

WEAVERVILLE COMMUNITY FOREST

STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

FY 2007 Annual Report

(Cooperative Agreement NO. BAA050055)

**Prepared by
Trinity County Resource Conservation District**

For

USDI, Bureau of Land Management – Redding Field Office



I. BACKGROUND

Northern California is prone to large catastrophic wildland fires that burn several thousand acres of forestland as well as residential homes. The 2001 Oregon Fire burned directly into the town of Weaverville as well as portions of BLM lands within the community forest stewardship project area. Fuels treatments such as mechanical thinning can be instrumental in protecting forest habitat and valuable property adjacent to public land. In 2002, BLM completed a series of shaded fuel breaks along Democrat Ridge, the main road system, and around the Timber Ridge subdivision. These fuel breaks offer some degree of fire protection but larger landscape level project are more effective. The new BLM forest stewardship program provides an opportunity for BLM to partner with local organizations to expedite larger scale and multiple year forest and resource management projects. This is the second annual report for the Weaverville Community Forest Stewardship Project.

II. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The Weaverville Community Forest Stewardship Project is planned to be a multi-year project on approximately 1000-acres of densely forested BLM public lands adjacent to the town of Weaverville. The Stewardship project will meet both the Weaverville community and BLM management objectives for multiple use resource management, reducing hazardous fuels near communities, and improving overall forest health. Several community meetings and on-site field trips have been conducted and a cooperative agreement and initial stewardship forest plan has been developed. This initial project operation and management plan is designed to implement initial fuels treatment work on some of the highest fire risk areas near the Timber Ridge subdivision. Revenue generated from this treatment will then be used to complete future projects on BLM lands within at the community forest such as: additional sustained yield forest health treatments, road and trail maintenance, patrol, sign maintenance, cultural inventory and interpretation.

II. PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

A. Location: BLM public lands adjacent to the community of Weaverville, CA, Trinity County. Specific project location for this mechanical treatment phase is; portions of Sections 11, 12 & 13, T33N, R10W, MDB&M bounded roughly by the second unnamed tributary to Weaver Creek west of Mill Street, the lower slope south of the PG&E high voltage power line and Weaver Creek, and Timber Ridge subdivision on the southeast, the divide between the Democrat Gulch and Weaver Creek drainages on the west, “Noble” Road and an unnamed haul road between it and Democrat Gulch Road on the northeast, and Democrat Gulch Road on the east.

See Project Map (Weaverville Community Forest Fuels Treatment, Phase I (June 21, 2005).

B. Access. The project area is accessed by Oregon Street, Mill Street, and Democrat Ridge Road in Weaverville.

C. Description: Heavily timbered ponderosa pine- Douglas fir forests on mainly north aspects of Democrat Ridge within the Weaver Creek Drainage. Elevations range from 1,900 – 3,000'. The topography of the project area is generally characterized by short moderately steep slopes (25-70%), with a main ridge running northwest to southeast.

D. Strategic Plan: A Strategic Plan was developed in 2006 using the results of numerous community meetings and field trips to the WCF as a guide. This 10-year road map and schedule for the entire community forest area includes the following key elements:

- Road and trail maintenance and/or obliteration priorities to improve and/or maintain water quality within the watershed
- Vegetation management to promote healthy forest stands and reduce fire hazards
- Weed management assessment, project prioritization and implementation
- Other watershed and wildlife habitat improvement needs
- Cultural resources protection and interpretation
- Effectiveness monitoring
- Community outreach and involvement
- Detailed annual stewardship work plan.

III. Accomplishments

TCRCD developed a detailed initial harvest treatment plan for mechanically thinning approximately 200-acres of lands within the Weaverville Community Forest and adjacent to the Timber Ridge subdivision in 2006 and implemented this plan in the summer of 2007. Under this plan, prepared by BBWA forest fuels will be thinned using the following guidelines:

“Cut and remove conifer species in dense tree stands on north aspects to create a 50% average canopy closure and 40% canopy closure on south aspects. Target size class to thin is understory, intermediate and co-dominant canopy trees. Ground based equipment will be restricted to slopes less than 35%. Cable-yarding will be used on slopes exceeding 35%. Maintain riparian buffers on all stream channels and adhere to down woody debris stipulations using Northwest Forest Plan requirements. Maintain current tree species composition following treatment. Use existing roads and skid trails during operations, no new permanent road construction. Whole tree yard all cut trees and associated slash to designated landings. Material not removed or utilized at landings will be chipped for biomass or piled and burned to achieve acceptable fuel loadings. Avoid significant archaeological features.”



A detailed timber harvest plan was developed including, flagging boundaries (property, sale area, harvest area, stream management zone, and special treatment area), delineating logging systems, roads, and landings, preparing silvicultural prescriptions, marking trees, cruising marked trees for gross and net volume, preparing a cruise report and draft sale area map, and preparing harvest specifications, such as slash treatments, road watering standards, etc. (include description of work to be performed and the value). A negotiated sale agreement for approximately

450MBF was entered into between the TCRCD and BLM based on the above and was amended twice to accommodate changes in the timber market and a desire to make adjustments to the mark. The TCRCD subcontracted the forest health timber harvest to Stan Leach Timber Inc.

Work began on June 18, 2007 and the logging project ended on October 3, 2007. A total of 786 MBF were harvested and delivered to Trinity River Mill in Weaverville from the 219-acre Phase I. No work was performed in riparian areas. Total payments to the TCRCD were \$334,866.30; to the subcontractor were \$248,426.57 and to the BLM for deposit into the Weaverville Community Forest Stewardship Account were approximately \$111,116.81.

Most of the project slash was chipped and removed from the forest, being taken to biomass facility in Anderson, CA. 13 loads were removed.

Public Education and Outreach continued in 2007, including the following:

- Updates to the TCRCD website for the WCF webpage.
- Watershed Celebration was held at the Mill Street Trailhead on May 19, 2007. This community event included citizen monitoring of the West Weaver Creek, East Weaver Creek, Sidney Gulch and Weaver Creek; a hike through time along the West Weaver led by the Trinity County Historical Society and general information about the WCF project.



- Community Meeting was held on August 8, 2007. Approximately 40 people attended the meeting to discuss the Phase I project, the annual stewardship work plan and to discuss the community's interest in an expansion of the WCF onto USFS lands, based on the positive reaction to the work within the BLM lands.
- Featured the WCF in the Summer 2007 Issue of the *Conservation Almanac*.
- Field tours were conducted to interested groups, especially tours of the Phase I treatment area, including a tour on November 10, 2007 as a part of a Forestry Workshop co-sponsored by the TCRCD and University of California Extension.



- Trinity Journal article featuring the WCF as a source of boughs for a fundraising Christmas Wreath Sale for the Lowden Aquatic Park Project. The community raised approximately \$3,000.
- A Christmas tree was donated by the WCF Steering Committee to Turtle Bay Museum for display in the Museum's gift shop.





IV. Stewardship Work Plan (2007)

The Weaverville Community Forest Stewardship Account had approximately \$25,000.00 available from the PG&E Right-of-Way project in 2006. A work plan was developed in June 2007 from the WCF Strategic Plan and most of the tasks completed during the 2007 field season.

Entry Signs: Permanent Weaverville Community Forest Entry signs were designed, fabricated and installed. These are located at the Mill Street and Oregon Street trailheads of the West Weaver Trail and two spare signs are in storage.

Informational Kiosks: Two informational kiosks were refurbished and new, Weaverville Community Forest Information was installed at the kiosks at Mill and Oregon Streets.

Gate Installation: Gates were installed to control public access and protect against vehicle - caused erosion.

Pre-implementation Photo-monitoring: 10 permanent photo-monitoring stations were established in Phase I and pre-harvest photographs were taken.

Christmas Tree “Farm” Annual Monitoring: A Christmas Tree planting project was implemented by BLM in the winter of 2007 (approximately 8,000 Douglas Fir seedlings along the PG&E right-of-way. This planting was inspected, survival was monitored and mapped.

Invasive Weed Survey and Management: Scotch Broom has invaded limited of the WCF. These were located, mapped and manually controlled (pulled). Approximately 1 acre was treated.

Heritage Fruit Tree Project: The UCCE has a heritage fruit tree mapping and identification project in Trinity County. Coordination with UCCE staff resulted in mapping of the heritage trees within the WCF. Trees had no fruit in 2007. Therefore no identification can be made at this time.

Himalayan Blackberry Control: A project to control this noxious invasive species along portions of Weaver Creek has been designed and NEPA preparation is ongoing for a 2008 implementation.

Weaver Creek Trail Project: Design is complete for implementation using Trinity River Conservation Camp crew in the spring of 2008.

Post-fire Forest Rehabilitation Project NEPA in Grub Gulch: NEPA document has been prepared for BLM for implementing this stand improvement project along the Grub Gulch Ridge. CalTrans is contributing funding for implementation of this project.

V. Leveraging Funds

One element of the TCRCD's efforts on the WCF is to bring additional funding to leverage with Stewardship funds. Funds from two other sources have been added to the overall Weaverville Community Forest program, as follows:

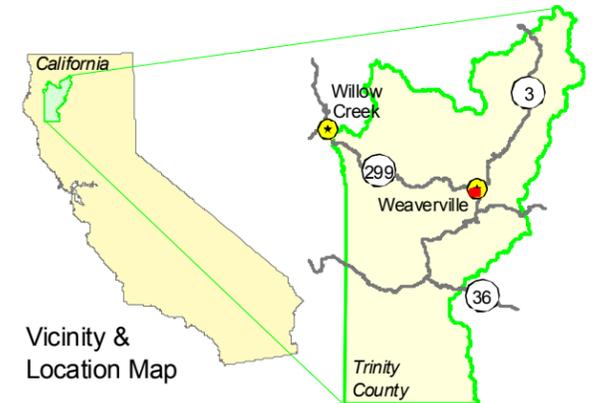
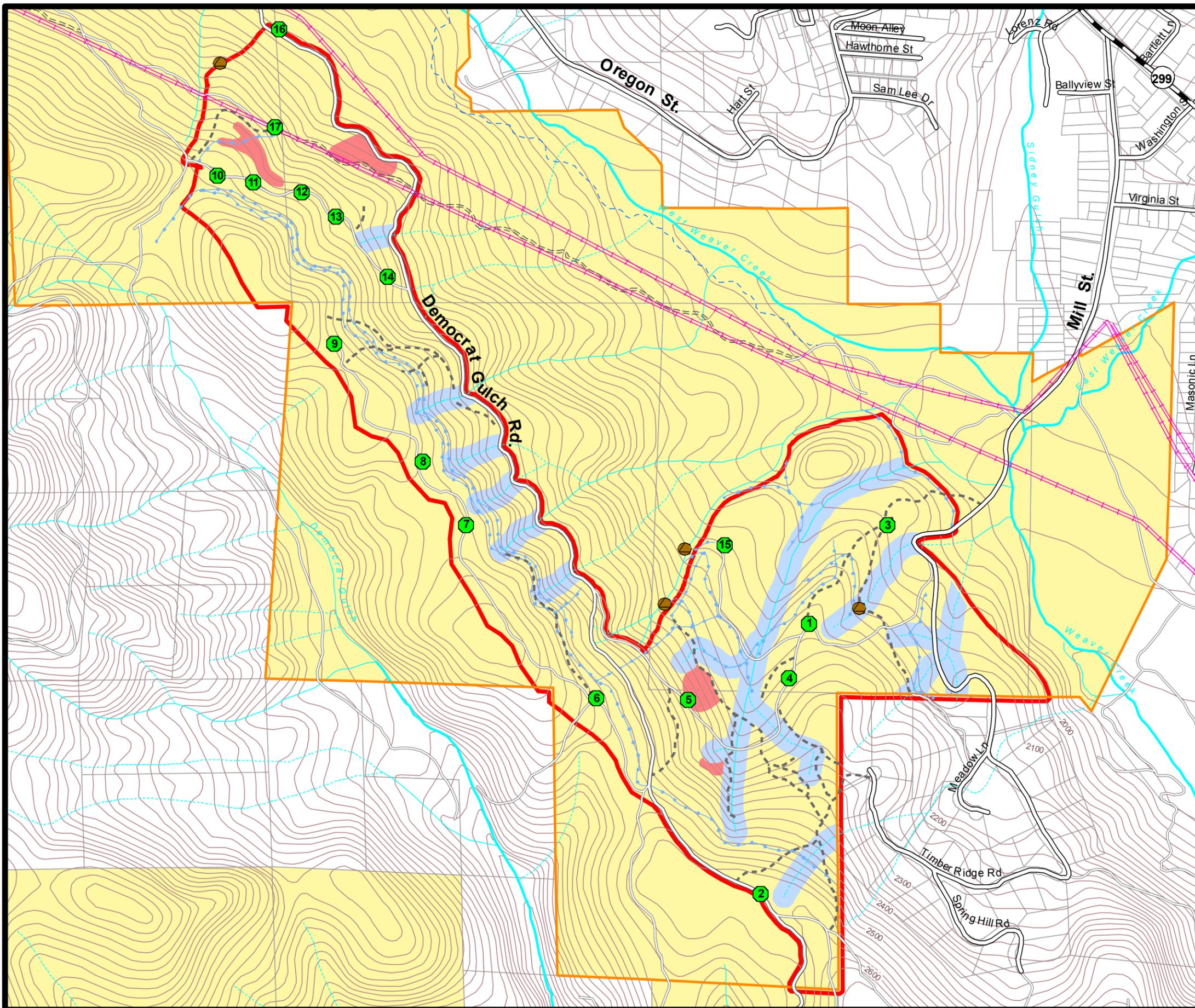
State Water Resources Control Board (319[h] grant): The TCRCD received a multi-year grant to implement a wide range of projects to address the sediment TMDLs that have been adopted by USEPA in Trinity County. This grant's scope of work identified the link between catastrophic wildfire and sediment delivery to the Weaver Creek watershed. \$32,000.00 were used for this grant to support the implementation of the Phase I Forest Health project [putting Phase I "in the black"]. This grant also identifies a small amount of funding (less than \$15,000.00) to kick-off a citizen stream monitoring program called "CreekWatch". The Watershed Celebration identified in the **Public Outreach** section of this report was funded by this grant.

California Department of Transportation: The TCRCD was solicited by Caltrans to assist with mitigation for the Rocky Point Passing Lane Project on Highway 299 east of Weaverville. An agreement was signed between Caltrans and TCRCD to implement a brush management and stand improvement project in the Grub Gulch Ridge parcel of the WCF. \$25,000.00 will be used to implement this project in 2008.

The Lowden Aquatic Park Project Christmas Wreath project only generated a special use fee of \$10.00, but the community volunteers helped to thin about 1.5 acres of dense "dog hair" fir stands within Phase I. This is a model for community participation that the TCRCD hopes to employ every year.

Weaverville Community Forest Fuels Reduction/Timber Sale Phase I - Completed 2007

-  **Contract Sale Area Boundary**
- Operational Exclusion Areas**
 -  Equipment Exclusion Zone
 -  Watershed & Lake Protection Zone
 -  Dam
 -  Landing
 -  Old Mining Ditch
 -  WCF Boundaries
 -  High Voltage Powerlines
- Roads**
 -  Highway
 -  Paved
 -  Rocked
 -  Native
 -  Jeep Trail
 -  Skid Trail
 -  Foot Trail
- Streams**
 -  Perennial
 -  Intermittent
 -  Ephemeral

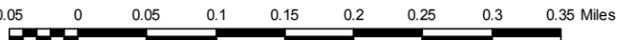




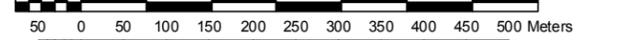
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WCF_Phase1-2007_17x11.mxd

Prepared By
Trinity County
Resource Conservation District
November 27, 2007



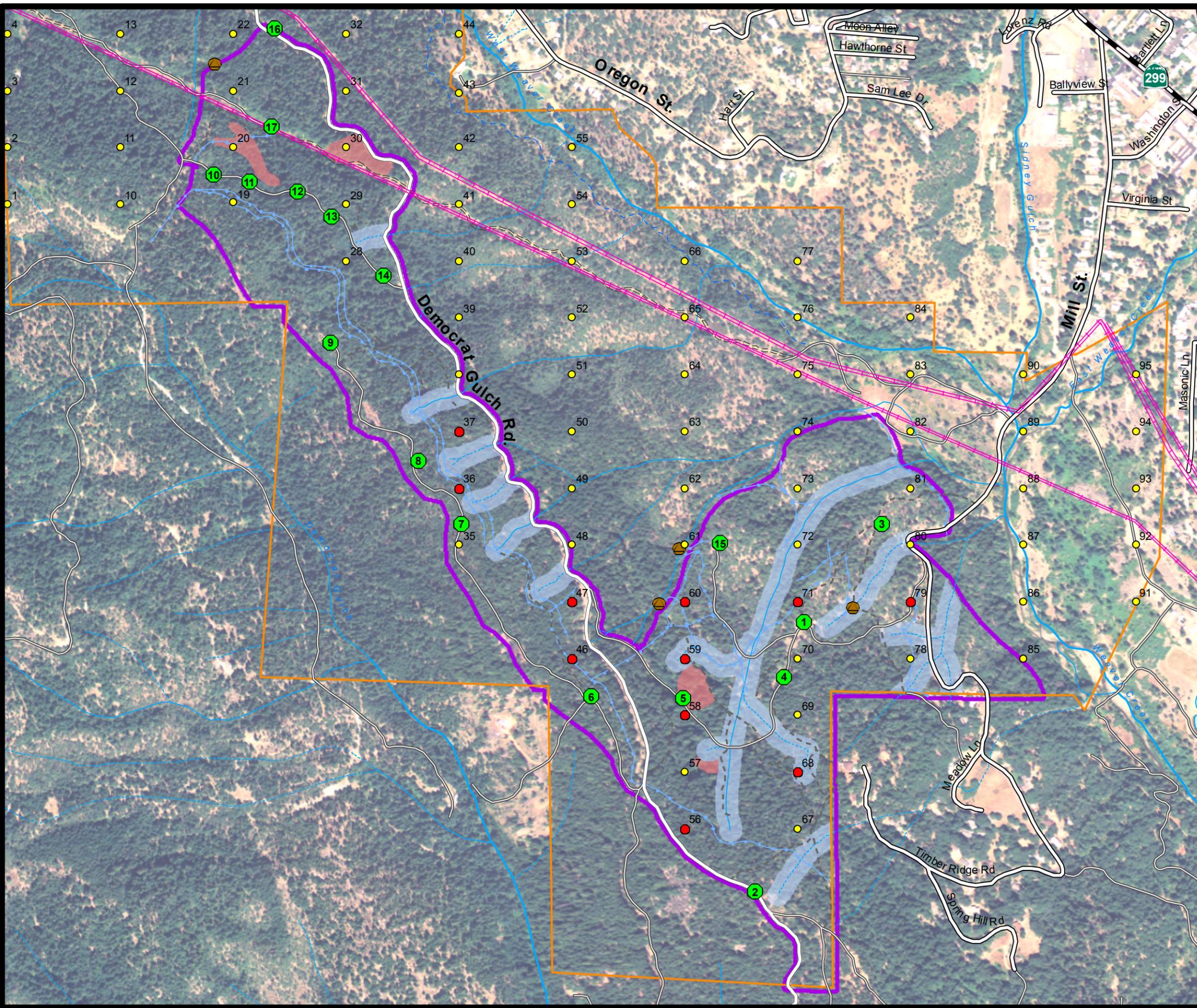




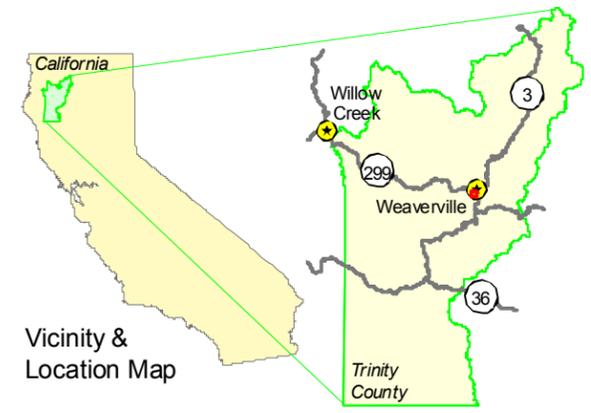


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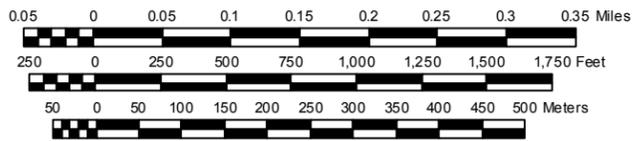
Weaverville Community Forest Photo Point Locations



- Photo Points
- Permanent Plot Locations
- Phase I Project Boundary
- Operational Exclusion Areas**
 - Equipment Exclusion Zone
 - Watershed & Lake Protection Zone
- Dam
- Landing
- Old Mining Ditch
- WCF Boundaries
- High Voltage Powerlines
- Roads**
 - Highway
 - Paved
 - Rocked
 - Native
 - Jeep Trail
 - Skid Trail
 - Foot Trail



Scale: 1 = 8,400
WCF_Photo_Points_17x11.mxd



Weaverville Community Forest Management Projects

Project Locations - 2007

-  Gate Installation
-  Entrance Signs & Info. Kiosks

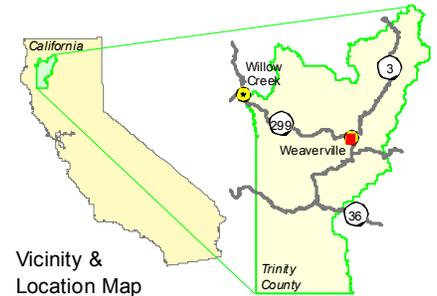
WCF Boundaries

Ownership

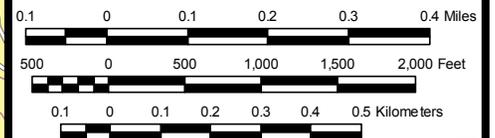
-  Private / Other
-  Bureau of Land Mng.
-  State of California
-  U.S. Forest Service

Roads

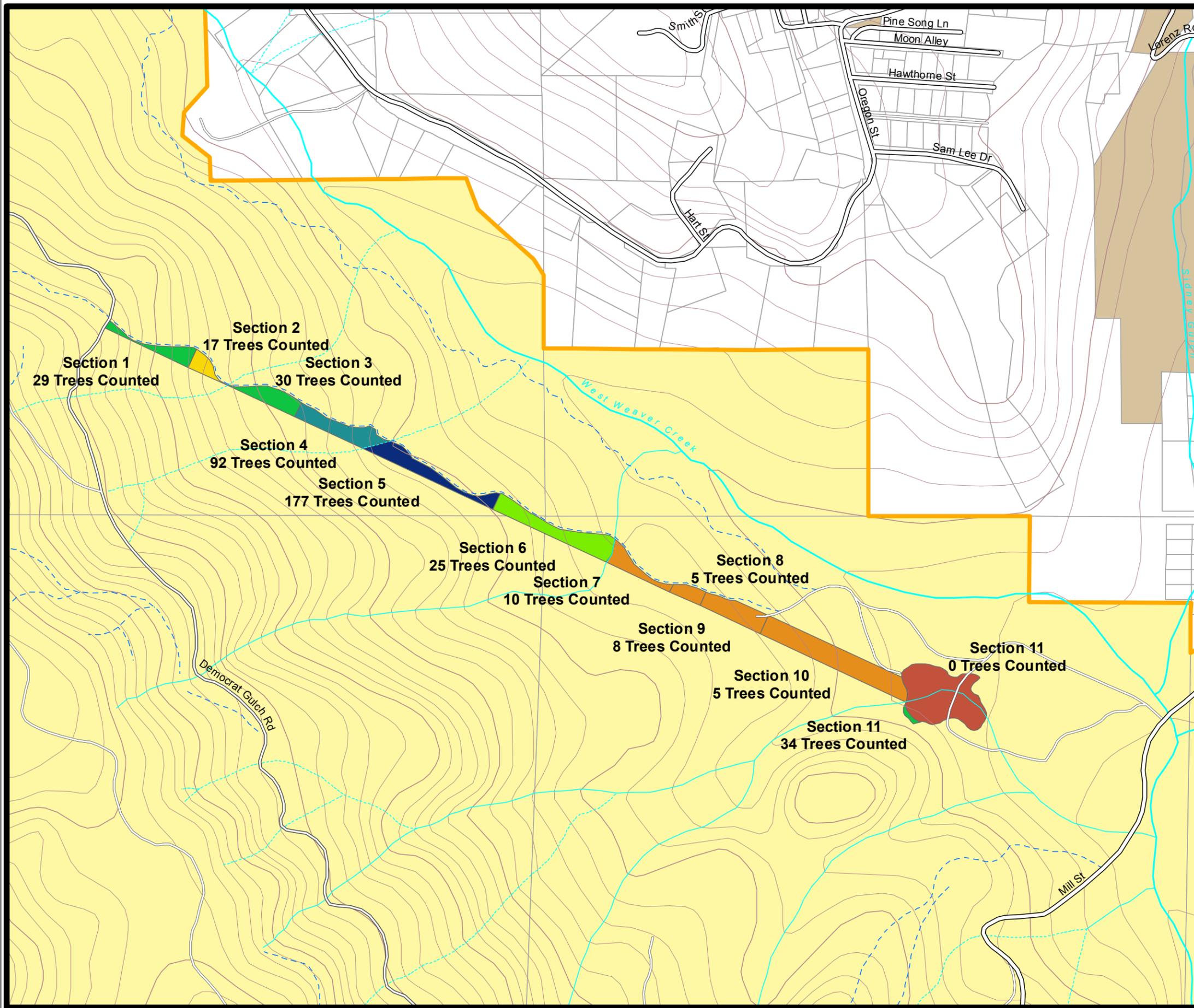
-  Highway
-  Paved
-  Rocked
-  Native
-  Trail/Undrivable



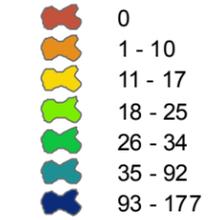
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Weaverville Community Forest X-mas Tree Farm Survival



Tree Farm Survival Rates



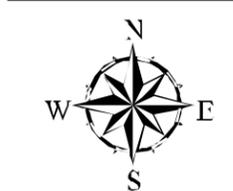
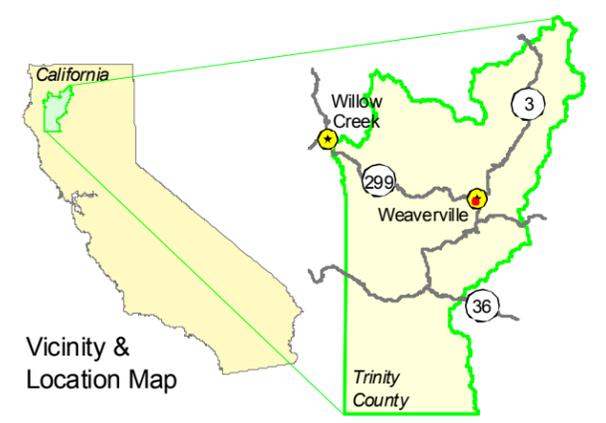
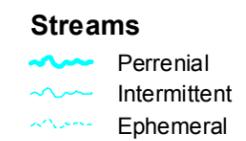
WCF Boundary



Ownership

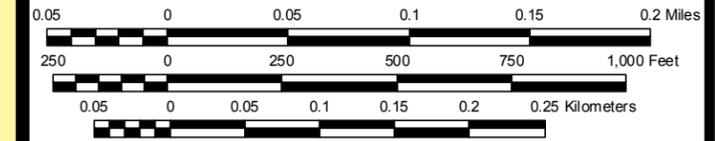


Waterbodies



Prepared By
Trinity County
Resource Conservation District
October 19, 2007

Scale: 1 = 4,800
WCF_X-mas_Tree_Farm_NAIP_17x11.mxd



Weaverville Community Forest Broom Locations

 Broom Locations

 WCF Boundaries

Ownership

 Private / Other

 Private - TPZ

 County of Trinity

 State of California

 Bureau of Land Mng.

Roads

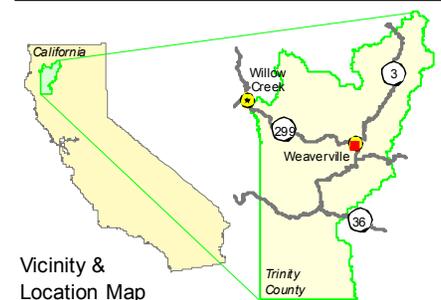
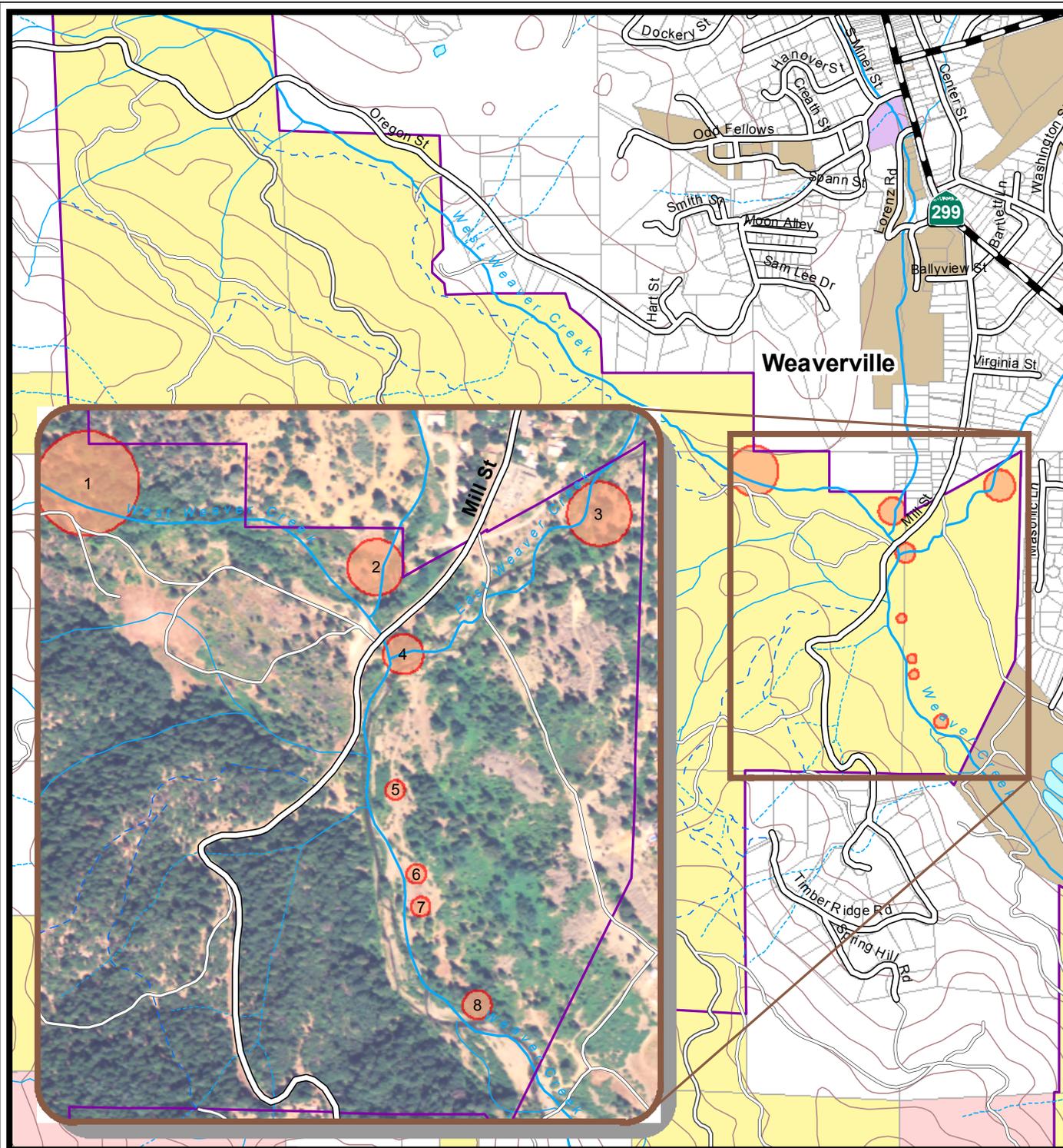
 Highway

 Paved

 Rocked

 Native

 Trail/Undrivable



Vicinity & Location Map

Prepared By
Trinity County
Resource Conservation District
December 5, 2007

Scale: 1 = 15,000
WCF_Broom_Locations_11x8-5.mxd

0.1 0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles
500 0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet
0.1 0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Kilometers

Weaverville Community Forest Heritage Fruit Trees

Fruit Tree Locations

-  Apple
-  Pear

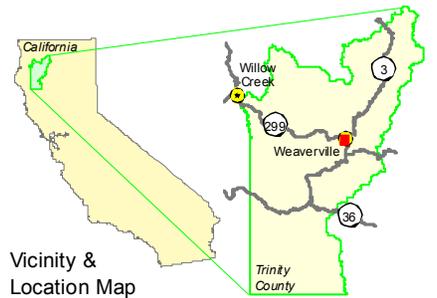
WCF Boundaries

Ownership

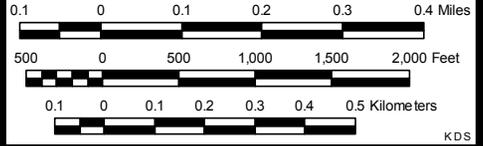
-  Private / Other
-  Bureau of Land Mng.
-  State of California
-  U.S. Forest Service

Roads

-  Highway
-  Paved
-  Rocked
-  Native
-  Trail/Undrivable



Scale: 1 = 15,000
WCF_Fruit_Trees_11x8-3.mxd



Weaverville Community Forest Grub Gulch/Weaver Creek Conservation Area

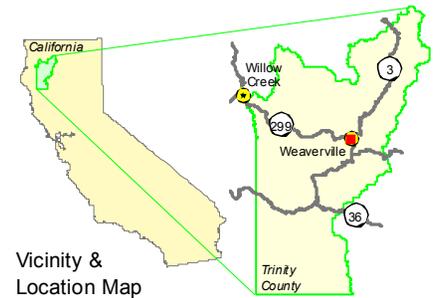
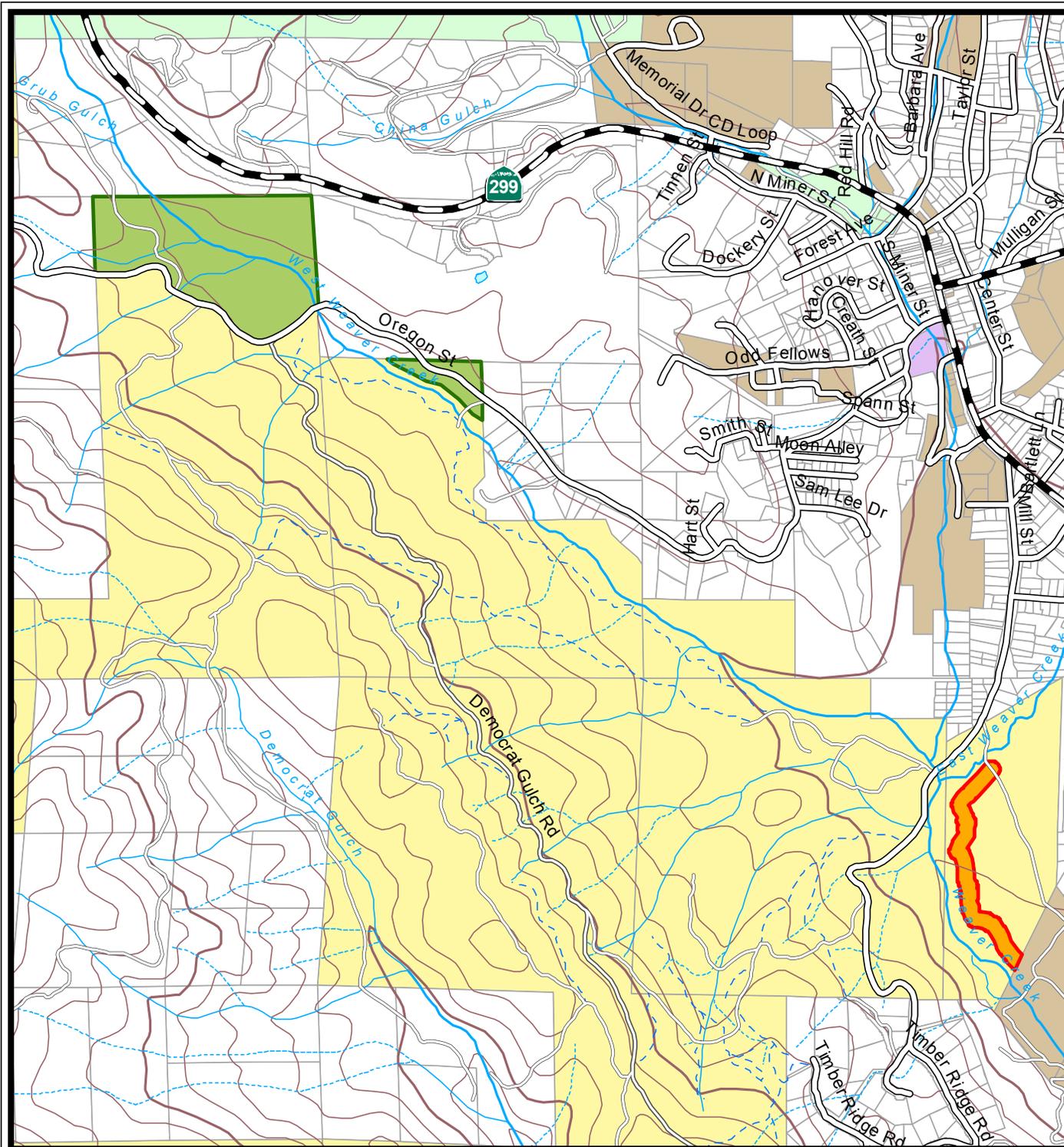
-  Stand Improvement
-  Blackberry Eradication

Ownership

-  Private / Other
-  County of Trinity
-  State of California
-  Bureau of Land Mng.
-  U.S. Forest Service

Roads

-  Highway
-  Paved
-  Rocked
-  Native
-  Trail/Undrivable



Scale: 1 = 15,000
Grub_Gulch_Ridge_11x8-5.mxd

Prepared By
Trinity County
December 18, 2007

0.05 0 0.05 0.1 0.15 0.2 0.25 0.3 0.35 Miles

300 0 300 600 900 1,200 1,500 1,800 Feet

100 0 100 200 300 400 500 Meters



Kyra and Karly Gutermuth, Melia Matthews and Angela Gutermuth display one of the wreaths made for the LAPP fund-raiser.

Christmas wreaths help keep pool afloat

The Lowden Aquatic Park Project (LAPP) is making and selling holiday wreaths and swags for the community as a fund-raiser for the new pool. Debbie Taylor has donated the use of her wreath-making ma-

chine and technical expertise. LAPP members and the Weaverville Swim Team as well as the Weaverville/Douglas City Parks and Recreation District have all been pitching in to help with the project. The materials for the

decorations come primarily from the Weaverville Community Forest as part of the planned fuels reduction effort and from donations by community members. Place orders soon by calling Kelly Jackson at 623-5925.

From the

By BETTY EYMAN (530)

No one had a better Thanksgiving than the Solvens. For the first time in a long time, all four Solven boys were home together. What made it special is Jeramiah Solven just returned from a year's stint in Iraq, and Jerrett graduated from the Marine's Boot Camp. Jerrett and Joey (Joey is the Solven boy who now waits on us at the Sasquatch) went to Sacramento Airport to get Jeramiah, and detoured to Lodi to do sky diving where all three boys jumped together. Josh, the oldest Solven boy, opted out of the adventure, because he felt it was foolish for anyone to jump out of an airplane. A lot of us agree.

Linda and Donna Rankin prepared a welcome home banner for Jeramiah, and Bill DeWolf and Mike King hung it across the beginning of Airport Road. Bill made the comment that "All returning vets should be welcomed home like this." Makes me wish a lot of us were there to welcome him back. But Thanksgiving Day consumed our time and brain. Jeramiah and Jerrett have returned to their military duties.

Zeckary Bullock, Bob and

a "new st Mine affect and chest and it took ly become h this one ser cur if you d get you con

The Re their color a tea and Trinity Pl Old Lace" were all ca from the The next will be th luck Lunch home on Bring your a gift to sh "Bandit" g

Sadly, Hawk that covered di you see in life, call th ary at 778

The Tr munity Cl im Pastor until Dec. potluck in ing the L vices. This time to ta and Becky Marion

A Senior's View

HOME IN
Two bed-
this 2 car ge-
new home page
E Burditt, 623-
975889.

8-8-ffc

THE GRID. 3.5
house Cabin,
trees, hydro-
locked gate.
owner fin-
Bill Bob at (530)
8-22-ffc

9-19-ffc
FSBO—160 ACRES BORDER-
ING YOLLA BOLLY WILDER-
NESS AREA and surrounded
by USFS Property's fenced,
has several springs, 2 rough
cabins and marketable timber. It
is located approximately 2 miles
from Stuart Gap and old White
Rock Guard Station. Possible
owner financing. For informa-
tion, call (208) 476-7050 (home),
or (208) 476-7653 (work). Ask
for Laura. Owner is licensed
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ker #00975889. 9-26-ffc

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on this 1.20 acres which overlooks East
Let the sound of the water put you to sleep
ed on Brooks lane the improvements include:
lower city water, installed septic system. Enjoy
\$164,000.

Brooks Lane 3.46 acres for your private in
located only 2 miles from downtown and get
st Weaver Creek flowing right across this land.
ath custom home is nestled in the shade of
and the landscaped front yard welcomes you
has custom pine cabinets and the living room
pine ceiling you feel right at home in these
39,000.

ish could be just the ticket to get you out of the
you busy as you build your business. There
t stations one's oversize and there is an auto
ee vacuum machines and a RV dump. Open
\$198,000.

timwood on 1.5 acres with the sound of year
l your back door. Fresh paint, tile baths and
great room addition is open to the sun and for-
glass to bring the outdoors in. Landscaped
Out buildings wood storage/shop, sewing
tached double garage for your big projects.
tached double. \$249,000.

Trinity County Realty Co.



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Box 100, WEAVERVILLE, CA 96093



390-CUSTOM HOME WITH MANY CUSTOM FEATURES -
Ready to move in. Immaculate and decorated in neutral tones,
this home offers privacy and serenity. Three bedrooms, 2 baths,
large spa tub, breakfast bar, tall ceilings, custom oak cabinets,
built-in bookcases and entertainment cabinetry that could house
your largest TV. Oversized double attached garage, beautifully
landscaped yards, fenced, garden/storage shed and patio to watch
the sunrises and sunsets. This newer home is in an area of new
homes on over an acre. In-town location with water and sewer.
Priced at \$449,000.

394-BORDERING COMMUNITY FOREST - Immaculate home
located on quiet street. Completely fenced with tall shade trees,
views of mountains, raised garden beds, oversized double garage
with large workbench. Three bedroom, 2 bath home is well
maintained, nicely landscaped, low maintenance yard, patio, large
private deck to enjoy evening sunsets. Inviting covered porch adds
a Victorian touch, interior features numerous skylights, breakfast
bar, vaulted ceilings, wainscoting, pantry, wood stove and forced
air heat. Priced at \$189,000.

395-NICE FAMILY HOME LOCATED IN TOWN -This 3 bedroom
1.75 bath home is located in nice area. Home features dual paneled
windows, wall-to-wall carpet, kitchen has built-in seating area,
oak cabinets with pull-out for your pots and pans, lazy susans,
dishwasher, oven/range and garbage disposal. Dining room is off
of the kitchen with glass sliding door leading to small deck in back-
yard. Large living room with newer pellet stove. Master bedroom
has walk-in closet, ceiling fans in every room throughout home.
Attached double garage with storage area or workshop. Plenty of
RV or boat parking with your own RV carport. Nice covered porch
to sit and relax on cool nights. Priced at \$299,000.

406-IMMACULATE HOME- This 1650 sq. ft. 3 bedroom, 2
bath contemporary styled home is located on 9.6 acres and is
ready to move into. Beautifully decorated, offering a serene
setting. Nice open kitchen with hickory cabinets, granite coun-
tertops, range/oven, refrigerator and dishwasher. Madame