Timberland Resource Consultants

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trc@timberlandresource.com

February 28, 2019

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

Dear Caitlin,

Re: APN 217-271-002
Application #12171

This letter is in response to Department Policy Statement No. 16-002, which states, "*If a workable alternative cultivation site exists on a parcel and its relocation will bring the cultivation into compliance with performance standards of the CMMLUO, this approach could meet the objectives of the CMMLUO provided it is the environmentally superior option.*"

As a Third-Party representative to the Water Board, Timberland Resource Consultants recommends relocating Cultivation Site 1 into the footprint of Cultivation Site 2 for the following reasons detailed below;

Cannabis cultivation located within the Class II watercourse buffer zone at Cultivation Site 1 does not comply with Water Board Order No. 2015-0023, Standard Condition (I)(A)(3)(a), which states that

> "*While 200 foot buffers are preferred for Tier 2 sites, at minimum, cultivation areas and associated facilities shall not be located or occur within 100 feet of any Class I or II watercourse or within 50 feet of any Class III watercourse or wetlands.*"

Cultivation Site 1 is approximately 75 feet from the Class II watercourse and the buffer zone is not adequate per Water Board Order No. 2015-0023, Standard Condition (I)(A)(3)(c), which states:

> *Buffers shall be of sufficient width to filter wastes from runoff discharging from production lands and associated facilities to all wetlands, streams, drainage ditches, or other conveyances.*

The proposed relocation area at Cultivation Site 2 is located on a flat ridge and is approximately 230 feet from surface waters, beyond the preferred distance of 200 feet. The relocation area is also more environmentally desirable due to its slope steepness, which is essentially flat. The pre-existing site was steeper, which increases the likelihood for erosion. Water Board Order No. 2015-0023 acknowledges most of the potential water quality impacts from cannabis cultivation activities are associated with erosion and sediment delivery, among other factors. The Order requires that *"management practices must*

address erosion control". The movement of the pre-existing site to the flatter site is in response to language contained in the Order, which clearly requires minimization of controllable erosion.

Beginning July 2019, the Cultivator will no longer be covered under Water Board Order No. 2015-0023 and will be subject to State-wide Order WQ 2017-0023-DWQ. The Cannabis Policy provides criteria to evaluate the threat to water quality based on site conditions. The threat is risk-based based upon:

a. Disturbed area
b. Slope of disturbed area
c. Proximity to a surface water body

Cultivation Site 1 is located in a riparian buffer and is therefore characterized as a "High Risk" to water quality. Movement of Cultivation Site 1 to Cultivation Site 2 will allow the Cultivator to obtain "Tier 1 Status" (Dischargers cultivate cannabis commercially outdoors and have a disturbed area equal to or greater than 2,000 square feet and less than 1 acre\43,560 square feet) with a "Low Risk" designation with regards to State-wide Order WQ 2017-0023-DWQ. Sites that pose a higher threat to water quality (e.g., disturb a larger area, located on a steeper slope, or located close to a surface water body) require a greater level of regulatory oversight, which translates to higher costs to achieve water quality protection. Minimizing risk by moving the site not only results in environmental superiority, but also saves time, money and resources from preparing additional technical reports.

Restoration: The pre-existing site has been abandoned for several years and is completely revegetated as shown in the attached photographs. However, cultivation related waste and materials still remain which require removal such as: perimeter fencing, plastic nursery pots, trellis netting, lightweight polyethylene tarps, poly-pipe waterlines, and other miscellaneous trash. Per the Conversion Evaluation (dated December 23, 2018), the RPF recommends replanting Cultivation Site 1 per the attached Restocking Plan. Please note that this is an RPF recommendation not a Forest Practice Rule requirement since a conversion of timberland has not technically occurred.

Sincerely,

Chris Carroll, RPF #2628
Timberland Resource Consultants

Pictures

Picture 1: Cultivation Site 1. Photo date 12-21-2018.

Pictures

Picture 2: Cultivation Site 2. Note natural regeneration in background. Photo date 12-21-2018.

Pictures

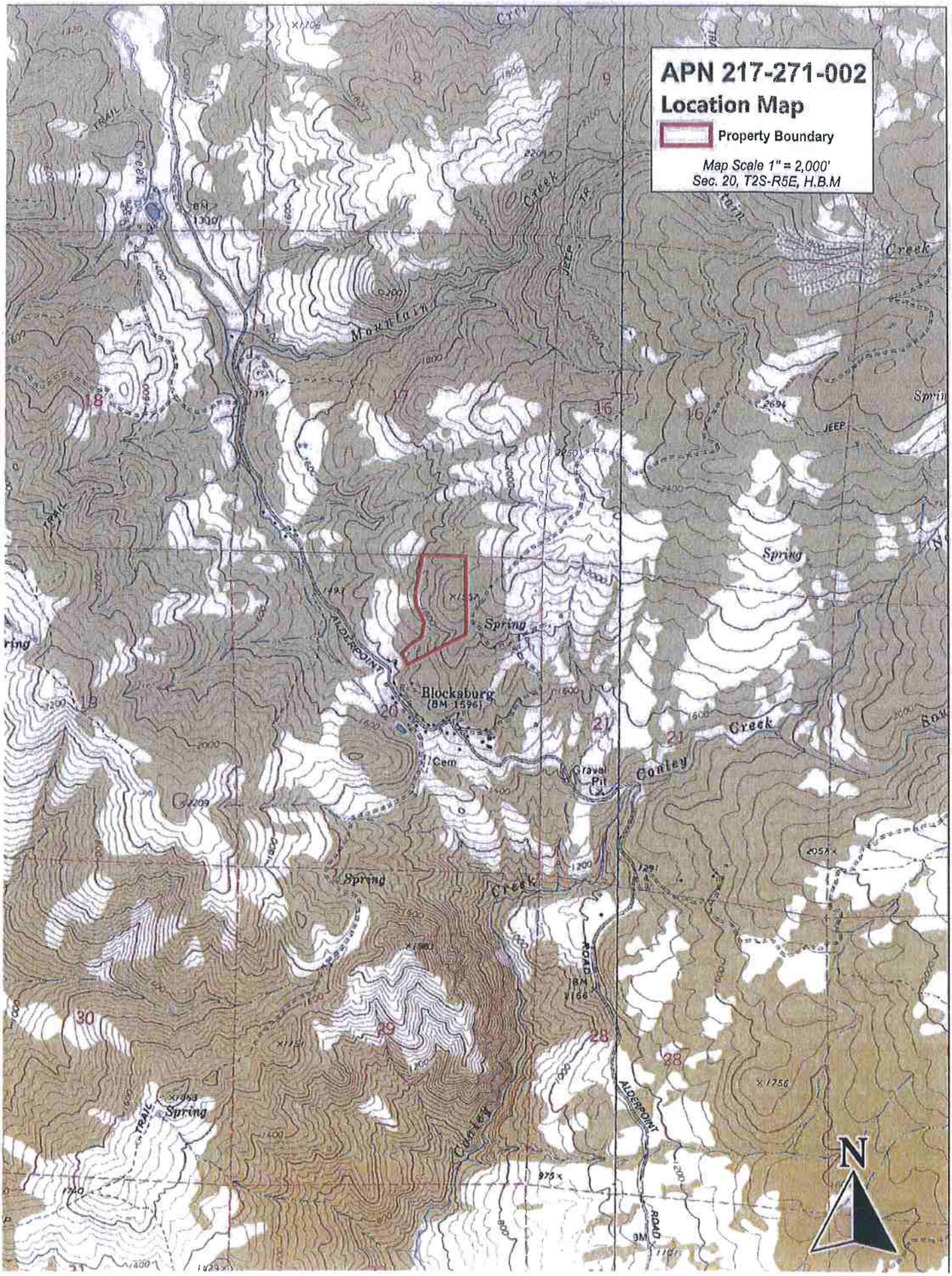
Picture 3: Cultivation Site 2. Photo date 12-21-2018.

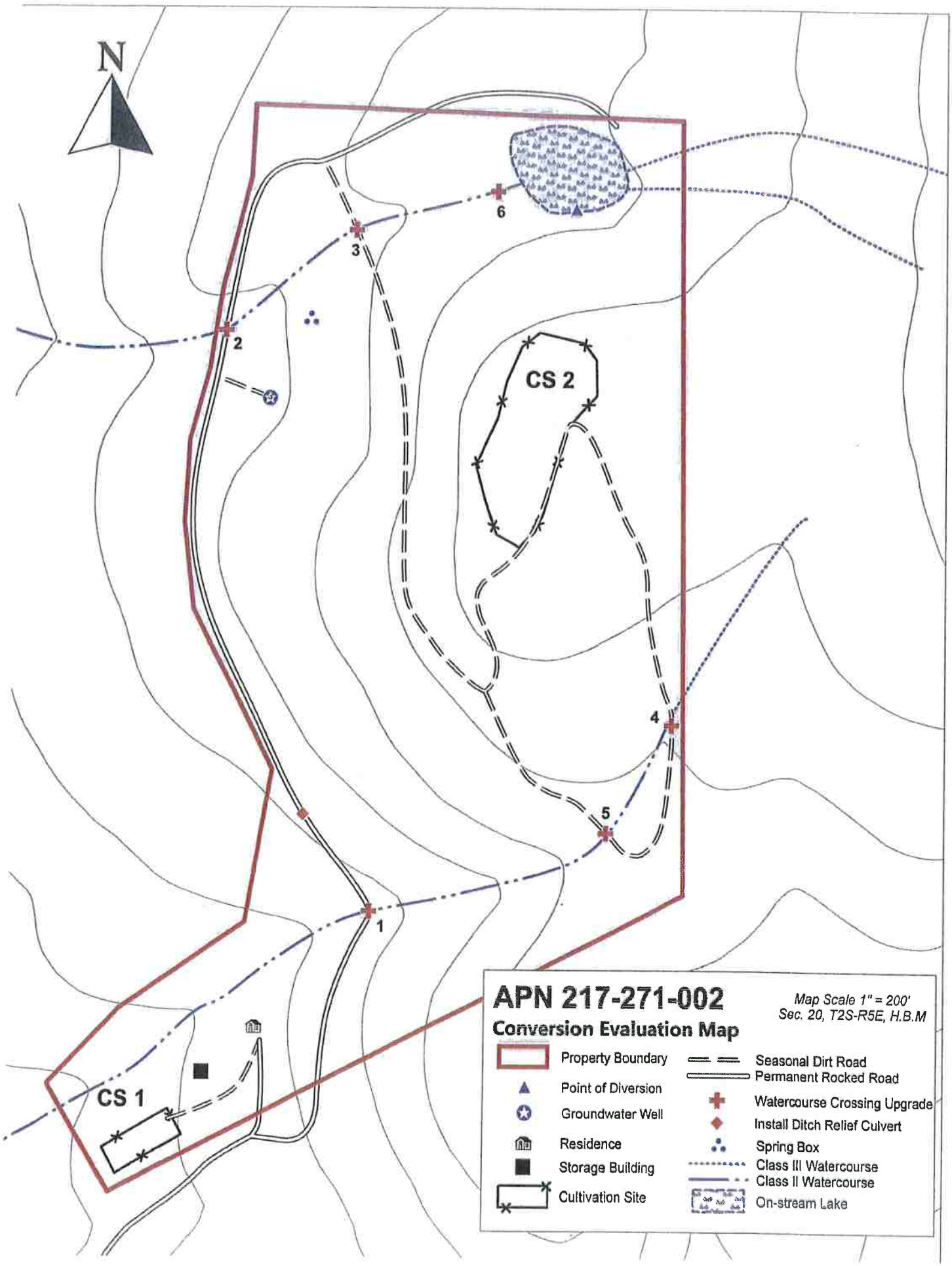
Pictures

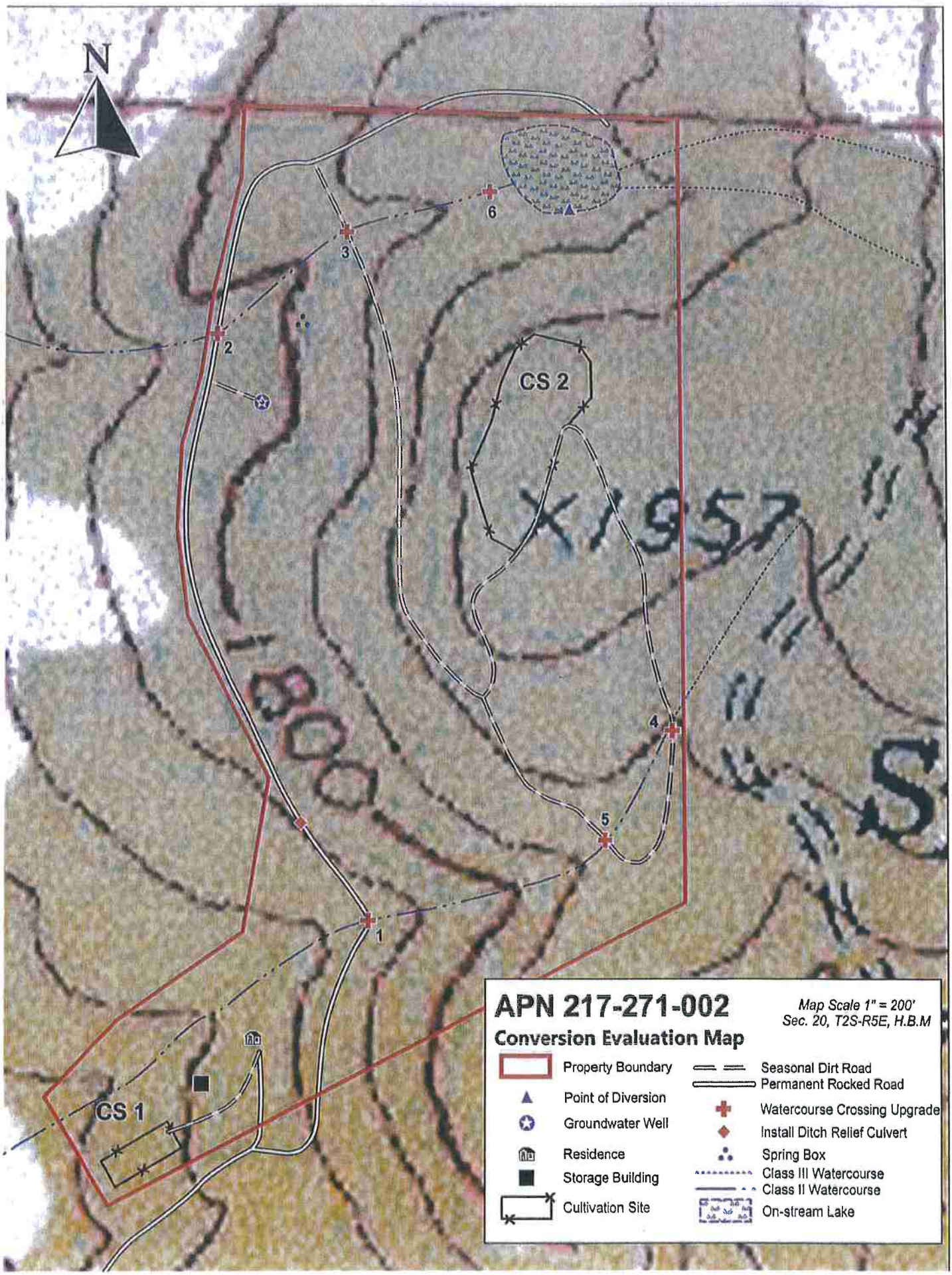
Picture 4: Cultivation Site 2. Photo date 12-21-2018.

Pictures

Picture 5: Cultivation Site 2. Photo date 12-21-2018.


APN 217-271-002
Location Map
Property Boundary
Map Scale 1" = 2,000'
Sec. 20, T2S-R5E, H.B.M
Blockaburg
(BM 1596)
Cem
Gravel Pit
Spring
Creek
Mountain
TRAIL
JEEP
ROAD
ALDERPOINT
Conley
N


N
6
3
2
CS 2
4
5
1
CS 1
APN 217-271-002
Conversion Evaluation Map
Map Scale 1" = 200'
Sec. 20, T2S-R5E, H.B.M
Property Boundary
Point of Diversion
Groundwater Well
Residence
Storage Building
Cultivation Site
Seasonal Dirt Road
Permanent Rocked Road
Watercourse Crossing Upgrade
Install Ditch Relief Culvert
Spring Box
Class III Watercourse
Class II Watercourse
On-stream Lake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Class III Watercourse
Class II Watercourse
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Timberland Resource Consultants

RESTOCKING PLAN

FOR

APN 217-271-002

December 28, 2018

165 South Fortuna Blvd
Fortuna, CA 95540
707-725-1897
707-725-0972 Fax
trc@timberlandresource.com

Regeneration Plan

Site Preparation: Site preparation is a widely used method to facilitate the establishment of a desirable stand of trees. Site preparation activities remove or reduce competing vegetation, reduce or remove unwanted trees and logging debris, and prepare the soil to promote the growth and survival of desired tree species. There are many methods of site preparation that fall under either chemical or mechanical site preparation. The primary objective is to have an area suitable for planting and establishing a new stand of trees. Subsoiling/ripping is a mechanical site prep method for heavy soils on cutover or agricultural lands that have a compacted layer at or below the soil surface that limits root growth and development. Subsoiling/ripping increases aeration and water-holding capacity of compacted soils and breaks up root restricting hardpans and/or traffic pans.

Planting: The RPF recommends planting Douglas-fir and/or redwood seedlings at a spacing no less than 10 feet by 10 feet or 435 trees per acre. If deer browsing is expected (landowner's local knowledge), then the density can be slightly increased to account for mortality and/or damage. The area to be planted/inter-planted is approximately 0.15 acres, which would require a minimum 65 tree seedlings.

Seedlings: Most conifer seedlings that come from the nursery are usually available in two forms; bareroot seedlings and containerized seedlings. Bareroot seedlings are essentially stock whose roots are exposed at the time of planting. Bareroot seedlings are grown in nursery seedbeds and lifted from the soil in which they are grown to be planted in the field. Containerized seedlings are grown in a variety of hard-walled vessels or in peat pots from seed. Given the conditions of the site and the higher survival rate associated with containerized stock, the RPF recommends using containerized seedlings if available. Seedling care and handling is extremely important to ensure post planting survival. For long-term storage (more than 3 days) store at 33-36 degrees Fahrenheit. For short-term storage (several hours to less than 3 days) store below 42 degrees Fahrenheit. At the planting site take care to not let the roots dry out and avoid exposure to the sun or warmer temperatures.

Planting Instructions:

1. Tree planting shall only occur in winter or early spring. Tree planting should not occur if the ground is frozen, or during unusually warm periods.
2. Dig a hole at least one inch deeper and wider than the seedling roots. If planting from a container, dig the hole an inch deeper and wider than the container.
3. Place the seedling into the hole taking care not to bend the taproot, or main vertical root, and cover with soil.
4. Pack the soil down firmly around the seeding to remove any air pockets.
5. See Appendix A-D for illustrations for correct planting techniques.

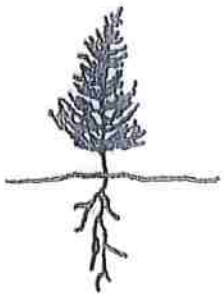
6. The RPF recommends acquiring conifer seedlings from Green Diamond Resource Company's nursery in Korbel. Contact Glen Lehar @ 707-668-4439. Indicate the elevation and geographic area of the planting site and he will recommend the appropriate stock.

Sincerely,

Chris Carroll, RPF# 2628
Timberland Resource Consultants

APPENDIX A

CORRECT METHOD OF SEEDLING PLANTING

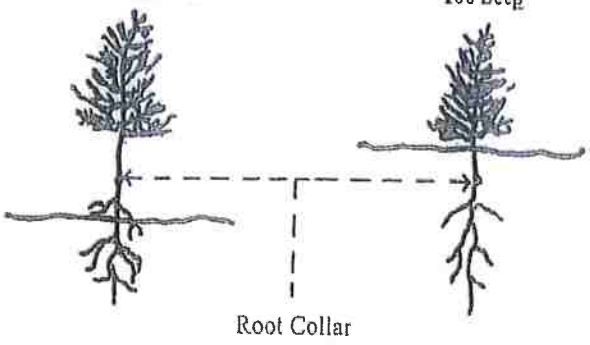


- Soil firmly packed around roots.
- No air pockets.
- Roots straight with no J or L bends.
- Root collar at or slightly below ground level.
- Root not pruned.

ERROR IN PLANTING

Too shallow

Too Deep



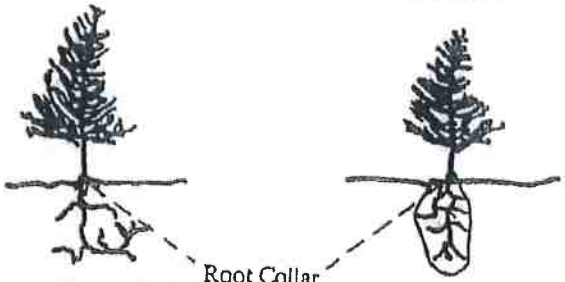
Root Collar

- Hole not deep enough.
- Root collar and upper roots exposed.
- Roots dry out.

- Hole is too deep.
- Root collar buried.

J or L Roots

Air Pockets



Root Collar

Hole is not deep enough — planting in rocky soil.

Roots cannot effectively take up water.

Tree not wind-firm.

- Soil not firmly packed around roots.
- Air pocket forms.
- Roots dry out.

APPENDIX B

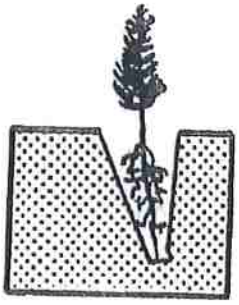
PLANTING WITH A FLAT BAR

1. Insert flat bar straight down.

2. Pull flat bar backward to open hole.

3. Remove flat bar and place seedling at correct depth with root collar at or slightly below ground level.

Correct

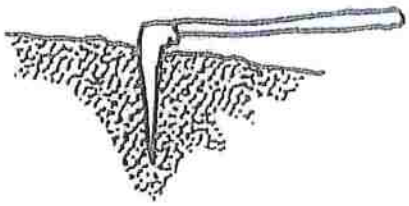


Incorrect

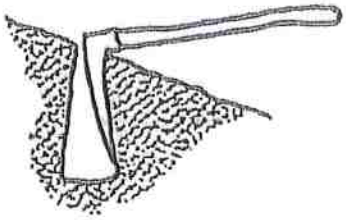
APPENDIX C

PLANTING WITH A HOE

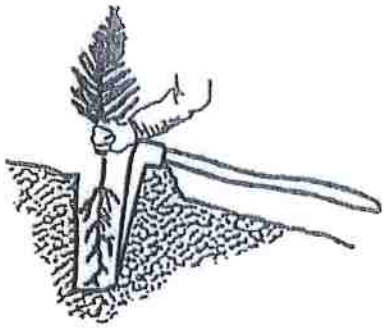
1. Swing hoe to get full penetration.



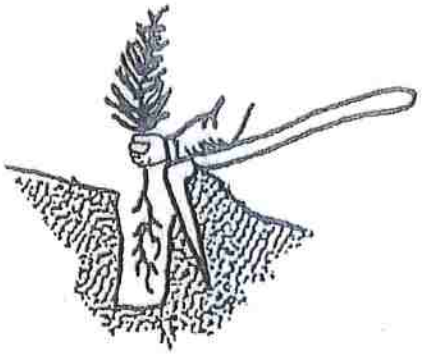
2. Lift handle and pull up to widen hole.



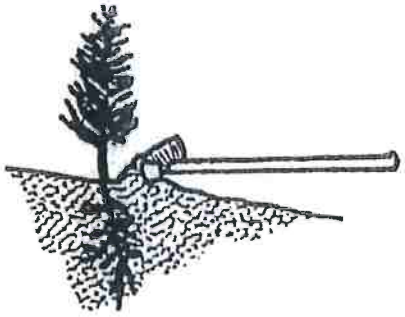
3. Place seedling while using hoe to hold back soil.



4. Use hoe to pack soil at bottom of hole.



5. Use hoe to pack soil at top hole.

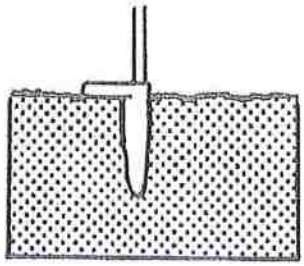


6. Firm soil around seedling with feet.

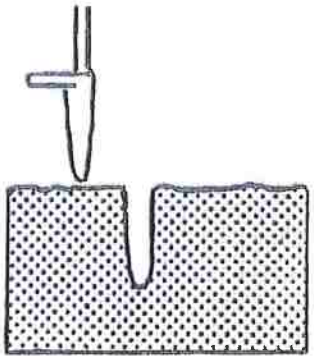
APPENDIX D

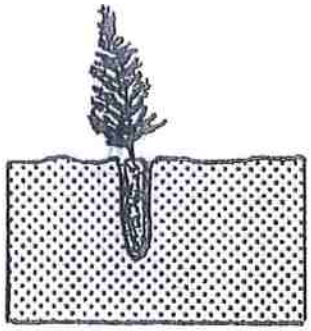
PUNTING WITH A PLUG BAR

1. Insert plug bar straight down until plug bar footrest is level with ground.



2 Remove plug bar and place seedling in hole.





3. Firm soil around seeding with heel of boot.