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**City of Ukiah**

**300 Seminary Drive**

**Ukiah, CA 95482**

**August 2023**

**Western Hills Watershed Protection Area Management Plan**

**January 2024**

**Western Hills Watershed Protection Area Management Plan**

**Project Location**

The Western Hills Watershed Protection Area (WHWPA) is located in eastern Mendocino County in the foothills rising from the Ukiah Valley in the Northern Coast Mountain Range. From north to south, the WHWPA ranges between a tenth of a mile to 1.3 miles wide and spans 1.8 miles from east to west for a total of ~ 660 acres. The WHWPA extends from the valley floor at 760 feet to its highest point at Lookout Peak at 2,726 feet in elevation. Overall, the WHWPA is steep with slopes ranging from 30-70 percent. The vegetation is overgrown in some locations and wildfire has been suppressed for decades. Looking to the west from the highest ridge, views of Pine Mountain and the headwaters of Robinson Creek can be seen. Looking to the east provides views of Lake Mendocino, the Ukiah Valley, and the mountain tops of Sanhedrin, Hull, Snow, Red, and Konocti Mountains. Two forks of Doolin Creek flow east out of the central and southern parts of the WHWPA. The headwaters of Gibson Creek lie in the northwesternmost corner of the WHWPA and an unnamed creek in the northeastern parcel of the WHWPA flows east toward Hillcrest Avenue.

**WHWPA Management Plan**

This Management Plan defines the priorities and goals for the WHWPA to ensure continuity in management decision making. Once approved by the Ukiah City Council, the overarching goals of property ownership should rarely if ever change. This plan is further intended to guide staff in day-to-day activities and to provide criteria for the operations, maintenance, and management of the Preserve. In keeping with the primary goals of protecting the WHWPA’s scenic resources and biodiversity, soil and aquatic resources, and ecological functions, most of the management actions should either directly or indirectly implement the natural resources goals.

The Management Plan was designed to protect the conservation values of the WHWPA while providing the opportunity for the future development of recreational, educational, and utility support opportunities that are compatible with protection of natural resources. This document is intended to provide guidance for balancing multiple goals.

The actions and policies of the Management Plan are organized into three categories with

multiple topic areas within each: Resource Preservation, Fire Risk Abatement, and Public Uses and

Access.

***Purpose and Vision of City of Ukiah Open Space Designated Properties***

Watershed protection was the primary purpose for the City’s acquisition of the WHWPA. Additional but secondary reasons, or goals for the acquisition included habitat and viewshed protection, utility support, and recreation. All plans and activities should balance these secondary goals while assuring the ascendency of watershed protection.

**Vision Statement Alternative 1:**

"Creating a Sustainable Sanctuary for WHWPA, Balancing Resource Management, Fire Risk Abatement, and Public Engagement"

Our vision for the WHWPA project is to establish a sustainable sanctuary that harmoniously integrates resource management, fire risk abatement, and public access for healthful outdoor recreation. We aspire to protect native plants and wildlife communities, prevent erosion, and maintain water quality. Simultaneously, we aim to engage the public in citizen science, education, and recreation while ensuring the protection of historical resources and providing essential infrastructure for the benefit of our community.

**Vision Statement Alternative 2:**

"WHWPA: A Model of Environmental Resilience, Community Engagement, and Public Safety"

Our vision for WHWPA is to achieve environmental resilience by proactively managing resources, reducing fire risks, and allowing community access to wild spaces to promote individual and community health. We are committed to preserving native plants and wildlife, preventing erosion, and safeguarding water quality. Simultaneously, we prioritize public access for citizen science, education, and recreation while safeguarding historical and archaeological resources and enhancing essential infrastructure.

**Vision Statement Alternative 3:**

"Balancing Conservation and Community at WHWPA: A Living Showcase of Sustainability"

Our vision for WHWPA is to create a living showcase of sustainability, where resource management, fire risk abatement, and recreation objectives coexist seamlessly. We strive to protect native plants and wildlife, control erosion, and maintain water quality. Additionally, we are dedicated to offering safe public access for citizen science, education, and recreation, all while respecting and preserving historical resources and supporting critical infrastructure needs.

***Resource Preservation***

***Objective 1 Locate WHWPA Facilities to Avoid Native Plants and Wildlife Communities***

***Objective 2 Control Erosion, Protect Water Quality, and Maintain Facilities***

***Objective 3 Control Dust during Construction and other Management Activities***

***Objective 4 Revegetation after Soil Disturbance***

***Objective 5 Best Management Practices for Hazardous Materials Handling and Pollution***

***Objective 6 Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species***

***Objective 7 Prevent Spread of Sudden Oak Death and Other Plant Pathogens***

***Objective 8 Best Management Practices for Use of Pesticides and Herbicides***

***Fire Risk Abatement***

***Objective 9 Reduce Fire Risk to the WHWPA through Fire Abatement and Vegetation Management Activities***

***Objective 10 Protect Habitat during Fire Abatement and Vegetation Management Activities***

***Public Uses and Access***

***Objective 11 Provide Safe Public Access for Citizen Science / Education, Volunteer Management, and Recreation***

***Objective 12 Monitor for, and Protect if Found, Historic or Archeological Resources***

***Objective 13 Provide Water Storage, Power Generation, and Communication Infrastructure***

***Objective 14 Provide and Protect Access to Native American Culture Bearers to Nurture Areas for Harvest and Traditional Uses***

**General Program Objectives, and Resource Conservation Objectives**

The following Project Objectives and Management Tasks are intended to guide the management of the WHWPA and to protect and enhance native habitats and protect sensitive biotic resources; protect culturalresources; and potentially expand access to the Protection Area. This plan assures activities on the property will minimize impacts to less than significant levels. A Mitigation Monitoringand Reporting Plan shall be produced and implemented in coordination with facility development.

**Project Objectives**

***Resource Preservation***

***Objective 1 – Locate WHWPA Facilities to Avoid Native Plants and Wildlife Communities***

The City shall use the following design standards to minimize impacts on native vegetation and wildlife

communities:

* To the greatest degree possibly site roads, trails, and other park infrastructure out of sensitive habitat areas.
* Maintain buffers between new trails or park infrastructure and drainages.
* Limit removal of existing native vegetation during site development.
* Design trails to avoid mature trees and plan revegetation as needed to maintain native canopy cover and understory species.
* Limit the use of fences. Fencing should not interfere with any potential wildlife corridor.

***Management Task 1A: Avoid Loss of Special-status Species of Local Concern and their***

***Habitats***

The City shall ensure that the following protection objectives for special-status plants and species of local concern and their habitat are implemented during management activities in the WHWPA.

• Ensure that Raiche’s Manzanita (Arctostaphylos stanfordiana spp. raichei) and Redwood Lilly (Lilium rubescens) are not damaged during vegetation management activities. Train crews to recognize this species prior to each vegetation clearing effort, and have a trained supervisor oversee all work in areas where this plant occurs.

* Ensure that Red bellied newts (Taricha rivularis) are protected during vegetation management activities. Train crews to recognize this species prior to each vegetation clearing effort, and have a trained supervisor oversee all work in areas where this plant occurs.

• Prior to any park development in areas beyond existing trails and roads, the City shall conduct a botanical survey to ensure that no special-status species are present. Surveys shall be conducted at the appropriate time for plant identification and shall be conducted by a botanist experienced with Mendocino County sensitive species. If special-status plants or their habitat are not identified during initial site surveys, no further mitigation for impacts on target species is necessary under this objective.

• If any special-status plant species are found in areas proposed for park development, project plans shall be adjusted to avoid impact to the species. The City shall consult with a qualified botanist to determine appropriate setback distances and protection objectives.

• If suitable habitat cannot be avoided, project-specific protection objectives (e.g., transplant,

seed collection, propagation) shall be developed and implemented.

• Any herbicide application to treat non-native plants must ensure that no native plants are affected.

***Management Task 1B: Protect Birds During Construction and Other Management Activities***

The City shall ensure that the following protection objectives for birds are implemented for construction, ground disturbing, and/or vegetation management activities:

• Work outside of the critical breeding bird period (February 15 through August 31) including construction projects and during ongoing land management (e.g., vegetation trimming and removal, etc.). If activities must occur during this period, work areas shall be surveyed by a qualified biologist prior to commencing. Surveys shall be required for all human-related ground disturbance activities in natural habitats and for vegetation trimming and removal. The surveys shall be conducted within one week prior to initiation of vegetation clearing, tree removal and trimming, or other construction activities. If the biologist finds no active nesting or breeding activity, work can proceed without restrictions. If active raptor or owl nests are identified within 100 feet of the construction area or active nests of other special-status birds (e.g., passerines, woodpeckers, hummingbirds, etc.) are identified within 50 feet of the construction area, a biologist shall determine whether or not construction activities may impact the active nest or disrupt reproductive behavior. If it is determined that construction would not affect an active nest or disrupt breeding behavior, construction can proceed without restrictions. The determination of disruption shall be based on the species’ sensitivity to disturbance, which can vary among species; the level of noise or construction disturbance; and the line of sight between the nest and the disturbance. If the biologist determines activities would be detrimental, the nesting area and 250-foot buffer for larger nesting birds (e.g., owls, raptors, herons, egrets) and 50-foot buffer for small nesting songbirds shall be avoided until the nest has been vacated.

• If the work area is left unattended for more than one week following the initial surveys,

additional surveys shall be completed. Ongoing construction monitoring shall occur to ensure no

nesting activity is disturbed. If State and/or federally listed birds are found breeding within the

area, activities shall be halted, and consultation with the CDFW and USFWS shall occur to

determine if any additional protection objectives are needed.

• For fire risk abatement fuel management, breeding bird surveys shall be required for all fire risk

abatement vegetation management in late winter through spring. All burn piles shall be burned

outside of the bird nesting season (February 15 through August 31). If activities must occur

during this period, burn activities shall be reviewed and approved by a qualified biologist before

commencing.

***Objective 2 - Control Erosion, Protect Water Quality, and Maintain Facilities***

The City shall maintain roads, trails, and any other approved infrastructure to ensure long term viability and utility of the infrastructure while ensuring erosion control, sediment detention. Site maintenance activities shall occur in accordance with the *Handbook for Forest, Ranch, & Rural Roads* (2015) and the following objectives:

• Protect disturbed areas against erosion. When a road project involves grading or work within or adjacent to a stream, a spill prevention and clean-up plan, Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (if disturbance is greater than one acre), or similar document (Erosion Control Plan) shall be prepared and implemented during construction activities to protect water quality. The plan would address polluted runoff and spill prevention policies, BMPs that are required to be available on site in case of rain or a spill (e.g., straw bales, silt fencing, erosion control blankets), clean-up and reporting procedures, and locations of refueling and minor maintenance areas.

• Dispose of all debris, sediment, rubbish, vegetation, or other construction-related materials in a location approved by the City. No materials, including petroleum products, chemicals, silt, fine soils, or substances deleterious to the function of a watercourse, water quality, or biological resources, would be allowed to pass into, or be placed where it can pass into stream channels.

• Cover stockpiled soils if rain occurs while materials are temporarily stockpiled. Cover stockpiles with plastic that is secured in place to ensure the piles are protected from rain and wind. Silt fencing or wattles would be installed on contour around all stockpile locations.

• Follow Ukiah Valley Trail Group’s Trail Maintenance and Design Guidelines for all trail construction and maintenance. (Appendix X)

• Minimize the amount of soil disturbance and avoid trail alignments in seeps or wet areas.

• Install temporary erosion control objectives such as wattles before construction begins and remove once the site has been stabilized with native vegetation or other method.

• Maintain vegetated filter strips at the base of slopes and along trails to allow surface water to slow down and for sediment to be retained.

***Management Task 2A -Maintain roads and facilities to minimize sedimentation and maintenance costs.***

* Perform an annual survey of road conditions after the end of winter rains.
* Note and document maintenance needs that will be required prior to the next rainy season.
* All road work shall be completed in accordance with the Handbook for Forest, Ranch, & Rural Roads (see Reference List).

***Project Objective 3 - Control Dust during Construction and other Management Activities***

The City shall implement the following dust control objectives in areas where soil or vegetation has been disturbed and during construction activities:

• Cover open-bodied trucks when used for transporting materials likely to give rise to airborne dust.

• Use water or chemicals to control dust during construction operations or clearing of land.

• Apply water or suitable chemicals on materials stockpiles and other surfaces that can give rise to airborne dusts.

• Require prompt cleanup of paved streets onto which earth or other material has been transported by trucking or earth moving equipment, erosion by water, or other means.

• Limit vehicle speeds on dirt roads to 20 miles per hour.

***Objective 4 – Revegetation after Soil Disturbance***

The City shall implement the following objectives in areas where soil or vegetation has been disturbed by management activities:

• Implement soil protection objectives, including seeding or planting, promptly with appropriate native species and covering with weed-free straw mulch, and/or installing biodegradable erosion control fabric on slopes.

• Use seed or container stock of local origin for plantings. Seed or propagules for revegetation would be collected from the property itself if a viable source is present. Where this is not possible, propagules shall be from within the Russian River watershed with exceptions being made only after review by a qualified staff member or consultant. Within these geographic parameters, collections shall be made with the goal of capturing natural genetic variation (e.g., collect from a range of elevations and from plants exhibiting varied phenology).

• Include native plant species with high value to local wildlife and/or butterflies and other pollinators in planting palettes as appropriate to the site.

• For management actions that have removed native vegetation, evaluate post-construction revegetation success on individual site conditions based generally on the following: 1) establishment of native trees and shrubs at a ratio of 1:2 living after five years (or the ratio mandated by regulatory permits), 2) establishment of herbaceous cover equal to that of adjacent undisturbed ground within three years, and 3) no increase in invasive species populations (or no greater cover of invasive species than that of adjacent undisturbed ground).

• Enhance native butterfly habitat by incorporating larval host plants and nectar plants into restoration palettes as appropriate.

• Include a mixture of plant types (i.e., shrubs, vines, perennials, and herbaceous species as well as trees) in planting palettes to maintain or improve the structural diversity of habitats.

• Use limited organic, weed-free amendments if required to help establish restoration vegetation for soils that have been disturbed and require additional organic matter or nutrients to support native plants. Organic fertilizers shall only be used above the normal high water mark of any adjacent waterways. No chemical fertilizers shall be used.

***Objective 5 - Best Management Practices for Hazardous Materials Handling and Pollution***

***Prevention***

The City shall employ Best Management Practices for staging, maintenance, fueling, and spill containment of potentially hazardous materials used on the property. The City shall ensure that all equipment used onsite is inspected for leaks. Vehicles shall be parked and fueled in a designated staging

area away from bodies of water. All equipment shall be properly cleaned before entering the Preserve, and spill prevention kits shall be available onsite.

***Objective 6- Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species***

The City shall prevent the spread of invasive weeds and other species to the extent feasible.

*Invasive Plants*

Weed control methods shall include, but would not be limited to:

* Clean plant material and soil from the tires and undercarriage of vehicles and equipment (e.g. mowers) that have traveled through weed-infested areas before they leave those areas.
* Cleaning may be done with a hose if water is available and/or with a scrub brush or stiff broom.
* Train staff and WHWPA volunteers to recognize invasive species and report new infestations promptly.
* If resources are available, educate residents immediately adjacent to the WHWPA about invasive species and encourage use of native species for landscaping.

*Invasive Animals*

* Monitor for the invasion of pigs and other non-native animals
* Intervene early and aggressively to exclude pigs from the property
* Develop a plan for pig hunts to be available and ready for implementation should pigs be discovered.

***Objective 7 – Prevent Spread of Sudden Oak Death and Other Plant Pathogens***

The City shall be responsible for protecting against the spread of Sudden Oak Death (SOD) and other

plant pathogens through implementation of the following requirements:

* Before purchasing any nursery stock for restoration plantings, confirm that the nursery

follows current Best Management Practices for preventing the spread of SOD (consult the

California Oak Mortality Task Force for current standards).

* Inspect all plant materials for symptoms of SOD before bringing onto the property.
* Train management staff on host species, symptoms, and disease transmission pathways for *Phytophthora ramorum* and other *Phytophthora* species, and on Best Management Practices to prevent the spread of SOD, including:
  + Clean equipment after working in forest and woodland habitats, including chainsaws, boots, and truck tires (spray with a 10% bleach solution or other disinfectant, then rinse).
  + Work in forest and woodlands in the dry season instead of the wet season when spores are being produced and infections are starting. Avoid or minimize pruning oak, tanoak, and bays in wet weather.
  + Leave potentially infected downed trees on site instead of transporting the material to an uninfected area. Where infection is already known to be present, leaving *P. ramorum* infected or killed trees on site has not been shown to increase the risk of infection to adjacent trees. Allow removal from the property only if fire risk is high or for aesthetic or safety. If infected material is removed from the site, dispose of at an approved and permitted facility within the quarantine zone encompassing the 14-county infected quarantine zone.
* If necessary to reduce safety or fire hazards, infected trees can be cut, branches chipped, and wood split. Do not leave cut wood and chips in an area where they might be transported to an uninfected location.
* Educate WHWPA users about objectives to prevent the spread of SOD. Provide signage at major trailheads explaining that SOD occurs on the property, showing typical symptoms and explaining that it can be spread by WHWPA visitors, especially in wet winters, during rainy and windy weather. This may be based on existing public educational materials such as those developed by the California Oak Mortality Task Force. Request that WHWPA visitors:

o Stay on established trails and respect trail closures.

o Avoid entering areas that appear to be diseased, especially in wet, muddy conditions. If

avoidance is not possible, follow the sanitation practices described below.

o Avoid transporting SOD on shoes, vehicles, or other transport. After traveling through an infected area, clean up and disinfect. For instance, hikers should remove mud from shoes using an old screwdriver, stiff brush, and/or towel. Further disinfect shoes by washing with soap and water or spraying with a 10% bleach solution.

***Objective 8 – Best Management Practices for Use of Pesticides and Herbicides***

The City shall minimize the use of pesticides and herbicides to the extent feasible as directed by the City of Ukiah’s Integrated Pest Management Plan. The City shall ensure that any use of pesticides is done according to manufacturers’ recommendations and only as part of the City’s Integrated Pest Management Plan to protect natural resources and conservation values.

Use pesticides with caution to prevent contaminated runoff. A surfactant-free formulation shall be used any time pesticides or herbicides are used within a riparian area. Herbicide application shall be done under the guidance of a certified pest control applicator and according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

***Fire Risk Abatement***

***Objective 9 – Reduce Fire Risk to the WHWPA through Fire Abatement and Vegetation Management Activities***

The City shall collaborate with the Ukiah Valley Fire Protection District, Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, and CalFire to undertake fire reduction and mitigation programs. The following harm reduction programs and efforts shall be pursued:

* Convene regular meetings to ensure collaboration and communication between the partner agencies.
* Develop a priority list of fire mitigation measures to be implemented as funding is available.
* Maintain a log of fuel load management and fire mitigation project completion.

* To achieve the fire hazard reduction goals, the City shall develop a Fire Risk Abatement Plan. The work plan shall include a description of the current and target condition of the treatment area, map and photos of the treatment area; identify immediate and long-term goals, timeline for implementation, access points, disposal methods, and target species. Fire Risk Abatement Plans may cover a period of 1 to 5 years. The Fire Risk Abatement Plan shall follow the natural resource and fire management recommendations set forth in the WHWPA Management Plan. Once the plans are developed, implementation will proceed as described in the plan.

***Maintenance and Management Task 9A - Reduce Fire Risk on the WHWPA During Maintenance or Patrol Activities***

The City shall implement the following measures to reduce fire risk on the WHWPA during

maintenance activities:

* Prohibit vegetation management for ongoing WHWPA maintenance or fire risk abatement during red flag days according to the National Weather Service.
* Require all equipment and vehicles used on the WHWPA to be equipped with spark arrestors or other means of controlling backfiring.
* Limit use of power tools for maintenance or other activities during periods of high and very high fire danger.
* Limit driving onto the Preserve during periods of high and very high fire danger.
* Prohibit parking or driving over flammable material such as grasses and dry brush.
* Maintain clear, unobstructed access along the fire and emergency access road by trimming back encroaching vegetation and promptly responding to and removing any trail obstruction
* Ensure that fire department staff or other entities overseeing fuel load management activities participate in the annual staff meeting and communication protocol.
* All vehicles driven onto the WHWPA shall be equipped with a fire extinguisher, chain saw and associated safety equipment, standard fire‐fighting equipment (e.g., shovel, McLeod, fire extinguisher), and a first-aid kit.

***Objective 10 – Protect Habitat during Fire Abatement and Vegetation Management Activities***

The City shall fully maintain habitat quality and complexity during fire abatement and vegetation management activities consistent with protecting public safety. The following habitat protection objectives shall be implemented:

* Develop and maintain a trail and road system to increase emergency access routes and serve as small fire breaks. WHWPA areas along the emergency access routes shall be maintained for emergency vehicle travel while retaining as much vegetation as possible.
* Roads and trails provide a good access area for shaded fuel breaks and should be considered as priority areas for fuel load management.
* Once established, trails should be evaluated and recommendations for trail clearing widths should be established on a case-by-case basis.
* Prior to vegetation management activities, establish permanent photo points to illustrate before- and after-treatment conditions. Provide typical views of treatment locations for five years after treatment. Use photos to review changes in habitat conditions. Photos shall be taken at the same month each year – for example, in May or June when new leaves are present on plants. If undesirable changes in plant cover or composition are noted, the City shall review practices and revise as needed to protect natural resources.
* Conduct biological trainings and surveys prior to vegetation management activities.
* Engage personnel familiar with native plant identification and wildlife requirements to guide vegetation management and fuel reduction work on the ground.
* Allow maintenance vehicle access only on the fire and emergency access road and existing trails.
* Maintain habitat complexity, especially along drainages and habitats outside the emergency access corridor. This will require maintaining a balance between providing diverse, multistory forest and woodlands for wildlife utilization and plant community diversity and the need for fire risk abatement and emergency services access.
* If vegetation management is needed along drainages for public safety, ensure that the special ecological values of the habitat are maintained. Work only on sites that are accessible without driving off-road or off-trail, dispose of cut vegetation without blocking drainages, minimize ground disturbance, and maintain duff and native canopy.
* Limit ground disturbance during all vegetation management activities. Where bare ground is exposed as a result of work, promptly treat to prevent erosion, establish native species, and limit colonization by weedy species; Seeding recommendations should be developed and added to this plan as an Appendix.
* Unless there is a threat to public safety or increased fire risk, retain decaying and dying trees, limbs, snags, and debris piles for wildlife habitat. Snags should be left standing at not less than six per acre. If a downed trees crosses over a trail, cut and move to the side.
* In areas of tree die-off, trees can be felled and limbed. A minimum of six snags per acre should be retained for habitat preservation.
* Engage a professional botanist or vegetation ecologist to review fire hazard reduction practices every five years to ensure that vegetation removal is not negatively affecting native plant community species composition or health, or wildlife communities.

***Public Uses and Access***

***Objective 11 – Provide Safe Public Access for Citizen Science / Education, Volunteer Management Assistance, and Recreation***

The City shall develop and implement plans to allow public access to the WHWPA. Public access may be permitted to allow for Citizen Science and Education, Volunteer Activities, and / or Recreation. The following public access objectives shall be implemented:

* Develop and implement policies and procedures for public access to pursue research, citizen science, and / or education to be added as an appendix to this document.
* Develop and implement policies and procedures for volunteer assistance in the management of the WHWPA to be added as an appendix to this document.
* Develop and implement policies and procedures for public recreational access to the WHWPA to be added as an appendix to this document.
* Coordinate with Human resources to limit liability.
* The use of motor vehicles by the public will be restricted to the greatest degree possible. Motor vehicle use for the sole purpose of recreation shall be prohibited.

***Objective 12 – Monitor for, and Protect if Found, Historic or Archeological Resources***

The City shall remain vigilant for the discovery of previously unknown Historic or Archeological Resources. In pursuit of this objective the City shall;

* Seek funding for and obtain an Archeological survey of the WHWPA.

***Management Task 12A; Identify and Avoid or Minimize Impacts on Historic Resources***

if Should subsurface historic materials be encountered during construction, the City shall ensure that trail maintenance, or resource management activities, the piece of equipment or crew member that encountered the materials shall stop and the find shall be inspected by a qualified historian/archaeologist. Project personnel shall not collect historic materials. If the historian/archaeologist determines that the find qualifies as a unique historic resource for the purposes of CEQA (Guidelines Section 15064.5(c)), all work shall be stopped in the immediate vicinity to allow the archaeologist to evaluate the find and recommend appropriate treatment. Such treatment and resolution shall include either modifying the project to allow the materials to be left in place or undertaking data recovery of the materials in accordance with standard archaeological methods. The preferred treatment shall be protection and preservation. If the resource is determined to qualify as historic under CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a), and the management action would impair the resource, such impacts on the resource shall be avoided. Management activities shall be implemented to avoid impairment of the historic resources. Objectives to protect historic resources may include, for example, temporary protective barriers or construction worker training.

***Management Task 12B: Identify and Avoid or Minimize Impacts on Archaeological Resources***

The City of Ukiah shall ensure that if previously unknown archaeological materials are encountered during construction, trail maintenance, or resource management activities, the piece of equipment or crew member that encountered the materials shall stop, and the find shall be inspected by a qualified archaeologist. Project personnel shall not collect archaeological materials. If the archaeologist determines that the find potentially qualifies as a unique archaeological resource for the purposes of CEQA (Guidelines Section 15064.5(c)), all work shall be stopped in the immediate vicinity to allow the archaeologist to evaluate the find and recommend appropriate treatment. Such treatment and resolution shall include either project modification to allow the materials to be left in place or undertaking data recovery of the materials in accordance with standard archaeological methods. The preferred treatment shall be protection and preservation.

***Management Task 12C: Procedures for Encountering Human Remains***

If human remains are encountered, project personnel shall stop all work in the immediate vicinity. The Mendocino County Coroner and a qualified archaeologist shall be notified immediately so that an evaluation can be performed. If the coroner determines the remains are Native American and prehistoric, NAHC shall be contacted so that a “Most Likely Descendant” can be designated, the appropriate Tribal representative can be contacted, and further recommendations regarding treatment of the remains can be provided. The City of Ukiah shall ensure that if human remains or funerary objects are discovered during soil-disturbing activities, the City shall ensure that all work stops in the

vicinity and that the Mendocino County Coroner is notified. A qualified archaeologist shall evaluate the

remains. If human remains are of Native American origin, the Coroner shall notify the Native American

Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours of identification, pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98. NAHC

would appoint a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). A qualified archaeologist, the City of Ukiah, and

the MLD shall make all reasonable efforts to develop an agreement for the treatment, with appropriate

dignity, of any human remains and associated or unassociated funerary objects (CEQA Guidelines

Section 15064.5[d]). The agreement shall take into consideration the appropriate excavation, removal,

recordation, analysis, custodianship, and final disposition of the human remains and associated or

unassociated funerary objects. The PRC allows 48 hours to reach agreement on these matters. If the

MLD and the other parties cannot not agree on the reburial method, the City shall follow PRC Section

5097.98(b), which states that “the landowner or his or her authorized representative shall reinter the

human remains and items associated with Native American burials with appropriate dignity on the

property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance.”

***Management Task 12D: Avoid or Document Paleontological Resources***

The City of Ukiah shall ensure that if a paleontological resource is discovered during construction,

trail maintenance, or resource management activities, all ground-disturbing activities within 50 feet of

the find shall be temporarily halted. Activities may be diverted to areas beyond 50 feet from the

discovery. The City shall notify a qualified paleontologist who will document the discovery, evaluate the

potential resource, and assess the nature and significance of the find. Based on scientific value or

uniqueness, the paleontologist may record the find and allow work to continue or recommend salvage

and recovery of the material. The paleontologist shall make recommendations for any necessary

treatment that is consistent with currently accepted scientific practices.

***Management Task 12E; Consult with Native American Tribes if Previously Undiscovered Artifacts are***

***Discovered***

In the event any Native American archaeological remains are discovered during implementation of

management activities, the City shall contact and consult with local tribes who have a traditional and

cultural affiliation with the Project area. If the tribe(s) considers the resource to be a tribal resource, the City shall consult with the tribe to develop appropriate mitigation objectives in accordance with Public Resources Code 21080.3.2.

***Objective 13 Provide Water Storage, Power Generation, and Communication Infrastructure***

The City of Ukiah’s Water and Utilities Departments contributed to funding for the WHWPA acquisition with the understanding that water storage and power generation were potential uses of the property. While watershed protection is the primary goal of the property, the placement of water tanks and limited power generation infrastructure should be considered when feasible with mitigations for the use as determined by CEQA reviews.

***Objective 14 Provide and Protect Access to Native American Culture Bearers to Nurture Areas for Harvest and Traditional Uses***

The City shall develop and implement plans and policies to allow safe and secure access to Native American culture bearers who wish to nurture areas for harvest, harvest for personal and family use, and for the pursuit of other traditional uses.

**References**

Weaver W., Weppner E., Hagans, D; *Handbook for Forest, Ranch, & Rural Roads* (2015). Mendocino County Resource Conservation District

Ukiah Valley Trail Group’s Trail Maintenance and Design Guidelines (2015).

Bride, Anna; Davis, Neil *Western Hills Watershed Protection Area Baseline Documentation Report* (2023). City of Ukiah