

165 South Fortuna Boulevard, Fortuna, CA 95540

707-725-1897 • fax 707-725-0972

trc@timberlandresource.com

June 27, 2022

Attention: Cannabis Services Division
Humboldt County Planning and Building Department
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Re: APN 208-251-008
PLN-12355-CUP

This Timberland Conversion Evaluation is being provided in response to Steven Santos' email dated April 11, 2022, which in part states:

The cultivation area has moved since 2015 and there have been multiple timber conversions since then. Per the CNDDDB there is potential for rare or endangered species on site. We will need a biological assessment with a seasonally appropriate botanical, and an assessment of the timber conversion. We will also need an environmental superiority analysis with a restoration plan for the onsite relocation.

Timberland Resource Consultants (TRC) inspected and evaluated the cultivation sites and associated areas within the subject property on June 1, 2022. The RPF exercised due diligence in reviewing all sites and available resources to fully assess potential timberland conversion and consequential impacts. This report evaluates the cultivation sites and associated areas for timber operations only. The scope of this report does not include: all other land alteration (such as grading, construction, and other permit-regulated activities), all property features and sites unrelated to cultivation activities, or any proposed, planned, or absent cultivation-related project sites. All findings are summarized in the report below.

Project Location

APN: 208-251-008

Acreage: 40 acres

Legal Description: SW ¼ of NW ¼ of Section 33
Township 2 North, Range 5 East,
Humboldt Base & Meridian, Humboldt County

Located on USGS 7.5' Quadrangle: Showers Mountain & Blake Mountain

Humboldt County Zoning: Forest Recreation

Site Address: 526 Oak Road, Dinsmore

Landowner/Timber Owner: Gregory Elyashkevich

The property is located approximately 2 air miles northwest of Dinsmore. From Highway 36 immediately east of the Dinsmore Store, take a left on Bear Creek Road and drive approximately 3 miles northwesterly to Oak Road. At Oak Road, continue approximately 0.30 miles to the property.

Parcel Description & Timber Harvest History

Note: The property background has been summarized using personal accounts of the current landowner, digital orthographic quadrangle (DOQ) imagery, Humboldt County Web GIS, CAL FIRE Watershed Mapper v2, and Historic Aerials. To avoid speculation and maintain relevancy, the property background focuses mainly on the past 10-15 years.

The property consists of Douglas-fir encroached oak woodlands intermixed with second growth Douglas-fir located primarily along the stream drainages. Review of historic aerial imagery (<https://www.historicaerials.com>) from 1947 reveals that the majority of the property consisted of pure oak woodland with patches of old growth Douglas-fir or mature Douglas-fir intermixed within the true oaks. Subsequent imagery from 1972 reveals that all of the Douglas-fir had been clearcut. Chris Carroll, RPF #2628 did a Timber Harvest Plan (1-97-408 HUM) on the subject property in 1997, which focused primarily on the larger, second growth Douglas-fir located on the northern or lower elevational areas, which included to a lesser extent, of predominant Douglas-fir within the oak woodlands. The timber harvest was selective in nature. The current landowner purchased the property on 3-21-2016 from The Vista 36 LLC CO.

Project Description

Two cannabis cultivation sites were inspected during the field assessment within APN 208-251-008. The following table lists the inspected site and associated acreage; see detailed site description below.

Cultivation Site	Total Acreage	Converted?	Converted Acreage
Cultivation Site A	0.39	No	0.00
Cultivation Site B	1.35	Yes	1.35
Total	1.74		1.35

Cultivation Site A

Review of historic Google and NAIP aerial imagery reveals that this former cultivation site encompasses a historic log landing initially developed and used in the mid 1950's in association with the logging of the old growth Douglas-fir. The site was re-opened and used again in 1998 for timber operations in association with THP 1-97-408 HUM. Signs of cannabis cultivation are first visible in 2014. Between 2014-2016, the site appears to have been slightly expanded to its current size and configuration. All cannabis cultivation was removed and relocated to Cultivation Site B between 2017 and 2018 per LandVision imagery.

The past cultivation activities observed at Cultivation Site A have been relocated and the use of this space for current timber growth and/or log landing use will not be impacted. This site is proposed to be used as a log landing later this summer in association with Oak Woodland Management and Forest Fire Prevention exemptions as described in this report.

Cultivation Site B

Review of historic Google and NAIP aerial imagery reveals that the cultivation site encompasses an area formerly consisting of grassland and oak woodland intermixed with Douglas-fir and Pacific madrone. This area was harvested in association with THP 1-97-408 HUM and logs were landed slightly west where the road "T"s. The site was initially developed in 2005, expanded between 2015 and 2016, and expanded again to its current size and configuration between 8-2020 and 6-2021 per LandVision.

The cultivation activities observed at Cultivation Site B impedes the use of this space for current timber growth and future harvesting; in this way, the landowner has effectively converted the single use of this area from timber production to cannabis cultivation.

2021 Timber Harvesting Area

Approximately 0.51 acres of non-commercial timber harvesting occurred between 8-2020 and 6-2021 (LandVision) adjacent to Cultivation Site B. Harvested Douglas-fir, Oregon white oak, and California black oak logs are decked within the cleared opening as shown on the attached photographs. No grading or stump removal occurred. The site is regenerating with native grasses and the oaks are coppice sprouting. This area has not been converted.

Project Description (Cont.)

Timberland Conversion Summary

TRC observed 1.35 acres of timberland conversion for cultivation-related purposes within APN 208-251-008. This total does not exceed the three-acre conversion exemption maximum.

Limitations and Considerations for Timberland Conversion Activities

Watercourses and Water Resources

14CCR 1104.1(a)(2)(F): "No timber operations are allowed within a watercourse and lake protection zone unless specifically approved by local permit (e.g., county, city)."

No conversion areas exist within a Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ). Further, none of the cultivation sites are located within a riparian buffer per State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2019-0023-DWQ, or a Humboldt County Stream Management Area based upon the RPF's physical inspection of the cultivation sites and their respective surrounding areas. See attached Conversion Evaluation Map. The 2021 Timber Harvesting Area occurred within the Class III Equipment Exclusion Zone. Because the timber harvesting did not result in a timberland conversion, or was done for commercial purposes; Timber Operations per PRC 4527 did not technically occur and therefore not subject to the Forest Practice Rules. Disturbance within the Class III Equipment Exclusion Zone appears to have been successfully mitigated with the application of wood chips as seen on the attached photographs. To avoid any additional disturbance to the Class III watercourse and its respective buffer; the RPF recommends leaving the log deck "as-is" with no removal or treatment required. These logs meet the criteria as downed woody debris relative to their function and benefit to the adjacent stream and associated buffer. DWD provides habitat and shelter for wildlife, and is also a component of the nutrient cycling process. The merchantable logs decked may be left in place to decay.

14CCR 1104.1(a)(2)(D) – Treatment of Slash and Woody Debris

Log Deck: As stated above, the RPF recommends leaving the log deck "as-is" with no removal or treatment required. Log deck retention has greater importance and value for watershed resources relative to the risk associated with wildfire. Logs are the least flammable portion of the tree. The logs are situated in the headwater of a Class III watercourse, which consists of a bowl-shaped, grassy meadow, which is wet and moist for a portion of the year. This environment is expected to significantly speed up decay and decomposition of the material.

Cultivation Site B: The RPF observed a small concentration of untreated slash intermixed with wind-rowed stumps located at the base of the southeastern fill-slope. None of the material is intermixed in the fill but rather purposely placed there by the operator during construction that occurred between 2015 and 2016. The treatable material is decaying and decomposing and surrounded by Douglas-fir regeneration as seen on the attached photographs. At this point, the negative impacts to the conifer regeneration, and perhaps the adjacent Class III watercourse, outweigh the threat from fire and no treatment is necessary in my professional opinion.

Biological Resources and Forest Stand Health

14 CCR 1104.1 (2)(H): "No sites of rare, threatened or endangered plants or animals shall be disturbed, threatened or damaged and no timber operations shall occur within the buffer zone of a sensitive species as defined in 14 CCR 895.1"

A query of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) on June 4, 2022 revealed two observations of sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered species or species of special concern within a 1.3-mile radius biological assessment area (BAA) surrounding the property. Tracy's sanicle and Oregon goldthread (vascular plants) were observed approximately 1/2 miles east and northeast from the conversion area. Despite their so-called "sensitive" status, neither species is state or federally listed, which would require protection under the Forest Practice Rules.

Limitations and Considerations for Timberland Conversion Activities (Cont.)

The query of the CNDDDB NSO Database revealed no known Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) Activity Centers within a 1.3-mile radius biological assessment area (BAA) surrounding the property.

No major forest health issues were observed during the field assessment. The property is located within Humboldt County, a Zone of Infestation (ZOI) for Sudden Oak Death (SOD) but the RPF observed no symptoms, signs, and evidence of oak mortality within the property. The conversion areas did not appear to include late successional stands, late seral stage forests, or old growth trees. The conversion areas did not include any trees that existed before 1800 A.D. and are greater than sixty (60) inches in diameter at stump height for Sierra or Coastal Redwoods and forty-eight (48) inches in diameter at stump height for all other tree species.

Cultural Resources

14 CCR 1104.1 (2)(I): "No timber operations are allowed on significant historical or archeological sites."

No archeological sites were observed during the TRC field assessment. The RPF conducted pre-field research for the project's geographic location and closely surveyed the converted site and surrounding undisturbed areas for presence or evidence of prehistoric or historic sites. The archaeological survey was conducted by Chris Carroll, a certified archaeological surveyor with current CALFIRE Archeological Training (Archeological Training Course #575). The survey consisted of examining boot scrapes, rodent disturbances, natural and manmade areas of exposed soils, and road and cultivation site surfaces. The entire property was previously surveyed in 1997 by RPF John Pieper in association with THP 1-97-408 HUM with no historic or pre-historic sites and/or artifacts discovered.

14CCR 923.4 Construction and Reconstruction of Logging Roads and Landings

While it's recognized that cannabis cultivation sites are not log landings; initial development and construction and subsequent maintenance of the graded flats should (at a minimum) meet or exceed similar requirements stated in the Forest Practice Rules for log landings. Compliance with Humboldt County's grading & SMA ordinance, State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2019-0001-DWQ, and other regulations will require even higher standards. Therefore, the RPF closely evaluated Cultivation Site B for such compliance, and has concluded that Cultivation Site B was constructed per 14CCR 923.4.

14CCR 923.5 Erosion Control for Logging Roads and Landings

The road accessing Cultivation Site B was recently upgraded with rock surfacing. No Controllable Sediment Delivery Sites were observed and the road appears to be in compliance with the requirements of 923.5 and Board of Forestry Technical Rule Addendum No. 5: Guidance on Hydrologic Disconnection, Road Drainage, Minimization of Diversion Potential, And High-Risk Crossings.

14CCR 923.9 Watercourse Crossings

The existing Class III watercourse crossing providing access to Cultivation Site B has been recently upgraded from a 12-inch diameter CMP to a 36-inch CMP. This crossing complies with 14CCR 923.9(f), which requires that all permanent watercourse crossings accommodate the estimated 100-year flood flow, including debris and sediment loads.

Oak Road Exemptions

TRC is currently preparing CAL FIRE permits for the subject property for the restoration of oak woodlands and fuels reduction. CAL FIRE Oak Woodland Management Exemptions per 14 CCR § 1038(e) authorize the cutting or removal of trees to restore and conserve California black oak or Oregon white oak woodlands and associated grasslands. CAL FIRE Forest Fire Protection Exemptions per 14 CCR § 1038.3 authorize the cutting and removing of trees to eliminate the vertical continuity of vegetative fuels and the horizontal continuity of tree crowns for the purpose of reducing flammable materials to reduce fire spread, duration,

Limitations and Considerations for Timberland Conversion Activities (Cont.)

and intensity, fuel ignitability, or ignition of tree crowns. Timber operations associated with these two exemptions will utilize the existing truck roads, skid trails, and log landings formally used in 1998 in association with THP 1-97-408 HUM.

Recommendations

In summary, a total of 1.35 acres of unauthorized timberland conversion has occurred within APN 208-251-008. This total does not exceed the three-acre conversion exemption maximum. The conversion activities conducted on the property comply with the California Forest Practice Act and the California Forest Practice Rules. The RPF has no recommendations.

Sincerely,



Chris Carroll, RPF #2628
Timberland Resource Consultants

Photos



Photo 1: Cultivation Site A. Photo date June 1, 2022.

Photos



Photo 2: Cultivation Site B. Photo date June 1, 2022.

Photos



Photo 3: Cultivation Site B. Photo date June 1, 2022.

Photos



Photo 4: Timber Harvesting Area. Photo date June 1, 2022.

Photos



Photo 4: Slash and wind-rows stumps and logs with conifer regeneration. This material was from the 2015-2016 conversion. Photo date June 1, 2022.

Maps

APN 208-251-008

Location Map

Property Boundary /
526 Oak Road, Dinsmore

Map Scale 1" = 2,000'
Section 32, T2N, R5E, HB&M

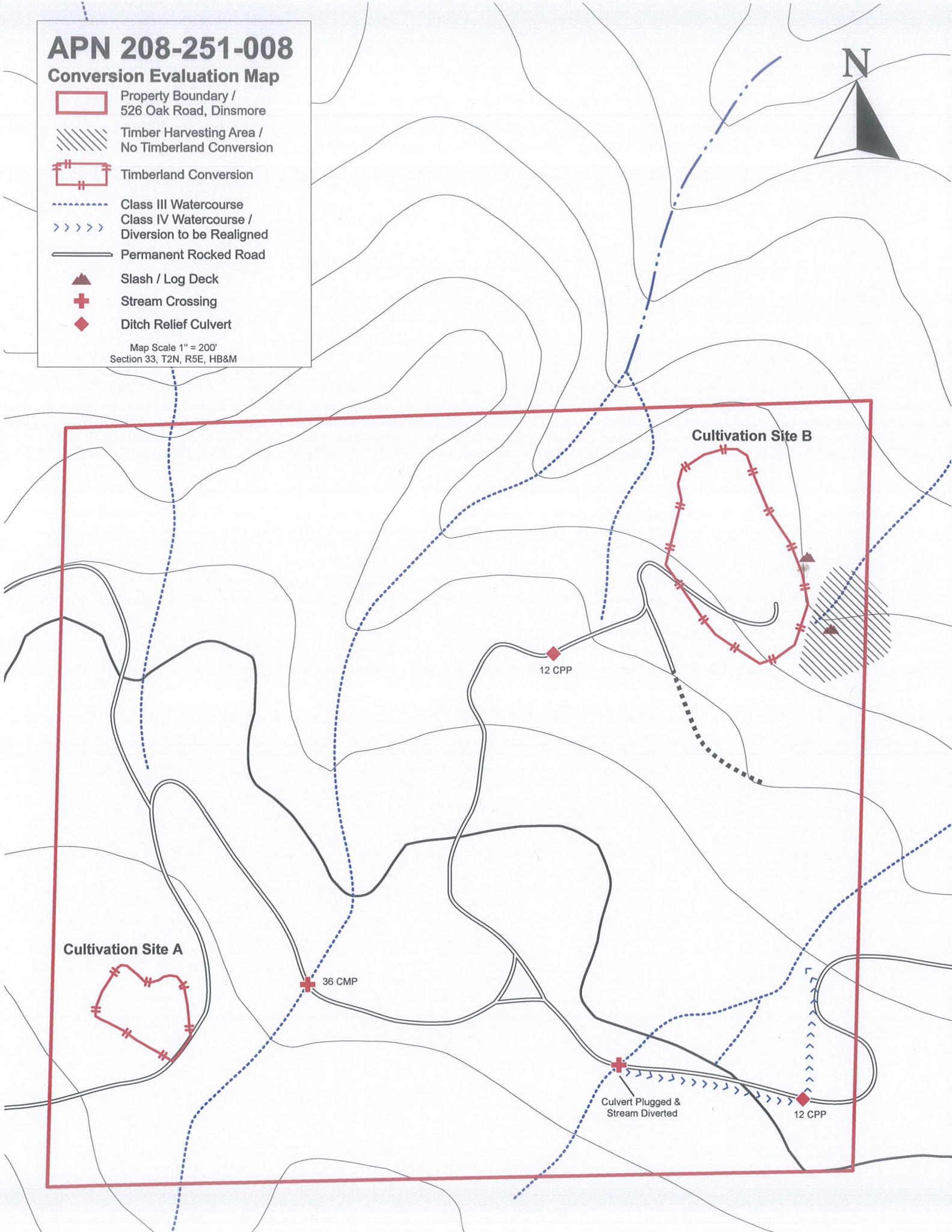
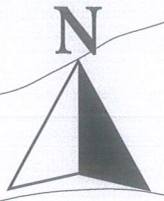


APN 208-251-008

Conversion Evaluation Map

-  Property Boundary /
526 Oak Road, Dinsmore
-  Timber Harvesting Area /
No Timberland Conversion
-  Timberland Conversion
-  Class III Watercourse
-  Class IV Watercourse /
Diversion to be Realigned
-  Permanent Rocked Road
-  Slash / Log Deck
-  Stream Crossing
-  Ditch Relief Culvert

Map Scale 1" = 200'
Section 33, T2N, R5E, HB&M



Cultivation Site B

12 CPP

Cultivation Site A

36 CMP


Culvert Plugged &
Stream Diverted


12 CPP


APN 208-251-008

CNDDDB Map

 Property Boundary /
526 Oak Road, Dinsmore

 1.3-mile Biological
Assessment Area

 CNDDDB Sensitive Species

 NSO Activity Center

Map Scale 1" = 2,000'
Section 33, T2N, R5E, HB&M

