

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY
OF THE CARNELIAN WOODS PROJECT PLACER
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**



**Prepared for:
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**By:
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July 10, 2008

INTRODUCTION

Cultural Resource Specialties of Chico, California, has been retained by Bruce Seybold, to perform an onsite cultural resource survey for the Firestone Exemption Project in Tahoe City, Placer County, California. This archaeological survey is required prior to vegetation removal for fire protection. **During the course of this survey, no cultural resources meeting the requirements for inclusion in the National Register were identified or recorded.**

The property is located on the north side of North Lake Blvd. (Highway 28) Figures 1 and 2). The project site is situated approximately through the north-west quarter of Section 15, in R17E, T16N, MDM, as shown on the revised USGS Kings Beach 7.5' topographic quadrangle map. Elevations on the property range from 6400 feet above sea level on the slope at the highway to 6800 feet at the northern edge of the parcel

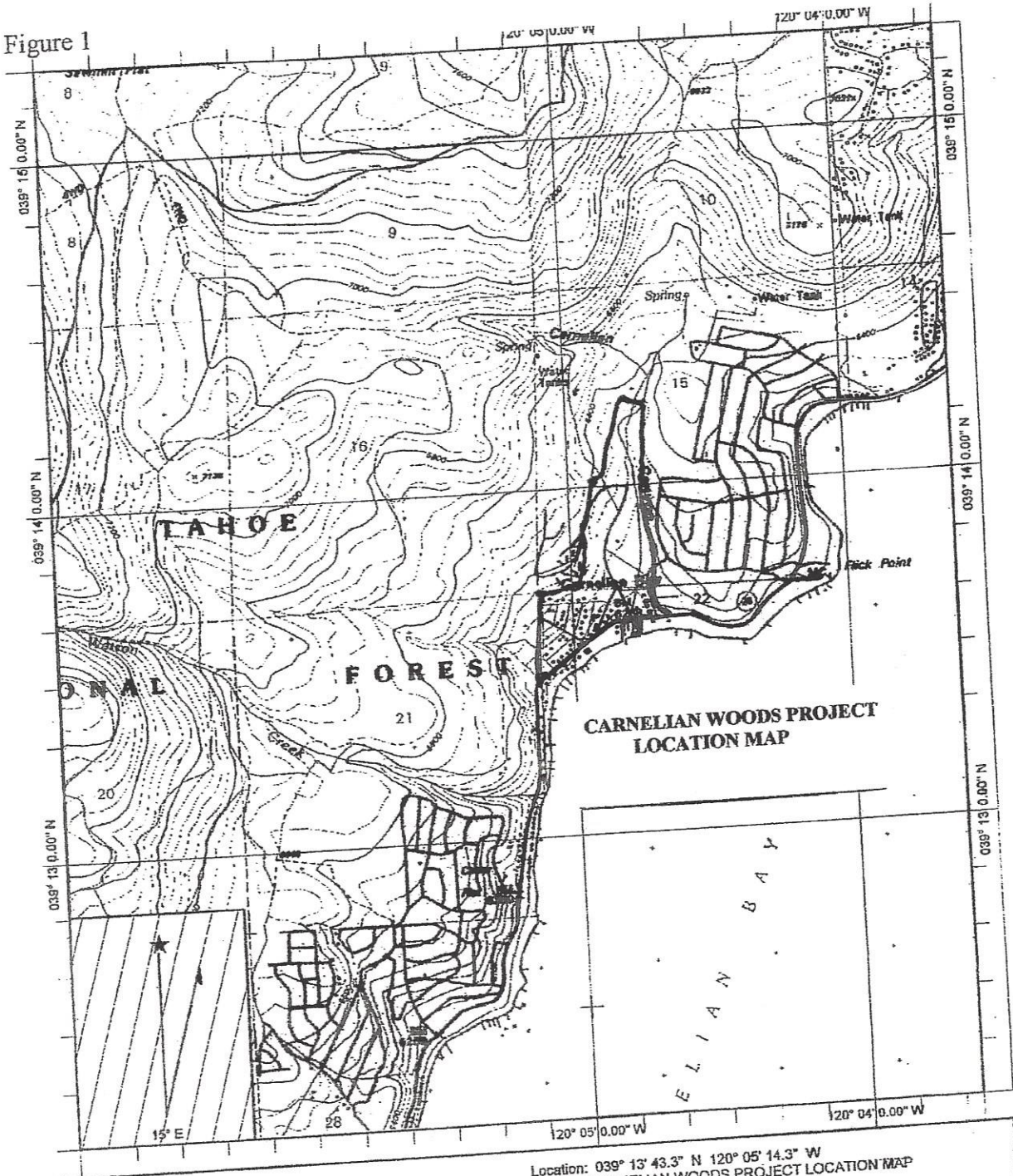
In order to satisfy federal and state cultural resource preservation laws and regulations, an archaeological survey of areas which may be impacted by a project is required. These laws and regulations include, but are not limited to:

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 36 CRF Part 800.14(a);
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Section 106, as amended, 36 CRF Part 60 and 63, and implementing regulations 36 CRF 800;
- California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), § PRC Section 2100 et seq, CEQA Guidelines 14CCR 15000 et seq;

A cultural resource survey and inventory must include:

- A record search completed by the regional cultural records center. For the project site, the North Central Information Center, at California State University, Sacramento. This record search will include a check of the records of Prehistoric Resources, Historic Resources, any previous archaeological investigations, and a literature search;
- A field survey accomplished by walking and observing features of the project's area as dictated by the Record Search and the project's sensitivity for cultural resources;
- Written request for comments and concerns to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), most likely descendants of native people per the NAHC's list of such individuals for Nevada County;
- Preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the record search and field survey.

Figure 1



Name: KINGS BEACH
Date: 6/30/2008
Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 039° 13' 43.3" N 120° 05' 14.3" W
Caption: CARNELIAN WOODS PROJECT LOCATION MAP

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ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Natural Environment

The project site is located north of Highway 28, above Carnelian Bay. Approximately two-thirds of the property consist of a second growth pine woodland with thickets of scrub brush. There are many recent and not so recent road cuts and animal trails throughout the property. Areas of the property have been disturbed in the past for development and logging related activities.

The entire property has shown logging activity in the past as evidenced by stumps. All of the large trees appear to be of less than 100 years old.

Cultural Environment

Prehistory

Habitation of the foothills and lower mountain elevations possibly arose about 12,000 years before present (BP). Evidence of this early habitation is sparse at best, as over the years, alluvial sediment has deeply covered much of this evidence. Groups of Paleo-Indians during this time period probably relied heavily upon the mega-fauna such as mastodon and mammoth, as well as upon plant and other faunal resources available. Organization was in small, mobile groups of individuals. As the glaciers receded from the Sierra Nevada and the Central Valley, the climate became warmer and drier, with grasslands and oak forests replacing the pine and riparian forests. Population increased to where eventually, the Native American population density of the Central Valley exceeded many other areas of North America.

Table 1
Hypothesized Characteristics of Cultural Periods in California
 (After Chartkoff and Chartkoff, 1984)

<p>1800 A.D. Upper Emergent Period Phase 2, Late Horizon</p>	<p>Clam disk bead money economy appears. More and more goods moving farther and farther. Growth of local specializations relative to production and exchange. Interpenetration of south and central exchange systems.</p>
<p>1500 A.D. Lower Emergent Period Phase 1, Late Horizon</p>	<p>Bow and arrow introduced, replaced atlatl and dart; south coast maritime adaptation flowers. Territorial boundaries well established. Evidence of distinctions in social status linked to wealth increasingly common. Regularized exchanges between groups continue with more material put into the network of exchanges. The use of the bow-and-arrow, fetal-position burials, deliberately damaged ("killed") grave offerings, and occasional cremation of the dead are the best known traits of this horizon. Acorn and seed gathering dominated the subsistence pattern with short and long-distance trade carried out to secure various raw materials. Compared to earlier peoples, Late Horizon groups were short in stature with finer bone structure, evidence perhaps of the replacement of original Hokan speaking settlers by Penutian speaking groups by circa 1,500 years ago.</p>
<p>1000 A.D. Upper Archaic Period Middle Horizon Intermediate Cultures</p>	<p>Growth of sociopolitical complexity; development of status distinctions based on wealth. Shell beads gain importance, possibly indicators of both exchange and status. Emergence of group-oriented religious organizations; possible origins of Kuku religious system at end of period. Greater complexity of exchange systems; evidence of regular, sustained exchanges between groups; territorial boundaries not firmly established. Middle Horizon peoples generally buried their dead in a fetal position and only small numbers of graves contain artifacts (and these are most often utilitarian). Increased violence is suggested by the number of burials with projectile points embedded in the bones or with other marks of violence</p>
<p>500 B.C. Middle Archaic Period Middle Horizon Intermediate Cultures</p>	<p>Climate more benign during this interval. Mortars and pestles and inferred acorn economy introduced. Hunting important. Diversification of economy; sedentism begins to develop, accompanied by population growth and expansion. Technological and environmental factors provide dominant themes. Changes in exchange or in social relations appear to have little impact.</p>
<p>3000 B.C. Lower Archaic Period Early Horizon Early San Francisco Bay Early Milling Stone Cultures</p>	<p>Ancient lakes dry up as a result of climatic changes; milling stones found in abundance; plant food emphasis, little hunting. Most artifacts manufactured of local materials; exchange similar to previous period. Little emphasis on wealth. Social unit remains the extended family.</p>
<p>6000 B.C. Upper Paleo-Indian Period San Dieguito Western Clovis 8000 B.C.</p>	<p>First demonstrated entry and spread of humans into California; lakeside sites with a probable but not clearly demonstrated hunting emphasis. No evidence for a developed milling technology, although cultures with such technology may exist in state at this time depth. Exchange probably ad hoc on one-to-one basis. Social unit (the extended family) not heavily dependent on exchange; resources acquired by changing habitat.</p>

Table 2
Model of Cultural Periods in California
 (After Chartkoff and Chartkoff, 1984)

11,500-9,000 B.C. Pre-Archaic Period	Pre-Archaic populations were small and their subsistence included big game hunting of now extinct mammoth and mastodon. Research indicates that the Pre-Archaic economies were based on a wide-ranging hunting and gathering strategy, dependent to a large extent on local lake-marsh or lacustrine habitats.
9,000-4,000 B.C. Early to Middle Archaic Period	During the Early and Middle Archaic periods, prehistoric cultures began putting less emphasis on large-game hunting. Subsistence economies probably diversified somewhat, and Archaic era people started using such ecological zones as the coast littoral more intensively than before. Advances in technology (milling stones) indicate that new food processing methods became important, enabling more efficient use of certain plant foods, including grains and plants with hard seeds.
4,000-2,000 B.C. Late Archaic Period	An important technological advance was the discovery of a tannin-removal process for the abundant and nutritious acorns. Prehistoric trade networks developed and diversified, bringing raw materials and finished goods from one region to another. Resource exploitation, as during the Early and Middle Archaic, was generally seasonal. Bands moved between established locations within a clearly defined/defended territory, scheduling resource harvests according to their availability. Clustering of food resources along the shores of large lakes or the banks of major fish-producing rivers allowed for larger seasonal population aggregates. Dispersed resources, such as large and small game, during the winter prompted small family groups to disperse across the landscape for more efficient food harvesting. The spear thrower (atlatl) may have been introduced or increased in importance, accounting for a change in projectile point styles from the Western Stemmed to the Pinto and Humboldt series. Seed grinding increased in importance.
2,000 B.C.-A.D. 500 Early and Middle Pacific Periods	The Pacific Period is marked by the advent of acorn meal as the most important staple food. Increasing population densities made it desirable and necessary for Indian populations to produce more food from available land and to seek more dependable food supplies. The increasing use of seed grinding and acorn leaching allowed for the exploitation of more dependable food resources; increased use of previously neglected ecological zones (the middle and high Sierran elevations) may also have been part of this trend.
A.D. 500-1400 Late Pacific Period	Around A.D. 500 to 600, a cultural watershed was triggered by the introduction of the bow and arrow, which replaced the spear thrower and dart as the hunting tool/weapon of choice. The most useful time markers for this period tend to be small projectile points/arrow tips. Another trend is the marked shift from portable manos/metates to bedrock mortars/pestles (Moratto, 1984). Moratto, et al. (1978) demonstrated that this was a time of cultural stress, during which trading activity abated, warfare was common, and populations shifted away from the Sierra Nevada foothills to higher mountain elevations. They explain these

	changes in terms of rapid climatic fluctuations, including a drier climate and a corresponding shift of vegetation zones.
A.D. 1400-1789 Final Pacific Period	Populations became increasingly sedentary, and depended more on staple foods, even as the diversity of exploited foods increased. Permanent settlements with high populations were more common. Every ecological niche was exploited, at least on a seasonal basis. Other trends included the resurgence of long-distance trade networks and the development of more complex social and political systems.

Ethnography (Riddell, 1978 : Kowta, 1988).

The entire project area lies within the area once occupied by the Washo and Nisenan or Southern Maidu, who spoke the Maidu family of languages, classified as California Penutian. The Maidu people occupied an area that today would roughly approximate from Eagle Lake north of Susanville, eastward to Honey Lake near the California/Nevada border, southwestward to Sacramento, and northward to Black Butte Reservoir.

These people were probably not the earliest inhabitants of this area. They are believed to have entered California from the north, sometime around 500 A.D. Prior to that time, the area may have been occupied by Hokan speaking peoples.

In prehistoric times, the Nisenan were people who subsisted by hunting and gathering. Many of the plants and animals utilized by the Nisenan had multiple uses. Roots, stems, leaves, and seeds of plants were used as food, for basketry, and for medicine. Buckeye and acorns were the primary plant staples. Many small animals were hunted and trapped. Fish were taken with nets, weirs, harpoons, hooks or poisons. Insects such as grasshoppers, crickets, and ants were also used as food.

The sole agricultural pursuit of the Maidu involved the cultivation of tobacco, the leaves of which were smoked for both ceremonial and social occasions. Pipes were made of stone or wood.

Groups were organized politically into tribelets, or small "village-communities" containing several small adjacent villages. Villages generally consisted of perhaps five houses, with up to five inhabitants per house. Village-communities could contain a population of perhaps up to 200 individuals. Each tribelet was independent from the others. Usually, there would be a central, or more influential, village where the headman would reside in the largest dwelling which was often used as a dance house. The headman was not an ultimate ruler, but rather, he acted as an advisor and spokesman with no control over the tribelet. The headman position was not hereditary; he was chosen with the aid of the shaman.

Warfare was not uncommon and usually involved feuds between villages or village-communities. Battles were generally fought on an individual basis rather than in a formal military type of organization.

With the arrival of the Euro-Americans, much of the Maidu population succumbed to diseases for which they had little to no immunity. In 1850, Congress authorized the creation of Indian treaties,

ultimately aimed at relocating native populations to reservations. Many of the villages were severely impacted by the mining activities in the 1850's through the 1920's. In some areas all evidence of prehistoric activity has been erased by mining activity.

The Washo occupied a series of mountain valleys, including all the lands surrounding Lake Tahoe. In each valley where winter climate would allow, permanent villages were established. Permanent villages with substantial semi-subterranean earth covered pit houses were constructed, as well as bark covered summer dwellings. Seasonal camps were used in the warmer months of the year mainly as hunting/gathering camps.

-The Washo were hunters and gatherers who followed a yearly cycle that allowed them to exploit a wide variety of plant and animal resources available to them. The yearly cycle would take them away from their winter villages in the valleys to a series of temporary camps closer to the desired resources. Plant resources, which provided the bulk of their diet, were gathered and used or stored for the winter months. Game animals were taken by snares, nets, or shot with arrows. Fishing was done with traps, poison or nets. Migratory waterfowl were snared or shot, various insects were gathered and eaten.

The Washo moved seasonally through various environments to exploit different resources at different times of year. They built their permanent camps on high ground near rivers and springs, close to different environments. From these sites, the majority of people would leave at various seasons to hunt or gather, but a number of people would remain at the main camps throughout the year (D'Azevedo 1986, 472). In the permanent camps, structures were usually constructed of poles and were about 12 to 15 feet in diameter. These poles then could be covered by a variety of materials, but often bark, pine or cedar was used. Summer houses were temporary structures made by weaving together tule or brush, much like those of the Paiute of the Great Basin to their east (D'Azevedo 1986, 479-480).

Central Sierra archaeological sequences were first worked out by Heizer and Elsasser. They identified two distinct cultures, the Martis Complex and the Kings Beach Complex, both identified by their distinctive tool inventories.

The older complex, the Martis, is characterized by a lithic technology that primarily relies on basalt. Projectile points belonging to this complex are large, heavy, and rough in appearance, and appear to have been used with an atlatl. Other artifacts commonly associated are manos, millingstones, cylindrical pestles, bowl mortars, basalt flake scrapers with pressure-retouched edges, and expanded base, finger-held drills with punch (Heizer and Elsasser 1953).

The Kings Beach Complex, appears in the Eastern Sierras about AD 500 and continued to the ethnographic present, and is thought to be ancestral to the ethnographic Washo. Small flake tools, small projectile points, hopper and bedrock mortars, with some utilization of the mano and millingstone, characterize this complex. The lithic material of preference was chert or obsidian with basalt rarely being utilized (Heizer and Eisasser 1953). It was probably at this time that the bow and arrow was introduced into this area.

The majority of sites found in Placer County tend to be obsidian or basalt lithic scatters, occasionally with large bifaces and large points. In this respect they are similar to many Truckee sites. The problem is that few sites in Placer County have been excavated. The context of the majority of the artifacts found in Placer County sites rarely allows for the accurate dating so both the dates and the affinities of Placer County are still in question. In the future as more sites are located and excavated a much clearer picture of the Sierra archaeology will be presented

In summary, the examination of ethnographic and archaeological information in the project area indicates the possibility of encountering one or more of the following types of prehistoric cultural resources:

- Occupation sites, most likely with housepits. Firepits and middens may also be present;
- Surface finds of basalt, chert or obsidian in the form of flakes or artifacts;
- Food processing stations, which would include bedrock mortars and single cups in boulders, or mobile grinding stones.

Historical Period, ca. 1850 to the present

During the historical period exploration, fur trapping and early settlement in the north valley occurred. The immediate impact of these early contacts was the decimation of the native population through the introduction of diseases.

The earliest documented exploration of the foothill area of northern California was by Captain Luis Arguello in 1820. For the next two decades, trappers from the Hudson Bay Company and the American Fur Company were trapping in the area.

After the discovery of gold in 1848, the influx of people into California changed the subsequent history of the region. The decades following the Gold Rush are marked by Indian removal, gold mining, agriculture, and commerce. Rail lines were established to transport people and goods more efficiently.

The area of Lake Tahoe – Truckee was the route of many of the early emigrants into California. One of the most noted is the Donner Party. The early days of the Gold Rush saw many prospectors passing through the mountains and valleys of Placer County.

Impacts

In considering the significance of an historic resource, its eligibility for inclusion into either the California State Register of Historic Places, or the National Register of Historic Places must be considered. These eligibility criteria are developed from the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Part 60 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Criteria for Evaluation

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- (a) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- (b) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- (c) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- (d) have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the last 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties *will qualify* if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- (a) a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- (b) a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or
- (c) a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building directly associated with his productive life; or

- (d) a cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or
- (e) a reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or
- (f) a property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or
- (g) a property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

Using the above criteria, potentially significant historic resources located within or adjacent to the proposed project site were evaluated.

Mitigations

Archaeological/Historical clearance is recommended for this project.

If any cultural remains are located during the excavation phases of this project, a qualified archaeologist should be contacted to properly record and identify and mitigate those resources.

Identified cultural resources should be recorded on DPR 523 (A-J) Historic Resource recordation forms.

References

Chartkoff, Joseph L. and Kona Kerry Chartkoff
1984

"The Archaeology of California." Stanford University
Press, California.

Riddell, Francis A.
1978

In "Handbook of North American Indians, Vol. 8,
California: Maidu and Nissenan." Smithsonian Institute,
Washington D.C.

During the Gold Rush and afterwards many of the mountain valleys including the lands around Lake Tahoe were homesteaded. This area continues to be used for ranching activities.

METHODS

The survey consisted of four components which included a records search, written contact with Native American groups and related agencies, archival research, and the actual fieldwork.

Office and Archival Methods

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) were contacted via letter. The NAHC responded that there were no known sites within the project area. The NAHC also sent a list of Native American Representatives for Placer County. Letters to these representatives were subsequently sent. No response was received from SHPO.

Research into the history and prehistory of the project site's vicinity was researched through a number of electronic documents, and at the Special Collections section of California State University, Chico.

Record Search

The North Central Information Center located at California State University, Sacramento was contacted, and provided the results of a record search dated 24 June 2008. The record search file number is I.C. File # **PLA-08-64**.

The literature search conducted by the North Central Information Center included:

- National Register of Historic Places – Listed Properties and Determined Eligible Properties (1988, Computer Listings 1966 through 7-00 by National Park Service);
- California Inventory of Historic Resources (1976);
- California Register of Historic Resources;
- California State Historical Landmarks (1996 and updates);
- California Points of Historical Interest (1992 and updates);
- Handbook of North American Indians, Vol. 8, California, (1978);
- Historic Spots in California, (1966);
- Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File for Nevada County, (2006)
- Archived studies within or near the project parcel.

Five cultural resource surveys are archived pertaining to the project area or adjacent. These reports are as follows:

NCIC Studies: 7411;7435;7436;7437 and 9312.

All of the project area has been surveyed in the past.

The NEIC record search results, including previous survey information, is contained within Appendix A. Confidential information as to recorded location of cultural resources has been excluded from the appendix.

Field Procedures

Per guidelines set by the Secretary of the Interior, survey activities should be designed to gather that information required to achieve preservation goals. Survey methods should be compatible with the past and present environmental characteristics of an area, and with respect to those cultural resources which may reasonably be present.

John Furry of Cultural Resource Specialties visited the property on two occasions between June 25 and 26, 2008. Most of the site is accessible to a pedestrian survey, and good ground visualization is possible.

The entire property has been disturbed in one way or another related to mining/logging activity in the past and present road construction. There are scattered open areas throughout the project area. All of these areas were subjected to a pedestrian survey with transects varying from 10 to 30 meters, depending upon ground conditions and accessibility. Ground visualization was fair to good.

Other areas within the site which were surveyed include interior dirt road surfaces and any accessible openings within the dense vegetation.

Photographs were taken, as were field notes.

Results

During the course of the survey, no prehistoric or historic cultural resources were discovered on the project site that would meet the criteria for inclusion in the National Register. All of the sites (can dumps) listed in previous surveys were reexamined, none meet the requirements for inclusion in the National Register.

HISTORIC RESOURCES: According to our records, five historic archaeological sites have been recorded within or adjacent to the current *Carnelian Woods fuels* area. Four are described as historic can dumps and the fifth is an historic logging road and stream crossing.

The 1865 *GLO plat of T 16N/R 17E* shows a road winding along a north/south route. *USGS 1889 Truckee 30-minute quadrangle* depicts the road as a primary feature. Given these recorded resources and the known patterns of local historic land use, there is moderate sensitivity for historic-period archaeological cultural resources in the *Carnelian Woods fuels* project area.

PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS: Approximately 100 percent of the *Carnelian Woods fuels* parcel has been surveyed for archaeological resources, as well as some of the surrounding land. Survey coverage is shown on the accompanying records search map, and copies of the title pages and project location maps from each report are enclosed.

NCIC Studies: 7411; 7435; 7436; 7437; 9312; Lindstrom (1988)

LITERATURE REFERENCED DURING SEARCH: In addition to the official California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) records and maps for archaeological sites and studies in Placer County, the following inventories and references were also reviewed: the *National Register of Historic Places - Listed Properties (2008) and Determinations of Eligibility (2008)*; the *California Register of Historic Resources - Listed Properties (2008) and Determinations of Eligibility (200)*; the *California Inventory of Historic Resources (1976)*; *California State Historical Landmarks (1996 and updates)*; *California Points of Historical Interest (1992 and updates)*; the Office of Historic Preservation's *Historic Property Directory (2008)*; *Caltrans State and Local Bridge Surveys (1987, 2000, and 2004)*; *Gold Districts of California (Clark 1970)*; *California Gold Camps (Gudde 1975)*; *California Place Names (Gudde 1969)*; *Historic Spots in California (Hoover et al. 1966 and 1990)*; *Trail of the First Wagons Over the Sierra Nevada (Graydon 1986)*; the Smithsonian Institution's *Handbook of North American Indians, Volume 8, California (Wilson and Towne 1978:387-389)*; and *California Archaeology (Moratto 1984)*.

This records search is based only on the information on file at this office. Other cultural resources may exist that are unknown to this office and therefore were not accessed for this search. If you have any questions about this records search, please feel free to contact me at this office. A billing invoice is enclosed.

Sincerely,


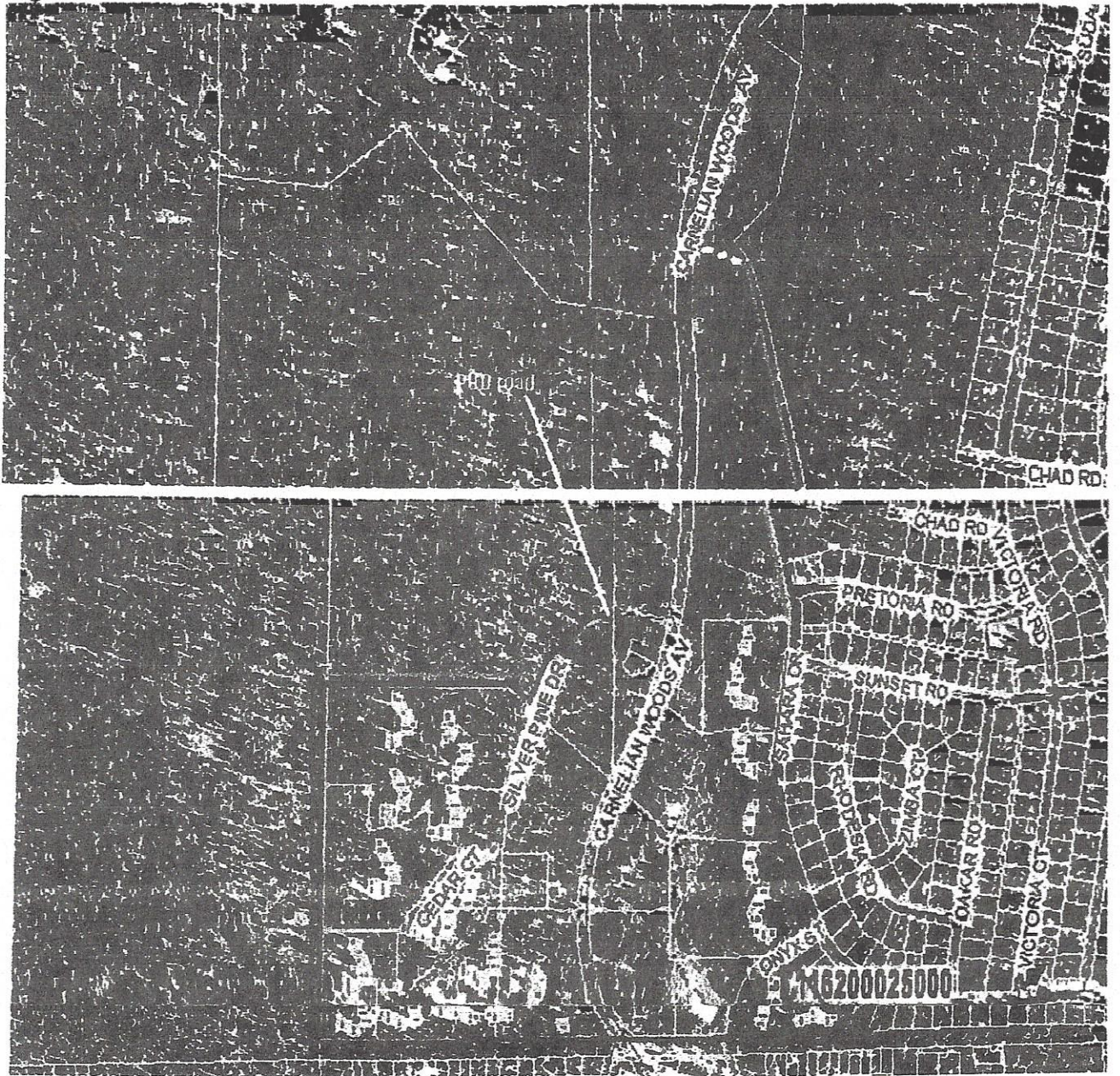
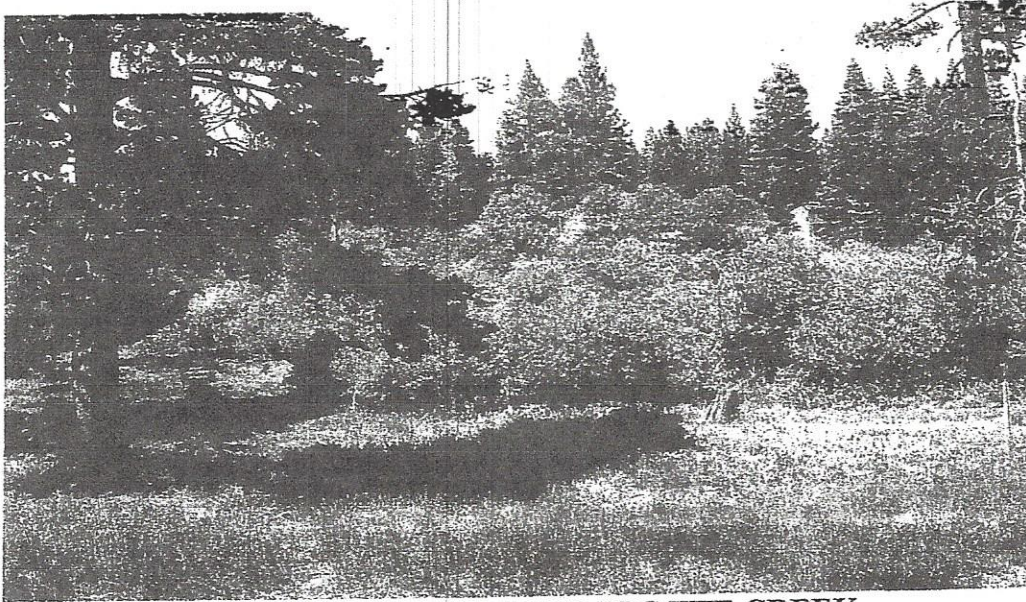

Ellen Bowden
Researcher

Figure 2





MEADOW, LOOKING TOWARDS THE CREEK



WESTERN SLOPE OF PROJECT AREA

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CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALTIES

July 17, 2008

Bruce Seybold
P.O. Box 8723
Truckee, Ca 96162

This is the invoice for the Archaeological Survey for the Carnelian Woods project. The agreed upon fee for this project is \$950.00. This fee includes a check of the records, site visit, phone, and report preparation and filing. Please send a check to: John Furry-Cultural Resource Specialties.

Sincerely,

John Furry

Cultural resource Specialties
39 Parkside Ct.
Chico, CA 95928

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