

I. Resource Condition Assessment

A. Resource Setting

1. There are 14 recorded heritage resource sites within the Forest Service administered burned area. The Angora Lookout is a Class I heritage resource site. The other 13 are Class II heritage resource sites. All of these sites are considered to be high value heritage properties.

a. Class I Sites are those historic or prehistoric resources determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), per criteria in 36 CFR §60.4.

b. Class II sites are those whose NRHP status is unknown or unevaluated. Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2361 direction states that Class II sites are afforded the consideration and protection as Class I sites.

c. Class III sites are those that have been evaluated and found to be ineligible for NRHP.

2. Heritage resources within the burned area can be grouped into five general categories: Bedrock Milling/Lithic Scatter Sites, Logging Sites, Can Dumps Sites, Roads, and Buildings Sites.

a. Bedrock Milling/Lithic Scatter Sites. There are nine identified areas of prehistoric Washoe Tribe use in the burn area (05-19-261, -322, -323, -324, -325, -391, -392, -393, and -411). Interestingly, these sites are aligned in a north-south direction in boldered areas in the northern portion of the burn area. Features at these sites include milling stones, slick stones, bedrock mortars, cupules that may be petroglyphs, and lithic scatter.

b. Logging Sites. The Angora Logging Complex (05-19-265) is in the southern portion of the burn area and consists of four isolated linear features grouped together as an historic logging complex. Features include two possible log

chutes, one road, and one ditch. Logging was the major activity in the general area in historic times.

c. Can Dumps. Two historic trash scatter sites (05-19-416 and -261) were created from the 1930s to 1950s and are associated with two prehistoric use areas. Artifacts at these trash sites include cans, bottles and fragments, and miscellaneous metal objects.

d. Roads. Hildinger Road (05-19-377) was constructed along Angora Ridge in the late 1920s by Albert Hildinger to access his holdings at Angora Lakes. The roadway was improved in the mid-1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps under the direction of the Forest Service. The present road is 12-15 feet wide and is paved. An historic logging road also occurs in the area associated with the Angora Logging Complex described above. An historic access road is associated with the Forni Cabin Site described below.

e. Buildings. The Angora Lookout (05-19-350) was constructed along Angora Ridge by the Civilian Conservation Corps *circa* 1935. The site consists of rock and mortar walls and three structures: garage, residence, and lookout. The lookout has recently undergone renovation. The Forni Cabin Site (05-19-328) was developed in the early 1900s by the Forni family in what is now Washoe Meadows State Park. Site features include large depressions and a roadbed; a pile of weathered lumber is also associated with the site.

B. Findings of the On-The-Ground Surveys

1. Values at Risk

a. Thirteen (13) of the identified heritage resource sites within the burn area were inspected and values at risk were assessed. One prehistoric site (05-19-322) could not be relocated during the survey. This site is probably within the burned area at Washoe Meadows State Park and its site features (bedrock milling surfaces) were probably unaffected by the fire and attendant suppression activity; no dozer lines were created in this area.

2. Condition of Values at Risk

a. Fire suppression activity occurred within three of the identified heritage resource sites: Quartz Point (05-19-411), Forni Cabin Site (05-19-328), and the Angora Logging

Complex (05-19-265). All other identified heritage resources were not significantly affected by the fire.

(1) Quartz Point. This prehistoric site is along the northern perimeter of the burned area. An existing "dirt" road that passes through the site was slightly re-graded by a bulldozer and air tankers dropped orange fire retardant on the eastern portion of the site which covered some of the boulders with bedrock mortars and cupules. Suppression rehabilitation crews have since covered the road with cut branches. I revisited this site with Mr. Darrel Cruz (Washoe Tribe Environmental Specialist) and Dr. Michael Weichman (USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Assistant Heritage Resources Program Manager) on 7-2-07 to evaluate impacts to the site and identify the need for remedial actions. We determined that damage to the site was minor and warranted no further attention.

(2) Forni Cabin Site. This site is in Washoe Meadows State near the eastern perimeter of the fire. The smaller of two depressions was slightly tilled during mop-up activities. Most of the piled lumber was burned by the fire. State Park representatives have been contacted about these circumstances.

(3) Angora Logging Complex. This historic site is in southeast portion of the burn area. Fire trucks drove through and slightly disturbed about 200 feet of a 962-foot-long suspected log chute. I consulted with Dr. Michael Weichman (USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Assistant Heritage Resources Program Manager) on 7-2-07. He said that restoration of this feature would be unnecessary.

b. Mr. Darrel Cruz, an environmental Specialist from the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, surveyed bulldozer lines along the fire perimeter. He found no unrecorded prehistoric sites during his field surveys. See his letter in the appendix.

II. Emergency Determination

A. No emergency exists for heritage resources in the FS administered burned area.

III. Treatments to Mitigate the Emergency

A. Not applicable.

IV. Discussion/Summary/Recommendations

A. The Angora Fire burned an area containing 14 recorded prehistoric or historic cultural resource sites. This fire did not cause a significant disturbance to site features and attendant artifacts. Although minor damage to three of these recorded sites occurred during fire suppression activities and mop-up, no remedial action is needed to restore or protect these heritage resources.

V. Appendix: Letter from Darrel Cruz