

Consultations with the Pit River Tribe

Pacific
Legacy

Incorporated

CULTURAL
RESOURCES
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CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PIT RIVER TRIBE

HATCHET RIDGE WIND PROJECT

Prepared for:

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July 2007

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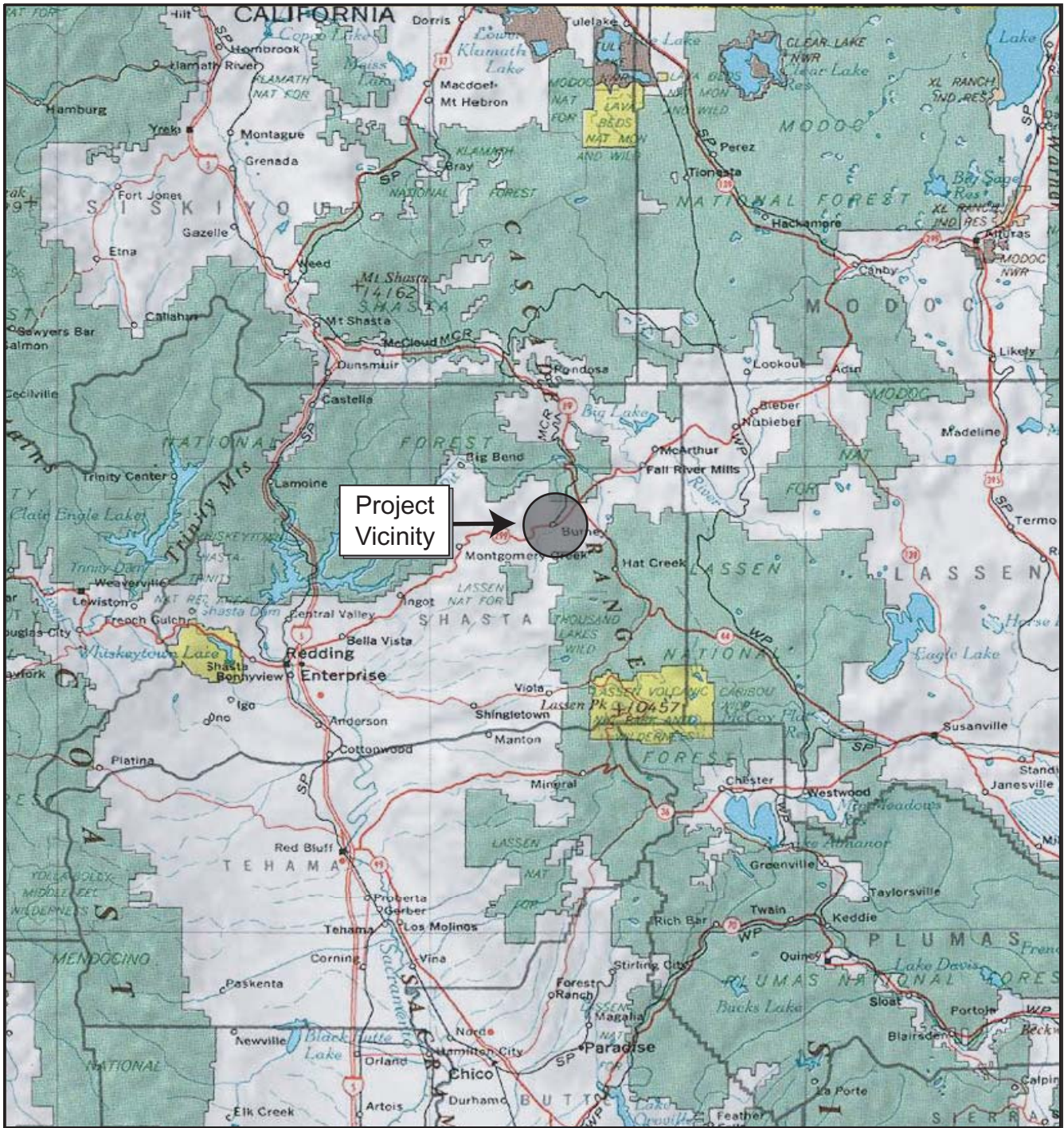
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The Shasta County Department of Resource Management received a proposal for a wind energy project on Hatchet Mountain near Burney, California (Figure 1-1). It was determined that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) needed to be prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because the project has potentially significant environmental effects. In addition, an EIR is required because a Zone Amendment and a General Plan Amendment would also be needed for this project to go forward. The impact of a project upon cultural resources is one category of project effects considered.

This project would be located in an area traditionally used by the Itsatawi and Madesi Bands of the Pit River Tribe. Ongoing consultations with the Pit River Tribe are designed to assist in determining the effects of the proposed project on cultural resources for the preparation of the Environmental Impact report. Consultations with the Pit River Tribe to date have included letter contacts, information provided at formal (scoping) and informal meetings, and interviews with individuals. Interviews were conducted by the EIR team ethnographer. Thus the consultation report summarizes the results of these efforts.



SOURCE: TOPO! National Geographic Holdings, California CD-ROM, Lassen CD; 2001.

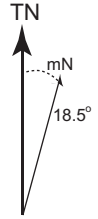
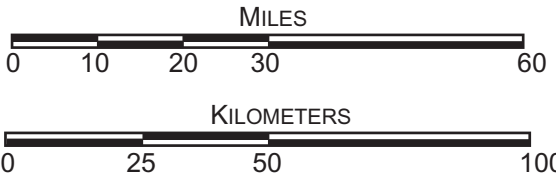


Figure 1-1. Project Vicinity Map.

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1.2 INVOLVED PARTIES

Agencies

The Shasta County Department of Resource, Management, and Planning Division is the permitting agency. They produced an Environmental Initial Study for the Hatchet Ridge Wind Project on August 16, 2006, including an initial study checklist. They retained the firm, Jones and Stokes to prepare the EIR. At the point of the initial study, it was known that the project could impact an area of Pit River religious significance, therefore a somewhat expanded scope of Native American consultation was planned.

Pit River Tribe

The Pit River Tribe is comprised of eleven autonomous bands, including the Ajumawi, Aporige, Astariwi, Atsugewi, Atwamsini, Hammawi, Hewisedawi, Illmawi, Itsatawi, Kosealekte, and Madesi Bands. The Pit River Tribe is a federally-recognized tribe. The proposed project includes the ridge which serves as a border between Itsatawi and Madesi lands, with Atsuge territory on the south extending to within five miles of the ridge (Figure 2). Both Madesi and Itsatawi individuals were contacted (Appendix B. The list of relevant people with whom to speak was prepared by Sharon Elmore, the Tribe's Cultural Information Officer.

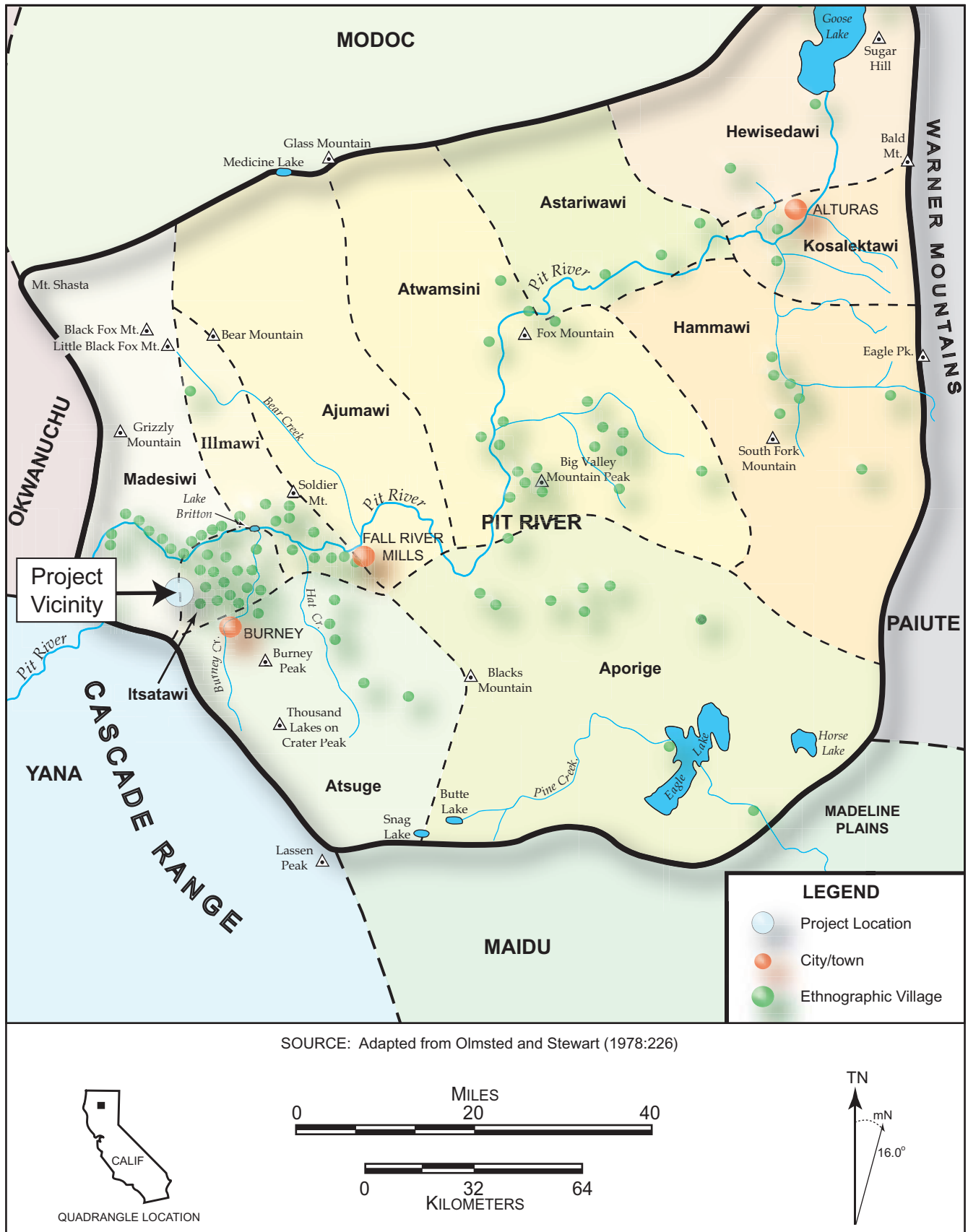


Figure 1-2. Ethnographic Boundaries in Relation to Project Location.

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1.3 REGULATIONS

Consideration of issues of concern to the Native American community is required under several Federal and state laws and Executive Orders, including:

- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978
- California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA requires that agencies consider the effects of their actions on the cultural environment, including the effects on prehistoric, historic, cultural, and social environments.

2.0 PROPOSED PROJECT

Hatchet Ridge Wind, LLC, an affiliate of RES America Developments Inc. and Renewable Resources, Ltd., has proposed to construct and develop a wind energy project near Burney, California. Hatchet Ridge Wind has leased project property from Sierra Pacific Industries and Fruit Growers' Supply Company. The project would have a footprint of approximately 100-150 acres, approximately 3.4 to 5.1% of the land leased. The applicant has requested that Shasta County allow flexibility in the sighting of the wind turbines and other project facilities.

The wind project would include up to 49 wind turbines on steel towers with a total height of up to 503 feet. Energy would be collected through a 34.5 kV electrical system, most of which would be underground, although some aerial cabling might be needed. Ancillary facilities would include a substation to convert the energy to 230 kV, an overhead transmission circuit to connect to the existing Pacific Gas and Electric lines, a switching/interconnection facility, and a control room/operations and maintenance building. Access roads would also be needed, including 6.5 miles of 20-foot-wide permanent roads, and one mile of additional roads (not associated with the turbine string corridors).

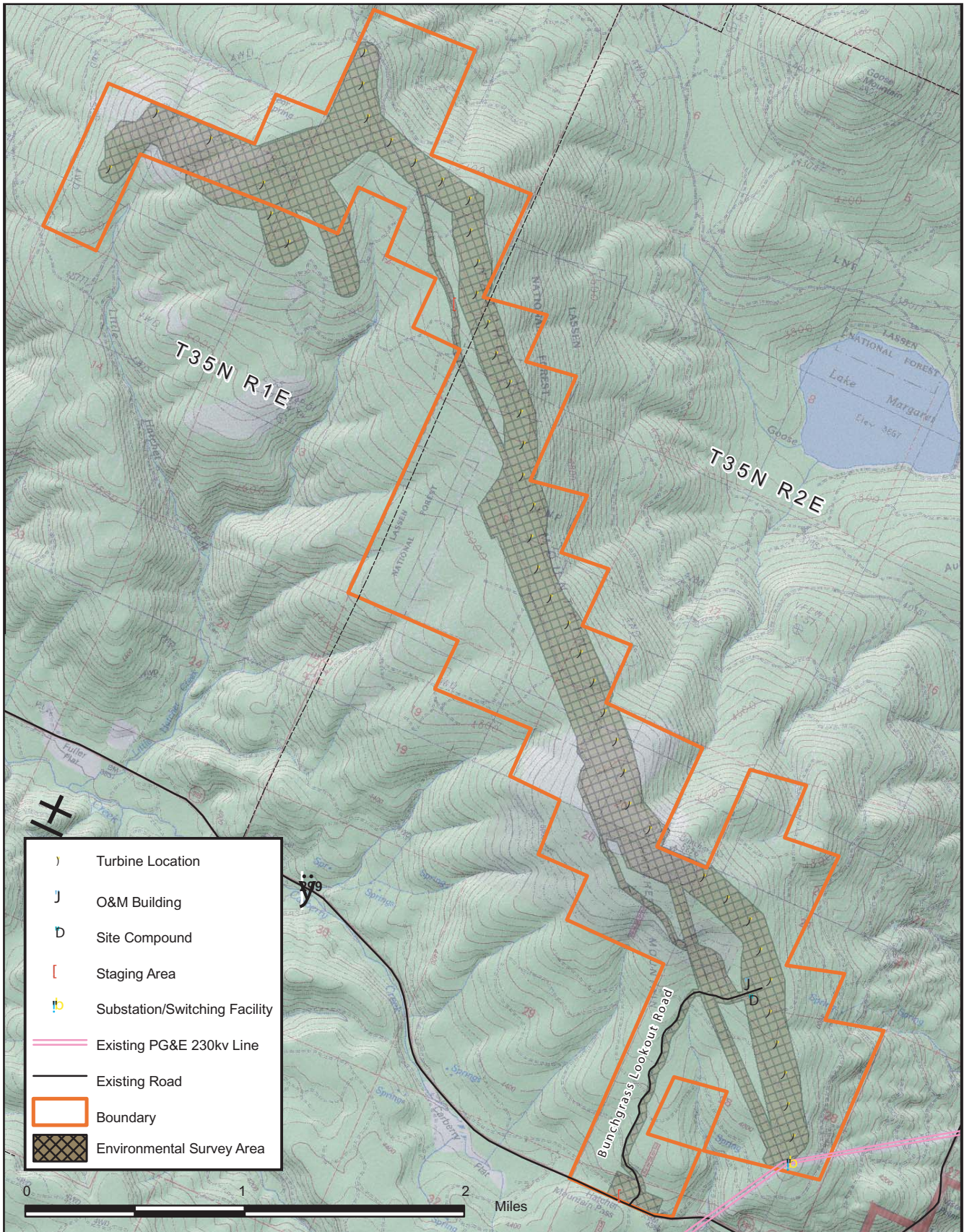


Figure 2-1. Hatchet Wind Project Location (from Jones & Stokes).

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3.0 NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Consultations with Native Americans have occurred in the form of formal and informal meetings and individual interviews. The need for consultation was underscored on August 18, 2006, when Sharon Elmore, the Cultural Information Officer for the Pit River Tribe, sent a letter to the Shasta County Department of Resource Management Planning Division regarding the permits for the project (Appendix A). In this letter, Ms. Elmore voiced opposition to the project.

On April 11, 2007, Shasta County issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the EIR, inviting agency and public input regarding the scope and contents of the proposed project. A scoping meeting was held on April 25, 2007 at the Veterans Hall in Burney California. The meeting was conducted by representatives from Shasta County Department of Resource Management and Jones and Stokes, the firm retained to prepare the EIR. In this meeting, project details as well as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process were described. Pit River commentators again expressed opposition to the project. The following topics were brought forward:

- The project would impact both sacred sites and traditional plants
- Bunchgrass Mountain is a sacred site
- The Pit River Tribe uses plants on Hatchet Mountain as part of their cultural practices
- Cultural values should be protected at sacred/archaeological sites
- The Pit River Tribe does not support the project

As a result of this concern, an ethnographer was retained to document the concerns of the Pit River Tribe. A literature search was conducted prior to fieldwork to seek documentation of a sacred site within the project area. After coordination with the Pit River Cultural Information Officer, ethnographer Dr. Shelly Tiley conducted interviews with seven individuals identified by the Tribe as having knowledge and/or concerns in the project area (Appendix B). The interviews took place on May 24th and June 27th, 2007. The venue varied: two people were interviewed at a home, and two groups of three people preferred an informal meeting. The following issues were discussed:

- The visual impact of the high towers on the ridge destroys the integrity of setting of this sacred area.
- Birds traditionally important to the Pit River culture, such as eagles, ospreys, ducks, and geese cross the ridge and could be entangled in the blades.
- Migration routes of deer across the ridge could be disrupted.
- Sound quality issues would also affect the serenity and isolation of the ridge, perhaps disrupting bird and animal patterns, as well as human experiences in the area.
- Bunchgrass Mountain, just north of the project area, remains a collection place for native basketry materials, including redbud, bear grass, and willow.
- An old trail runs along the top of the ridge top, connecting the Pit River to Goose Valley and sites downriver. This trail appears on old General Land Office Maps.

- In addition to regular travel, this trail was used to reach remote areas during vision quests.
- Such quests continue among some young men
- The ridge also serves as a band boundary between the Itsatawi and Madesi Bands, hence the project evokes concern from both groups.

Some more general issues regarding the project were also brought up, including:

- Why can't existing power corridors be used to minimize project effects?
- No local benefits to the community or the Tribe would derive from the project.

Details regarding the nature of the site are documented in Confidential Appendix C, which is the documentation of Hatchet Ridge for the Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Sites Inventory.

4.0 NEXT STEPS

It cannot be stated strongly enough that the Pit River Tribe's position was that of opposition to the project in any form. The entire ridge was considered subject to the same level of concern, therefore negotiating the sighting of specific towers or facility locations would not lessen the impacts. Should the project go forward over the objections of the Tribe, some suggestions were made for what might be considered by some as mitigative measures:

- Ongoing consultation with the Tribe should take place as the project becomes more specific.
- Birds killed by the turbines should go to the Tribe.
- Tribal members should serve as cultural resource monitors for any ground-disturbing work. This is especially important since sacred places would not be obvious to non-Pit River people.
- A full recording of Hatchet Ridge and Bunchgrass Mountain immediately to the north is needed to have these protected as a Traditional Cultural Properties to avoid further impacts in the future.

5.0 REFERENCES CITED

American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA). 1978. Public Law 95-341

Clinton, William.

1996 *Sacred Sites*. Executive Order 13007. May 24, 1996

Olmstead, D. and O.C. Stewart.

1978 Achumawi. *In California*, edited by R. F. Heizer, pp. 225-235. *Handbook of North American Indians*, Vol. 8, W. C. Sturtevant, general editor. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

Appendix A

Letter from Tribe Opposing Project

JESSICA JIM
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

MARIA ORAZCO CUE
VICE CHAIRMAN

JOLEE GEORGE
TRIBAL SECRETARY



PIT RIVER TRIBE
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Burney, CA 96013

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(530)-335-5421
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ELEVEN AUTONOMOUS BANDS

8/18/2006

To: Shasta County Department
Of Resource Management Planning Division,
1855 Placer Street, suite 103,
Redding, CA 96001

From: Sharon Elmore, Cultural Information Officer
37118 Main Street
Burney, CA 96013

Re: Permit for 125 Mega Watt generation Facility up at Bunch Grass, on a sacred Mt.

Dear Shasta County Dept,

The Pit River Tribe is a federally recognized Tribe in the Northeastern of California. The Pit River Tribes Ancestral Territory is located in Shasta, Siskiyou, Modoc, and Lassen Counties, as stated in the Pit River Tribe's docket 347, and Constitution of the Pit River Tribe, adopted by the Secretary of the Interior.

The Itsatatwi Band of the Pit River Tribe has requested to inform you that this proposed project will impact the sacred Mt. of Bunch Grass as a Vision Quest, and Power site. As you might know the Spiritualism of Bunch Grass Mt. was used by the Itsatawi Band since prehistoric time and this proposed project will impact the sacredness of that Mt. We the Pit River Tribe do not want any kind of development up there and especially the Wind turbines, and generation facility. We will continue to oppose this project. In closing we formally request that you inform this Office by letter of any current or future projects that will affect our 100 square miles.

Thank you,
Sharon Elmore,
E-Mail: ajumawi@frontiernet.net Phone: (530) 335-5062, ext 2

Cc,
Scott Piscitello, RES America Developments

MADESI

ATWAMSINI

ATSUGEWI

ASTARAWI

APORIGE

AJUMAWI

HEWISEDAWI

ILLMAWI

ITSATAWI

KOSEALEKTE

HANMAWI

Appendix B

Persons Consulted

Sharon Elmore
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37118 Main Street
Burney, CA 96013

Jack E. Potter Jr.
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Cottonwood, CA 96022

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P.O. Box 4945-17
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Vernon Ward Sr.
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Round Mountain, CA 96084

Melvin Elmore
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Burney, CA 96013

James Wright
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Fall River Mills, CA 96028

Appendix C:

Confidential Information

Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands Inventory Form

Appendix C

Because this appendix contains confidential information, it has been omitted from this Draft EIR.

