

Staff Report

for the Board of Directors Meeting of January 10, 2018

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager
Neysa King, Watershed Resources Planner

DATE: January 3, 2018

SUBJECT: Implementation of the Scotts Flat North Forestry Project

ADMINISTRATION

RECOMMENDATION:

Award a contract to Frank Dial Logging in the amount of \$200,000, to implement forest practices on District-owned properties at Scotts Flat Reservoir, and authorize the General Manager to execute the necessary documents as recommended by Maintenance and Resources Management Committee.

BACKGROUND:

There are an extraordinary number of dead, dying and diseased trees resulting from prolonged drought, overstocked forests and infestation by bark beetles and other decay organisms throughout the Sierra Nevada Range. Data collected by state and federal agencies demonstrate that tree mortality has reached epidemic levels across the entire western slope of the Sierra Nevada, including a large portion of Nevada County. Scotts Flat has been ranked by Cal Fire as a Very High Fire Severity Zone based on inputs such as fuel, slope, brush density (ladder), and tree density (crown cover). This Project will significantly reduce hazard trees and the potential for catastrophic fire risk to NID owned forested lands adjacent to Scotts Flat Reservoir and to nearby residential communities by removing fire fuels, hazard trees and dense understory vegetation. This Project will reduce the risk of wildfire that threatens the district's existing water storage facility, power lines, roads and other evacuation corridors, critical community infrastructure and long-term watershed impacts including increased sedimentation rates and reduced water quality.

The Scotts Flat North Forestry Project will harvest merchantable timber and remove fire fuels on the north shore of Scotts Flat as identified in the District's 2013 Timber Harvest Plan (THP). The Project will primarily target Campgrounds 1, 2 while treating adjacent NID property for fire reduction (See attached map). This project will begin in Unit #1, then move to Units 2 – 4 as time and budget allow. This Project has three main outcomes. It will first significantly lessen the existing fire danger by reducing fuel loads with understory thinning and selective tree removal. Second, this Project will remove dead & dying hazard trees that pose substantial risk of injury to persons and property. Finally, NID will sell its

merchantable timber to a local sawmill to help offset the cost of removal. As this Project will impact surrounding community of Scotts Flat, neighbors will be informed of the Project's scope and goals via mail and will be invited to a pre-operations site walk in January 2018.

Project goals will be achieved by harvesting merchantable small to medium sized Douglas fir, Incense Cedar and pine sawlogs. All logging and thinning activities will be completed by a Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) under the direction of a Registered Professional Forester. NID will hire an LTO who will selectively log and transport trees that are marked by Registered Forester Kevin Whitlock (Under The Trees, License #2436) for final sale to the SPI Lincoln sawmill.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection will monitor compliance with the terms of the California Forest Practices Act and the adopted Timber Harvest Plan for the property (Timber Harvesting Plan No. 2-13-031-NEV, Scotts Flat). The THP was approved by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection on October 4, 2013, in consultation with California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Under the approved THP, the LTO will be required to meet the conditions to cut trees and brush, manufacture sawlogs, chip and or masticate biomass, skid logs, load and haul logs and biomass. The THP allows for the removal of up to 60% of the existing overstory. Forest thinning will be done with conventional logging equipment, mastication or by hand crews using chainsaws. Machines can be used on slopes up to 40%. Steeper slopes will be treated by using chainsaws and hand crews. Thinning to develop fire resistance will reduce susceptibility to insect-caused mortality, and accelerate development of old-growth characteristics (i.e. large trees with full crowns).

On November 28, 2017 this project was considered and recommended for approval by the Maintenance and Resources Management Committee. Subsequently, NID contacted nearly a dozen local timber operators and introduced the project goals and requirements. On Dec. 4, 2017, NID hosted a mandatory on-site meeting to review conditions and project details, to which nine timber operators attended. On Dec. 8, 2017, three bids were received from Licensed Timber Operators, namely: Robinson Enterprises, Inc., Frank Dial Logging and Stumplt Logging Inc.

LTO	\$/MBF
Frank Dial Logging	\$515
Robinson Enterprises, Inc.	\$898-\$1,390
Stumplt Logging, Inc.	\$975

Based on the bids received, which provided logging costs per thousand board feet (\$/MBF), Frank Dial Logging has been identified as the apparent low bidder. Frank Dial Logging has done previous and exceptional hazard tree removal work at NID campgrounds, boat ramps and other NID forested lands in the recent past. Staff recommends a contract award to Frank Dial Logging based on past experience and cost.

Proposed Start-Up Schedule (weather dependent)

Jan. 10, 2018 Bidder selected and LTO awarded by NID Board for approval; letters sent out to neighbors and residents of Scotts Flat and Casci Roads informing them of the upcoming project

Jan. 15-19, 2018 Site walk with neighbors to present project and solicit input or concerns

Jan. 22, 2018 Work starts at Gate 1 Campground, Scotts Flat

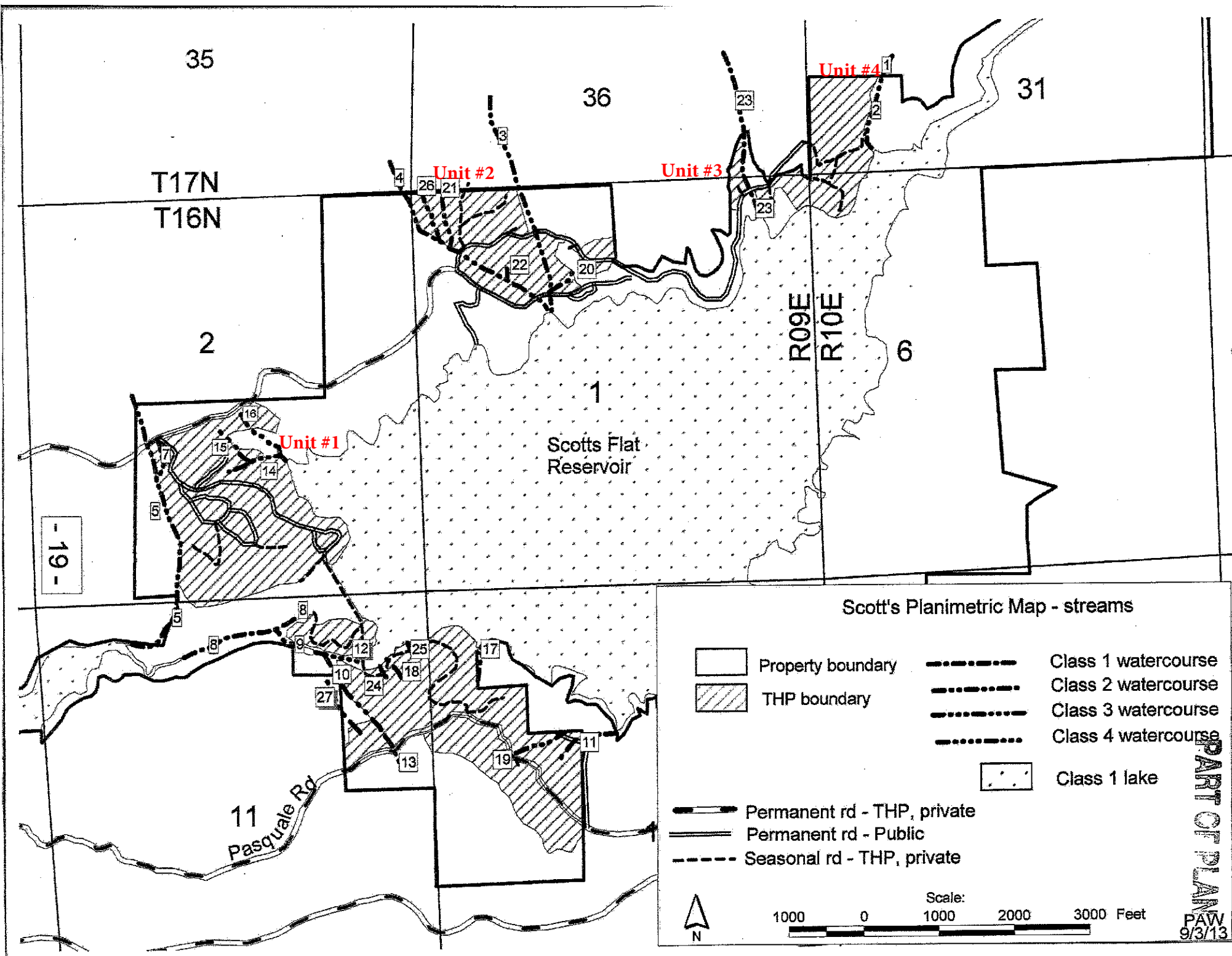
May 1, 2018 Project ends to provide NID's Recreation Dept. with sufficient time to prepare for the opening of the season

Estimated Project Budget









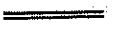

Frank Dial Logging bid \$515 per thousand board feet (Mbf). The volume to be harvested is estimated at 340 Mbf,. Based on similar projects and recently completed forestry work on NID property.

Based on sawmill purchase quotes and a species composition and density assessment, NID is estimated to net approximately \$40,000. These funds will be placed in the Watershed Resource budget to be used on future watershed projects.

Estimated Cost	Estimated Sale Price	Estimated Net Gain/(Loss)
\$200,000	\$240,000	\$40,000



Scott's Planimetric Map - streams

	Property boundary		Class 1 watercourse
	THP boundary		Class 2 watercourse
			Class 3 watercourse
			Class 4 watercourse
			Class 1 lake
	Permanent rd - THP, private		
	Permanent rd - Public		
	Seasonal rd - THP, private		

Scale: 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 Feet

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