

CURRENT PROPERTY CONDITIONS

Forest Infrastructure

Forest Structure

The existing forest structure is even-aged due to the stand replacing fires that the camp has experienced in the past. The overall forest structure on the property consists of four forest types, a mixed conifer-oak woodland forest type, oak woodland, a riparian community and chaparral. The four forest types cover the majority of the property. These forest types are generally found at the 5,000 foot elevation or above. Exceptions do occur where these species are not supported by aspect, soil moisture or soil types. The forest types found on the property include:

- Mixed Conifer-Oak Woodland: White fir (*Abies concolor*), sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) and Coulter pine (*Pinus coulteri*), incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*), canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepsis*) and giant sequoia (*Sequoia giganteum*). The giant sequoia has been planted.
- Oak Woodland: Black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) with a minimal amount of live oak dispersed throughout.
- Riparian Community: Red alder (*Alnus rubra*), incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), Dogwood (*Cornus californica*), willow (*Salix spp.*).
- Chaparral: Several species of Ceanothus (*Ceanothus spp.*) and manzanita (*Arctostaphylos spp.*).

Oak woodlands are found within the conifer forest zones as well as the lower elevations where the conifers are non-existent. Black oak (*Quercus Kelloggii*) is found intermixed with the mixed conifer forest types, and also on its own, in the areas dominated by oak woodland on the property. Intermixed with all coniferous forest types on the property is a chaparral/brush component which competes with the trees for moisture and nutrients and contributes to fire fuel loading.

The riparian areas within the property comprise a small percentage of the total area but are extremely important for watershed quality and wildlife habitat. Most of these areas are found along narrow strips

adjacent to streams, intermittent drainages, springs and other moist areas. Although most trees common to other sites thrive in the riparian zones, vegetation indicative of higher water tables are found, including species such as dogwood, willow and alder.

Several chaparral types are found covering nearly 75% of the property; ceanothus spp.(there are over 50 varieties in CA), and manzanita. Broadleaf chaparral comprises much of the vegetation covering the western ¾ of the property. Many of the chaparral species establish well with periodic fire occurrences. In areas where fire had occurred, chaparral inhibits regeneration of the tree species.

Topography

The topography of the property can be defined as fairly flat to steep mountainous terrain forming five drainages over the property. Elevation of the property ranges from approximately 5,200-6,400 feet. The property is located in the Deep Creek Watershed.

Regeneration Levels and Current Silvicultural Practices

According to the California Forest Practice Rules, silviculture is defined as the theory and practice of controlling the establishment, composition and growth of forests. The Forest Practice Rules further define silvicultural systems as the planned program of forest stand treatments during the life of a stand. Treatments generally consist of a number of integrated steps conducted in logical sequence leading to maintaining a forest stand in a distinctive form for the level of management intensity desired. Timber production is not an objective of this forest management plan; rather, the primary objective is fuel management and forest restoration so the use of an un-even aged silvicultural system best suits the objectives of the Boy Scouts. The goal of uneven-aged management is to maintain a diverse forest with trees throughout all diameter classes by selectively harvesting to maintain vigor of the remaining trees. Due to the past fire history and possibility of future fires, it may be difficult to attain an uneven-aged forest throughout the entire forested property.

The Boy Scouts have conducted reforestation efforts across the property. These include replanting of several hundred seedlings for regeneration of the conifer component, and mastication in various areas to reduce fuel loading. The Boy Scouts primarily intend to use the property for recreational purposes, but also as a sustainable natural resource, promoting overall water and air quality. The Boy Scouts wish to restore the forest to its original state before the catastrophic fires.

Current Conservation Practices for Forest Lands, Insect and Disease Issues

As a result of the 2003 Old Fire and the 2007 Slide Fire there have been several major site-altering changes to the property:

- Loss of timber and regeneration
- An increase in the level of dominating shrub species inhabiting some areas, affecting the natural regeneration of the forested areas
- Increased runoff and sediment movement
- Increased stress of the remaining trees, causing them to be more susceptible to insects and disease.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have conducted and/or funded numerous fuel reduction management projects on the property since the 2003 wildfire, trying to restore the property to pre-fire conditions. These projects include the removal of dead, dying and diseased trees, mastication of brush species, and the use of herbicide in several areas. Some of these treatments were followed by tree planting of mixed conifer species at a rate of 150-200 trees per acre. The Boy Scouts have also contributed to regeneration of the property, having planted giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) and Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) trees in several areas along the main camp road.