

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 17
was approved as Minute Item
No. 17 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 7/22/82
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

17

7/22/82
W 21892
Bjornsen
PRC 6136

INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT
FOR FUEL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
ON AND ADJACENT TO
STATE SCHOOL LANDS

On March 8, 1982, the California Department of Forestry (CDF) Ukiah office notified Commission staff of its intention to conduct fuelbreak burning in the Thatcher Creek watershed in late March or early April 1982. A portion of the project involved State school land in Section 16, T21N, R11W, MDM, on which it was proposed to burn a variable width strip along a ridge line running north to south across the section. Approximately ten acres of chaparral vegetation would be burned on the subject school land, if authorization could be obtained before burn time.

Pursuant to an Executive Officer's Report, presented to and approved by the Commission at its meeting of March 23, 1982, a Temporary Permit was executed. It was understood that an Interagency Agreement for Fuel Management on and adjacent to State school lands would be completed as soon as possible.

The Agreement does not convey any interest in real property but affords a cooperative arrangement, whereby the Commission offers and provides a portion of its land and the CDF supervises, constructs and maintains fuelbreaks through the use of helitorch or prescribed burns on such school land, for the purpose of reducing the risk and severity of wildfires, while achieving ecologically beneficial effects of controlled burns. The term of the Agreement is for ten years, beginning April 1, 1982; it is terminable upon either agency, giving the other at least 60 days written notice prior to the effective termination date.

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STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

- A. P.R.C.: Div. 6, Parts 1 and 2; Div. 13.
- B. Cal. Adm. Code: Title 2, Div. 3; Title 14, Div. 6.

AB 884:

N/A.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. A final EIR was prepared and certified by the CDF pursuant to CEQA and the State EIR Guidelines. The CDF found that the program will not have a significant effect upon the environment. (Refer to Exhibit "D", EIR Summary.)
2. The project is situated on State school land not identified as possessing significant environmental values. A staff review of available environmental information indicates no reason to identify the subject school land parcel as having such values at this time.
3. In the course of preparing the Interagency Agreement, CDF requested it serve as an underlying basic or "master" agreement for those situations throughout California in which State school lands are in close proximity to lands on which CDF plans to conduct Fuel Management Programs. In lieu thereof, staff recommends the Commission authorize such additional agreements with CDF, located within the geographical confines of their Northern California Model Plan, Covelo, Mendocino County, which are necessary to achieve the purposes and goals of this plan, dated May 1981, on file in the office of the State Lands Commission (see Exhibit "C" attached).

EXHIBITS:

- A. Land Description.
- B. Location Map.
- C. Map - Geographical Confines of CDF Resources Management Plan.
- D. EIR Summary.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 17 (CONTD)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. DETERMINE THAT AN EIR HAS BEEN PREPARED AND CERTIFIED FOR THIS PROJECT BY THE CDF.
2. CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE EIR HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION.
3. DETERMINE THAT THE PROJECT WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.
4. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF THE INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT FOR FUEL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ON AND ADJACENT TO STATE SCHOOL LANDS WITH CDF, TO PROVIDE FOR FUEL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ON THE LAND DESCRIBED ON EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED AND BY REFERENCE MADE A PART HEREOF.
5. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO ENTER INTO SUCH ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS WITH CDF, LOCATED WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHICAL CONFINES OF THEIR RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA MODEL PLAN, COVELO, MENDOCINO COUNTY, DATED MAY 1981, ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE STATE LANDS COMMISSION.

EXHIBIT "A"

LAND DESCRIPTION

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A parcel of California State school land described as follows:

Section 16, T21N, R11W, MDM (area to be burned is ridge line from north boundary in the NE-1/4 south to Thatcher Creek; thence continuing southeasterly to south boundary of the SE-1/4 of Section 16, said burn area is shown on Exhibit "B" attached).

END OF DESCRIPTION

REVISED JUNE 11, 1982 BY TECHNICAL SERVICES UNIT, ROY MINNICK, SUPERVISOR.

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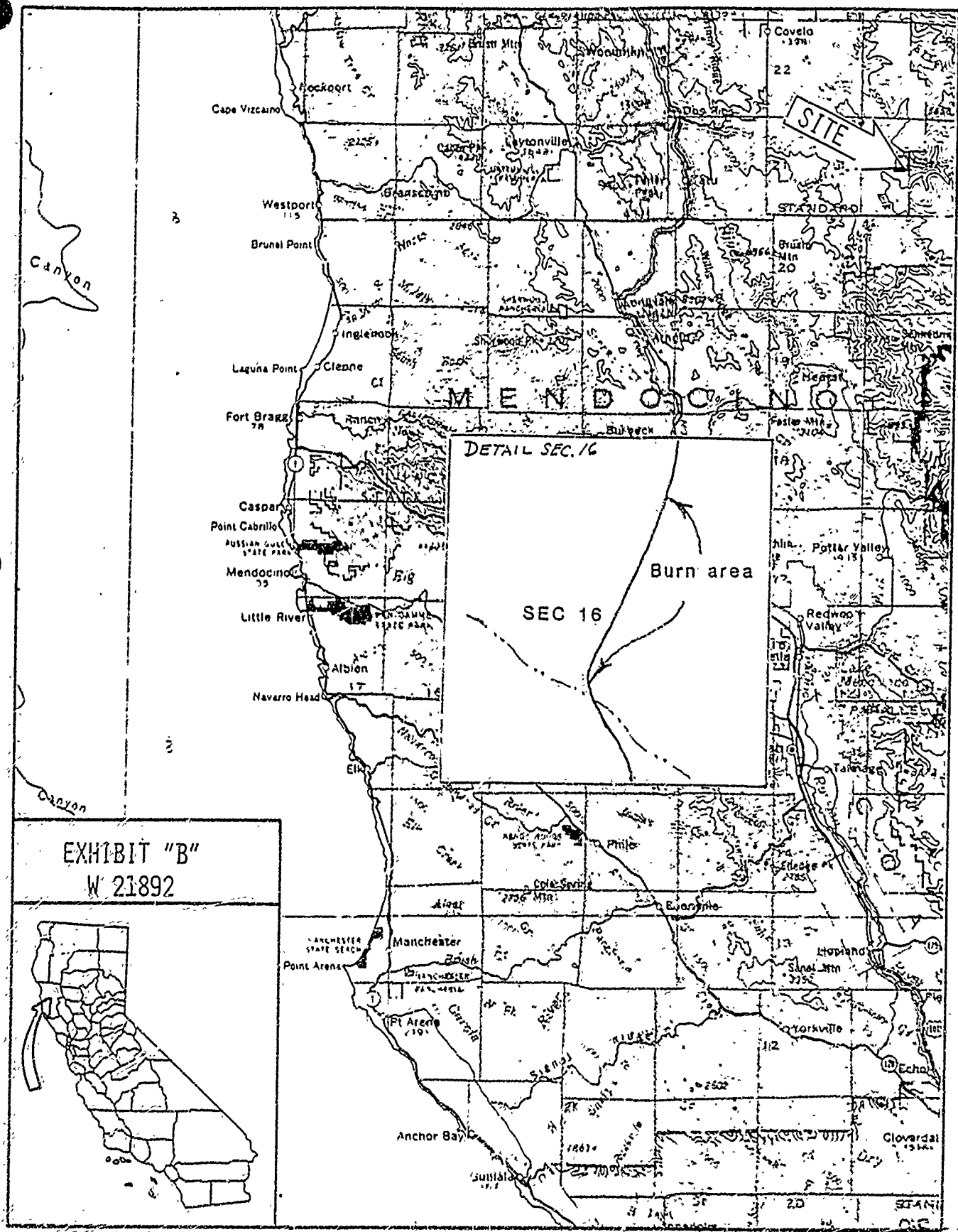


EXHIBIT "B"
W 21892



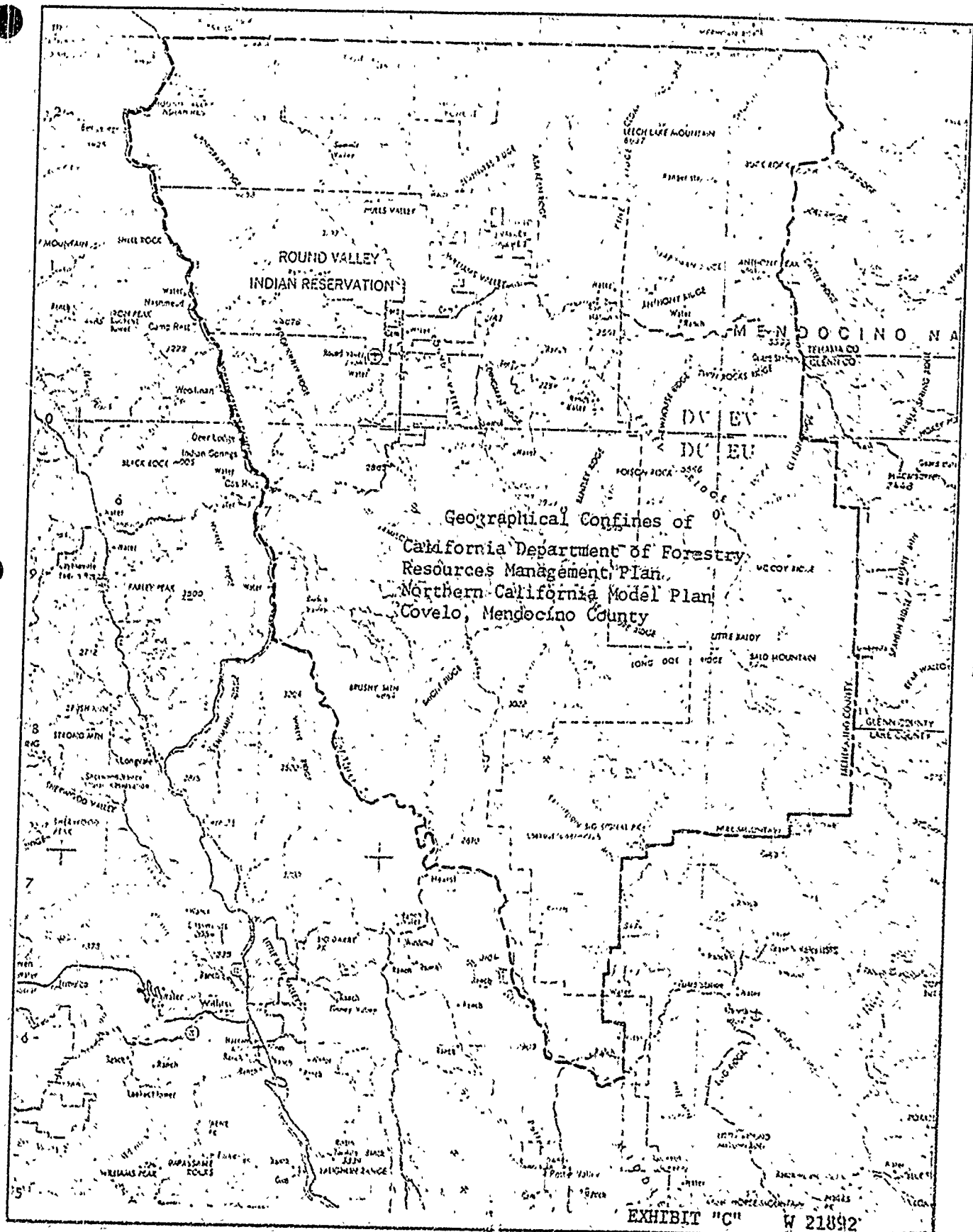


EXHIBIT "C" W 21892

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EXHIBIT 'D'

EIR SUMMARY

The following is a summary of an Environmental Impact Report for the Resources Management Plan/Northern California Model Plan by the California Department of Forestry (May 1981, SCH# 80102201). The summary addresses the pilot area selected from within the larger fuel control and brush range management demonstration area.

I. Description

The goals of the model plan are to reduce wildfire hazards, improve wildlife habitat, increase forest, range and woodland productivity while maintaining and/or improving air and water quality and watershed conditions. The subject area is 66,348 acres adjacent to the Eel River in northeastern Mendocino County, with a diverse ownership pattern. Specific standards of improvement are established in the following areas: Fire protection; air and water quality; water conservation and watershed improvement; soil conservation; wildlife habitat improvement and protection; range and forage improvement; and, timberland improvement and protection.

II. Environmental Setting

The elevation ranges from 1,000 to 5,800 feet. Climate is typical of the inland portion of the Coast Range; precipitation averages between 40 and 70 inches. Vegetation has been separated into four classes: Three classes, hardwood, softwood and grass cover approximately seventy percent of the proposed project area; the fourth class is comprised of various brush species and brush-hardwood-conifer-grass combinations.

Peregrin Falcon and the Bald Eagle are the only endangered wildlife species known to use this area. No rare or threatened wildlife species are known to exist in the proposed project area. Several archaeological sites have been identified within the plan area.

III. Environmental Impacts

- a. Positive Impacts: Reduced potential for large wildfires and associated problems; greater diversity of wildlife habitat; increased recreational opportunities; improved yields of forage for domestic livestock; protection and regeneration of woodlands and forests; increased water yield to local streams and reservoirs.
- b. Negative Impacts: Increased use may increase fire risk; prescription burning may cause objectionable smoke; some wildlife mortality will occur during prescription burning;

there may be a temporary increase in soil erosion on treated sites; temporary loss in visual quality; temporary increase in noise level; risk of escaped prescribed burn; short-term decrease in water quality.

IV. Mitigation

Education of users to fire prevention; burning done in accordance with local air pollution regulations; re-vegetation to mitigate impacts to wildlife; soil erosion control methods will be used whenever possible; visual management techniques will be used to soften and screen modified areas; noise near residences will be limited to certain hours of the day; most burning will be conducted during the nonfire hazard season, and burning will only be conducted under strict prescriptions.

V. Alternatives

A) No project; B) Maximum wildland fire protection; C) Resource management and development; D) Consolidation of B and C.

VI. Relationship of Short and Long Term

This model plan is designed to enhance long-term productivity and stability of the ecosystem with minimal adverse impacts or draw from natural resources.

VII. Irreversible Commitment of Resources

There is no irreversible or irretreivable commitment of resources other than employee time and required equipment.

VIII. Growth Inducing Impact

None anticipated.