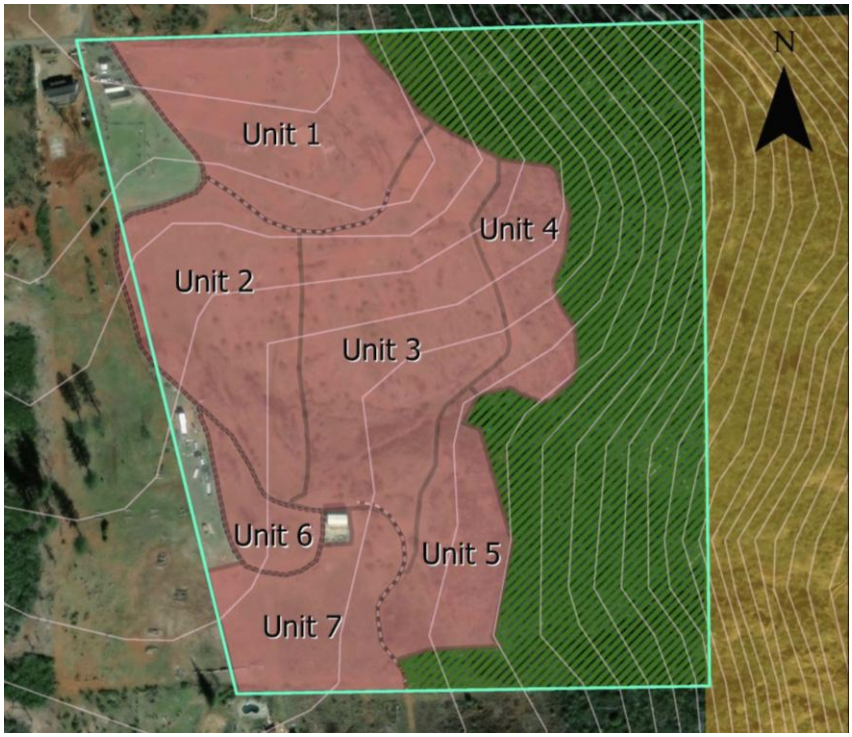
1986 Mountain View Drive

Interim Management Plan

Draft 3

January 14, 2026



Prepared by the **Butte County Resource Conservation District**, January 2026

In fulfillment of deliverables from BRIC 2020 Paradise Recreation & Park District Innovative Wildfire Risk Reduction Buffers (Camp Fire) FY20 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program Grant #2020-001, Project #PJ0091, FIPS #007-91002

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I. Introduction

A. Purpose of Plan

The 1986 Mountain View property is along the Sunrise Rim area overlooking the West Branch Feather River canyon. This beloved Paradise property was a Christmas tree farm for decades, until burning in the 2018 Camp Fire. With the exception of a few ponderosa trees that have taken root from seed, the property no longer supports conifer trees; however, large and widely spaced black oaks and live oaks offer a hint of what a future park could look like. The 34.1-acre parcel was transferred to PRPD in 2025. This plan offers a summary of current conditions on the parcel (II. site description); immediate maintenance actions that can be taken to sustain the park's values (III. maintenance and management); possible future uses and considerations for this parcel (IV. site analysis); and (V.) the outlines of an implementation plan for the parcel.

Known as the "Mountain View" property (or sometimes "McNally" for longtime owner-steward Joe McNally), this property consists of

1) a 34.1-acre property (053-280-008) that has already been deeded to the District, with about **3.5** acres under lifetime lease back to the owners, who use it as a homestead, plus
2) A 7.3-acre (053-280-009) property currently intended to be conveyed to PRPD after the owners' death (but this would be at the ultimate discretion of the estate's executor).

This plan addresses only the 34.1 acre property, since that is what was highlighted to BCRCD as the "parcel of interest".

B. Site overview

The property is comprised of 2 distinct zones (see map 1). The zone the visitor first encounters (the "Upland" zone) is about 21 acres. It is a large, level to rolling open area at the eastern edge of the Paradise plateau, gently fluctuating from 2100' down to about 1950' in elevation. A main road bisects this level area and appears to be in good condition; the road surface is gravel. Driveways branch off this main road to reach a small spring-fed pond, a barn/shop area, a caretakers' trailer, and one or two home sites that burned in the Camp Fire. The aspect of the entire property trends from east to southeast.

The balance of the property ("Canyon" zone), is 14 acres. It is a steep and heavily brushy canyonside rapidly descending from 1950' to about 1700' in elevation. At that point, – on the eastern boundary of the property – the visitor is still 500 feet above the West Branch Feather River. The property's eastern edge abuts BLM land that continues down to and across the West Branch. This BLM parcel provides potential trail connectivity with the old Miocene Canal and the Concow side of the river.

The property is bounded by private land/residences to the north, west and south.

The remains of the Miocene Canal traverses the BLM land below the property. The canal was maintained by PG&E, until the Camp Fire, and hss been a popular, more or less unauthorized

recreational trail for Paradise residents. Current access points to the Miocene canal are 1) through the old hospital/senior citizens' center (now apartments), but this access is no longer accessible due to brush growth; 2) off Dean Rd; 3) behind the church on Pearson (Feather River Place), now gated, as well as closed off by brush, landslides and the fire impacts to the former wooden walkway; and 4) a trail off Stark Ln which is on private property owned by Douglas and Sandi Anderson; here again, brush and debris blocks many areas.

A potential future trail alignment through the 1986 Mountain View property and its adjacent BLM land could possibly access the river without needing to traverse the canal. As of January 2026, no route has been flagged or designed.

The property is just outside Town limits and thus would not normally have PID water access. There is a 710-foot well. It is to be expected that some or much of the property's underground water infrastructure would need to be repaired.

In terms of vegetation management, the property is in average to good shape for a property of its size in Paradise. Invasive species and some hazardous fuels are present, especially on the steeper and less accessible portions.

C. Long-term Vision for the Park

In coming months and years, PRPD will conduct additional site investigations and solicit public input. Based on the preliminary review of the site features, some elements that will influence the appropriateness of recreational and management activities on the site include:

- **Topography, Access, and Existing Infrastructure**:
  The western portion of the site offers relatively level terrain with existing infrastructure (roads, barns, water wells and distribution, former agricultural uses), making it suitable for community-oriented development and gatherings. Steeper areas to the east are best reserved for trails, scenic overlooks, rugged recreation, and opportunities for vegetation management.
- **Scenic Qualities**:
  The property provides panoramic views of Sawmill Peak and the West Branch Feather River Canyon. A natural promontory and amphitheater-like feature offer opportunities for trailheads and event spaces.
- **Connectivity**:
  Potential linkages to adjacent public lands (BLM) and private property could enhance recreational access and support fire management activities. See map 2. Retaining and/or improving the road and bridge to the south could aid in access for emergencies. This also allows for any future park development if these lands become available.

D. Project Goals, Objectives, and Considerations

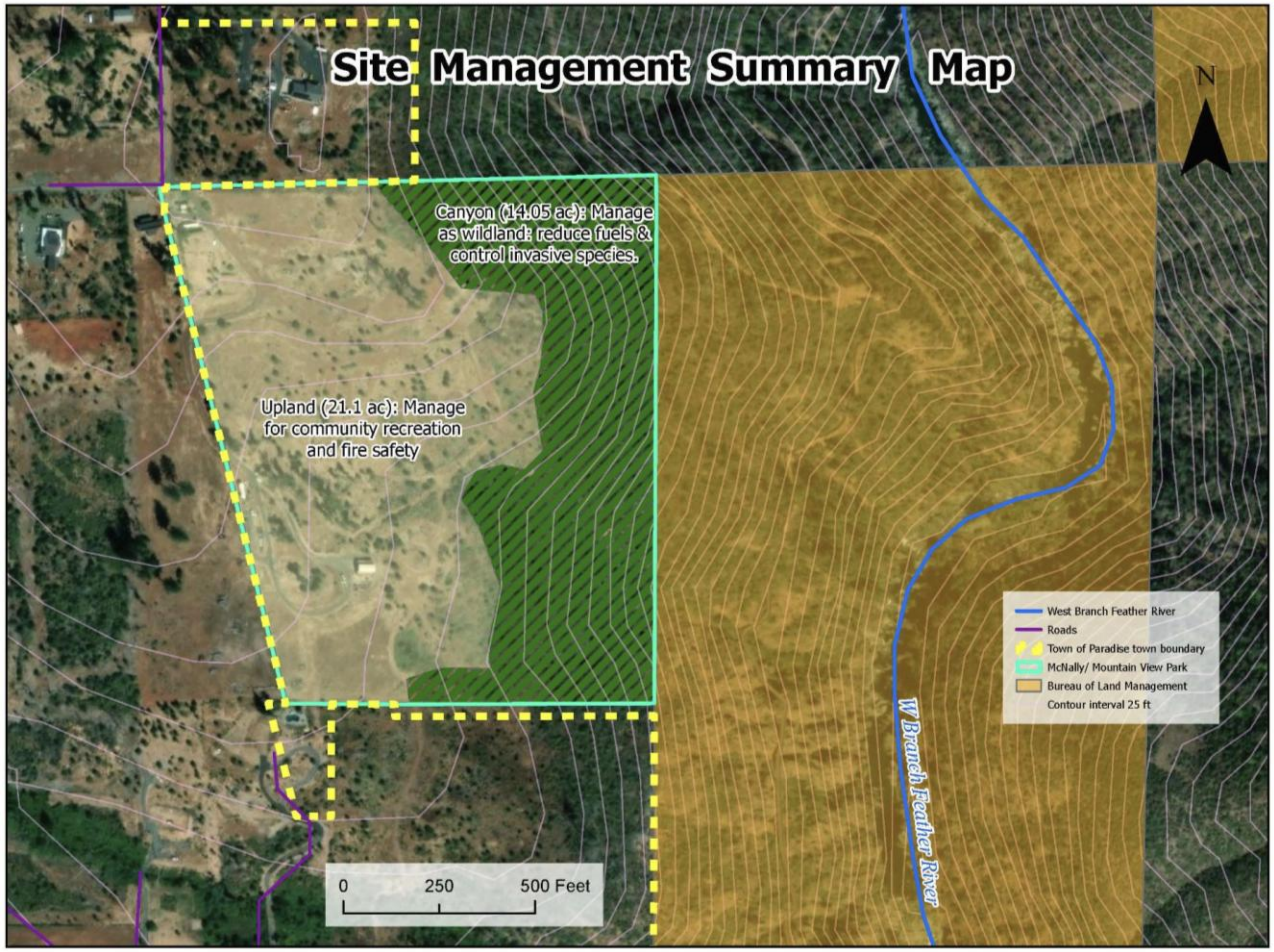
Project Goals and Objectives

- Manage hazardous fuels, including native and invasive species, on the property in a fire-safe and ecologically appropriate way
- Conduct a public outreach process resulting in a list of desired uses for the park
- Develop timeline for implementation, including timeline for and any conditions on public access
- Develop agreements or MOUs with any neighbors whose cooperation is desired (this could be true for day-to-day maintenance, alternative ingress/egress easements, and/or for future desired uses)
- Develop plans, designs, and environmental compliance solutions for the desired uses

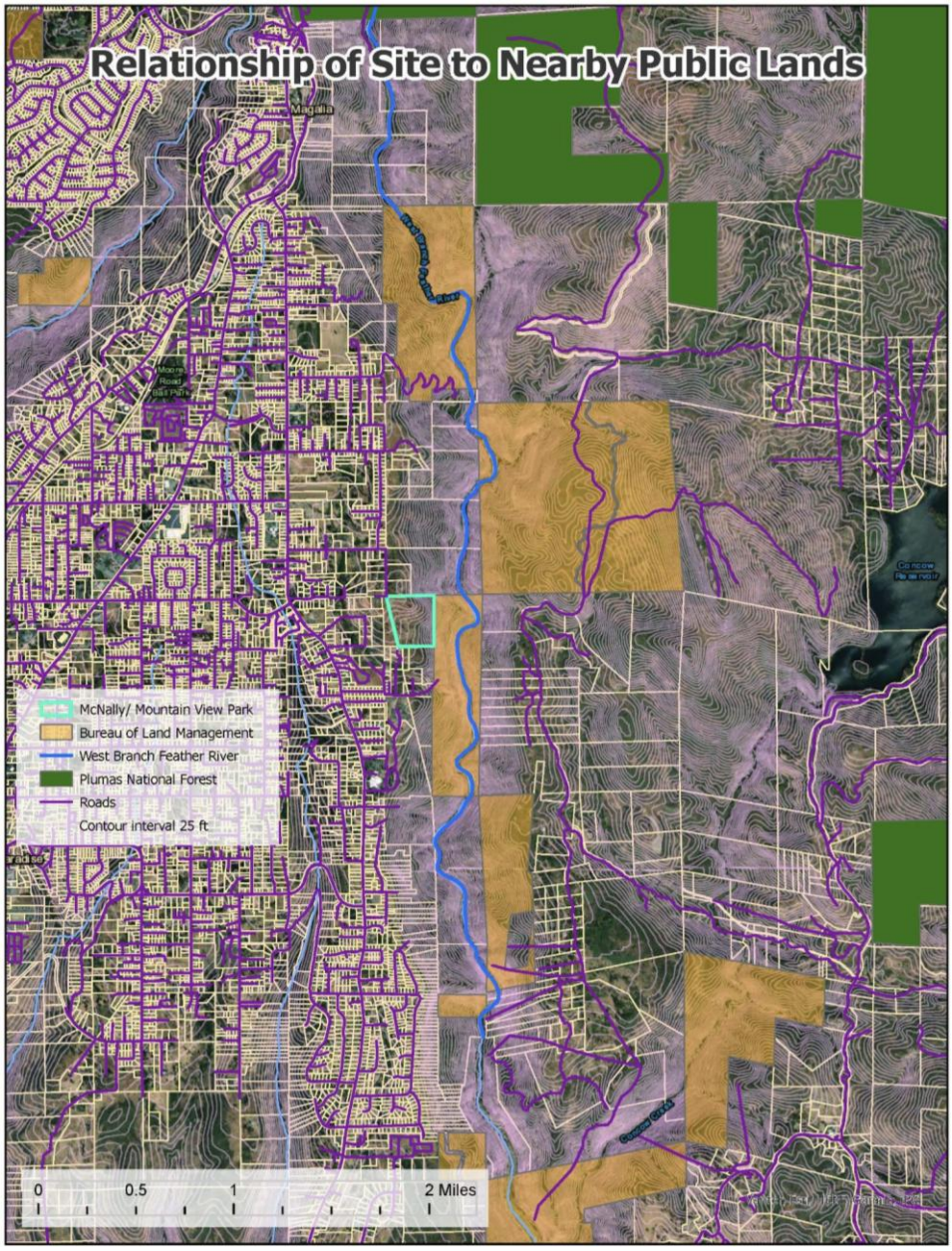
Site Specific Considerations

- Owner-installed water lines have been mapped and may need replacement, improvement or avoidance. See map 3.
- There is some old fencing that needs to be dismantled and rebuilt
- The eastern boundary of the inviting upland park is a steep, inaccessible and dangerous drop-off, where it is often impossible to see one's footing well. This edge should probably be signed or fenced to discourage use, except at the trailhead (if built)
- Collaboration with neighboring BLM would be the key to providing trail access to the river
- Collaboration with neighboring BLM would also be the key to any application of beneficial fire in the Canyon Zone, which is an extremely challenging area to manage. (Applying beneficial fire to the Upland zone is far lower-complexity and is within the capacity of many small organizations without outside help.)
- Study the feasibility of converting the existing small home(s) into public space, e.g. restrooms, after lease ends. (The existing home is a mobile home without a foundation)

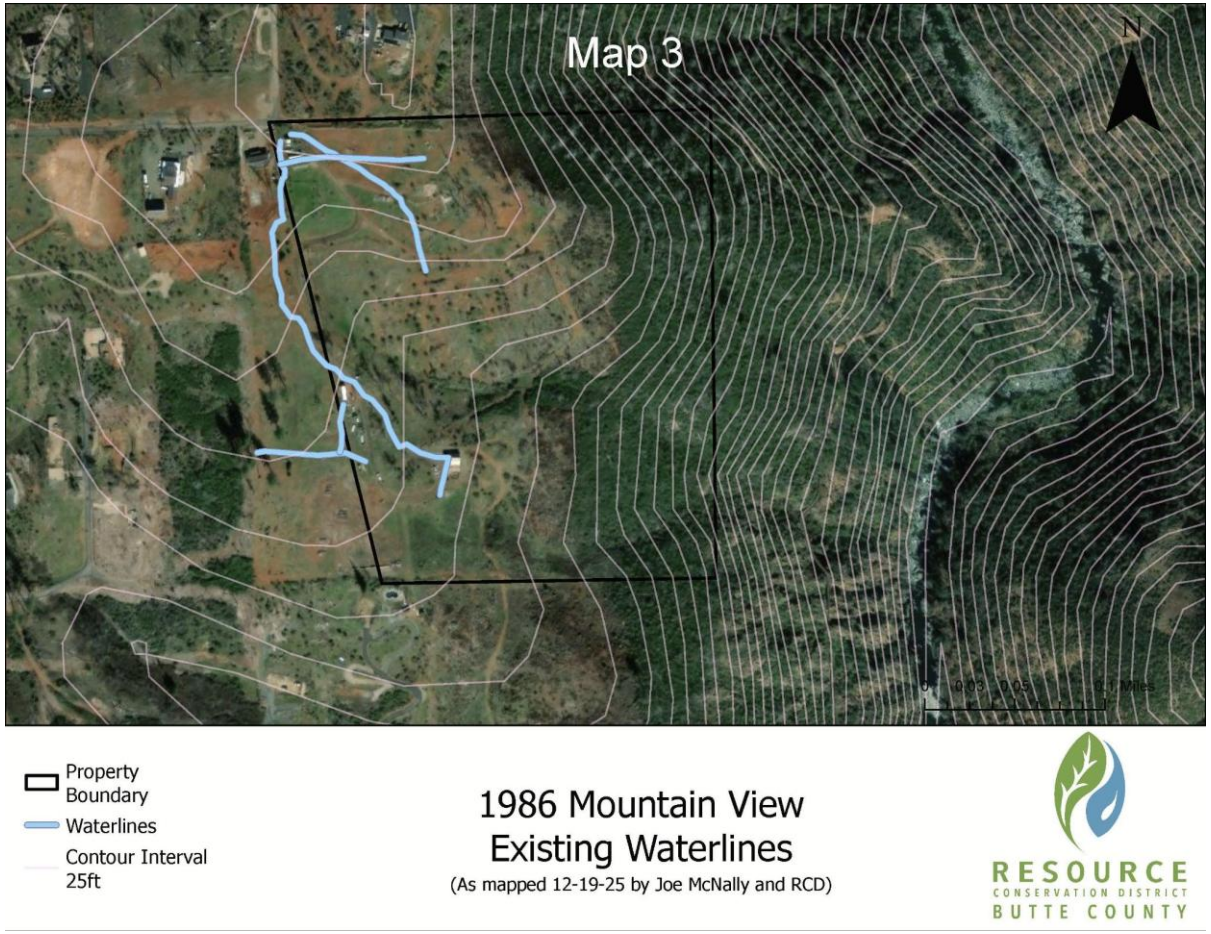
Map 1: Site Overview



Map 2: Nearby Public Lands



Map 3: Known Water Lines



E. Legal and Institutional Context.

1986 Mountain View sits just outside the Town of Paradise boundary and thus is in unincorporated Butte County. The zoning is AG-160, which allows for one dwelling and one accessory structure per site. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA, described in more detail in section II. E) was conducted by Chico Environmental Science and Planning in 2022 and found no toxic or hazardous conditions that would need to be disclosed or dealt with during a property transfer.

F. Roles and Responsibilities of Project Partners.

Partner	Role	Responsibilities
PRPD	Owner and land manager	Maintains fuels/vegetation/facilities; conducts public outreach and medium- to long-term planning processes; executes agreements/MOUs with other partners; develops park uses and facilities
Town of Paradise	Neighboring jurisdiction	Property is currently immediately outside the Town boundary, on privately maintained roads. If access and some utilities need improvement, it may need to be developed through agreements with the Town
PID	Potential secondary water provider?	Secondary water provider?
Butte County Fire Safe Council	Potential partner	Could assist with fuels management including grazing
BCRCD	Potential partner	Helped develop this interim plan; is the fiscal sponsor of the Butte PBA which helps convene Good Fire Festival(s); could assist with fuels and invasives management
Butte PBA	Potential partner	Could help apply beneficial fire to the Upland Zone, a low-complexity burn area suitable for community-based fire; could co-develop future public “good fire” events
CSU, Chico (Nature Therapy Program)	Potential partner	Could help co-develop future community “good fire” events
Bureau of Land Management	Neighbor; potential partner	Could sign agreement allowing development of a trail from 1986 Mountain View down to West Branch Feather River. Has a professional wildland fire force which is capable of assisting with applying beneficial fire to the Canyon Zone, a high-complexity burn situation. *It should be noted that due to agency capacity and a variety of other factors, such cross-boundary Rx burn projects are very rare*

II. Site Description

A. Vegetation Community(s): Circle one or more:

Blue Oak
Mixed Oak Woodland
Black oak/Ponderosa,
Sierran Mixed Hardwood/Conifer,
Upland Mix (True mixed oak-chaparral)
Serpentine,
Foothill Riparian

B. Geographical Setting and Property Location

The property is located in Paradise, CA approximately 700 feet west of the Feather River and 1700 feet east of Pentz Road in Butte County, California. The property is located in Township 22N, Range 4E, Section 18.

- Street Address: 1986 Mountain View Drive
- Assessor's Parcel Number(s) (APN): 053-280-008
- Acres: 34.1
- Access Mountain View Drive
- Elevation: ~ 1700' - 2100'
- Land use and zoning: AG
- Latitude/longitude (per Phase I ESA): 39.76868241137864, -121.56753963558197.

C. Land-Use and Planning

No cultural or historical resources are currently known on site, as no NEIC (NorthEast Information Center) search was requested or conducted for this study. However, they probably exist (see V.C). Adjacent properties are used as residences, open land, and light agricultural uses. Mountain View Drive is a privately maintained road, maintained by the neighbors themselves under an HOA-style agreement drdawn up ini the 1990s. Road changes or access improvements would require consultation with neighbors.

D. Existing Regulatory Compliance, Environmental Assessments and Surveys

As part of the real estate transaction, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was conducted by Chico Environmental in 2022. This assessment covered hazardous materials and toxins on the site (no significant findings), addressed soils and geological setting, reviewed available aerial photographs of the site across the 20th century, etc.

In 2019, an emergency timber harvest document was filed by contract forester Mike Santuccio and is still available for view on CalTREES (2-19EM-00032-BUT). At that time, an NEIC records search of heritage resources disclosed no resources that hampered timber operations. Santuccio likely conducted a pedestrian survey for cultural resources as well.

No botanical, wildlife or other studies on the property are known to BCRCD.

E. Existing Infrastructure

The Upland Zone of the property is bisected by a gravel road running north-south. It is accessed from Mountain View Drive on the north. It formerly, but not currently, left the property on the south. For ideas about restoring emergency 2-way access, see section IV. F. below. The property also contains numerous small buildings and structures, concentrated in three areas. In the northwestern corner of the parcel is a mobile home without a foundation, accompanied by a well and pump house, various arbors and walls and small domestic structures. In the middle of the Upland Zone is a temporary residence occupied by a caretaker. In the southern part of the Upland Zone is a two-walled metal barn on a concrete pad with various vehicles and miscellaneous infrastructure around it.

The property had a larger home, which was destroyed in the Camp Fire. Cleanup was completed by April of 2020. Near or at the cleaned-up site of this former home is a scooped-out, amphitheater-like feature facing southeast over the canyon. This bowl could be made easily accessible from the main road (including potentially with an ADA-accessible trail). It could be an enjoyable site for outdoor concerts, ceremonies, weddings and the like.

The property offers lovely views of Sawmill Peak and the West Branch Feather River Canyon, and it holds promise as a new public access point to the river. (A trail to the river from the property apparently existed once, but by now would need to be re-developed almost from scratch.) There is one promontory on the canyon side of the property that forms a natural scenic overlook; this would be a natural place to install a trailhead. Another promontory is east of the barn.

The Canyon Zone of the property contains no infrastructure, roads, or trails.

F. Geology, Geomorphology, and Soils

Most of the property is on Paradiso Loam soils. The canyon zone may contain some areas of Schott very gravelly loam or Schott rock outcrops. In both cases, the underlying parent material is clayey to loamy residuum weathered from volcanic breccia. No mineral resources are known. Quartz deposits have been noted on the canyon lip. See map 4.

Map 4: Soils

Soils map. Credit: Chico Environmental, Phase I ESA for 1986 Mountain View, Nov 8, 2022

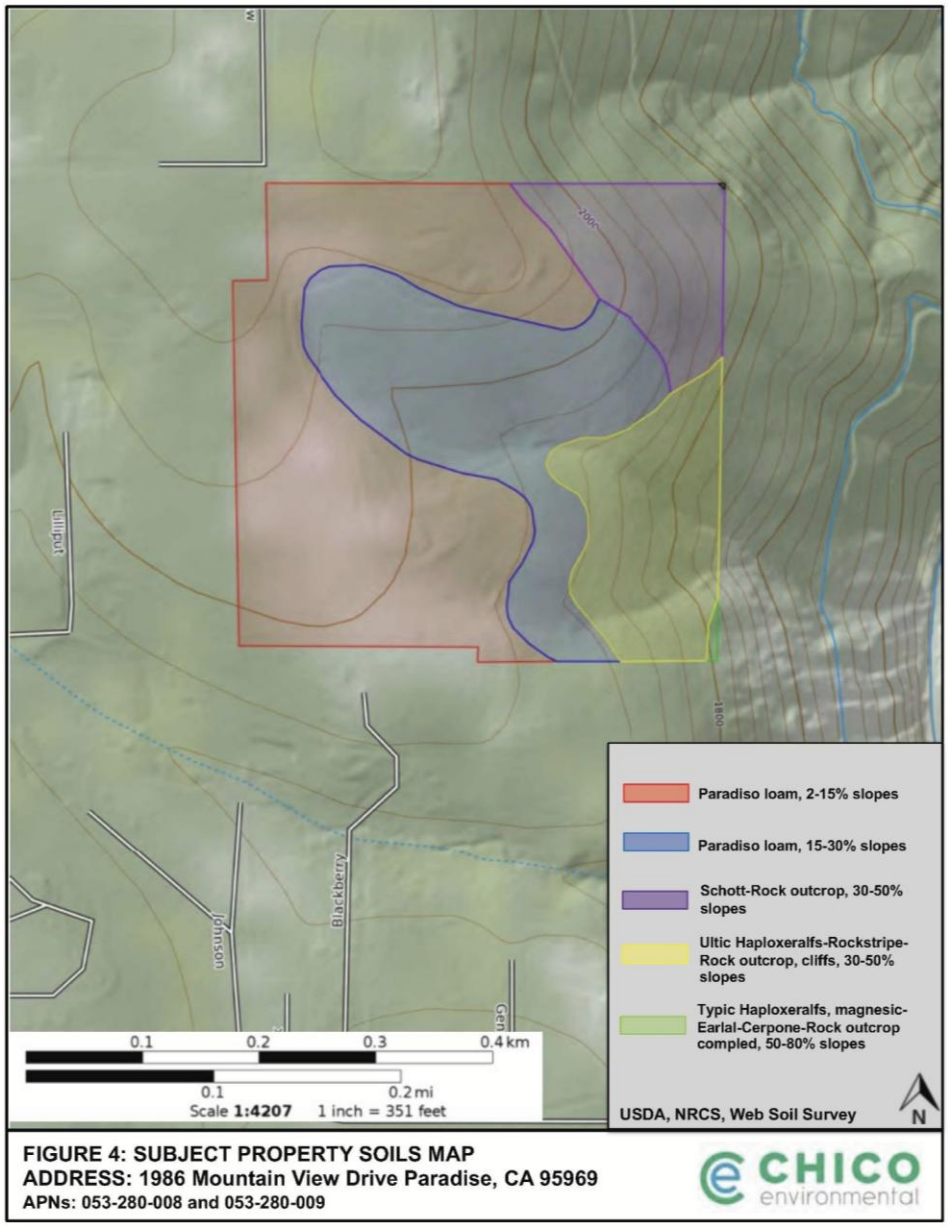


FIGURE 4: SUBJECT PROPERTY SOILS MAP
ADDRESS: 1986 Mountain View Drive Paradise, CA 95969
APNs: 053-280-008 and 053-280-009

CHICO environmental

G. Hydrology and Water Quality

- There is a small perennial pond and intermittent rill in the southern part of the property. It is a valuable wildlife watering source and deserves protection from trampling by grazing animals and from sediment from roads.
- There is also an ephemeral rill/draw which is a gentle topographic feature which is more or less central located in the property (when travelling from north to south). It shows little to no evidence of scour (at least not in the upland portions observed) nor riparian vegetation, and probably does not require much special protection.
- All the water on the property flows east and/or southeast into the West Branch of the Feather River.

H. Biological Resources

i.Vegetation -

The upland zone is a rolling, open oak woodland (mostly black oak, *Quercus kelloggii*, but with scattered live oak, *Q. wislizenii* and blue oak, *Q. douglasii*). It has fewer hazardous fuels issues than most canyon-edge properties its size. Many standing snags pose potential overhead hazards, and blow over frequently. However, they are great wildlife trees; PRPD could consider investing more in visitor management (e.g, fencing off areas with the most snag hazards as livestock paddocks so humans don't enter them) so as to invest less in snag management. The grassland community is the usual mix of annual grasses with a few forbs sprinkled in, such as plantain, burnet and *Centaurea* (yellow star) thistle.

Other members of the upland community include scattered individuals of toyon, deerbrush (*Ceanothus integerrimus*), whitethorn ceanothus (*C. incana*), three-nerve goldenrod (*Solidago velutinus*), coffeberry (*Frangula*), manzanita (*Arctostaphylos viscda)*, coyotebrush (*Baccharis pilularis)*, and a few bay laurels (*Umbellularia californica*) in draws.

The canyon zone is a more or less unbroken wall of brush, especially dominated by invasive broom species. The normal tactic in this vegetation community would be to cut all broom plants, daub the cut stems with herbicide, and prune any remaining native trees or large shrubs to 3-5 main stems. (For details, see section III.E. below.) It's unclear if it's possible for hand crews to safely access this entire slope to perform this work.

ii.Wildlife -

No wildlife survey has been conducted on the property. Animals common to Paradise such as bats, deer, rattlesnakes, a variety of small and midsize mammals, predators like coyotes and foxes, raptors, songbirds, turtles and frogs, and a wide variety of invertebrates likely use the property. Black bears and mountain lions are also occasional residents. A number of special-status bats are known from the surrounding area; setting up passive acoustical surveys might be a good use of PRPD resources. This would help PRPD understand what nesting subbstrates bats

are using (e.g. cliff faces, cavities in large burned trees, the space under sloughing bark on large dead trees…) and is a best practice prior to hazard tree removal.

iii. Special Biological Features-

The property has a small pond, currently afflicted by Himalayan blackberry. However, healthy cattails and willows prove the pond is a reliable water source for wildlife all year long. If the blackberry were removed, more native vegetation would be able to thrive. The removal of blackberries (see III.E-F. below) and the establishment of native reeds, could create a sanctuary for rare birds such as the California black rail and tri-colored blackbird, without the need for further investment or maintenance. A 9-quad CNDDB search (for special-status plants, animals, and natural communities) was conducted by BCRCD in 2026 and the results are provided as an appendix A.

I. Recreation

The property is not currently open to the public, but since dozens of people a day hike the trail down to the river and back at Coutelenc (an elevation loss of 800'), it's likely that as many people would use an access point if it were to be developed at 1986 Mountain View.

J. Special Considerations and Miscellaneous

- Access- Access is good, not excellent, down a narrow residential lane. Stark Lane and Mountain View Drive are private owner maintained roads; approval of Stark and Mountain View residents for any changes is recommended. Depending on the level of visitation that is expected, speed bumps might be beneficial to install.
- Flood/Fire Contingencies - The property has one way in, which doubles as the way out. Potentially, a secondary evacuation route could be created from the property's main internal road, perhaps heading due west from the barn area (for example). The former landowners note that Bille Rd. Extension, an easement, could be used for evacuation with high clearance vehicles. South of 1986 Mountan View, it is possible (although not currently legal) to drive through a private property to Blackberry Lane. This egress was used in 2008 by emergency vehicles.
- Safety Issues - Steep dropoff; treacherous footing; rattlesnakes; ticks.
- No conservation efforts or conservation-related studies known that are relevant to the parcel.
- An Environmental Data Resources (EDR) database search was conducted by Chico Environmental in 2022. It found one site of environmental concern within the 0.5-to-1-mile search radius. This site was located approximately half a mile west of the subject property at 6435 Pentz Road, and was listed in the LUST, SWEEPS UST, Cortese, CUPA Listings and CERS databases. Two leaking underground storage tanks were discovered at the site in 2000 and were removed. Based on sampling conducted in August 2019, the case was closed in March 2020 under the Low-Threat Closure Policy.

III. Park Maintenance and Management

A. Management Zones

The property is comprised of 2 distinct zones (see map 1). The zone the visitor first encounters (the “Upland” zone) is about 21 acres. It is a large level to rolling open area at the eastern edge of the Paradise plateau, gently fluctuating from 2100’ down to about 1950’ in elevation. A main road bisects this level area and appears to be in good condition; the road surface is gravel. Driveways branch off this main road to reach a small spring-fed pond, a barn/shop area, a caretakers’ trailer, and one or two home sites that burned in the Camp Fire. The aspect of the entire property trends from east to southeast.

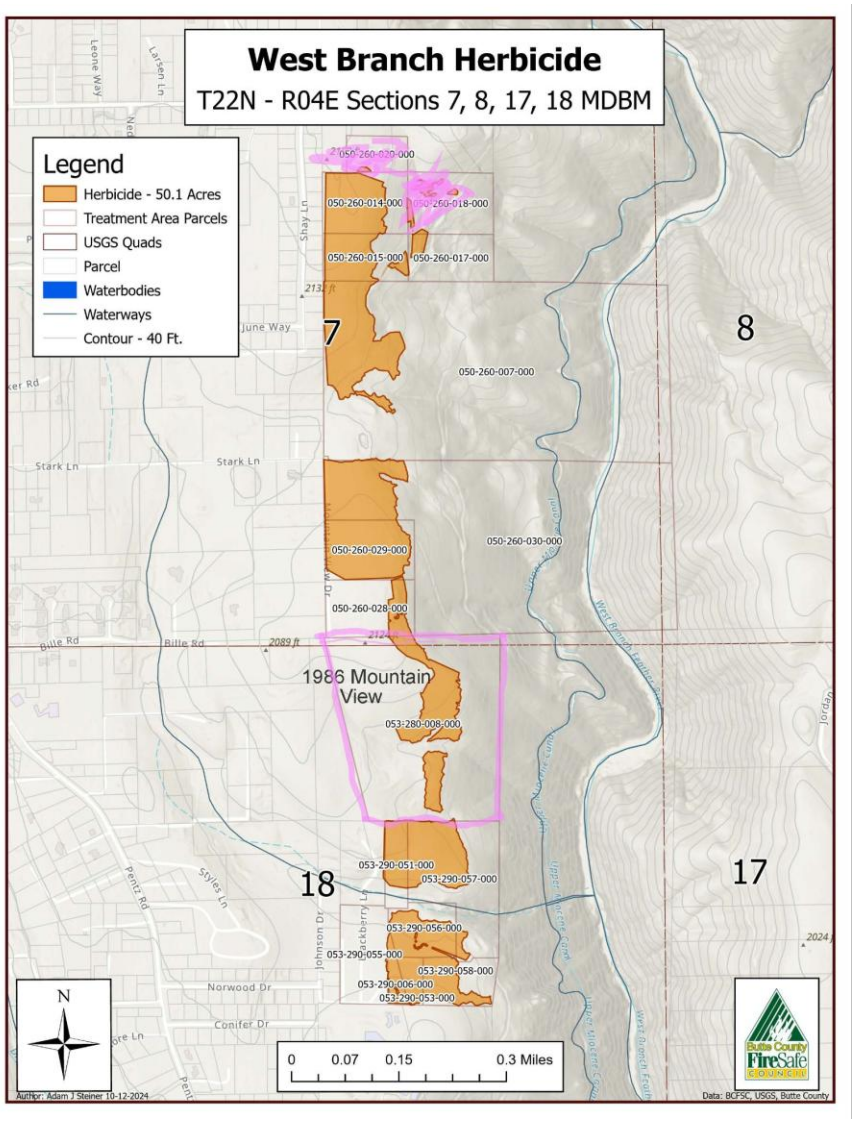
The other zone of the property (“Canyon” zone), is 14 acres. It is a steep and heavily brushy canyonside rapidly descending from 1950’ to about 1700’ in elevation. At that point, the eastern boundary of the property is encountered, but the visitor is still 500 feet above the West Branch Feather River. The property’s eastern edge abuts BLM land that continues down to and across the West Branch, providing potential trail connectivity with the Miocene Canal and the Concow side of the river.

B. History of Past Management

As stated above, the property was a Christmas tree farm for decades. Since 2018, the upland area was repeatedly masticated, using a large rotary head that could grind vegetation up to 10” diameter. The owner reported that invasive broom was much more prevalent on the upland area before his mastication efforts. BCRCD believes the last time the property was treated with mastication was in 2022, but this could be incorrect.

In 2024, parts of the property that were heavily infested with broom were treated with herbicide by the Butte County Fire Safe Council (see map 4). The herbicide was a mixture of glyphosate (aquatic label), Garlon 3A, Milestone, and (a surfactant) Syltac. The broom was up to six feet tall at that point. The owner Joe McNally states the herbicide effectiveness “was a nine out of ten,” but emphasized that anyone undertaking to spray broom that tall must also have a plan in place for crushing or remmoving it! Thanks to the Fire Safe Council for graciously providing the map and PCA recommendation for this treatment. The PCA recommendation has been provided via Google Drive as Appendix B. (Please note, this recommendation has expired and is provided as past management information only)

Map 5: Herbicide Treatment in 2024
Special thanks to Butte County Fire Safe Council for graciously providing this map.



C. Site Preparation

i. Preparation for Vegetation Management

The Upland Zone needs little pre-treatment; with regard to hazardous fuels and invasive species, it is in average to good condition for properties of its type in Paradise. It simply needs to be maintained in that condition (see III. D. below). The Canyon Zone requires a number of entries, in stages, before it can be considered to be in a maintenance condition. See III.D. below.

ii. Preparation for Future Park Uses

Any development or concentrated use would likely need:

- Underground water lines to be checked, possibly repaired
- Existing fencing to be removed for safety
- Mowed access paths and signage to direct users away from hazardous areas (such as steep dropoffs in the Canyon Zone)
- Some resource studies and environmental compliance documentation (with intensity of study depending on intensity of proposed use – see V. C. below)

D. Conservation and Resource Management

The site is already relatively disturbed and, aside from the small spring-fed pond, has no outstanding biological features that necessitate a special conservation strategy. Across the entire parcel (including the pond), an IPM-based plan of invasives removal, reintroduction of beneficial fire, and basic best management practices will be sufficient conservation measures on this parcel.

E. Vegetation Management

1986 Mountain View has the same problems and opportunities that are typical of its area. It could be made into a model for efficient fuels management that can be adopted by the other 175 property owners who share stewardship of the challenging, steep, “Sunrise Rim” slope of Paradise Ridge.

i. Upland Section Vegetation Management:

The Upland section is a predominantly rolling oak woodland with *Quercus kelloggii* and *Q. wislizeni,* annual grasses and forbs, and intermittent standing snags. Due to the long history of management on the property, the upland section remains in decent condition. Some scattered ponderosa pines have returned from seed. The primary actions that could be considered for management of the Upland section include felling snags where they might present a risk to public safety, such as over future or existing trails and roads, next to parking areas, near to structures, and/or near to powerlines and other infrastructure. If other snags are located in areas where they do not pose a hazard to the public or other infrastructure, consider retaining them as wildlife habitat.

Hardwoods such as black oak that were top killed in the 2018 Camp Fire and have since resprouted can be pruned. Select 2-3 of the strongest leaders showing the best vigor, height,

and growth and cut the rest of the stems. From late fall and early winter to early spring, while the trees are still dormant, is the best time to prune. Remove pruned stems and pile, chip, or scatter. This practice will allow for oaks and other hardwoods to continue growing into more of a traditional “tree” structure that will soon provide shade to the property.

For management of smaller diameter vegetation, grazing could be an efficient tool. Livestock cannot be used for the management of mature plants, so this resource can be used in conjunction with other management options. Goat herds, sheep herds, or mixed “flerds” could present both an educational and landscape benefit for fuels management of annual grasses and certain brush species, but it would be recommended to consult with a professional on the topic beforehand due to the required knowledge of the animals and plant physiology. The October 2007 Society for Range Management paper “Planned Herbivory in the Management of Wildfire Fuels” by Nader et al. is a great resource.

When applied under appropriate conditions, prescribed fire could, and should, be utilized as a land management tool in both the Upland and Canyon management zones. Historically, fire occurred at regular intervals and played a key role in shaping vegetation structure and function. Prescribed fire can reduce surface and ladder fuels, moderate potential fire behavior, and restore more resilient fuel profiles across the landscape, as well as promote ecological processes such as nutrient cycling, native plant regeneration, and habitat diversity.

Prescribed fire is an appropriate and effective management tool within the Upland section to maintain existing oak woodland conditions, manage fine fuels, manage invasive species, and support long-term ecosystem resilience. The rolling topography, and composition of oak woodland and grass creates favorable conditions for low to moderate-intensity prescribed fire when implemented under proper weather and fuel moisture conditions.

Prescribed fire should be applied primarily as broadcast underburns to manage fine fuels. Underburns should be designed to consume cured annual grasses, leaf litter, and small woody debris while minimizing cambial damage and mortality to mature overstory trees. Desired fire effects include reduction of flashy fuels, maintenance of open understory conditions, and disruption of fuel continuity without excessive scorch or mortality to the overstory.

Pile burning should also be utilized, primarily to reduce larger diameter material generated from snag felling, pruning, or any other hazard tree mitigation or pruning activities. Piles should be constructed to promote efficient consumption and burning should occur during periods of adequate soil and fuel moisture to reduce impacts to soils and root systems. Piles should be located away from retained wildlife snags, sensitive resources, and infrastructure.

Pile burning also allows for unique opportunities for community education and well being. Piles make for great educational opportunities to educate community members on how they can build and burn their own piles on their property. Generally speaking, more people feel comfortable doing piles themselves on their land than broadcast burns. Piles have also been used by organizations as excellent mental health and healing opportunities, known as pyrotherapy. The

Butte RCD, PRPD, and BCCER actually demonstrated this during the 2025 Good Fire Festival in Paradise, with great success.

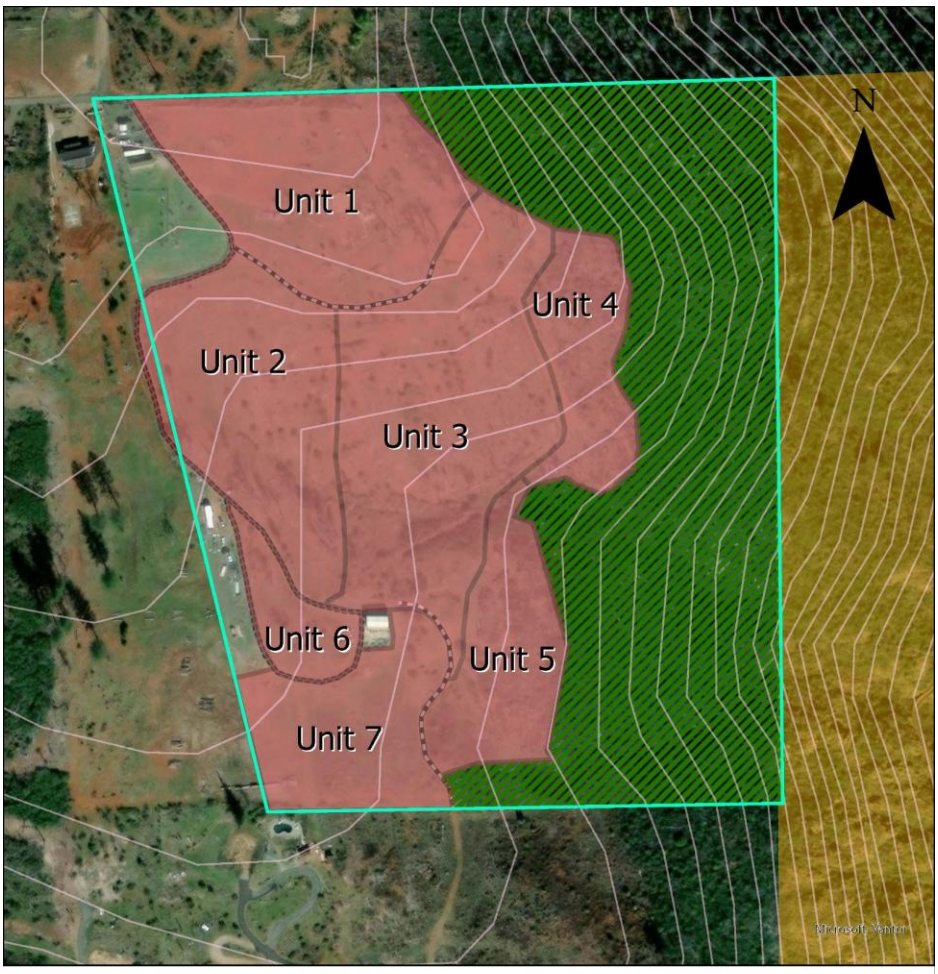
Broadcast burns should be implemented during late fall and/or early to late spring, following the onset of seasonal moisture and prior to peak nesting periods, when dead fuel moistures support controllable fire behavior and smoke dispersion is favorable. Burns should be conducted under conditions that allow for good overnight relative humidity recovery, moderate winds, and sufficient atmospheric ventilation to limit smoke impacts.

Prescribed fire use in the Upland section is best utilized as part of an integrated management approach. Its use should complement grazing, mechanical, selective pruning, and any other treatments that may be implemented. Reintroduction of fire on a periodic basis (approximately every 3-7 years, depending on fuel accumulation and management objectives – but see below) will help reduce the intensity and technical difficulty of future prescribed fire treatments and will support the overall health of a black oak-dominated ecosystem. Prescribed fire operations should focus on the reduction of grass thatch and other fine fuels by 60-90% immediately post fire, limit mature oak mortality to less than 10% 1 year post fire for trees 6" in diameter or greater, and reduce the overall shrub component, but retain small patches of brush, across the landscape. See map 6.

Annual burning for native grassland restoration: If the management objective is to shift the species balance from invasive toward native species (native grassland species tend to support lower flame lengths and lower rate of spread than many invasives and especially star thistle), then annual prescribed burns may be recommended. If the problem invasive species are mostly annual grasses, then fall burns 1-2 weeks after the first rain are the best choice; if star thistle is the main species of concern, then June burns are usually best (see "Invasive Species," below).

All prescribed fire activities shall be conducted under an approved burn plan, with appropriate permits, staffing, equipment, and contingency resources in place. Fire implementation should be guided by site-specific objectives, real-time weather and fuel observations, and professional judgment to ensure safe operations and desired ecological outcomes.

Map 6: Potential Upland Rx Burn Units
Mapped by Dallas Koller, CARx



ii. Canyon Section Vegetation Management

The Canyon section of the property is dominated by a nearly unbroken wall of chaparral species such as toyon, deerbrush, coffeeberry, manzanita, and coyotebush that has regrown since the fire. The slope on this section of the property will dictate which management options are feasible, but it is recommended that some brush control be attempted to mitigate effects of any future fires coming from the canyon.

Since the canyon is too steep for equipment, all management considerations for the canyon should utilize hand crews. An effective first treatment could be to hand cut and pile all brush species, leaving dispersed plants of coffeeberry, manzanita, and other species as desired throughout the section to retain an acceptable level of brush growth and act as soil stabilization. Hardwoods that stump sprouted after the fire should be pruned to 2-3 of the strongest leaders and all brush around 15 feet of the hardwoods should be cut.

Whether managers start them or not, a fire will start in the canyon eventually. If fuels are at their present (dense) condition, and fuel moistures are sufficiently low, then the fire will burn uphill at high intensity and a rapid rate of spread. To moderate future fire behavior, prescribed fire can be used, at least in theory, as a management tool within the Canyon section. However, due to slope, access, and safety considerations, prescribed fire in the canyon is high-complexity and may not be within reach for PRPD.

All prescribed fire activities in the Canyon section should be preceded by hand treatments and only implemented under conservative prescription conditions. This means higher fuel moistures, 12-14 for Fine Dead Fuel Moisture (FDFM), lower temperature (50 degrees or so) and higher Relative Humidity (55%). These parameters should be coupled with strong predicted overnight RH recovery, ample and experienced holding resources, and low wind (5mph or less).

After the first entry of hand treatments, initial prescribed fire use in the Canyon section should focus on pile burning of material generated from mechanical and hand treatments. Piles should be constructed to promote rapid and efficient consumption, while minimizing damage to nearby overstory or infrastructure. Piles should be placed away from retained shrubs, hardwood stems, and sensitive resources. Pile burning should occur only under conditions of adequate soil moisture and favorable smoke dispersion. Pile burning serves as an essential first step in reducing overall fuel loading and creating opportunities for future broadcast fire, but may be difficult to implement at scale safely. Piles will need to be brushed around and placed in relatively level areas, or have large cup-trenches placed on the down-slope side to catch any rolling material. Lookouts should be placed in order to have an excellent view of the burn unit and keep an eye out for any rolling material, or fuel that may ignite and send fire upslope. **Pile burning should not be implemented on slopes exceeding 120%** slope due to the increased risk to crew safety due to poor footing and fall potential, as well as increased risk of rolling material with little ability to mitigate it.

Following initial pile burning and reduction of heavy fuel loads, a schedule of lop-and-scatter could be utilized for several years until brush control is acceptable and the remaining landscape looks largely like dominant hardwoods with scattered brush. When lopping-and-scattering, cut

brush and leave on site, taking care to avoid big piles of brush and ensuring all brush is pulled far enough away from the species that are retained on site. All handwork should be completed with the safety of crews in mind. Some slopes may be too steep and/or unstable for hand crews to access. If it is feasible to follow each round of lop-and-scatter treatment with an underburn, the treatment will be more effective at reducing hazardous fuels. However, underburning in the Canyon Zone is extremely challenging.

When underburning, a low-intensity broadcast burning would be sought in order to maintain reduced fuel continuity and manage fine fuels. Underburns should be planned to consume fine dead fuels and small woody material without promoting widespread torching or rapid upslope fire runs. This is extremely challenging on the site and would require experienced, professional wildland fire teams and significant resources. Desired fire effects include reduction of flashy fuels, maintenance of discontinuous shrub cover, and protection of hardwoods that have been selectively retained and pruned. Due to broom's high volatility as a primary fuel and the inability to guarantee capacity for multi-year follow-up treatments, broadcast prescribed fire is not a good tool to use in dense broom stands.

If undertaken, prescribed fire in the Canyon section should be conducted during late fall or early winter burn windows. At this time of year, live and dead fuel moistures are elevated, fire behavior is moderated by seasonal conditions, and smoke dispersion can be managed effectively. Ignition techniques should be selected specifically to account for slope-driven fire behavior, and holding strategies must emphasize crew safety, anchor points, rapid spot fire suppression, and conservative progression. Again, due to slope, access, and safety considerations, all prescribed fire activities in the Canyon section should be preceded by hand treatments and only implemented under conservative prescription conditions. This means higher fuel moistures, lower temperature (50 degrees or so) and higher Relative Humidities. These parameters should be coupled with strong predicted overnight recovery, ample and experienced holding resources, and low wind (5mph or less). Lookouts should be placed in order to have an excellent view of the burn unit and keep an eye out for any rolling material, or fuel that may ignite and send fire upslope.

Broadcast burning should not be implemented on slopes exceeding 120% slope due to the increased risk to crew safety due to poor footing and fall potential, increased risk of rolling material with little ability to mitigate it, and the potential for rapid fire intensity increase, creating dangerous fire conditions which could quickly outrun or overwhelm holding resources.

Without partnering with federal and state resources (Bureau of Land Management, CAL FIRE, USFS) prescribed fire implementation on this site is unlikely to be successful. Areas such as this are an immense tactical and logistical difficulty. Holding the prescribed burn at the property boundaries in the Canyon is unlikely, and success will most likely be found expanding the burn area beyond it. However, the Feather River Canyon is steep and large and provides little relief for resources. Any operation within the Canyon carries a high degree of risk.

All prescribed fire activities shall be conducted under an approved burn plan, with appropriate permits, staffing, equipment, and contingency resources in place. Fire implementation should be

guided by site-specific objectives, real-time weather and fuel observations, and professional judgment to ensure safe operations and desired ecological outcomes. Due to steep terrain and limited access, prescribed fire use in this area requires careful planning, conservative prescriptions, and experienced personnel to ensure safe implementation.

iii. Reforestation:

The primary recommendation for reforestation on this property is to focus on pruning and leader training the hardwood species that are already on site. For each resprouting hardwood individual, select 2-3 of the strongest leaders showing the best vigor, height, and growth and cut the rest of the stems. Late fall / early winter to early spring while the trees are still dormant is the best time to prune. Remove pruned stems and pile, chip, or scatter. This practice will allow for oaks and other hardwoods to continue growing into more of a traditional “tree” structure that will soon provide shade to the property. If there are multiple trees growing in one area, leave a spacing of 15’ x 15’, or even as high as 20’ x 20’, between trees to ensure that there is room for growth.

Conifer reforestation is not necessary nor entirely recommended, but if it is desired as a secondary activity, then it is helpful to know the property is located in California tree seed zone 524 with elevations between 1,700’ and 2,100’. (see figure below)

Mixed conifer species such as ponderosa pine, douglas-fir, and incense cedar can be planted, likely with varying rates of success. Gray pine can also be planted if seed is available at the nursery and would probably do well. Planting densities should be kept on the lower side, between 100-150 trees per acre (TPA). A high rate of mortality is likely and would result in the property ending up at an ideal lower stocking rate of around 50-80 trees per acre. Any seedlings should be planted in late fall, after there have been soaking rains and temperatures remain moderate with more rain in the forecast (typically mid-November). It is also possible to plant in late winter/early spring (late February - March) when the soil is above 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

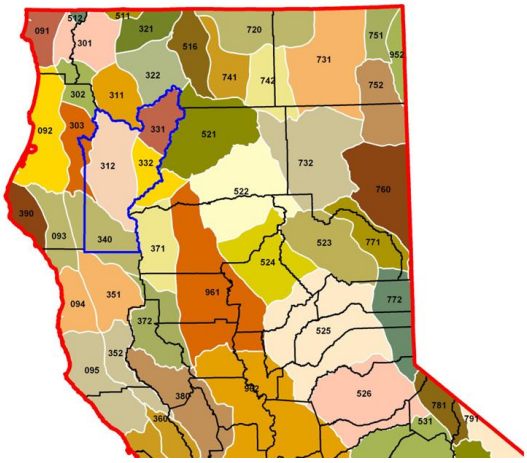
Rather than simply ordering trees from the same zone as the property, it is recommended to use the Climate Adapted Seed Tool (CAST) when requesting seed and/or seedling from a nursery. CAST is a modeling tool that offers other seed zones and elevation bands where the selected seedling species will be better suited to the growing site in the face of a changing climate, presented in metrics such as percent decline in productivity, CO_2 sequestered, or percent decline in survival. The CAST tool and other resources can be found on the Reforestation Tools website.

Recommended nurseries:

CALFIRE L.A. Moran Reforestation Center
Davis, CA

Cal Forest Nurseries
Etna, CA

USFS Placerville Nursery / El Dorado RCD Reforestation Program
Placerville, CA
Contact Maia Davis at El Dorado RCD for more information



Northern California Seed Zones. Credit: Tehama RCD

F. Invasive Species Control

The control of invasive species on both the Upland and Canyon section of the property should be treated with an integrated pest management (IPM) plan, meaning that the use of multiple methods of removal is recommended and, in many cases, necessary. These include manual, mechanical, fire, and chemical treatments.

Below are some recommendations of herbicides – and prescribed fire tactics, where appropriate – that can be used to treat the invasives found on site. The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) IPM website has many good resources and recommendations for treatments of common California invasive plant species. However, while many herbicides are commercially available over the counter, it is recommended and best practice to get a Pest Control Advisor (PCA) recommendation for long-term chemical management of invasives on the property.

i. Yellow Starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis)*

Yellow starthistle (YST) is present on the property in the Upland section of the property. There are several effective methods for treatment of starthistle and as always it is recommended to combine treatments to improve efficacy of eradication. Controlling a starthistle infestation, like many other invasives, will be a multi-year endeavor.

It is recommended to learn and understand the lifecycle of starthistle as its growth stage will influence which management option will be the most effective. For example, mowing can be an effective treatment when it is timed and used on plants that are mature and have a high branching pattern with many stems. Mowing early growth stages can cause rapid regrowth and mowing rosettes that are close to the ground will be ineffective as the blade of the mower will not reach the plant. When plants are tall, branched, and in a spiny or early flowering stage will be the ideal time to mow, especially when soil moisture is low and no rainfall is in the forecast.

Grazing can be an effective treatment, especially effective at reducing seed production. Graze in late May and June using large numbers of animals for a short duration. Avoid overgrazing as this can reduce neighboring native grasses that could outcompete with the starthistle.

Prescribed fire can be an effective component of starthistle management when properly timed. Burning is most effective at the end of the rainy season, either just before flowering, or immediately after flowering when plants are vulnerable and prior to widespread seed dispersal. In the lower elevations of Butte County the latter window has typically been found in early to mid June. Burns conducted too late in the season may allow viable seed to persist and result in rapid spreading of the weed. Burns conducted too early in the season may (if fuel moistures are too hgh) produce too little heat to kill the star-thistle.

Prescribed fire for starthistle control should be hot enough to kill plants and heat-kill seed, but cool enough to leave behind sufficient ground cover to protect soils. Flanking fire is typically the most effective firing pattern as it allows for a longer residency time than head fire, and promotes higher temperatures than backing fire alone. Follow-up monitoring and retreatment will be necessary, as starthistle control is typically a multi-year effort. Prescribed fire will need to be implemented several years in a row in order to constitute an effective reduction treatment method.

Chemical control options of YST are numerous and rather involved. It is suggested to obtain a recommendation for a full chemical treatment plan from a Pest Control Advisor (PCA) or refer to the UCANR IPM document on YST.

Reference: https://ipm.ucanr.edu/home-and-landscape/yellow-starthistle/

ii. Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*)

The Upland section of the property has pockets of Himalayan blackberry growing, specifically in wet areas and the small pond that is located on property. Blackberries can regenerate from the crown or rhizomes in the soil, so just pulling or mowing on its own is not enough. A

recommended course of treatment could start with pulling plants, especially while soil is wet, manually for small infestations or with a grapple attachment on a mini excavator for larger infestations. Mowing plants should be done multiple times throughout the season as the plant will continually resprout each time it is mowed.

In combination with the mechanical control, herbicides should be applied to any new sprouts between late summer and early fall, taking care to avoid spraying when the plant is flowering. This can be a foliar application or a cut-and-daub method where herbicide is applied directly to the cut stump immediately after the cane of the plant is cut. Foliar herbicides such as Glyphosate at a rate of 1-1.5% (of a 41% active ingredient product) or Triclopyr ester (61% active ingredient at a rate of 1-1.2 ounces of product per gallon of water) will be effective. Combining herbicides with a surfactant such as Hasten-EA modified vegetable oil concentrate can allow better penetration of the chemical into stems and leaves.

In riparian areas around the pond, an aquatic-use herbicide such as Glyphosate aquatic label can be used to treat blackberry and other invasives. Follow label instructions and specifications.

Prescribed fire has limited effectiveness for direct control of blackberry due to the weed's ability to resprout from crowns and rhizomes. Fire may be used to dispose of cut material following mechanical removal but should not be expected to fully control live plants. Pile burning of blackberry material may be appropriate following cutting or pulling operations, provided that burning occurs under conditions that protect adjacent vegetation and soil resources. Generally, in riparian or wet areas, prescribed fire should be used cautiously or avoided altogether (especially during bird nesting season) unless under the direction of an ecologist and/or cultural fire practitioner to achieve specific riparian objectives. Any fire use associated with blackberry control should be followed by herbicide treatment of resprouts as described above.

iii. Broom spp.

Both French (*Genista monspessulana*) and Spanish *(Sparteum junceum)* brooms can be found on this property. A majority of the infestation is located in the canyon section of the property, though large pockets are growing in the border zone where the Upland meets the Canyon. Control of broom infestations require multiple years of different treatment types. Unless an infestation is quite small, it is rare that just one treatment type would effectively eradicate the plant.

Mechanical treatment of broom can be hand or mechanical pulling. Hand pulling smaller plants while the soil is wet is an effective method and larger plants may be pulled out of the ground with a variety of specialty tools called a "weed wrench." Aim for as little soil disturbance as possible as the seeds in the soil respond with prodigious sprouting after disturbance. Mechanical treatments such as mowing, or lopping stems off, are not effective treatments as broom can resprout.

Burning is often not an effective treatment for broom. It can remove large amounts of cut material quickly, and a *very* hot burn can effectively kill seeds in the soil. However, a cool or moderate burn will do the opposite: it will germinate broom seeds in the seedbank. In fact, low to moderate intensity broadcast burning can actually promote broom germination by exposing mineral soil and reducing competition from native vegetation.

Where fire is used in broom-infested areas, it should be limited to pile burning of cut material, rather than broadcast burning. Cut broom stems should be piled directly on top of the plants from which they were removed and burned under conditions that promote complete consumption. Hot pile burns may reduce seed viability immediately beneath the pile footprint; however, it is expected that broom recruitment will occur in adjacent areas. For this reason, any use of fire in broom-dominated areas must be paired with a clearly defined post-burn control strategy, including herbicide treatment or relentless hand removal of seedlings and resprouts in subsequent growing seasons.

When conducting an underburn in areas that have been infested by broom during the last 1-50 years, it is important to have a control strategy in place after a burn as it is likely that a light burn will stimulate regrowth.

Herbicides are an essential part of broom management. If plants are small enough to safely spray with herbicides (i.e. below waist height), foliar application of an herbicide may be a first treatment followed by cutting, piling, etc. for resprouts. If the broom is too high to safely spray, a cut-stump treatment is recommended as a first herbicide treatment option.

Foliar herbicide applications should be conducted when plants are actively growing between April to July, taking care to avoid spraying when the plants are flowering to avoid adverse impacts to pollinators. Foliar applications should ensure plants are sprayed to wet, but not dripping off, and all leaves and stems glisten. Herbicides such as glyphosate, triclopyr ester, or a combination of imazapyr with glyphosate or triclopyr are effective at targeting broom. 41% glyphosate can be applied in a 2% solution (2.5 ounces per gallon of water); glyphosate 18% can be applied in a 4.7% solution (6 ounces of product per gallon). Triclopyr ester is a more effective formulation than triclopyr amine and a 61% active ingredient chemical can be applied at a .75%-1.5% solution (1-1.25 ounces of product per gallon of water). Mixing triclopyr ester with a surfactant can allow for better penetration into the foliage and stems.

A cut-stump application is useful for when plants are too tall to safely spray a foliar application but it is desired to immediately treat with herbicide, or if there is concern about the amount of herbicide used on site. Material is cut and immediately treated with an herbicide (delaying application is not recommended as the cut surface will dry out and the chemical will not be absorbed into the plant). Cut-stump applications can be done throughout the year as long as the ground is not frozen. Material may be applied with a paint brush, spray bottle, or plastic squeeze bottle. Wet the entire surface of a smaller stem and the outer ring of wood for bigger stems. Chemicals that can be used include triclopyr ester at a 61% active ingredient, mixed at a 1 part product to 4 parts water ratio. Glyphosate at 18% active ingredient can be used in a 1:1 solution or even undiluted. 41% glyphosate should be mixed in a 1 part product to 3 parts water solution.

iv. Other invasive species:

- The rolling upland area has a scattered infestation of star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) and medusahead (*Elymus caput-medusae*). The infestation is not severe (nor unusual), and could be kept in check with regular grazing, mowing, fire, a spot-applied herbicide, or a combination of these.
- The areas around the old and current homesteads have some intentionally planted trees that are now considered invasive; for example, eucalyptus, ailanthus, and acacia. The least invasive of these is black locust.

v. Maintenance Calendar:

January - February - A great time for pile burning and/or manual fuels reduction inbetween rains. Conduct nesting bird checks if starting work after Feb 1.
March - May - Broom can be wrenched by hand as long as the soil is moist. Avoid spraying herbicides on broom when it is flowering (to reduce impacts to pollinators. Invasive blackberry rhizomes can be dug from recently burned areas.
June - September - A good time for grazing festivals, events, and trail construction. June is the ideal star thistle eradcation burn window. Nesting bird surveys are no longer needed starting Sept 1.
October - December - A good time to cut and herbicide-paint larger broom plants, ideally piling them for burning on top of other broom plants. Often a good time for broadcast burning, depending on rains. (For broadcast burns with a native grassland objective specifically, the first 2-3 weeks after the first heavy soaking rains are ideal. November is often a good time for a Fire Festival. December is often a good time for pile burning and manual fuels reduction inbetween storms.

G. Water and Soil Management

The soils on the site are not highly erosive and no particular water or soil management strategy, beyond basic best management practices, is recommended.

H. Visitor Management

The site is accessed by Mountain View Drive off Stark Lane, a narrow residential road. If an increase in visitors is expected, either on a daily or special-event basis, then a traffic study and consideration of traffic calming infrastructure (e.g., speed bumps) would be warranted.

Future visitor services, amenities, interpretation initiatives and educational programs or events, if any, would be guided by a public outreach process and strategic planning (see section V, Implementation Plan). The site's carrying capacity and a plan for visitor impact management would also be developed through that subsequent process.

I. Infrastructure and Facilities

Future infrastructure and facilities development, if any, would be guided by a public outreach process and strategic planning (see section V, Implementation Plan).

J. Safety and Security

- Staff and visitor safety protocols: Visitors should be urged to wear sturdy footwear and stay hydrated. Cell service is good, at least from the upland portion of the property. Although the canyon is rugged, the upland portion of the property is not particularly remote.
- Hazard identification: Along with outright falls, the potential for heat exhaustion/heatstroke, dehydration, and other forms of exposure is probably the most significant risk for visitors and staff. Rattlesnakes are common, and tick are present. Lyme disease is known from the area.

K. Checklist of things staff should look at every time they are on site:

Inspect for water line breaks (e.g. unexpected green/wet spots during summer)
Inspect for broken water fittings (spigots, hoses) especially after a recent hard freeze.
Look overhead for new dangling/hazardous branches.
Note any obstructions on road (or trail(s), if developed)
Note any new areas of erosion/headcuts
Note any new invasive weed infestations.
Note wildlife seen (living or roadkill)
Flag any hazards seen, or mark on a Field Maps-style interface.

L. Fire and Disaster Management

- Risk assessment - It's not uncommon for wildfires to start in the West Branch Feather River. Fires can be started by humans or lightning. Lightning caused the short-lived Stark Fire, in October 2025, which was barely a half-mile from 1986 Mountain View. Firefighters successfully scrambled to control it within 24 hours. With increased visitation and river access, human-caused ignition will also increase.
- Emergency response plans (including times by ambulance and air ambulance to various hospitals, etc) can be developed by PRPD in collaboration with Town of Paradise Fire and police

M. Cost Estimate

1. Cost estimates for Upland Zone vegetation management. “Moderate” fuel loading may be found where the ephemeral drainage approaches the Upland-Canyon zone boundary. However, fuel loading in most of the Upland Zone is “light”.

Moderate Fuel Loading *Total over 15 years = $3,000/ac*	Graze	300			200			200			200			200		
	Underburn		400	300			300			300			300			300
Light Fuel Loading Includes all savannah sites *Total over 15 years = $3,000/ac*	Graze	300			200			200			200			200		
	Underburn		400	300			300			300			300			300
Post High Severity Fire *Total over 15 years= $4,300*	Hazard Tree Removal	1000														
	Hardwood Release/Leader Training				2000											
*It may be possible to resume grazing in year 16 to 20, or year 5 if oak resprouts are well caged.	Underburn*						400			300			300			300

2. Cost estimates for Canyon Zone vegetation management. “Heavy” fuel loading is the current state of the Canyon Zone. “Moderate” fuel loading may be achieved after 5-10 years of work.

	Treatment (Year)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Heavy Fuel Loading *Total over 15 years = $6,200/ac*	Hand Cut and Pile						2000					2000				
	Pile Burn		400					400					400			
	Lop and Scatter															
	Grapple-Pile	1000														
	Underburn															
Moderate Fuel Loading *Total over 15 years = $6,900/ac*	Lop and scatter	1500				1200				1200				1000		
	Underburn	600				500				500				400		
Light Fuel loading *Total over 15 years = $5,200/ac*	Lop and scatter	1400						1200						1200		
	Underburn	500						500						400		
Post High Severity Fire *Total over 15 years= $4,300*	Hand Cut and Pile w Pile Burn										2400					
	Herbicide		900													
	Hardwood Release/Leader Training				1000											

IV. Site analysis

The park's future uses will be determined by a strategic planning process includinig robust public input, and is far beyond the scope of this plan. However, it is worth noting the parcel holds promise as a scenic asset, a gathering place, and even perhaps a "resilience hub" for enterprises that strengthen Paradise residents' shared preparedness for hard times. For example, a community garden or orchard,a community grazing herd hub, and community beneficial fire demonstration units would all be relatively easy to introduce at the site.

Commented [1]: Anne Benoit's note: "Noble Orchard park is a more suitable, easier accessible property for community garden."

The property's level, grassy plateau with oaks, as well as its ease of access and multiple water lines, plus its topography that is consistent with good smoke transport away from the community, all create good opportunities to manage the area in part with beneficial fire. The park could be a good site for a future Fire Festival or other educational events. Nurturing and sustaining residents' good relationship with fire, while giving them opportunities to connect with neighbors, would be the objective. PRPD already has a proven track record of holding these successful "neighbor to neighbor" events.

Conceptual Uses

While future input on the community's recreational needs may influence the selection of amenities, the following are potential uses that should be considered. This list is no doubt incomplete and will likely evolve over time.

A. **Community Resilience Features:**
   a. Community garden or orchard uses (from an agricultural tourism approach)
   b. Grazing hub for fuels reduction livestock
   c. Beneficial fire demonstration areas

B. **Recreational and Cultural Amenities:**
   a. Scenic overlooks and trail system
   b. Picnic sites
   c. Amphitheater for outdoor events (concerts, ceremonies, weddings)

C. **Educational Opportunities:**
   a. Fire Festival or similar events promoting fire-adapted community practices

D. **Park Values and Significance**

- Ecological importance: The property does not have outstanding ecological significance. However, like any property of its size in Paradise it is home to raptors, bats, small mammals, and predators like foxes. No unusual human-wildlife conflicts are foreseen from developing the uses contemplated above on this property. As is true in any public park, if dogs are permitted off-leash, then several additional mammals or birds a year will be killed. Animal mortality on this and the surrounding properties will rise in direct proportion to the number of vehicles that access the property via Mountain View Drive and the property's interior access road. Animal mortality can be reduced by installing speed bumps to enforce a low speed limit.

- Cultural and heritage value - No specific information is known about any outstanding cultural or heritage value the site may possess. The Mechoopda Indian Tribe and the Konkow Valley Band of Maidu Indians (possibly among other Tribes) would be expected

to consider the site part of their traditional territory and would probably locate artifacts and cultural sites there if invited to survey.

- Recreational and educational value - The site has strong recreational value as the potential trailhead for a new access trail to the West Branch of the Feather River. The site's easy-to-access town location also makes it a good potential site for hosting educational or recreational events such as a Good Fire Festival, grazing festival, concerts and gardening workshops.
- Economic and tourism value - To the extent people will travel to Paradise to take in a small festival, outdoor concert, or strenuous canyon hike, the site can contribute to Paradise's status as a tourism destination.
- Potential of site to match with goals - This will be analyzed during the District's strategic planning process, set to kick off in 2026.

E. Conceptual Site Model

A conceptual site model (CSM) synthesizes and crystallizes what is known about a site that guides decision-making and management strategies. A CSM is not usually part of an interim plan and none was developed for this plan. However, see "Next Steps" (section V.B. below).

F. Data Gaps

- What will be the expected visitation of this site (both daily and peak)? This drives considerations such as the development of parking, access road improvements, bathrooms and waste management, evacuation management, et cetera.
- What adjacent properties can be acquired (either outright or through easement)? For example, the 20-acre Gross property to the south, if it could be acquired, would unlock the possibility of a southern exit route from the property. South of 1986 Mountan View, it is possible (although not currently legal) to drive through a private property to Blackberry Lane. This egress was used in 2008 by emergency vehicles, and making it a legal egress route would improve circulation, increasing the number of visitors who can safely occupy the site at one time.

  Alternatively, a secondary evacuation route could be created from the property's main internal road, perhaps heading due west from the barn area (for example). The former landowners note that Bille Rd. Extension, an easement they held, could be used for evacuation with high clearance vehicles.

- What cultural resources are on the property? BCRCD recommends reaching out to Mechoopda and KVBMI as soon as is practicable to invite them to survey. Significant finds, such as former village sites, would shape the future possibilities for the site.
- What is the BLM's willingness or capacity to collaborate on cross-boundary vegetation management and recreational projects?

V. Implementation Plan

This Interim Plan is only an early step toward the transformation of the 1986 Mountain View site into a vibrant and well-loved park. The next step will be a comprehensive public outreach stage, followed by analysis of comments and of the site's ability to help PRPD meet its strategic goals.

A. Community and Stakeholder Engagement

PRPD would:

- Review historical outreach and engagement plans, including lessons learned. revise and update in order to create an outreach and engagement plan for 1986 Mountain View.
- Decide whether budget exists to start outreach and engagement immediately or whether it needs to be developed through a grant source
- Upcoming public involvement and outreach - Review what other outreach initiatives are scheduled for 2026-27. Decide whether 1) to make outreach regarding 1986 Mountain View a stand-alone initiative, 2) to pair outreach about 1986 with outreach regarding one or more other newer PRPD properties, or 3) to make it part of a multi-topic engagement effort (such as a half-day or day-long program of strategic planning input, with charettes, interactive sticker voting, etc.)
- Analyze input and select desired future uses; arrange them along an Implementation Timeline
- Develop environmental compliance for the future uses, using appropriate sequencing and tiering
- Reach out to adjacent jurisdictions and land managers for partnerships.

B. Next Steps

- **Further Investigation**:
  Assess feasibility of proposed uses, including environmental, access, and cost considerations. Any future uses will be subject to funding availability, evaluation of options, environmental compliance and permits, and District action. Create a Budget Plan and Funding plan.
- Create a Communication strategy/Monitoring and Reporting - develop a strategy for informing partners and the public of developments/progress at the site
- Create volunteer programs and partnerships - Build on partnerships with Butte Fire Safe Council (grazing festival) and with Chico State Ecotherapy and Butte PBA (Good Fire Festival). If a community orchard or garden is a desired use, Regenerating Paradise and/or Camp Fire Restoration Project would be great partners.
- **Stakeholder Engagement**:
  Seek input from District staff, landowner, and the public as part of the forthcoming District Master Park Plan process. Participation strategies - Ask interested parties how they want to participate

- **Integration with Strategic Goals**:
  Align conceptual uses with community resilience, recreation, and conservation priorities.
- **Develop a conceptual site model:**

  Using available information, develop a CSM that distills what is known about the site and makes an analysis based on current best practices or expertise. The CSM can also be used to identify data or knowledge gaps or acknowledge uncertainty, in order to achieve project goals. A CSM takes into consideration:

  - ❖ Long term vision for the site
  - ❖ Adjacent land use(s) and any constraints imposed by those
  - ❖ Comparison to Reference sites
  - ❖ Restoration Potential and Strategies
  - ❖ Implementation Sequencing
  - ❖ Threats and Challenges

C. Further Environmental Surveys:

Wildlife: Comprehensive wildlife surveys are unnecessary in most cases; if suitable habitat exists for a species, PRPD should simply assume presence and manage accordingly. This will often mean avoiding disturbance during the season the species is most sensitive (i.e., not burning brush in April because that is when birds nest).

Exceptions:

- Pedestrian surveys for Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog (FYLF) should be conducted prior to any habitat modification work around the pond or in drainages (e.g., if a future trail crosses a seasonal drainage on the canyon slope). If FYLF is detected, then a biological monitor should be present during any operations.
- Setting up passive acoustical surveys for bats would be a good way to understand which species of bats are using the eastern rim of Paradise Ridge eight-ten years post-Camp Fire. Bats' use of post-fire habitats is less well understood than that of many other types of wildlife. This deficit in understanding may be leading to post-fire choices that hurt bat populations. Many species of bats rely on living and (especially) dead large trees for roosting and/or maternity habitat.
- Nesting bird surveys (including ground-nesting bird surveys if work is planned in grassy areas) should be conducted immediately prior to vegetation management if it is performed during nesting bird season (Feb 1- Aug 31st).
- The pond provides suitable habitat for the California Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*), a rare and supposedly secretive bird. If present, it can be identified by its

persistent call from about March through June. A no-disturbance buffer should be placed around the pond if a rail is present.

Botany: The Upland Zone of the property does not contain particularly good rare plant habitat and is already highly disturbed (but it is easily accessible and would be low-cost to survey for botanical resources). The Canyon zone is almost unsurveyable as it is. After a round of fuels reduction or a fire, it would be advisable to contract for a botany survey of at least the canyon zone of the property. If areas of the property are eventually to be developed, a botany survey should be conducted of areas of ground disturbance first, including new roads, etc. No botany survey is necessary on this property prior to fall burning.

Cultural resources: A pedestrian cultural resource inventory may or may not have been conducted of the property as recently as 2019, prior to salvage operations. A search at the NorthEast Information Center (NEIC) would reveal any cultural resource information discovered during earlier surveys (e.g. as part of required timber harvest operations during the years the Christmas tree farm was operational, and/or as part of the post-Camp Fire clean-up, when the site was presumably monitored by Tribal cultural monitors). The Mechoopa Indan Tribe and the Konkow Valley Band of Maidu Indians, among others, would be expected to have cultural and ancestral ties to this place.

Hazards and toxic substances: The 2022 Phase I ESA discovered nothing that raised concern at the property acquisition stage. However, that report states: “If the subject property is slated for redevelopment[,] the concurrent Phase II Investigation would include analysis of Organochlorine Pesticides (OCPs) to determine if the subject property has been impacted by former agricultural uses. [...] analysis of Title 22 Metals to determine if the subject property has been impacted by the burned metal [from the Camp Fire]. [... and] analysis of Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPHs) to determine if the subject property has been impacted by the car shop.” The former owner, Joe McNally, stated that part of the property was used as a shooting range for years. It might be worthwhile to sample soils in that area for lead if any development or concentrated use is contemplated.

Appendix A: Special-Status Wildlife Known from 9 Quads cenetered on parcel

Appendix B: PCA Recommendation from 2024 Herbicide Treatment