

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 28
was approved as Minute Item
No. 28 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 9/23/82
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

28

9/23/82
RW 22624
D. Miller

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 200-acre parcel and was prepared in conjunction with a Timber Harvest Plan on 17 acres of State school land in Section 16, T43N, R7W, MDM, about 12 air miles south of Yreka in Siskiyou County, totaling approximately 255,400 board feet of mature, overmature, and younger merchant-able trees which are suppressed or infested with insects, disease, or dwarf mistletoe.

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.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. A Negative Declaration was prepared by the Commission, pursuant to CEQA

A 1

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and the State EIR 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 AFTER CONSULTATION WITH RESPONSIBLE AND TRUSTEE AGENCIES.
2. CERTIFY THAT NEGATIVE DECLARATION NO. 312 HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CEQA, THE STATE EIR 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.

EXHIBIT "A"

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE LANDS COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
1807 - 13th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

EIR ND 312

File Ref.: RW 22624

SCH#:

Project Title: Cedar Gulch Timber Sale.

Project Location: S $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16, T.43 N., R.7 W., M.D.M., approximately 12 miles southerly of Yreka, Siskiyou County, California.

Project Description: Harvest and sale of 255.4 thousand board feet of mature, over-mature, and diseased Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine timber from approximately 17 acres of State-owned land.

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.

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INITIAL STUDY
FOR
CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION

CEDAR GULCH TIMBER SALE ON STATE-OWNED LANDS IN THE
S $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and the NW $\frac{1}{4}$
OF THE SE $\frac{1}{4}$ OF SECTION 16,
T43N, R7W, MDB&M
SISKIYOU COUNTY

PREPARED UNDER WORK ORDER RW 22624

BY THE
SCHOOL LANDS MANAGEMENT UNIT
LAND MANAGEMENT SECTION
OF THE
DIVISION OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION
STATE LANDS COMMISSION

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I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The State Lands Commission proposes to harvest 255.4 thousand board feet of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir timber from approximately 17 acres. The timber sale is located on a parcel of State-owned land in Siskiyou County. Standing timber will be sold to the highest qualified bidder through a sealed bid procedure. Harvesting activities will take place over a three-week period sometime between August 1, 1982 and October 15, 1984.

The subject area is located in the $S\frac{1}{2}$ of $NW\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16, Township 43 North, Range 7 West, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian. Access to the site is over 1.2 miles of privately-owned, unsurfaced road and then connecting with a network of gravel or paved county roads.

The timber harvest will involve removing 255.4 thousand board feet (net Scribner) of mature, overmature, and diseased Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine timber. All merchantable timber within the project area will be harvested and the site will be prepared for planting conifer seedlings and the establishment of a young, fast-growing stand.

Operations will include minor improvements to upgrade an existing unsurfaced road (1.2 miles) and harvesting timber which will involve use of crawler tractors for construction of landings and skid trails and yarding of logs from the stump to the landing. Additional equipment used in the harvesting operation will include a rubber tired log loader at the landing and a grader and water truck for road maintenance. Tractors will be used during harvest operations to pile slash and unmerchantable timber for disposal by burning and to prepare the site for planting the following spring. All operations will be conducted under an approved Timber Harvest Plan and will comply with the California Forest Practices 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.

This project is being coordinated with the conversion of brush and noncommercial conifer stands to commercial conifers on an adjoining 40 acres of State-owned land.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Location

The project is located on a 200 acre State-owned parcel in Siskiyou County described as the $S\frac{1}{2}$ of the $NW\frac{1}{4}$, and the $N\frac{1}{4}$ of the $SW\frac{1}{4}$, and the $NW\frac{1}{4}$ of the $SE\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16, Township 43 North, Range 7 West, MDB&M. Harvesting operations will be limited to 17 acres within the $S\frac{1}{2}$ of the $NW\frac{1}{4}$. Figures 1 and 2 are maps showing the project location. The area is located approximately 11 miles south of Yreka.

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Climate

The climate of the subject parcel is continental and subhumid with warm dry summers and cold moist winters. Temperatures range from a high of 105° F in summer to a low of 18° F in winter. Precipitation ranges from 20 to 30 inches per year with the average approximately 25 inches. Snow commonly occurs to a depth of 18 to 24 inches, arriving generally in December and melting by March.

Topography

The elevation of the subject area ranges from 4160 to 4400 feet. Aspect of the project site is generally north. Slopes range from 0-50 percent and average 40 percent.

Geology and Soils

Soil composition on the site is complex, consisting of three soil series. The Marpa-Kinkel-Boomer complex includes 60 percent Marpa gravelly loam, 25 percent Kinkel very gravelly loam, and 15 percent Boomer gravelly loam. Marpa soils are 20 to 40 inches deep and formed in material weathered from shale. Kinkel and Boomer soils are over 40 inches deep and formed in material weathered from metasedimentary and metavolcanic rocks. This soil complex is well drained, has 2 to 10 inches available water capacity, and the erosion hazard rating is high.

Timber site productivity based on measured trees, and using Dunning's 1942 site curves for mixed conifers of the Sierra Nevada, was determined to be Site Class III (130).

Vegetation

Two commercial timber species exist on the site, ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. Other plants observed on and adjacent to the project area include:

greenleaf manzanita (Arctostaphylos patula)
birchleaf mahogany (Cercocarpus betuloides)
oso berry (Osmorhiza cerasiformis)
California Yerba Santa (Eriodictyon californica)
service-berry (Amelanchier florida)
Oregon white oak (Quercus californica)
Gray horsebrush (Tetradymia canescens)
Fremont silktassel (Garrya fremontii)
buck-brush (Geonothus cuneatus)
bitter cherry (Prunus emarginata)
western juniper (Juniperus occidentalis)
Piper mahonia (Mahonia nivalis)
Knobcone pine (Pinus attenuata)

Based on observation, and on information from the "Natural Diversity Data Base", no rare or endangered plant species are located on or adjacent to the project area.

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Wildlife

Deer, small mammals and reptiles utilize the site on a permanent or seasonal basis along with several bird species. Information obtained from the State Department of Fish and Game indicates that there are no rare or endangered animal species on or adjacent to the project area. Additionally, no significant migratory activity is known to occur through the project site.

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 are no streams or springs located within the project area. An intermittent stream parallels the access road to the parcel. This stream flows only during wetter periods of the year.

Archeological, Cultural and Historic Resources

The California Archeological Site Survey was requested in 1980 to perform a record search and determine archeological sensitivity of the parcel. Information indicated that sensitivity was low, and the Survey Office recommended clearance for proceeding with management activities on the parcel.

Recreation

The parcel and project area are surrounded by private landholdings dedicated to agriculture and timber production. Because of this, recreation is limited to light use in deer hunting season.

Regional Description

This site is within a region heavily dependent on timber harvesting and processing. Intensive management practices on timber lands are conducted both locally and throughout the county by private landowners and State and federal agencies.

The parcel is surrounded by private landholdings which are zoned either "agricultural" or "timber preserve". Throughout this portion of Siskiyou County, flat valleys are dedicated to agricultural use with range, brushland and timber production on surrounding hills.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Air Quality

Some temporary and localized degradation of air quality will occur due to dust and emissions associated with timber harvesting and transportation. Additionally, the elimination of slash and residual vegetation by burning to prepare the site for planting will reduce air quality in the short term.

Water Quality

Harvesting activities--skid trail and landing construction and yarding--may disturb and expose significant areas of soil which could result in accelerated erosion and sediment loading in the intermittent stream nearby. Site preparation activities will also disturb large areas of soil and the burning of slash will increase nutrient concentrations within burned areas. This will allow for temporarily higher nutrient levels in runoff water. This effect will be short-term and minimal on a project of this small scale.

Additionally, the removal of vegetation by the harvesting and site preparation activities will affect water yield in the drainage included in the project area. Removal of vegetation reduces loss of water through interception and transpiration. Evaporation loss from the soil will increase. The operation of harvesting machinery will cause some surface compaction and result in decreased infiltration and moisture-holding capacity of the soil on affected areas. These processes will most likely result in a net increase in waterflow from the project area. This will increase the flow of the intermittent stream adjacent to the project site.

Soil

The primary impact on the soil will be equipment-caused compaction on skid trails, landings, and wherever harvesting or site-preparation equipment operate. This could result in decreased plant growing capacity, increased runoff and decreased infiltration and percolation.

Additionally, some soil may be lost through the incorporation of organic matter. Nutrient levels of the soil may increase through increased wind and water erosion. Slash burning will also release nutrients to the soil that are normally tied up in the vegetation.

Vegetation

Vegetation on the site will change in diversity and quantity. The existing stand of low-vigor, suppressed ponderosa and Douglas-fir will be removed and replaced by a larger number of conifer seedlings. As part of the site preparation operation, most of the understory shrubs and grasses will be removed.

Wildlife

The proposed project will have minimal impact on wildlife resources, primarily displacing limited local populations of small mammals, rodents, birds and reptiles.

Archeological, Historical and Cultural Resources

The California Archeological Site Survey indicates the site is of low sensitivity. Timber harvesting and associated activities may inadvertently disturb an undiscovered archeological site. If a site is discovered, operations will be stopped and a qualified archeologist consulted to protect the site and prescribe mitigation measures where necessary.

Noise

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

Fire Hazard

There will be a short-term increase in fire hazard during the harvest and site-preparation operations.

Overall Project

The use of fuel and lubricants is minimal but irretrievable.

IV. MITIGATION MEASURES

Air Quality

Burning of slash will be done in accordance with local air pollution regulations and guidelines to minimize the impact.

Dust abatement measures--watering of roads and landings--will be a provision of the harvesting contract to protect air quality and reduce excess loss of road surface material.

Fire Hazard

The increased fire hazard resulting from harvest operations on the project will be mitigated by adhering to all State and local fire regulations and satisfying the Northern District Forest Practice Rules fire prevention requirements.

Water Quality and Erosion

Soil damage and erosion will be reduced and water quality protected by 1) limiting equipment operations to the dry season and 2) installing erosion control structures which meet or exceed the requirements of the Northern District Forest Practice Rules. Additionally, skid-trail and landing locations will be located on the ground prior to the start of operations to assure the placement which will best provide protection from erosion.

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Vegetation

The management plan for this site prescribes replacing the existing overmature, low-vigor stand with a faster growing crop of young conifers. After removal of the existing stand, the site will be planted with seedlings the following spring. This new stand will consist of primarily ponderosa pine at a density of 450 trees per acre. Growth of the new stand will be monitored to assure establishment of a number of trees that will exceed Forest Practice Act requirements for stocking and will fully utilize the site's growth potential.

General

All operations are to be planned and conducted in accordance with the California Forest Practices Act, the Northern District Forest Practice Rules and all other applicable State and local regulations.

Contacts and References

1. California Department of Fish & Game
Region I
P. O. Box 1480
Redding, CA 96099
Stanley J. Thompson
Wildlife Management Supervisor
2. Siskiyou County Soil Report
Soil Conservation Service, USDA
3. California Archeological Site Survey
Regional Office
Department of Anthropology
California State University, Chico
Chico, CA 95929
4. Management Plan
Cedar Gulch Parcel
California State Lands Commission, November, 1981

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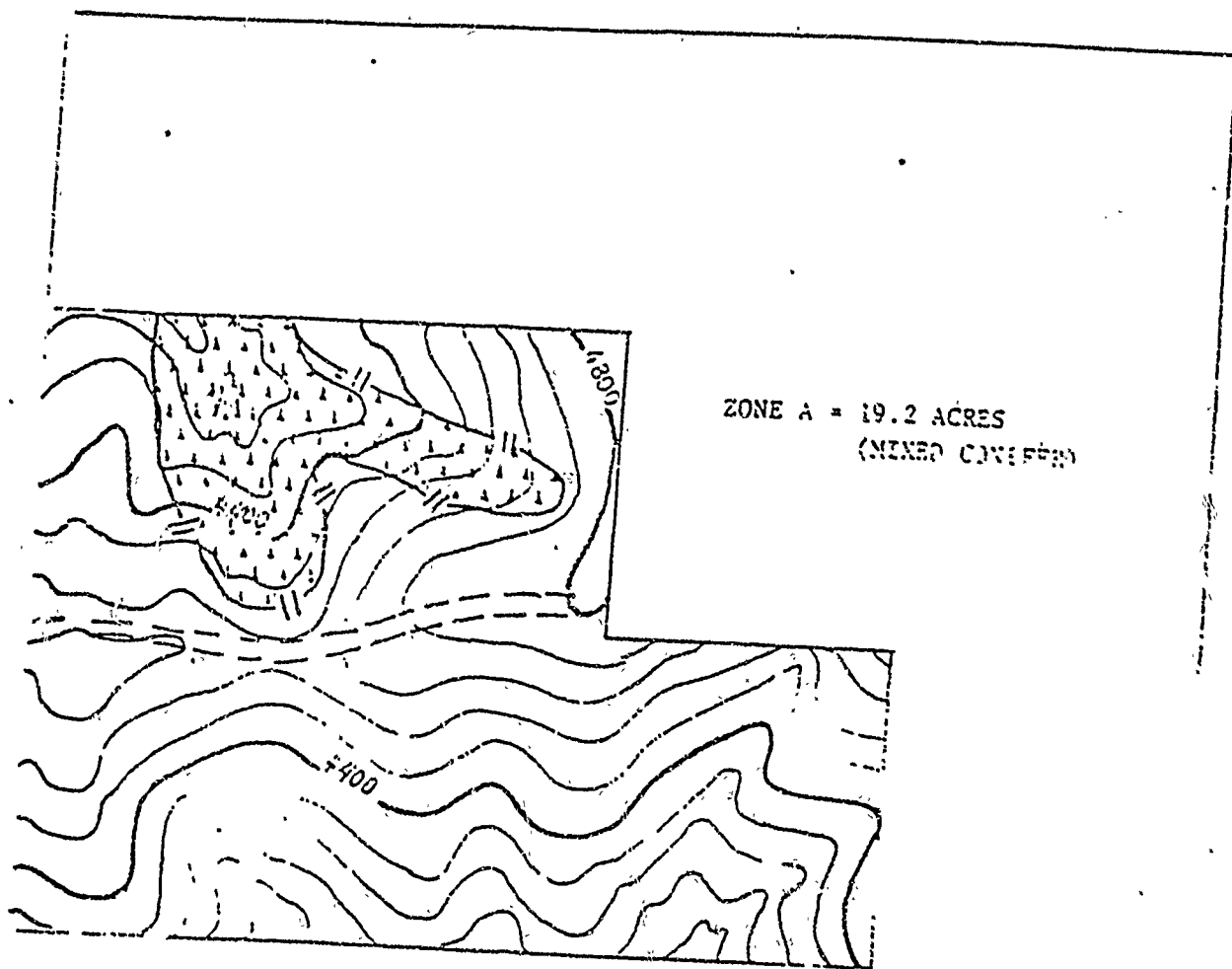
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FIGURE 2
Cedar Guich

STATE LANDS PARCEL # W22624

Sec. 16, T43N, R7W, M.D



ZONE A = 19.2 ACRES
(MIXED CONIFER)

LEGEND:

1" = 4'

Contour

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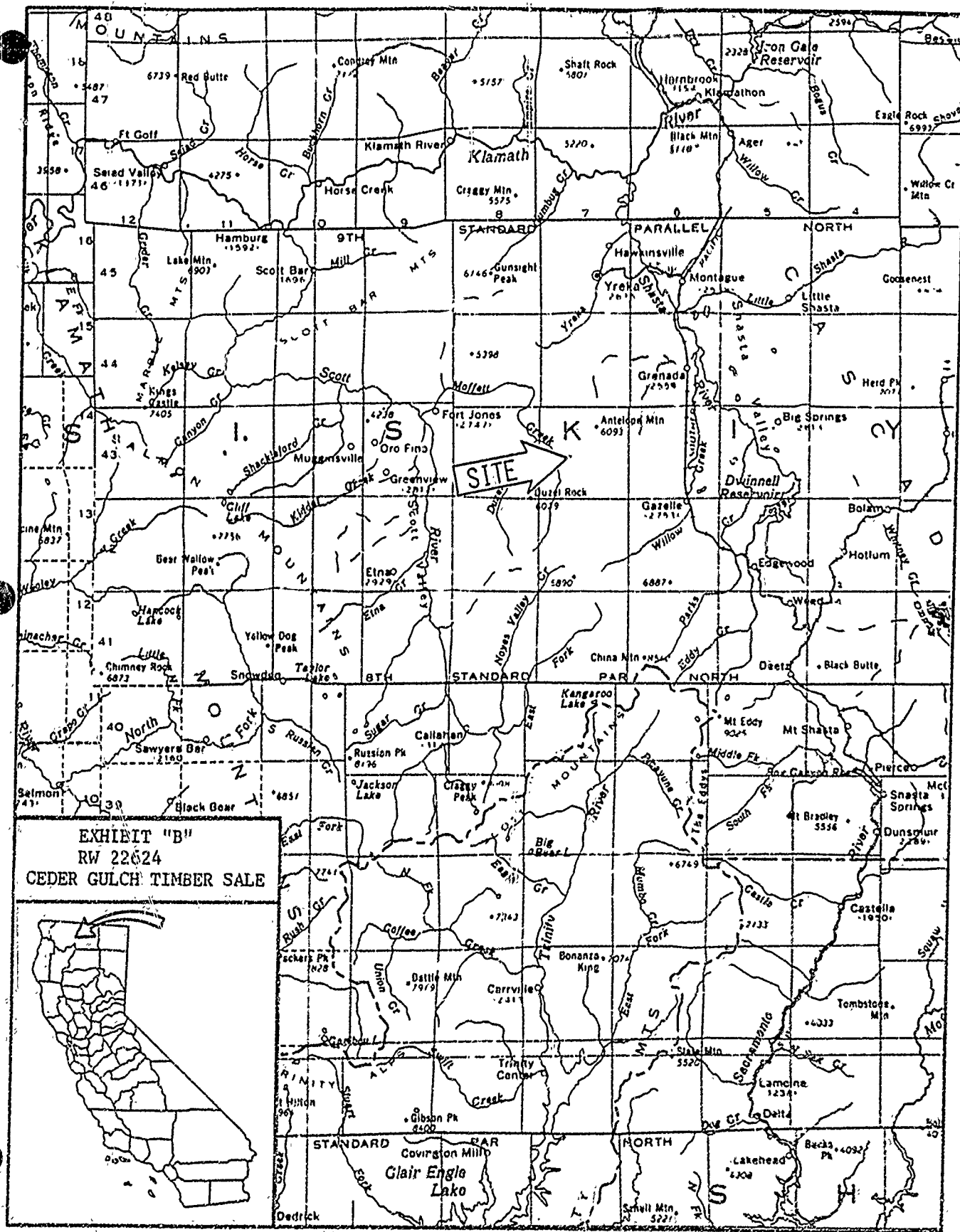


EXHIBIT "B"
 RW 22624
 CEDER GULCH TIMBER SALE

