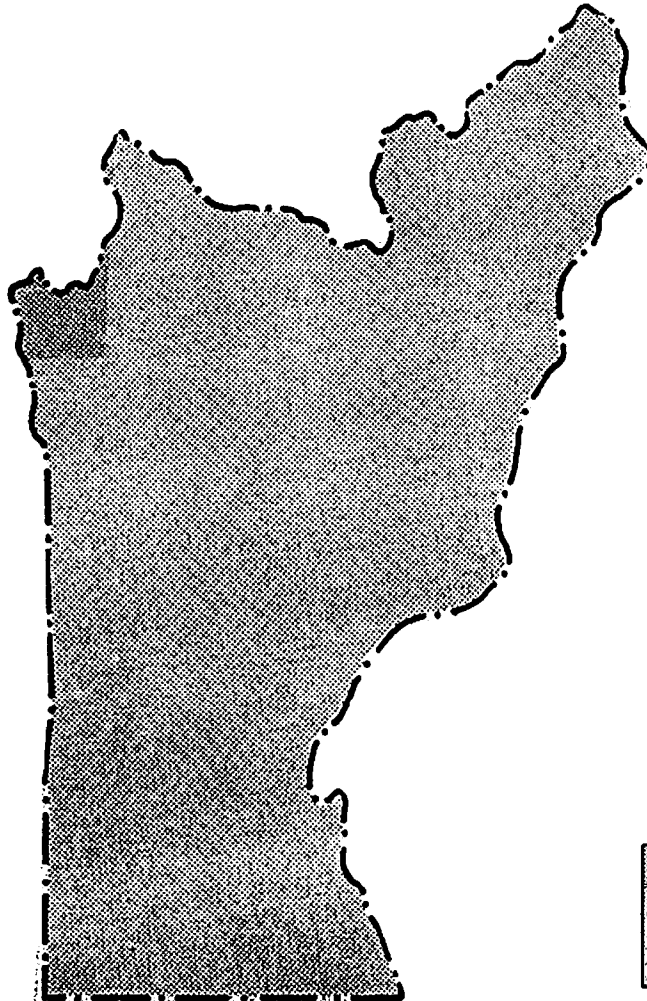


**OPEN SPACE  
CONSERVATION  
ELEMENTS**

**GENERAL  
PLAN**

**TRINITY COUNTY**



OPEN SPACE & CONSERVATION ELEMENTS  
of the  
GENERAL PLAN  
for  
TRINITY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Adopted April, 1973

HAHN, WISE & ASSOCIATES, INC.  
Planning Consultants  
San Carlos, California

ORIGINAL

34

TRINITY COUNTY  
 OPEN SPACE & CONSERVATION ELEMENTS

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## CORRECTIONS TO THE OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

### Page 4, Paragraph 3:

Water supply is a natural resource of the County. Major rivers in the County are the Mad, the Van Duzen, the North Fork of the Eel, and the Trinity and its tributaries: the North Fork, Stuart Fork, East Fork, and South Fork.

## CORRECTIONS TO THE CONSERVATION ELEMENT

### Page 4, Paragraph 1, Sentence 16:

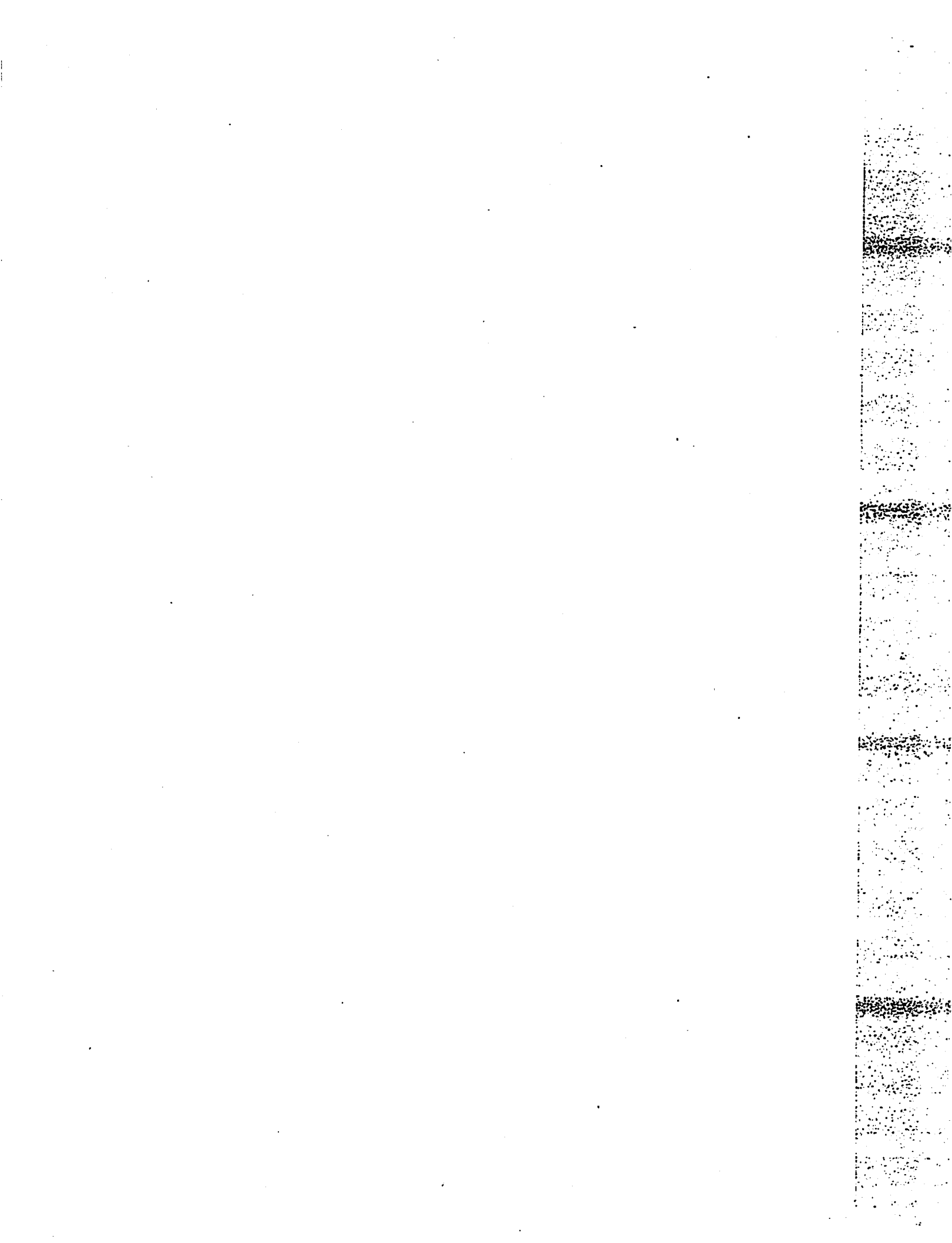
for the tourist-oriented economy. The harvesting of timber on private and public lands must be carefully controlled so that it will not become detrimental to the scenic beauty of the County.

### Page 5, Sentence 1:

Duzen, the North Fork of the Eel, and the Trinity and its tributaries; the North Fork, Stuart Fork, East Fork and South Fork.

### Page 35, Item 4:

To plan for mineral production and performance so as to avoid destruction, pollution, or degradation of surrounding land and of water and air resources.





PART 1

**OPEN SPACE ELEMENT**

## OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

### TRINITY COUNTY

#### I. SUMMARY

Preservation of Open Space has not been a problem in Trinity County. Timber and recreation are the major natural resources of the County and they have been protected by zoning since 1968. Agricultural-Forest Districts, Recreation Districts and Scenic Conservation Districts were included in the Ordinance at the time of its adoption. The application of the aforesaid zones has been consistently applied throughout the County since the adoption of the enabling Ordinance. The existing Trinity County General Plan adopted in 1967 includes recommendations for open areas, intensive recreation areas as well as limited recreation areas.

The County, containing 3,191 square miles, is almost entirely mountainous. Of this area about 500 square miles in the east-central portion of Trinity County, including the unincorporated communities of Weaverville, Lewiston, Douglas City, Hayfork and Trinity Center are privately owned. Another large area in the southwestern corner of the County is under private ownership. The balance of the County, or approximately 1,473,000 acres, about 72% of the total is held by United States Government and the State of California. The most descriptive way to describe Trinity County is: Mountains, trees and water.

Since timber and recreational lands are the major natural resources of the county it is imperative that this resource be protected. The first objective of this Open Space Element is, therefore: to preserve and protect the prime forest lands and the limited agricultural lands of Trinity County.

Recreational land is also of tremendous importance in Trinity County and can be considered as an important amenity. Naturally endowed with mountains, rivers and lakes these have become a great recreational asset that is priceless. A prime objective in the preservation of open space is:

To reserve land for recreational facilities, encourage private recreational development and other open uses in categories characteristic and beneficial to the residents of Trinity County as well as to meet tourists needs today and in the future.

Trinity County has an environment which includes a variety of wildlife which makes for enjoyable living. Preservation of habitat is a key to the preservation and well being of all fish and wildlife species. The objective of this plan is therefore:

To preserve and maintain open space as a means of providing and preserving natural habitat for all species of wildlife.

The existing Trinity County General Plan includes a Recreation element thus recognizing the importance of this asset to Trinity County. Unfortunately many of the human activities along the shoreline of the lakes and streams are detrimental to water environment. The objective of this section is:

Protection and conservation of the shorelines of both lakes and streams.

Although intensive agriculture is not a primary natural resource of the County there are others that are; such as the forest lands with their rich bands of new and old growth Douglas Fir, Sugar Pine, Ponderosa Pine, White Fir and Incepe Cedar. Extensive agriculture such as the raising of cattle is also a natural resource of the County. The harvesting of timber on public and private lands must be carefully controlled so that it will not become detrimental to the scenic beauty of the County. The objective of this section is:

Protect the scenic natural resources of Trinity County and preserve areas which are important as commercial natural resources for future generations.

Scenic lands are a prized asset to Trinity County as manifested by efforts to guard them by zoning either by scenic conservation district, easements or recreation districts. The vast variety of scenic interests are the principle attractions to tourists and are, a commercial asset. The Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission of Trinity County have had a high interest in conservation. A prime objective of the county is:

To conserve, preserve and maintain the scenic lands of Trinity County which include those precious mountains, trees and water.

Water supply is a natural resource of the county. Major rivers in the county are the Mad, the Van Duzen, the north fork of the Eel, and the Trinity and its tributaries; also the North Fork, Stuart Fork, East Fork, and South Fork. Also the county is fortunate in having Trinity, Lewiston and Ruth lakes. Continual care must be taken to protect the banks of both the lakes and the rivers and streams in the county. The objective of the open space element therefore is:

To preserve the quality of the existing water in all forms in Trinity County and adequately plan for the protection of the county's water supply for future generations.

The primitive areas of the County are ranked among the most spectacular found anywhere in America. The Salmon-Trinity Alps area consists of nearly 390,000 acres filled with streams and lakes. The nearly 100 lakes offer excellent fishing. Most lakes are located at elevations at 3,000 to 7,000 feet. Yolla Bolly wilderness area, is located in the southerly part of Trinity County and can be reached over forest trails. This wooded area is the watershed for the south fork of the Trinity, and for the Mad and Eel Rivers. The objective of the Open Space Element is:

To reserve the wilderness area for future generations.

There are many ways to implement this element of the General Plan - many of which are being utilized by Trinity County with excellent results. These methods of implementation are:

Zoning - Agricultural-Forest Districts has resulted in most of the County's privately owned forest lands being protected by this type of zoning.

Recreation District zoning - has been implemented to establish development standards and allow compatible uses in the Trinity unit of the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area. All uses must be compatible with public and private recreation and enjoyment and the conservation of natural resources and scientific, historic, scenic and other values.

Scenic Conservation District - which has been implemented in many areas of the County with the purpose of establishing development standards in order to protect the Trinity Unit of the

Wiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreational Area and to insure that any uses will be compatible with the area and protect the natural resources of the area.

Subdivision regulations allow open space through "optional design" which provides for cluster type development with compensating "common area" or open space.

Private open space development has been encouraged to add to usable open space in Trinity County through the use of land for hunting, riding and fishing preserves, private campgrounds and other uses that add to the recreational opportunities of the county.

Other open space implementation possibilities are:

Public Land Ownership and Control

Road Abandonments

State & Federal Excess Lands

Deed Restrictions

Tax Increment Financing

Preservation of Open Space as Land Reserves  
with Open Space Agreements

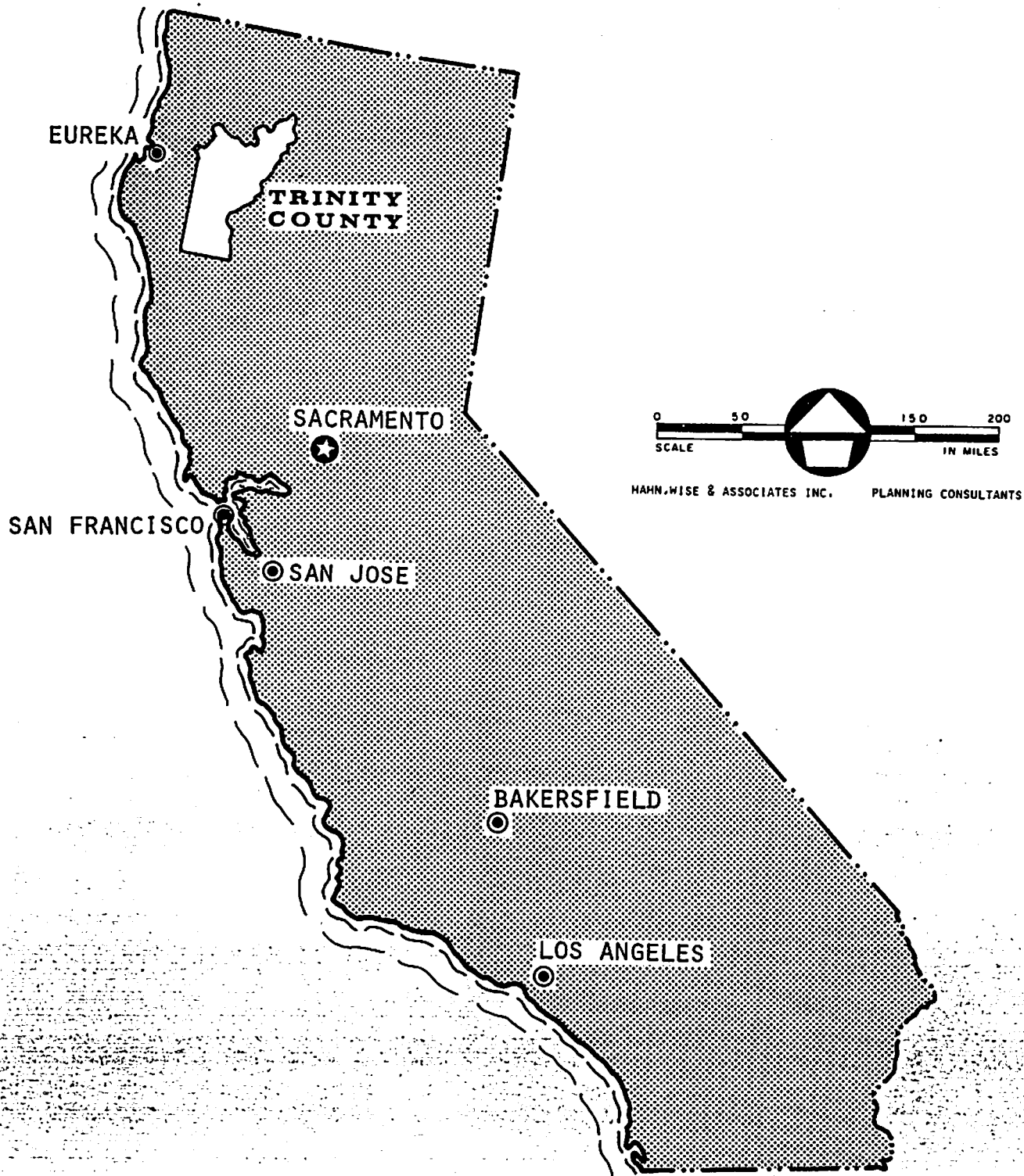
There are also a number of methods of financing open space, such as:

Taxable through user fees and taxes, motel "bed" tax, real estate transfer tax, house tax, and gasoline tax.

Federal - HUD open space grants, land and water conservation fund and wildlife restoration fund.

Private Funds - Private conservation organizations, such as Nature Conservancy and Philanthropic Individuals.

# LOCATION MAP OF TRINITY COUNTY





II. OPEN SPACE, GENERAL

A. State Open Space Requirements

The Government Code of California clearly sets forth the intent of the Legislature in adopting open space requirements. Section 65561 reads as follows:

"The Legislature finds and declares as follows:

(a) That the preservation of open-space land, as defined in this article, is necessary not only for the maintenance of the economy of the state, but also for the assurance of the continued availability of land for the production of food and fiber, for the enjoyment of scenic beauty, for recreation and for the use of natural resources.

(b) That discouraging premature and unnecessary conversion of open space land to urban uses is a matter of public interest and will be of benefit to urban dwellers because it will discourage noncontiguous development patterns which unnecessarily increase the cost of community services to community residents.

(c) That the anticipated increase in the population of the state demands that cities, counties, and the state at the earliest possible date make definite plans for the preservation of valuable open space land and take positive action to carry out such plans by the adoption and strict administration of laws, ordinances, rules and regulations as authorized by this chapter or by other appropriate methods.

(d) That in order to assure that the interests of all its people are met in the orderly growth and development of the state and the preservation and conservation of its resources, it is

necessary to provide for the development by the state, regional agencies, counties and cities, including charter cities, of state-wide coordinated plans for the conservation and preservation of open space land.

(e) That for these reasons this article is necessary for the promotion of the general welfare and for the protection of the public interest in open-space land."

Section 65560 further defines the following terms as they relate to open space:

(a) 'Agricultural land' means land actively used for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity for commercial purposes. Land may be considered to be 'actively used' notwithstanding the fact that in the course of good agricultural practice it is permitted to lie idle for a period up to one year.

(b) 'Local open space plan' is the open-space element of a county or city general plan adopted by the board or council.

(c) 'Natural resource land' is land deemed by the legislative body to possess or encompass natural resources, the use or recovery of which can best be realized by restricting the use of the land as provided by this chapter.

(d) 'Open space land' is any parcel or area of land or water which is essentially unimproved and devoted to an

open space use as herein defined, and which is designated on a local, regional or state open space plan as any of the following:

- (1) Natural resource land, as defined herein
- (2) Agricultural land, as defined herein
- (3) Recreation land, as defined herein
- (4) Scenic land, as defined herein
- (5) Watershed or ground water recharge land, as defined herein
- (6) Wildlife habitat, as defined herein.

(e) 'Open space use' means the use of land for (1) public recreation, (2) enjoyment of scenic beauty, (3) conservation or use of natural resources, or (4) production of food or fiber.

(f) 'Recreation land' is any area of land or water designated on the state, or any regional or local open space plan as open space land and which is actively used for recreation purposes and open to the public for such purposes with or without charge.

(g) 'Scenic land' is land designated on the local open space plan as open space land which possesses outstanding scenic qualities worthy of preservation.

(h) 'Watershed or ground water recharge land' is land designated on the state or any regional or local open space plan as open space land which is important to the state in order to maintain the quantity and quality of water necessary to the people of the state or any part thereof.

(j) 'Wildlife habitat' is any land or water area designated on the state or any regional or local open space plan as open space land which is unusually valuable or necessary to the preservation or enhancement of the wildlife resources of the state."

Section 65563 also requires:

"Every city and county shall, by June 30, 1973<sup>(1)</sup> prepare and adopt a local open space plan for the comprehensive and long range preservation and conservation of open space land within its jurisdiction."

B. Other State Laws Related to Open Space

There are currently several other laws which are directly related to the preservation and protection of open space lands.

They are as follows:

1. Section 65910, Government Code

"Every city or county by July 1, 1973, shall adopt an open space zoning ordinance consistent with a local open space plan adopted pursuant to Section 65563" above.

2. Section 65302 (d), Government Code

Each general plan shall include "a conservation element for the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources including water and its hydraulic forces, forests, soils, rivers and other waters, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals and other natural resources."

(1) as amended

3. Section 11546, Business and Professions Code

"The governing bodies of a city or county may by ordinance require the dedication of land, the payment of fees in lieu thereof, or a combination of both, for park or recreational purposes as a condition to the approval of a final subdivision map ..."

4. Section 11610.5, Business and Professions Code

"No city or county shall approve either the tentative or the final map of any subdivision fronting upon the coastline or shoreline which subdivision does not provide or have available reasonable public access by fee or easement from public highways to land below the ordinary high-water mark on any ocean coastline or bay shoreline within or at a reasonable distance from the subdivision."

5. Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act)

Article XXVIII of the State Constitution now permits farmlands, lands within scenic highway corridors, wildlife habitat areas, timberlands, salt ponds, managed wetland areas, and submerged areas to be assessed on the basis of actual use (capitalized value), rather than on sales of comparable properties which in many instances reflect their potential value for possible urban development. As a condition for qualifying for this tax relief, which is essentially a stabilization of property taxes, the land must be restricted in one of two ways. The owner must enter into a contract, as specified in the Williamson Act, to maintain his land in agricultural use for a specified term in the county, or he must grant an open space easement.

## 6. Open Space - Subvention Act

Section 14112 of the Open Space Subvention Act, title 14, provides for subventions to counties which have open space agreements on private property and an open space plan and ordinance.

The Secretary of the Resources Agency is the final judge on whether non-prime land devoted to open space is of statewide significance. The minimum length of any agreement must be ten years, and must be designated for open space use in the open space plan and be of statewide significance to be eligible for payment. These include areas of outstanding scientific, scenic or recreation value; areas to preserve wildlife and fish habitat; forest areas of importance to provide food or fiber; hazard areas; areas serving as connecting links between major recreation areas, such as utility easements; and areas of historic interest.

### C. The Need for Open Space

Open space means many things to many people but in Trinity County it usually means at least two things: 1) the things the individual liked about the county when he chose it as a place to live and 2) an attraction for the tourist or summer visitor as a getaway place from his urban home.

Open space means:

The expanse of the beautiful lakes of Trinity County and the uncluttered view of the streams, rivers and mountain sides from the state highways traversing the county as well as the county roads.

Mountains and the wilderness to hike in.

Enough parks, beaches, stream banks and wilderness area so that everyone, rich or poor, can enjoy recreation outdoors, in an environment suited to each individual person or family.

Mountains, trees and water as well as grazing lands separating one community from another. Driving immediately from the community to the countryside and into areas where the land offers a pleasing variety of steep slopes blanketed with rich forests and creased with swift, cold streams. Preserving open space means maintaining the kind of Trinity County we all want in 1990 and 2000.

An open space element then is intended to preserve those very mountains, trees and water which are presently such a tremendous natural resource to Trinity County.

D. Obstacles to Open Space

Rapid urban growth is not a problem in Trinity County. However, the County will have to be careful that governmental policies do not place open lands in jeopardy. Listed below are some possible obstacles to open space facing Trinity County.

1. Urban Sprawl

The population of Trinity County was 7,615 in 1970, a decrease in population from the figures given in the 1960 census due to the decline of the lumbering mills in the County and completion of Trinity Dam. The projected population to 9,500 in 1980 and 11,500 in 1990 are not numerically significant.

Stated in general terms, it can be expected that all new residential development will occur around and in close proximity to existing communities. It is not expected that there will be any great pressure to open up new communities in presently undeveloped areas of the County. However, more and more impact is expected from tourism and possible second home development

in the county which could have considerable effect on the present open space and undeveloped areas of the county. The growth of tourism and possible second home development certainly cannot be stopped, but specific open space provisions can give direction to this kind of development and also allow for the aesthetic amenities which are such a great resource in Trinity County.

## 2. The Motor Vehicle

The motor vehicle, whether passenger automobile, motorized camper, automobile and trailer, truck and camper or the Honda have given Californians and Americans great mobility, has also caused most of the county's problems in this area. The motor vehicle in its various categories or classifications create the need for a transportation network that requires great amounts of land. It is estimated that in the San Francisco Bay Area 25 to 40% of the total land area is paved. The motor vehicle is the primary cause of air pollution and generates large scale noise pollution when measured near highways. Unsightly scars are left after construction of new roadways in both barren and virgin countrysides. This of course would be particularly true in the mountainous areas of Trinity County. High traffic volumes in tourist oriented areas virtually eliminate many of the pleasures which originally made the scenic wonderland so attractive and so popular. The motor vehicle can be controlled, not through the numbers produced but through the sophistication of the highway networks they require. Motor vehicle access should be based on the intensity of use desired; thereby controlling the auto by the scale and condition of the roadway. To accomplish this requires close coordination of all elements of the General Plan and more particularly the open space, conservation and transportation elements.



### 3. Land for Recreation

Although this is basically a problem for the communities and the county, a comprehensive park system should be maintained to supplement the Federal and State Park System in Trinity County. Urban open space or parks can provide a feeling of visual relief as well as an area for vigorous play and providing for community identity. Size and scale of these parks is not the definitive and no effort should be made to standardize these parks. The rule should be focused on accessibility to each of the communities and usage.

### 4. Jurisdictional Confusion

Many open space conflicts occur between jurisdictions and governmental agencies. The responsibility for certain lands often create confusion between county, state and federal governments. Different departments within the same agency often operate under different policy on the same issue. California Planning and Conservation Law is continually being updated and expanded, making many documents in planning literature ineffective or incomplete. New issues are being added to planning commission responsibility and this necessitates careful programming of work to assure that planning remain effective and comprehensive.

E. Coordination with other Counties

It is important, for realistic implementation of the open space element that Trinity County coordinate its planning decisions with bordering counties so as to eliminate any conflicting proposals on land uses close to the county line.

Trinity County is bordered by Siskiyou County on the north, Shasta and Tehama County on the east, Mendocino County on the south and Humboldt County on the west.

Perhaps fortunately all portions of the whole county is bordered by areas which are very similar in terrain, trees and streams as well as other ground cover.

There will be some differences in interpretation of what is to be included in an open space element. The overlapping type of land uses, the proposals made in surrounding counties' open space elements are consistent with the projections set forth in the Trinity County open space element. Minor differences will occur but the fundamental theme of all contiguous plans will probably remain consistent.

III. OPEN SPACE CONSIDERATIONS - TRINITY COUNTY

The following open space considerations were researched and analyzed as a basic framework upon which the open space plan is designed. Items of major significance are included in this section of the open space element for the County.

A. Location

Trinity County is located in Northwestern California, lying between Humboldt, Mendocino, Shasta, Siskiyou and Tehama Counties. Trinity County contains 2,042,240 acres of which 1,002,000 acres are publicly owned forest land with an additional 473,000 acres held by the United States Government and the State of California.

B. Climate

The weather is typical of mountain areas, with warm summer days and cool nights; fairly long winters with heavy snow precipitation at the higher elevations. Prevailing winds are westerly.

The following chart shows average temperatures and inches of precipitation.

Trinity County - Climate Summary

<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Precipitation in Inches</u>
January	27.6	36.9	47.2	6.59
February	29.1	41.9	54.2	5.61
March	31.4	46.0	60.6	3.99
April	34.8	51.3	68.0	2.79
May	39.2	57.9	76.6	1.50
June	44.1	64.4	84.7	0.82
July	48.1	71.2	94.2	0.13
August	45.6	69.7	93.6	0.12
September	40.4	63.2	85.9	0.59
October	34.9	54.3	73.5	2.26
November	31.2	44.5	57.6	4.89
December	29.3	38.0	47.1	6.49
Yearly Average	36.2	53.3	70.3	35.78

C. Geologic Regions

The county is almost entirely mountainous. Much of the steep and rugged terrain is nearly inaccessible. The most descriptive way to describe Trinity County is: mountains, trees and water. There is pleasing variety of the steep slopes with cold streams draining to the west. The northern county is dominated by a border of lofty peaks and steep valleys. The central county is marked by the Trinity River and the Hayfork-Hyampom Valleys which

extend eastward. Mountains to the south are relieved by the narrow South Fork, Mad and Van Duzen River Canyons and the Ruth Reservoir. The somewhat wider Eel River Valleys occupy the southwest corner of the county.

The primitive areas are ranked among the most spectacular found anywhere in America. The Salmon-Trinity Alps area consists of nearly 390,000 acres, filled with lakes and streams. There are nearly 100 lakes located at elevations of 3,000 to 7,000 feet.

Yolla Bolly primitive area, located in the southerly part of Trinity County, can be reached over forests trails. This wooded area is the watershed for the Southfork of the Trinity, and for the Mad and Eel Rivers, and others.

#### D. Topography

There is a sharp difference in topography between the northeastern portion of the county and most of the remainder of the county. The elevations in the northeastern county in many cases are more than 7,000 feet and the majority of the area ranges from 5,000 to 7,000 feet. Most of the remainder of the county ranges from 3,000 feet to 5,000 feet in elevation with the exception of the southeastern portion which has an elevation of from 5,000 to 7,000 feet. The only substantial areas which are less than 3,000 are the areas between Lewiston, Weaverville, Hayfork and Hyampom Valleys. Another area below 3,000 feet is located in the southwest corner of the county along the Eel River and the North Fork of the Eel River. An elevation analysis of the entire county is shown following this section.

The Valleys: The primary valley in Trinity County is the Hayfork-Hyampom Valley which is one of the few areas in the County where most of the cultivated land in the County is located.

Most of the rest of Trinity County hillsides are covered with Sugar Pine, Ponderosa Pine, Douglas Fir, White Fir and Incense Cedar trees. Chaparral and Sage Brush are found in the higher valleys and plateaus.

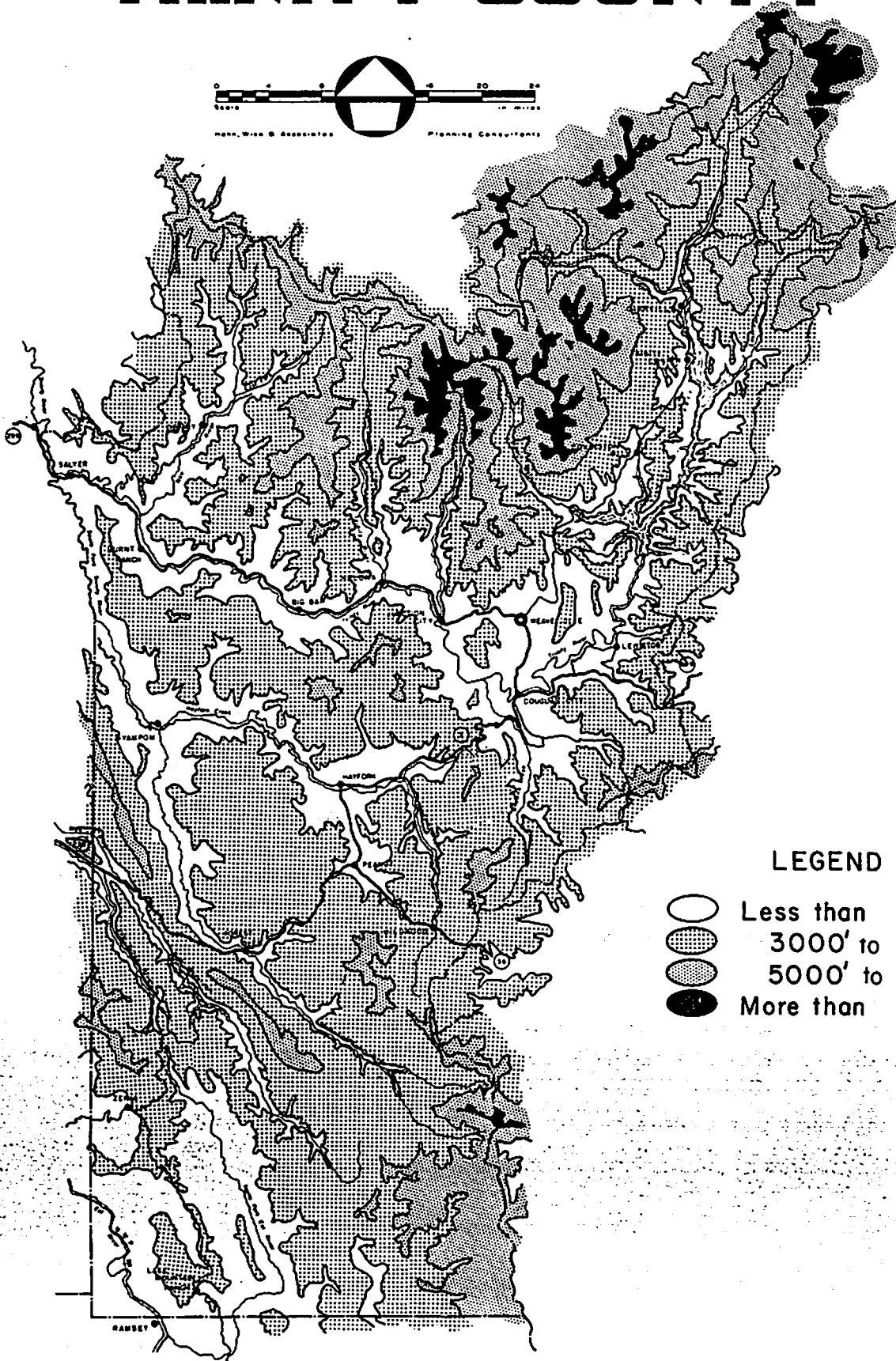
Agriculture is adaptable only to the valleys and lesser slopes of from 0 to 10%. Slopes of 10 to 30% are utilized to some extent for grazing lands but primarily for forest products. Urban development is most easily adaptable to slopes of less than 10%. This does not produce any conflict in Trinity County because there is no prime agriculture land.

The following map indicates, in graphic form, the elevation analysis of Trinity County.





#### E. Soil Types

Much of the total land area within Trinity County is mountainous with slopes ranging from 10% to nearly vertical. The great majority of the land in Trinity County is Class 7 which is only fairly well suited for grazing and forestry. The hazards of the type of area are the steep terrain and the very shallow soil which is subject to severe erosion in many areas. Class 6 land which is well suited for grazing or forestry occupies some areas of the County. There are only limited areas of the County however in Class 3 type

# ELEVATION ANALYSIS TRINITY COUNTY



## LEGEND

-  Less than 3000'
-  3000' to 5000'
-  5000' to 7000'
-  More than 7000'

which is moderately good cultivable land with moderate slopes. These are small areas in the Weaverville area and the Hayfork and Hyampom Valley.

Basically there are only three soil types in Trinity County. These are named for the major soil types that occur within each unit. Soil types is a group of soils which has the same kind of profile or sequence of layers.

These are separated by indicating differences such as slope, surface texture or depth of soil.

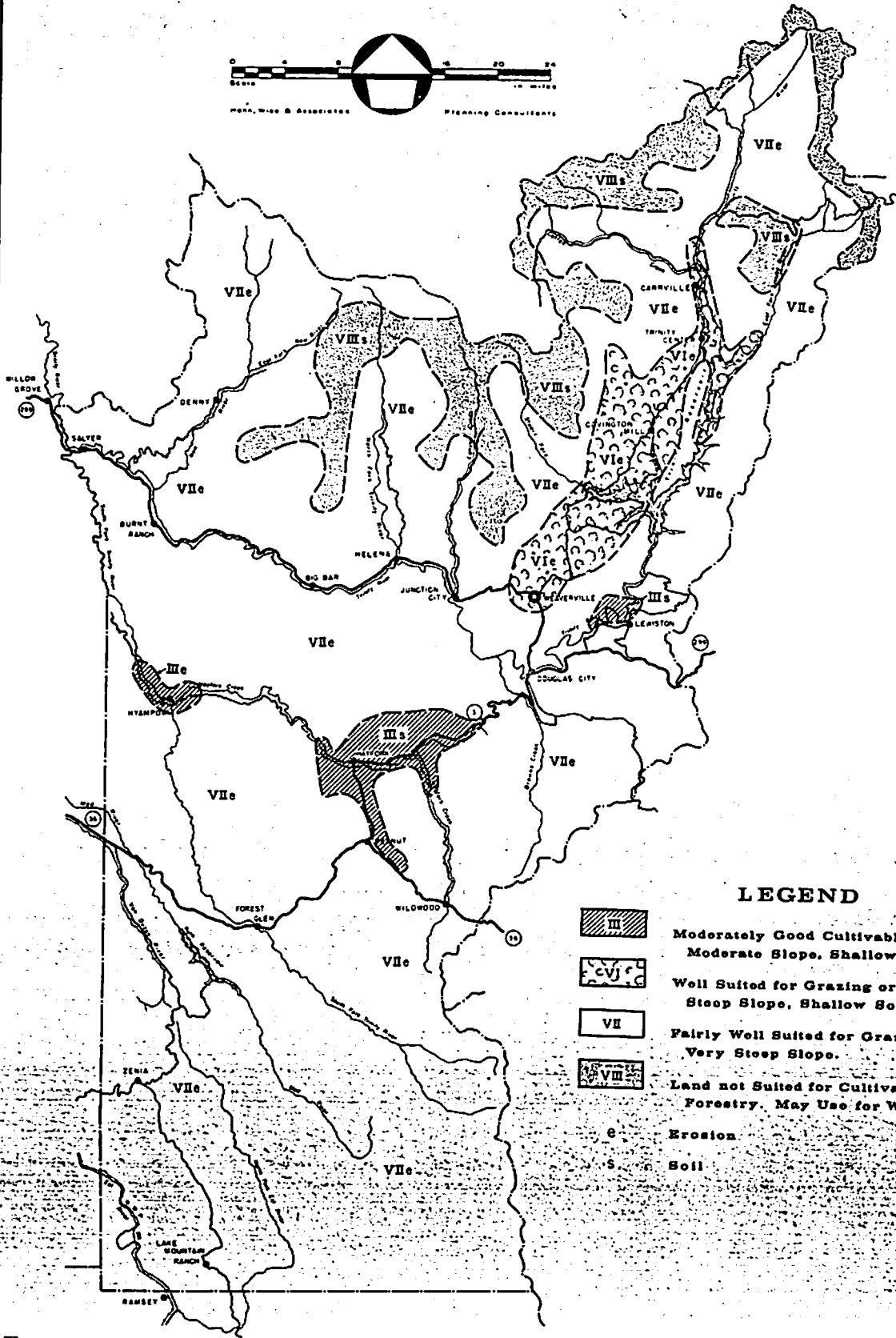
The mapping units for Trinity County are organized into three major groups based on soil characteristics and quality, including slope. The three major groups and the mapping units within each group are indicated on the following map.

F. Natural Vegetation and Natural Resources







As stated before most of Trinity County mountain sides are covered with Sugar Pine, Ponderosa Pine, Douglas Fir, White Fir and Incense Cedar trees. There are large stands of Douglas Fir in the west county, particularly at lower elevations. There is a large woodland and grass area north of Junction City. Chaparral and Sage Brush are found in the higher valleys and plateaus. The map indicating vegetation types is shown on the second page following. The primary natural resources within the County are timber, and minerals including gold, quick silver and substantial amounts of chromite, copper and manganese along with some platinum and silver.



# GENERAL SOIL TYPE TRINITY COUNTY



## LEGEND

-  III  
Moderately Good Cultivable Land.  
Moderate Slope. Shallow Soil.
-  cv  
Well Suited for Grazing or Forestry.  
Steep Slope, Shallow Soil.
-  VII  
Fairly Well Suited for Grazing or Forestry.  
Very Steep Slope.
-  VIII  
Land not Suited for Cultivation, Grazing or  
Forestry. May Use for Wildlife, Recreation.
-  E  
Erosion
-  S  
Soil

In the last few years the chief mineral products have been sand and gravel.

Trinity County is the leading County, in area of commercial forest land, and in standing timber volume; 96% of the land area is forest land. Of this, 69%, or 1,357,000 acres is commercial forest land. The forests of the area are primarily mixed stands of Ponderosa, Pine, Douglas Fir, and White Fir.

The non-commercial forest lands is located primarily in the north-central and southern edges of the County. About 18% of the forest land is not suitable for growing commercial timber; approximately 13% is withdrawn to provide recreation areas and to protect watersheds. The ownership of the forest lands are as follows: 969,000 acres Federal ownership, 355,000 acres private ownership and 33,000 acres State and County ownership.

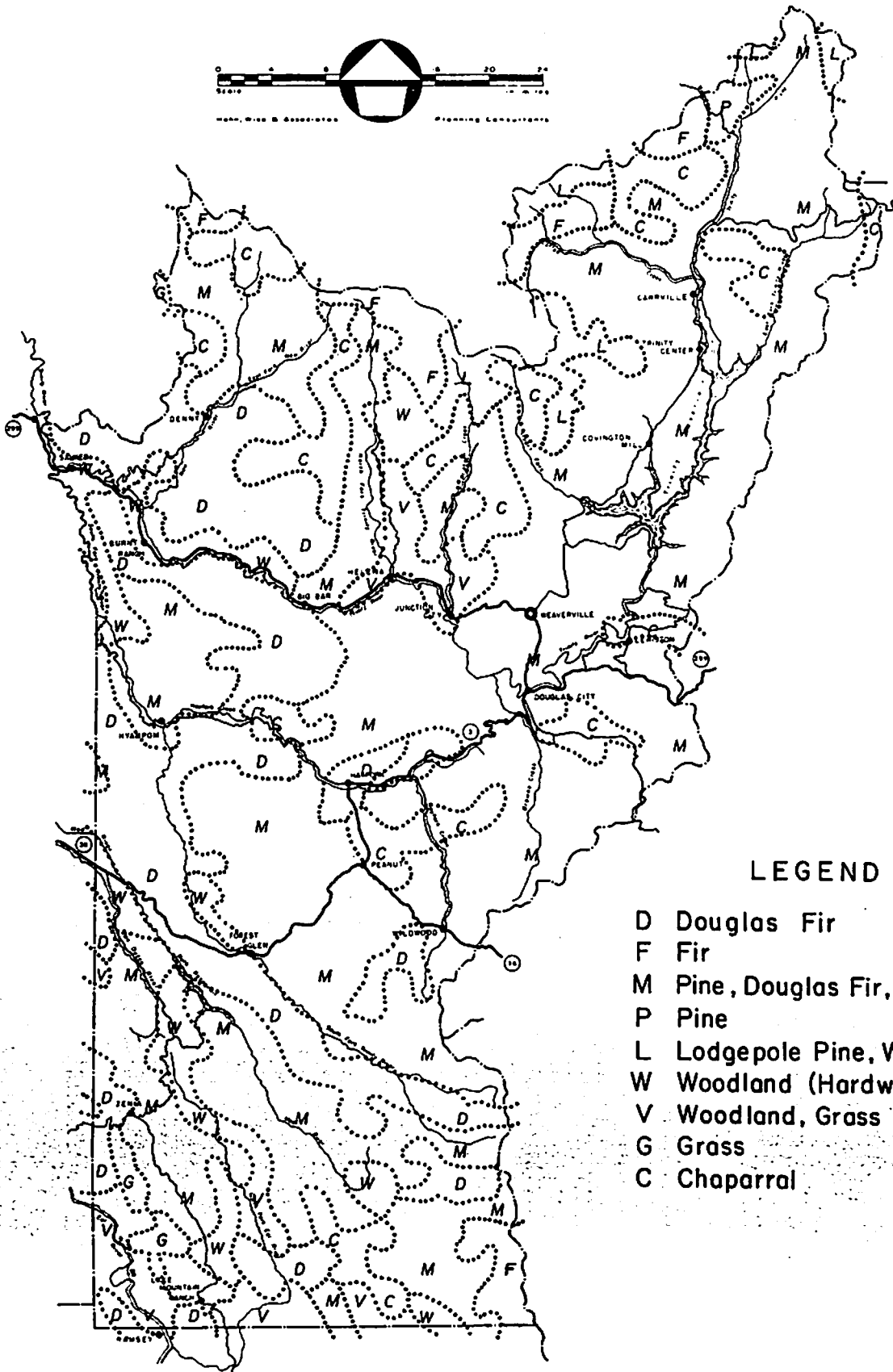
The acreage of the various types of forest lands are as follows: Pine-Douglas Fir and Fir 1,026,000 acres; Douglas Fir 300,000 acres; Pine 18,000 acres; Fir 13,000 acres.

The streams and lakes in Trinity County are the source of excellent fishing for the sport fisherman. As a recreational resource the streams and lakes and mountain recreation areas are of inestimable value to the County and to the population of the urban areas surrounding the County. All of the tourist and visitor activities emphasize that Trinity County has a great natural resource in their most natural state.

Following are maps indicating the timber crop lands and the mineral resources of the County.

# VEGETATION TYPES

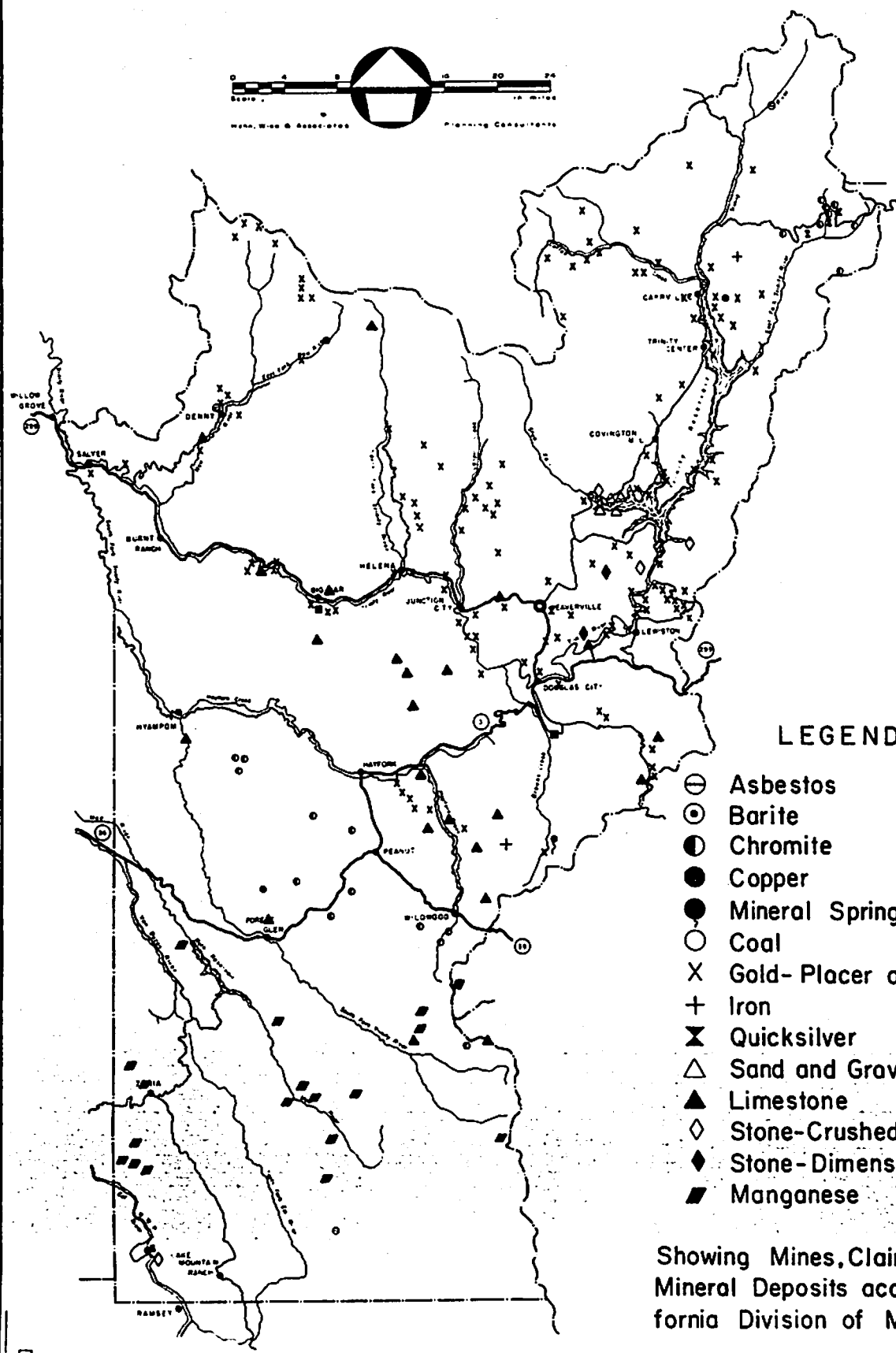
## TRINITY COUNTY



### LEGEND

- D Douglas Fir
- F Fir
- M Pine, Douglas Fir, Fir
- P Pine
- L Lodgepole Pine, Whitebark Pine
- W Woodland (Hardwood)
- V Woodland, Grass
- G Grass
- C Chaparral

# MINERAL PROPERTIES TRINITY COUNTY



## LEGEND

- ⊖ Asbestos
- ⊙ Barite
- Chromite
- Copper
- Mineral Springs
- Coal
- X Gold-Placer and Lode
- + Iron
- X Quicksilver
- △ Sand and Gravel
- ▲ Limestone
- ◇ Stone-Crushed and Broken
- ◆ Stone-Dimension
- Manganese

Showing Mines, Claims and Known Mineral Deposits according to California Division of Mines, 1965

G. Hydrology

This section is concerned with three major aspects of hydrology. The three considerations have a primary effect on land use. Ground water resources, water quality, and flood control are the most important land use determinents within the County.

The Trinity River roughly bisects the County from west to east flowing into the Trinity Reservoir and then east to west into the Klamath River. Other important rivers in the County are the Eel River and the Van Duzen and the Mad River in the southwest corner of the County. The Mad River in the same area feeds the Ruth Lake Reservoir. Other important rivers are the South Fork of the Trinity running north and south on the westerly edge of the County. There are numerous other smaller streams including the Stuart Fork, Coffee Creek, Weaver and many others.

1. Water Supply

Water supply is more than adequate to take care of both agriculture and domestic requirements for the foreseeable future. The most important requirement is to reserve adequate water for the future generations in the County and to not allow excessive amounts to be exported.



## 2. Water Quality

Overall, the total solubles in the ground water are well within the amount which represent permissible standards and much of the developable area of the county has ground-water of high quality. There will be a tendency toward an increase in total solubles in the prime recreation areas of the county; however, under adequate supervision the water quality should remain good throughout the county.

Practically the entire county is a source of ground water recharge, including the natural and man made lakes existing in the county at the present time.

### H. Hazard Areas

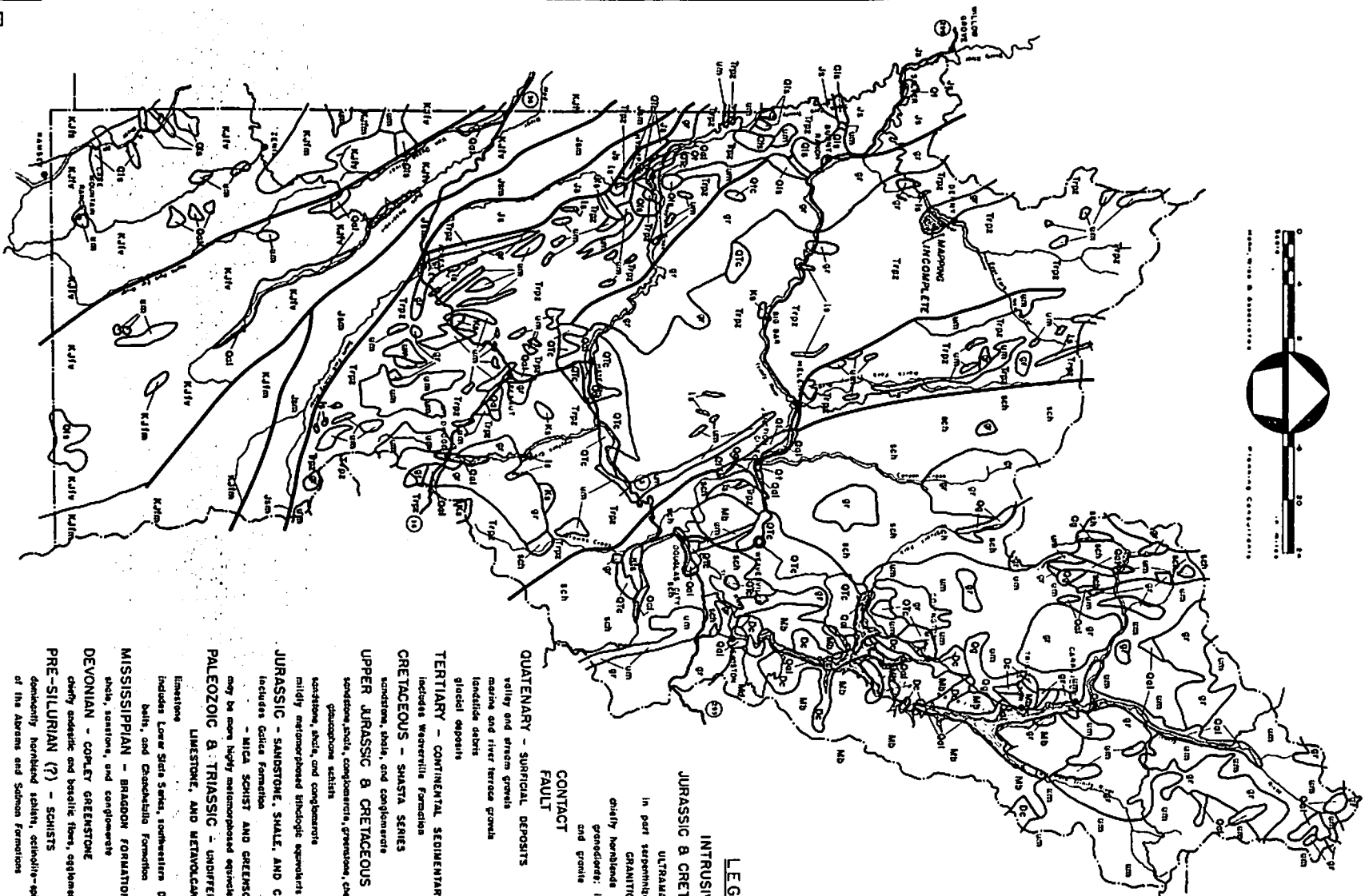
Most of the known faults and contacts occur in the southwestern portion of the county. However, known faults also occur along Hayfork Creek, the Trinity River, the North Fork and in the Trinity Alps area. None of the known faults have a history of action in the county.

There are some landslide prone lands in the southwest corner of the county - Franciscan areas are prone to landslides.

The map following shows the generalized geology of the county.

# GENERALIZED GEOLOGY

# TRINITY COUNTY



### LEGEND

**INTRUSIVE ROCKS**  
**JURASSIC & CRETACEOUS -**

**ULTRAMAFIC ROCKS**  
 In part serpentinized  
**GRANITIC ROCKS**  
 chiefly metabasite diorite, quartz diorite, and gneissoids; including minor gabbro, and granite  
 gr

**CONTACT FAULT**



**QUATERNARY - SURFICIAL DEPOSITS**  
 valley and stream gravels  
 moraine and river terrace gravels  
 landslide debris  
 glacial deposits  
 Qel  
 Qe  
 Qc  
 Qd  
 Qe  
 Qf  
 Qg  
 Qh

**TERTIARY - CONTINENTAL SEDIMENTARY ROCKS**  
 includes Weaverville Formation  
 OTe

**CRETACEOUS - SHASTA SERIES**  
 sandstone, shale, and conglomerate  
 Ks

**UPPER JURASSIC & CRETACEOUS - FRANKSCANY FORMATION**  
 sandstone, shale, conglomerate, greenstone, chert, and other limestone and gneissoid schists  
 KJf  
 KJk  
 KJl  
 KJm  
 KJn

**JURASSIC - SANDSTONE, SHALE, AND CONGLOMERATE**  
 includes Galice Formation  
 Js

**PALEOZOIC & TRIASSIC - UNDIFFERENTIATED PMLUTE, CHERT, LIMESTONE, AND METAVOLCANIC ROCKS**  
 may be some highly metamorphosed specimens of Js  
 Jm  
 Jn

**MISSISSIPPIAN - BRADDOCK FORMATION**  
 limestone  
 includes Lower Shasta Series, southwestern Devonian and Carboniferous beds, and Chickadee Formation  
 Tp

**DEVONIAN - COMPLEY GREENSTONE**  
 chiefly andesitic and basaltic flows, agglomerates, and tuffs  
 Mb

**PRE-SILURIAN (?) - SCHISTS**  
 dominantly hornblende schists, actinolite-epidote schist, and mica schist; of the Abrams and Salmon Formations  
 Kf  
 Kl  
 Km  
 Kn

FROM: California Division of Mines and Geology. Map Dated 1960



## I. Fish, Wildlife and Natural Habitat

Habitat is the key to abundance and well being of all fish and wildlife species. Without proper habitat they could not exist naturally. Retention of habitat, therefore, is basic when planning for preservation of fish and wildlife.

Development has a pronounced effect on fish and wildlife. The effects range from entirely detrimental to actual enhancement. Whatever development occurs any alteration to the present environment should be a prime consideration, particularly the effects on fish and wildlife.

Riparian habitat, viable cold water stream habitat, supporting fish life, and wetland habitat have actually increased in the past and are in good supply. Any alterations of this supply except for enhancement for fish and wildlife should be avoided.

An environment which includes a variety of wildlife is an enjoyable place for people to live. Whether it be in the presence of wildlife or the more active source of enjoyment, such as hunting and fishing.

Fish and wildlife are renewable resources. Present day hunting and fishing are legitimate and sound uses of the resources. There are 1,082.5 miles of cold water streams in the county; 17,290 acres of combination reservoirs; 1,436 acres of cold water reservoirs and 594 acres of cold water lakes which are the habitat for many varieties of fish life.

<u>Habitat types</u>	<u>1963 Acreage</u>	<u>Percent of County Total</u>
Pine-Fir-Chaparral	1,336,350	65.4
Coastal Forest	309,504	15.2
Hardwood	120,765	5.9
Chaparral	97,148	4.8
Woodland-Grass	75,663	3.7
Lodgepole Pine	52,933	2.6
Lakes, Bays, Reservoirs	18,425	0.9
Grassland	12,143	0.6
Urban-Industrial	9,000	0.4
Agriculture	7,709	0.4
Riparian	2,600	0.1

### Wildlife Status

#### Big Game

Deer - The entire County is occupied by black-tailed deer. Heaviest densities occur in the woodland-grass and grassland types. Most other habitat types contain lesser amounts. Lowest densities are in the upper timber lands where less than 10 per square mile are found.

In 1971, hunter take of bucks was 942, seventh of the State's Counties.

Bear - Bear are common throughout in densities of less than 10 per square mile. The 1963 hunter take was 96. The County is usually in the first five in bear kill.

Upland Game - A variety of upland game is found. The County has some of the best grey squirrel habitat in the State. Densities of more than 10 per 100 acres are common in the hardwood, woodland-grass types.

In the chaparral type mountain quail populations of 10 per 100 acres are found. California quail populations are usually less than 10 per 100 acres.

Breeding and migratory populations of band-tailed pigeons occur.

Wild trapped turkeys from San Luis Obispo County were released in 1963 near the southern boundary on the middle fork of the Eel River, and on the Shasta-Trinity Divide.

Medium density populations of blue grouse occur in the coastal forest and pine-fir-chaparral types. It is one of four California counties containing ruffed grouse.

Waterfowl - The county rates low for waterfowl habitat. The large Trinity Reservoir is low quality waterfowl habitat. Riparian habitat is along fast moving mountain streams. Waterfowl occur in the county, but everywhere in densities of less than 10 per 100 acres.

Nongame Wildlife - Outstanding fur bearer populations occur. Fisher, pine marten, and river otter are rated as numerous to medium densities in lodgepole pine, pine-fir-chaparral, coastal forest, and hardwood types. Grey fox and raccoon are numerous and widespread throughout the county.

Up to 1963, when the state stopped payment of mountain lions, 1,026 had been bountied from the county. This is second place in the counties of the state.

The unique rodent, the mountain beaver, is probably as numerous in Trinity County as anywhere in the state.

#### J. Existing Public Lands

Approximately 1,473,000 acres out of the total county area of 2,042,240 acres or about 72% is in forest land and held by the United States Government and the State of California. There is some additional acreage held by the county.

About 32,000 acres in the east central portion of Trinity County including the communities of Weaverville, Lewiston, Douglas City and Hayfork are privately owned. There is another large area in the southwestern corner of the county under private ownership. The area west and south of Six Rivers National Forest has about 102,000 acres of privately held land. With the exception of the

communities mentioned previously all of the land is non-urban in nature and constitute the National Forest including the wildness areas due to a land management acreage and state ownership. These lands can be said to constitute the bulk of the available wilderness and open space areas within the county. The following chart indicates the specific land ownerships.

Forest Service	1,370,763 acres
Bureau of Reclamation	13,262 acres
Bureau of Land Management	68,663 acres
Other Federal	4,296 acres
	<hr/>
Total Federal	1,456,984 acres
Division of Beaches & Parks (state)	3 acres
Division of Forestry (state)	257 acres
State Land	2,985 acres
Bureau of Public Works	2,423 acres
Other State Land	10,076 acres
	<hr/>
Total State Lands	15,744 acres
All Other Land	569,512 acres
	<hr/>
Total Area - Trinity County	2,042,240 acres

### Recreation Land Holdings

Acres	Forest Service	State	County
Park & Recreation Areas	4,700	2	27
Wilderness Areas	307,315		
Historic Monument		3	
Total	312,015	5	27

The following map indicates the distribution of public lands under control of the Federal Government.

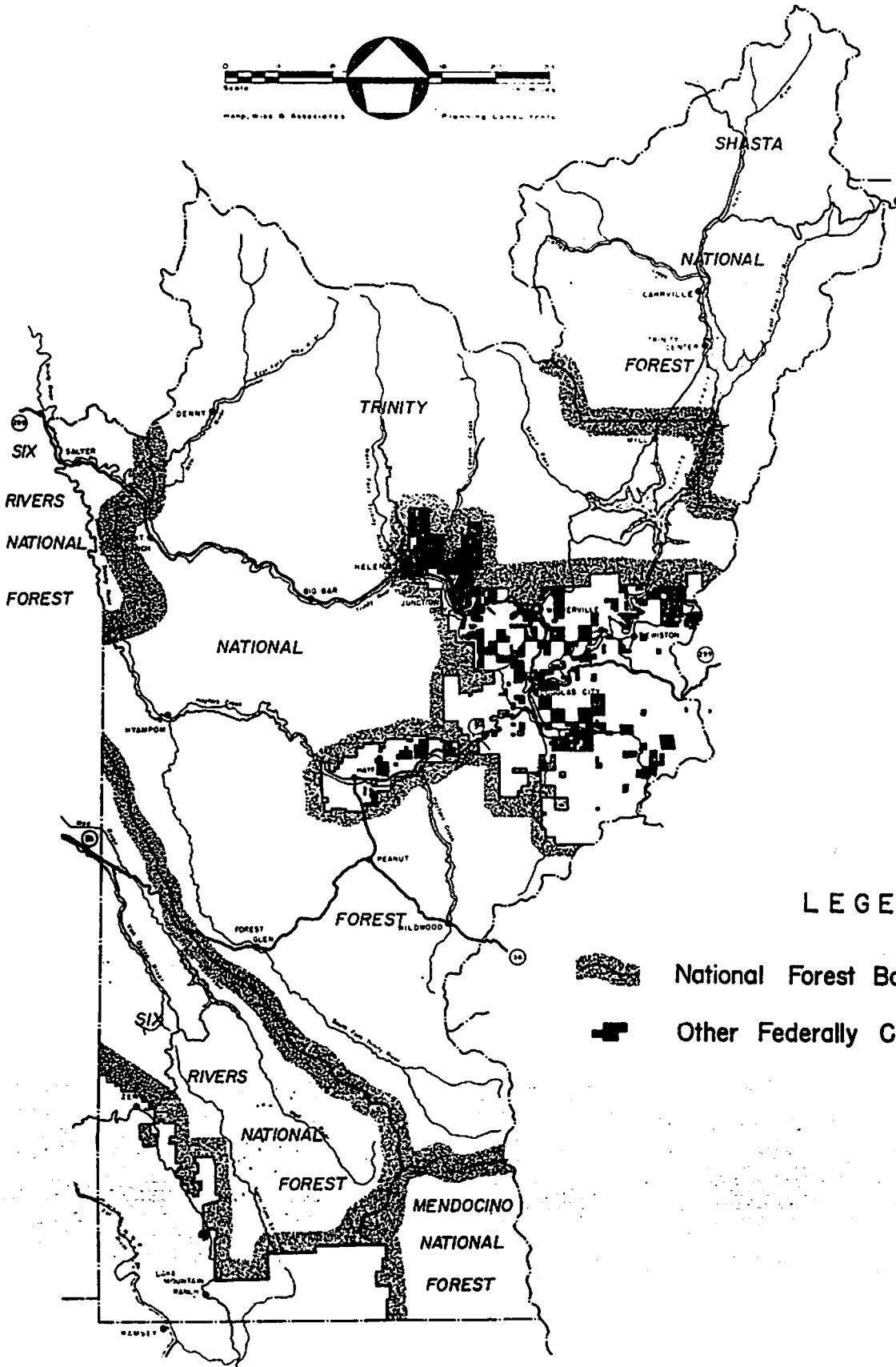
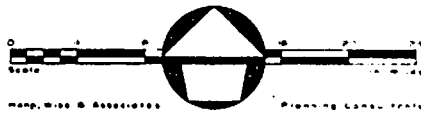
#### K. Agricultural Lands

Agricultural use is not intensive because of the scarcity of flat land. There are 3,937 irrigated acres and 2,198 acres where crop land is harvested. The valleys at Hayfork, Hyampom and Weaverville are utilized for agricultural purposes. Grass lands are in the southwest and north-central county and used primarily for grazing. The value of agricultural crops in the county for 1970-71 is estimated at a little over one-half million dollars. Most farm income is due to cattle raising-(68%); forestry-(26%) and crops (mainly hay)-(6%). Following is a table of various kinds of agricultural lands excluding commercial forest land.



Total Acreage in Farms	133,064 acres
Crop Land Harvested	2,008 acres
Hay	439 acres
Orchards	39 acres
Crop Land Not Harvested	1,327 acres
Crop Land Pasture	1,590 acres

# NATIONAL FORESTS

## TRINITY COUNTY



### LEGEND

-  National Forest Boundaries
-  Other Federally Controlled Land

Woodland Pasture	33,811 acres
Woodland Not Pasture	4,933 acres
Other Pasture Lands	84,550 acres
Improved Pasture	4,730 acres
Irrigated Pasture	2,535 acres
Irrigated Crop Land Harvested	650 acres

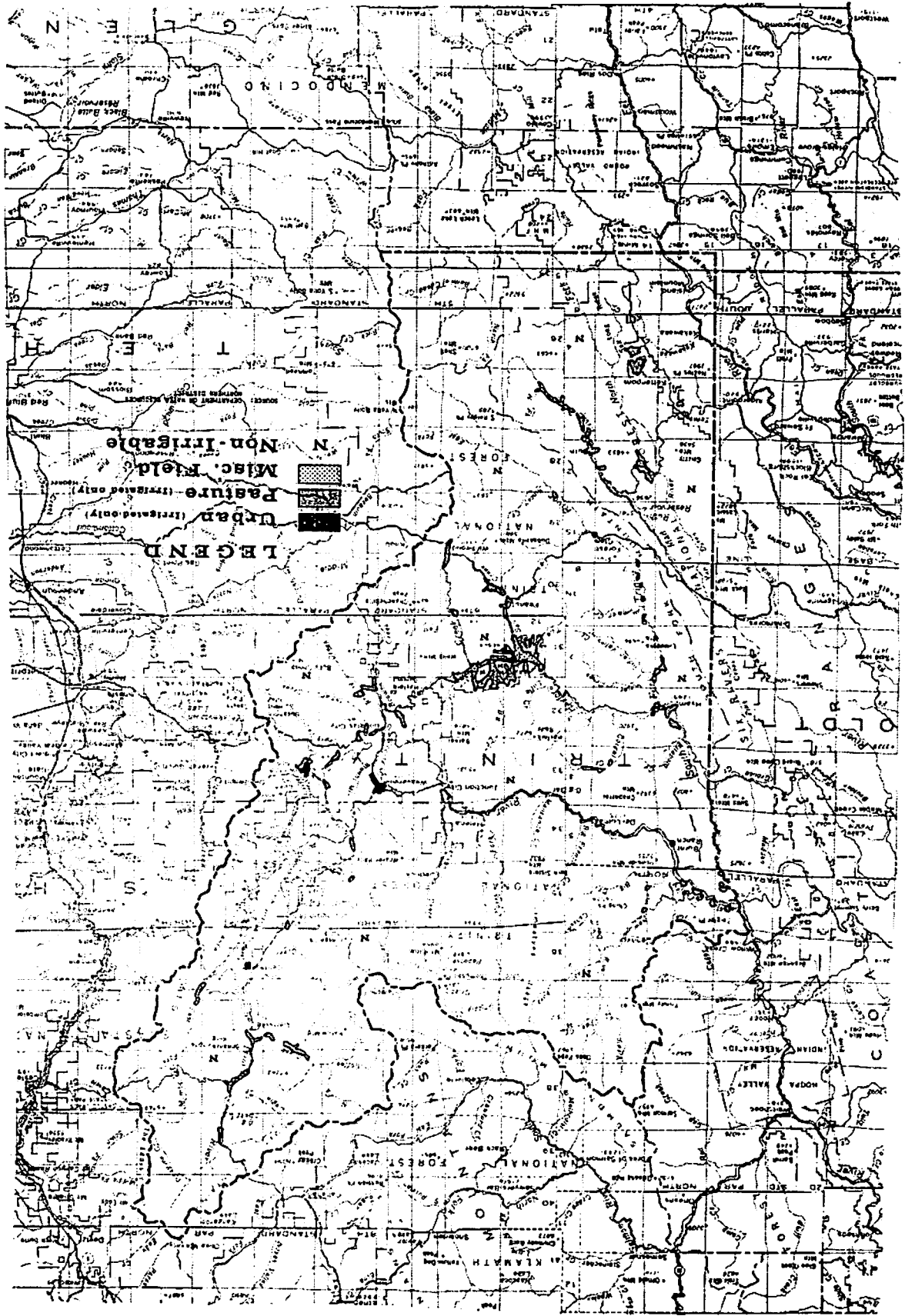
There is also a total of 1,357,000 acres in commercial forest land of which 1,002,000 acres are publicly owned and 355,000 acres are privately owned. During the last 5 years the number of farms in the county decreased from 158 to 69 farms; the size of a farm has increased from 842.2 acres to 1,360.1 acres.

Soil Capability for crops - Trinity County soils are mostly upland soils best suited for growing trees, grass and brush. Trees are our best crops and Hugo, Josephine and Mariposa are some examples of our good tree growing soils. Our better grass soils include Yorkville, Gaviota, Millshom and Kilarc. Examples of brush soils are Los Gatos and Maymen. Our best soils for crop production are found in small alluvial pockets along our main streams. A good soil capability survey has only been made on an estimated 200,000 acres of land in Trinity County.

L. Recreation and Park Land

The most important recreation resource in Trinity County is its natural beauty. Roadside rivers and streams are excellent recreation resources areas, as are natural areas like the Trinity Alps wilderness areas.

Tremendously important resources are the lakes which have been created by the Trinity, Lewiston and Ruth Dams.



CROP SUITABILITY  
TRINITY COUNTY  
CALIFORNIA

MAPPING CONSULTANTS  
SCALE 1" = 10 MILES  
N



Roadside rivers and streams are excellent recreation resource areas as are less accessible natural areas like the aforesaid Trinity Alps and wilderness areas. Major rivers in the County are the Mad, the Van Duzen, the North Fork of the Eel and the Trinity and its tributaries - North Fork, Stuart Fork, East Fork and South or Hayfork.

Trinity Lake is situated 9 miles from Lewiston and easily accessible. Surface area is 16,540 acres and there are 145 miles of shoreline. The lake is ideal for fishing and is being used by rapidly increasing amount of persons annually.

Lewiston Dam and Lake are immediately southerly from Trinity Lake. Ruth Lake, located at an elevation of 2,700 feet on the southwesterly side of the County is ideally suited to serve coastal counties. It has an excellent trout fishery.

The wilderness areas of the County are ranked among the most spectacular found anywhere in America.

The Salmon-Trinity Alps area consists of nearly 390,000 acres filled with lakes and streams. The nearly 100 lakes offer excellent fishing in the summer months. Most lakes are located at elevations 3,000 to 7,000 feet and are accessible over good trails.

Yolla Bolly wilderness area, located in the southerly part of Trinity County, can be reached over forest trails. This wooded area is the watershed for the South Fork of the Trinity, and for the Mad and Eel Rivers along with others. There are fewer lakes but trout fishing is excellent and deer and bear hunting is available to the hunter.

Trinity Lake, Lewiston Reservoir and Ruth Lake have boating facilities. Trinity Lake is large enough for water skiing and boating, and all three lake areas are suited for good fishing, horseback riding, hiking and camping can be accommodated.

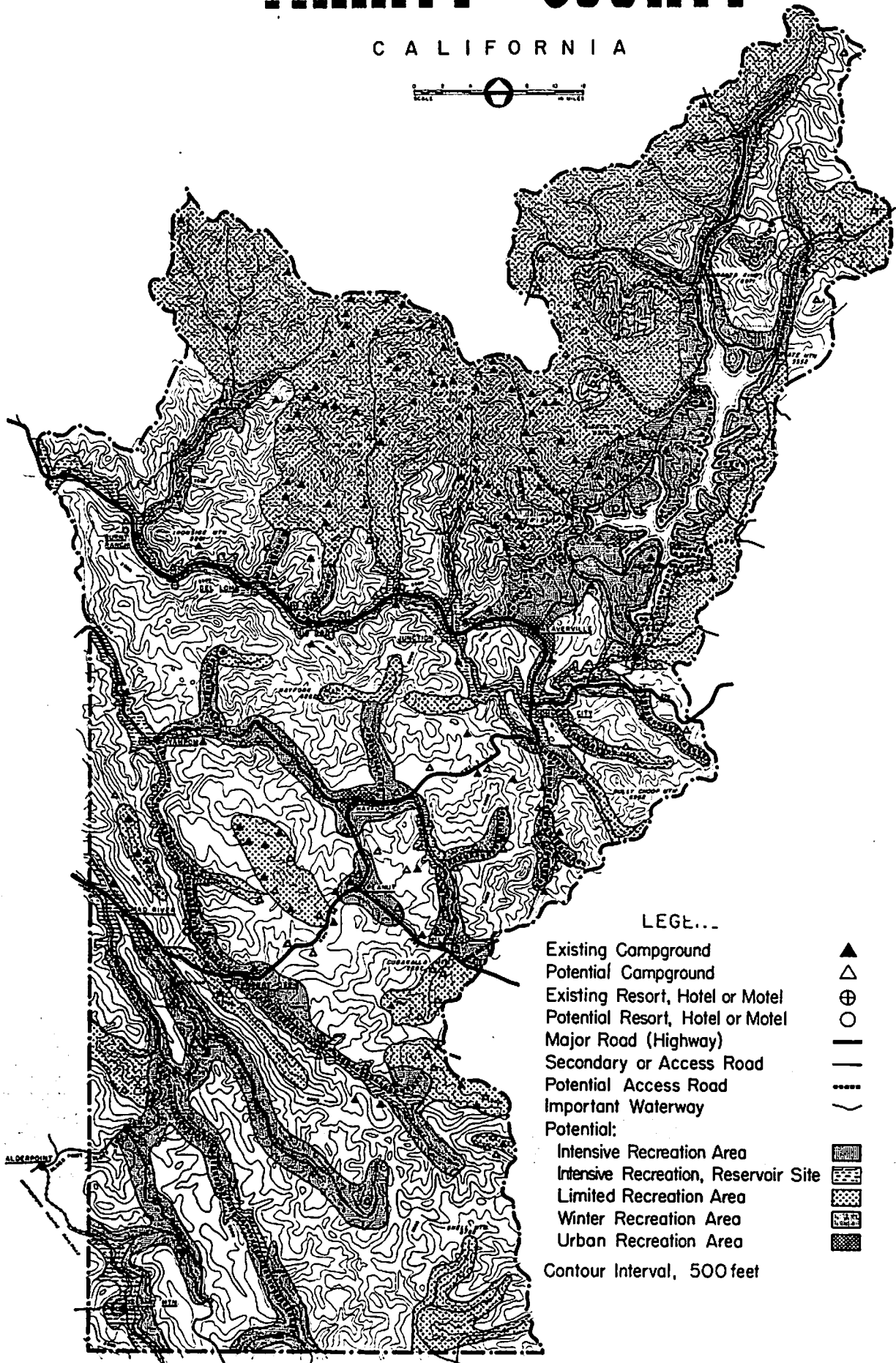
High recreation values are evident in all reservoir and lake areas because of the size of the water areas and relative ease of access. Lands surrounding the lakes and reservoirs are, in many instances suitable for development of necessary public facilities as well as private development.

A steady growth of the recreation use in Trinity County is revealed by the forest service record. A recreation count for 1958 was 145,300 visitor days and increased 406,700 visitor days in 1965. By 1971 visitor days had increased to 1,194,000 for Shasta-Trinity National Forest and 45,000 visitor days in Six Rivers National Forest. Total day use for 1980 is forecast 536,800; demand for overnight and vacation trips is forecast at 2,000,000 visitor days by 1980 for both National Forests. The Recreation Element of the General Plan of the County, the State of California and the Forest Service Plans provide for the early development of additional recreation facilities. Scenic riding and hiking trails and several scenic highway routes will greatly increase the opportunity for the visitor to enjoy Trinity County.

# RECREATION PLAN

# TRINITY COUNTY

C A L I F O R N I A



LEGE...

- Existing Campground ▲
  - Potential Campground △
  - Existing Resort, Hotel or Motel ⊕
  - Potential Resort, Hotel or Motel ○
  - Major Road (Highway) —
  - Secondary or Access Road —
  - Potential Access Road - - -
  - Important Waterway )
  - Potential:
  - Intensive Recreation Area ▣
  - Intensive Recreation, Reservoir Site ▤
  - Limited Recreation Area ▥
  - Winter Recreation Area ▦
  - Urban Recreation Area ▧
- Contour Interval, 500 feet

M. Interrelationship of Open Space Considerations

All relevant considerations have been summarized in the first portion of the open space element. Each component of the natural and human environment has been explored and analyzed in terms of its relationship to planning open space needs.

Accessibility to each of the open space areas is the main problem of the Forest Service, State and the County. Presently there is adequate land set aside for open space and public recreation facilities. The main emphasis would necessarily seem to rest with development of the private recreation facilities, campsites, lodging facilities, and tourist housing and picnicing facilities.

#### IV. THE OPEN SPACE PLAN

The following section is composed of recommendations leading toward the development of an Open Space Plan. After each specific item is discussed, a final Open Space Plan appearing at the end of this section is the result of a combination of these items put into a coordinated plan.

##### A. Agricultural Lands

Agricultural land including crop land harvested, crop land not harvested, pasture, woodland not pastured, other pasture including improved and irrigated crop land occupy 6% of the total land in the County. Crop lands are a minor source of income to the County. Commercial forest lands on the other hand occupy approximately 66% of the County area including both publicly and privately owned lands.

The income or value of all agricultural products is approximately \$900,000. Most farm income is due to cattle raising.

Only small areas are presently zoned for agriculture as such; however, large portions of the commercial forest land are zoned agricultural-forest districts. These districts permit the management of land and forest for the production and harvest of trees and other natural resources including tree farm management of land and forest in a manner designed to provide protection from the elements or from man or other catastrophe. The safeguarding of agricultural lands and commercial forest lands is essential to the future welfare of the County and should be afforded the same types of protection as are afforded other types of land use.

The objective:

To preserve and protect crop lands and commercial forest lands as an important part of the economy of the county and as a resource of the county.

Recommendation:

1. Protect crop lands wherever possible and only those uses related to agriculture should be located in the crop land areas.
2. Agricultural uses including crop lands, cattle raising, and forests lands should be encouraged and protected as a means to continue providing open space.
3. Agricultural lands which are used for grazing and other purposes although not considered prime soils should be given every protection and consideration should be given to including them in agricultural preserves.
4. Agricultural land although not prime in Trinity County must be recognized as an equal to other major land uses and given the protection it deserves as a developed use.

B. Recreational Land

The scenic beauty of Trinity County is the tremendous natural resource that must be jealously guarded. The county is unusually fortunate in its many natural attributes. As we stated previously the county offers a pleasing variety of steep slopes blanketed with rich forests and crisscrossed with swift cold streams draining to the west. From the Trinity Alps in the north with its lofty peaks and steep valleys to the mountains to the south with the South Fork of the Trinity, Mad and Van Duzen River Canyons along with the Ruth Reservoir and the somewhat

wider Eel River Valley all of which are a natural asset and a resource which is becoming more and more rare in California. The county is fortunate that over 72% of these lands are owned and controlled by the Federal Government much of which is opened to the public for a vast variety of recreational purposes. The park and recreation areas and the wilderness areas under forest service supervision amount to over 312,015 acres. Tremendously important resources have been created by the Trinity, Lewiston and Ruth Dams. These open space lands meet a great variety of public outdoor recreational needs from camping in the forests to fishing and hunting in the multitude of rivers and streams in the county. More active pursuits include hiking and climbing in the wilderness areas of the Trinity Alps. The recreational needs of Trinity County, whatever the type, the county has the space for it.

Forecasting future recreation demands is rather difficult; however, estimates have been made that the present 730,000 visitor days and 2,320,000 overnight visitors will increase to a total of 6,400,000 by 1990 for both day and overnight visitor days; therefore, it is obvious that more parks and other forms of recreational facilities will be required, not only to satisfy the increased population that has been projected, but also the increasing amount of leisure time.

One of the most important factors to keep constantly in mind is to make every effort to retain the natural beauty of Trinity County. All proposed recreational facilities must be carefully implemented to allow the maximum use of the facilities

without damage to the environment so that the natural beauty will not be destroyed for future generations.

Objective:

The objective is to reserve land for recreational facilities, encourage private recreational development and other open uses in categories characteristic and beneficial to the residents of Trinity County as well as to meet the tourist needs of the immediate future and the long range future.

Recommendations:

1. Provide for the orderly development and control of a comprehensive recreation system on public lands where feasible and possible and on private lands where necessary for the development of the recreation system for Trinity County.
2. Recreational resources on public and private land should be protected for the future as these resources are largely irreplaceable natural assets.
3. Encourage or provide recreational facilities and other open uses in central locations near all living and working areas and in areas of outstanding beauty sufficient, to meet the needs of the residents of the county, as well as the visitors to be served in the county.
4. Proper Commercial recreational uses should be encouraged to augment public recreational programs, care however should be taken to assure that such recreational facilities will be compatible with the beauty of the county.



5. Recreation areas should be evaluated to assure that they have maximum flexibility and adaptability to the constantly changing recreation needs and interests.

6. The development of lake front and river front property should be encouraged clear of all flood plain areas for all suitable type of recreational uses to meet the needs of local, second home residents, and visitors to the County.

7. Recreation should take advantage of multi-purpose land, such as Trinity, Lewiston and Ruth Reservoirs.

8. Encourage the development of a system of scenic highways by establishing scenic conservation districts or scenic highway districts along all proposed scenic highways including the requirement of special architectural, site and landscape control along with visual control, thereby preserving the outstanding scenic quality along all the highways of Trinity County.

9. Provisions should be made for an adequate number of campsites, overnight camping facilities, scenic turnouts, picnic areas and roadside rests for the projected day visitors in the County.

10. Provisions should be made for riding and hiking trails on local as well as Statewide programs.

11. To meet the demands of future residents, advantage should be taken of the prospective areas of sufficient size and location for parks, and other similar uses in proper locations.

12. The development of major recreational facilities to serve regional and statewide residents should be encouraged on public lands in Trinity County.

13. The development of major recreational and other related uses should be provided by private enterprise, as well as all governmental agencies including the County, State and Federal agencies.

14. Encourage only high quality private recreational development as a supplemental program to provide for recreational needs.

C. Wildlife Habitat

Trinity County enjoys an environment which includes a great variety of wildlife. The entire County is occupied by the blacktailed deer. Heaviest densities occur in the woodland-grass and grassland types. Most other habitat types contain lesser densities. Lowest densities are found in the upper timberlands where less than 10 per square mile are found.

Bear are also common in densities of less than 10 per square mile.

A variety of upland game abound including the grey squirrel and it has been discovered that the County has the best habitat for these animals in the State. They are common in the hardwood, woodland-grass types of environment. California quail are found in the chaparral type mountain areas with populations of 10 per hundred acres. Wild trapped turkeys imported from San Luis Obispo County are found in the southern boundary of the Middle Fork of the Eel River and the Shasta-Trinity Divide. Medium densities of population of blue grouse occur in forest areas and Trinity County is one

of the four Counties containing ruffed grouse. The County rates low for water fowl habitat.

These types of environment which include such a variety of wildlife are also an enjoyable place to live. However, as their natural habitat is encroached upon, the animals are confined to smaller and smaller areas. Preservation of habitat is the key to abundance and well being of all fish and wildlife species. Managed recreation open space land assures the continued natural habitat that they need. Strict control of access for all vehicles in the mountains and wilderness areas will preserve the natural environment necessary for wildlife to exist.

Objectives:

To preserve and maintain open space as a means of providing natural habitat for all species of wildlife is the prime objective.

Recommendations:

1. To maintain all species of fish and wildlife for their intrinsic and ecological values as well as for their direct benefit to mankind.
2. To provide for diversified recreational use of fish and wildlife.
3. Provide for an economic contribution of fish and wildlife in the best interest of the people of Trinity County.
4. Any plans to alter the present environment should be considered on the basis of protecting fish and wildlife and their habitat.

5. Provide for scientific and educational use of fish and wildlife.

6. Present land uses which result in siltation and pollution of lakes and streams should be carefully monitored, and if necessary corrected to assure a clean and productive habitat.

7. Outstanding wildlife habitats that have an unusually high value for fish and wildlife should be carefully considered before any development altering this environment is permitted.

8. Encourage development and enhancement of wildlife habitat through careful use of methods, such as controlled burning, planting, water development, judicious livestock grazing, mechanical land manipulation and creation of ponds in water courses.

9. Recognize and encourage the various appropriate and non-appropriate uses of wildlife. This includes such activities as bird watching, scientific studies, educational purposes and hunting and fishing.

10. Retain and develop access to public areas very carefully through riding and hiking trails.

D. Natural Resource Lands

The primary natural resource in Trinity County is its forest lands. Other agriculture lands are the croplands in the Hayfork and Hyampom Valley. These are a minor part of the acreage of the county. Other agricultural resources are the raising of cattle in the forested grasslands.

The county contains many natural geologic features which provide great scenic interest and attract tourists. Conservation of these natural resources is of utmost importance to continue to attract visitors to Trinity County.

Objective:

The objective is to protect the scenic natural resources of Trinity County and preserve areas which are important as commercial natural resources for future generations.

Recommendations:

1. Preserve areas of established natural scenic beauty as areas of active and passive enjoyment.
2. Conserve lands which provide viable natural mineral deposits for potential future use.
3. Continue to promote a program of agricultural land preservation to assure continuance of this resource in the limited areas of the county.

E. Scenic Lands

In Trinity County, the entire county is considered a scenic wonderland. Whether it is the northern county with its lofty peaks and scenic valleys, the Central County with its Trinity River and Hayfork and Hyampom Valleys or the mountains to the south in which flow the South Fork, Mad and Van Duzen Rivers along with the somewhat wider Eel River Valleys which occupy the southwest corner of the county. Over 1,400,000 acres of this scenic land is preserved by various public agencies either as

Forest Service land, Bureau of Land Management areas, State lands or County lands. Of this acreage, approximately 312,000 acres are set aside for park and recreation areas, wilderness areas or historic monuments.

California Highway 299 from County line to County line and Highway 3 from Weaverville north to the Siskiyou County line are eligible for official scenic highway designation. Not only are these highways in themselves beautiful, but they traverse some of the most spectacularly scenic areas in the world. Much of the corridor through which these highways pass are guarded by zoning regulations, such as the Scenic Conservation District and the Recreation District. These districts regulate the placement of structures bordering on public and private roads so that the beauty and rural character will not be permanently destroyed and so that the many areas of unusual scenic beauty which are unique in Trinity County and in the United States will be preserved in order to retain its spectacular beauty to the greatest possible extent.

Objective:

To conserve, preserve, and maintain the scenic beauty of trinity County.

Recommendations:

1. Develop plans for acceptance of Highway 299 and Highway 3 as official State Scenic Highways and also certain county roads as official County Scenic Roads.

2. Encourage private developers to utilize conservation methods of using or developing the land. Discourage development on steep slopes unless special techniques of construction are used.

3. Acquire scenic easements for conservation of Trinity County's scenic beauty.

4. Develop scenic highway zoning in addition to the scenic conservation and recreation zoning now in effect in many areas of the County, all of which are designed to preserve the scenic areas of the County.

5. Protect the scarce agricultural land.

6. Encourage continuous sustained yield practices on public and private forest land.

7. Adopt stringent regulations requiring the landscaping and maintenance of vegetation on cut and fill slopes as required by the appropriate agency.

8. Control encroachment of cut and fill slopes into scenic easement areas or corridors along scenic highways, whether State or County.

F. Watershed and Water Recharge Lands

Trinity County is essentially a land of lakes and rivers. As stated previously the major rivers are the Mad, the Van Duzen, the North fork of the Eel and the Trinity and its tributaries - North Fork, Stuart Fork, East Fork and South Fork.

There are of course many many additional streams throughout the county. Trinity Lake with a surface area of 16,540 acres is located 9 miles from Lewiston. There are 145 miles of shoreline; the maximum depth of the lake is 465 feet. Lewiston Dam and Lake are located immediately south of Trinity Lake. Ruth Lake, located at an elevation of 2,700 feet serves the coastal counties.

The Salmon-Trinity Alps area of 390,000 acres is filled with lakes and streams. The nearly 100 lakes are located at elevations of 3,000 to 7,000 feet.

Yolla Bolly wilderness area located in the southern part of the county is a watershed for the South Fork of the Trinity, the Mad and Eel Rivers along with others.

The northern county dominated by lofty peaks and steep valleys catches the most rainfall, from 60 to 70 inches a year, while rainfall throughout the county averages between 35 and 36 inches annually. This large amount of potentially usable rainfall along with the snowfall that occurs throughout the county occurs primarily, of course, during the winter months.

All of the rivers and lakes in the county are groundwater recharge areas whether they are in the narrow canyons of the South Fork, Mad or Van Duzen or in the wider Trinity River and Eel River Valleys along with the Trinity and Lewiston Reservoir each create groundwater recharge resources.

Extreme care must be taken to keep an adequate supply of usable water at a quality which is safe for human use and free from long range pollutants for the future populations of Trinity County. Every effort must be made to keep human waste and silt from residential development intruding into the waters



of the County and lowering the water quality below permissible standards as well as robbing the County of its water heritage.

Objective:

To preserve the quantity and quality of the existing water supply in Trinity County and adequately plan for the expansion and retention of valuable water supplies for future generations.

Recommendations:

1. Implement detailed plans to determine the amount of water that shall be reserved for use of present and future Trinity County populations.

2. Institute a program of research to establish the need for any future facilities or water services throughout the County.

3. Carefully screen all sewage disposal facilities whether private, individual or public in order to maintain water purity throughout the County.

4. Disapprove of any developments which may pollute the existing streams and lakes or become a source of silt which washes down into the water areas.

G. The Plan

The foregoing sections are general discussion of the various facets of open space. They are combined in broad categories in the Plan for Trinity County. This plan, including the maps comprise the open space element and is one additional element of the County General Plan and should be considered in relation to the other adopted elements.

This element of the general plan is formulated to discuss open space in the county. However, it also provides for areas to be set aside for occupancy by present and future residents of the county consistent with realistic projections of growth.

It must be recognized that land will be needed for urban expansion, primarily in the residential and commercial growth categories and steps should be taken to direct this growth.

Adequate open space must be set aside in all developing urban areas.

Easements and rights-of-way for public utilities, power transmissions and transportation are necessary for future populations but their intrusion upon the natural landscape should be held to a minimum. Further, it would be desirable to have a multiple use plan for these easements.

Additional open space in the county may be achieved in many ways, from scenic easement to outright dedication, and it is a diversification of usage that makes it effective. The national forest, the wilderness areas and other government owned land provide broad expanses of open space, while the careful planning of a densely populated residential area may provide a proportionate amount of open space for relief and contrast. Open space may be used advantageously in conjunction with all types of land use as well as unused land. In a county such as Trinity, where there is a desire to retain the natural beauty and rugged rural atmosphere, knowledgeable application of open space in planning is of utmost importance.

Objective:

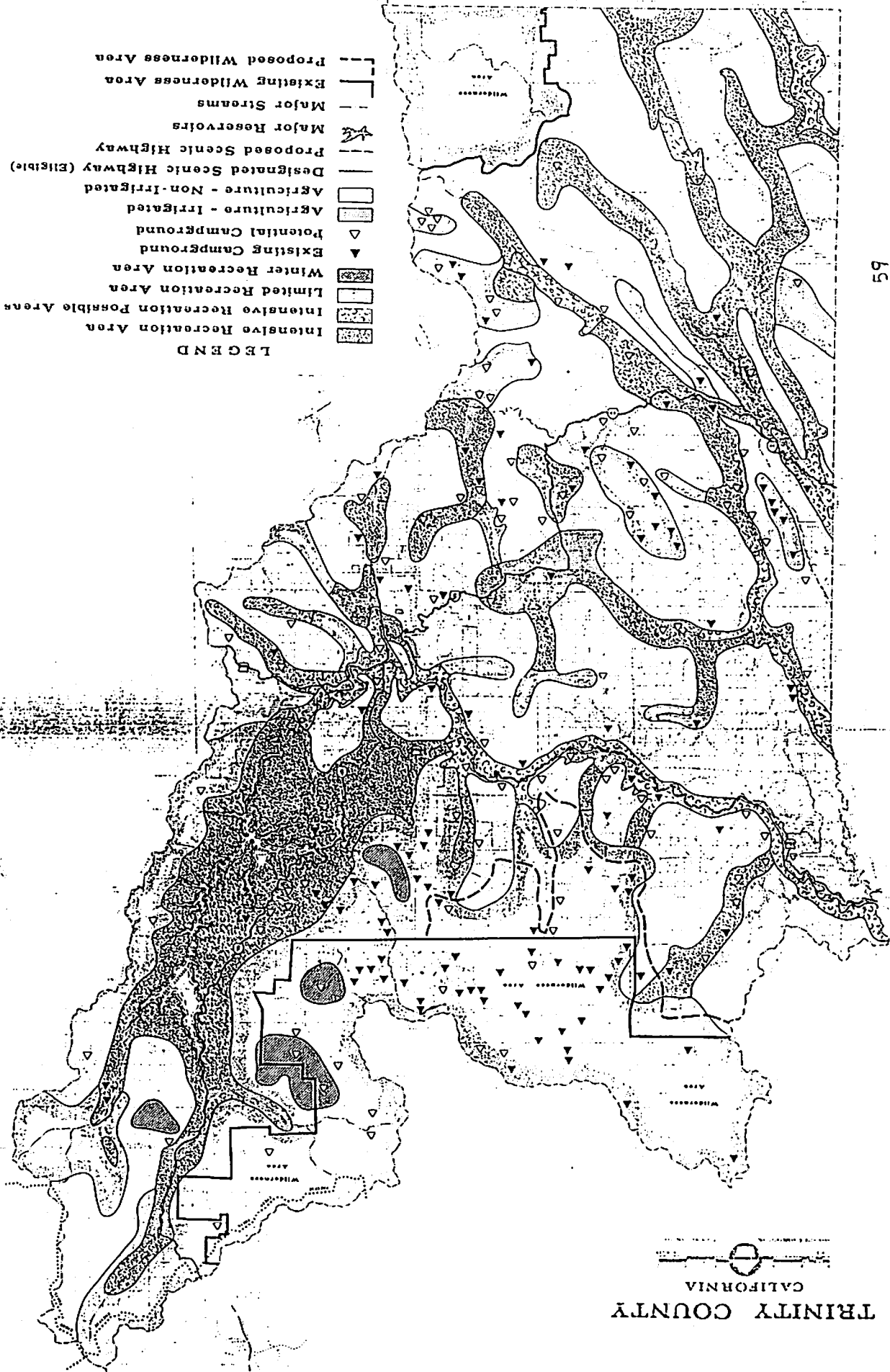
To retain the character and natural beauty of Trinity County with the preservation of existing open space and the control of open space.

Recommendations:

1. To define natural urban areas of growth through the use of open space.
2. To encourage recreational facilities which will provide open space at all governmental levels.
3. To encourage government agencies to retain open space in appropriate areas of the national forest and other government lands.
4. To encourage the incorporation of open space in all types of development including residential, commercial and industrial.
5. To retain the rural atmosphere of the county through the use of open space.
6. To retain the minimal agricultural lands for open space.
7. To protect streambanks and lakeshores from undesirable development.
8. To encourage open space through the clustering of development with passive and active recreation areas.
9. To define and establish the use of primary flood plain areas as open space.

# OPEN SPACE PLAN

TRINITY COUNTY  
CALIFORNIA



- LEGEND**
- Intensive Recreation Area
  - Limited Recreation Area
  - Winter Recreation Area
  - Existing Campground
  - Potential Campground
  - Agriculture - Irrigated
  - Agriculture - Non-Irrigated
  - Designated Scenic Highway (Eligible)
  - Proposed Scenic Highway
  - Major Reservoirs
  - Major Streams
  - Existing Wilderness Area
  - Proposed Wilderness Area

V. THE ACTION PROGRAM FOR IMPLEMENTATION

A. Need for Open Space Implementation

Considerable emphasis has been placed on the benefits to be gained from the continuation of the vital and active open space program. A plan for open space development will remain just a plan unless effective means of implementation are set out to show how such a plan will work.

It was discussed earlier that normally the property owner absorbs most of the burden in terms of tax payments for community facilities and amenities. In Trinity County the many thousands of acres of open space lands in the national forests and in both private and other public areas offer facilities and amenities. However, the purchase of additional open space lands would cause an impractical burden on the tax payer. If the acquisition of additional land is needed to implement the Open Space Plan, then various new methods of obtaining this land must be used. The following brief statements highlight some of the current, practical methods of effectuating open space land acquisition and control which should be carefully evaluated as to their part in the implementation of the plan as well as other methods that should be carefully considered and utilized where appropriate.

B. Current Methods of Open Space Implementation

The following methods have been attempted and found to be successful in obtaining open space. It is recommended that these methods be continued and expanded.

1. Zoning and Subdivision, General

These two forms of regulations give the county the power to promote the public health, safety and general welfare. The two regulations are essentially a result of the realization of the importance of the whole community's rights being more valuable than the rights of an individual doing what he wishes with his land. Zoning and Subdivision regulations are the primary method of land use regulations without the use of land purchase with compensation. Because there is no payment or land purchase involved, these land regulations are limited in the intent to which they may be used.

a. Zoning Regulations

i. Agricultural Zoning

Since 1968 the county has been engaged in an effort to protect the relatively small amount of agricultural land through agricultural zoning which has been calculated as an implementation of the county's planning program. It continues to be the county's position that agricultural zoning must continue to play an important role in the protection of agricultural lands. This can be an effective tool which should not be overlooked in accomplishing the desired goals set forth in this open space element.

## 2. Agricultural-forest Zoning

Also since 1968 the county has engaged in an active and successful effort to protect its highly productive forest lands through an agricultural forest-districts zoning. Forest-district zoning permits the management of land and forests for the production and harvesting of trees, including tree farming; management of land and forest in a manner designed to provide protection from fire caused by either man or nature; insects, diseases or other catastrophe. This zoning has been used extensively by the county to protect private forest lands and continues to play an important role in the protection of these lands. This is an effective tool which cannot be overlooked in accomplishing the desired goal set forth in this open space element.

## 3. Open Space Zoning

Open space zoning and the use of special districts designed to implement open space provides an alternative land development possibility which can be of benefit to the county as well as the property owners.

Trinity County has adopted the following zoning classifications designed to protect and encourage open space throughout the county.

### a. Scenic Conservation Districts

Purpose - To control and regulate the placement of structures near public and private roads so that the beauty and rural character of its scenic areas will not be permanently destroyed and so that the many areas of unusually scenic beauty which are unique in Trinity County will be preserved.

2. Recreation - Development Zoning Districts

Purpose - To establish development standards and allow uses in the Trinity Unit of the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area which will be compatible with public and private recreation and enjoyment and the conservation of natural resources and scientific, historic, scenic and other values. Further, to allow single family dwellings and timber management and tree harvesting by individual selection. Certain uses are subject to the requirements of the Department of Agriculture.

3. Subdivision Regulations

Subdivision regulations guide development on land which is not yet a part of the urban pattern. Specific subdivision regulations can effectively guide development by the control of the placement of private or public sewerage and water systems, utilities and streets. Therefore, some areas of valuable open space can be preserved from development by utilizing this authority.

The subdivision ordinance has been amended to require approval of all divisions of land by an established subdivision committee wherever these divisions are proposed throughout Trinity County.

4. Land Preserves with Tax Incentives

The Land Conservation Act of 1965 (Williamson Act) establishes a property tax incentive to private owners who agree by contract to keep their land in agricultural use for ten years. After the contract is signed with the County involved, the property owner agrees to keep his land in agricultural use and is taxed on



the income from his property and not on the speculative market value of that land. This enables the property owner to resist the pressures of premature development through high tax rates.

The basic reason behind the Conservation Act is to reduce urban sprawl, premature development and in turn protect the agriculture in the county. Its fundamental long range benefits would include a reduced need for schools, roads, utilities and other governmental services that uncontrolled and surplus development would bring. This in turn provides a great amount of productive open space.

The successful implementation of this program must be based on the community and county goals and the preservation of agriculture and open space land. The program was not designed to simply lower taxes, and contracts should be entered into only if when it can be shown there is a resultant community benefit.

The county has not entered into this program, however it should be encouraged to allot the program to the relatively small areas which are devoted to agriculture at this time.

#### 5. Scenic Easements and Open Space

Section 51050 of the California Government Code establishes that "any city or county which has adopted a general plan may accept grants, open space easements, or open space agreements on privately owned land lying within the city or county".

The purpose of such easements is for the preservation of the land as open space in the best interest of the state or county and is important to the public for the enjoyment of scenic beauty, for the use of natural resources, for recreation, or for

the production of food or fiber and specifically that its potential is for future generations.

The State presently has an open space reimbursement program (Section 14112 Open Space Subvention Act). The County should investigate this program and determine the best way to proceed in initiating open space agreements within the County.

The following guidelines should be considered for adoption:

a. The relationship to adjacent parcels under scenic easement should be considered and its proximity to other areas of scenic community value should be determined.

b. The impact of reduced tax revenues on the immediate community should be evaluated.

c. The land must have true scenic beauty to have some community value.

d. The compatibility of the parcel with the Trinity County General Plan should be evaluated.

e. The possibility of any portion of scenic easement land being required for a County or State highway purposes or for any other purpose that might require condemnation.

f. Compatible uses that may be allowed on scenic easement lands or open space lands. Uses that may be considered are those that will not mar the landscape.

Where scenic easements or open space areas are accepted they shall be: a) dedicated for a period of not less than 10 years and shall be irrevocable during that period. They shall be automatically extended at the end of each year. b) existing dwelling units on the property must be removed from the scenic easement boundaries.

6. Encouraging Private Open Space Development

Privately used golf courses, hunting and fishing preserves and clubs, private campgrounds and visitor ranches, all add to the usable open space and allow a greater variety of recreation facilities. This shall be the policy of the county to encourage and stimulate additional private open space development.

C. Other Open Space

1. Public Land Ownership and Control

In Trinity County about 72% of the county's total area is forest land held by the United States Government and the State of California. There is approximately 1,456,984 acres in Federal holdings and another 15,744 acres in State holdings. The Federal lands contain most of the forest land and there are approximately 1,370,763 acres.

The Federal, State and County jurisdiction should continue to maintain those lands which are significant to each one's level of responsibility. There must be complete cooperation of effort by all agencies and all levels of government to preserve open space. For only through the pooling of concentrated action can we hope to be effective.

2. Road and Public Abandonment

All public land should be carefully evaluated as to their relationship to the open space element of the general plan and no rights should be relinquished until review indicates there are no open space values involved.

3. Lease Excess Road Lands from State

Section 14012 of the Government Code provides:

"The director may lease non-operating right-of-way areas to municipalities or other local agencies for public purposes, and may contribute toward the cost of developing local parks or other recreational facilities on such areas. The director may accept as all or part of the consideration for such lease or for such state contribution any substantial benefits the state will derive from the municipality or other local agencies undertaking maintenance or landscaping costs which would otherwise be the obligation of the state. Such leases shall contain a provision that whenever the leased land is needed for state highway operating purposes the lease shall terminate. The department is authorized to classify portions of state highway right-of-way as non-operating". All properties declared to be excess by the Division of Highways should be carefully analyzed to determine if the lease arrangement might be of benefit to the county.

4. Full Fee Acquisition

This is essentially the total acquisition of property by purchase, condemnation or the power of eminent domain, tax foreclosure or gift. A voluntary purchase agreement would mean paying the prevailing real estate prices; condemnation would also involve just compensation to acquire critical open space.

5. Less Than Fee Acquisition

Less than fee acquisition is different from outright purchase of property in that only certain property rights are purchased. Land ownership is a combination of rights to the use of land, for example, a right to develop the land, the right to mineral exploration, and so forth. In less than fee acquisition, only certain desired rights are purchased, such as the right to prohibit tree removal, road construction, or building of structures.

Less than fee acquisition is therefore the purchase of a portion of the landowner's rights in order to retain or deter certain type of land uses. This could be an effective open space control.

6. Land Exchange

It is currently possible for governmental agencies such as The Bureau of Land Management to exchange public land for privately owned land for the purpose of obtaining needed open space land in a more appropriate location.

7. Purchase of Surplus Public Land

Local agencies are often offered the opportunity to purchase surplus state and federal lands. A discount of 50% is usually provided if the land is to be used for park and recreation purposes. Also, the Bureau of Land Management administers large amounts of surplus lands which can be purchased at very low prices by the county.

## 8. Deed Restrictions

Deed restrictions are often created by the private developer as one tool for controlling the type of development which might occur on that property. These restrictions may take the form of use restrictions, setback requirements, preservation of natural vegetation, architectural control or other provisions which might add to the scenic beauty or open spaces of a developing area.

### D. Possible Methods of Financing Open Space

#### 1. Taxation

There are several examples of the special taxes which might be utilized to gather revenue for open space acquisition. They are as follows:

a. Users Fees and Taxes - Within controlled and intensively used areas, such as parks and shorelines, the fee can be imposed upon the user to aid in the maintenance and development costs.

b. Motel "Bed" Tax - By use of a tourist overnight tax upon guests at hotel and motels, large scale funds are available to finance large scale programs which are commonly designed to draw the tourists in the first place.

c. Real Estate Transfer Tax - A minor tax can be imposed upon the transfer of real estate to be utilized for the development of open space and park lands related to such real estate development.

d. Horse Tax - The acquisition of designated riding trails can be financed through a tax placed on riding horses and horse rentals as provided for in article 14 of the Government Code un the Pleasure Riding Tax Law.

e. Gasoline Tax - definite portion of the gasoline tax can be designated for scenic highway construction and beautification.

## 2. Federal Funds

a. HUD Open Space Grant - Although current funding of this program is oversubscribed, it does essentially provide 50/50 matching funds for the acquisition of open space and park improvements. This program, however, emphasizes the open spaces nearer to urban areas.

b. Land and Water Conservation Fund - This is a 50/50 matching fund program currently available for the purchase of open space lands.

c. Wildlife Restoration Funds - The acquisition, development and preservation of major wiildlife areas are funded under this program administered by the State Wildlife Conservation Board.

d. Other federal funds are available under many minor programs for the maintenance and acquisition of open space lands. It is essential that if these programs are to be used, constant communication with the appropriate agency be maintained because of the competition for these funds.

### 3. Private Funds

There has been an increase in the number of private conservation groups willing to purchase valuable open-space lands for the benefit of the community and protection of the environment.

This should be encouraged as an effective means of acquiring land that might not otherwise be attainable by governmental action or as a holding action until funds from governmental agencies become available.

Nature conservancy groups have been active in the acquisition of land in several counties throughout California.



PART 2

**CONSERVATION ELEMENT**

## CONSERVATION ELEMENT

### TRINITY COUNTY

#### I. SUMMARY AND OBJECTIVES

The Conservation Element is defined in Section 65302 (d) of the Government Code, it states that the Conservation Element is for the conservation and development and utilization of natural resources including water and its hydraulic force, forest, soils, rivers and other water areas, including harbors, fisheries and wildlife habitat. It also includes other wildlife habitat, mineral and other natural resources.

The Plan may also cover such subjects as:

1. Reclamation of land and waters.
2. Flood control.
3. Prevention and control of the pollution of streams and other bodies of water.
4. Regulation of land and stream channels and other areas required for the accomplishment of the Plan.
5. Prevention, control, and correction of erosion of soils, beaches and shrubs.
6. Protection of watersheds.
7. Location, quantity and quality of rocks, sand and gravel resources.

Conservation and environmental issues are of two types:

1. Those which are central and basic so that they pervade nearly every functional aspect of conservation and resource management.

2. Those that relate more specifically to the following functional aspects:
  - A. Land resources including forests, soils, wildlife minerals, other natural resources, land and water reclamation, flood control, and erosion.
  - B. Water resources which include all of the former and in addition water resources, rivers and lakes, flood control, water pollution, regulation in streams.
  - C. Air resources which includes climatic resources, forests soils, rivers and lakes, and fisheries, wildlife, minerals, other resources, land and water reclamation and erosion.
  - D. Biological resources which include all of the elements under "A" Land Resources with emphasis on plant life and animal life.

Land resources as described above are one of the prime assets of Trinity County. It is imperative that these resources be protected and that good conservation practices be employed throughout the County.

The first objective of the Conservation Element is, therefore: To conserve the land resources of Trinity County and to protect water resources as well.

The water resources are also important as an amenity of Trinity County, as they are a source of potable and irrigation water. They also supply a priceless recreational asset.

The prime objective in the conservation of water resource is:

To protect and conserve the lakes, streams and reservoirs of the County as potable and agricultural water, for recreation areas but more important as wildlife habitat which will be beneficial to the residents, present and future of Trinity County.

The clean air of Trinity County is also a priceless asset. Simply defined, air pollution is caused by release of waste into the air at a faster rate than the air can cleanse itself. Man is not solely responsible for air pollution, many substances contribute to what might be called "natural" pollution of the air including wind blown from soil, volcanic dust and ash, viruses, bacteria and spores. Major sources of air pollution in the State and its contributions are roughly as follows: Automobiles 60%, industry 17%, incineration of refuse 3%, space heating 6%, electric power plants 15%.

The prime objective is therefore: To preserve the air quality of Trinity County so that it will continue to be one of the prime assets of the County for both human and animal population.

The biological resources of the County include habitat for the preservation of fish and wildlife species, as well as plant life. The present environment of Trinity County includes vast acres of such habitat and preservation should have high priority.

The objective of the Conservation Element is therefore: To conserve, preserve and maintain the habitat for wildlife species plant life and the environment.

The County presently has an Open Space Element which has as its objectives, preservation of open space including recreational lands.

and habitat for fish, wildlife and plant life.

Existing General Plan Elements for Trinity County also include plans for proposed scenic highways and a Recreation Element, both of which recognize the importance of the conservation of the beauty and the resources of the County. Unfortunately, many of the human activities are on the shoreline of the lakes, reservoirs and streams, as well as the mountain sides, and are detrimental to the environment. The protection and conservation of the lakes, streams, forests and mountain environment are an important objective of the present plans of the County, and although intensive agriculture is not a primary natural resource of the County there are others that are, such as the forest lands with their rich stands of new and old growth of Douglas Fir, Sugar Pine, Ponderosa Pine, White Fir and Incense Cedar. Extensive agriculture such as the raising of cattle is also a natural resource of the County. The water resources of the County are necessities for both extensive agricultural pursuits and for the tourist-oriented economy. The harvesting of timber, is on private and public lands. However, the harvesting of timber on National forest and private lands must be carefully controlled so that it will not become detrimental to the scenic beauty of the County. The history of the County evolves around water; the County's economy is now developing around the waters of the lakes, reservoirs and streams in the County and the recreational potential that is produced.

At present the major rivers in the County are the Mad, the Van

Duzen, the North Fork of the Eel, and the Trinity and its tributaries; also the North Fork, Stuart Fork, East Fork and South Fork. The County also has Trinity, Lewiston and Ruth Lakes. Continual care must be taken to protect the wildlife habitat along the banks of both the lakes and streams in the County.

The Conservation Element of the General Plan is a compilation of the foregoing statements indicating the objectives of the County to conserve and protect land, water, air and biological resources.

As in the Open Space Plan, there are a number of ways to implement the Conservation Plan - many of which are being utilized by Trinity County with good results. These methods of implementation include:

Zoning of Agricultural-Forest Districts has resulted in most of the County's privately owned forest lands being protected by this type of zoning.

Recreation District Zoning - has been implemented to establish development standards in order to protect the Trinity unit of the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreational Area, and to insure that any uses will be compatible with the area and protect the natural resources of the area.

Subdivision regulations now in effect in Trinity County allow open space through "Optional Design" which provides for cluster type development with compensating "common area" or open space. Subdivision regulations also require that a percentage of any private development set aside land for recreation areas.

Open Space and Recreation Plan - Plans for preserving open space through passive and active recreation areas are maintained

by the Federal, State and local governments.

Private open space development has been encouraged and will add useable open space in the County through the use of land for golf courses, hunting preserves, private camp grounds, horse ranches and other such uses.

## II. CONSERVATION - GENERAL

### A. State Conservation Element Requirements

As stated previously Section 65302 (d) clearly sets forth the intent of the Legislature in adopting Conservation Element requirements. The Conservation Element must include a plan for the conservation, and development and utilization of the following as being mandatory:

1. Water
2. Forest
3. Soils
4. Rivers and waters
5. Harbors
6. Fisheries
7. Wildlife
8. Minerals
9. Other natural resources

Components that are permissive as far as inclusion in the Conservation Element are:

1. Land and water Reclamation.
2. Flood Control.
3. Water Pollution, prevention and control.
4. Regulation of the use of land in the streams, channels and other areas.
5. Prevention, control and correction of soils, beaches and shores.
6. Protection of watersheds.
7. The location, quantity and quality of rock, sand and gravel resources.



Section 65302 (d) was amended to require that a conservation element shall be prepared and adopted no later than June 30, 1973.

That portion of the conservation element including waters shall be developed in coordination with any county water agency and with all district and city agencies which have developed, served, controlled or conserved water for any purpose for the County or City for which the plan is prepared.

B. Other Laws Related to A Conservation Element

There are currently many other laws which are directly related to conservation, they are as follows:

1. State Subdivision Map Act

Under the Subdivision Map Act the authority over design and layout of subdivisions is generally vested in local government bodies. Local government has the responsibility of approving tentative and final subdivision maps.

2. State Subdivided Lands Act

The Subdivided Lands Act, administered by the Department of Real Estate, is concerned with consumer protection. Before a developer can sell a subdivision lot, he must obtain a public report from the Real Estate Commission. This report informs prospective buyers about their rights and obligations, the provision, if any, that has been made for public utilities, warns of hazards, and provides other useful information.

3. Environmental Quality Act of 1970

The legislative policy and Environmental Quality Act of 1970 requires that it is the policy of the State to

"take all action necessary to provide the people of the State with clean water and air, enjoyment of the aesthetic, natural, scenic and historical environmental qualities, and freedom from excessive noise."

In addition it declares that it is the policy of the State to "create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony to fulfill both social and economic requirements of present and future generations."

In the implementation of this policy state agencies, boards and commissions, and local agencies are required to prepare and submit environmental impact reports on significant federal, state and local projects.

4. Office of Planning and Research

This office was established to assist in the formulation, evaluation, up-dating of long range goals and policies for land use, population growth and distribution, urban expansion, open space, resource preservation and utilization. Environmental goals and land use policy to be developed by this office will be a major step toward programming urban developments so as to protect the environmental quality in the State.

5. Land Conservation Act of 1965 (Williamson Act)

As stated in the Open Space Plan, the Williamson Act was designed to aid land owners who desire to continue farming by establishing the value of farm land for assessment purposes at rates compatible with agricultural

land values. This is accomplished by local government designating agricultural preserves and entering into, at least, ten-year annually renewable contracts or agreements with the land owners to hold the land in agricultural pursuits.

6. Water Quality Control Act

The Porter-Cologne Water Control Act of 1970 charges the State Water Resources Control Board with protecting the quality of all State waters for the beneficial uses and enjoyment of the people. In discharging this responsibility the Regional Boards have the authority to establish waste discharge requirements. Through the exercise of this authority the size, location, density, design and construction practices of urban development are affected.

7. Fish and Game Laws

The State Fish and Game Code declares that the fish and game belong to the people of the State and charges the Department of Fish and Game with the responsibility for protection of these resources. In addition to regulating hunting and fishing, the Fish and Game Laws prohibit the destruction of fish and wildlife habitat.

These laws prohibit the pollution of the State's water by any material injurious to fish, plant or bird life. Sediment originating from any development would be considered such a pollutant and subject to water Quality Control regulations

Alteration of a stream or lake bed by public

agencies or private individuals is prohibited until the Department is notified and makes recommendations for measures to protect fish and wildlife. The recommendations of the Department must be followed or disagreements submitted to an arbitrator. Vehicular crossings of stream beds are covered by this law.

8. Soil Conservation Provisions of the Public Resources Code

Soil conservation districts, organized under Division 9 of the Public Resources Code, concern themselves with the prevention of erosion and control of water.

The Department of Conservation, acting through the State Soil Conservation Commission and the Division of Soil Conservation administers the Soil Conservation Program at the State level. Working through Soil Conservation Districts at the local level, the State also assists local agencies on soil conservation matters, conducts special studies on soil and vegetation problems, and develops plans for local projects for soil and water conservation.

9. Forest Practice Division of the Public Resources Code

A permit must be obtained from the State Forester for the conversion of timber land for purposes other than growing timber, such as urban development.

Erosion control measures specified in Forest

Practice Rules apply to timber land conversion permits for urban use. If logging takes place, periodic inspections are made by the California Division of Forestry to check on the operator for compliance with the Forest Practice Rules.

10. Fire Prevention Provisions of the Public Resources Code

The Public Resources Code defines hazardous fire areas, restrictions on use and minimum protection requirements, administration of which is carried out by the State Division of Forestry.

The Public Resources Code sets forth provisions for the reduction of fire hazards around buildings located on land which is covered with flammable material. A fire break of at least thirty (30) feet is required to be maintained around buildings by removing all flammable vegetation or other combustible growth. Additional widths of fire break may be required under extra hazardous conditions. Fire break clearance is also required around electric transmission poles and towers.

Burning in dumps as well as in other areas is regulated by permits issued by the State Forester.

Provisions must be made to control erosion in areas where vegetation has been removed for fire breaks.

11. Local Laws

The most important plans and ordinances that influence urbanization and its impact on conservation

practices include the following:

1. General plans.
2. Zoning ordinances.
3. Subdivision ordinances.
4. Grading ordinances.

12. Federal Agencies

Federal agencies who's programs have the most significant relation to the impact of urbanization of lands are:

1. Soil Conservation Service (USDA).
2. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Soil Conservation Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture provides information and technical assistance to private land owners in soil conservation districts and state and local entities. While the assistance has been primarily concerned with the erosion control and agricultural land use through state-organized soil conservation districts, the Soil Conservation Service does assist local government in reviewing, from a soil standpoint, County subdivision plans and proposals as well as other types of development.

This agency makes basic soil surveys and provides soil maps which should be the foundation of local land use plans. In addition, generalized interpretive maps are provided showing critical areas of soil erosion, soil shrink-swell behavior, land capability, suitability for septic tanks and many other interpretations that

are useful.

13. Environmental Protection Agency

The urgency for cleaning up streams, lakes and other-water areas requires more finances than the local agency's area will provide. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act provides funding for projects important to environmental aspects of urbanization.

Through the Environmental Protection Agency, communities can get financial help in the construction of municipal waste treatment plants with a Federal grant of at least 30% of construction costs. The Federal share may be higher under certain conditions, such as when more quality standards in comprehensive basic compliance have been developed.

C. The Need for Conservation

There are increasing numbers of developments being approved around the established communities and the mountain areas throughout the County each year. There is also evidence of substantial amounts of land being developed by lot splitting.

Frequently natural resources are not adequately considered in determining the suitability of land for urban type or recreation type development in regulating such development. This results in detrimental impacts on the soil mantle and the vegetative cover and other environmental factors. Problems are created not only on the site of the development but also in adjacent areas.

To prevent further degradation of the environment, legislation and administrative actions are necessary at both the

State and local levels. Local government must develop and implement improved techniques to effectively plan and regulate development of lands within the County and to protect the soil mantle and vegetative covering.

Conservation means:

1. To identify, to assess, and quantify the impact of urbanization on the soil, vegetation and related environmental factors.

2. To educate the public on environmental consequences of urbanization, whether second home, camp grounds or other types throughout the County through documentation of facts and illustrative methods of preserving environmental amenities.

3. To identify and assess Federal, State and local regulations and their enforcement as they relate to impacts of development on the environment.

4. To make regulations which would minimize the detrimental impact of all types of development on soil and vegetation.

5. To encourage erosion control techniques which local agencies may employ to prevent or minimize erosion.

D. Apathy to Conservation Practices

As described in the Open Space Plan, today the flow from metropolitan areas are to the more rural counties. Governmental policies have not encouraged conservation practices; therefore, the resulting urban sprawl, the automobile and the influx of people have caused detrimental environmental impacts.

Major factors of urbanization, second home development and other types of habitat for human beings causing environmental



impacts are:

1. Removal or damage of vegetation on construction sites.
2. Grading of land for homesites, roads and utilities.
3. Alteration of natural drainage patterns.
4. Creation of impervious surfaces by construction of roads, parking areas and homes.
5. Pre-emption of land use.
6. Introduction of people and vehicles.
7. Disposal of solid and liquid waste.

Detrimental environmental impacts from urbanization and similar types of development are:

1. Accelerated erosion and sedimentation.
2. Loss of vegetable cover.
3. Polluted water.
4. Loss of fish and wildlife habitat.
5. Over-use of recreational areas.
6. Diminished surface water.
7. Reduced ground water recharge.
8. Increase flood hazard.
9. Diminished grazing and timber lands.
10. Greater fire hazard.
11. Lack of access to public lands, streams and lakes.
12. Intensified air pollution.

There is considerable opposition to the establishment of strict environmental and conservation practices because they run counter to providing areas for urban developments, second home developments and similar uses and excessive concentration of people around urbanized centers, mountain areas and along the

lakes and streams.

E. Coordination with other Agencies

It is an absolute necessity that the various departments of Trinity County coordinate their planning decisions. It is also an absolute necessity that Trinity County coordinate its decisions with other levels of government. Coordination in accordance with the rules of the U. S. Forest Service, the California Division of Forestry, the U. S. Soil and Conservation Service, and with special districts where the question of water is involved.

### III. CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The following conservation and environmental considerations were researched and analyzed in the Open Space Plan as a basic foundation upon which the Open Space Plan was designed, they can serve as the foundation upon which conservation and environmental plans are designed. Items of major significance are included in the Open Space portion of this report were considered in development of the Conservation Element of the General Plan for Trinity County.

- A. The items of major significance discussed in the Open Space Element and page numbers are as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Page No.</u>	<u>Map Page No.</u>
Climate	18	-
Geology	19	31
Topography	20	22
Soil Types	21	24
Vegetation	23	26
Hydrology	28	29
Hazard Lands	30	31
Fish, Wildlife and Natural Habitat	32	-
Existing Public Land	34	37
Agricultural Land	36	39
Recreation & Park Land	38	42

B. Natural Resources Other Than Outlined in Open Space Plan

Minerals including gold, quick silver, and substantial amounts of chromite, copper and manganese along with some platinum and silver are the primary resources.

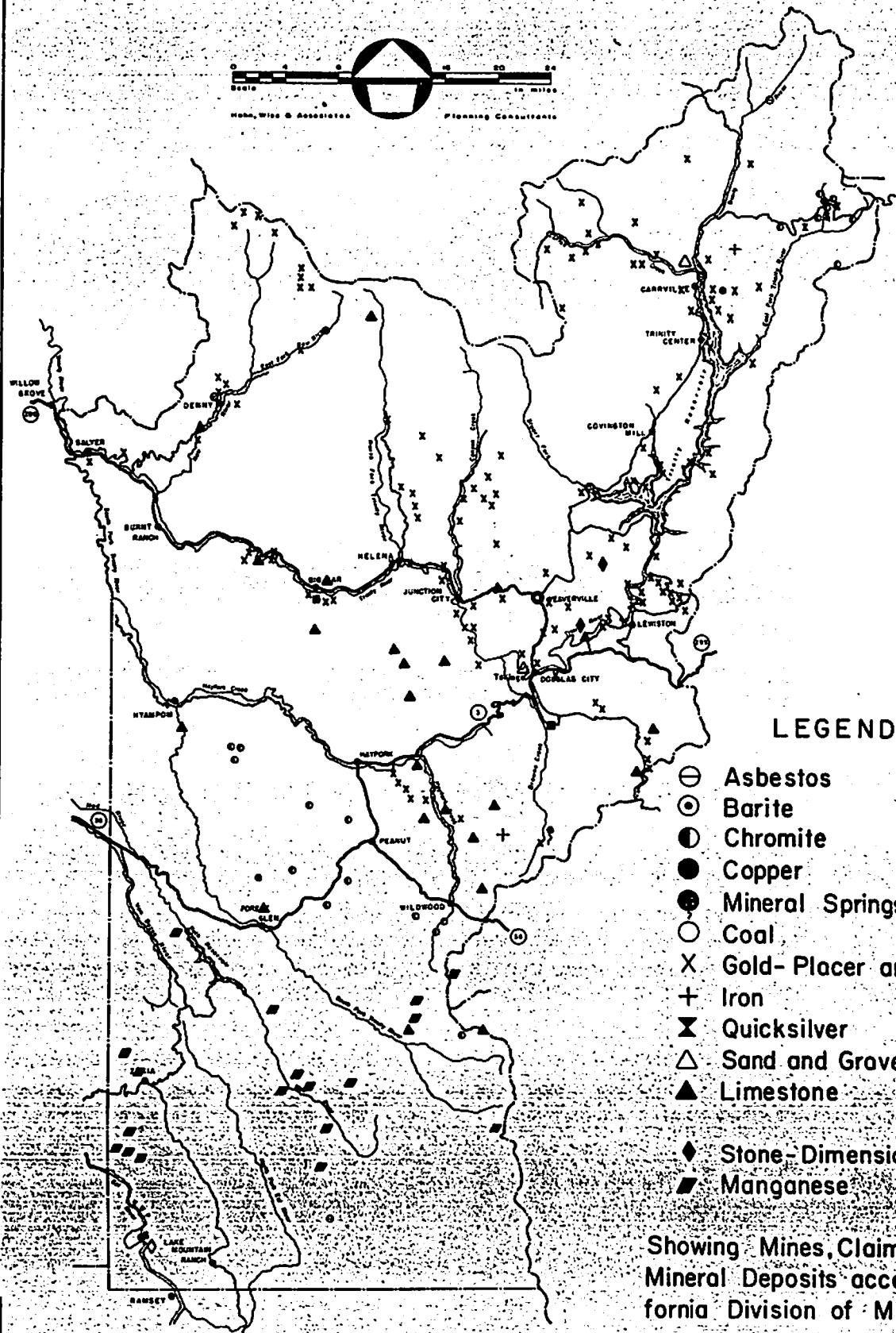
The recreational resources of the County are also of utmost importance. The streams and lakes in Trinity County are the source of excellent fishing for the sport fisherman. As a recreational resource the streams and lakes of the County recreation areas are of inestimable value to the County and to the population of the urban areas surrounding the County. All of the tourist and visitor activities emphasize that Trinity County has a great natural resource in their most natural state. It should be of utmost importance to conserve these resources for both present and future populations.

The map indicating the mineral resources of the County is indicated on page 20.

C. Inter-relationship of Conservation and Environmental Considerations

All relevant considerations have been summarized in this section of the Conservation Element. By topic, each component of the natural and human environment has been explored and analyzed in terms of its relationship to conservation and environmental requirements as well as planning open space needs. It is necessary at this point to restate the fact that although each consideration is unique and can be studied independently, they must now be tied into a workable system of conservation and environmental necessities which will result in a functional conservation plan. The following are recommendations and coordinations of these independent solutions put into a Conservation Element of the General Plan.

# NATURAL RESOURCES TRINITY COUNTY



## LEGEND

- ⊖ Asbestos
  - ⊙ Barite
  - ◐ Chromite
  - Copper
  - Mineral Springs
  - Coal
  - X Gold-Placer and Lode
  - + Iron
  - X Quicksilver
  - △ Sand and Gravel
  - ▲ Limestone
  - ◆ Stone-Dimension
  - ◆ Manganese
- Deposits, or Tailings  
Where Noted

Showing Mines, Claims and Known Mineral Deposits according to California Division of Mines, 1965

#### IV. CONSERVATION PLAN

This section is composed of all major factors of conservation, all of which link together to form a Conservation Plan. After each factor is discussed, the final Conservation Plan appearing at the end of this section results in the combination of putting the factors into a coordinated Conservation Plan.

##### A. Agriculture - Conservation

Agriculture land including crop land, harvested crop land, pasture, woodland not pastured, other pasture including improved and irrigated crop land occupy 6% of the total land in the County. Crop lands are presently a minor source of income to the County. Commercial forest lands on the other hand occupy approximately 66% of the County including both publicly and privately owned lands.

The income or value of all agricultural products is approximately \$900,000. Most farm income is due to cattle raising. Only small areas are zoned for agriculture; large portions of the commercial forest land is zoned Agriculture-Forest Districts. This zoning permits the management of land and forests for the production and harvest of the trees and other natural resources including tree farm management of land and forest in a manner designed to provide protection from the elements or from man or other catastrophe. While agricultural land as such is small in acreage, the safe-guarding of the agricultural lands along with the commercial forest lands is essential to the future welfare of the County and must be afforded the same types of protection as other types of land use.

The objectives:

To preserve and protect crop lands and commercial forest lands as an important part of the economy of the County and as a resource of the County.

Recommendation:

1. To protect crop lands wherever possible and only those uses related to agriculture should be located in the crop land areas.

2. Agricultural uses including crop lands, cattle raising areas, and forest lands should be encouraged and protected as a means of providing open space and conserving these resources.

3. Agricultural lands which are used for grazing and other purposes, although not considered prime soil, should be given every protection and consideration should be given to including them in the agricultural preserves.

4. Agricultural lands although not prime in Trinity County must be recognized as an equal to other major land uses and given the protection it deserves as a developed use and must be permanently and exclusively reserved and recognized as its highest use in both the public and private interests.

B. Recreational Land

The scenic beauty in Trinity County is a tremendous natural resource that must be considered at all costs. The County is unusually fortunate in its many natural attributes. As stated in previous sections, the County offers a pleasing variety of steep slopes lined with rich forests and crisscrossed with swift cold streams. From the Trinity Alps in the north with its lofty peaks and steep valleys to the mountains in the south

with the South Fork of the Trinity, Mad and Van Duzen River Canyons along with the Ruth Reservoir and the somewhat wider Eel River Valley all of which are natural assets and resources which are becoming more and more rare in California. The County has been fortunate in that many natural attributes - its scenic shore lines along the lakes and reservoirs and the rivers and streams in the County ranging from lake front beaches to rugged mountain streams. The County is fortunate too that 72% of these lands are owned and controlled by the Federal government, much of which is open to the public for a vast variety of recreational purposes. The park and recreation areas in the wilderness areas under Forest Service supervision amount to over 312,015 acres. Tremendously important resources have been created by the Trinity, Lewiston and Ruth Dams. These open space lands meet a great variety of public outdoor recreational needs from camping in the forest to fishing and hunting in the multitude of rivers and streams and forests in the County. The recreational needs of Trinity County, whatever the type, the County has the space for it.

Forecasting future recreation demands is difficult; however, estimates have been made that the present 730,000 visitor days and 2,320,000 over-night visitors will increase to a total of 6,400,000 by 1990 for both daily and over-night visitor days; therefore, it is obvious that more parks and other forms of recreational facilities will be required. The utmost care must be taken to insure that the development of these facilities will not do irreparable harm to the present environment of the County.

One of the most important factors is to make every effort



to retain the natural beauty of Trinity County. All proposed recreational facilities must be completely implemented to allow the maximum use of the facilities without damage to the environment so that the natural beauty will not be destroyed.

Objective:

To reserve land for recreational facilities, encourage private recreational development and other open uses in categories characteristic and beneficial to the present and future residents of the County without damage to the ecology of the area.

Recommendations:

1. To provide for the orderly development and control of a comprehensive recreation system for Trinity County. The majority of the development to be on public lands where feasible and possible and on private lands only where necessary for the development of the recreation system for Trinity County.

2. Recreational resources on public and private lands should be protected for the future as these resources are largely irreplaceable natural assets.

3. Encourage or provide recreational facilities and other open uses in central locations near living and working areas and in areas of outstanding beauty sufficient to meet the needs of the residents of the County, as well as the visitors to be served in the County.

4. Encourage proper commercial recreation uses to augment public recreational programs. Care must be taken to assure that such recreational facilities will be compatible with the beauty of the County.

5. The development of lake and river front property should be encouraged clear of all flood plain areas for all types of recreational uses to meet the needs of the local, second home residents and visitors to the County but only when the natural resources can be protected.

6. Recreation areas should take advantage of multi-purpose land such as Trinity, Lewiston and Ruth Reservoirs.

7. Recreation to serve regional and State-wide residents should be encouraged on public lands in Trinity County.

8. Provisions should be made for riding and hiking trails on local as well as State-wide programs.

9. To meet the demands of future residents advantage should be taken of the respective areas of sufficient size and location for parks, and other similar uses in proper locations.

10. The development of major recreational and other related uses should be provided by private enterprise, as well as governmental agencies including County, State, and Federal agencies.

11. Encourage only high quality private recreational development as a supplemental program to provide for recreational needs.

C. Wildlife Habitat

Trinity County enjoys an environment which includes a great variety of wildlife. The entire County is occupied by black tailed deer. Heaviest densities occur in the woodland-

grass and grassland areas. Most other habitat types contain lesser amounts per square mile. Lowest densities are found in the upper timber lands where less than 10 per square mile are found.

Bear are also found in densities of less than 10 per square mile.

A variety of upland game abound including the grey squirrel and it has been discovered that the County has the best habitat for these animals in the State. These are common in the hard wood, woodland-grass types of environment. California quail are found in the chaparral-type mountain areas with 10 per hundred acres. Wild turkeys are found in the southern boundary of the Middle Fork of the Eel River and the Shasta-Trinity Divide. Medium densities of population of blue grouse occurring in the forest areas of Trinity County is one of four counties having ruffed grouse. The County rates low for water fowl habitat.

These types of environment, which include such a variety of wildlife, are also an enjoyable place to live. However, as their natural habitat is encroached upon, the animals are confined to smaller and smaller areas. Preservation of habitat is the key to abundance and well being of all fish and wildlife species. Managed recreational space land assure the continued natural habitat that they need. Strict control of access for all vehicles in the mountainous and wilderness areas will preserve the natural environment necessary for wildlife to exist. Strict control of all development in the natural habitat of these varied forms of wildlife is also highly important to preserve the natural environment.

Objectives:

To conserve and maintain streams, lakes and forest open space as a means of providing natural habitat and for all species of wildlife existing in the County.

Recommendations:

1. To maintain all species of fish and wildlife for their intrinsic and ecological values as well as for their direct benefit to mankind.
2. To provide for diversified recreational use of fish and wildlife while conserving and preserving their habitat.
3. Provide for an economic contribution of fish and wildlife in the best interest of the present and future populations.
4. Any plans to alter the present environment or habitat should be considered on the basis of protecting fish or wildlife and their habitat.
5. Provide for scientific and educational use of fish and wildlife.
6. Prevent land uses which result in siltation, and pollution of lakes and streams should be carefully monitored, and if necessary corrected to assure clean and productive habitat.
7. Outstanding wildlife habitat that have an unusually high value for fish and wildlife should be carefully considered before any development altering this environment is permitted.
8. Encourage development and enhancement of wildlife habitat through careful use of methods, such as controlled burning, planting, water development, judicious livestock grazing, mechanical land manipulation and creation of ponds in water courses.

9. Recognize and encourage the various appropriate and non-appropriate uses of wildlife. This includes such activities as bird watching, scientific studies, educational purposes and hunting and fishing.

10. Retain and develop access to public areas very carefully through riding and hiking trails (non-motorized).

D. Natural Resource Lands

The primary natural resource in Trinity County is its forest plants. Other agricultural areas are the crop lands of Hayfork and Hyampom Valley. These are a minor part of the County. Other agriculture resources are the raising of cattle in the forested grasslands. Mining also plays a minor role in the economy of Trinity County. The County also contains natural geologic features in the many mineral types found in the County, these geologic features provide great scenic interest and attract tourists. Conservation of all natural resources is of utmost importance not only to continue to attract tourists and visitors to the County but to preserve the environment of the County.

Objective:

The objective is to protect the natural resources which are important to Trinity County and preserve areas which are important as commercial natural resources for future generations.

Recommendations:

1. To preserve areas of natural scenic beauty as areas of active and passive recreation.

2. Conserve lands which provide valuable natural mineral deposits for potential future use.

3. Continue to promote a program of agricultural land preservation to assure continuance of this limited resource in the County.

4. Maintain forest lands in production under multiple use concept. Recreation and subdivision development of forest lands should be carried out in an orderly manner with high standards for environmental protection.

E. Scenic Lands

In Trinity County, the entire County is considered a scenic wonder land. Whether it is the northern county with its lofty peaks and scenic belts, the central valley with its Trinity River and Hayfork and Hyampom Valleys, or the mountains to the south in which flow the South Fork, Mad and Van Duzen Rivers along with the somewhat wider Eel River Valley which occupy the southwest corner of the County. Over 1,400,000 acres of this scenic land is preserved by various public agencies either as forest service land, Bureau of Land Management areas, State or County lands. Of this acreage approximately 312,000 acres are set aside for park and recreation areas, wilderness areas or historic monuments.

Objective:

To conserve, preserve and maintain the scenic beauty of Trinity County.

Recommendations:

1. Encourage private developers to utilize conservation methods of using or developing the land. Discourage development on steep slopes unless special techniques of construction are used.

2. Acquire scenic easements for conservation of Trinity County's scenic beauty.

3. Develop scenic highway zoning in addition to the scenic conservation and recreation zoning now in effect in many areas in the County. All of the special regulations are designed to preserve the scenic areas of the County.

4. Protect the scarce agricultural land.

5. Encourage continuous sustained yield practices on public and private forest land.

6. Adopt stringent regulations requiring the landscaping and maintenance of vegetation on all cut and fill slopes as required by the appropriate agency.

7. Control the encroachment of cut and fill slopes into scenic easements of corridors along scenic highways, whether State or County as recommended by the appropriate agency.

8. Develop plans for acceptance of highways designated as Scenic Highways and also certain County roads as official County Scenic Roads.

F. Watershed and Water Recharge Lands

Trinity County is essentially a land of lakes and rivers. As stated previously the major rivers are the Mad, Van Duzen, the North Fork of the Eel and the Trinity and its tributaries - North Fork, Stuart Fork, East Fork and South Fork. There are of course many additional streams throughout the County.

Trinity Lake with a surface area of 16,540 acres is located 9 miles from Lewiston. There is 145 miles of shore line; the maximum depth of the lake is 465 feet. Lewiston Dam and Lake are located immediately south of Trinity Lake. Ruth Lake, located at the elevation of 2,700 feet serves the coastal

counties.

The Salmon-Trinity Alps area of 390,000 acres is filled with lakes and streams. The nearly 100 lakes are located at elevations of 7,000 feet.

Yolla Bolly wilderness area located in the southern part of the County is the watershed for the South Fork of the Trinity, the Mad and Eel Rivers along with others.

The northern County dominated by lofty peaks and steep valleys catches the most rain fall, from 60 to 70 inches a year, while the rain fall throughout the County averages between 35 and 36 inches annually. This large amount of potentially usable rain fall along with the snow fall that occurs throughout the County occurs, primarily of course, during the winter months.

All of the rivers and lakes in the County are groundwater recharge areas whether they are in the narrow canyons of the South Fork, Mad or Van Duzen or in the wider Trinity and Eel River Valleys along with the Trinity and Lewiston Reservoirs, each create groundwater recharge resources.

Extreme care must be taken to keep an adequate supply of usable water at a quality which is safe for human use and free from long range pollutants for future populations of Trinity County. Every effort must be made to keep human waste and silt from residential development intruding into the waters of the County and lowering the water quality below permissible standards as well as robbing the County of its heritage.

Objective:

To preserve quality and quantity of the existing water supply in Trinity County and adequately plan for the expansion



and retention of valuable water supplies for future generations..

Recommendations:

1. Implement detailed plans to determine the amount of water that should be reserved for use of present and future Trinity County populations.

2. Institute a program of research to establish the need for any future facilities or water services throughout the County.

3. Carefully screen all sewage disposal facilities whether private, individual or public in order to maintain water purity.

4. Disapprove of any development which may pollute the existing streams and lakes or become the source of silt which washes down into water areas.

G. The Plan

The foregoing sections are general discussions of various facets of the Conservation Plan. Each are combined in broad categories in the Conservation Plan for Trinity County. This Plan as well as the texts and maps comprising the conservation element is only on part of the Trinity County General Plan and should be considered in relation to the Open Space Element and the other elements of the General Plan.

Although this element of the General Plan is to discuss conservation, it recognizes that areas must be set aside for human settlement and commerce consistent with realistic growth projections.

Adequate land has been set aside for urban expansion, including residential, commercial and industrial growth and steps have been taken to direct this growth to some extent. Adequate conservation practices must be used in all development of urbanizing areas.

Easements and right-of-ways for public utilities, power transmissions, and transportation are necessary for future population but their intrusions on natural landscapes should be held to a minimum and good conservation practices must be observed.

The Conservation Plan in the County can only be achieved by complete cooperation by all levels of government, including Federal, State, County and Districts. There is a great need to devise over-all environmental management goals for the County by both short and long term policy and positive actions in cooperation between all levels of government and the private sector. It is essential to develop goals which will include conservation practices which have meaning for the people of the County and which includes larger regional, state-wide and national interests. The role of the County is to coordinate with those branches of the State and Federal governments operating within the County and to require top conservation practices from the private sector. The attainment of good conservation practices and environmental resources management in public ownership.

The Conservation Plan in the County may be implemented in many ways. Some methods are included in the Open Space Plan which includes scenic easement agreements, open space agreements,

agriculture preserves, as well as outright dedication of land for open space or recreational use. The U. S. Forest Service and the State Division of Forestry practice sound conservation and environmental management as well as providing broad expanses of open space for public enjoyment. The County has a great responsibility to use sound conservation practices in all public work projects and encourage the private sector to do likewise in all public works projects.

Recreation development, second home development or extension of urban areas must be guided in several directions. It is necessary to:

1. Protect the physical environment, which now means that we must return it to its natural state insofar as possible and practical;
2. Reduce the threat to life and property by geologic hazards.
3. Insure the most effective and beneficial use of land and its natural resources;
4. Prevent pollution of water, air and land;
5. Practice area conservation and development of the natural resources;
6. Reserve agriculture lands, whether crop land or grazing land, for continued use in that category;
7. Reserve land with scenic beauty;
8. Recognize the great advantages to be derived from our natural environment.

Objectives:

1. Retain the character and natural beauty of Trinity County by sound conservation practices.

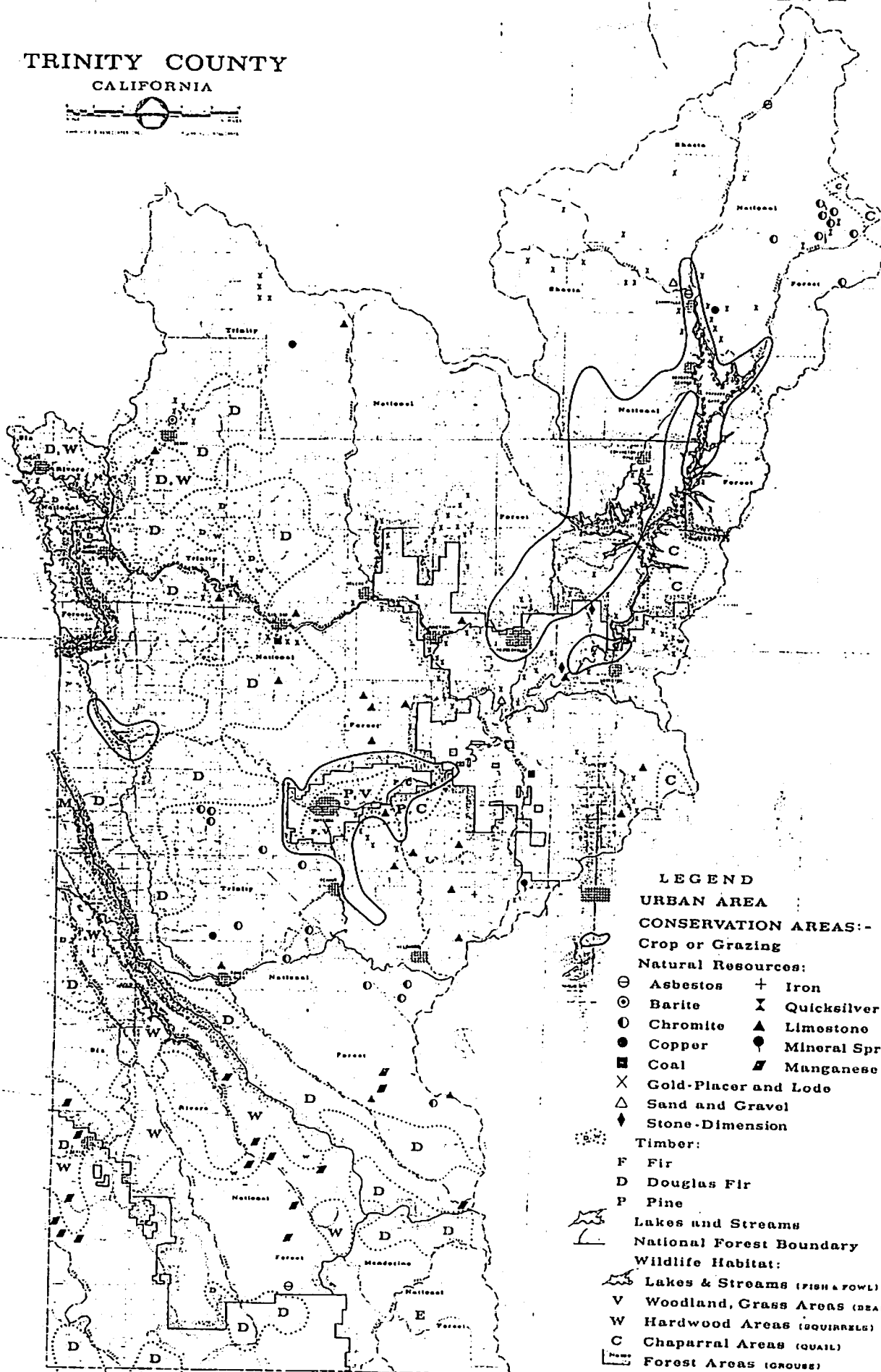
2. Retain agricultural lands as a resource of the County.
3. Protect and conserve natural areas worthy of special consideration.
4. To plan for mineral production and performance so as to avoid destruction, pollution, or degradation of surround land and of water and air resources. After mineral extraction has been completed, land used for mineral production should be revegetated and restored to its natural condition.
5. To provide a comprehensive program to sustain multiple use of watershed lands through reduction of fire hazards, erosion control of burned-over lands and type conversion of vegetation where desirable and feasible. Use for urban or second home purposes should be permitted only under rigid controls.
6. To identify all geologic and soil areas and develop standards for restricted development of any hazard areas.
7. Adopt a policy to prevent encroachment of development onto any unprotected flood areas or flood plains and insure their continued use for agriculture, recreation, or wildlife habitat.
8. To encourage recreational facilities which will provide open space at all governmental levels.
9. To encourage both the Federal and State government to retain open space in national forests, state forests and Bureau of Land Management areas.

10. To expedite as soon as possible the salvage of resources involved on burned over land or in the event of major catastrophe, natural or man-made. Salvage of resources should be expedited to conserve as much as possible.

A Conservation Plan is illustrative only and it is obvious that there are over-lapping interestes in the various designations shown. It is also obvious that the Conservation Plan and the Open Space Plan are inter-dependent. The Plan illustrates those areas which are presently under management of the various governmental agencies as well as private lands under special categories. These and other details were more completely discussed throughout the text.

# CONSERVATION ELEMENT

TRINITY COUNTY  
CALIFORNIA



## LEGEND

### URBAN AREA

### CONSERVATION AREAS:-

#### Crop or Grazing

#### Natural Resources:

- ⊖ Asbestos      + Iron
- ⊙ Barite        X Quicksilver
- Chromite     ▲ Limestone
- Copper       ● Mineral Springs
- Coal         ▨ Manganese
- X Gold-Placer and Lode
- △ Sand and Gravel
- ◆ Stone-Dimension

#### Timber:

- F Fir
- D Douglas Fir
- P Pine

#### Lakes and Streams

#### National Forest Boundary

#### Wildlife Habitat:

- ☞ Lakes & Streams (FISH & FOWL)
- V Woodland, Grass Areas (BEAR)
- W Hardwood Areas (SQUIRRELS)
- C Chaparral Areas (QUAIL)
- ▨ Forest Areas (GROUSE)
- E Southern Boundary of Middle Fork of Eel (TURKEY)

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSERVATION PLAN

A. Need for Conservation Plan Implementation

Emphasis has been made throughout this report of the great benefits that can be gained from a vital and active conservation and environmental program. A plan for conservation and environmental management will remain just a paper plan unless there is a willingness to make the plan work in both the public and private sector.

The following statements highlight some of the current practical methods, of the effectuating conservation plan which should be carefully evaluated as to the practicality of the program. Other methods should be carefully considered and utilized,

B. Implementation of the Conservation Plan and Results

The following methods have been attempted and found to be quite successful, if implemented with good conservation practices and environmental management. It is recommended that these be continued and enlarged.

1. County Zoning and Subdivision Regulations

These two forms of regulatory mechanisms give the County the power to promote the public health, safety, morals and general welfare.

The powers are essentially the result of the whole community's rights being more valuable than the right of an individual in doing what he wishes with his land. Zoning and subdivision regulations are the primary methods of determining what and how the land may be used.

(a) Zoning Regulations

(1) Agricultural Zoning

Since 1968 the County has been engaged in an effort to protect the relatively small amount of agricultural land through agricultural zoning which has been calculated as an implementation of the County's Planning Program. It continues to be the County's position that agricultural zoning must continue to play an important role in the protection of agricultural lands. This can be an effective tool which should not be overlooked in accomplishing the desired goals set forth in the Conservation Element.

(2) Agricultural-Forest Zoning

Also since 1968 the County has engaged in an active and successful effort to protect its highly productive forest lands through an Agricultural-Forest District Zoning. Agricultural-Forest-District Zoning permits the management of land in forests to the production and harvesting of trees, including tree farming; management of land and forests in a manner designed to provide protection from fire caused either by man or nature; insects, diseases or other catastrophe. This zoning has been extensively used to protect private forest lands and continues to play an important role in the protection of these lands. This is an effective tool which cannot be overlooked in accomplishing the desired goals set out in the Conservation Element as well as



the Open Space Plan.

(3) Open Space Zoning

Open Space Zoning in the use of special districts designed to implement open space provides an alternative which can be of benefit to the County as well as property owners.

The County has adopted the following zoning classifications to protect and encourage open space throughout the County.

- (a) Scenic Conservation Districts Purpose - to control and regulate the placement of structures near public and private roads so that the beauty and rural character of its scenic areas will not be destroyed and so that many areas of unusually scenic beauty which are unique to Trinity County will be preserved.
- (b) Recreation-Development Zoning Districts Purpose - to establish development standards and allow uses in the Trinity unit of the Whiskeytown Shasta-Trinity national recreation area which will be compatible with public and private recreation and enjoyment and the conservation of natural resources, scenic and other values. Further to allow single-family dwellings and timber management and tree harvesting by individual selection. Certain uses are subject to the requirements of the Department of Agriculture.

c. Subdivision Regulations

Subdivision regulations guide development of land which is not yet a part of the urban pattern. Specific subdivision regulations effectively guide development by the control and placement of transportation networks and utilities where they do the least damage to the environment. The regulations can also require open space in recreation lands to be set aside as part of the development. The regulations can also provide for the protection of valuable wildlife habitat whether in water areas or on land.

4. Land Preserves with Tax Incentives

The Land Conservation Act of 1965 (Williamson Act) establishes a property tax incentive to private owners who agree by contract to keep their land in agricultural use for ten years. After the contract is signed with the County involved, the property owner agrees to keep his land in agricultural use and is taxed on the income from his property and not on the speculative market value of that land. This enables the property owner to resist the pressures of premature development through high tax rates.

The basic reason behind the Conservation Act is to reduce urban sprawl, premature development and in turn protect the agriculture in the County. Its fundamental long range benefits would include a reduced need for schools, roads, utilities and other governmental

services that uncontrolled and surplus development would bring. This in turn provides a great amount of productive open space.

The successful implementation of this program must be based on the community and county goals and the preservation of agriculture and open space land. The program was not designed to simply lower taxes, and contracts should be entered into only if and when it can be shown there is a resultant community benefit.

The County has not entered into this program, however, it should be encouraged to allot the program to the relatively small areas which are devoted to agriculture at this time.

5. Scenic Easements and Open Space

Section 51050 of the California Government Code establishes that "any city or county which has adopted a general plan may accept grants, open space easements, or open space agreements on privately owned land lying within the city or county".

The purpose of such easements is for the preservation of the land as open space in the best interest of the State or County and is important to the public for the enjoyment of scenic beauty, for the use of natural resources, for recreation, or for the production of food or fiber and specifically that its potential is for future generations.

The State presently has an open space reimbursement program (Section 14112 - Open Space Subvention Act). The County should investigate this program and determine the best way to proceed in initiating open space agreements within the County.

The following guidelines should be considered for adoption:

- a. The relationship to adjacent parcels under scenic easement should be considered and its proximity to other areas of scenic community value should be determined.
- b. The impact of reduced tax revenues on the immediate community should be evaluated.
- c. The land must have true scenic beauty to have some community value.
- d. The compatibility of the parcel with the Trinity County General Plan should be evaluated.
- e. The possibility of any portion of scenic easement land being required for a County or State highway purpose or for any other purpose that might require condemnation.
- f. Compatible uses that may be allowed on scenic easement lands or open space lands. Uses that may be considered are those that will not mar the landscape.

Where scenic easements or open space areas are accepted they shall be: a) dedicated for a period of not less than 10

years and shall be irrevocable during that period. They shall be automatically extended at the end of each year; b) existing dwelling units on the property must be removed from the scenic easement boundaries.

C. Other Conservation Implementation Methods

1. Public Land Ownership and Control

In Trinity County about 72% of the County's total area is forest land held by the United States Government and the State of California. There is approximately 1,456,984 acres in Federal holdings and another 15,744 acres in State holdings. The Federal lands contain most of the forest land and there are approximately 1,370,763 acres.

The Federal, State and County jurisdiction should continue to maintain those lands which are significant to each one's level of responsibility. There must be complete cooperation of effort by all agencies and all levels of government to preserve open space and follow good conservation practices for only through the coordination and concentrated action can the County preserve its priceless environment.

2. Major Factors of Urbanizing Which Cause Environmental Impacts

- a. Removal or damage of vegetation on construction sites.
- b. Grading of land for homesites, roads and utilities.
- c. Alteration of natural drainage patterns.
- d. Creation of impervious surfaces by construction

of roads and homes.

- e. Pre-emption of land use.
- f. Introduction of people and vehicles.
- g. Disposal of liquid and solid waste.

There can be beneficial environmental impacts. They may be achieved through proper planning and design of urban development. They will lead to plans and designs that can reduce flood, and erosion hazards, minimize reduction or disturbance of wildlife and increase recreational opportunities and most of all conserve the natural resource of the County.

#### Environmental Impacts

It is the responsibility of the Planning Commission and legislative bodies of the County to exert control over public works projects and private development in controlling the following:

- (1) Erosion and sedimentation,
- (2) Vegetative cover,
- (3) Pollution of water, air and land,
- (4) Loss of fish and wildlife habitat,
- (5) Diminished surface water,
- (6) Reduce ground water recharge,
- (7) Reduced storage capacities in reservoirs,
- (8) Increased flood hazards,
- (9) Diminished cover and timber lands,
- (10) Diminished prime agricultural lands,

- (11) Eliminate or reduce possible fire hazards,
- (12) Plant communities,
- (13) Separate access to public lands, streams and lakes.

## Acknowledgements

The Resources Agency, State of California

Division of Forestry  
Division of Mines and Geology  
Division of Oil and Gas  
Division of Soil Conservation Service

U.S. Forest Service

District Ranger Stations - Trinity County

Bureau of Land Management

Soil Conservation Service - U.S. Department of Agriculture

Trinity County Farm Advisor

Trinity County District Attorney

Trinity County Road Department and Surveyor

Department of Fish & Game

## References

Trinity County General Plan

Recreation, Land Use, Economic Elements

Trinity County Public Services & Facilities

Forest Service Multiple Use Plan

Forest Service Hand Book

Report & General Soil Map - Trinity County

Soil Conservation Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Sand & Gravel in California - California Division of Mines

Geologic Maps of California - California Division of Mines

California Fish & Wildlife Plan - Department of Fish & Game -  
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