RFQ #26-0407

Q & A Document

Q: Is there a single map of the study area showing the 33 reservoirs of interest?

A: A list of the reservoirs and corresponding maps can be found on pages 7 through 9 of this document. There is not a single GIS map of the reservoirs.

Q: The RFQ implies there may be more information regarding the work funded by the grant. Is there additional background information that could be shared regarding the project?

A: The purpose of this RFQ is to select a qualified consultant. After selection, the County will provide access to available studies and data. An informational PowerPoint is attached beginning on page 3 and includes an outline of past studies related to this effort.

Additionally, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has committed to providing technical and scientific assistance throughout the planning study, including access to existing biological assessment data (see page 6 of the RFQ for more information).

Q: Can the Scope of Work be completed using GIS or CAD?

A: GIS and CAD tools may be used to support analysis (e.g., mapping and storage modeling); however, a physical inspection is required to document how the outflow structures were originally constructed. Due to Wilderness Act requirements, replication of original construction methods may be necessary.

Q: Can you clarify the detail you require and your desired approach?

A: The consultant's report should address the following:

- Identify which reservoirs, if any, are suitable for repair and use, with justification based on Wilderness Act requirements, water storage capacity, location, cost, and overall feasibility.
- Evaluate the work needed to repair or restore the reservoirs, including how they were originally constructed (field verification required).

- Estimate reservoir storage capacity and assess both direct and indirect in-stream flow benefits to the Scott River, including how flows would be conveyed to the main stem.
- Identify any legal or legislative approvals required to repair and use the reservoirs.
- Outline required environmental compliance and permitting considerations.
- Provide planning-level cost estimates and a general project timeline for recommended reservoirs.

The County is not recommending a specific technical approach. The consultant is expected to determine an appropriate methodology based on the project goals and scope of work.

The study should be completed by November 30, 2027.

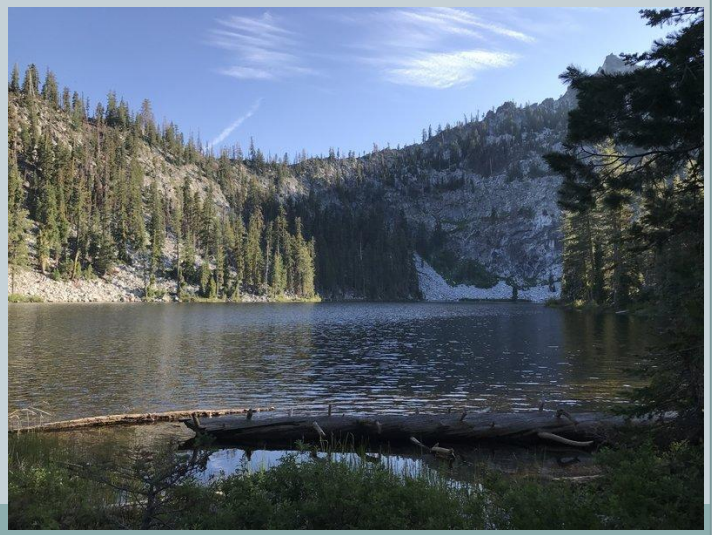
High Mountain (Altitude) Lakes

COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

East Boulder Lake

Background

- High Mountain (Altitude) Lakes – 33 reservoirs located in three Wilderness areas (Marbles, Russian and Trinity).
- Outflow maintenance structures constructed by hand prior to the Wilderness Act for irrigation and/or hydraulic mining (constructed in early 1900's).
- Many of the constructed structures were destroyed during the 1964 flood and were not repaired afterwards as they were no longer being actively used for irrigation or mining.
- Reservoirs fill through natural inflow, outflow is no longer maintained and storage capacity as a result of the damaged maintenance structures has decreased .



Paynes Lake, Russian Wilderness

Background

- For several decades the use of the lakes have come up in discussion for potential in-stream flow benefits.
  - Several state studies have mentioned the lakes and described potential use but no in-depth research has been performed

- The most detailed information was a 1991 Department of Water Resources Study funded under the Klamath River Basin Fishery Resources Restoration Act (funding provided by DOI, USFWS, KRBFTF (Klamath River Basin Fisheries Task Force), and DWR)).
  - "The goal is that this investigation will provide the initial information needed to undertake the restoration of the Scott River anadromous fishery. Based on the findings, there is a promising potential to repair the fishery of this great river."

- KRBFTF requested that DWR investigate the potential for augmenting streamflow's in the upper Scott River
  - "More than 30 high-altitude lakes within the Scott River Basin. Some of these lakes have been used in the past to increase streamflow for irrigation. This was usually accomplished by building a small rock and earth dam with an outlet at the natural outflow point."

- These lakes could be enlarged (or repaired) and the additionally stored water released later in the summer to supplement Scott River flows (no intent to use flows for irrigation purposes).

Big and Little Duck Lakes

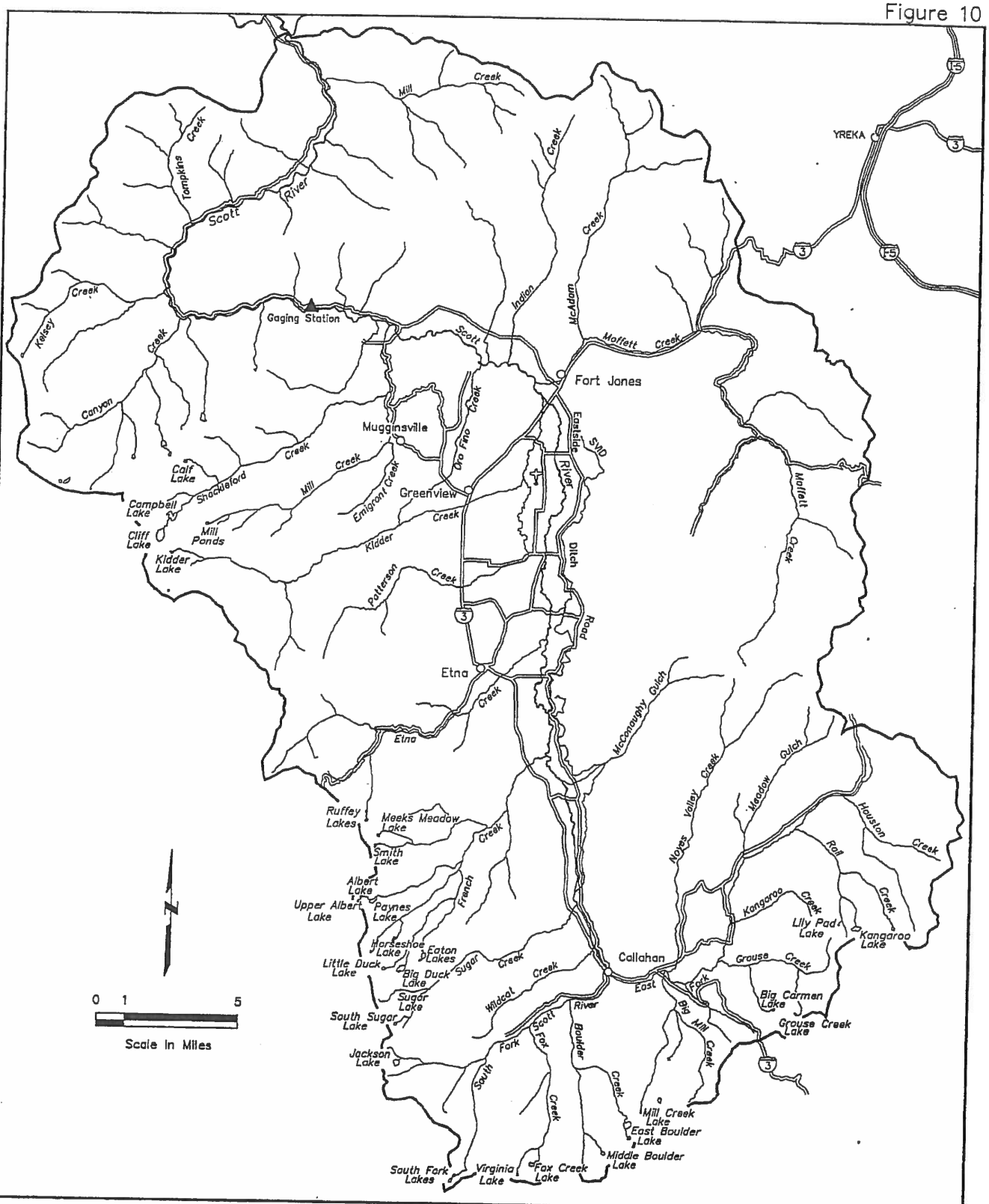
Research

- Agency review has resulted in some concerns in the past, however, no in-depth research has been performed and would be needed if pursued further:
  - Ability to Utilize - As the reservoirs are located in three different wildernesses (Marbles, Russian and Trinity), legislation may be needed to allow for their restoration and use. The Marble Mountain Wilderness may be the most restrictive as it was established under the original 1964 Act and designated as a Primitive Area in 1935. However, these reservoirs use before the Wilderness Act will be helpful in any potential legislation.
  - Benefits to Instream Flow - Department of Water Resources had concerns re the reservoirs cumulative impacts on the Scott River. However, this was based on year-round use, and the County's proposed use would be for critical salmon migration months.
  - Impacts to Aesthetic/Recreation Value - Enlarging the lakes may disturb their natural aesthetic value. Currently the reservoirs impound water for a period of time and while they have sufficient inflow in Spring/early Summer, as inflow decreases, outflow continues. Repair to the impoundments would allow more water to be retained during high recreation times and reservoirs would not be fully drained when used for instream flow benefits.
- Storage - Assumptions about typical topography were made in calculating volumes, field verification would need to be performed to determine actual storage capacity for instream flows.
- The reservoirs on Sugar Creek and Cliff and Campbell Lakes have adjudicated water rights

High Mountain Lakes

Lake Name	Quadrangle	Tributary	Wilderness	Current Surface Area	Potential Increased Storage
Albert	Eaton Peak	French Creek	Yes	1	19
Upper Albert	Eaton Peak	French Creek	Yes	1	19
Big Carman	China Mountain SW	East Fork Scott River	No	7	81
Big Duck	Eaton Peak	French Creek	Yes	23	245
California	Boulder Creek	Shackleford Creek	Yes	4	50
Campbell	Boulder Peak	Shackleford Creek	Yes	38	406
Cliff	Boulder Peak	Shackleford Creek	Yes	57	596
East Boulder	Billys Peak	South Fork Scott River	Yes	31	333
Eaton	Eaton Peak	French Creek	Yes	12	136
Fox Creek	Billys Peak	South Fork Scott River	Yes	11	126
Gouse Creek	China Mountain SW	East Fork Scott River	No	4	50
Horseshoe	Eaton Peak	French Creek	Yes	7	81
Jackson	Eaton Peak	South Fork Scott River	No	27	289
Kangaroo	China Mountain SW	East Fork Scott River	No	20	215
Kidder	Boulder Peak	Kidder Creek	Yes	3	35
Lily Pad	China Mountain SW	East Fork Scott River	No	1	19
Little Duck	Eaton Peak	French Creek	Yes	9	96
Meeks Meadow	Etna	French Creek	No	3	35
Middle Boulder	Billys Peak	South Fork Scott River	Yes	7	81
Mill Creek	Billys Peak	East Fork Scott River	Yes	1	19
Mill Ponds	Boulder Peak	Shackleford Creek	Yes	4	50
Paynes	Eaton Peak	French Creek	Yes	14	156
Ruffey	Etna	Etna Creek	No	3	35
Smith	Eaton Peak	French Creek	No	4	50
South Sugar	Eaton Peak	Sugar Creek	Yes	6	66
Sugar	Eaton Peak	Sugar Creek	Yes	3	35
Virginia	Billys Peak	South Fork Scott River	Yes	6	66
South Fork	Deadman Peak	South Fork Scott River	Yes	4	50
South Fork	Deadman Peak	South Fork Scott River	Yes	7	81
			Total	**318**	**3520 acre feet**

Figure 10



High-Altitude Lakes

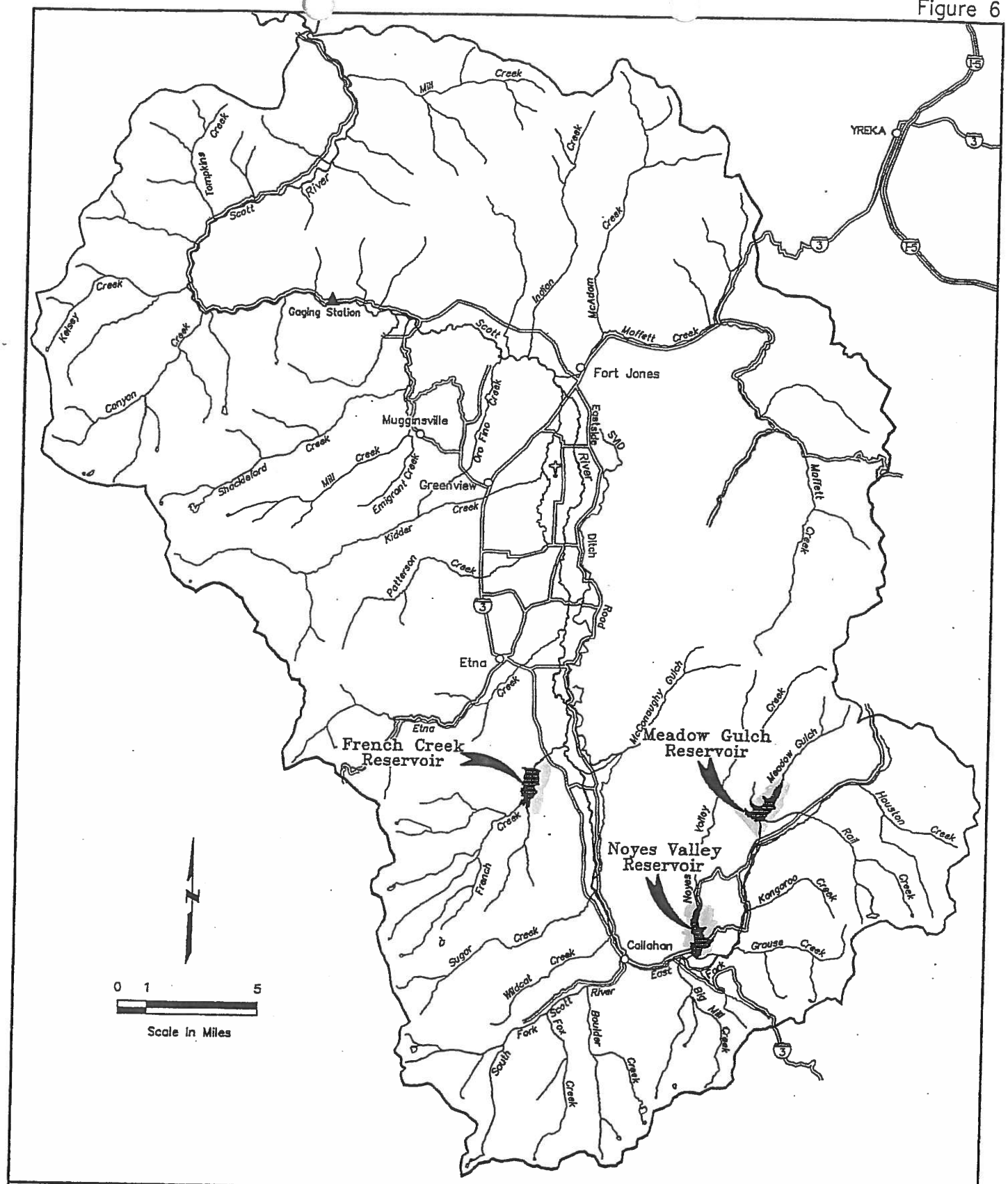
Siskiyou County, California

Scott River Watershed

Department of Water Resources

Northern District

Figure 6



Potential Reservoir Sites

Siskiyou County, California

Scott River Watershed

Department of Water Resources

Northern District