

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 24
was approved as Minute Item
No. 24 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 1/27/83
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

24 4

1/27/83
RW 22689
S. Jones

CERTIFICATION OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION

APPLICANT: State Lands Commission

At the May 1980 Commission meeting, the Commission endorsed a Timber Management program for State school lands and authorized the Executive Officer to solicit bids for the sale of timber.

The negative declaration proposed for certification is for a Timber Harvest on 60 acres of State school land in Section 36, T26N, R15E, MDM, about 34 air miles southeast of Susanville, in Plumas County, totalling approximately 400,000 board feet of mature, overmature, and younger merchantable trees which are suppressed or infested with insects or disease.

Subsequent to the certification of the negative declaration, a Timber Harvest Plan will be submitted to the Department of Forestry for approval. The sale will be advertised, sealed bids received, and submitted to the Commission for award of a Timber Sale Contract in the spring of 1983.

AB 884: N/A.

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CALENDAR PAGE	<u>139</u>
MINUTE PAGE	<u>3901</u>

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 24 (CONTD)

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. A Negative Declaration was prepared by the Commission staff, pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The Commission's staff has found that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Negative Declaration.
- B. Site Map.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. DETERMINE THAT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT BY THE COMMISSION STAFF AFTER CONSULTATION WITH RESPONSIBLE AND TRUSTEE AGENCIES.
2. CERTIFY THAT NEGATIVE DECLARATION NO. 326 HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CEQA, THE STATE CEQA GUIDELINES AND THE COMMISSION'S ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS, AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN TOGETHER WITH COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE REVIEW PROCESS.
3. DETERMINE THAT THE PROJECT WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT UPON THE ENVIRONMENT, AS ALL OPERATIONS ARE TO BE PLANNED AND CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA FOREST PRACTICE ACT AND THE NORTHERN DISTRICT RULES AND REGULATIONS, AND ANY OTHER APPLICABLE COUNTY, STATE, AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS; THIS, AND OTHER SPECIFIC MEASURES IDENTIFIED IN THE INITIAL STUDY WILL MITIGATE ANY POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS ON AIR QUALITY, SOIL EROSION, WATER QUALITY, FIRE HAZARD, AND VEGETATION.

PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

EIR ND 325

File Ref.: RW 22089

SCH#: 8'2 120606

Project Title: Last Chance Timber Sale.

Project Location: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 36, T.26 N., R.15 E., M.D.M., near Doyle, Plumas County.

Project Description: To harvest approximately 400,000 board feet of Jeffrey Pine from approximately 60 acres of State-owned land. Standing timber will be sold to the highest qualified bidder.

This NEGATIVE DECLARATION is prepared pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Section 21000 et seq. of the Public Resources Code), the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15000 et seq., Title 14, of the California Administrative Code), and the State Lands Commission regulations (Section 2901 et seq., Title 2, of the California Administrative Code).

Based upon the attached Initial Study, it has been found that:

- the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- the attached mitigation measures will avoid potentially significant effects.

Contact Person: [Name obscured]
[Address obscured]
Sacramento, CA 95814

Telephone: (916)322-7813

CALENDAR PAGE	141
MINUTE PAGE	3902

Exhibit "A"

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM - Part I
(To be completed by applicant)
FORM 69.3 (7/82)

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Name, address, and telephone number:

a. Applicant:

State Lands Commission
1807 - 13th Street
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 322-7813

b. Contact person if other than applicant:

Ted T. Fukushima

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2. a. Project location: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 36, R15E, T26N, MDB&M, near Doyle,
Plumas County.

b. Assessor's parcel number: N/A

3. Existing zone of project site: Unclassified

4. Existing land use of project site: Timber and rangeland

5. Proposed use of site: Same; timber harvest activity

6. Other permits required: R/W - U.S. Forest Service

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION (See attached Initial Study)

1. Non-building construction projects: Describe fully, the proposed activity, its purpose and intended use. (Attach plans or other drawings as necessary)

For building construction projects, complete attachment "A".

C. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

1. Describe the project site as it exists before the project, including information on topography, soil stability, plants and animals, and any cultural, historical, or scenic aspects. Describe any existing structures on the site, and the use of the structures.
(See Initial Study)
2. Describe the surrounding properties, including information on plants and animals and any cultural, historical, or scenic aspects. Indicate the type of land use (residential, commercial, etc.), intensity of land use (one-family, apartment houses, shops, department stores, etc.), and scale of development (height, frontage, set-back, rear yard, etc.).
(See Initial Study)

D. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

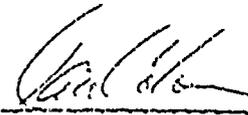
Answer the following questions by placing a check in the appropriate box. Discuss all items checked "yes" or "maybe". (Attach additional sheets as necessary)

Will the project involve:	Yes	Maybe	No
1. a change in existing features of any bays, tidelands, beaches, lakes or.... hills, or substantial alteration of ground contours?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. a change in scenic views or vistas from existing residential areas or..... public lands or roads?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. a change in pattern, scale, or character of the general area of project?...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. significant effect on plant or animal life?.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. significant amounts of solid waste or litter?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. a change in dust, ash, smoke, fumes, or odors in the vicinity?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. a change in ocean, bay, lake, stream, or ground water quality or quantity, or alteration of existing drainage patterns?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. a change in existing noise or vibration levels in the vicinity?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9. construction on filled land or on slope of 10 percent or more?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10. use or disposal of potentially hazardous materials, such as toxic or radioactive substances, flammables, or explosives?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. a change in demand for municipal services (police, fire, water, sewage, etc)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12. increase in fossil fuel consumption (electricity, oil, natural gas, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13. a larger project or a series of projects?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

E. CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this initial evaluation to the best of my ability, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: 12/18/82



 STATE ENGINEER PAGE 143
 PROJECT PAGE 3904
 THE STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE

INITIAL STUDY
FOR
CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION
LAST CHANCE TIMBER SALE ON STATE-OWNED LANDS IN THE
SW¼ SECTION 36, T26N, R15E, MDB&M
PLUMAS COUNTY

PREPARED UNDER WORK ORDER RW 22689
BY THE
SCHOOL LANDS MANAGEMENT UNIT
DIVISION OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION
STATE LANDS COMMISSION

CALENDAR PAGE	144
MINUTE PAGE	3905

INITIAL STUDY
LAST CHANCE TIMBER SALE

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The State Lands Commission proposes to harvest approximately 400 thousand board feet of Jeffrey pine from approximately 60 acres of a 440-acre parcel. The timber sale is located on a parcel of State-owned land in eastern Plumas County. Standing timber will be sold to the highest qualified bidder through a sealed bid procedure. Harvesting activities will be confined to a period between June 1, 1983 and October 15, 1984.

The sale area is located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 36, Township 26N, Range 15E, MDB&M, WNW of Doyle, California. Access to the site is over a third of a mile road crossing one parcel of private land and a parcel of U.S. Forest Service land once leaving the county road.

Timber harvesting will involve the removal of approximately 400 thousand board feet (net scribner) of mature, overmature, and some mechanically damaged or diseased younger Jeffrey pine. In addition, overstocked young merchantable stands will be lightly commercially thinned to improve their health and vigor.

Timber harvest operations will be by crawler tractors for yarding logs, landing and skid trail construction, and water-barring skid trails after harvest operations are complete. Additional equipment will include a loader on the landing and a grader and water truck for road maintenance. All operations will be conducted under an approved Timber Harvest Plan and will comply with the California Forest Practice Act and the Northern District Forest Practice Rules and Regulations.

Actual harvesting operations will be contracted to the timber purchaser or their Licensed Timber Operator.

Operations will include blade work (road grader) on 0.2 mile of road on Matley's ownership, 0.1 mile on Forest Service land, and 0.5 mile on State land. There will be about 200 feet of realignment of the Forest Service road including the removal of 12 small trees whose diameters range from four to fourteen inches. These trees will be bucked and piled for firewood beside the road. On the State's parcel, there will be one temporary crossing an ephemeral draw, 100 yards of road realignment, and 100 yards of realignment of the present road back to its original location (minor blade work).

The purchaser will be obligated to secure right-of-way agreements with the U.S. Forest Service over about 0.1 mile of road and with the Matleys over approximately 0.2 mile of road.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Location

This project is located on a 440-acre State-owned parcel in eastern Plumas County. The parcel is described as the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 36, Township 26 North, Range 15 East MDB&M. Harvest operations will be limited to 60 acres within the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 36. Figures 1 and 2 show the project location. The parcel is located 32 air miles southeast of Susanville, California.

Climate

The climate of the subject area is continental and semi-arid with warm dry summers and cold dry winters. The State's parcel receives approximately 19 inches of the Mean Annual Precipitation, primarily in the form of snow, and runoff from the parcel totals about 2 inches of water. The mean summer temperature is estimated at 61 $^{\circ}$ F, and the mean winter temperature at 24 $^{\circ}$ F.

Topography

The elevation of the project area ranges from about 6,000 feet to almost 6,800 feet. The majority of the project is located in a south-facing ephemeral draw. The slopes are generally less than 30 percent with a range of 0 to 50 percent.

Soils

The three-soil family complexes mapped on the State's parcel are GwE, Polecreek-Millich-Sattley Families Complex, 0 to 30 percent slopes; GmE, Polecreek-Millich Families Association, 0 to 30 percent slopes; and SwF Switchback-Kelleker-Toiyabe Families Complex, 15 to 50 percent slopes. The Sattley family is the only soil type that can grow merchantable trees, and the project area is confined to this soil type. Sattley soils can sustain root depths from 35 to 85 inches, produce 1,500 to 2,500 pounds of forage per acre per year, or produce 50 to 85 cubic feet of wood per acre per year, and are classified as moderate for conifer regeneration. This soil type can be readily managed for timber production because of its depth and gentle slopes. The erosion hazard rating for the project area is rated moderate.

CALENDAR PAGE	746
MINUTE PAGE	3807

Vegetation

The two commercial timber species observed on the project area are Jeffrey pine and white fir. Western juniper and aspen were also observed on the sale area. Other vegetation includes mountain mahogany, manzanita, squaw carpet, wild rose, service berry, ceanothis, sagebrush, and annual and perennial weeds and grasses. The majority of the State's 440-acre parcel supports grass and sagebrush; only about 60 acres of it is capable of producing timber.

Wildlife

The State's parcel provides a transitory range for the Dolye mule deer herd as it migrates between winter and summer ranges. Porcupine damage has been observed in saplings and pole sized trees in the project area. Gophers and ground squirrels have also been observed. Data from the Plumas National Forest indicates the following wildlife forage on the State's parcel:

Sharp Skinned Hawk
Redtailed Hawk
Rough Legged Hawk
Golden Eagle (Sensitive species - parcel not suited as a nesting site)
American Kestrel
Mountain Quail
Great Horned Owl
Common Flicker
Clarks Nutcracker
Darkeyed Junco
Mountain Pocket Gopher
Belding Ground Squirrel
Golden Mantled Ground Squirrel
Pacific Tree Frog
Western Terrestrial Garter Snake

No nests have been observed for any of the above birds or animals with the exception of the gophers and ground squirrels. Both State and U.S. Forest Service wildlife biologists have stated that there are no rare or endangered species on the parcel.

Air Resources

This site is located within the Northeast Plateau Air Basin. There are no point sources of emissions within the project area.

Water Resources

There is one developed spring on the State's parcel within the project area. Additionally, there is one ephemeral draw, but no blue line streams on the project area.

Archeological, Cultural and Historical Resources

A site survey of this parcel was conducted on September 30 and October 1, 1982, and no artifacts were located. If any archeological evidence is located during harvest operations, the operation will be stopped in that area and an archeologist immediately consulted.

Recreation

The parcel is in a semi-arid region and is surrounded by U.S. Forest Service on the North, West and South, and one private parcel on the East. The major use for the surrounding land is grazing with timber production on timber sites. Recreation use is heavy during deer season, but is otherwise limited.

Regional Description

This parcel is within a region of east side timberland and rangeland. The U.S. Forest Service is presently leasing grazing rights to local stockmen and selling timber to timber purchasers. Intensive land management for both grazing and timber lands is practiced both locally and throughout the northern California counties by private landowners and State and Federal agencies.

The Federal and State lands are unclassified ("U") and the private land adjacent to the State parcel is zoned under the Land Conservation Act. Other parcels are zoned under the Timber Preserve Zone, Mineral or unzoned. The majority of the ownership in this portion of Plumas County is U.S. Forest Service, with 10 flat valleys being homesteaded years ago and now dedicated to agriculture. The proposed project site is located within an officially designated Forest and Watershed Land Use Area (Plumas County General Plan), and the Plumas County Planning Department has advised that this project is compatible with existing zoning and the County General Plan.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Air Quality

Some temporary and localized degradation of air quality will occur due to dust and hydrocarbon emissions associated with internal combustion engines used in the timber harvesting and transportation phases of the timber sale. There will be additional degradation of air quality when the slash piles are burned. These piles are relatively small and the reduction in air quality will be short term.

CALENDAR PAGE	148
MINUTE PAGE	309

Water Quality

Harvest activities will remove the duff and organic litter where disturbed during felling, yarding and road and landing construction. Since the soils in the project area are porous, this will allow a more rapid downward translocation of nutrients following precipitation. This effect will be short term and minimal on a project of this size.

Additionally, the removal of vegetation by the harvest activities will affect the water yield of the drainage in the project area. The removal of vegetation reduces water lost through interception and transpiration, although there will be some increase in evaporation from the exposed soil. The operation of equipment and skidding of logs will cause some surface compaction which will decrease infiltration, but will increase the moisture holding capacity.

The result of decreased infiltration from compaction will be increased runoff. The soil scientist on the Plumas National Forest staff stated that the zone of realized compaction on the Sattley soils is about 10 cm. in depth due to the nature of the soil type. If logging is done in the summer, when the soil is driest, there will be minimal compaction. The harvesting process will result in a temporary net increase of water yield from the project area south toward the U.S. Forest Service parcel and eventually to Little Last Chance Creek.

Soil

The primary impact on the soil will be the removal of the duff and organic cover and the compaction caused during harvesting operations. There will be some road realignment (less than 1/4 mile). The realignment will lessen the road grade and develop a winter maintenance-free road by outsloping and using waterbars (graded dips to lead the water off the road so it will not collect and erode the road surface).

Vegetation

Vegetation on the site will change. The mature and over-mature Jeffery pine will be removed leaving a somewhat more open stand of younger Jeffrey pine which is presently in the understory. Seed falling on soil disturbed by logging operations will have a far better chance of survival after germination than seed falling on undisturbed duff. This will result in increased seedling survival.

Wildlife

No nests or nesting sites were observed on the proposed project area. It is anticipated that this project would have minimal impact on wildlife resources. The impact would be the displacement of limited local populations of small rodents, birds and reptiles. Eight large trees were left designated as raptor trees.

CALENDAR PAGE	49
MINUTE PAGE	3910

Archeological, Historical and Cultural Resources

An archeological survey of the site was conducted by Leroy Weed, Archeologist, and no artifacts were observed. If any archeological artifacts are located during harvest operations, the operation will be stopped in that area and an archeologist immediately consulted.

Noise

There will be a short term, localized increase in noise levels during harvest operations on the site.

Fire Hazard

There will be a short term increase in fire hazard during harvest operations, due to the use of internal combustion engines and the production of logging slash.

IV. MITIGATION MEASURES

Air Quality

Burning of slash will be done in accordance with local air pollution regulations to minimize impacts. Dust abatement measures will include water roads and landings not only to protect air quality, but to reduce the excess loss of the road surfaces' fine material.

Fire Hazard

The increased fire hazard resulting from harvest operations on the project will be mitigated, adhering to all State and Federal regulations. Burning will be done under an approved Forest Service Burning Permit issued by the Fire Management Officer at the Milford Ranger District.

Water Quality Erosion

Soil damage and erosion will be reduced and water quality protected by restricting harvest operations to the normal operating period (dry season) and meeting or exceeding the requirements set forth by the Forest Practice Act and the Northern District Forest Practice Rules and Regulations pertaining to installation of erosion control structures. Additionally, major skid trails and landings will be designated on the ground prior to harvest operations to assure adequate protection of the soil resource.

CALENDAR PAGE	150
MINUTE PAGE	3911

Vegetation

The scattered mature and overmature Jeffrey pine will be removed during harvest operations. In addition, overstocked younger merchantable stands in the understory will also be commercially thinned during harvest operations to improve the health and vigor of the residual stand. After harvest operations, the residual stand will meet stocking requirements pursuant to CAC 932.7. The spring following harvesting, skid trails, landings, and other disturbed areas will be planted with Jeffrey pine seedlings to surpass the minimum stocking requirements.

General

All operations are to be planned and conducted in accordance with the California Forest Practice Act and the Northern District Rules and Regulations, and any other applicable County, State and Federal Regulations.

CONTACTS AND REFERENCES

U.S. Forest Service, Plumas National Forest, Supervisor's Office

Denny Churchill, Soil Scientist
Tom Newman, Wildlife Biologist
Chuck James, Archeologist
Dick Carson, Lands Officer
Joe Barratt, Timber Management Office

U.S. Forest Service, Lauflin Ranger Station

Pat O'Rourke, Timber Management Officer
Milt Robertson, Resource Officer
Bill Snow, Cadastral Surveyor

Department of Fish and Game

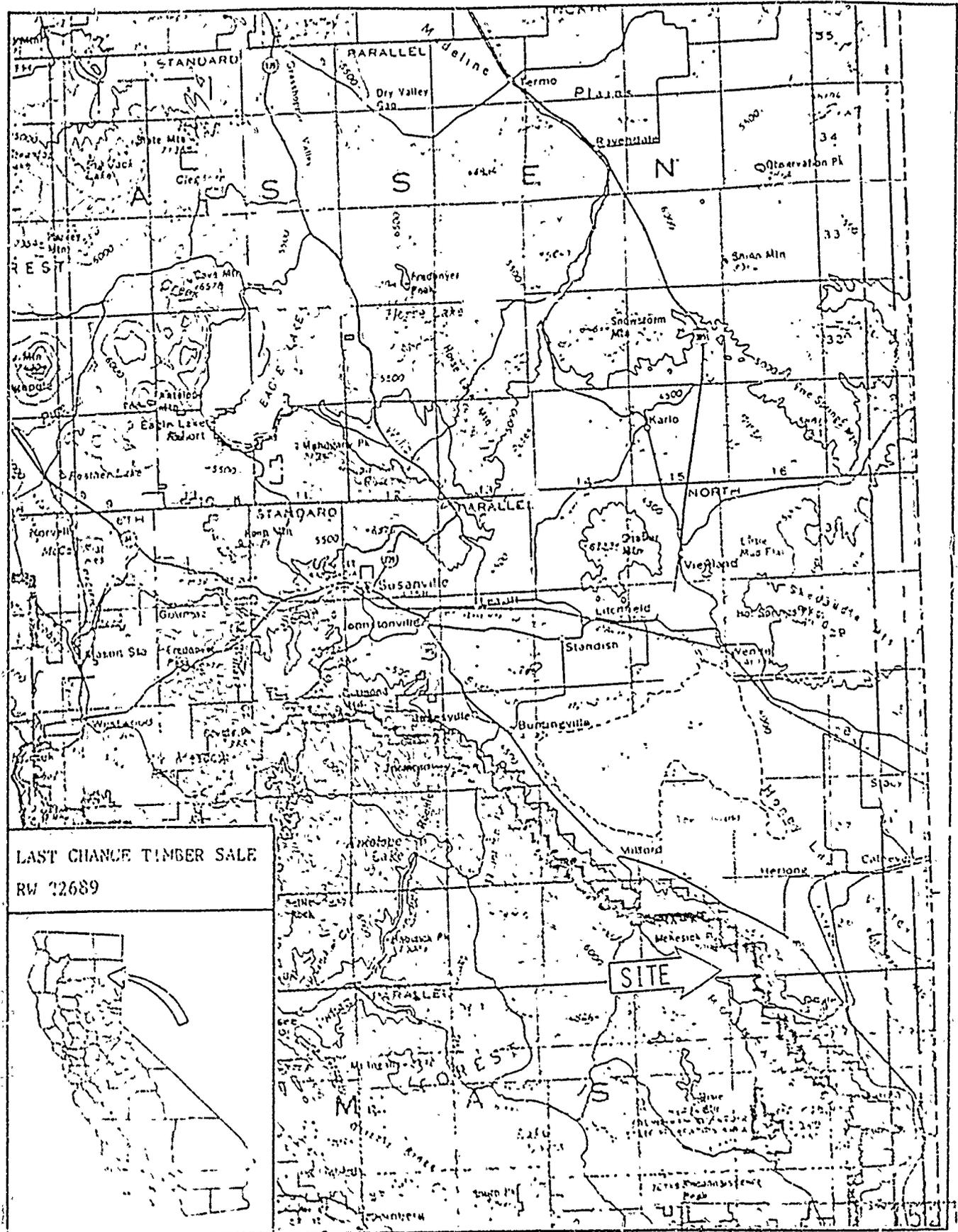
Syd Kahre, Wildlife Biologist

California State Lands Commission

Leroy Weed, Archeologist

CALENDAR PAGE	151
MINUTE PAGE	3312

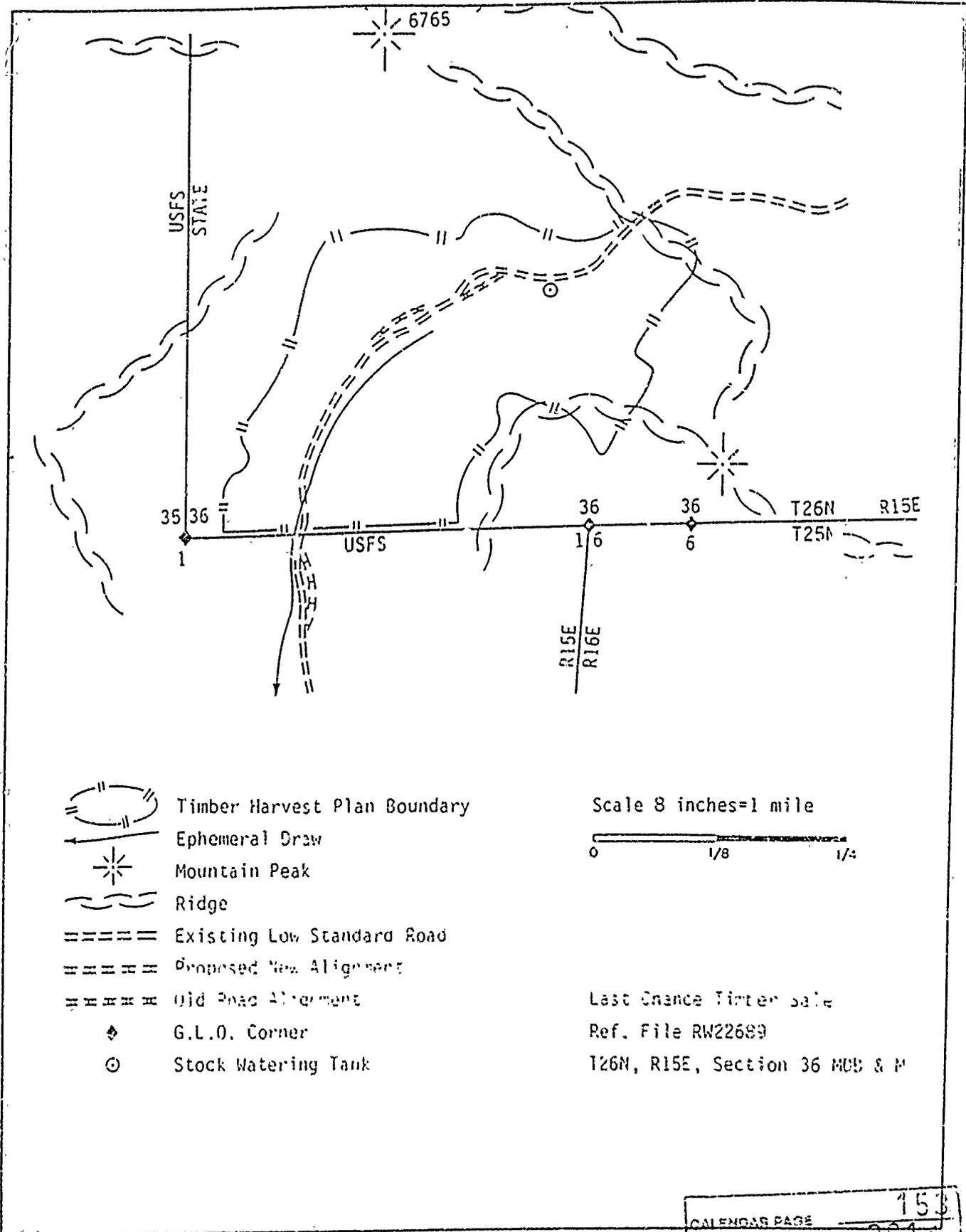
FIGURE 1

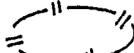
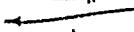
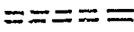


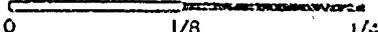
LAST CHANCE TIMBER SALE
RW 22689



FIGURE 2



-  Timber Harvest Plan Boundary
-  Ephemeral Draw
-  Mountain Peak
-  Ridge
-  Existing Low Standard Road
-  Proposed New Alignment
-  Old Road Alignment
-  G.L.O. Corner
-  Stock Watering Tank

Scale 8 inches=1 mile
 0 1/8 1/4

Last Chance Timber sale
 Ref. File RW22689
 T26N, R15E, Section 36 MUD & P

CALENDAR PAGE 153
 MINUTE PAGE 914

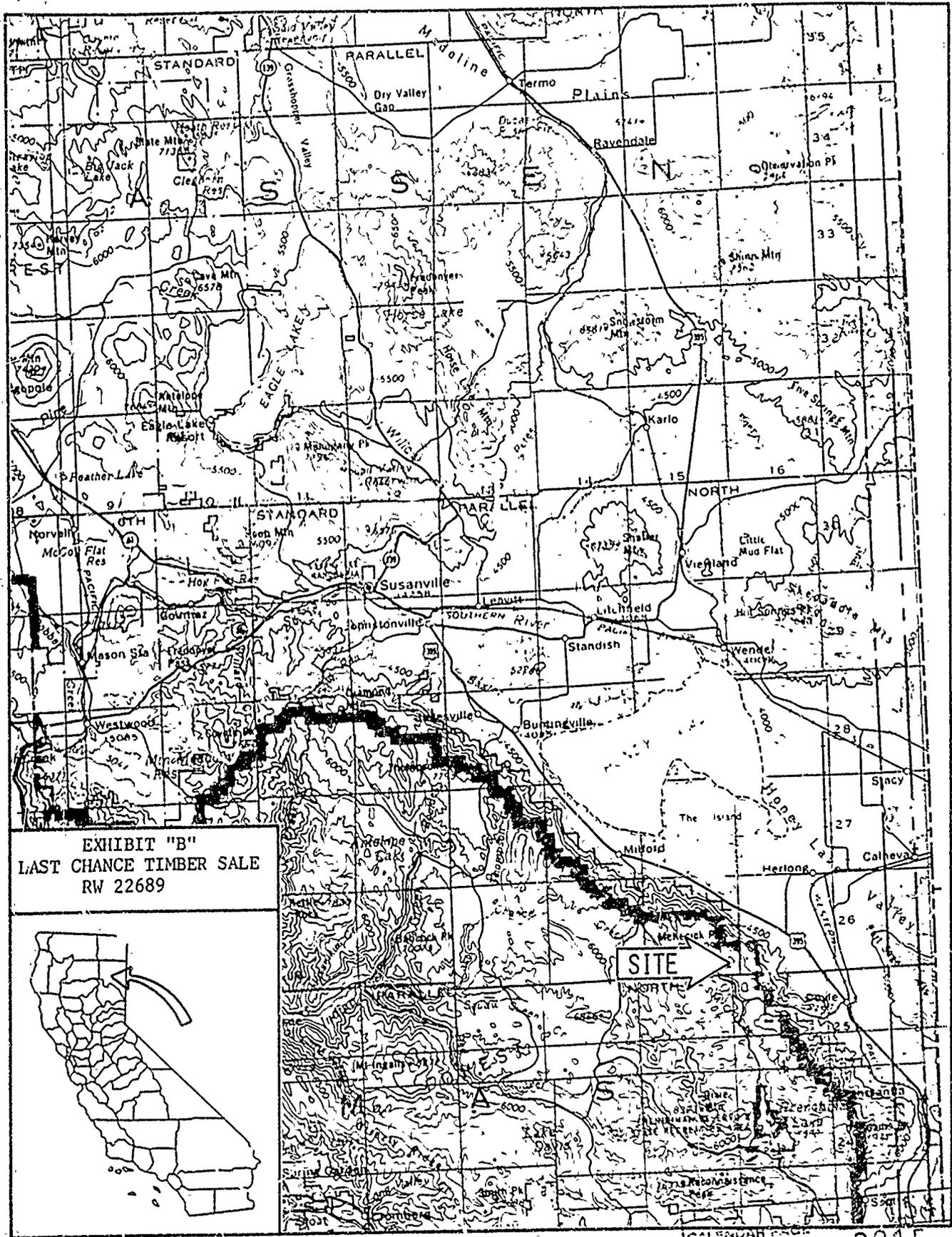


EXHIBIT "B"
 LAST CHANCE TIMBER SALE
 RW 22689



SITE

