

PROPONENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT – ZAYO PRINEVILLE-TO-RENO FIBER OPTIC PROJECT

Agriculture and Forestry Resources

5.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

This section describes the environmental and regulatory setting and potential impacts related to agriculture associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the project. This section also describes the environmental and regulatory settings. The project would not result in significant impacts to agricultural or forestry resources.

5.2.1 Environmental Setting

5.2.1.1 Agricultural Resources

The majority of the project would be located along US 395 within the right-of-way managed by Caltrans and would require an encroachment permit from Caltrans. The California segment of the project spans approximately 493.9194 miles starting at the northern edge of Modoc County (59.8 miles), through the City of Alturas (1.6 miles), through Lassen County (129.6 miles), and into the eastern edge of Sierra County (3.1 miles). The project crosses through unincorporated communities in Modoc County, including New Pine Creek, Davis Creek, Ramsey, and Likely, as well as the City of Alturas. Within Lassen County, the project traverses the communities of Sage Hen, Pinnio, Madeline, Brockman, Moran, Termo, Viewland, Litchfield, Standish, Buntingville, Milford, and Doyle. In Sierra County, the project does not pass through any cities or census-designated communities. ~~from the northern edge of Modoc County, through Lassen County, and into the eastern edge of Sierra County.~~ US 395 is the main defining feature along the entire length of the project. An 8-mile segment of the running line would deviate from US 395 and would run along Standish Buntingville Road (Lassen County Road A3) and Cummings Road between the communities of Standish and Buntingville in Lassen County, California. Generally, agriculture within this area of California includes alfalfa hay, cattle, potatoes, and various other types of hay (California Department of Food and Agriculture 2019).

Agriculture resources in each county are discussed below. California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) data was available for both Modoc and Sierra Counties; however, FMMP data is “unmapped” for Lassen County (Per Comms. ~~with Lassen County Planning Department, Land Use Department, and Lassen County Agricultural Commissioner 2020ab~~). Therefore, with the lack of FMMP data for Lassen County, generalized land use designations were used to determine potential conflicts with agricultural land within Lassen County. Additionally, no Williamson Act contract land data was available in any of the counties (Per Comms. ~~Lassen and Modoc County Planning and Land Use Departments 2020cb~~). Figure 5.2-1 shows the agricultural land, as designated by the FMMP. General Plan land use designations for Modoc, Lassen, and Sierra County area shown in Figure 5.11-1 in Section 5.11, Land Use and Planning. Overall, the project would be entirely located within the existing roadway right-of-way, with the exception of several ancillary facilities that are discussed below.

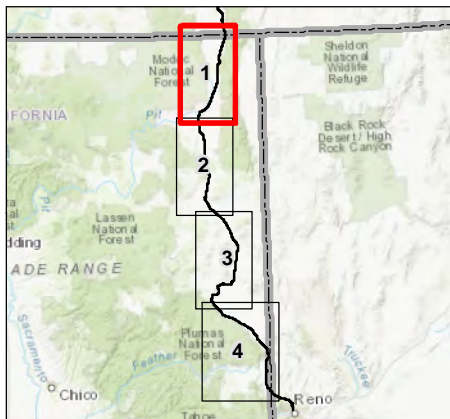
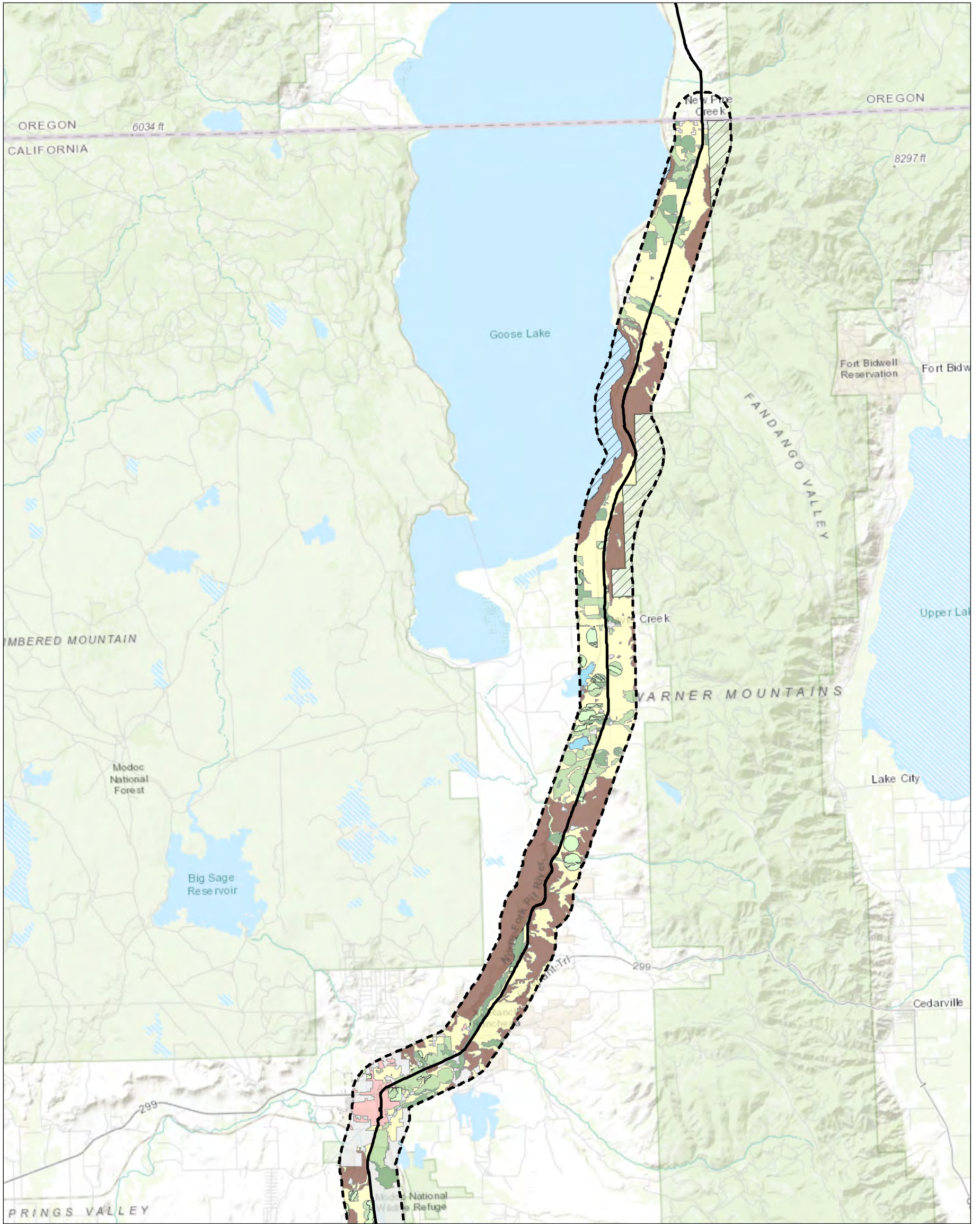


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Agriculture and Forestry Resources

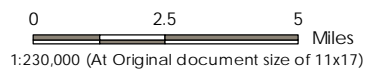
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- Alignment
- 1-mile Buffer
- FMMP Designation**
- Prime Farmland
- Farmland of Statewide Importance
- Unique Farmland
- Farmland of Local Importance
- Grazing Land
- Urban and Built-Up Land
- Other Land
- Water
- Area not mapped*

*FMMP data within portions of Lassen County are not mapped and are shown as "Area not mapped"...

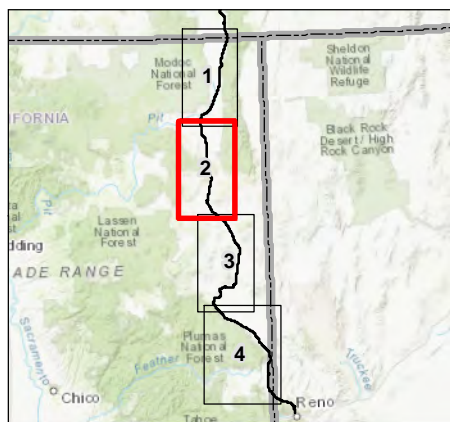
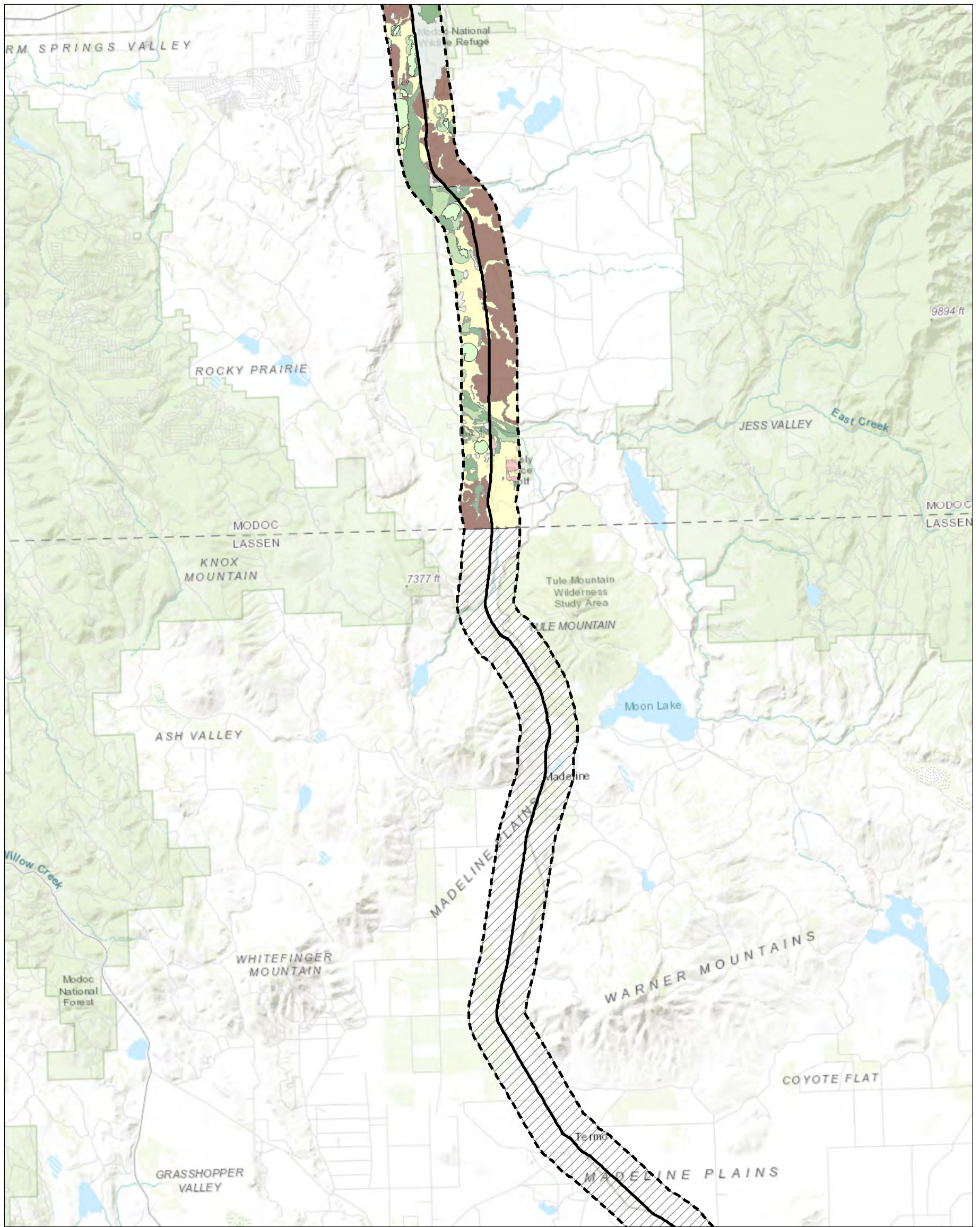


Project Location: Prineville, OR to Reno, NV
 Prepared by CP on 2020-06-17
 Technical Review by JC on 2020-06-17
 Independent Review by CS on 2020-06-17

Client/Project: Zayo Fiber Optic Line--Prineville to Reno

Figure No. **5.2-1**
 Title: Agricultural Resources within One Mile of Proposed Prineville to Reno Fiber Optic Line

Notes
 1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 10N
 2. Data source: Esri 2020; USGS 2020; BLM 2020
 3. Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



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0 2.5 5 Miles
1:230,000 (At Original document size of 11x17)



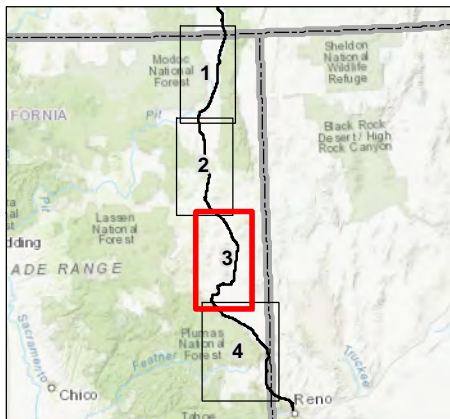
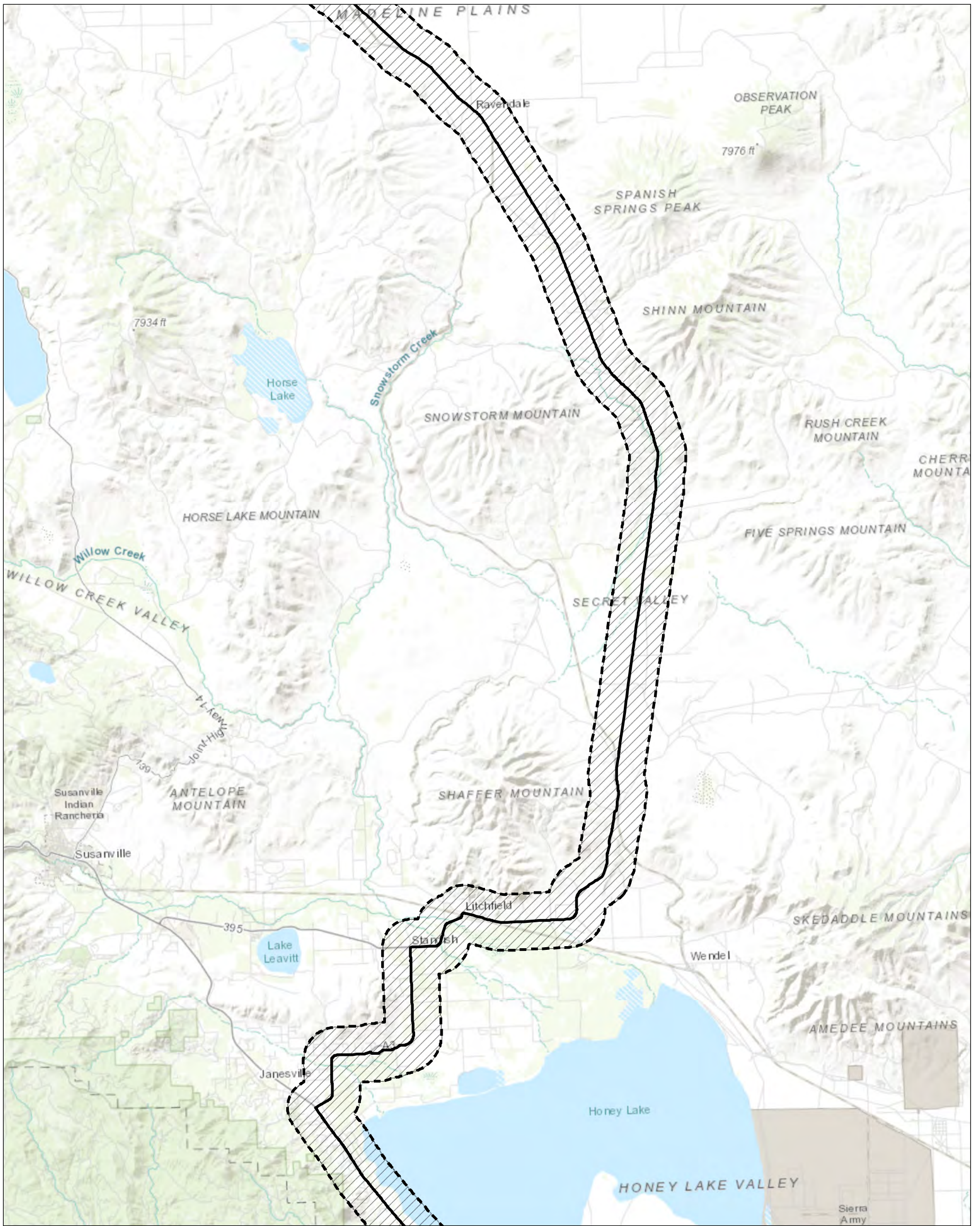
Project Location 2272020011
Prineville, OR to Reno, NV
Prepared by CP on 2020-06-17
Technical Review by JC on 2020-06-17
Independent Review by CS on 2020-06-17

Client/Project
Zayo
Fiber Optic Line--Prineville to Reno

Figure No.
5.2-1

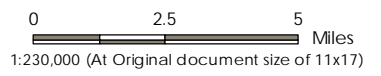
Title
Agricultural Resources within One Mile of Proposed Prineville to Reno Fiber Optic Line

Notes
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2. Data source: Esri 2020; USGS 2020; BLM 2020
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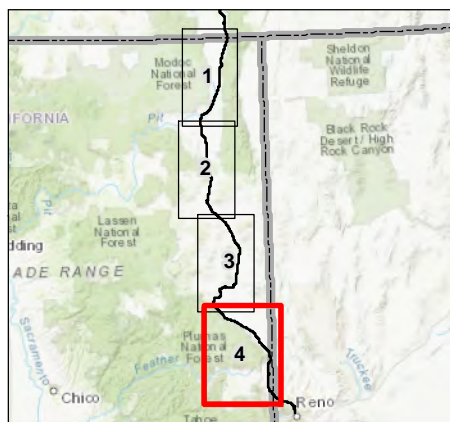
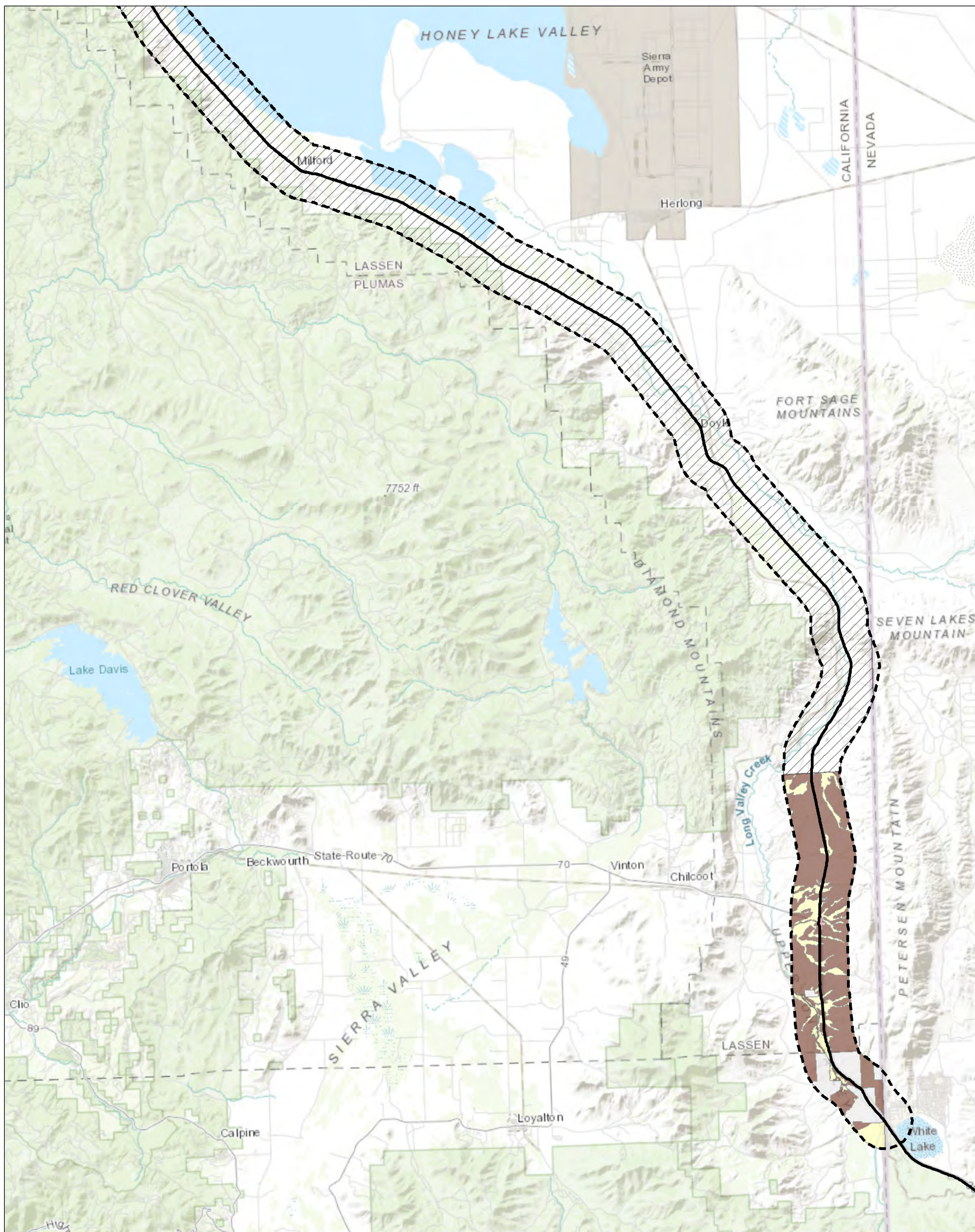


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- Alignment
- 1-mile Buffer
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- Farmland of Local Importance
- Grazing Land
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- Other Land
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Agriculture and Forestry Resources

Modoc County

According to the Modoc County General Plan, agricultural land is the economic base for much of Modoc County (Modoc County 1988, as amended). The Modoc County Department of Agriculture develops an annual crop report of agricultural crop data for the county. According to the 2018 Annual Crop Report, gross agricultural receipts within the county in 2018 totaled \$159,836,423, which was an approximate 4 percent increase from the 2017 growing season (Modoc County 2018). However, multiple fires within Modoc County during the fire season destroyed many federal and state grazing allotments (Modoc County 2018).

Within Modoc County, agricultural resources within 1 mile of the project include land designated as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Local Importance, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, Grazing Land, Urban and Built-up Land, and other land as mapped by the FMMP (California Department of Conservation 2016a). One proposed staging area (0.23 acre) would be located on land designated as Prime Farmland within Modoc County. One proposed ILA location in the City of Alturas would be within Urban and Built-up Land. Additionally, there ~~is~~ are one-three proposed ~~material lay down yard~~ material storage yards in Modoc County; ~~one of which that~~ one of which would be located on land designated as Farmland of Statewide Importance (15.75 acres) and Urban and Built-up Land (4.09 acres). The majority of agricultural lands are located in the northern portion of Modoc County as shown in Figure 5.2-1.

Lassen County

Lassen County considers agricultural resources as an important economic resource within the county. According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture for Lassen County, the county's total market value for agricultural products sold was \$45,964,000, and the average farm size was 1,256 acres (United States Department of Agriculture 2017).

According to the Department of Conservation and Lassen County Planning Department, Lassen County does not have mapped farmland per the FMMP. Therefore, the FMMP status for land adjacent to the running line is unknown. The Lassen County General Plan land use designation for much of the land adjacent to the project alignment through Lassen County is "agricultural", which includes intensive agriculture, extensive agriculture, general agriculture, and grazing lands.

There is one ILA location within Lassen County that would be approximately 0.12 acre and is zoned as general agriculture. In addition, two proposed staging areas within Lassen County would also be located on land designated as agriculture (California Resources Agency 2008). These locations are all ~~local~~ located directly adjacent to US 395. ~~Two-Three~~ one-two ~~material lay-storage-down yards~~ material storage yards are proposed in Lassen County; ~~one-two~~ one in the unincorporated community of Termo ~~and one~~ and the other in the unincorporated community of Standish. The Termo ~~material lay down yard~~ material storage yards would ~~both~~ be located on land ~~designated-zoned as~~ designated-zoned as agriculture (10.29 acres and 2.00 acres); the Standish material lay down yard is designated as very low density residential (8.48 acres). ~~Both of these~~ The material lay down yard locations ~~are less than a half an acre in size and would temporarily house~~ are less than a half an acre in size and would temporarily house equipment and materials for the project.



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Agriculture and Forestry Resources

Sierra County

Agriculture resources, such as farming and crop production, are not as prevalent in Sierra County as they are in Modoc County, because of elevation. Sierra County relies more on grazing and livestock production. According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture for Sierra County, the county's total market value for livestock and crop production was \$2,003,000, and the average farm size was 815 acres (United States Department of Agriculture 2012).

Within Sierra County, agricultural resources within 1 mile of the project include mostly land designated grazing land, with smaller portions of land designated as farmland of local importance and other land as designated by the FMMP (California Department of Conservation 2016b). As shown on this Figure 5.2-1, Sierra County does not have designated agricultural land adjacent to the running line. Further, there are no ILA locations, ~~or staging areas, or material storage yards~~ within Sierra County.

5.2.1.2 Forestry Resources

Portions of US 395 pass through lands with forest resources, particularly in Modoc County and the southern edge of Lassen County. The Lassen County Road A3 segment and Cummings Road portions of the running line would not pass through any lands with forest resources. The state definitions for forest land, timberland, and timberland production zones (TPZs) are included under Section 5.2.2, Regulatory Setting. Lands meeting the definition of forestland (i.e., land that can support 10-percent native tree cover), occur within 1 mile of US 395 and include lands within the Modoc National Forest in Modoc and Lassen Counties as well as the edge of Plumas National Forest in Lassen County. The staging areas and ILAs do not occur on or near any lands meeting the definition of forest land.

5.2.2 Regulatory Setting

5.2.2.1 Federal

Farmland Protection Policy Act

The National Agricultural Land Study of 1980-1981 found that millions of acres of farmland were being converted out of agricultural production in the United States each year. The 1981 Congressional report, "Compact Cities: Energy-Saving Strategies for the Eighties" (Compact Cities report), identified the need for Congress to implement programs and policies to protect farmland and to combat urban sprawl and the waste of energy and resources that accompanies sprawling development. The Compact Cities report indicated that much of the sprawl was the result of programs funded by the federal government. With this in mind, Congress passed the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-98) containing the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)—Subtitle I of Title XV, Section 1539-1549. The final rules and regulations were published in the Federal Register on June 17, 1994.



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5.2.2.2 State

California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program

The FMMP, which monitors the conversion of the state's farmland to and from agricultural use, relies on information from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soils surveys, NRCS land inventory and monitoring criteria, and land use and water availability. Topography, climate, soil quality, and available irrigation water all factor into the FMMP farmland classifications.

The FMMP was established by the California Department of Conservation, under the Division of Land Resource Protection. Important farmland maps are compiled by the FMMP pursuant to Section 65570 of the California Government Code. Under the FMMP, "Important Farmland Categories" were established based on soil characteristics that have significant agricultural production values. Categories mapped by the FMMP are as follows:

- Prime Farmland. Prime Farmland is land that has been used for irrigated agricultural production and meets the physical and chemical criteria for Prime Farmland as determined by the NRCS. This land has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the 4 years prior to the mapping date.
- Farmland of Statewide Importance. Farmland of Statewide Importance is similar to Prime Farmland but generally includes steeper slopes or less ability to store soil moisture. In order to be classified as Farmland of Statewide Importance, the land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the 4 years prior to the mapping date.
- Unique Farmland. Unique Farmland is farmland of lesser quality soils used for the production of the state's leading agricultural crops. This land is usually irrigated but may include non-irrigated orchards or vineyards. Land must have been cropped at some time during the 4 years prior to the mapping date.
- Farmland of Local Importance. Farmland of Local Importance is land important to the local economy as determined by the County Board of Supervisors and a local advisory committee. This land includes dryland grain producing lands and farmlands that are presently irrigated but do not meet the soil characteristics of Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance.
- Grazing Land. Grazing Land is land on which the existing vegetation is suited to the grazing of livestock. This category was developed in cooperation with the California Cattlemen's Association, University of California Cooperative Extension, and other groups interested in the extent of grazing activities. The minimum mapping unit for Grazing Land is 40 acres.
- Urban and Built-up Land. Urban and Built-up Land is land occupied by structures with a building density of at least 1 unit to 1.5 acres, or approximately 6 structures to a 10-acre parcel. This land is used for residential, industrial, commercial, construction, institutional, public administration, railroad



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and other transportation yards, cemeteries, airports, golf courses, sanitary landfills, sewage treatment, water control structures, and other developed purposes.

- Other Land. Other Land is land not included in any other mapping category. Common examples include low-density rural developments; brush, timber, wetland, and riparian areas not suitable for livestock grazing; confined livestock, poultry, or aquaculture facilities; strip mines and borrow pits; and water bodies smaller than 40 acres.
- Water. This category includes perennial water bodies with an extent of at least 40 acres.

California Public Resources Code

The following PRC sections are set forth in the thresholds of significance for this section and discussed in the impact analysis below.

PRC Section 12220(g): “Forest land” is land that can support 10-percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits.

PRC Section 4526: “Timberland” means land, other than land owned by the federal government, that is designated by the board as experimental forest land, which is available for and capable of growing a crop of trees of a commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees.

PRC Section 54404(g): “Timberland production zone” or “TPZ” means an area that has been zoned pursuant to Section 51112 or 51113 and is devoted to and used for growing and harvesting timber, or for growing and harvesting timber and compatible uses, as defined in subdivision (h). With respect to the general plans of cities and counties, “timberland preserve zone” means “timberland production zone”.

PRC Section 21060.1: “Agricultural land” means Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmland as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture land inventory and monitoring criteria, as modified for California.

PRC Section 51238: The following guidelines for Williamson Act contracted land and allowable uses is included in Section 51238:

“(a)(1) Notwithstanding any determination of compatible uses by the county or city pursuant to this article, unless the board or council after notice and hearing makes a finding to the contrary, the erection, construction, alteration, or maintenance of gas, electric, water, communication, or agricultural laborer housing facilities are hereby determined to be compatible uses within any agricultural preserve.”



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5.2.2.3 Local

Because CPUC has exclusive jurisdiction over project siting, design, and construction, the project is not subject to local discretionary regulations (See Section 5.11, Land Use and Planning, for more detail). This section includes a summary of local standards or ordinances related to agricultural and forestry resources for informational purposes and to assist with the CEQA review process.

Modoc County General Plan

The Modoc County General Plan was adopted in September 1988 and includes the following policies related to agricultural and forestry resources that are relevant to the project (Modoc County 1988, as amended):

Goal: Protect and support the agricultural economy of Modoc County.

Policy 1: Preserve and protect valuable agricultural lands in the county.

Policy 3: Support compatible, mixed, or alternative uses of agricultural land, including hunting and fishing clubs, and recreational ranches.

Policy 12: Power transmission line corridors should not be located in any productive agricultural area, including exclusive and general agricultural land or near airports.

Lassen County General Plan

The Lassen County General Plan was adopted in September of 1999 and includes the following goals related to agriculture and forestry resources that are relevant to the project (Lassen County 1999, as amended):

Goal A-1: Conservation of productive agricultural lands and lands having substantial physical potential for productive agricultural use, and the protection of such lands from unwarranted intrusion of incompatible land uses and conservation to uses which may obstruct or contain agricultural use and value.

Policy AG-1: The County recognizes that land having the physical characteristics (e.g., soil) for production of agricultural crops and livestock is a resource of significant value which needs to be protected for its economic value, its contribution to the character of the community, and its environmental and scenic values.

Policy AG-5: In order to minimize the disruption and displacement of agricultural operations and lands by non-agricultural development, non-agricultural development in agricultural areas should be directed to: sites where soils do not have significant potential for productive agricultural use; sites least likely to impact productive agricultural uses in the vicinity; sites where, or which are adjacent to where, similar non-agricultural uses already exist; and sites where adequate community services are or will be available.



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Policy AG-12: Subject to case-by-case review (including review for compatibility with surrounding agricultural uses), and in compliance with relevant area plan, zoning, permitting and environmental review requirements, the development and operation of the following land uses will typically be deemed to be consistent with the Extensive and Intensive Agriculture land use designations and will not require zoning to an "Industrial" zoning district, nor will they be interpreted by the County to constitute an "agricultural conversion" pursuant to this General Plan:

- a) Processing plants for the production of agricultural products;
- b) Processing plants for the production of natural resource products where the location of the resource is fundamental to the location of processing and packaging facilities (e.g., water bottled at the source, etc.);
- c) Mines, the extraction of minerals, and the ancillary processing of mineral materials generated on-site, including the production of asphalt, ready-mix concrete and similar products;
- d) Sawmills and related timber processing operations;
- e) Geothermal and natural gas wells, hydroelectric projects, and ancillary facilities for the production of energy; and
- f) Uses of similar character as may be determined by the Board of Supervisors.

Goal A-4: Support for the economic viability and continuation of agricultural operations and the protection of agricultural resource lands.

Sierra County General Plan

The Sierra County General Plan was first adopted in 1996 and includes the following goals and policies related to agriculture and forestry resources that are relevant to the project (Sierra County 1996, as amended):

Timber Resources Element Goal 1: It is the goal of the County to support the prudent management of timber and to maintain the timber industry as a valuable part of the County economy.

Timber Resources Element Policy 7: Promote compatible secondary timber land uses.

Agricultural Resources Element Goal 1: Protect and defend agriculture as a priority land use, one of those which give the County its essential character.

Alturas General Plan

The City of Alturas General Plan was first adopted in June 1987 (City of Alturas 1987, as amended). There are no agricultural or forestry goals or policies in the Alturas General Plan that are relevant to the project.



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5.2.3 Impact Questions

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural land?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined by Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.2.4 Impact Analysis

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural land?

Less Than Significant Impact. As discussed in Section 5.2.1, Environmental Setting, the project adjacently traverses areas designated by the FMMP as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Farmland of Local Importance, Unique Farmland, Grazing Land, Urban Built-up Land, and Other Land.

The majority of the project would be constructed and operated within the roadway right-of-way and would not result in any permanent conversion of any FMMP agricultural lands to non-agricultural use. The project may result in temporarily disruptions adjacent to these lands and within adjacent staging areas and ~~material-material storage yard~~~~lay-down-yard~~ locations as construction vehicles and equipment are moved through the project alignment; however, these disruptions would be temporary and would not result in any conversions to farmlands or preclude adjacent agricultural activities. One staging area in Modoc County (0.23 acre) would be located on land mapped by the FMMP as prime farmland and one



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material storage yard would be located on land mapped as Farmland of Statewide Importance (15.75 acres) and Urban and Built Up Land (4.09 acres) in Modoc County. As such, APM AG-1 would be implemented to notify the landowner(s) of construction activities and revegetate any temporarily impacted areas to pre-project conditions after construction activities are complete. No other staging areas would be located on Prime, Unique, or Farmland of Local or Statewide importance. Therefore, construction related impacts from conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Local or Statewide Importance would be less than significant.

Once operational, the fiber optic cable would be largely located underground within the existing right-of-way and would not result in any permanent conversions of farmlands. Aboveground features would include three ILA locations (one in Modoc County and two in Lassen County) that would be located outside of the right-of-way. The ILA location in Modoc County would be located within the City of Alturas in Urban and Built-up Land; therefore, this ILA location would not result in any conversion of agricultural uses. The other two ILA locations are located in Lassen County, which shows FMMP data as unmapped. With the lack of FMMP data unmapped, the generalized land use designations were used for analytical purposes to determine if any possible agricultural lands would be converted as a result of these two ILA locations. One of the ILA locations is located on land designated as Very Low Density Residential and therefore would not result in any conversion of agricultural land. The other ILA location has a zoning designation of general agriculture; however, this ILA is located directly adjacent to US 395 right-of-way on a gravel pull-out and is vacant. The site does not include adequate soil that could sustain agricultural uses or substantial amounts of crops. It is unlikely that this site is currently used or would be used for agricultural uses in the future. Further, under the Lassen County municipal code, utilities are considered an allowable use with a conditional use permit. Therefore, there would be a less than significant impact to conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance as a result of the project.

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

Less Than Significant Impact. As discussed in Section 5.2.1, Environmental Setting, Williamson Act contract data was not available for public distribution from Modoc, Lassen, or Sierra Counties. The majority of the project would be located in the right-of way of US 395 and would not affect any possible Williamson Act contracted lands in the area. However, the ILA locations, and staging areas, and material storage yards are located directly adjacent to the US 395 right-of-way and could have the possibility of being located on Williamson Act contracted lands. All staging areas and material storage yards would be temporary and would not permanently affect any possible Williamson Act contracted lands. As described in impact a), one ILA location is located on land with a zoning designation of general agriculture. However, this location is located directly adjacent to the US 395 right-of-way on a gravel pull-out and is vacant. The site does not include adequate soil that could sustain agricultural uses or substantial amounts of crops. It is unlikely that this site is currently used or would be used for agricultural or Williamson Act uses in the future. In addition, Section 51238 of the PRC (Section 5.2.2, Regulatory Setting) states that the construction and maintenance of gas, electric, water, communication, or agricultural laborer housing facilities would be considered a compatible use with agricultural preserves, including Williamson Act contracted lands. Further, under the Lassen County municipal code, utilities are



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considered an allowable use with a conditional use permit. Therefore, pursuant to PRC Section 51238 and the Lassen County Municipal Code, there would be no conflicts with Williamson Act contracts, and the impact that would occur from installation of the project would be less than significant.

c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined by Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

No Impact. The project area includes areas that are surrounded by timberlands and forest lands, particularly near Modoc National Forest and Plumas National Forest. Construction activities associated with the project would occur directly adjacent to some of these areas, which could result in a possible temporary disturbance to timberland and TPZs' operations if timber harvesting activities were to occur at the same time as construction of the project. Because construction of the project would occur directly within or adjacent to the existing roadway right-of-way, it is unlikely that construction activities would interfere with any timber harvesting activities. Additionally, because the project is a linear project, construction activities would not occur in one area for an extended period of time with the rate of installation occurring at an approximate rate of 500 feet per day. Therefore, the project would have no impact related to conflict of forest land, timberland, and TPZs during construction.

Once constructed, the project would largely be located underground and within the existing right-of-way, with the exception of several ancillary facilities that would be located adjacent to the existing right-of-way. The running line does not include any forest lands, timberlands, or TPZs. Therefore, there would be no impact related to operational conflict with zoning of forestlands, timberlands, or TPZs.

d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. Although there is land that meets the definition of forestland (as defined by PRC 12220(g)) within the project area, the project would be constructed and operated within the existing roadway right-of-way, with the exception of several ancillary facilities that would be located adjacent to the existing right-of-way. The project would not result in any loss of forest land or conversion of forestland to non-forest use. The most heavily forested areas within the project area include the areas near Modoc National Forest and Plumas National Forest. The project would not result in any removal of trees in these areas. Therefore, there would be no impact related to loss of forest and or conversion of forestland to non-forest use from implementation of the project.

e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. The project, once constructed, would consist of an underground fiber optic line used for broadband internet services. As discussed in the impact analyses above for questions a through d, the construction and operation of this fiber optic line would not result in conversion of agricultural lands or



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forest lands nor would it preclude adjacent agricultural activities. Therefore, there would be no impact related to conversion of farmland or forest lands to non-agricultural or non-forest use.

5.2.5 Draft Environmental Measures

Applicant Proposed Measures

APM AG-1: Coordination with Agricultural Landowners. For the staging area located on prime farmland, or any subsequent staging areas identified that would need to be located on prime, unique, or farmland or local or statewide importance, prior to construction, the applicant would provide written notice to the landowner(s) outlining construction activities, preliminary schedule, and estimated timing of restoration efforts. The applicant will coordinate with the landowner(s) to minimize construction-related disruptions to seasonal farming operations. Following construction in the applicable area, the applicant will revegetate temporarily impacted agricultural areas.

