

OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION ELEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The Open Space and Conservation Elements should catalogue as well as seek to preserve and comprehensively utilize open space and natural resources in the City of Weed.

PURPOSE

Government Code Section 65302(d) calls for the development of a conservation element for the "conservation of natural resources including water ... forest, soils, rivers, ... fisheries, wildlife, minerals and other natural resources". The conservation element may also address:

- * pollution control of streams
- * protection of watersheds

Government Code Section 65563 mandates that every city "prepare, adopt and submit to the Secretary of the Resources Agency a local open-space plan for the comprehensive and long range preservation and conservation of open space land within its jurisdiction". Section 65564 mandates an "action program consisting of specific programs which the legislative body intends to pursue in implementing its Open Space Plan".

The Open Space & Conservation Elements are closely linked in Weed due to surrounding topography. Consequently, these Elements are combined into one document which addresses both issues.

GOAL

To protect, preserve and enhance the natural and historical resources of the City of Weed.

POLICIES/IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

WILDLIFE

A) The City of Weed shall support and encourage the efforts of responsible public agencies to protect and enhance wildlife on public lands. The City shall actively protect wildlife habitat and resources on private lands wherever practical and economically feasible.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES:

1) The City shall cooperate with county, state and federal officials involved in the improvement and enhancement of wildlife and wildlife habitats.

2) The City shall develop and adhere to plans for the balanced consideration of protection of wildlife and wildlife habitats.

B) The City shall protect valuable wildlife and wildlife habitats.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE: The City shall assess the impacts of land development projects on wildlife and wildlife habitats.

WATER

A) The City of Weed shall protect its current water source and water quality.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES:

1) The City shall maintain it's current water quality standards in conjunction with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding water pollution issues and the State Department of Health Services regarding drinking water quality issues.

2) The City shall construct fencing to protect all water facilities.

3) The City shall request the Siskiyou County Health Department, State Water Resources Control Board, California Department of Health Services to conduct hydrological studies showing the extent of Weed's spring watershed and measures that can be taken to protect the domestic water supply.

4) The City shall review measures necessary to protect their spring aquifer/watershed including, but not limited to limiting development, and acquiring property and/or conservation easements.

B) The City of Weed will assure adequate domestic water supply.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE: The City shall maintain an active catalogue of existing and potential water sources and shall obtain additional water sources where feasible and practical.

C) The City shall cooperate with local, state, and federal agencies responsible for the protection of overall water quality where determined appropriate.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES: The City shall review public agency activities concerning industrial pollution on sites adjacent to the City and shall work with those agencies whenever requested. D) The City of Weed shall seek to limit possible flood damage.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE: The City shall adhere to its adopted flood hazard ordinance No. 228-81.

D) The City of Weed shall prevent sewage system surcharges or overflows.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES:

1) The City shall seek to improve maintenance procedures to avoid surcharge during periods of heavy inflow and infiltration.

2) The City shall insure that sewer facility enlargement shall keep pace with estimated population growth.

E) The City of Weed shall review sewage treatment facilities and operation for maximum long-range efficiency.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE: The City shall consider additional treatment alternatives to allow for surface water discharge.

TIMBER

A) The City of Weed has a long history of interest and involvement with timber resources. The City shall continue its interest in a renewable timber resource.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE: The only stand of timber in the Weed City limits is 29.9 acres on School House Hill owned by International Paper Company and zoned open space. The City shall encourage, where determined appropriate, the protection and conservation of timber resources both within the City limits and in the surrounding private and public lands.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The City of Weed shall encourage and support, where determined appropriate, the continuing enhancement and development of parks and recreation facilities within the City boundaries as well as conserve and maintain areas zoned as open space.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE: The City shall catalog all City owned properties and shall consider developing those properties as community parks, garden areas or other open space uses.

HISTORIC, CULTURAL and ARCHAEOLOGICAL

The City of Weed shall protect its historical, cultural and archaeological heritage.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE: All development in the City shall be reviewed for impacts on historical, cultural and archaeological resources and mitigation measures proposed if impacts are found.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AREA

Open Space Status and Issues

A recent survey of the City of Weed's open space areas reveals the following in approximate acreage.

-Existing-

Recreation District Parks	24	acre
School Playgrounds	30	"
College of Siskiyou (undeveloped)	180	"
Cemetery	6	"
Zoned open space (not including above)	134	"

-Proposed-

Angel Valley Park	5	"
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There is an approximate total of 379 acres of existing or proposed open space in the City of Weed. In addition the City of Weed and the Weed Recreation and Parks District owns numerous small parcels which could be developed as parks or protected as undeveloped open space. The City will remain receptive to community or non-profit groups interested in developing these small parcels as Community Gardens, etc.

Conservation status and issues

A) Pollution control

Boles Creek and Beaughton Creek pass through and form the drainage for the City of Weed. Both these creeks drain into the Shasta River, therefore any major pollution could have wide repercussions downstream.

Three major sources of possible pollution have been identified: Toxic spills from truck or train traffic along Interstate 5 or Southern Pacific tracks; incorrect disposal of toxic substances during manufacturing process; and sewage facility upsets or surcharging of collection systems.

1) Toxic spills controls are addressed in the safety element of the General Plan.

2) Most current problems with the release of toxic materials during manufacturing occur on areas outside the City's jurisdiction, however the City should maintain excellent communications with the pollution enforcement agencies since any pollution problem could quickly become a City problem.

3) Sewage facility upsets are not an immediately foreseeable problem. Common sense dictates that sewage facility

enlargement should keep pace with City growth. Surcharging is a distinct possibility due to interceptor condition.

B) Watershed protection

The size of Weed's domestic water spring watershed is currently undetermined. It would be prudent to develop protection measures for the domestic aquifer/watershed.

The existing water supply comes from Upper Beaughton Springs, and Mazzei well. Gazelle well is available to the City but currently not in use.