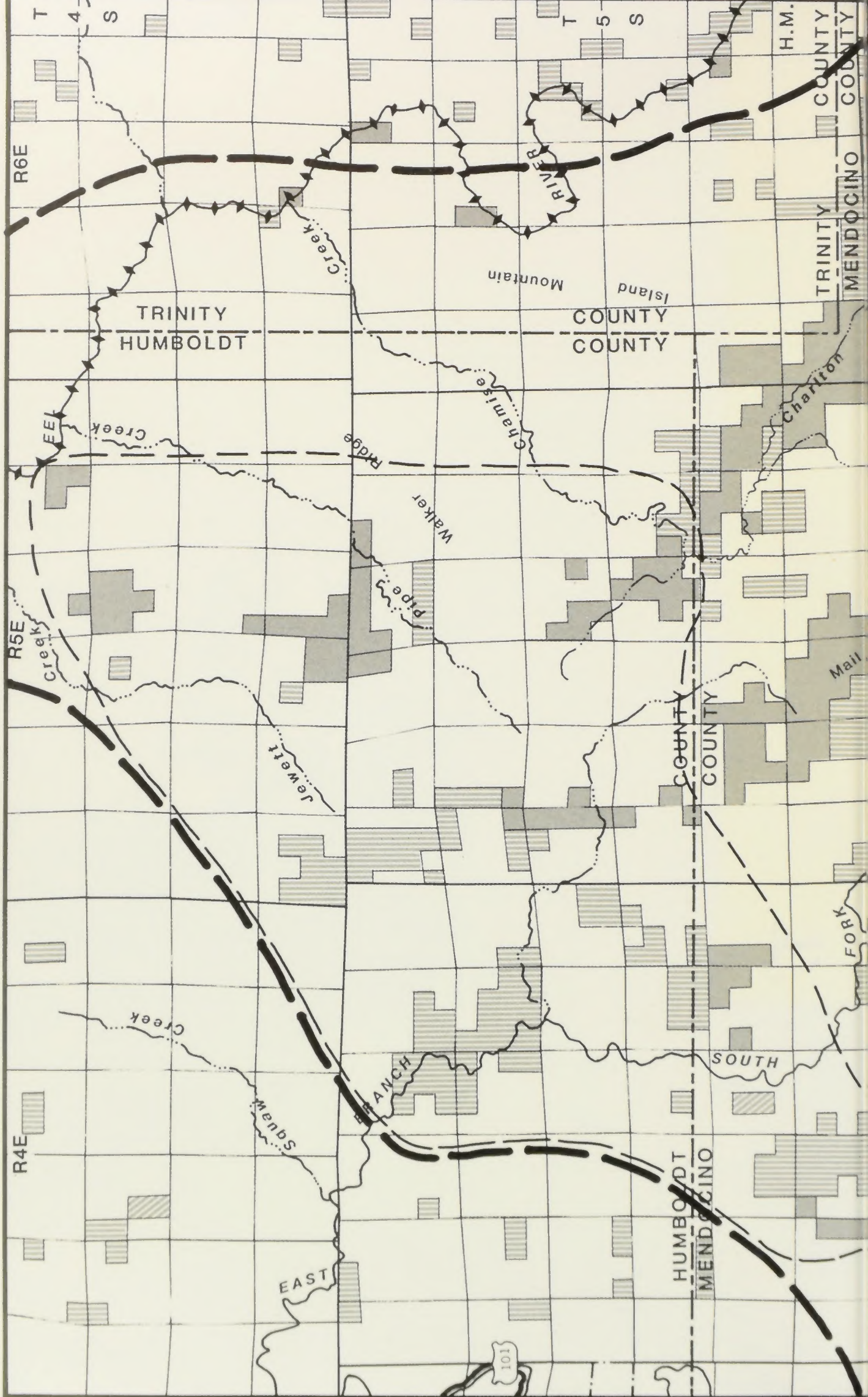
LEGEND

- Public Land
- Minerals Reserved to U.S.
- Oil, Gas & Coal Reserved to U.S.
- Areas available for disposal
- Red Mountain RNA/ACEC
- Northern California Coast Range Preserve
- Management Area Boundary
- Portion of Wild & Scenic River, classified as "WILD"
- Portion of Wild & Scenic River, classified as "RECREATIONAL"
- Additional, Northern California Coast Range Preserve, ACEC

RED MOUNTAIN
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



MAP 2-5



R6E

R5E

R4E

T 4 S

T 5 S

TRINITY
HUMBOLDT

COUNTY
COUNTY

H.M.
COUNTY
COUNTY
TRINITY
MENDOCINO

EEL

Creek

Creek

Jawett

Creek

MENDOCINO

EAST

Ridge

Walker

Pipe

Mountain

Island

Charlton

Mail

FORK

SOUTH

ANCH

COUNTY
COUNTY

HUMBOLDT
MENDOCINO

101

MANAGEMENT AREA 6: COVELO VICINITY - 66,500 acres surface
30,000 acres subsurface

I. RESOURCE CONDITION OBJECTIVES

1. Enhance manageability of public lands, acquire critical wildlife habitats, protect other significant resource values, and improve cost effectiveness of resource management by consolidation of public lands in areas of high visibility with significant Federal ownership.
2. Protect and enhance natural and recreational values along the Federally designated portions of the main stem, North and Middle forks of the Wild and Scenic Eel River Corridor. Outstanding and remarkable attributes include anadromous fisheries, scenic quality and recreational values.
3. Upon request, assist in meeting the State of California's in-lieu entitlement.

II. LAND USE ALLOCATIONS (See Map 2-6, Map Pocket)

1. Transfer the Big Butte Wilderness and WSA (9,400 acres) to the Mendocino National Forest Service to improve wilderness management. The remainder of the initial 45,000 acres identified for transfer to the USFS (35,600 acres) will be retained in public (BLM) ownership.

Other lands (21,500 acres) initially identified for disposal will be retained in public ownership. After consideration of the State of California HCP effort and USFWS identification of critical habitat an RMP amendment will be completed which re-analyzes land tenure for this acreage. However, scattered tracts considered non-essential for these planning efforts may be considered for disposal on a case-by-case basis to meet Objective #1 above.

Retain and manage the area known as Little Darby.

2. Manage the main stem and North and Middle Forks of the Eel River Wild and Scenic River Corridor (measured horizontally, 1/4 mile from normal high water line on either side of the river) in accordance with the Department of Interior's Wild and Scenic River Guidelines, Appendix 2-5 of the RMP-FEIS (Federal Register, Volume 47, No. 173, pg. 39454, Section III).
3. Implement forest management activities on approximately 9,450 CFL acres which include tree planting, brush and hardwood release, and pre-commercial thinning as part of the forest improvement program. Investment in forest improvement activities will be kept to a minimum to maintain the health of the forest.

4. Public lands are not available for new livestock grazing leases.
5. Off-Road Vehicle Designations pursuant to 43 CFR 8340:
 - Vehicles are LIMITED to roads; roads are defined as transportation facilities designed for highway vehicles having four or more wheels.
6. Public lands are available for dispersed recreation.

III. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

1. Contact potential selectors for disposal of public lands and resources (not exclusively):
 - a. U.S. Forest Service;
 - b. Surrounding landowners.
2. Complete management plans for the main stem and North and Middle Forks of the Eel River utilizing an interagency cooperative management planning approach. Provide interim management protection to these river corridors until plans are completed.
3. Pursue legislation modifying boundaries of the Mendocino National Forest. Manage contiguous lands under cooperative agreements until legislation is consummated.
4. Prepare Land Report(s) to address:
 - a. Specific disposal methods and time frames (regarding management action No. 1 above);
 - b. Site-specific inventories and requirements:
 - i. cultural resources;
 - ii. mineral reports;
 - iii. T&E species.
5. Federal Register notices:
 - a. OHV designations.
6. Continue inventory of habitat conservation/critical habitat areas.

Rationale

ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUSTMENTS - COVELO

Lands in the Covelo Vicinity are distant from existing BLM offices. Some public lands are within an administrative sphere or influence of the Mendocino National Forest and there is a growing State Lands Commission presence within the area. Some of the BLM lands are administered by the Mendocino National Forest via Memorandum of Agreement. These lands can be best managed by the USFS. Big Butte Wilderness is not available for exchange and can be best managed by the Forest Service (it is presently managed by the Covelo Ranger District through a cooperative management agreement).

Lands initially identified for land tenure adjustment are to be retained in public ownership. After consideration of the State of California HCP effort and the USFWS identification of critical habitat, an RMP amendment will be completed which re-analyzes land tenure for within this MA. However, scattered tracts considered non-essential for these planning efforts may be considered for disposal on a case-by-case basis.

This MA contains about 66,500 acres of public lands. Approximately 9,450 acres are available for forest management. Most of the CFL has the necessary management infrastructure in place. Forest management will consist of forest protection and improvement to maintain the lands in a healthy state.

Little Darby is an area that is extensively used by local school groups for environmental education. This area will be retained and managed by BLM.

MANAGEMENT AREA 7: SCATTERED TRACTS - 15,500 acres surface
82,800 acres subsurface

I. RESOURCE CONDITION OBJECTIVES

1. Improve cost effectiveness of public land management by consolidation of Federal ownership.
2. Enhance natural values and provide opportunities for environmental education.
3. Protect and enhance natural and recreational values along the federally designated portions of the Eel and Van Duzen Rivers' Wild and Scenic River Corridors.

II. LAND USE ALLOCATIONS (See Map 2-7, Map Pocket)

1. Retain Gilham Butte and Iaqua Butte, in the Arcata Resource Area, and Eagle Peak/Greenough Ridge and The Cedars, in the Clear Lake Resource Area.

Dispose of scattered tracts of public lands considered non-essential in bio-regional planning efforts on a case-by-case basis to meet Objective #1 above.

Public lands (6,900 acres) initially identified for disposal are to be retained in public ownership. After consideration of the State of California HCP effort and the USFWS identification of critical habitat, an RMP amendment will be completed which re-analyzes land tenure of this acreage.

2. Acquire 800 acres around Gilham Butte for recreational uses.
3. Implement minimal forest improvement practices on approximately 1,200 acres to maintain the forest in a healthy state until such time as parcels are disposed of or identified as critical threatened and endangered habitat.
4. Off-Road Vehicle Designations pursuant to 43 CFR 8340:

- Public lands within the management area's Wild and Scenic River Corridors are designated CLOSED.

5. Designate Gilham Butte and Iaqua Butte (about 3,600 acres) as Research Natural Areas/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (RNA/ACEC's) for the preservation of old-growth values.
 - a. Gilham Butte (2,550 acres):
 - T.2S., R.2E., HM, Portions of Sections 31 and 32.
 - T.3S., R.1E., HM, Sections 12, 13, and 24.
 - T.3S., R.2E., HM, Sections 5-9, 18-20, and 28.
 - b. Iaqua Butte (1,080 acres):
 - T.3N., R.2E., HM, Sections 1 and 2.
 - T.3N., R.3E., HM, Section 6.
 - T.4N., R.2E., HM, Section 25.
 - T.4N., R.3E., HM, Section 31.

The Gilham Butte and Iaqua Butte RNA/ACEC's are available for non-consumptive research and cone collecting. Control fire, disease, and insects to prevent spreading to other lands and to protect the existing forest conditions.

6. Manage the Eel and Van Duzen Rivers' Wild and Scenic River Corridor (measured horizontally, 1/4 mile from normal high water line on either side of the river) in accordance with the Department of Interior's Wild and Scenic River Guidelines, Appendix 2-5 of the RMP-FEIS, (Federal Register, Volume 47, No. 173, pg. 39454, Section III).
7. Public lands are to be made available for dispersed recreation.

III. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

1. Federal Register notices:
 - a. OHV designations;
 - b. RNA/ACEC designations.
2. Contact potential selectors for disposal of public lands and resources.
3. Contact surrounding landowners for acquisition regarding Land Use Allocation No. 2.
4. Prepare Land Report(s) to address specific disposal acquisition methods (regarding Nos. 2 and 3 above).
5. Acquire public access and construct a trail between Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Gilham Butte and the King Range National Conservation Area for recreational and educational uses. Acquire public access into Eagle Peak for recreational and educational uses.

6. Prepare ACEC Activity Plans to address site-specific needs, access, research proposals and priorities.
7. Complete management plans for the Eel and Van Duzen Rivers utilizing an interagency cooperative management planning approach. Provide interim management protection to these river corridors until plans are completed.
8. Continue inventories of areas identified as HCA/critical habitat.

Rationale

PRESENT SITUATION - SCATTERED TRACTS

The emphasis of this MA is to carry on with the present management direction of preserving old-growth values in the Gilham Butte and Iaqua Butte areas and other unique values in the Clear Lake Resource Area (Eagle Peak/Greenough Roughs and The Cedars).

Lands initially identified for land tenure adjustment are to be retained in public ownership. After consideration of the State of California HCP effort and the USFWS identification of critical habitat, an RMP amendment will be completed which re-analyzes land tenure for within this MA. However, scattered tracts considered non-essential for these planning efforts may be considered for disposal on a case-by-case basis.

This alternative enhances the manageability of public lands and improves the cost effectiveness of resource management by consolidating Federal ownership and contributing significantly to the preservation of old-growth values in the Resource Area.

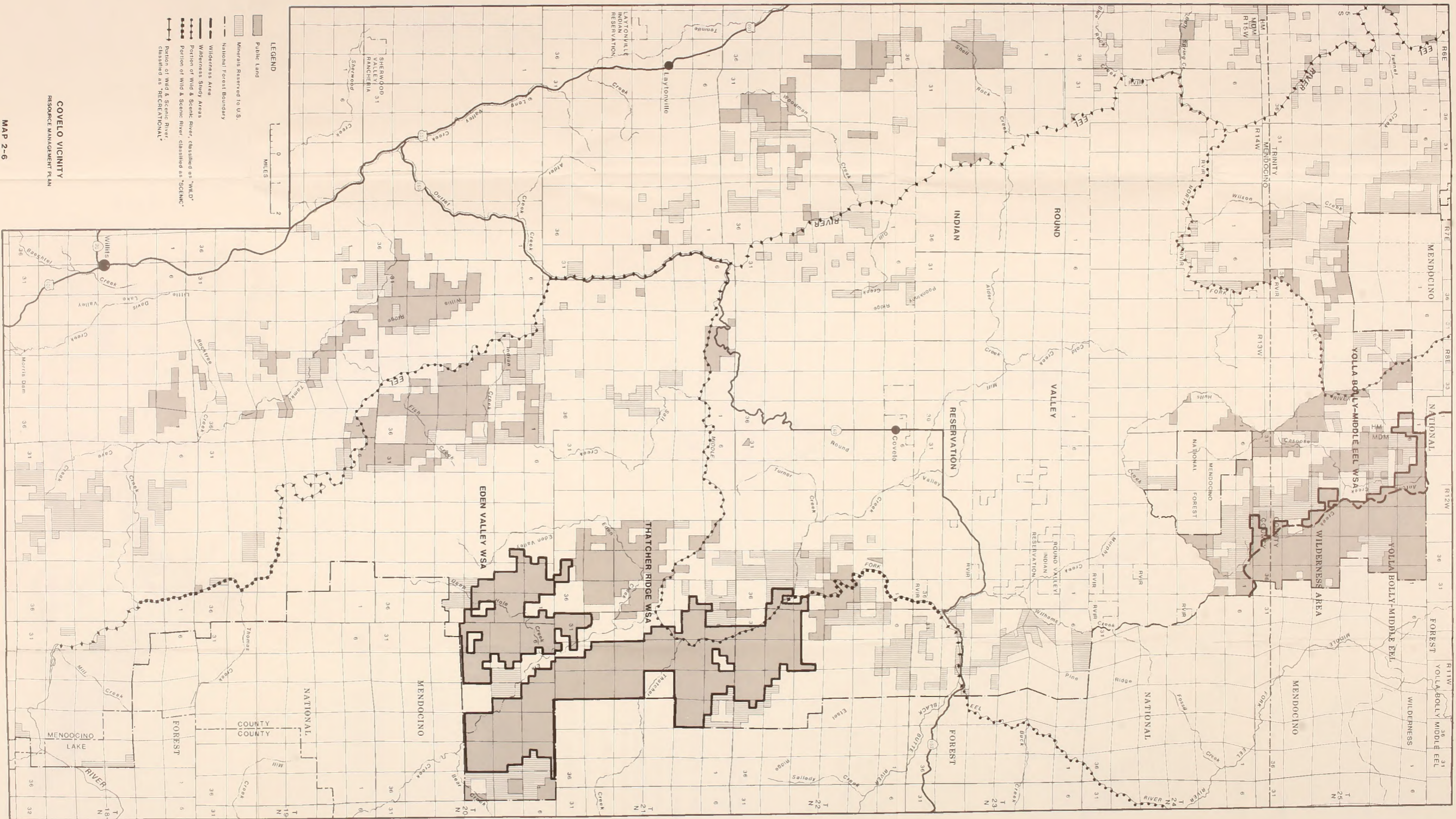
This recommendation shifts resource use on 2,400 acres of available CFL from timber harvest to old-growth habitat preservation. Forest improvement is practiced on about 1,200 acres of available CFL.

IMPLEMENTATION

Decisions in the RMP will be implemented over a period of years and will be tied to the BLM budgeting process. Priorities will be established for implementation. These priorities will be reviewed annually to help develop the annual work plan commitments. The priorities may be revised as new policies, regulations, and orders are established.

The majority of the decisions outlined in this Record of Decision (ROD) will be implemented over a ten-year planning cycle. Decisions related to old-growth habitat and spotted owls will be maintained over the next two- to three-year period. After consideration of the State of California HCP effort and USFWS identification of critical habitat, an amendment to the Arcata RMP will be prepared with full public participation and environmental review.

In the long term, public lands will be reconsidered for wildlife conservation habitat management (corridors, connectivity and biodiversity). The public lands identified for this effort, as well as those lands not determined as critical/significant habitat, will be addressed through an RMP amendment process.



COVELO VICINITY
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
MAP 2-6



**SCATTERED TRACTS
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**MAP 2-7
SOUTH HALF**

- LEGEND**
- Public Land
 - Minerals Reserved to U.S.
 - Restricted Minerals
 - Oil & Gas Reserved to U.S.
 - Geothermal Reserved to U.S.
 - Public Surface/Private Minerals
 - National Forest, National Seashore & National Recreation Area Boundaries
 - Resource Management Areas
 - Resource Area Boundary
 - Scattered Tracts Management Boundary



- Portion of Wild & Scenic River classified as "WILD"
- Portion of Wild & Scenic River classified as "SCENIC"
- Portion of Wild & Scenic River classified as "RECREATIONAL"

MATCH LINE

MATCH LINE

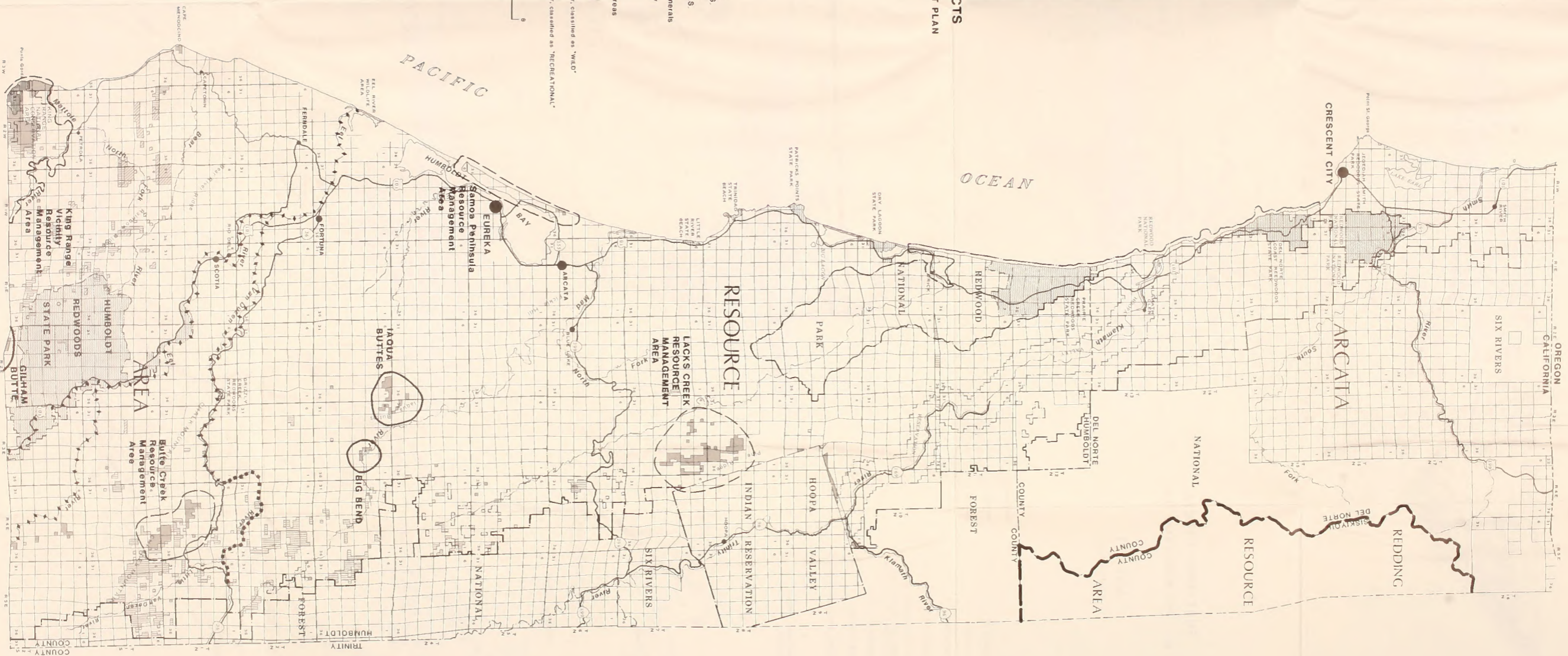
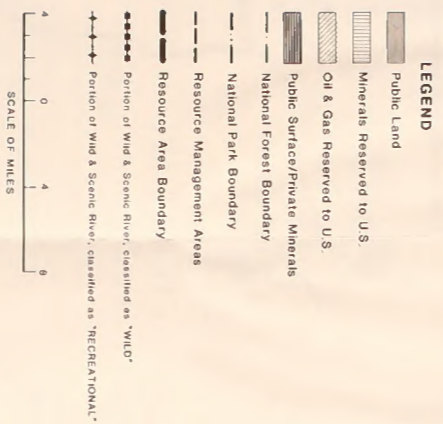
ACRONYMS

ACEC - Area of Critical Environmental Concern
BLM - Bureau of Land Management
CDFG - California Department of Fish and Game
CEQ - Council on Environmental Quality
CFL - Commercial Forest Land
CFR - Code of Federal Regulations
EIS - Environmental Impact Statement
ESA - Endangered Species Act
FEIS - Final Environmental Impact Statement
FLPMA - Federal Land Policy Management Act of October 21, 1976
HCP - Habitat Conservation Plan
IBLA - Interior Board of Land Appeals
IMP - Interim Management Plan
KRNCA - King Range National Conservation Area
MA's - Management Areas
MBF - Thousand Board Feet
MFP - Management Framework Plan
MMBF - Million Board Feet
MOG - Managed Old Growth
NCCRP - Northern California Coast Range Preserve
NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NHPA - National Historic Preservation Act
OHV - Off-Highway Vehicle
ONA - Outstanding Natural Area
R&PP - Recreation and Public Purposes
RMP - Resource Management Plan
RNA - Research Natural Area
ROD - Record of Decision
SLC - State Lands Commission
SMARA - Surface Mining and Reclamation Act
SOHA - Spotted Owl Habitat Area
SYU - Sustained Yield Unit
T&E - Threatened and Endangered
TNC - The Nature Conservancy
TSI - Timber Stand Improvement
USFS - United States Forest Service
USFWS - United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VRM - Visual Resource Management
WSA - Wilderness Study Area

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**SCATTERED TRACTS
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**MAP 2-7
NORTH HALF**



United States
Department of the Interior

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Ukiah District Office

555 Leslie Street

Ukiah, California 95482-5599

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