

8. Conservation and Open Space Element DRAFT

Clean air and water, healthy forests, meadows, streams and the Feather River make Portola an attractive place to live and work. These assets must be conserved and protected as the community grows and the population increases.

This General Plan seeks to accommodate population growth while conserving and protecting the area's natural resources and quality of life. Economic development and quality of life are not inconsistent and contradictory goals. Indeed, economic development for the City of Portola and the east Plumas County region depends on protecting the abundant, high quality natural resources that are essential to the quality of life in Portola.

Authority

The Conservation Element and the Open Space Element are both mandated by the Government Code (Sections 65302(d) and 65302(e)) and are combined in this Element.

The Conservation Element is required to:

“. . .provide direction regarding the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources.”

The Open Space Element is required to:

“. . .guide the comprehensive and long-range preservation and conservation of 'open-space land' (Section 65563). Open-space land is defined in the code as any parcel or area of land or water that is essentially unimproved and devoted to open-space use (Section 65560(b)).”

Relationship to Other General Plan Elements

The required topics for Conservation and Open Space indicate substantial overlap. Water supply, energy sources, and outdoor recreation are addressed in the Public Services and Facilities Element. Open space is addressed in the Land Use Element. Energy efficiency is discussed in the Community Design Element and the Circulation Element.

Completeness Checklist & Required Contents- Conservation

Based on a review of OPR's Completeness Checklist as well as Required Contents and Statutory Requirements of the Conservation Element, the items in the checklist are addressed in the multiple items listed above. The requirements related to harbors and fisheries are not applicable to the City.

The Conservation portion of this Element details how natural resources are conserved, developed, and utilized. In Portola, natural resources include water and its hydraulic force, forests, soils, rivers and other waters, wildlife, and other resources deemed important to the community.

California Government Code Section	Brief Description of Requirement	Addressed in General Plan
65302(d)(1)	Water and its hydraulic force (water conservation, water supply, and demand)	√
65302(d)(1)	Floodwater accommodation	√
65302(d)(1)	Forest (conservation, risk of wildfire)	√
65302(d)(1)	Soils (management and conservation, agricultural production)	√
65302(d)(1)	Rivers and other waters (water quality)	√
65302(d)(1)	Harbors	N/A
65302(d)(1)	Fisheries (management)	N/A
65302(d)(1)	Wildlife (conservation, habitat)	√
65302(d)(1)	Minerals (inventory, protection)	√
65302(d)(1)	Other natural resources	√

Completeness Checklist & Required Contents - Open Space

Based on a review of OPR's Completeness Checklists this Conservation and Open Space Element complies with the California General Plan Guidelines.

The Government Code requirements for the Open Space Element are fulfilled via a multitude of overlapping policies in several City elements. The City has completed an initial inventory and map of the City's open space lands that complies with the definition of open space in Government Code §65560(b) as "any parcel or area of land or water that is essentially unimproved and devoted to open space use."

The discussion of these topics are organized under the following headings:

- Water and its Hydraulic Force
- Floodwater Accommodation
- Forest
- Reclamation of Land and Waters
- Water Conservation
- Energy Conservation

- Soils and Erosion Control
- Water Quality
- Open Space
- Feather River
- Outdoor Recreation
- Biological Resources
- Archaeological, Historic, and Cultural Resources
- Public Health and Safety

California Government Code Section	Brief Description of Requirement	Addressed in General Plan
65563	Long range and comprehensive	√
65563	Plan for preservation and conservation of open space lands, including the following:	√
65560(h)(1)	Open space for the preservation of natural resources, including, but not limited to, areas required for the preservation of plant and animal life, including habitat for fish and wildlife species; areas required for ecologic and other scientific study purposes; rivers, streams, bays, and estuaries; and coastal beaches, lakeshores, banks of rivers and streams, and watershed lands.	√
65560(h)(2)	Open space used for the managed production of resources, including, but not limited to, forest lands, rangeland, agricultural lands, and areas of economic importance for the production of food or fiber; areas required for recharge of groundwater basins; bays, estuaries, marshes, rivers, and streams that are important for the management of commercial fisheries; and areas containing major mineral deposits, including those in short supply.	√
65560(h)(3)	Open space for outdoor recreation, including, but not limited to, areas of outstanding scenic, historic, and cultural value; areas particularly suited for park and recreation purposes, including access to lakeshores, beaches, and rivers and streams; and areas that serve as links between major recreation and open-space reservations, including utility easements, banks of rivers and streams, trails, and scenic highway corridors.	√

65560(h)(4)	Open space for public health and safety, including, but not limited to, areas that require special management or regulation because of hazardous or special conditions such as earthquake fault zones, unstable soil areas, flood plains, watersheds, areas presenting high fire risks, areas required for the protection of water quality and water reservoirs, and areas required for the protection and enhancement of air quality.	√
65560(h)(5)	Open space in support of the mission of military installations that comprises areas adjacent to military installations, military training routes, and underlying restricted airspace that can provide additional buffer zones to military activities and complement the resource values of the military lands.	N/A
65560(h)(6)	Open space for tribal resources, including public land containing any Native American sanctified cemetery, place of worship, religious or ceremonial site, or sacred shrine; Native American historic, cultural, or sacred sites, that are listed or may be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources pursuant to Section 5024.1. tribal consultation is required to determine the level of confidentiality needed (Government Code section 65562.5)	√
65560(b)	Inventory of the above lands to include any parcel that is essentially unimproved (i.e. need not be completely vacant).	√
65562(a)	Policies provide that open space “must be conserved wherever possible”.	√
65562(b)	Coordinated with state and regional plans	√
65564 65566 65567 65910	Action Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition and disposal of open space must be consistent with the open space plan • Building permits, subdivision maps, and zoning must be consistent with the plan • Open space zoning pursuant to Government Code Section 65910 (e.g. exclusive agriculture zones, large-lot zones, overlay zones for hazards areas, etc.) must be consistent with the plan. 	√

Water and its Hydraulic Force

Portola lies within the watersheds of Humbug Creek and Middle Fork of the Feather River. The Middle Fork of the Feather River runs through the center of town, and divides the City into north and south regions. Through the Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group and the Plumas Watershed Forum, the City participates in efforts to support watershed management and restoration activities.

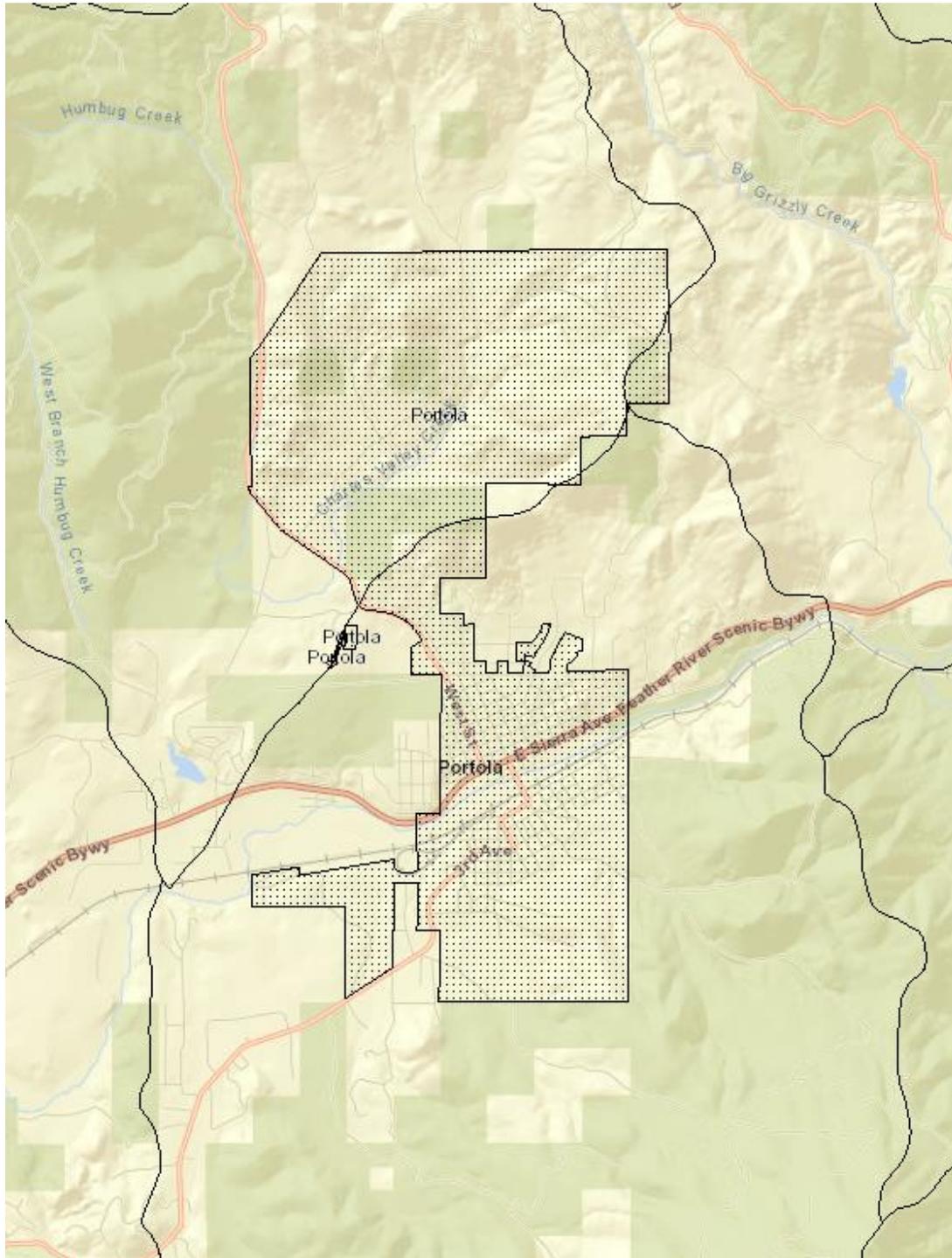
The Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group was established in 1985 by a broad coalition of local, state, and federal agencies and non-governmental entities to protect, maintain, and enhance ecosystems and community stability in the Feather River watershed through collaborative landowner participation.

In addition, the Plumas Watershed Forum was formed in 2003 as a result of the Monterey Settlement Agreement. The Forum's purpose is to implement watershed management and restoration activities in the Feather River Watershed.

The goals of the Forum are to:

1. Improve water retention for baseflow in streams
2. Improve water quality and streambank protection
3. Improve upland vegetation management
4. Improve groundwater retention and storage in major aquifers

Figure 8-1
Watershed Hydrologic Units (<https://maps.gis.ca.gov/cageneralplan/map.aspx>)

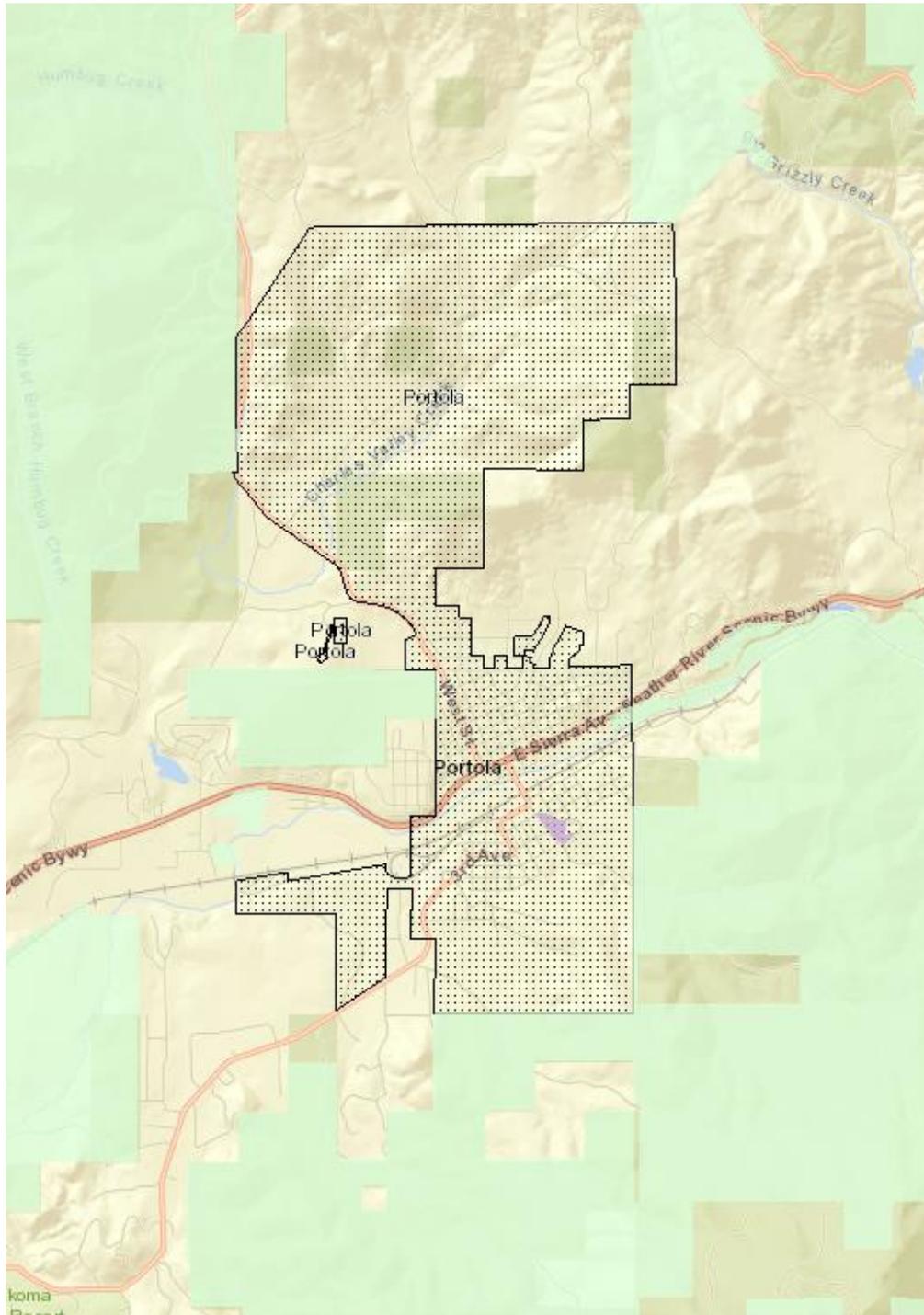


Reclamation of Land and Waters

The areas of reclamation within the City limits and the General Plan Study Area are within the USFS boundaries and are not impacted by this General Plan or its policies.

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Figure 8-2
Protected Areas (<https://maps.gis.ca.gov/cageneralplan/map.aspx>)



Water Conservation

Potable water is essential for human habitation. Conservation of water resources is essential for meeting the demands of current and future residents, and new economic

development. The primary goals are not only to conserve and protect current water resources, and minimize the demand for new sources of water.

Water supply and conservation is also addressed in Section 6, the Public Services and Facilities Element.

Water Conservation Goals

Goal WC-1. Minimize the consumption of water to reasonable levels consistent with a high level of amenities and quality of life for residents and visitors.

Goal WC-2. Maximize the beneficial uses of water by recycling water for irrigation and other non-potable uses.

Policies: Water Conservation

WC-P-1. Develop and implement water conservation standards for all commercial and industrial development, and for all existing and new residential development.

WC-P-2. Explore potential uses of treated wastewater.

WC-P-3. Protect the quantity of Portola's groundwater.

Implementation: Water Conservation

WC-I-1. Develop a landscape ordinance that provides standards for water conserving landscape practices, including the use of drought tolerant plants, for both public and private projects.

WC-I-2. Develop a public education program to increase public participation in water conservation.

WC-I-3. Require large commercial and industrial water users to submit a use and conservation plan as part of the project entitlement review and approval process, and develop a program to monitor compliance with and effectiveness of that plan.

WC-I-4. Cooperate with other agencies and jurisdictions to expand water conservation programs, and to develop methods of water reuse.

WC-I-5. Actively pursue the use of treated wastewater in irrigation and industrial applications, including development of appropriate infrastructure.

Energy Conservation

The potential for growth in Portola will depend on conserving and planning for the future allocation of energy resources. The primary goals are not only to conserve and protect current energy resources, but also to seek new sources of energy for current and future land use.

Energy Conservation Goals

- Goal EC-1. Develop a pattern of land uses and circulation that will help conserve scarce or nonrenewable energy resources.
- Goal EC-2. Utilize non-traditional energy sources such as co-generation, wind and solar to reduce dependence on traditional energy sources.
- Goal EC-3. Promote energy efficiency in new development and in building design.

Policies: Energy Conservation

- EC-P-1.** Develop construction standards that promote energy conservation.
- EC-P-2.** Conserve public utilities.
- EC-P-3.** Conserve petroleum products.
- EC-P-4.** Encourage use of alternative energy sources in new commercial, industrial, and residential development.

Implementation: Energy Conservation

- EC-I-1.** Implement development standards which encourage energy conservation and the use of solar energy techniques for heating and cooling, including building orientation, street and lot layout, landscape placement, and protection of solar access.
- EC-I-2.** Implement construction standards which encourage energy conservation including window placement, and building eaves and roof overhangs.
- EC-I-3.** Enforce Title 24 energy requirements (Building Code, California Code of Regulations (CCR)) which define construction standards that encourage energy conservation.

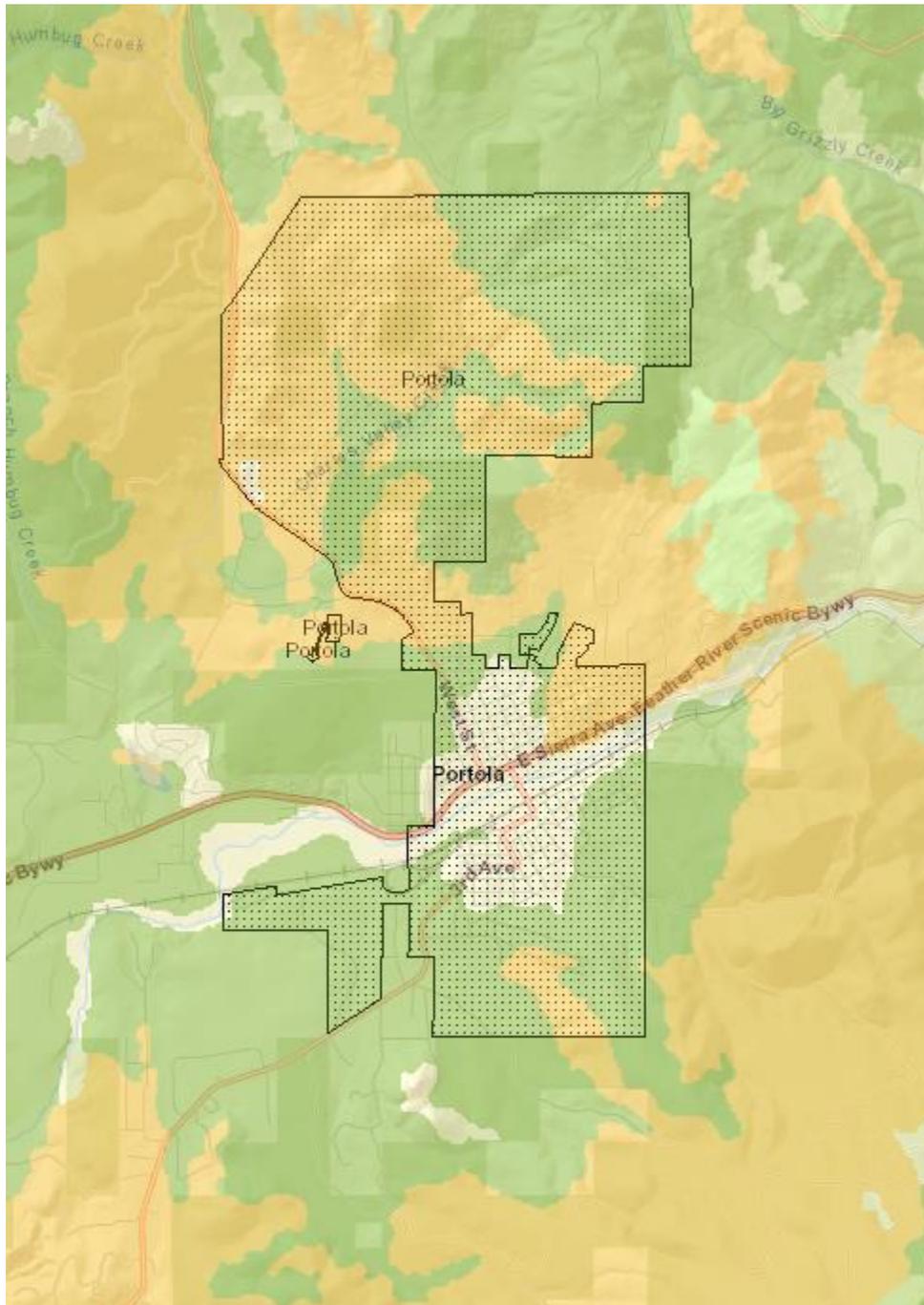
- EC-I-4.** Develop a public education program to increase public participation in energy conservation.
- EC-I-5.** Encourage large energy users to use an energy conservation plan as part of the project review and approval process, and develop a program to monitor compliance with and effectiveness of that plan.
- EC-I-6.** Cooperate with other agencies and jurisdictions to expand energy conservation programs.
- EC-I-7.** Investigate alternative energy sources including cogeneration, solar energy, and wind generation.
- EC-I-8.** Implement Transportation System Management (TSM) measures, as outlined in the Circulation Element, which reduce the need for automobile use and petroleum products through an efficient roadway and intersection system. The circulation pattern is designed to minimize trips required for shopping and daily errands.
- EC-I-9.** Develop alternative transportation systems, such as public transportation and bikeways, which reduce the need for automobile use and petroleum products.

Soil

The primary concerns regarding soil erosion are soil loss and water quality loss due to erosion and sedimentation. The effect on water quality is discussed in Section 8.4 below. Soil loss is due primarily to development and land management practices that leave disturbed soil exposed to weather.

The majority of the soils in the study area were formed in alluvium, and are found on alluvial fans and terraces or stream terraces. Runoff is slow on these deep alluvium soils, and the hazard of erosion is "slight." The soils in the General Plan study area are described in Appendix B.

Figure 8-3
Soil Survey (<https://maps.gis.ca.gov/cageneralplan/map.aspx>)



Soil Erosion Control and Safety Goals

Goal SC-1. Preserve and maintain Portola's soils to avoid pollution of the Feather River and its tributaries and loss of soil.

Policies: Soil Erosion Control and Safety

SC-P-1. Minimize soil erosion and loss of topsoil from land development activities, wind, and water flow.

SC-P-2. Minimize risk from expansive soils.

Implementation: Soil Erosion Control and Safety

SC-I-1. Require site-specific research and ground surveys for proposed development projects. This research should include a detailed inventory of soil conditions, and appropriate mitigation measures for avoiding or reducing erosion and risk from expansive soils. This requirement may be waived if determined by the City that the proposed project area is already sufficiently surveyed.

SC-I-2. Comply with Uniform Building Code (UBC) requirements for specific site development and construction standards for specific soil types.

SC-I-3. Comply with the California Uniform Building Code (CUBC) Chapter 29, regulating excavation, foundations, and retaining walls; and Chapter 70 regulating grading activities, including drainage and erosion control.

SC-I-4. Require projects in areas that have highly expansive soils to undertake necessary studies and structural precautions as part of the project approval process. (Where prior soil studies on similarly-situated property have been conducted, the City may waive the requirement for field work in order to avoid imposing unnecessary application costs.)

SC-I-5. If expansive soil is present, it may be necessary to remove a portion of the clay, deepen footings, and/or moisture condition slab-on-grade and flatwork subgrade.

Water Quality

Water quality refers to protection of both surface and groundwater resources from contamination. Protecting surface water quality involves minimizing sedimentation from soil erosion, and minimizing pollution of waterways and other water bodies from urban runoff. Protecting groundwater quality requires maintaining high water quality within the creek systems. Much of the policies in this element address the management of land development and use of potential contaminants.

Urbanization has both short-term and long-term impacts on water quality. Development results in increased impervious surfaces (streets, storm drains, rooftops, etc.) which decrease infiltration opportunities and may increase the volume and rate of runoff. Increased runoff velocity can result in increased channel erosion, which in turn can result in increased sediments into surface waters. Construction activity can also result in degradation of surface water quality.

Long-term impact to water quality may occur as a result of runoff from urbanization that enters the water courses. Urban runoff from streets, parking lots, driveways, and landscaped areas may include oil, grease, heavy metals, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and sediments.

Urbanization can also impact groundwater recharge and quality. Groundwater is recharged by rainwater that reaches the subsurface saturated zone of the soil through percolation. Impervious surfaces reduce the percolation of water and the associated filtration processes beneficial to water quality. Pollutants found in urban runoff can leach into aquifers, impacting groundwater quality.

The major surface water within the study area is the Middle Fork Feather River. The river is fed by numerous creeks and drainages, most of which are unnamed. The most significant of these are Humbug Creek and Grizzly Creek. Humbug Creek empties into the river just west of Delleker. Charles Valley Creek feeds Humbug Creek as its course leaves Charles Valley. Grizzly Creek courses from Lake Davis and empties into the river east of Portola. Willow Creek, located outside the study area to the west, is a third major creek in the area feeding the river.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are methods to control and abate discharges of material into water courses. BMPs are very important tools in protecting and maintaining water quality in the creeks, as well as the Middle Fork Feather River into which the creeks empty. Maintaining high water quality within the creek system will also help to keep contaminants out of the groundwater aquifer.

The California State Water Resources Control Board has jurisdiction over nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards, whose charge it is to identify and implement water quality objectives. Portola falls under the authority of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Water Quality Goals

Goal WQ-1. Maintain water quality in Portola surface and ground waters.

Policies: Water Quality

- WQ-P-1.** Minimize sedimentation and loss of topsoil from soil erosion.
- WQ-P-2.** Minimize pollution of waterways and other surface water bodies from urban runoff.
- WC-P-3** Maintain a high level of water quality in the Feather River and tributary areas.
- WC-P-4.** Protect the quality of Portola's groundwater.

Implementation: Water Quality

- WQ-I-1.** Continue to enforce the Grading Ordinance standards for project construction and erosion control.
- WQ-I-2.** Maintain a buffer area between waterways and urban development to protect water quality and riparian areas.
- WQ-I-3** Utilize cost-effective urban runoff controls, including Best Management Practices (BMP's), to limit urban pollutants from entering the water courses. Standard BMP's as required by the State Water Resources Control Board will be used.
- WQ-I-4.** Comply with the Regional Water Quality Control Board's regulations and standards to maintain and improve groundwater quality in Portola.
- WQ-I-5.** Where feasible, maintain the natural condition of waterways and floodplains, and protect watersheds to ensure adequate groundwater recharge and water quality.
- WQ-I-6.** Coordinate water quality and groundwater resource efforts with other appropriate agencies.

Open Space

Portola is currently a compact, rural community surrounded by open space and divided by the Feather River, a major open space feature. One of the most notable visual characteristics of the community is the sense of open space within and around the City. Protection of these features is fundamental to maintain the quality of life enjoyed by current residents. New development will inherently change some aspects of the open space resource, but through planning for the location and character of new development, the existing open space can be protected.

Access to open space is also very important. Recreation along the river and in the surrounding forest is a major attraction for residents and visitors. The General Plan serves to enhance the potential for access to the open space resources in and around the City.

In Portola, open space includes lands that serve the following purposes:

- **Open space for the preservation of natural resources.** Such areas are required for the preservation of plant and animal life, including habitat for fish and wildlife species (particularly rare, endangered or threatened plant and animal species), areas required for ecological and other scientific study purposes, rivers, streams, bank of rivers and streams, wetlands, and watershed lands. In Portola, the primary open space resource area is the Feather River and its major tributaries.
- **Outdoor recreation.** This includes areas of outstanding scenic, historic, and cultural value, areas particularly suited for park and recreation purposes including access to the river and streams, and areas that serve as links between major recreation and open space reserves, including utility easements, stream- and riverbanks, trails, and scenic highway corridors.
- **Public health and safety.** This refers to areas requiring special management or regulation due to hazardous or special conditions, such as earthquake fault zones, unstable soil areas, floodplains, watersheds, areas presenting high fire risks, and areas required for the protection and enhancement of air quality. In Portola, such areas include the flood plains and steep slope areas.
- **Preservation of scenic areas and vistas.** Settled in a narrow valley, Portola is surrounded by mountain peaks that visually define the community. Much of the surrounding mountain area is in public lands and is not likely to be developed in a manner that will affect the views from Portola. However, there are scenic areas within the General Plan study area and vicinity that have the potential to be developed in the future.

Open Space Goals

Goal OS-1. Maintain open space as a key feature of Portola.

Policies: Open Space

- OS-P-1.** Establish a comprehensive system of public and private open space, including interconnected open space corridors.
- OS-P-2.** Maximize the potential for open space, recreation, and visual experiences.
- OS-P-3.** Provide access to public open space areas.

Implementation: Open Space

- OS-I-1.** Where feasible, integrate creekside greenways with the City's open space system and encourage public access to creek corridors.
- OS-I-2.** Utilize the open space system to connect neighborhoods and define the edges of neighborhoods.
- OS-I-3.** Provide an interconnecting system of open space corridors that incorporate bicycle and pedestrian paths.
- OS-I-4.** Use the system of open space corridors to provide pedestrian and bike connections between schools, parks and other recreation, commercial uses, employment centers, the river and the federal lands surrounding the City.
- OS-I-5.** Require all new development to provide linkages to existing and planned open space that would logically be connected through the project.
- OS-I-6.** Provide opportunities for public education through the City's open space system, natural resource areas, and parks and recreation facilities.
- OS-I-7.** Cooperate with private open space preservation groups, private land owners and developers, and other public agencies, such as Plumas County and the U.S. Forest Service, to permanently set aside and protect open space areas that are significant to the environmental quality and identity of the City. Such open space areas include the Wild and Scenic Middle Fork Feather River and its major tributaries in the City, the Charles Creek Meadow, the meadow along Highway 70 at Grizzly Creek Road, and the

meadow areas along Highway 70 downstream of the Portola pump station.

- OS-I-8.** Monitor groundwater resources. Areas where recharge potential is determined to be high should be considered for designation as open space.

Middle Fork Feather River

The Feather River is a special open space resource that significantly helps define the character of Portola. Not only is it a strong visual presence, the river provides unique opportunities for recreation in the center of the City. Few communities have the advantage of a beautiful river running through the center of town with very few structures abutting and screening out the river. The south side of the river abuts the Union Pacific Railroad and the land is held by the railroad. Therefore, the land is not accessible, but is relatively undisturbed by development.

The relative lack of development along portions of the north side of the river provide unparalleled opportunities to maintain the visual dominance of the river while also providing exceptional opportunities for public use and access. The Community Design Element provides guidelines for development of lands abutting the river in a manner that will take advantage of the views and provide access, but will not eliminate the view from the adjacent streets.

Protection and enhancement of this resource is a primary goal not only of this Element, but it underlies the fundamental concepts of this General Plan. That is, an attractive, compact community integrated with the natural environment.

The river was dredged and straightened through Portola about the middle of the 1900s. The effect is a somewhat deeper and straighten channel than would otherwise exist. Restoration of the river to a more natural configuration with naturally occurring bars, shallows, rock outcrops, and pools would enhance the visual quality and the fisheries quality of the river. The adjacent floodplain along the north side of the river is flanked by stands of pines and a riparian strand that extends along the foot of the steep bluff that provides a view from Sierra Street to the river.

The river and its immediate environment were designated a Wild and Scenic River by Congress in 1968. Thus the river is under the jurisdiction of the Plumas National Forest. Public Law 90-542 (October 2, 1968) declares that "...certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreation, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations." The Act continues, "...the appropriate Secretary shall issue guidelines, specifying standards for local zoning ordinances, which are consistent with the purposes of this Act.

The standards specified in such guidelines shall have the object of (A) prohibiting new commercial or industrial uses other than commercial or industrial uses which are consistent with the purposes of the Act, and (B) the protection of the bank lands by means of acreage, frontage, and setback requirements on development."

In its current state the river is not easily accessible for recreation, either on the river or along its banks. Although it is one of the dominant visual features in the area, it is only occasionally actively used by residents or visitors. The vision in this General Plan is to make the river not only a significant visual resource, but a resource for community events, active recreation and wildlife conservation, as well.

Feather River Goals

Goal FR-1.	Enhance and make use of the river for public access and recreation compatible with the qualities of the Wild and Scenic River designation.
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Policies: Feather River

FR-P-1. The Feather River corridor through the City of Portola will be accessible to the public where feasible and practical.

FR-P-2. The Feather River corridor through the City of Portola will provide recreation amenities for residents consistent with the natural resource.

FR-P-3. The Feather River corridor through the City of Portola will provide space for public events such as craft fairs and music presentations consistent with the natural resource.

FR-P-4. The Feather River corridor through the City of Portola will include a bike trail along the river where feasible.

Implementation: Feather River

FR-I-1. The City will develop a master plan for the river corridor. The master plan will include a bike trail, handicap access to the river, low impact recreation facilities which may include a turf play field, and habitat conservation areas.

FR-I-2. Development along the river will be encouraged to provide public access and orientation to the river as described in the Community Design Element, Section 3.7.

- FR-I-3.** The bike trail along the river will be linked to an interconnecting system of open space corridors that incorporate bicycle and pedestrian paths where feasible.
- FR-I-4.** The City will actively seek funding for bike trails, public access and other improvements to the river corridor that are consistent with the Wild and Scenic River designation.
- FR-I-5.** Require all new development along the river to provide linkages to existing and planned open space that would logically be connected through the project.
- FR-I-6.** Coordinate with the school district to provide opportunities for public environmental education along the river corridor and provide environmental interpretive signs for the general public.
- FR-I-7.** Cooperate with private open space preservation groups, Plumas Corporation, and other public agencies, such as Plumas County and the U.S. Forest Service, to develop and implement a program for restoring and enhancing the quality of the river as a habitat for fish.

Outdoor Recreation

Add discussion

Biological Resources

Biological resources within the study area are significant and important to the prosperity of Portola. These resources include:

- Wetlands
- General Vegetation Types and Habitats
- Special Status Wildlife
- Plumas National Forest Lands

Wetlands

There are a number of areas within the Portola General Plan study area which may contain jurisdictional wetlands. Waters of the United States include, but are not limited to, perennial and intermittent streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands such as marshes, wet meadows, and seeps.

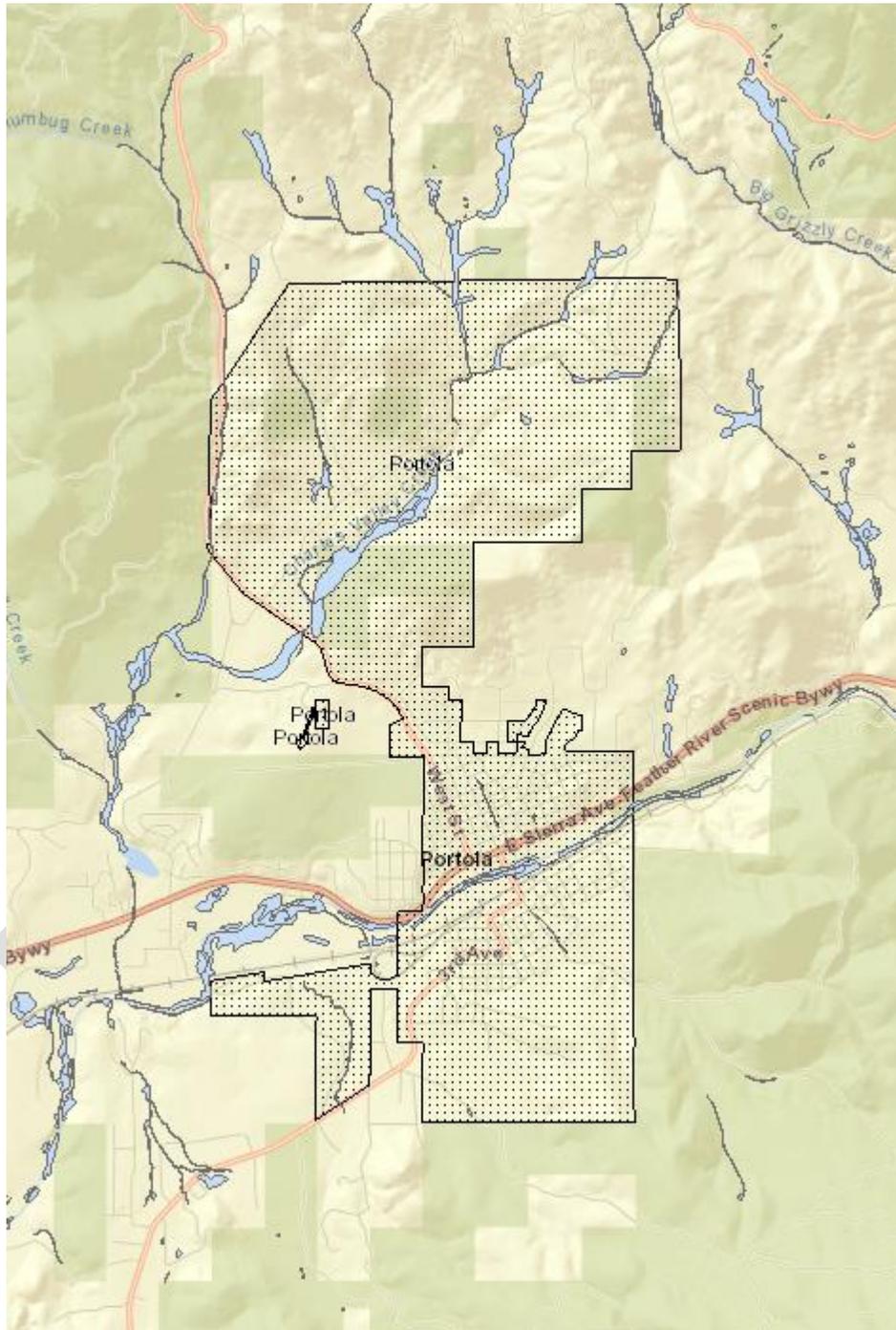
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has jurisdiction within the GP Update study area under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged

or fill material into waters of the United States. Most work involving a discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States requires prior Department of the Army authorization under the Clean Water Act.

A Preconstruction Notice and Nationwide Permit 26 (NWP 26) application to the Corps is required if proposing to fill any type of U.S. waters greater in size than 1/3 acre but less than 3.0 acres. Proposed fill of waters greater than 3.0 acres in size is not eligible for a NWP 26; this level of fill requires that an Individual Permit be obtained from the Corps. NWP 26 applies only in isolated waters or above headwaters.

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Figure 8-4
Wetlands (<https://maps.gis.ca.gov/cageneralplan/map.aspx>)



General Vegetation Types and Habitats

The California Vegetation System (CALVEG) identifies three basic vegetation types in the General Plan study area.

- Mixed Conifer-Fir (MF)
- Urban-Agriculture (UA)
- Barren (BA)

The general, broad-brush vegetation types are shown in Appendix B, General Vegetation Map. Ground surveys by qualified biologists must be conducted for site-specific land use decisions.

Special Status Species

Special status biological resources include California State or federal listed, candidate, or proposed rare, threatened, and endangered, and sensitive animals, plants, and natural communities that have been afforded special status by public agencies or major conservation organizations. Table 8-1 lists the special status species identified within the Portola General Plan Study Area.

Table 8-1
Special Status Species

Key Number	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status	CNPS Status
1	Sierra Valley Evening Primrose	<i>Camissonia tanacetifolia</i> SSP <i>quadriperforata</i>	None	None	4
2	Plumas Iversia	<i>Ivesia sericoleuca</i>	Species of Concern	None	1B
3	Lens-Pod Milk-Vetch	<i>Astragalus lentiformis</i>	Species of Concern	None	1B
4	Sticky Pyrrocoma	<i>Pyrrocoma lucida</i>	None	None	1B
5	Sheldon's Sedge	<i>Carex sheldonii</i>	None	None	2
6	Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	None	Endangered	
7	Northern Goshawk	<i>Acipiter gentilis</i>	Species of Concern	None	SC

Special Status Wildlife

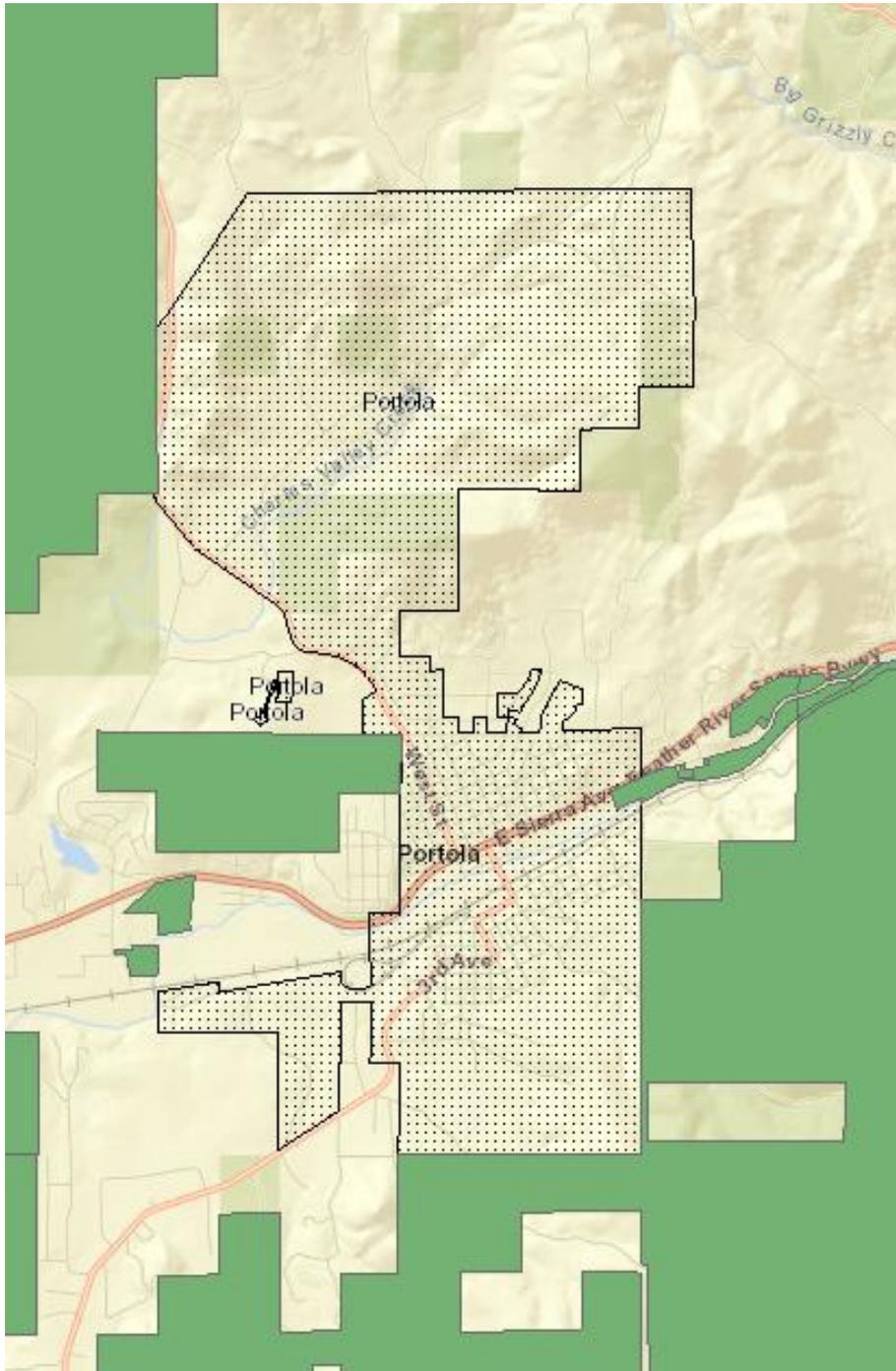
There are two (2) animal species afforded special status which are known to occur, or to potentially occur, within or adjacent to the study area, as shown in Table 8-1 above. These species are also shown in Appendix B.

The Data Base search (CNDDDB) reports one state endangered wildlife species, the Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*). This special status bird nests in dense willow thickets, which are present near the Middle Fork Feather River and on the edges of wet meadows, ponds, and backwaters.

Forests

[Add Discussion](#)

Figure 8-5
Forests- Plumas National Forest (<https://maps.gis.ca.gov/cageneralplan/map.aspx>)



Biological Resources Goals

Goal BR-1.	Protect and maintain all biological resources in the Portola area.
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Policies: Biological Resources

- BR-P-1.** Emphasize existing natural areas bordering the Wild and Scenic Middle Fork Feather River.
- BR-P-2.** Encourage exchange of urban land uses for U.S. Forest Service lands within the City's Sphere of Influence.
- BR-P-3.** Protect special-status species and other species that are sensitive to human activities.
- BR-P-4.** Maintain healthy and well-managed habitat areas in conjunction with one another.
- BR-P-5.** Enhance the fish habitat potential of the Feather River in the City.

Implementation: Biological Resources

- BR-I-1.** Require site-specific research and ground surveys for proposed development projects. This research must include a detailed inventory of all biological resources onsite, and appropriate mitigation measures for avoiding or reducing impact to these biological resources. This requirement may be waived if determined by the City that the proposed project area is already sufficiently surveyed.
- BR-I-2.** Integrate, where feasible, passive recreational and educational opportunities with the protection of wildlife and vegetation habitat areas.
- BR-I-3.** Incorporate existing trees into development projects where preservation is feasible.
- BR-I-4.** Preserve and rehabilitate, if required, continuous riparian corridors and adjacent habitat along the creeks and Middle Fork Feather River.

- BR-I-5.** Require dedication of the 100-year floodplain or comparable mechanism to protect habitat and wildlife values in perpetuity.
- BR-I-6.** Require preservation of contiguous areas in excess of the 100-year floodplain as merited by special resources or circumstances. Special circumstances may include sensitive wildlife or vegetation, wetland habitat, slope or topographical considerations, recreational opportunities, and maintenance access requirements.
- BR-I-7.** Require cumulative mitigation plans for wetlands, where feasible.
- BR-I-8.** Limit the access of pedestrians and cyclists to wetland areas so that access is compatible with long-term protection of these natural resources.
- BR-I-9.** Manage public lands with special status species to encourage propagation of the species, and discourage nonindigenous, invasive species.
- BR-I-10.** Work with adjacent jurisdictions, regulatory agencies, and community organizations to explore opportunities for regional mitigation measures, including mitigation banking.
- BR-I-11.** Work with the California Department of Fish and Game and other agencies to improve the fish habitat potential in the river by providing boulders, gravel banks, and other natural features that enhance the aeration of water and provide habitat for trout.

Archaeological, Historic, and Cultural Resources

The Humbug Valley and surrounding area was home to the Miwok Indians and early settlers. Consequently, the area is rich in potential cultural sites. The specific locations of such sites are not addressed in the General Plan and do not directly affect the location or character of land use.

Archaeological, Historic, and Cultural Resources Goals

<p>Goal AHCR-1. Protect archaeological, historic, and paleontological resources for their aesthetic, educational, and cultural values.</p>

Policies: Archaeological, Historic, and Cultural Resources

AHCR-P-1. Create and preserve a record of the community.

Implementation: Archaeological, Historic, and Cultural Resources

AHCR-I-1. Require a records search for any proposed development project, to determine whether the site contains known archaeological, historic, or cultural resources and/or to determine the potential for discovery of additional cultural resources. This requirement may be waived if determined by the City that the proposed project area is already sufficiently surveyed.

AHCR-I-2. Require that sponsors of proposed development projects on sites where probable cause for discovery of archaeological resources (as indicated by records search and where resources have been discovered in the vicinity of the project) retain a consulting archaeologist to survey the project site. If unique resources, as defined by California State law, are found, a qualified archaeologist or historian shall be called to evaluate the find and to recommend proper action. Require a monitoring plan for the project to ensure that mitigation measures are implemented.

AHCR-I-3. When feasible, incorporate significant archaeological sites into open space areas.

AHCR-I-4. The City should compile an inventory of all historic sites throughout the City. The inventory will contain a narrative of the significant facts regarding the historic events or persons associated with the site, and pictures of the site.

AHCR-I-5. The City should maintain an archive of historic information, including photographs, publications, oral histories, and other materials.

AHCR-I-6. The historic archives will be compiled according to location in the City and will be maintained in a safe environment to protect it over time.

AHCR-I-7. The City should develop policies and the means to make the information available to the public for viewing and research, as long as the City does not make public information that will allow the public to raid the site.

AHCR-I-8. Encourage the placement of monuments or plaques that recognize and celebrate historic sites, structures, and events.

- AHCR-I-9.** Amend the Zoning Ordinance to include a landmark Overlay District to be applied to designated landmarks and historic sites, and require preparation of conservation plans for designated landmarks and historic sites.
- AHCR-I-10.** All City permits for reconstruction, modification of existing buildings will require submittal of a photograph of the existing structure or site. The intent is to create a record of the buildings in the City over time. A photograph will also be required for vacant sites that will be modified with new construction of new buildings or other above ground improvements.
- AHCR-I-11.** Support the use of the Williams House, a site of historic interest, as a location for a local historic museum, visitor center, and community gathering place.

Public Health and Safety

Add discussion