

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section considers and evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed General Plan on cultural and paleontological resources. Cultural resources include historical buildings and structures, historical districts, historical sites, prehistoric archaeological sites, other prehistoric and historic objects and artifacts, and human remains. Paleontological resources include fossil remains, as well as fossil localities and formations, which have produced fossil material in other nearby areas.

4.5.1 EXISTING SETTING

PREHISTORIC

Prior to Euro-American settlement, Wintun Indian Tribes populated the upper Sacramento Valley and the foothill areas to its east. Traces of this society have been found at two major archaeological sites: the "Los Molinos Vicinity – Ishi Site" in Deer Creek Canyon, and the "Sulphur Creek Archaeological District" in the Mill Creek vicinity. Projectile tips, burial sites, examples of basketry, matting fragments, and other items related to Wintun Indian settlement life were found at these locations. Both areas are listed on the Federal Register of Historic Places.

These two sites however represent but a few of the archaeological resources known to exist in Tehama County. In addition to the two described above, excavations have uncovered several hundred prehistoric sites, including burial sites, west of the Sacramento River where the Nome Lackee Tribe is known to have settled. Additionally, over 250 settlement sites have been identified along the Sacramento River in Tehama County, as well as several along river tributaries in the foothill regions of the County.

Although several archaeological regions have been identified, many sites are characterized by a lack of knowledge regarding their prehistory. The quality or existing information, moreover, is highly variable.

HISTORIC

Several historic sites are under the protection and management of the state or federal government. Plaques designate the location and describe the significance of sites identified by the State Historic Landmarks program and the Federal Register of Historic Places. **Table 4.5-1** provides a listing of these sites:

**TABLE 4.5-1
RECOGNIZED HISTORICAL SITES IN TEHAMA COUNTY**

Name	Location	Ownership
National Register of Historic Places, Tehama County		
Cone and Kimball Building, AKA Clock Tower Building	747 Main Street, Red Bluff	Private
Ide, William B., Adobe Building	N of Red Bluff, Red Bluff	State
Kraft, Herbert, Memorial Free Library Building, AKA Kraft Free Library	909 Jefferson, Red Bluff	Private
Maywood's Woman's Club, AKA American Woman's League Building	902 Marin Street, Corning	Private
Molino Lodge Building AKA Tehama County Museum Foundation	3 rd and C Streets, Tehama	Private
Odd Fellows Building	342 Oak Street, Red Bluff	Private

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Name	Location	Ownership
National Register of Historic Places, Tehama County		
Old Bank of America Building AKA The Daily News	710 Main Street, Red Bluff	Private
Park Headquarters, Lassen Volcanic National Park AKA Administration Building #1	Off CA 36, Mineral	Federal
St. Mary's Parish AKA Sacred Heart Catholic Church	515 Main Street, Red Bluff	Private
State Theatre	333 Oak Street, Red Bluff	Private
Sulphur Creek Archeological District AKA The-583 thru The-590; The-596; Sha-786	Address Restricted, Mill Creek	Federal
Yahi Camp	Address Restricted, Los Molinos	Federal
California Historical Landmarks, Tehama County		
Residence of General William B. Ide	3040 Adobe Road, 1.5 miles outside of Red Bluff	
Home of Mrs. John Brown	135 Main Street, Red Bluff	
First Tehama County Courthouse	75 ft from intersection of 2 nd and D Streets, Tehama	
Indian Military Post, Nomi Lackee Indian Reservation	On Osborn Road, 3.9 miles north of Flournoy	

Source: Tehama County General Plan Background Report

In Tehama County two sites, the residences of General William B. Ide and Mrs. John Brown, serve expanded uses. The Residence of General William B. Ide, with support from the State Department of Parks and Recreation, has been designated as a Historical/Cultural Area Park and provides picnicking facilities as well as historic information. The Cottage of Mrs. John Brown, also serves as a museum.

Other locally significant historic sites in Tehama County include the original Masonic Lodge and Original Tehama County Jail in the City of Tehama and the former Leland Stanford Ranch in Vina.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

In contrast to historic resources, the archaeological resources of Tehama County are not accessible to the general public. This is primarily due to the sensitive nature of prehistoric sites and artifacts, but also to the lack of areas where public access can be controlled to prevent artifact damage. However, sites in Tehama County with visible surface indications of past cultural activity could be utilized for interpretive displays. These would include rock shelters, midden sites in association with prehistoric dwellings, rock walls/circles, and petroglyph or pictograph sites.

Despite this potential, the development of prehistoric resources in Tehama County for public benefit may be far in the future. Growth in Tehama County, as well as all of northern California, and consequential development increases represents threats to archaeological records. Additionally, expanding recreational use in much of the backcountry areas has exposed many regions to vandalism and unauthorized artifact collecting. Thus, the rate of knowledge acquisition and the success in prehistoric site preservation are in danger of being exceeded by the rate at which this irreplaceable information is being lost.

PALEONTOLOGICAL

Paleontology is defined as a science dealing with the life of past geological periods as known from fossil remains. Paleontological resources include fossil remains, as well as fossil localities and formations, which have produced fossil material in other nearby areas. This resource can be an important educational resource for the reasons mentioned before, and are nonrenewable once destroyed. CEQA offers protection for these sensitive resources and requires that they be addressed during the EIR process.

According to the Tehama County Museum Foundation, a few paleontological resources have been found throughout the unincorporated regions of Tehama County. These include a mastodon jaw bone fossil found near the Red Bank Creek in the central portion of Tehama County, a mastodon leg bone found along Mill Creek in the central region of the County, and a bone fragment from an ancient humpless camel found near Paskenta.

4.5.2 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

FEDERAL

National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800, 33 CFR 325 for Corps permits, and 36 CFR 60.6 for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility, requires that before beginning any federal project, a federal agency must take into account the effects of the undertaking on historic properties and determine if any properties are eligible for or listed on the NRHP, and afford the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) an opportunity to comment on these actions. It must be noted that any property judged eligible has the same protections as a listed property.

Section 106 affects projects that occur on federally owned land and involving federal permits, or grants or loans. Examples of Federal undertakings would include: FHA Loans, FAA permits, Corps Section 404 and Nationwide permits, DOT local assistance grants, HUD Block Grants, etc. Specific regulations regarding compliance with Section 106 state that, although the tasks necessary to comply with Section 106 may be delegated to others, the federal agency is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the Section 106 process is completed according to statute.

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) lists properties that are important to our nation's past. To be eligible for listing, a property must be 50 years of age or more; it must possess historic significance; and it must possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Historic significance is the importance of a property to the history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or cultural aspects of a community. To qualify for the NRHP, a property must have significance in American history at the local, state, or national level. This importance can be present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity and meet one of the following criteria:

- Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history;
- Associated with the lives of persons significant to our past;

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

- 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
- Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

STATE

California Environmental Quality Act

As the designated California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency for approval of CEQA projects in Tehama County, the County is responsible for compliance with requirements regarding the identification and treatment of historic and prehistoric cultural resources. CEQA requires public or private projects financed or approved by public agencies to assess the effects of the project on cultural resources (Public Resources Code Sections 21082, 21083, 21083.2, and 21084.1 and California Code of Regulations 15064.5 and 15126.6). Cultural resources are defined as buildings, sites, structures, or objects that may have historical, architectural, archaeological, cultural, or scientific importance (Public Resources Code Section 50320.1 Defines Historical Resources). CEQA states that if a project results in significant impacts on important cultural resources, then alternative plans or mitigation measures must be considered.

The CEQA Guidelines define significant historical resources as "resources listed or eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (CHR)" (Public Resources Code Section 5024.1) (Public Resources Code Section 4850 Defines the California Register of Historic Places). It must be noted that a property judged eligible has the same protection as a property that is listed. A historical resource may be eligible for inclusion in the CHR if it:

- Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
- Meets any of the following criteria:
 - Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
 - Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
 - Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or
 - Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

In addition, Section 15064.5(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines also requires consideration of an archaeological site that does not meet the criteria defined in subsection (a), but does meet the definition of "an unique archaeological resource" described in Section 21083.2 of the Public Resource Code.

Since its inception in 1971, CEQA has undergone a number of significant changes affecting cultural resources. The most recent change occurred in 1992 but did not take effect until 1999, when changes to the code were included in the CEQA Guidelines. In addition, since the 1970s the professional definition of cultural resources and archaeological sites has changed. As a rule of thumb, it is prudent to consider reports prepared before 2000 as potentially inadequate since historic era cultural resources less than 100 years old were not considered: CEQA's definition of historic era cultural resources was changed from 100 to 50 years and went into standard effect

approximately 2001. One other important note: Before the mid-1980s, archaeologists did not routinely record any historic era cultural resource as the focus was entirely on prehistoric sites.

Public Resources Code Section 5097 specifies procedures to be followed in the event that human remains are discovered. The disposition of Native American burials falls within the jurisdiction of the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). California Code of Regulations Section 15064.5(f) identifies the need to establish procedures to be followed in the event of the discovery during construction of buried cultural resources other than human bone on nonfederal land.

LOCAL

Tehama County General Plan

The Tehama County General Plan is used to guide future development in unincorporated areas of the County. State law requires that all local governments prepare a General Plan for future development in their jurisdictions. The County's current General Plan was adopted in 1983. The Tehama County General Plan of 1983 states a number of objectives and associated policies that relate to the management and protection of cultural resources. Key objectives and policies that relate to cultural resources include HA-1, which aims to preserve the historic and archaeological resources of the County for their scientific, educational, aesthetic, and recreational values. Policy HA-a states that the County shall refer any development proposals affecting historic resources to the Tehama County Historical Commission and when necessary, request an evaluation by a professional historian of the significance of the resource in question and appropriate measures for its protection and HA-d requires appropriate surveys and site investigations when needed as part of the initial environmental assessment for development projects in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Furthermore, it is required that surveys and investigations must be performed under the supervision of a professional archaeologist or other person qualified in the appropriate field.

4.5.3 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The County has determined that the project may have significant impacts on cultural resources if it does any of the following:

- 1) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource or an historical resource as defined in Public Resources Code section 21083.2 and CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5, respectively;
- 2) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature;
- 3) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 defines "substantial adverse change" as physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource is materially impaired.

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

METHODOLOGY

Pacific Municipal Consultants (PMC) cultural resources staff performed all archaeological and historical investigations associated with the General Plan. These investigations included a records search at the Northeast Information Center at California State University, Chico, archival research at other repositories (e.g., California State Library), review of planning documents pertaining to Tehama County, including the existing General Plan, Tehama County Zoning Ordinance, and consultation with appropriate agencies. Tehama County understands the importance of contacting local Tribes and values their participation in the planning process.

IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Prehistoric Resources and Historic Resources

Impact 4.5.1 Adoption of the Tehama County General Plan could result in adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource or an historical resource. This is considered a **potentially significant** impact.

Two major archaeological sites that have been found within Tehama County include the “Los Molinos Vicinity – Ishi Site” in Deer Creek Canyon, and the “Sulphur Creek Archaeological District” in the Mill Creek vicinity. Projectile tips, burial sites, examples of basketry, matting fragments, and other items related to Wintun Indian settlement life were found at these locations. Both areas are listed on the Federal Register of Historic Places.

In addition to the two described above, excavations have uncovered several hundred prehistoric sites, including burial sites, west of the Sacramento River where the Nome Lackee Tribe is known to have settled. Additionally, over 250 settlement sites have been identified along the Sacramento River in Tehama County, as well as several along river tributaries in the foothill regions of the County.

Although several archaeological regions have been identified, many sites are characterized by a lack of knowledge regarding their prehistory. The quality or existing information, moreover, is highly variable.

The most significant historic resources in Tehama County are the structures located throughout the County and are identified as such in the National Register of Historic Places as well as on the California Historical Landmarks. These buildings represent the Californian and Victorian architecture present in Tehama County prior to 1910.

Proposed General Plan Policies and Implementation Measures that Mitigate Potential Impacts

The following General Plan policies and implementation measures address cultural resource issues.

Open Space: OS-10.1, OS-10.1a, OS-10.1b, OS-10.1d, OS-10.1e, OS-10.2, OS-10.2a, OS-10.3, OS-10.3a, OS-10.4, OS-10.4a

General Plan Policy OS-10.1 and associated Implementation Measures OS-10.1a, OS-10.1b, and OS-10.1d protect and preserve significant prehistoric and historic resources by referring all new development proposals on undisturbed land to the Northwest Information Center for evaluation of potential impacts, by encouraging nomination and registration of prehistoric and historic sites, and by requiring the appropriate surveys and site investigations in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act. Implementation Measure OS-10.1e requires the immediate

notification of the County's Planning Department if a prehistoric, archaeological, or paleontologic artifact is uncovered during construction. Policy OS-10.2 and Implementation Measure OS-10.2a encourage the rehabilitation and preservation of historic buildings throughout the County by working with local historical societies. Policy OS-10.3 and Implementation Measure OS-10.3a provide information on potential private, state, and federal grants to the public as well as provide incentive programs to the private sector in order to preserve historical and cultural resources. Policy OS-10.4 and Implementation Measure OS-10.4a mandates that the County shall consult with local, state, and federal agencies as well as local Native American communities in cases where new development may result in disturbance to historic and prehistoric resources.

Implementation of the above General Plan policies and implementation measures would assist in reducing significant impacts to known cultural resources, as well as to any unknown cultural resources. Therefore, impacts related to cultural resources would be reduced to **less than significant**.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

Paleontological Resources

Impact 4.5.2 Adoption of the Tehama County General Plan could result in the potential disturbance of paleontological resources (i.e., fossils and fossil formations) or unique geological features. This is considered a **potentially significant** impact.

Additionally, there are no geologic sites which may contain paleontological resources within the Planning Area that are considered to be unique. The Kilgore Hills on the east side of Interstate 5, and a few other hills within the County are important elements of local vistas, but are not considered unique geologic features.

Proposed General Plan Policies and Implementation Measures that Mitigate Potential Impacts

The following policies and implementation measures address paleontological resources and unique geological features.

Open Space: OS-10.1, OS-10.1d, OS-10.1e, OS-10.3, OS-10.3a, OS-10.4, OS-10.4a, OS-11.1

General Plan Policy OS-10.1 and associated Implementation Measure OS-10.1d protect and preserve significant paleontological resources by requiring the appropriate surveys and site investigations in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act. Implementation Measure OS-10.1e requires the immediate notification of the County's Planning Division if prehistoric, archaeological, or paleontologic artifact is uncovered during construction. Policy OS-10.3 and Implementation Measure OS-10.3a provide information on potential private, state, and federal grants to the public as well as provide incentive programs to the private sector in order to preserve paleontological resources. Implementation Measure OS-10.4a mandates that the County shall consult with local, state, and federal agencies as well as local Native American communities in cases where new development may result in disturbance to historic and prehistoric resources.

Policy OS-11.1 requires identification of significant scenic viewsheds for public viewing areas along County-designated scenic highways. This includes scenic views of Mount Shasta, Mount Lassen, the Sacramento River and the Coast Range. This policy will serve to protect unique geologic features, impacts will be **less than significant**.

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

With the requirement for a record search or on-site survey for discretionary projects as provided by the General Plan, impacts to a unique paleontological resource site are **less than significant**.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

Potential Disturbance of Human Remains

Impact 4.5.3 A project constructed as a result of the 2008-2028 General Plan could disturb human remains, especially those interred outside of formal cemeteries. This is considered a **potentially significant** impact.

It is possible that human remains could be found on interment sites located outside of formal cemeteries. Such interment could have taken place prior to white settlers entering the area, or during early gold rush days, prior to establishing formal cemetery sites. The potential exists for the discovery of such sites during construction activities.

Proposed General Plan Policies and Implementation Measures that Mitigate Potential Impacts

The following policy and implementation measure addresses paleontological resources.

Open Space: OS-10.1, OS-10.1d, OS-10.1e

General Plan Policy OS-10.1 and associated Implementation Measure OS-10.1d and OS-10.1e protect and preserve cultural resources by requiring the appropriate surveys and site investigations when needed as part of the initial environmental assessment for development projects in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act. Surveys and investigations are to be performed under the supervision of a professional archaeologist or other person qualified in the appropriate field. Even with field investigations it is possible for unknown remains to exist below the soil. These remains could be uncovered or disturbed as part of normal development activity including grading and trenching. CEQA contains procedures for addressing the find of human remains as well as a process to be followed after their discovery. Implementation Measure OS-10.1e requires the immediate notification of the County's Planning Division if prehistoric, archaeological, or paleontologic artifact is uncovered during construction. Adherence to CEQA, as well as the policies in the General Plan, will reduce this impact to **less than significant** since upon finding any remains during construction activity, construction will be immediately halted until authorization to proceed is given by the County Coroner.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

4.5.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

CUMULATIVE SETTING

The most significant historic resources in Tehama County are the structures located throughout the County and are identified as such in the National Register of Historic Places as well as on the California Historical Landmarks. These buildings represent the Californian and Victorian architecture present in Tehama County prior to 1910. Native American Indians were known to reside in Tehama County prior to the development of communities by white settlers. The "Los Molinos Vicinity – Ishi Site" in Deer Creek Canyon, and the "Sulphur Creek Archaeological

District" in the Mill Creek vicinity are two major archaeological sites that have been found within Tehama County. Additionally, over 250 settlement sites have been identified along the Sacramento River in Tehama County, as well as several along river tributaries in the foothill regions of the County. Yet as previously described, many sites are characterized by a lack of knowledge regarding their prehistory and the quality or existing information is highly variable.

Additionally there are no geologic sites which may contain paleontological resources within the Planning Area that are considered to be unique. Tehama County is not known to be rich in paleontological resources. While no sites and resources have been identified, there still exists the possibility that many of these resources remain undiscovered and should be taken under consideration upon any grading, excavation, or construction.

Potential development of the unincorporated portions of Tehama County could have an affect on cultural resources in those areas. This could also result in potential affects to cultural resources, as well as to the geographic extent of Tehama County.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Prehistoric Resources, Historic Resources, and Human Remains

Impact 4.5.4 Adoption of the Tehama County General Plan along with foreseeable development in the region could result in the disturbance of historic and archaeological resources. This contribution is considered **cumulatively considerable**.

As noted under **Impact 4.5.1**, expected development pursuant to the proposed General Plan has the potential to result in significant cultural resource impacts. Implementation of the policies in the General Plan would assist in reducing significant impacts to cultural resources within Tehama County. Implementation of the General Plan policies would assist in reducing significant impacts to known cultural resources, as well as to any unknown cultural resources. Therefore, impacts related to cultural resources would be reduced to **less than significant**. General Plan policies and implementation measures, which will be implemented through the County's development permitting processes and/or state and federal laws will provide sufficient mitigation.

On a cumulative basis, then, the same impacts addressed under **Impact 4.5.1** could presumably contribute to the cumulative loss of historic and cultural resources in the region. Impacts on cultural resources on sites within Tehama County will not typically impact cultural resources on sites outside the county. However, when combined with other past, present and foreseeable development in the region, the potential is presented that any losses of cultural resources within Tehama County could be substantial when considered as a increment of the cumulative loss of cultural resources in the region. This is a speculative proposition, however, because there are no known resources that will be lost as a result of adopting the 2008-2028 General Plan. Instead, there is the potential that, in spite of the protective measures proposed by the County, there will still be inadvertent losses of resources, and that these losses, on a cumulative basis, could ultimately be considerable on a cumulative basis. Although the County is aware of the potential and has addressed it accordingly, since there is no substantial evidence that the project will result in significant impacts on cultural resources within Tehama County, the County is not inclined to presume that there will be cumulatively considerable impacts caused by cumulative conditions or as an incremental effect.

Implementation of Open Space and Conservation Element policies and implementation measures identified under **Impact 4.5.1**, coupled with applicable state and federal laws, will

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

reduce the General Plan's incremental contribution to cumulative impacts on cultural resources to **less than cumulatively considerable**.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

4.5.5 REFERENCES

California Historical Landmarks, Tehama. Accessed on June 2, 2006. Located at <http://ohp.parks.ca.gov>

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