

Determinations of Eligibilty Severely Damaged Sites (RPA Appendix F Stip. 2.3(a))

Forni Creek Tract, FS 05-03-56-865
Pyramid Creek Tract, FS 05-03-56-871
Twin Bridges Tract, FS 05-03-56-872
Sayles Canyon Tract, FS 05-03-56-873
Bryant Creek Tract, FS 05-03-56-874
Aspen Creek Tract, FS 05-03-56-875
Fir Tract, FS 05-03-56-876
46 Milestone Tract, FS 05-03-56-877
47 Milestone Tract, FS 05-03-56-878
Phillips Tract, FS 05-03-56-879

1. Background and Site Descriptions:

Recreation residences are privately owned structures permitted on National Forest System lands that have existed under Forest Service policies since the turn of the 20th century. Nearly all recreation residence tracts on the Eldorado National Forest (ENF) were laid out between 1916 and 1940, the majority of which were developed adjacent to the Lincoln Highway, along present-day Highway 50 on the Placerville Ranger District.

In 2002, Region 5 and SHPO developed a *Programmatic Agreement Regarding the Management of Historic Recreation Residence Tracts* (R5 Rec Residence PA). The Rec Residence PA has been the primary mechanism for meeting NHPA Section 106 requirements when approving maintenance, reconstruction, and other actions proposed by permit holders to maintain and improve cabins within tracts that are eligible or potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Between 1993 and 2003, Region 5 developed a Strategy for Inventory and Historic Evaluation of Recreation Residence Tracts in the National Forests of California from 1906 to 1959 prepared by the R5 Heritage Program and Steve McNeil from the UC Davis Landscape Architecture department, with the assistance of Susan Lassell of Jones and Stokes Associates, Inc. (last revised 2003). The final strategy outlined an historic context in which to evaluate the historic significance of recreation residences, identified and defined the physical characteristics of these property types, and described how NRHP criteria A and C apply to them. While developing the strategy, Professor McNeil conducted an analysis on all of the recreation residence tracts within the ENF, which included assigning an historic integrity rating to each individual residence using a sliding scale from Levels 1 to 6. In consultation with SHPO, the strategy concluded that: recreation residence tracts are the primary property type and unit of analysis; lots are the basic units of the tract subdivision; and, lots, at a minimum, contain the primary residence. Residences that have been destroyed, removed, or moved are Level 1 and, therefore, integrity of those buildings and sites has been totally lost. Residences with integrity Level 4 or above would be classified as contributing to the significance of an historic tract. At least two-thirds (67%) of the cabins should have existed during the period of significance (the time during which all or most of the residences were constructed) and those cabins should retain at least Level 4 or greater integrity for the tract to be eligible for listing in the NRHP.



In 2008, R5 Regional Forester Randy Moore issued a Recreation Residence Consistency Review and Continuance Determination Clarification (CR&CD) memo to all Forest Supervisors to confirm that: Section 106 evaluations are to take place on a 'tract-by-tract' basis using the 67% contributing cabins threshold for integrity; all tracts that have not been formally evaluated to determine their NRHP eligibility are to be managed as historic; and tracts that are not NRHP eligible means that they do not have enough historic structures remaining or in a condition that would make the tract eligible.

Between August and November 2021, the Caldor Fire burned approximately 161,000 acres on ENF lands and destroyed hundreds of structures, including a significant number of cabins located within ten historic recreation residence tracts along Highway 50, as follows:

Forni Creek Tract (FS 05-03-56-865)

Constructed between 1928 and 1948, the Forni Creek Tract had not been previously evaluated for the NRHP and was managed as eligible; prior to the Caldor Fire, 1 out of 6 (17%) of the cabins were considered to be contributing to the tract's potential NRHP eligibility. 3 cabins have been destroyed or removed (2 in Caldor Fire, 1 previously decommissioned), leaving 3 out of 6 cabins remaining. The following cabins were destroyed in the Caldor Fire: Lot 3, 6. Lot 2 was 10-25% damaged where siding was burned.

With only 50% of the original cabins remaining, the Forni Creek Tract is not eligible for the NRHP due to the loss of integrity.

Pyramid Creek Tract (FS 05-03-56-871)

Constructed between 1931 and 1943, the Pyramid Creek Tract had not been previously evaluated for the NRHP and was managed as eligible; prior to the Caldor Fire, 26 out of 36 (72%) of the cabins were considered to be contributing to the tract's potential NRHP eligibility. 18 cabins have been destroyed or removed (16 in Caldor Fire, 2 previously decommissioned), leaving 18 out of 36 cabins remaining. The following cabins were destroyed in the Caldor Fire: Lot 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 14, 16, 24, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 37, 39.

With only 50% of the original cabins remaining, the Pyramid Creek Tract is not eligible for the NRHP due to the loss of integrity.

Twin Bridges Tract (FS 05-03-56-872)

Constructed between 1939 and 1952, the Twin Bridges Tract had not been previously evaluated for the NRHP and was managed as eligible; prior to the Caldor Fire, 4 out of 14 (29%) of the cabins were considered to be contributing to the tract's potential NRHP eligibility. 10 cabins have been destroyed or removed (3 in Caldor Fire, 7 previously decommissioned), leaving 4 out of 14 cabins remaining. The following cabins were destroyed in the Caldor Fire: Lot 3, 9, 14.

With only 29% of the original cabins remaining, the Twin Bridges Tract is not eligible for the NRHP due to the loss of integrity.



Sayles Canyon Tract (FS 05-03-56-873)

The Sayles Canyon Tract had not been previously evaluated for the NRHP and was managed as eligible; prior to the Caldor Fire, 26 out of 36 (72%) of the cabins were considered to be contributing to the tract's potential NRHP eligibility. 22 cabins were destroyed in the Caldor Fire, leaving 14 out of 36 cabins remaining. The following cabins were destroyed in the Caldor Fire: Lot 1, 2, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39.

With only 39% of the original cabins remaining, the Sayles Canyon Tract is not eligible for the NRHP due to the loss of integrity.

Bryant Creek Tract (FS 05-03-56-874)

Constructed between 1921 and 1944, the Bryant Creek Tract had not been previously evaluated for the NRHP and was managed as eligible; prior to the Caldor Fire, 28 out of 33 (85%) of the cabins were considered to be contributing to the tract's potential NRHP eligibility. 20 cabins have been destroyed or removed (16 in Caldor Fire, 4 previously decommissioned), leaving 13 out of 33 cabins remaining. The following cabins were destroyed in the Caldor Fire: Lot 7, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36.

With only 39% of the original cabins remaining, the Bryant Creek Tract is not eligible for the NRHP due to the loss of integrity.

Aspen Creek Tract (FS 05-03-56-875)

Constructed between 1922 and 1945, the Aspen Creek Tract had not been previously evaluated for the NRHP and was managed as eligible; prior to the Caldor Fire, 14 out of 19 (74%) of the cabins were considered to be contributing to the tract's potential NRHP eligibility. 17 cabins have been destroyed or removed (16 in Caldor Fire, 1 previously decommissioned), leaving 2 out of 19 cabins remaining. The following cabins were destroyed in the Caldor Fire: Lot 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23.

With only 11% of the original cabins remaining, the Aspen Creek Tract is not eligible for the NRHP due to the loss of integrity.

Fir Tract (FS 05-03-56-876)

Constructed between 1932 and 1945, the Fir Tract had not been previously evaluated for the NRHP and was managed as eligible; prior to the Caldor Fire, 15 out of 23 (66%) of the cabins were considered to be contributing to the tract's potential NRHP eligibility. All 23 cabins were destroyed in the Caldor Fire, leaving 0 out of 23 cabins remaining.

With 0% of the original cabins remaining, the Fir Tract is not eligible for the NRHP due to the loss of integrity.

46 Milestone Tract (FS 05-03-56-877)

Constructed between 1920 and 1944, the 46 Milestone Tract had not been previously evaluated for the NRHP and was managed as eligible; prior to the Caldor Fire, 15 out of 27 (56%) of the cabins were considered to be contributing to the tract's potential NRHP eligibility.



15 cabins have been destroyed or removed (8 in Caldor Fire, 7 previously decommissioned), leaving 12 out of 27 cabins remaining. The following cabins were destroyed in the Caldor Fire: Lot 15, 25, 116, 121, 122, 122.5, 124, 128.

With only 44% of the original cabins remaining, the 46 Milestone Tract is not eligible for the NRHP due to the loss of integrity.

47 Milestone Tract (FS 05-03-56-878)

Constructed between 1921 and 1944, the 47 Milestone Tract had not been previously evaluated for the NRHP and was managed as eligible; prior to the Caldor Fire, 19 out of 30 (64%) of the cabins were considered to be contributing to the tract's potential NRHP eligibility. 23 cabins have been destroyed or removed (17 in Caldor Fire, 6 previously decommissioned), leaving 7 out of 30 cabins remaining. The following cabins were destroyed in the Caldor Fire: Lot 1, 2, 4, 12, 101, 103, 105, 106, 107, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116.

With only 23% of the original cabins remaining, the 47 Milestone Tract is not eligible for the NRHP due to the loss of integrity.

Phillips Tract (FS 05-03-56-879)

Constructed between 1932 and 1958, the Phillips Tract had not been previously evaluated for the NRHP and was managed as eligible; prior to the Caldor Fire, 3 out of 6 (50%) of the cabins were considered to be contributing to the tract's potential NRHP eligibility. All 6 cabins were destroyed in the Caldor Fire, leaving 0 out of 6 cabins remaining.

With 0% of the original cabins remaining, the Phillips Tract is not eligible for the NRHP due to the loss of integrity.

2. Methodology of data collection

The documents and information discussed above to reach these NRHP determinations of eligibility are available in ENF recreation residence tract files. ENF archaeologists reviewed additional documents, such as original survey maps and site plans of the tracts, *Guidelines for Recreation Residence Tracts on the Eldorado National Forest* prepared by R5 in 1996, as well as the tract/cabin evaluation assessments prepared by Steve McNeil, which was accompanied by the *Historic Context for Recreation Residence Tracts Along US Highway 50 Located Within the Eldorado National Forest*.

Sources of information regarding the post-Caldor Fire inventory and status of the cabins included a tracking spreadsheet developed by the Placerville District Special Uses Specialist, who consulted with individual cabin owners, presidents and other representative of tract associations, and the El Dorado County website. ENF archaeologists made reconnaissance field visits to many of the recreation residence tracts during and after the fire.

3. Rationale for ineligibility recommendation:

The R5 recreation residence evaluation strategy (last revised 2003) outlines the reasons why historic recreation residence tracts may be eligible for the NRHP under criterion A (if they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of



our history) and criterion C (if they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction).

All of the recreation residence tracts in this report could have qualified under criterion A and C since they were established during the period of study (1906-1959) and exhibited rustic, vernacular architectural characteristics; however, several of the tracts (i.e., Forni Creek Tract, Twin Bridges Tract) did not meet the established 66% contributing cabins threshold for integrity prior to the 2021 Caldor Fire. Moreover, as a result of the fire, none of the ten recreation residence tracts discussed above have enough historic structures remaining or in a condition that would make the tracts eligible.

Without integrity, any associations these tracts may have with an important person in history (and potential NRHP eligibility under criterion B) would not be sufficient to qualify them for listing. Background research, however, has not revealed reasons why these tracts would be eligible other than their direct relationship to the broader history of Forest Service recreation residences.

4. <u>Determination of NRHP Eligibility:</u>

I recommend that the ten recreation residence tracts discussed above are ineligible for inclusion into the National Register of Historic Places.

5. Management Recommendations

The ten ineligible recreation residence tracts in this report will be released from management with regards to NHPA Section 106 requirements as they are no longer considered historic properties. Within these ten recreation residence tracts, approval of permittee requests to re-build or for ongoing maintenance or modifications to their lots will no longer need the typical review or screening process using the R5 Recreation Residence Programmatic Agreement. Any potential ground disturbance will be reviewed using the R5 Programmatic Agreement.

Within these ten ineligible tracts, if ENF leadership decides that recreation residence permittees may re-build cabins that were destroyed by the Caldor Fire, the ENF heritage program will be available when advice is sought regarding rustic, vernacular architectural characteristics; however, this would take place outside of the Section 106 process as historic integrity considerations would no longer be required. Efforts to rebuild cabins in-kind to match the destroyed buildings or to blend with the original historic look and feel of the tract will not alter the current NRHP determinations of eligibility. This is consistent with the R5 *Strategy for Inventory and Historic Evaluation of Recreation Residence Tracts*, which states that "new buildings, while they might have been built to reflect the character-defining features of a tract, were constructed outside the period of significance and, therefore, are not contributing under the tract-based evaluation strategy".

Prepared by: <u>/s/ Jordan Serin</u>

2/1/2022

Jordan Serin

Date

Placerville District Archaeologist



Certified by: /s/ Charles Hutcheson

2/3/2022

Chuck Hutcheson ENF Heritage Program Manager Date

Photos







Pyramid Creek Tract, Lot 34



Twin Bridges Tract, Lot 9







Sayles Canyon Tract, Lot 20



Sayles Canyon Tract, Lot 28



Bryant Creek Tract, Lot 7



Bryant Creek Tract, Lot 19



Aspen Creek Tract, Lot 13



Aspen Creek Tract, Lot 18







Placerville Ranger District Eldorado National Forest

Fir Tract, Lot 14



Fir Tract, Lot 26



46 Milestone Tract, Lot 116



46 Milestone Tract, Lot 122.5



47 Milestone Tract, Lot 12



47 Milestone Tract, Lot 116



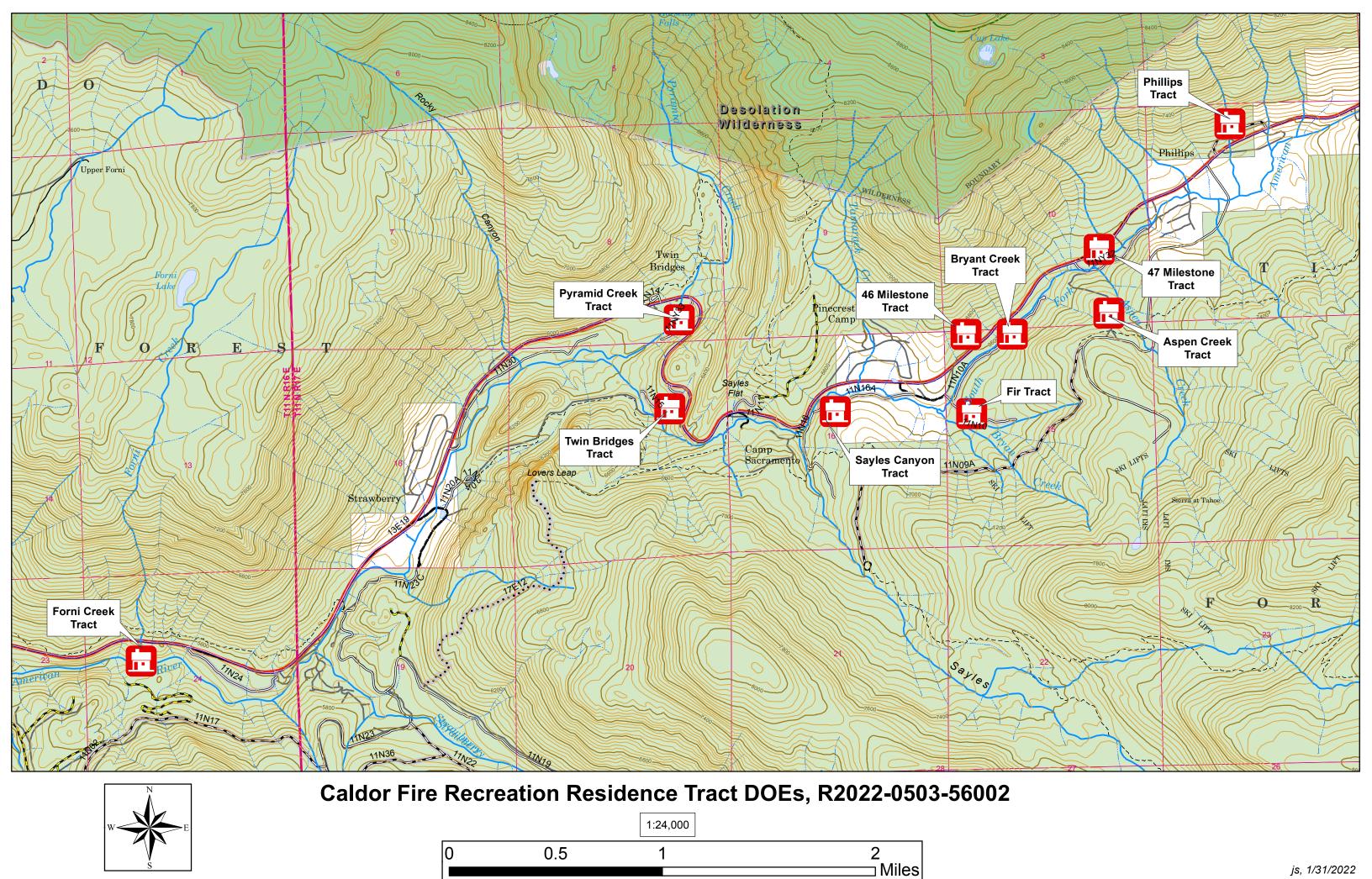






Phillips Tract, Lot 3

Phillips Tract, Lot 8



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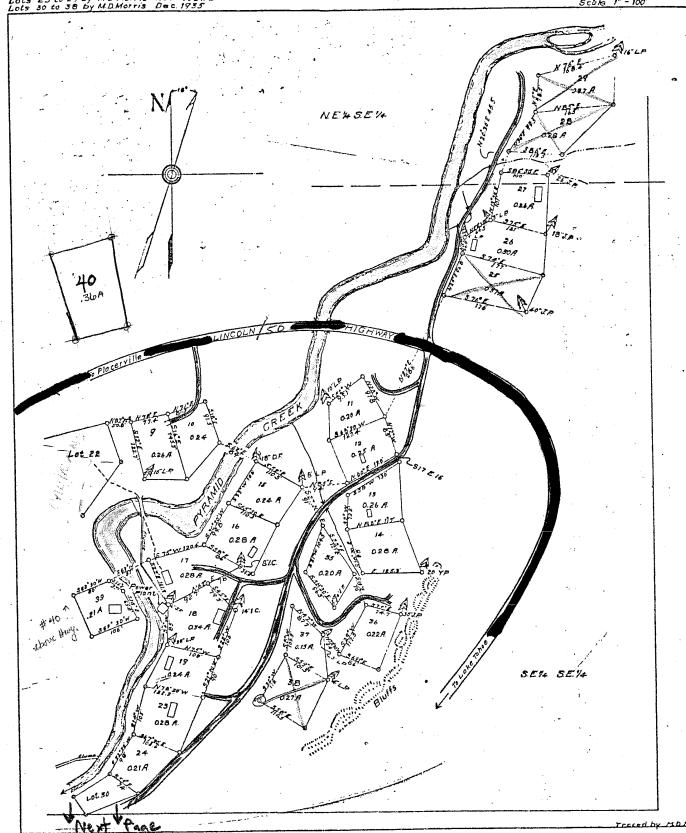
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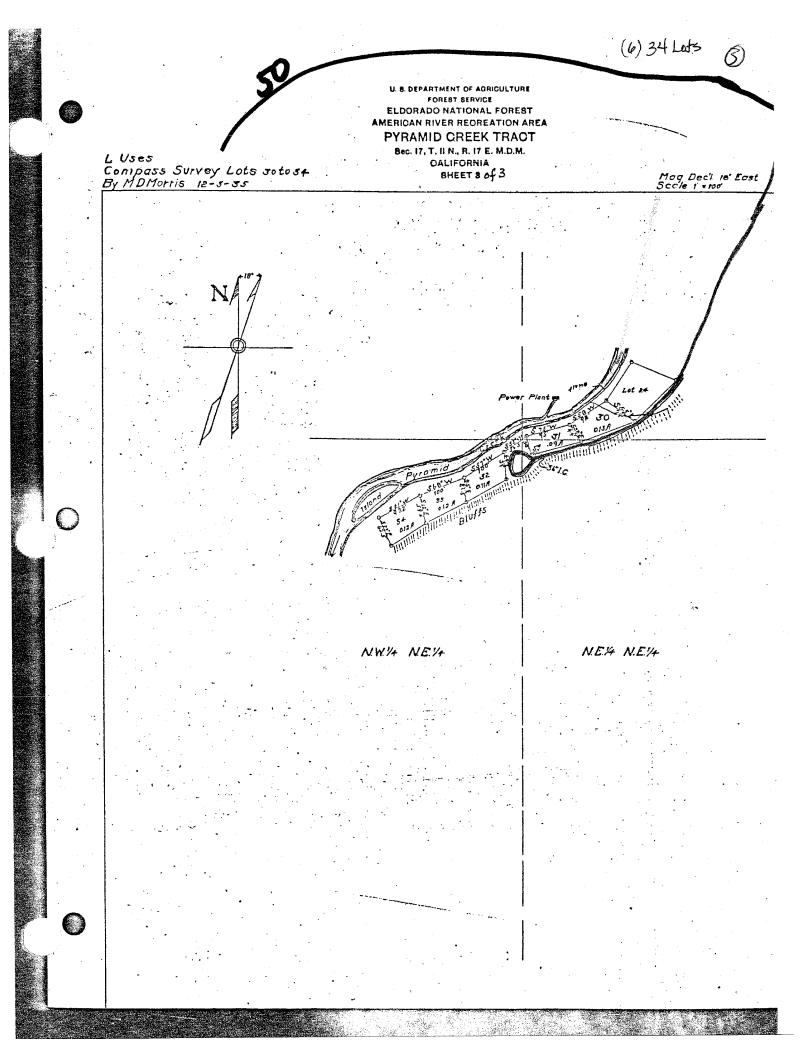
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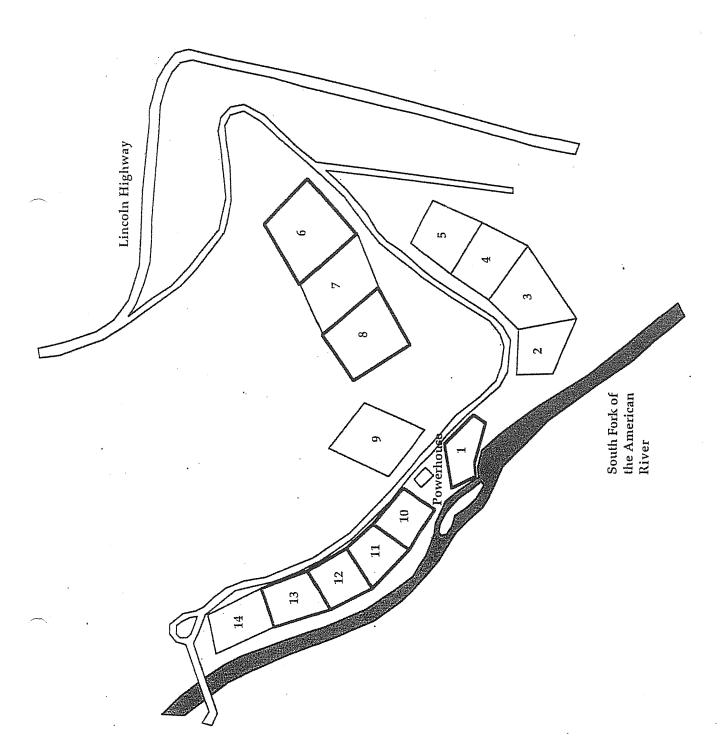
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Lots 25 to 29 by MD Morris Nov. 1951. Lorss er Ham. 8-13-38
Lots 30 to 38 by MD Morris Dec. 1935

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SHEET 1

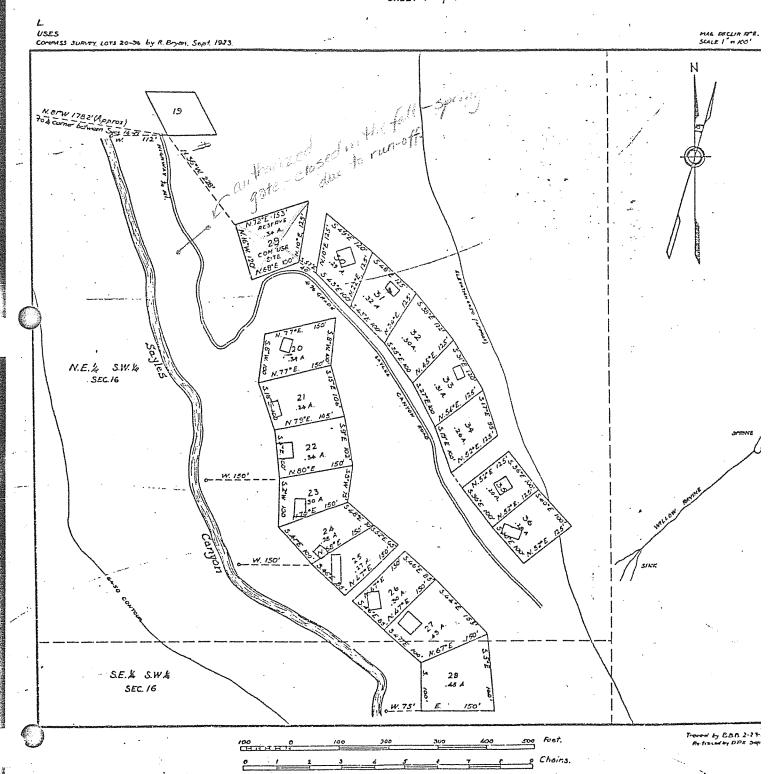


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SAYLES CANYON TRACT

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SHEET 4 of 4



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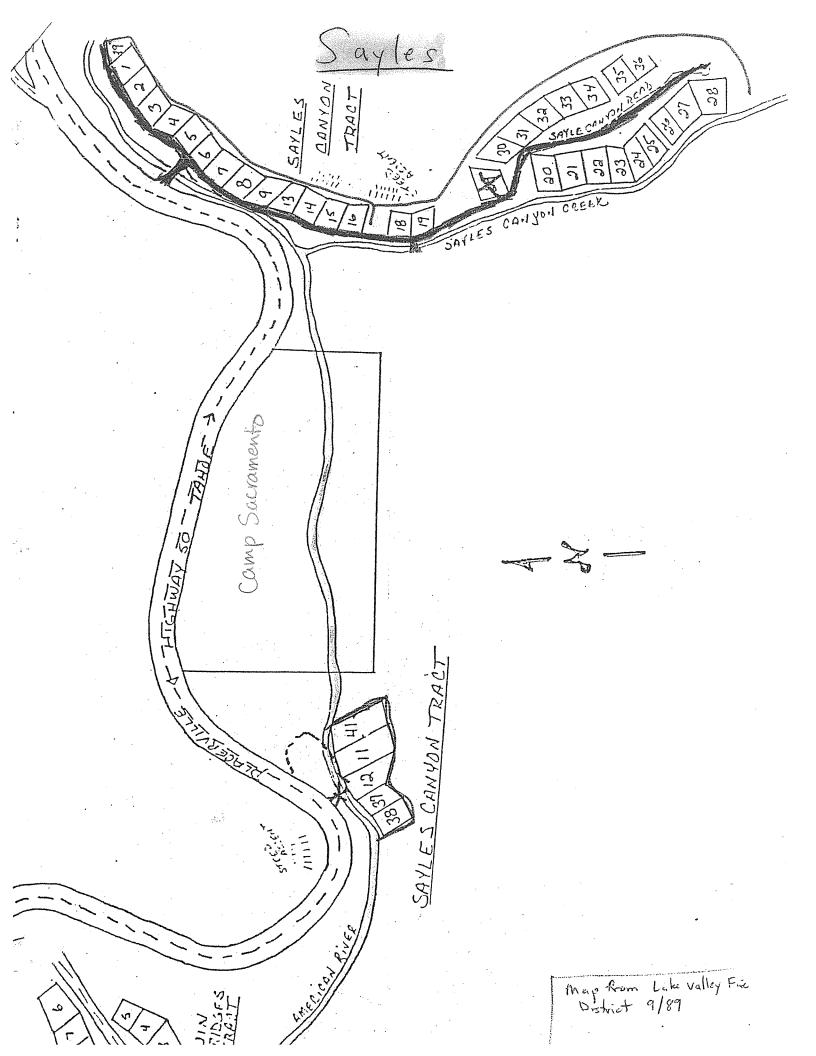
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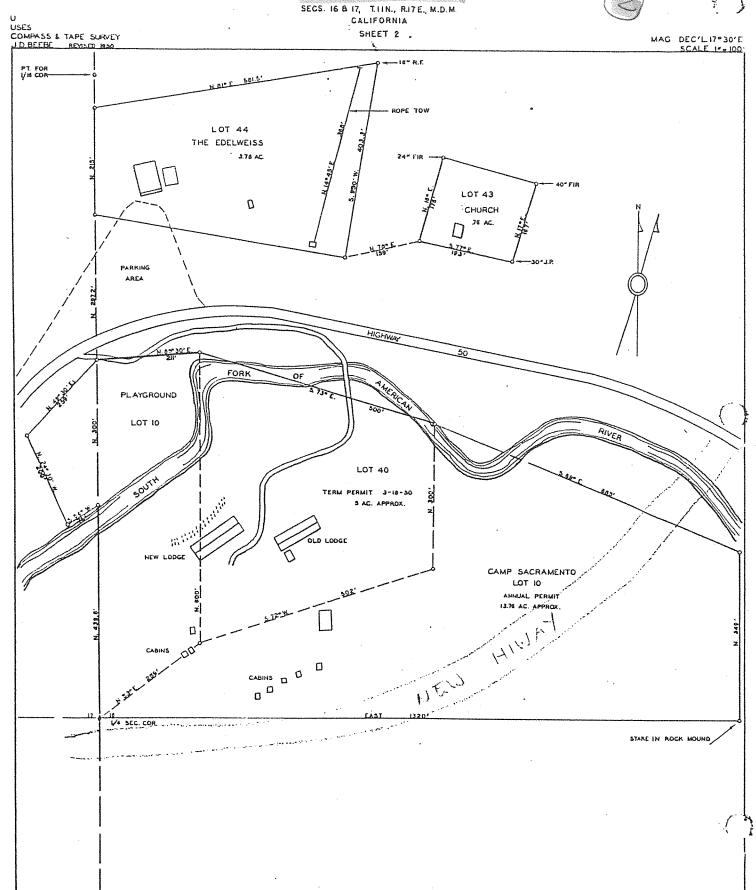
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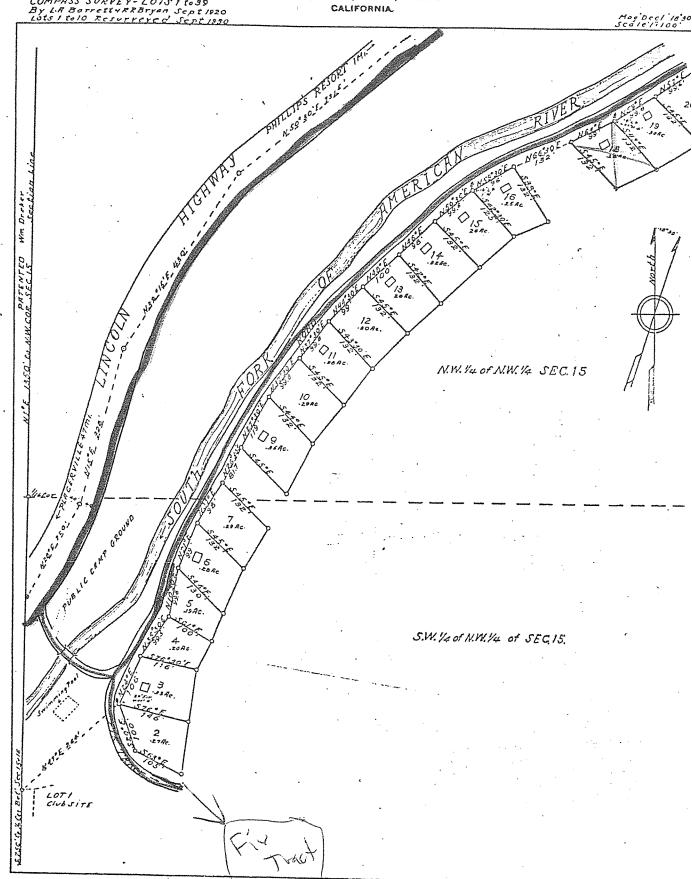




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COMPASS SURVEY-LOTS 1 to 39
By LA Borrett + RRBryan Sept 1920
Lots 1 to 10 Resurveyed Sept 1930

Sec. 16, T. 11 N., R. 17 E., M. D. M.



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30 Lots



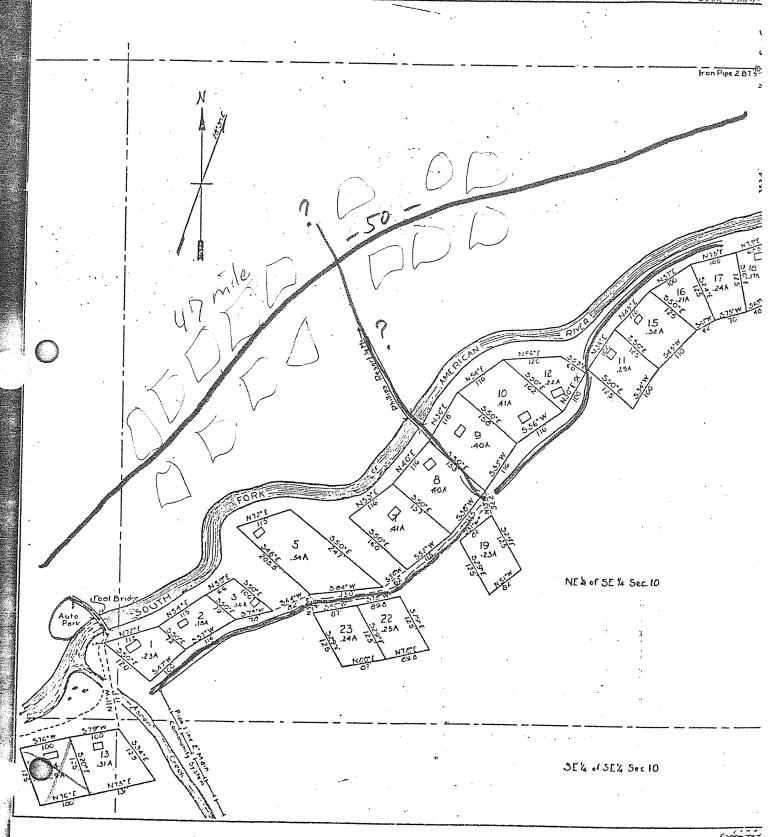
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U. B. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE ELDORADO NATIONAL FOREST LAKE VALLEY RECREATION AREA 46 MILE STONE TRACT Secs. 10 & 15, TIIN, RITE, M. D. M. CALIFORNIA SHEET 1 of 2

(6) 23 Lots



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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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AKE VALLEY RECREATION AREA

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LAKE VALLEY RECREATION AREA

46 MILE STONE TRACT

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LAKE VALLEY RECREATION AREA

47 MILE STONE TRACT

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_SHEET 2 of 3

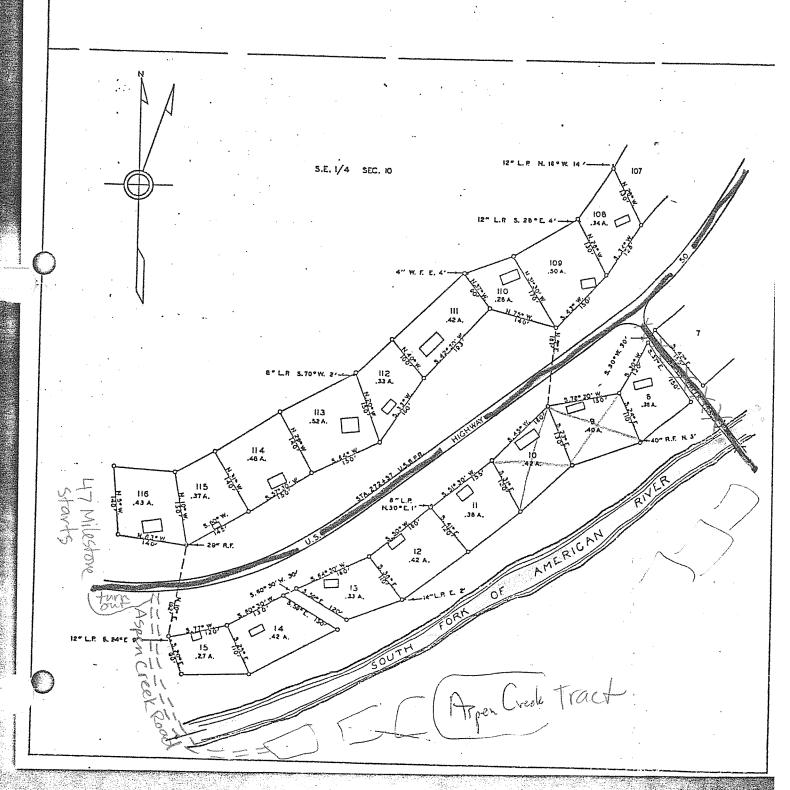
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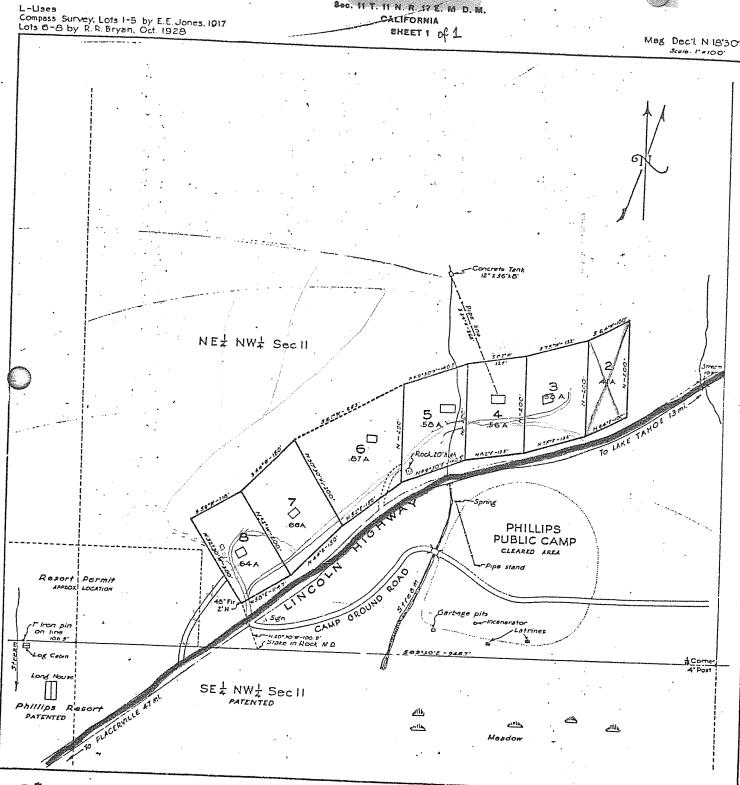
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PHILLIPS TRACT

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PHILLIPS TRACT

SHEET 2



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