Appendix A

News Releases, Public Comments, and Consultation Letters

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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WHISKEYTOWN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
WHISKEYTOWN-SHASTA-TRINITY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
P.O. BOX 188
WHISKEYTOWN, CA 96095-0188

WHIS H4217

April 28, 2009

Mr. Milford Wayne Donaldson
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Parks and Recreation
PO Box 942896
Sacramento, California 94296-0001

Dear Mr. Donaldson:

In accordance with the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties, we request your review and comment on a proposed project within Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to plan for management of a telecommunications site on Shasta Bally and issue Right-of-Way (ROW) permits to users of the site.

The EA will address alternatives in compliance with the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and NPS Reference Manual 53, for the proposed actions including a no action alternative, which would continue operation of the site without ROW permits. Please see the enclosures with a vicinity map, a detailed map of the current infrastructure at the site, and a copy of a recent public newsletter with proposed alternatives.

The Whiskeytown NRA was established by the Act of November 8, 1965. The National Park Service purchased the area at the summit of Shasta Bally in 1970 subject to a lease that the prior landowner had entered into with Sacramento Valley Television Inc. (SVTI) for use of the 5-acre parcel on the summit for a communications site. COBi (California Oregon Broadcasting, Inc.), which was the parent company of SVTI, eventually succeeded to SVTI's interest in the lease. Over the years, the leaseholder located its own telecommunications equipment on the summit and authorized other entities to establish facilities on the summit.

In July 2006, the term of the lease expired. COBi sought to renew the lease for fifty years. COBi and the United States disagreed regarding whether COBi had a right to renew the lease, and COBi sued the United States in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. The United States and COBi eventually settled this litigation. The Settlement Agreement provides terms for management of the site through August 31, 2009. The Settlement Agreement identifies 25 entities, including COBi, who had equipment on the site as of the date of the Settlement Agreement. These 25 entities are referred to as Existing Tenants. Under the Settlement Agreement, COBi continues to manage its agreements with Existing Tenants through August 31, 2009.

In conformance with NEPA, the NPS is preparing this document to assist the NPS in evaluating a range of alternatives for future management of the site. Specifically, the NPS is examining whether to issue NPS right-of-way (ROW) permits to allow the operation of wireless telecommunications facilities (WTF) by non-NPS parties on the summit of Shasta Bally in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Under applicable law and policy, NPS ROW Permits are the required instruments for permitting operation of WTF equipment by non-NPS parties within units of the National Park System.

The NPS is planning to use the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to address National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) section 106 needs, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8. This letter is being sent to provide your office with advance notification of the NPS intent to use the NEPA process for the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to comply with the project's section 106 requirements. In accordance with 36 CFR 800.8(a)(3)(c), we are also notifying the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) by copy of this letter.

We contacted the Redding Rancheria about the proposed plan and received a letter from the tribe describing the importance of Shasta Bally to their tribe and culture. In follow up conversations with James Hayward, the Cultural Resources Program Manager, we discussed their desire to ensure long-term access to the summit and protection of known spiritual sites in the park. Access to the summit will not change under any of the alternatives in this plan and the NPS will continue to preserve and protect all known cultural resources in the park.

We look forward to working with you as we proceed with our environmental planning. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any initial concerns or comments regarding the proposed project. If you have any questions regarding this proposed project, Barbara Alberti, Chief of Resources Management at Whiskeytown, can be reached directly at (530) 242-3445 or by email barbara_alberti@nps.gov. Thank you for your assistance with this planning effort.

Sincerely,

Jim F. Milestone

Jim F. Milestone
Superintendent

Enclosures

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE RESOURCES AGENCY ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, *Governor*

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
P.O. BOX 942896
SACRAMENTO, CA 94296-0001
(916) 653-6624 Fax: (916) 653-9824
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www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

May 21, 2009 Reply In Reference To: NPS090504A

Jim Milestone, Superintendent
National Park Service
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095-0188

Re: Plan to Use NEPA Process and Preparation of Environmental Assessment to Comply with Section 106, Shasta Bally, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

Dear Mr. Milestone:

Thank you for your letter requesting my review and comment with regard to the proposed undertaking at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. You are consulting with me in order to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f), as amended, and its implementing regulation at 36 CFR Part 800. Along with your consultation initiation letter, you also submitted "Newsletter #2 – March 2009, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area," which summarizes the Shasta Bally Summit Site Plan and Environmental Assessment. The proposed undertaking, as I understand it, involves planning for the management of a telecommunications site on Shasta Bally and the future issuance of Right-of-Way (ROW) permits to users of the site.

Your consultation initiation letter also notified my office that the National Park Service (NPS) intends to use the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process and the preparation of an Environmental Assessment to comply with the project's Section 106 requirements. In accordance with 36 CFR 800.8, we concur with this plan for consultation.

Thank you for seeking my comments and considering historic properties as part of your project planning. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mark Beason, Project Review Unit Historian, at (916) 653-8902 or mbeason@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Susan K Stratton for

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer

MWD:mb

Feb 15th 2009

Attn: National Park Service
Dear Jim Milestone/ Park Director

Thank you very much for notifying the Redding Rancheria of the proposed permit issuance of the Shasta Bally Telecommunication Towers.

As per our phone conversation a couple of weeks ago, I again want to emphasize the spiritual importance of the Shasta Bally to the Native Peoples particularly the Wintu Tribes of this nothern part of the State. This mountain and mountain top is and has always been a spiritual gathering place that have special fasting areas. These are usually defined by rock formation or facing a certain direction as well as pictorials or rock art. Not only are there vision quest or fasting areas but also places of great importance to our Tribal people such as gathering places for medicinal plants, basket making materials, bear wallows and doctoring places.

Because these places are of great importance to the Redding Rancheria and our culture the Tribe would like to work with the NPS in defining areas of concern and offering to enter an agreement or MOA or MOU to place areas identified thru data, in a conservatory or cultural conservation easement while providing access to the Tribes into perpetuity. This would not only help to mitigate some of the problems facing our traditional people of where to gather medicine, where to get materials to make traditional basket and basketry ceremonial objects and a place for our young men to seek their adult path or journey. The Tribe is aware of the communication towers owners asking for deeds to the easement and property that the towers rest upon and actually take a more pro-active stance of asking of the gradual phasing out of the towers and a technological change to fiber optics.

The Redding Rancheria, because of confidentiality matters, seeks a more meaningful Govt. to Govt. consultation with the NPS in the way of an invitation to talk to our Tribal Council and Cultural Committee where a discussion in more detail can be achieved.

Thank you,
James Hayward Sr.
Cutural Resource Program Manager
Redding Rancheria Tribe

2000 Redding Rancheria Rd. Redding, CA 96001 Tribal Office: 530-225-8979 Fax: 530-241-1879

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Whiskeytown National
Recreation Area

P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

530-242-3410 phone
530-246-5154 fax

Whiskeytown News Release

November 18, 2008
For Immediate Release
Jim F. Milestone, 530-242-3460

Public Scoping Meeting Regarding the Future Management of the Summit of Shasta Bally Mountain Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

On December 11, 2008, Thursday afternoon, two public scoping meetings will be held to assist the National Park Service and its consultant, Kleinfelder Consultants, to develop an Environmental Assessment to determine the future management of the summit of Shasta Bally Mountain within Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. The meetings will be held at Redding City Hall's Community Room at 777 Cypress Avenue in Redding, California.

The first meeting will be held at 2 p.m. and is designed for those businesses and agencies that currently have telecommunication facilities situated on the summit of Shasta Bally Mountain. The second meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on December 11, 2008. The second meeting is for the general public interested in the future management of the summit of Shasta Bally Mountain.

It is the intent of the National Park Service to share with the public, the business community and State and local agencies various alternatives for the future management of the summit of Shasta Bally Mountain, the tallest peak in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Everyone will be given an opportunity to speak and their comments will be collected and considered in the analysis of the Environmental Assessment. Environmental Assessments are part of the process for determining environmental impacts to proposed federal actions on federal lands.

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area is a unit of the National Park Service and was established in 1965. In July 2006, the term of a lease held by California Oregon Broadcasting, Incorporated, expired. The lease had allowed the company to establish subleases for telecommunication towers and related equipment and facilities on the summit of Shasta Bally Mountain. A law suit was filed against the National Park Service, and a settlement agreement was reached. The environmental assessment will determine the future management of the mountain summit within the national recreation area. The public is encouraged to provide their input at these meetings.

Contact Jim Milestone at 530-242-3460, for questions or comments.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

530-242-3460 phone
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SHASTA BALLY SUMMIT SITE PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

PUBLIC SCOPING NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2008

The National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the future operations and management of the summit of Shasta Bally including the telecommunications site and access road. You are invited to two public scoping meetings. The meetings will be held in the Community Room of Redding City Hall at 777 Cypress Avenue, Redding, California. The first meeting will begin at 2 p.m. and is designed for representatives of the businesses and agencies with telecommunication facilities currently located on the summit of Shasta Bally. The second meeting, at 6 p.m., will be primarily for the public interested in the future management of the summit of Shasta Bally Mountain.

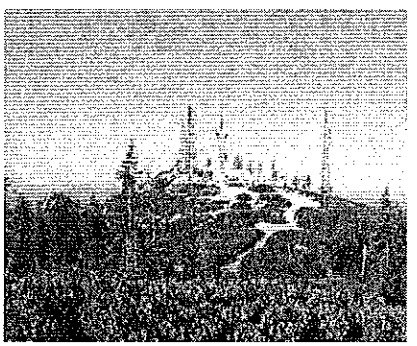
It is the intent of the National Park Service to share with the public, the business community, and state and local agencies various alternatives for the future management of the summit of Shasta Bally. Those attending the meetings will be given an opportunity to provide oral and written comments, which will be collected and considered as part of the Environmental Assessment process. This will aid the National Park Service in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) when developing a recommended action.

BACKGROUND

The Whiskeytown NRA was established by the Act of November 8, 1965. Prior to the establishment of the park, the Shasta Bally Summit and surrounding parcels were privately held by the Crawford Family. They had signed a 50-year unrestricted lease with the television station KRCR for use of the 5-acre parcel on the summit for a communications site. In 1970, COBi (California Oregon Broadcasting, Inc) purchased the lease when there was only one antenna on the summit. Over the years, multiple public and private users have established facilities on the Shasta Bally Summit.

When the park was established the National Park Service (NPS) took over the lease, which recently expired on July 30, 2006. When the NPS refused to extend the lease, the leaseholder, COBi, filed suit in the U.S. Court of Claims. The NPS and COBi have entered into a Settlement Agreement resolving this litigation. On November 6, 2006, the United States Court of Federal Claims in California Oregon Broadcasting, Inc. v. United States, 74 Fed. Cl. 394 (Fed. Cl. 2006), granted COBi's motion for partial summary judgment on liability in litigation regarding the renewal provision of this lease. Ultimately, the United States and COBi settled the litigation through a Settlement Agreement executed on June 25, 2008. The Settlement Agreement identifies 29 entities, including COBi, who had equipment on the site as of June 25, 2008. The Settlement Agreement includes terms that are relevant to the NPS's management of Shasta Bally.

In conformance with NEPA, the NPS is preparing this document to assist the NPS in evaluating whether to issue NPS right-of-way (ROW) permits to allow the operation of wireless telecommunications facilities (WTF) by non-NPS parties on the summit of Shasta Bally in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Under applicable law and policy, NPS ROW Permits are the required instruments for permitting operation of WTF equipment by non-NPS parties within units of the National Park System.



PURPOSE AND NEED

The **PURPOSE** and objectives for this project derive from the Park's enabling legislation, the Park's General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, and from NPS laws and policies regarding telecommunication facilities in park areas.

The specific objectives of the proposed project are to:

- Conserve scenic, scientific, natural, cultural, and other values and prevent unacceptable impacts to them;
- Maintain safe outdoor recreational opportunities for the public in a mountain setting;
- Fulfill the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act , the Clean Water Act , and all other applicable laws;
- Maintain access to traditional tribal spiritual sites;
- Provide secure telecommunication site;
- Develop operational efficiencies/ maintenance plan; and
- Consolidate existing infrastructure.

The **NEED** to evaluate the issuance of ROW Permits is arising at this time due to the expiration of the lease and the resulting Settlement Agreement that ultimately concluded the litigation regarding this lease.

PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES

ALTERNATIVE A - No Action

The No Action alternative is defined as the continued operation by Exiting Tenants of their telecommunications equipment located on the summit of Shasta Bally without issuance of Right-of-way Permits by the NPS. This alternative assumes that Existing Tenants would continue to operate as they do now without significant changes in use, infrastructure, or access. Although the No Action alternative assumes that Existing Tenants would continue operating as they do now, they could not continue to operate without a permit from the NPS (36 CFR Section Part 14). If no action was taken by the NPS on the applications submitted by Existing Tenants, the site would have to close. Therefore, the No Action alternative is presented only for the sake of comparison with the other identified alternatives.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

All action alternatives include the issuance of Right-of-way Permits to Existing Tenants for at least an initial 10 year period.

ALTERNATIVE B - Natural Resource Protection and Enhancement Maintaining a Telecommunications Presence

Under this alternative the NPS would maintain and manage the telecommunications equipment, power line and road in such a manner that it provides for the enhancement and protection of natural resources such as vegetation, wildlife, water quality, air quality and similar resources.

ALTERNATIVE C - Natural Resource Protection and Enhancement Phasing Out Telecommunications Equipment and Power Line

Under this alternative, a plan would be developed to phase out the presence of telecommunications equipment over a ten to fifteen year period (Phase-Out Period), remove the power lines, and restore the summit of Shasta Bally to natural conditions.

ALTERNATIVE D - Natural Resource Protection and Enhancement While Increasing Telecommunications Presence

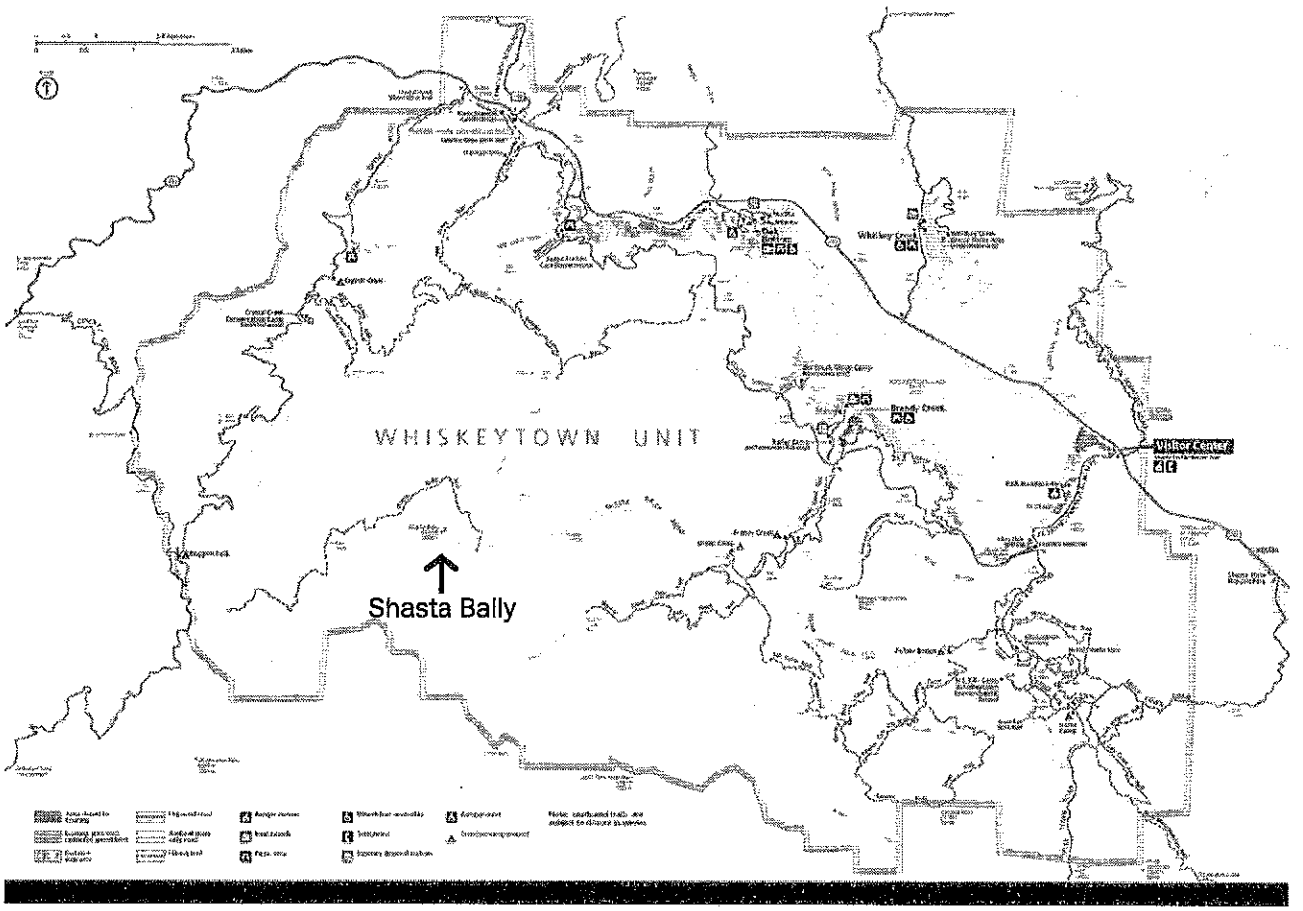
This is similar to Alternative B with the addition of new entities provided they are able to co-locate equipment on existing infrastructure. New structures or enlargement of existing infrastructure would not be allowed.

ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
1—Reduce Physical & Visual Impacts of Telecommunications Equipment	X	X	X
2—Provide a Security Fence Around Telecommunications Equipment	X	X	X
3—Grade and Gravel Road	X	X	X
4—Relocate Power Line to Shasta Bally Road	X		X
5—Phase Out Telecommunications Equipment & Restore Disturbed Areas		X	
6—Remove Existing Power Line		X	

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDANT

Thank you for taking an interest in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area's planning process. In considering our alternatives, we looked to the history of why this park was created. In 1937, two local brothers, James and Laurence Carr, drove to the present Visitor Center site overlooking Whiskeytown Valley. The two men had grown up enjoying the surrounding forests and streams. Laurence, who had just graduated from Georgetown Law School, pointed to the snow-capped Shasta Bally Mountain and told his younger brother James, "You know, if they had anything in the Eastern States like that, they'd make a national park out of it!" Twenty-four years later, James Carr served as the Under Secretary of the Interior in President Kennedy's Administration. Working with Redding's Mayor George Flaherty, U.S. Senators Engle & Kuchel, and Congressman Biz Johnson, they encouraged the National Park Service to request Congress to create Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. On November 8, 1965, the Senate passed the legislation creating the 42,000-acre park. Today, we continue to develop new trails, marinas, and visitor services; however, protection of the visitor experience, viewsheds, and public safety remain the highest priorities for management of this wonderful national park site. The public process we are pursuing here with this Environmental Assessment allows us to consider different management options and analyze their impacts on the summit of Shasta Bally Mountain as a significant landmark within the park.

Map Of Whiskeytown NRA



Overview of The Process

Step 1 – Define purpose and need; develop preliminary alternatives
Step 2 – Conduct external scoping
Step 3 – Refine alternatives
Step 4 – Identify environmental impacts and select preferred alternative
Step 5 – Prepare draft plan/environmental document
Step 6 – Public review of draft plan/environmental document
Step 7 – Analysis of public comment

Timeline for the EA

- NPS will hold two public scoping meetings on December 11, 2008:
  - Telecommunication Site Users 2:00 p.m.
  - General Public and Interested Parties 6:00 p.m.
- Public scoping period open through midnight, January 15, 2008.
- The EA should be available for public comment during the Spring 2009.

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

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How to Comment on the Scope of The EA

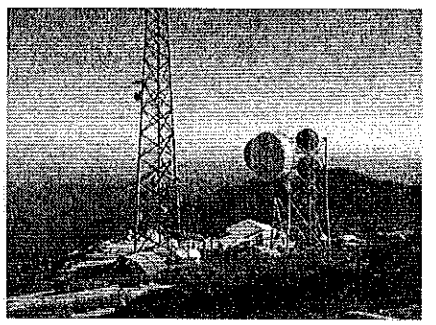
Suggestions and comments from the public are being solicited during the public scoping period ending January 15, 2009.

1. Do you have any ideas to share about issues or concerns related to this project?

2. Are there any other alternatives that you think should be considered or any individual actions from the proposed alternatives that should be combined to create a new alternative?

3. Do you have other comments and suggestions for us to consider in the environmental assessment?

If you wish to comment on the scoping newsletter or on any other issues associated with the project, you may submit your comments at the public meetings.



You may also submit written comments to:

Superintendent, Whiskeytown NRA
P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

Or, you may post comments online to:

http://parkplanning.nps.gov (pick Whiskeytown NRA) or http://www.nps.gov/whis

Please be aware that names and addresses of respondents may be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Whiskeytown National
Recreation Area

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Whiskeytown News Release

January 6, 2009
For Immediate Release
Jim F. Milestone, 530-242-3460

Update Regarding Environmental Assessment (EA) for Future Management of the Summit of Shasta Bally Mountain Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

On December 11, 2008, two public scoping meetings were held to assist the National Park Service develop an Environmental Assessment to determine the future management of the summit of Shasta Bally Mountain within Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Both meetings were well attended at Redding's City Hall's Community Room.

Four proposed alternatives were presented to the public at our initial scoping meeting. These included: Alternative A: No Action; Alternative B: Permit Existing Tenants and Enhance Natural Resources Protection; Alternative C: Permit Existing Tenants with a Phase Out Period Followed by Site Restoration; and Alternative D: Permit Existing and New Co-located Tenants with Limited Natural Resources Protection.

The purpose of the initial scoping meeting was to receive feed back on the four proposed alternatives so the National Park Service can begin to plan and analyze the environmental assessment of Shasta Bally Mountain top, the highest peak in the park.

Based on discussions at the meeting and subsequent feedback from the public and current tenants two requests are being implemented in this planning effort. First, the initial public comment period is being extended to February 15, 2009 from its initial date of January 15, 2009. The second update will be reinserting a fifth alternative, Alternative F, that will analyze, "Permitting New Structures and Enlargement of Existing Telecommunications Infrastructure." While the public comment period has been extended to February 15, 2009, we do encourage the public to submit comments as soon as possible.

Please feel free to contact, Jim Milestone, Park Superintendent, at 530-242-3460, for questions or comments. Post comments online to: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov> or at <http://www.nps.gov.whis>.

End

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

P.O. Box 188
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SHASTA BALLY SUMMIT SITE PLAN
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)
NEWSLETTER #2—MARCH 2009

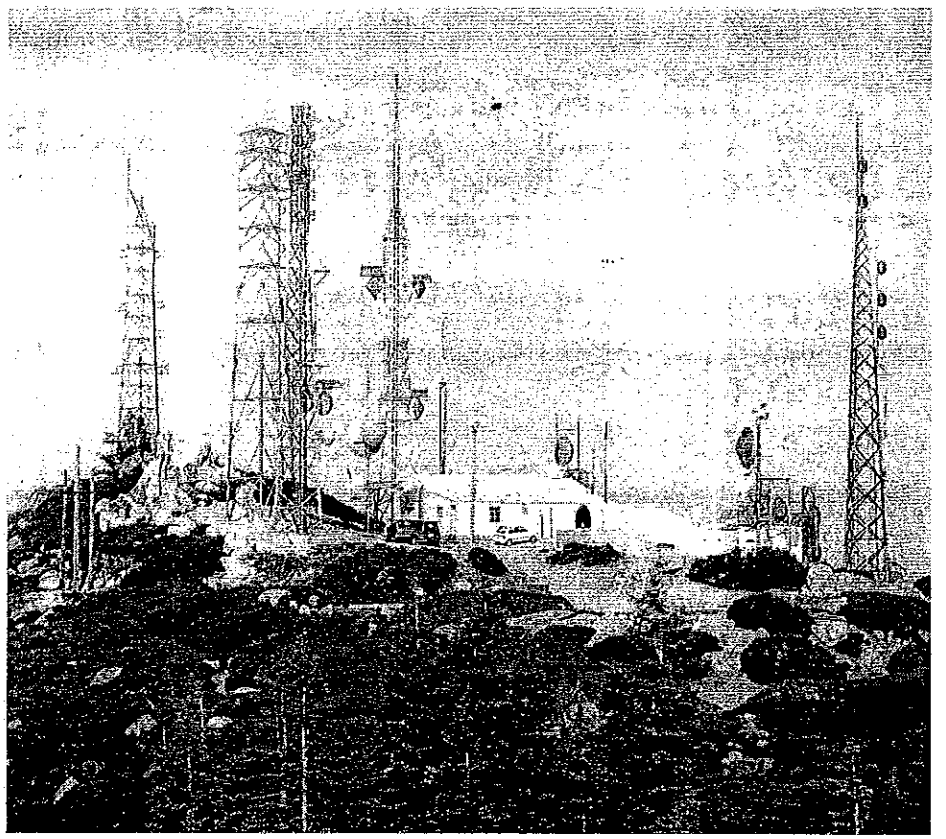
At present, there are five alternatives being considered in the planning process for the future management of the telecommunications site located on the summit of Shasta Bally. Shasta Bally is well-recognized as a dominant geographic feature in the Redding area. This peak rises up from the Sacramento foothills to 6,188 feet and provides sweeping views of the Klamath Mountains, Cascade Range and the Sacramento Valley. It is for these reasons that the site is an ideal location for critical telecommunication towers for the local area. This was recognized over fifty years ago, when the telecommunications site was first constructed, before the National Recreation Area was established.

Because of the complex nature of the issues regarding the summit, the park developed the principles listed on page two to guide analysis of the alternatives. Where appropriate, these principles will be incorporated into the purpose and need for the Environmental Assessment.

Comments received from current site users and the public on the preliminary range of alternatives are summarized on page three. Of greatest concern was that precipitous termination of telecommunications operations at the site would severely compromise broadband internet, television, radio, public safety communications, and law enforcement communications.

At this stage in the process, the NPS has refined the alternatives (summarized on page three). Alternative E remains dismissed, and Alternative F is preliminarily identified as the preferred alternative.

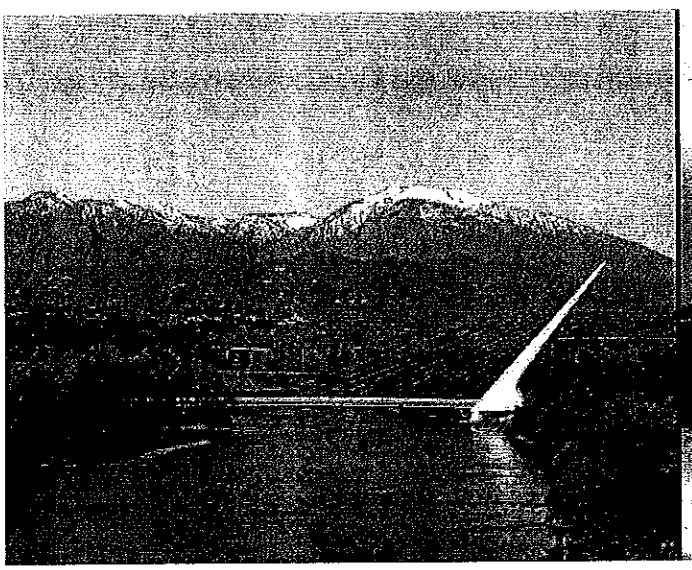
Opportunities for continued public participation are listed on page four along with a timeline of the planning process.



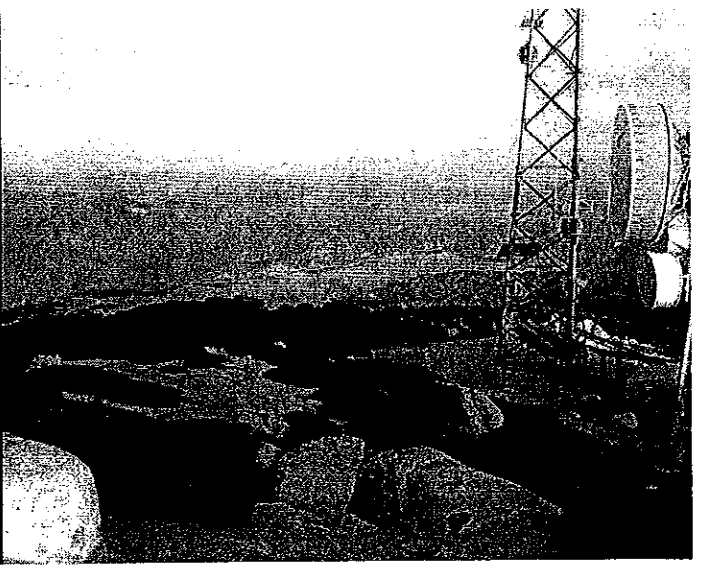
Shasta Bally telecommunications site

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- The planning and impact analysis process and planning decisions regarding Shasta Bally summit will be made with public involvement and participation.
- National Park Service planning decisions regarding Shasta Bally summit will not compromise public safety agency and law enforcement agency communication transmissions nor will they cause television or radio stations unexpectedly to go dark or silent.
- The National Park Service recognizes the importance of state of the art telecommunications service to the public, surrounding communities, and other agencies.
- The National Park Service will carefully consider socio-economic impacts in evaluating the alternatives and analyzing potential environmental impacts.
- Rental rates for permittees will be based on fair market value for their right of way, buildings, antennas, and towers, using a professional appraisal and structured according to NPS legal policy and management guidelines.
- Permittees will be required to comply with the provisions of applicable laws and National Park Service Right-of-Way permits.
- Shasta Bally Access Road will remain open to vehicular traffic during the summer and fall seasons as it has in the past to provide opportunities for appropriate recreational activities.
- The summit of Shasta Bally has outstanding natural resources and scenic values, and the NPS is committed to conserving such sites. The mountain is very important to the whole of the park and comprises an island of high elevation habitat in a world heavily impacted by land use practices and facing an uncertain future due to changing climate.



Shasta Bally from Sacramento River in Redding



Whiskeytown Lake from telecommunications site

SUMMARY OF THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

Alternative A – No Action
The No Action alternative would continue telecommunications operations within the existing disturbed area ("site") without significant changes and without issuance of Right-of-way Permits by the NPS. However, existing tenants could not continue to operate without a permit from the NPS (36 CFR Section Part 14). Therefore, the No Action alternative is presented only for the sake of comparison with other alternatives because issuance of NPS Right-of-Way Permits is necessary.

Alternative B – Existing permittees remain
All existing permit applicants will continue to use the site. As new technologies provide feasible options to relocate/remove the facilities, users may choose to leave the site, and at such times, site restoration to a natural condition would occur on a gradual basis.

Alternative C – Long-term phase out
Similar to Alternative B in the short term, but phases out the site over a set time period (e.g. 20-30 years). This is the only alternative establishing a process for a sunset date to telecommunications operations.

Alternative D – Modification
Similar to Alternative B, but allows new permittees to co-locate on existing infrastructure. This alternative allows continued use of the site, but not construction of new infrastructure.

Alternative F – Expansion (Preferred Alternative)
Similar to Alternative D, but allows existing and new users to install new infrastructure at the site in previously disturbed areas not currently being utilized.

Common to all Action Alternatives
The public parking area will be defined, a single trail to a rocky outcrop on the summit will be designated and signed, and wayside exhibits will be installed to provide information to the public about the site. Where economically and physically feasible, mitigation measures on tower design, building color, and alternative technologies will be implemented to reduce resource impacts. This may include camouflaging and/or replacing infrastructure with more natural-appearing structures, lowering tower height, and realigning/removing lights. Facilities will use "green" design, and operations will be sustainable.

Alternative E - Immediate Termination (Considered but Dismissed)
Immediate termination of operations at the site would be too disruptive to the public and existing tenants.

SCOPING RESPONSES

The NPS received over 100 comments by the end of February 2009. About 10% of the comments were from existing site tenants and people self-identified with the telecommunications industry. The remaining comments were from the public and a few interested organizations. The NPS has reviewed the comments and is considering them as we move forward with the planning process. Several broad themes emerged from the scoping sessions and comments:

- Many comments from the public expressed concern that the site would be shut down immediately resulting in the loss of access to broadband internet, radio, television, and emergency services. Some of the public comments supported fair market value charges to pay for maintenance of the access road and to avoid subsidizing the operations on the site.

- The tenants and agencies currently broadcasting from the summit of Shasta Bally affirmed their need to remain on this specific site because of its unique location, elevation, and power supply. They also indicated a desire to have a longer term lease with the NPS rather than the 10-year Right-of-Way permits now required. Many doubted that mitigation measures to reduce resource impacts would be feasible. A few are concerned about the cost structure for the new permit system and their share of the cost of maintaining the access road to the site.

- Some individuals and organizations, such as the Sierra Club, responded with concerns regarding the impact of the operations to natural and cultural resources and would like to see a long-term phase out of the facilities.

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

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Overview and Timeliine of the Process

- Step 1 – Define purpose and need; develop preliminary alternatives — Fall 2008
- Step 2 – Conduct external scoping — Dec 11, 2008 - Feb 15, 2009
- Step 3 – Refine alternatives
- **Step 4 – Complete environmental screening; identify preferred alternative** — WE ARE HERE
- Step 5 – Prepare draft plan/environmental document
- Step 6 – Public review of draft plan/EA — Spring 2009
- Step 7 – Analysis of public comment
- Step 8 – Recommend final plan/decision document for Regional Director's approval
- Step 9 – Release approved plan/decision document to public
- Step 10 – Draft Right-of-Way Permits sent to all current tenants — June 2009

Written comments may be mailed to:

Superintendent, Whiskeytown NRA
P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

Comments may be posted online at:

http://parkplanning.nps.gov (pick Whiskeytown NRA)
or
http://www.nps.gov/whis (choose "post comments online")

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

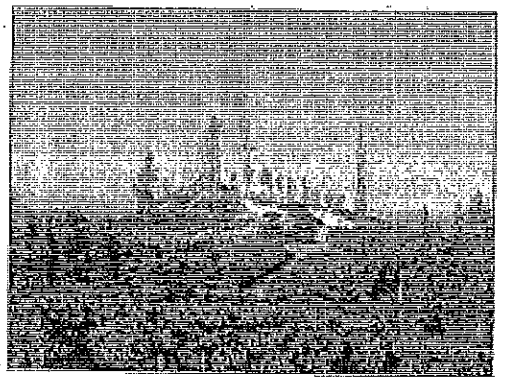
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

530-242-3460 phone
530-246-5154 fax

SHASTA BALLY SUMMIT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT FORM



Note: Contact Information Optional

NAME: PAUL CLAY

AFFILIATION: STATE OF CA, DGS TELECOM

ADDRESS: 2989 Howard Dr. Redding 96001

PHONE: 530-949-6225

E-MAIL: pclay@dgs.ca.gov

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: My agency is mandated by CA legislature to provide reliable comprehensive communications to the agencies of the state including but not limited to Dept. of Fish + Game, California Highway Patrol, Cal Trans, CA Park Service, CA Dept. of Justice, and many others. Shasta Bally provides communications coverage within Shasta and Trinity counties that cannot be achieved from any other peak within the area. State of CA utilizes other sites to augment the coverage provided by Shasta Bally, but are wholly inadequate by themselves. It is the State of CA's desire to retain this site to be able to ensure the success of our mission to our other agencies. The dismissed alternative "F" is our first choice, but in light of the scope of this proceeding, alternative "D" would suffice our needs.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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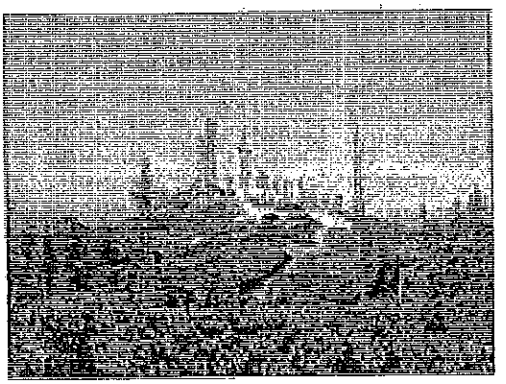
PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT FORM



Note: Contact Information Optional

NAME: PHILIP G. MARQUIS

AFFILIATION: Volunteer communications, amateur with CAL-OES-ACS

ADDRESS: 11707 HOMESTEAD LANE REDDING, CA 96003

PHONE: (530) 549-3946

E-MAIL: PMARQUIS1@frontiernet.net

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: CALIFORNIA Office of Emergency Services (CAL-OES) SPONSORS AN all volunteer organization (called the AUXILIARY Communications SERVICE OES-ACS) THE SERVICE HAS been working to improve DIGITAL RADIO communications capability IN THE NORTH PORTION OF CALIFORNIA. CURRENTLY, THE SYSTEM HAS BEEN INSTALLED Allowing DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM SACRAMENTO TO SUSANVILLE AND provides adequate COVERAGE INTO THE REDDING valley, but does not provide ANY coverage west into Weaverville (OR BEYOND SHASTA BALLY). SHASTA BALLY IS THE optimum site for A digital repeater to improve OES-ACS COMMUNICATIONS into trinity county.
UNDER federal LAW, NO AMATEUR providing SERVICES CAN RECEIVE reimbursement OR ANY monies FOR ANY SERVICES/EQUIPMENT used IN or on behalf OF OES-ACS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE. RENT AND OR SERVICE charges would effectively preclude installing ANY EQUIPMENT to provide these SERVICES, SINCE there IS NO WAY to ACCEPT reimbursement.
I SUGGEST you integrate AMATEUR RADIO USE AT A MINIMUM COST

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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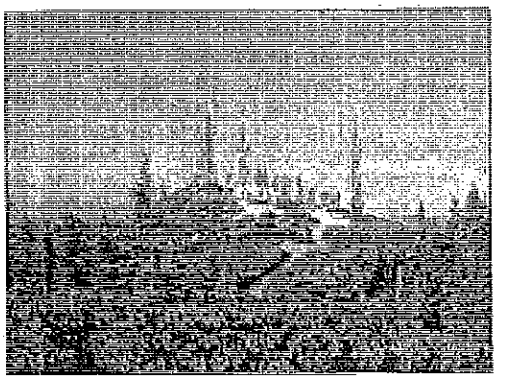
SHASTA BALLY SUMMIT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT FORM



Note: Contact Information Optional

NAME: John P. Wilson

AFFILIATION: Safety on Sight - Sh. County Planning Comission

ADDRESS: 6281 Center Dr

PHONE: 530 241-4900 - 949-4900

E-MAIL: jwilson637@aol.com

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: Alt D with future growth! Further comment coming!

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

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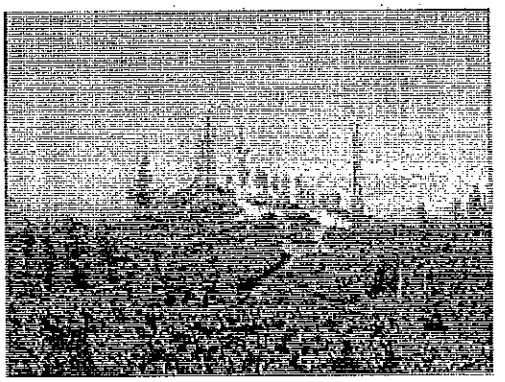
SHASTA BALLY SUMMIT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT FORM



Note: Contact Information Optional

NAME: Paul Davis, D.D.

AFFILIATION: Friends of Whiskeytown Board member

ADDRESS: 1674 Kildare Ct Rly CA 95001

PHONE: 243 3471

E-MAIL: Drpauldo@ATT.net

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

(1) Did COBI maintain the Access Road?

(2) Per Year, How much $ Did the 25-29 Tenants Pay to COBI?

(3) What % of the $ COBI charged can the Park Capture to maintain the Parks?

(4) Are There any plans to Public Access to the Summit?

(5) ARE There Are Second site involved Ethic project?

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

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Whiskeytown, CA 96095

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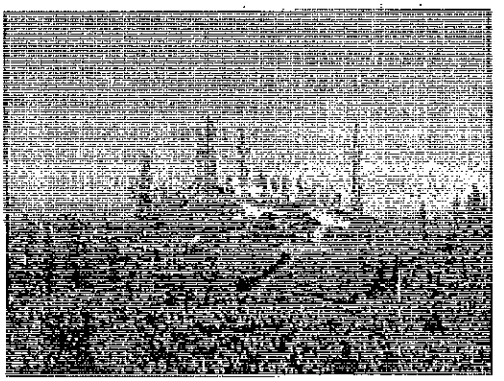
SHASTA BALLY SUMMIT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT FORM



Note: Contact Information Optional

NAME: Paul Davis

AFFILIATION:

ADDRESS: 16724 Kilburn Ct

PHONE:

E-MAIL: Drpaul@ATT.net

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: Pay to Play. Alt D.

If you Go to Plan B or D make the Tenants Pay to maintain the site & users Fees. If possable the user Fees should also support the Rest of the Park.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

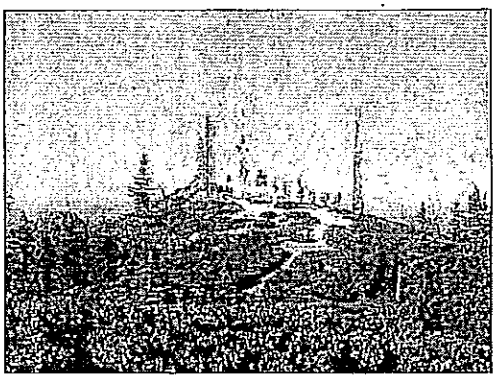
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

530-242-3460 phone
530-246-5154 fax

SHASTA BALLY SUMMIT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT FORM



Note: Contact Information Optional

NAME: Ross G. Peacock

AFFILIATION: CONCERNED CITIZEN

ADDRESS: 11560 HAWLEY ROAD REDDING CAL 96003

PHONE: 244-7833

E-MAIL: N/A

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: SEE ATACHED

Ross G. Peacock
11560 Hawley Rd.
Redding, CA 96003-2797

REDDING CA 960
31 DEC 2008 PM 1 T
RECEIVED
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WHISKEYTOWN NRA
2009 JAN -5 AM 8:11

Superintendent, Whiskeytown NRA
P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, Ca 96095

I wish to comment on the radio antennas on Shasta Bally. Many of these antennas were in place before the Park Service presence in this area. They serve vital public safety and communication functions. Local TV and radio stations, such as channel 7 and National Public Radio use this site. Their loss would deprive many small communities in the area of the news and information they provide. It would seem that the local benefits of this site are more important than the aesthetics for tourists at the NPS visitor center.

Superintendent Milestone stated he was concerned about the environmental degradation of 5 acres on a mountain top. One would think he would be even more concerned about the environmental issues of putting roads, radio towers and electrical lines on previously untouched mountains in the area. With the present economy we should all be concerned about the cost of moving these antennas and the radio towers and translators they transmit to.

Whiskeytown is a National RECREATION Area; the focus is totally different than a national park. In national parks promotion of wilderness areas and preservation of the nation's "crown jewels" is a high priority. While there are areas of local historical and anthropological interest in Whiskytown none of these areas are located on top of Shasta Bally. Whiskytown, while a wonderful place to recreate, is not an area which deserves national PARK status, no matter how hard Mr. Milestone tries to convince the public otherwise.

When I attended the recent public meeting in Redding regarding the antennas it was stated that the cost of maintaining the Shasta Bally Road was around $24,000 a year. As a former equipment operator on the road crew at Whiskytown I found this hard to believe. The last time I graded this road in 2005 I was told to do it in two days; a good quality job would take over a week. At the public meeting I talked to a technician who works on Shasta Bally and he told me that was the only time it was graded that year. I doubt it cost $24,000 in 2005. Outsloping has been used on many other roads at Whiskytown to reduce maintenance costs. The road is built higher on the inside than the outside and the water runs off the edge. While this works in theory, in practice the roads become very dangerous in winter as vehicles and equipment slide off the edge. Other roads in Whiskytown have been outsloped, they are closed in winter because they are unsafe. The Shasta Bally Road should be accessible year round. Outsloping would make it very treacherous, especially in the higher elevations.

Cc Barbara Boxer
Dianne Feinstein
Wally Herger
KIXE National Public Radio

TRINITY COUNTY

Board of Supervisors
P.O. BOX 1613, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093
PHONE (530) 623-1217 FAX (530) 623-8365

January 6, 2009

Jim F. Milestone, Superintendent
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior
PO Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

Dear Mr. Milestone:

The Central Valley Project (CVP) was completed in the early 1960s and included both Whiskeytown Dam and Trinity Dam creating both Whiskeytown and Trinity Lakes.

As an introduction to commenting on the Shasta Bally Summit Site Plan during the current public scoping process, and our question as to whether this is a "new project" subject to NEPA, it is important to review the history of the Central Valley Project and how the creation of Whiskeytown Lake and the larger project has affected Trinity County.

The CVP was proposed as an infrastructure marvel and in many ways it has certainly performed that function well. The transfer of water from the Trinity to the Central Valley and Sacramento watersheds and the creation of less expensive electricity have certainly both been outcomes of this project. However the effect on Trinity County has been bittersweet.

The upper Trinity River Valley, comprising thousands of acres of our best agricultural land, was submerged under Trinity Lake. The fishery of the great Trinity River was completely destroyed with returning steelhead in the early 1970's number in the teens (13) where there were previously tens of thousands. Trinity's resources became the state's and the nation's and yet many of Trinity's resources ceased to exist. Our compensation was minimal and still has yet to be fully realized. Only through massive efforts by many individuals, including the Hoopa Nation, over decades has the federal government begun to make amends to the Trinity River through what is now becoming a restored fishery.

Now, in that light, we would like to address what is being called a "new" project. As we understand the lawsuit that was settled with California Oregon Broadcasting, Inc. (COBi) included the inference that COBi had a right to have its lease renewed. However, renewal of the lease was not part of the settlement. We also understand that there were companies and organizations that sublet from COBi. It is our opinion that these subtleties should also be able to either seek the same remedies in court OR have their leases renewed thereby negating the need for a NEPA process since it would be the continuation of an existing project. We would challenge the validity of approaching this project under NEPA and believe that the National Park

JUDY PFLUEGER DISTRICT 1 | JUDY MORRIS DISTRICT 2 | ROGER JAEGEL DISTRICT 3 | HOWARD FREEMAN DISTRICT 4 | WENDY REISS DISTRICT 5

Service has the full authority to renew the lease agreements of the subtleties, just as they had the authority to renew the lease of COBi.

Should the National Park Service choose to continue the NEPA process we believe that there are a number of issues affecting citizens both inside and outside of the park that should be considered. The current antennae and towers on Shasta Bally provide a number of services that serve both park visitors and citizens in the surrounding area.

Law enforcement, public safety, communication architecture is served both locally and regionally from that location and, as it is the highest point and integrated in line with other tower locations, is essential to the safety of both park visitors and 911 calls within Trinity, Shasta and Siskiyou Counties. Cell phone service, which also has public safety ramifications, has a reliance on the infrastructure located on Shasta Bally.

Under NEPA other issues must be considered including Environmental Justice and Socioeconomic issues. High-speed internet communications for rural areas of the state, like Trinity County, we believe are one of the keys to our future economic success. Much like the rural electrification in the 1920's and 30's the communities that gain high-speed access to the internet will flourish. Those that don't (or can't) will fall behind. Shasta Bally is a significant part of that potential to deliver high speed internet through microwave signal.

Trinity County's economy over the last few decades has suffered for a number of reasons but they include the loss of our fishery from the Central Valley Project, which is just starting to recover, and the downturn in the timber industry, which we are clawing our way back from with projects like the Weaverville Community Forest. This is a collaborative project with two federal agencies, the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service. Even so, our communities still struggle with poverty, unemployment and hopelessness. Communications are key to our forward movement towards success. Removal of public safety and communications infrastructure from Shasta Bally would constitute a significant impact on our vulnerable communities.

At the dedication of Whiskeytown Dam in 1963, President Kennedy stated that we should "Realize our resources and make them useful". Shasta Bally has been a significant resource for Northern California both in its beauty but also, some would say more significantly, in its ability to link us to the rest of the nation and the world through its topographic resource of height. This is a simple use of a simple quality that has brought great benefit for thousands of people for well over 50 years, notably longer than the park has been in existence and certainly well before the Central Valley Project.

President Kennedy also stated that our goals should include decision-making that "allows our children to live better". We would argue that the perceived intent of removal/restriction of communications infrastructure within this proposal is not working towards the benefit of the children in Trinity County. Their public safety resources will be diminished, their communication opportunities will be minimized and their resources have already been turned south for little or no compensation.

We find it cruelly ironic that the citizens of small, rural and economically challenged Trinity County who have been marginalized economically as a result of Central Valley Project t are now once again being put in the crosshairs economically. The reasoning seems to be that saving the view shed of visitors to a national park trumps the health, safety and economic viability of a community that has already sacrificed a great deal in order for Whiskeytown Lake and park to exist in the first place.

Prior to stating our final position we would also like to encourage you to extend the comment period. Environmental documents released over the holiday season are not positioned for maximum public participation. We would request that you extend the comment period for at least another 30 days with a final submission date of February 15, 2009.

Our final request is simple. Revise your decision that a project actually exists. Find a way. This is not "new" ground being disturbed. The infrastructure has been in place since before the park existed. The sub leaseholders have the same right to renew their lease as COBI did. Allow them to do that.

If none of these options are feasible our response to the NEPA document is straightforward. Significant socio economic and environmental justice impacts exist in the removal of any communications infrastructure that decreases access to the citizens of the surrounding area, Shasta, Siskiyou, Trinity and beyond. This generation of disadvantaged citizens of Northern California should not have to pay the price for to the ill advised decision making on behalf of the National Park Service in denying COBI to renew their lease. COBI has been compensated with public dollars and the public will potentially pay an even higher price with an unwarranted environmental review process and an uncertain outcome.

To summarize our concerns:

1) We question whether the Shasta Bally Summit Site Plan is a "new project" subject to NEPA.
2) We believe there are significant socio-economic and environmental justice issues that need to be addressed.
3) We request that the comment period be extended another 30 days with a final submission date of February 15, 2009.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide Trinity County's input as part of the public scoping process for the Shasta Bally Summit Site Plan.

Sincerely,

Wendy Reiss

Chair

cc: The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Wally Herger
Shasta County Board of Supervisors
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
Regional Council of Rural Counties
Public Utilities Commission
KRCR
KHSL
KIXE
KCHO

January 6,2009

Superintendent, Whiskeytown NRA
P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, Ca. 96095

Subject:Shasta Bally Summit Environmental Assessment

I am submitting the following written comments: Out of the four plans talked about at the public meeting December 11,2008, none seemed to be viable. Mr. Milestone (Superintendent of Whiskeytown NRA) spoke at the meeting, and I have no doubt that he has the best intentions and has a real zeal for the park. This is a park I have often visited since the mid-sixties.

Since the meeting, and having read the information provided, I feel that the NPS' hands are tied on how to manage the Shasta Bally Summit telecommunication site. The NPS apparently has no contract longer than 10 years. Telecommunication tenants on Shasta Bally Summit have spent millions and millions of dollars on equipment, and they need at least a 50 year contract.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the five acre site (about 1.5 acres fenced) should be sold to another government agency that can work with the telecommunication tenants on Shasta Bally Summit for the people of Northern California, as well as other government agencies.

Sincerely,

Steve Dabovich
19321 Smith Rd.
Redding, Ca. 96002
1-530-221-3292

CC : Congressman Wally Herger

Keep Private:	No
Name:	Carl Seguin
Organization:	Shasta-Tehama Amateur Radio Emergency Service
Organization Type:	I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:	7712 Joda Rd. Shingletown, Ca. 96088 Redding, CA 96001 USA
E-mail:	kj6c1@frontiernet.net

Correspondence Information

Status: New	**Park Correspondence Log:**
Date Sent: 12/12/2008	**Date Received:** 12/12/2008
Number of Signatures: 1	**Form Letter:** No
Contains Request(s): No	**Type:** Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

At the present time there is an amateur radio service V.H.F. packet radio node located on Shasta Bally Mountain. A packet radio node repeat's digital radio signals. The existing RDG node as it is named, is linked with other nodes throughout California and beyond. It provides a vital link from Shasta County as far south as Los Angeles and to Oregon and Nevada.
Shasta-Tehama Amateur Radio Emergency Service provides backup communication for Shasta County Public Health Department, Tehama County Health Department, and the following hospitals, clinics and other Clients. Mercy Medical Center, Shasta Regional Medical Hospital, Mayers Memorial Hospital in Fall River Mills, Saint Elizabeth Hospital in Red Bluff, Shasta Community Medical Clinic (Redding, Anderson, Happy Valley and Shasta Lake City), Blood Source Redding, Redding Rancheria Clinic, Shingletown Medical Center, Hill Country Clinic in Round Mountain, Pit River Clinic in Burney, Nor-Cal Rehabilitation Center, Nor-Cal EMS, Cal Fire Shasta County, Cal Fire Tehama County, The City of Redding E.O.C., Burney Fire Department and Kirkwood Independent Living.
California O.E.S. amateur radio operators also have access to this node for their digital V.H.F. traffic.
The loss of this Node would effectively shut down our digital network and greatly hinder our ability to provide adequate backup communications during a disaster. Amateur radio is a stand-alone service not tied to the infrastructure and is therefore a great asset to the public during a disaster when cell phone service and other means of communications are impacted.
This was duly noted during Katrina and many of the hurricanes in our southern states. F.E.M.A. has included amateur radio in their disaster programs.
Please consider this when making your decision to develop an Environmental Assessment to determine the future
management of the summit of Shasta Bally Mountain within Whiskeytown
National Recreation Area.

Carl L. Seguin KJ6C
Associate Emergency Coordinator
Shasta-Tehama Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Keep Private: No
Name: Charles M. Seevers
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Redding, CA 96002
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/15/2008
Date Received: 12/15/2008
Number of Signatures: 1
Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No
Type: Web Form

Correspondence Text

I am Charles Seevers, retired Telecommunications Technician, a resident of Shasta County. During the past 38 years I served as a telecommunications technician for 12 years with a local two-way communications shop and 18 years with the State of California. During those years I installed and serviced telecommunications equipment on many mountaintop locations all over the Northern California area.

Through my experience I can say that the summit of Shasta Bally is without equal as a telecommunication and broadcasting location. No other site in Northern California provides the same geographical and community coverage. It provides broadcast, business and commercial communications coverage into Redding, Red Bluff, and Chico It provides radio and TV into many other smaller remote communities such as Weaverville, Hayfork, Lewiston, Burney and many others. It enables public safety and commercial communications into many remote wooded areas.

During the past 38 years I have also been involved in the radio amateur community. Through the generosity and public service spirit of California Oregon Broadcasting Inc. and subsequent owners of KRCR Channel 7, and their engineers, the radio amateurs of the Northern California area have been allowed free access to space on the Shasta Bally summit for equipment and antennas. At present there are 2 voice repeaters, 2 digital communications relays and an amateur television repeater in use on Shasta Bally. As you may know, amateur radio provides voluntary public service for public events and during emergencies or disaster.

Radio amateurs continue to work with various public safety agencies on the county, state and federal level. Amateurs assist in augmenting essential communications to help relieve traffic on these agencies busy systems. In some cases, when normally available communications, such as cell service, is swamped, the amateurs may be the only working system.

Amateur radio generates no revenue, and by federal regulation, no money may be received for its service. Loss of access to Shasta Bally summit by the radio amateurs would be a loss to the local public. The facilities on Shasta Bally were established years before the existence of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. I wish to see the summit of Shasta Bally continue as the vital location that is has been for broadcast, public safety, and business communications.

I favor the options outlined in Alternative D, with some modification. As telecommunication is an active and continuously changing technology, it must be allowed to change on Shasta Bally as the state of the wireless art evolves.

While I can appreciate the NPS's view on the visual impact of the Shasta Bally site, I feel the some proposed modifications are mostly not practical and very expensive. Camouflage on towers would need to withstand the severe winter wind and ice. Reduction of the height of towers is also not in the interest of personnel or visitor safety,due to strong RF energy close to the ground, or practical for the reduction of mutual RF interference.Many engineering reason exist dictating towers be above the ground level on a mountain. I favor a modified, less radical approach to visual impact reduction. Relocation of the power line should be researched carefully before being proposed.

Author Information

Keep Private:	No
Name:	Peter Maushardt
Organization:	Verizon Wireless
Organization Type:	I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:	2785 Mitchell Dr. Walnut Creek, CA 94598 USA
E-mail:	peter.maushardt@verizonwireless.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New	**Park Correspondence Log:**
Date Sent: 12/23/2008	**Date Received:** 12/23/2008
Number of Signatures: 1	**Form Letter:** No
Contains Request(s): No	**Type:** Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

As stated in the public meeting in Redding, the telecommunication site serves as an important public service and safety facility that can not be replaced through any reasonable methods. The site is the gateway to Trinity County's communications infrastructure and wireless service that serves residents with out landline servie through the microwave connections there. It also serves important cell service along highway 299 West of Redding as well as those who utilize the park itself for recreation.

To replace the site would take 3 to 4 additional new facilities visible from the park as well. The management of the facility wil need rto be done by professional, knowledgeable site managers who understand the technical aspects of a facility of this type.

Keep Private: No
Name: Gary N. Fryer
Organization:
Organization Type: 1 - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 7034 Bohn Blvd
Anderson, CA 96007
USA
E-mail: gfryer@clearwire.net

Status: New
Date Sent: 01/03/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Contains Request(s): No

Park Correspondence Log:
Date Received: 01/03/2009
Form Letter: No
Type: Web Form

Correspondence Text

As a long time informed resident of Shasta County, a radio enthusiast, and after spending 24 years taking students to W.E.S. (AKA N.E.E.D. Camp), I believe I am informed of the impact the television and radio equipment on Shasta Bally has on Northern California. Over a 24-year span as a teacher at Igo-Ono School, every other year I had the opportunity to take students to environmental camp for an entire week of nature hikes and social skill building. The affects of W.E.S. on students is NOT simply environmental, it includes social skills and an understanding of the interconnection of nature and man. Whiskeytown Park provides an example of the inclusiveness of: Whiskeytown Cemetery, Whiskeytown Lake, TV, radio and other equipment on Bally, numerous gold mines, W.E.S camp, and other entities found within the park. In almost ALL cases, Whiskeytown Park was established AFTER the numerous entities I have mentioned.

When I became aware of the Park's concern over the electronic equipment on Bally, I immediately thought of the earthquake recording devices placed in the hillside directly behind the student cabins at W.E.S. The huge steel door in the hillside is often a stop along the way during a hike. It, with its connection to the Berkley Digital Seismic Network, is proudly described as a benefit to the Northstate. On occasional hikes, I would mention the benefits of the electronic equipment located on top of Bally. I believe the equipment on Bally is of even more importance in today's environment. Devastating wildfires this past summer, and current homeland security concerns should make it clear to everyone how beneficial the equipment on Bally truly is.

I do not understand, nor do I find a reason for, the current concern over the electronics atop Bally. Furthermore, I can only relate the comments about the removal of the equipment as a visual or aesthetic concern. If so, I must ask if W.E.S., the cemetery, and the Lake should be removed also? That makes no sense either. I'm left with the monetary concerns of the leasing of the property. I do not want to hear of huge rental increases which would put the companies at risk of bankruptcy. I would see that as a terrible disservice to tens of thousands of Northstate residents, along with the negative monetary affect it would have on other related Northstate businesses.

In the end, I see a need for Whiskeytown NPS to work positively with all of the organizations involved in the Bally site. The Bally site is far too beneficial to numerous Northstate counties and their residents to have detremental changes forced upon it for questionable reasons. We always hear of compromises. Any compromise in this case should be in favor of the site and the importance of its continued use.

Respectfully,

Gary Fryer

cc: Wally Herger, Sam Aanestad

Keep Private: No
Name: Alan T. Hill
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: PO Box 492260
Redding, CA 96049
USA
E-mail: athill01@charter.net

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 01/08/2009
Date Received: 01/08/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No
Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am writing in support of Alt F.
1) The communication towers on Bally provide an invaluable and extremely critical site for all public--emergency, fire, medical, law enforcement, --and business and media, TV, radio broadband communications.
2) The towers on the top of Bally have provided an intriguing and interesting noteworthy view for visitors and local people for over 50 years. Not once in my lifetime of living in Redding have I heard any negative comments or complaints about the towers--conversely I have heard very positive comments re the view of the site and how fortunate we are to have such a site that provides the vital communication links for fires, medical, police , natural resouce mgt, business, etc
3) The current economy doesn't need the negative hit that some ridiculous change to the basic vital communication systems of the north state rely on
4)Observations have likened Bally to Yosemite. If there is even the remotest relationship, it is obvious there the comment came from some visionary who has never seen Yosemite.
5) The enabling legislation for Whiskeytown and the public involvement in establishing the NRA never authorized or contemplated the operation of the park to be a PARK under the NPS. Your " goal of emphasizing the natural features and NOT the man made structures" can also be assumed to include dam removal, recreation area boat ramps, campgrounds, park headquarters to attempt to return the then muddy barren canyon to the public to enjoy !!
6) In all the public hearings and public involvement at all levels that occurred at that time, there was no contemplation of either at the time or in the future destroying or relocating the vitally important communication facilities located on the only site that commanded that the range from this vitally important unique site.
7)I take great exception to and question your vision that " the towers are inconsistent with the parks purpose". I suggest you research and read the lengthy public record of comments to better understand the fascinating history of Whiskeytown, the " purpose" and the historicaly accurate facts. Further enlighten should come from those still alive who can provide a much more credible story of Whiskeytown than what has been available from the media or information from the Park.

Alan Hill

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Unincorp. Shasta County, CA 96002
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 01/08/2009
Date Received: 01/08/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No
Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I'm convinced that this communication facility is vital to public safety in the region.

I have no professional connection with the facility (although I would not have an internet connection without it), but I have been to the summit and seen it. I don't doubt that it could be tidied up some, and that some of the installed equipment is probably now obsolete and could be removed/updated but I see no reasonable argument for its removal.

This is public land and should provide some benefit to the public. There is nothing wrong with a very, very, small area of the park providing a public benefit other than being wilderness. This is not a wilderness park. If you buy the wilderness argument then the first non wilderness feature to go should be the dam.

Sadly I suspect the NPS local management has already decided this issue and is only going through the motions with this hearing process, as we have seen with other similarly heavy handed NPS initiatives.

Keep Private: Yes
Name: Michael F. Zeigler
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Bella Vista, CA 96008
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 01/16/2009
Date Received: 01/16/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No
Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I feel that the public interest is best served by maintaining Shasta Bally as a remote radio site.

Keep Private:	Yes
Name:	Ken A. Downs
Organization:	
Organization Type:	I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:	Redding, CA 96003 USA
E-mail:	kdowns@frontiernet.net

Correspondence Information

Status: New	**Park Correspondence Log:**
Date Sent: 01/18/2009	**Date Received:** 01/18/2009
Number of Signatures: 1	**Form Letter:** No
Contains Request(s): No	**Type:** Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

I find the towers on Shasta Bally attractive and interesting, actually an enhancement to Whiskeytown NRA, and prefer alternative "F".

Keep Private: Yes
Name: charley fitch
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 1112 coggins st.
redding, CA 96003
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 01/19/2009
Date Received: 01/19/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No
Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

First I find your approach to this subject a bit questionable. I say this because the towers on Shasta Bally, far far from the center of the real recreation portion of the National Recreation Area are far less visually obtrusive than the towers that sit within the lake bed. The buildings that sit on top of the mountain are a whole lot less visible than the Carr Powerhouse and your own residences and buildings located around the lake. Do those buildings and towers meet what you think the National Recreation Area should look like?
Your Alternative D comes the closest to the alternative that I would propose for management of the lands. However, I hesitate to say this alternative as I believe that it is constrained in the ability to add new structures (which cannot be seen from the lake). I do agree to the need to add any environmental protections such as maintaining the road and putting a surfacing on it that will protect it from erosion.

I do not see the need to relocate the power line from its existing location to a new location. Won't this just add more environmental disturbance?

In your objectives you state the need to continue to provide for a secure telecommunications site. So your Alternative C does not meet this objective and therefore should be eliminated, as you did with two other alternatives.

There is really nothing wrong with having a piece of private land within the boundaries of the National Recreation Area. The Park Service should NOT have purchased this piece in the first place if the existing use was outside of the goals of the Park Service. Maybe you should consider trading out of it. So how about an Alternative that would recommend that you trade out of this parcel? Then you can just deal with the linear right of way for the power line and the road.

Keep Private: Yes
Name: GS PEERY
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
yreka, CA 96097
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 01/20/2009
Date Received: 01/20/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No
Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Recommend:
1. Charge them accordingly, per your outline. Its not 1955 anymore.
2. They'll pass along the $$ to advertisers and end-user customers.
3. Alternative F - extend usage area - sounds best as a compromise for all concerned.

Keep Private: No
Name: Stephen M. Milovich
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: HC 2 Box 4782
Trinity Center, CA 96091
USA
E-mail: sawbuck1@tds.net

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Date Sent: 01/20/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Contains Request(s): No
Notes:

Park Correspondence Log:
Date Received: 01/20/2009
Form Letter: No
Type: Web Form

Correspondence Text

Superintendent
Whiskeytown NRA

Re: Comments about Shasta Bally towers.

(1) Forcing the removal of the communication towers on Shasta Bally is absurd!
They serve a vital link in Northern California communications. Initiating high fees is simply a method of forcing removal of the towers, and is underhanded. That is a very small piece of mountain top.

Your statement of costs for road maintenance is also absurd. There is little travel required throughout the year for tower maintenance versus all the other unrelated travel by your staff, visitors, and other users.

In reference to question (3): Quoted in a statement to the Record Searchlight, January 8, 2009, Superintendent Milestone stated; "The goal is to emphasize the natural features of the park and not the man-made structures."

In regards to the above mentioned statement: Whiskeytown Dam and reservoir are man-made. The powerhouse is man-made. The tubes that divert Trinity River water, from it's natural channel, are man-made. If it wasn't for these artificial structures there would be no Whiskeytown NRA. Do you propose to eliminate these too?

Stephen Milovich
California State Fish and Game Warden, Retired

From: Jim Milestone
To: Barbara Alberti
Subject: Fw: Shasta Bally Summit
Date: 01/07/2009 03:06 PM

----- Forwarded by Jim Milestone/WHIS/NPS on 01/07/2009 03:05 PM -----

"Santwer, Walter"
<wsantwer@parks.ca.gov>

To: <Jim_Milestone@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: RE: Shasta Bally Summit

12/09/2008 02:42 PM PST

Hello Jim:
I will not be able to attend your scoping meeting on Dec. 11. Our preference is to keep the lease going forever if you want to tally a vote.
Please keep me in the loop about the results of the meeting.

Walt Santwer

-----Original Message-----
From: Jim_Milestone@nps.gov [mailto:Jim_Milestone@nps.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 08, 2008 1:20 PM
To: Mfezatte@krcrtv.com; wa6rhk@charter.net; mfezatte@krcrtv.com; ksargent@kobi5.com; cobiadmin@kobi5.com; greg.leming@chartercom.com; curtis@com-pair.net; victoria.peters@crowncastle.com; mikek@csnradio.com; mtisdel@kike.org; bterhorst@csuchico.edu; jfritz@resultsradio.com; jtlowers@sisqtel.net; peter.maushardt@verizonwireless.com; wa6yng@clearwire.com; Santwer, Walter; TAD6@PGE.COM; lduenweg@sisqtel.net; loism@csnradio.com; clebak@ci.redding.ca.us; kenny.griffin@usps.gov; Leonard.Ammond@ic.fbi.gov
Subject: Shasta Bally Summit

(See attached file: Shasta Bally Scoping Notice 8x11.pdf)(See attached file: PR Shasta Bally Public Scoping.pdf)

Dear Shasta Bally Tenants:

See you Thursday at 2 p.m., Redding City Hall, Community Room for our opening discussion meeting regarding the future management of Shasta Bally
Summit. Remember that a public meeting will begin at 6 p.m. same place, same day.

Jim Milestone
Superintendent

530-242-3460

Jim Milestone Jan. 20, 09
Whiskeytown Nat Rec. Area

Mr Milestone,

The towers on Shasta Bally Mtn. are barely visible. The light on the top is visible from my house in Happy Valley - it's calming, it's like just another star. Don't use such a flimsey excuse that they're an "eye-sore" to get them removed. You want an eyesore, go downstream on Clear Creek and look back up at the Dam! Cover that "blight" with some trees! Does that make any sense, no, neither does removing the towers that "predate" the "Recreation area". Besides the Federal Government bought the mountain - it's not even in the Recreation area, the easements are, but not the towers! Sell the mountain top back to the "principle payers" and then charge them for use of the roads through the park.

The government and the county are struggling in these rough economic times, but lets not sink the ship just because we're not pleased with the way it's pointed, lets steer the ship in a way that benefits the people that are being kept afloat by her.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedual to read this.

Dan Rizzi
365-1403

PS In 1961 my father drove his Shell Oil truck to the top to deliver diesel to the radar relay station up there.

Margret Wagner

3336 Harlan Dr., Redding, CA 96003
530-241-3743

Superintendent
Whiskeytown
P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

January 20, 2009

Ref: Shasta Bally Towers

Dear Sirs:

I follow the discussion about communication towers and am surprised that they became an issue. Being a longtime park visitor and volunteer myself, I have never been bothered by those towers at all.

I am urging, particularly in these very difficult times our country is in und will be for a long time, to keep the small area on top of Shasta Bally available for communication equipment users. The fees should be fair according to use and land occupied and not arbitrarily increased. In the face of surmounting government deficits, no income that is so easily obtained should be forfeited. Please remember that we, the people, are the owner of the park and it should be used also for the peoples benefit, in this case for recreation and communication purposes.

Please do not make any decisions that cause great expense to the present users without any pressing need.

Sincerely

Margret Wagner

Margret Wagner

Keep Private: Yes
Name: Evert E. Dale
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 1000 Grissom Ct.
Redding CA. 96002
Redding, CA 96002
USA
E-mail: eedale@hotmail.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 01/22/2009
Date Received: 01/22/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No
Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

SHASTA BALLY SUMMIT SITE PLAN

I favor Alternative F

This location is unique as being by far the best site for communication facilities.

Keeping and expanding the use of this site will be an invaluable asset to the north state. Both public and private communication users rely on it.

All other alternatives seem designed to eliminate the usefulness of the site, or shut it down, forcing the tenants into the expense of relocating to a far inferior site if they can find one.

I would like to believe the National Recreation Area would act in the best interest of the community they are a part of. In the current economic times, forcing added expense to any business, or public entity seems totally counter productive.

The cost of maintaining the road seems to be an issue. It seems that cost sharing by use would be a simple solution. According to an article in the paper, recreational trips outnumbered the service trips to the towers. How about the Recreation Area and tenants paying costs based on that use??

Why does the power line need to be moved?

I see no logical reason to withhold a permit to the tenants, other than a power grab by the park service. Please remember, this is a RECREATION AREA, not a wilderness area.

At the bottom of Alternative F it is stated that it is inconsistent with the park's purpose and NPS management policies. Why did the park purchase the site in 1970?? If it is not compatible, perhaps a sale to the tenants could be an alternative, with an easement and cost sharing of the road. It seems Alternative F could work IF the park so wanted.

I have lived in Redding since 1976, and have never heard of a complaint about the facilities on Shasta Bally. They have always been a part of our community, and referred to and shown on local television constantly.

On a personal note Please keep the road open to the top of Shasta Bally, as this is a great place to take visitors to see the area. I go up there occasionally, and they are very impressed we have this great place to show them.

Evert E. Dale

From: Jim Milestone
To: Barbara Alberti
Subject: Fw: Letter to the Editor
Date: 01/21/2009 04:25 PM

----- Forwarded by Jim Milestone/WHIS/NPS on 01/21/2009 04:17 PM -----

"qsmamo@frontiernet.net" <qsmamo

To: jim <jim_milestone@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: Fwd: Letter to the Editor

01/21/2009 12:17 AM GMT

Thought they needed to hear this...hang in there!
----- Forwarded Message -----
From: qsmamo@frontiernet.net
To: letters@redding.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2009 12:45:29 PM GMT -08:00 US/Canada Pacific
Subject: Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Your article on the cost of Shasta Bally communication towers missed a crucial point. The American taxpayer is currently funding the costs associated with these towers which belong to private industry, many of which are profitting from use of this site. Our taxes are paying for resource protection, security, road maintenance, etc. I strongly support public television and radio, but do so with my membership and other assistance. I suggest other citizens who enjoy public television and radio do the same and not burden all taxpayers with these expenses which rightly belong to the private companies.

Mary Martin, Palo Cedro
530-547-4961

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

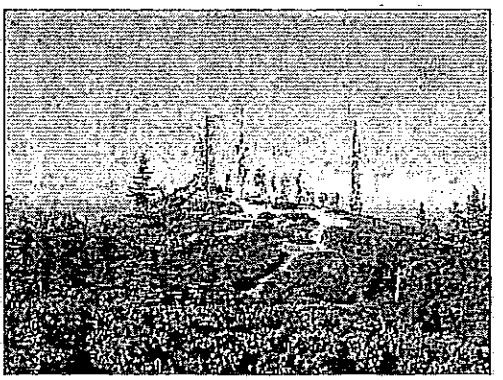
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

530-242-3460 phone
530-246-5154 fax

SHASTA BALLY SUMMIT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT FORM



Note: Contact Information Optional

NAME: Robert Whalley (Whalley)

AFFILIATION: NONE

ADDRESS: 1650 WISCONSIN AVE

PHONE: 243 6609

E-MAIL:

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: The facilities have always been here and should stay and continue to be used as they have been.

The Rec. area is only here because Clair Hill had the political clout to get the dam built. Otherwise the NPS would not have been interested in this area.

Whiskeytown is not a "Park" like Yosemite or Lassen!. The towers don't detract from the beauty and are of great significance to the community

January 14, 2009

Jim Milestone
Superintendent
Whiskeytown National Recreational Area
Redding, CA

RE: Removal of Antennae on Shasta Bally

Dear Mr. Milestone:

I have belonged to a local out door club that does various activities including mountain biking, hiking, skiing & snowshoeing for over 15 years here in the beautiful Redding area. During that time I had the opportunity to hike to the top of Shasta Bally in May of 2000 in preparation of climbing to the top of Mt. Shasta.

As someone who has been to the top of Shasta Bally, I can actually say that even with the snow covering the ground, the antennae really stood out in the otherwise stunning views seen from the mountain top.

I would really like to see all the antennae removed eventually so that in looking at Shasta Bally from my house, I will actually be able to see it without all the distractions of the antennae. Also, when I have a chance to climb to the top of Shasta Bally again, it would be wonderful to see the whole top of the mountain without all the ugly antennae sticking up all over.

Very truly yours,

Nancy Simpson
2338 Harlan Drive
Redding, CA 96003
(530) 241-6919

Jan 23, 2009

Superintendent,
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area:

This letter voices the opinion of the Undersigned regarding the Telecommunication Towers atop of Mt Shasta Bally.

First, the removal of established Towers on Shasta Bally is ludicrous!

Second, another long term contract should be enacted without further delay.

Provisions for Cost-of-Living rental fee adjustments, possible future tenant space rental and, power line/road maintenance clauses can all be drawn up to the satisfaction of all parties involved.

We hope this letter will help expedite a decision favorable to all parties involved

Thank You

Carl & Bernadine Davis

CARL & BERNICE DAVIS
3255 SANTA ROSA WAY
REDDING, CAL. 96003

DARREN ALEXANDER
1086 CALIFORNIA ST. #2
REDDING CAL 96001

WAYNE MOLTER
P.O. 492696
REDDING CALIF 96049

JESSIE SIMMONS
4431 NEENAH TRAIL
REDDING CALIF 96003

BEN STINSON
323 PEARL ST
REDDING CAL 96003

KATHY STINSON
323 PEARL ST.
REDDING, CAL 96003

KARL GRIFFITHS
891 COUNTRY OAK DRIVE
REDDING, CAL 96003

Jan 23, 2009

The Honorable Wally Herger:

This letter is regarding not only keeping, but establishing new contracts for the Telecommunication Towers atop of Shasta Bally.

We have lived due East of Shasta Bally for 18+ years, six miles away.

Showing visiting friends and relatives our surrounding mountains, to point out these "notorious" towers, one must resort to binoculars.

These Towers not only are unobtrusive, they are interesting to watch (when not obscured by clouds) as the snowpack builds up in winter, then declines with warming weather.

The very idea of relocating these Towers, especially during our nation's current economic plight, is ludicrous.

A better idea, and much more economical,

would be to relocate the personnel at Whiskey-town National Park favoring Tower removal, perhaps to a remote flat area such as our states Mohave Desert!

Thank You
Sincerely
Carl & Bernice
Clarion

3255 Santa Rosa
Redding Calif 96003

Keep Private: Yes
Name: Charles W. Alexander
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Redding, CA 96001
USA
E-mail: sushibar@excite.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 01/27/2009
Date Received: 01/27/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No
Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Thank you for the opportunity, here today, to submit comment on this matter. Now, as to the three Topic Questions, I find it more expedient to address all three more or less simultaneously, than to attempt to address each, one at a time. The reason for this, I trust, will become quite manifest as one reads on in this Comment. Now, in this portion of the discussion, will be addressed, inter alia, Alternative F.

Alternative F reads as follows, "Permit new structures & enlargement of existing telecommunications infrastructure." Now, the argument most often proffered against Alternative F is of an aesthetic nature. The idea is that if enlargement of existing telecom. infrastructure, etc., is at all permitted, no matter the extent of regulation & oversight, that irreperable aesthetic degredation of the site, & its surrounds, will ensue such that: (a) the site will, to the naked eye from miles around in any direction, bear all too obvious a resemblence to an electrical utility provider's transformer site; and that (b) the local wildlife will suffer such acute psychological trauma that the entire regional course of nature will forever be altered much to the detriment of the local ecosystem. This idea, proffered as an argument against Alternative F, is patently false! Now, let's examine it more closely.

First of all, the transmitter site in question, contrary to how some may opine, is simply not visible to the naked eye from miles around in every direction. A telescope of sufficient magnification is necessary before the site can even begin to properly be seen. Otherwise, it is simply not visible, except up close, of course. Note that the photos of the site which have been taken from camera positions along the periphery of the site, itself. Note, also, the trees, snow, & other natural features surrounding the site. 'Tis not anything bearing resemblance to any major urban industrial development. Is it? But no matter.

Now, as to the proposition that Alternative F will, if implemented,

impose such acute psychological injury on the local wildlife that the whole regional course of nature will forever be altered much to the detriment of the local ecosystem, that idea is so manifestly absurd as to be considerable as unworthy of any serious consideration. Nevertheless, let's examine it a little more closely.

What is the mental imagery hoped to be projected by the opposition to Alternative F? It is that of a highly concentrated industrial development adjoined & surrounded by progressively prolific urban residential & commercial development. It is also that of local native species being wontonly deprived of all habitat. Moreover, it is that of various species of flora & fauna being visited with great calamity as they scramble to cope with the changes. 'Tis a picture more oft than not a product of the hallowed halls of Hollywood; an entirely false picture, in this case (needless to say).

Now, having dealt with the principle argument against Alternative F, let's examine, a little more closely, Alternative F, itself.

Alternative F reads as follows, "Permit new structulres & enlargement of existing telecommunications infrastructure." Allowing additional facilities on the site increases opportunities for improved emergency communications & for improved management of natural resources through improved data collection & analysis, inter alia. It also provides opportunity for improved communications, not only between emergency response agency personel & private citizens, but also between those same personnel & the public at large. It can also be used to facilitate, & thus promote, the practice of telecommuting.

We all know what telecommuting is. And there is considerable agreement that engagement in the practice can help reduce demand on the supplies of motor vehicle fuels. And if resource conservation is, in fact, deemed a worthwhile national pursuit, then Alternative F is best suited to the task, as contrasted against the other Alternatives listed in the EA Public Scoping Newsletter.

As to the whole issue of expanding telecom. infrastructure, as technology evolves, allowing the owners & operators of transmitters & transceivers to get more bang for their kilowatt-hour buck, it becomes necessary to maintain the regulatory flexibility needed for adjustment to changes, both anticipated & unanticipated. But to positively deny enlargement of existing telecom. infrastructure is to disallow even such temporary expansions as may be needed from time to time to adjust to changes.

Now, does acceptance of Alternative F necessarily preempt any necessary regulation & oversight? Of course not! The fact of the 1970 purchase of the summit area, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), etc., ensure that neither enlargement of telecom. infrastructure, nor addition of new structures will be without the proper regulatory oversight. Alternative F merely precludes the outright prohibition of said expansion & / or addition.

In conclusion, I must herenow hereby urge N.P.S. to fully implement Alternative F at the earliest possible opportunity! Thank you.

Keep Private: No
Name: Russel Smith
Organization: Redding Dirt Riders, NorCal Dual Sport
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Redding, CA 96003
USA
E-mail: rlsmith9@pacbell.net

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 01/29/2009
Date Received: 01/29/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No
Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I believe this site (Shasta Bally Communications facility) is critical for commercial and Public Safety communications needs. There are few, if any, alternatives to replace the current communication systems in place or for future expansion. The cost, both in terms of financial and ecological, would far exceed the impact of maintaining or expanding this site.
If this site is phased out, it would require at least 3-4 other mountain-top sites to maintain the same coverage area that Shasta Bally currently provides. This will create a 3-4 times larger environmental impact than having this ONE working site. Removing all the existing equipment from this mountain top will also create a huge environmental issue, since it would take heavy equipment, possibly even helicopters, to move the towers down the mountain.

Therefore, I strongly urge you to accept the new "Alternative F: Permit New Structures and Enlargement of Existing Telecommunications Infrastructure."

Some of the justification being used to support the effort to remove this equipment is fallacious:

1: "The equipment is an eyesore": It is almost impossible to see this equipment from the base of the mountain or from further away. Even when at the summit, it does not intrude on the view or feel of the area. Most views are OUT from the mountain top, so this equipment would be behind the viewer. I have even taken pictures of the surrounding area WITH this facility in the scene, and people still comment on the great view.

2: "This is our Half-dome": First, I do not know ANYBODY who comes here specifically to view Shasta Bally. They might want to climb/drive up there as an afterthought, but mostly, they come for other reasons. Second, Half-dome has TONS of communication towers on and around it. Again, you do NOT hear any complaints about these facilities from the tourists. Most don't even note that they exist...

The Whiskeytown National RECREATION AREA was designated as such so ALL individuals could come and RECREATE here... All I have heard from the PARK Service is "close" areas.

Maybe Mr. Milestone should go out to Whiskeytown Dam, and listen to the speech from President Kennedy...

Sincerly,

Russ Smith

(As a side-note, I am sure if the summit site is closed, the road leading up to the summit would be closed also... This would remove one of the best views of the Valley in the entire North state.)

February 5, 2009 (voice mail forwarded from Steve Thede and transcribed by Barbara Alberti)
Hi, I'm calling about the tower, the Shasta Bally. My name is Greg Bailey, lifelong resident of Redding. This isn't a pristine place up there, this is a place that is really vital for communications and things like that. I've seen those towers up there all my life and they are no big deal. It's kind of like having a railroad several hundred yards from you. You get used to it.

Keep Private:	No
Name:	Dave Polson
Organization:	Dave Polson Photography
Organization Type:	I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:	Redding, CA 96001 USA
E-mail:	dspolson@gmail.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New	**Park Correspondence Log:**
Date Sent: 02/04/2009	**Date Received:** 02/04/2009
Number of Signatures: 1	**Form Letter:** No
Contains Request(s): No	**Type:** Web Form

Notes:

Correspondence Text

I think the choice of keeping things as they are is the best choice, it reduces the chance of damage to the environment by moving the equipment, and the site is established. Moving it would mean a new site would also be impacted by the equipment being installed. No expansion should be necessary as the existing equipment should have the ability to expand it's broadcast capability without physical change to it.

Keep Private: No
Name: charles I. ehn
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: po box1063
anderson, CA 96007
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/04/2009
Date Received: 02/04/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No
Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Leave and expand communications types already there, with minor improvements for primary schooland tourist field trips.

thank you,
chuck ehn

Keep Private: No
Name: Eldred A. Haslam
Organization: Public
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Shingletown, CA 96088
USA
E-mail: ranphaslam@frontiernet.net

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/04/2009
Date Received: 02/04/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No
Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Having lived in the Redding area since 1959, I feel that the summit site for radio and tv communications equipment should be allowed to exist. It would be foolish to remove these very important facilities. The safety and welfare of the surrounding area must take precedence over removal for questionable reasons. I would recommend a continuation of the present policy.

Keep Private:	No
Name:	Charles P. Droesch
Organization:	
Organization Type:	I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:	19358 Flintstone Ave. Redding, CA 96003 USA
E-mail:	petedroesch@gmail.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New	**Park Correspondence Log:**
Date Sent: 02/04/2009	**Date Received:** 02/04/2009
Number of Signatures: 1	**Form Letter:** No
Contains Request(s): No	**Type:** Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

My wife and I wish to endorse Option D, with modifications. We are regular users of Whiskeytown; we have a boat permanently moored at Oak Bottom Marina. The Bally summit is not an eyesore or a distraction as it is so inobtrusive to the casual sightseer.

The public safety portions of the installations are critical to our quality of life here in the northern Sacramento Valley and it seems to us that preservation of that aspect of our life should be a major concern of the Park Service as an integral component of the community.

We believe that commercial users of the summit should be allowed to continue their occupancy of their facilities, but with restrictions on expansion of those facilities. New commercial applicants should be subjected to a most critical review of their proposals and should be required to co-locate with other commercial users where feasible. Minimal restrictions should apply to public sector safety and law enforcement communications systems and installations.

We encourage a reasonable negotiation of new lease terms that address a sharing of the expenses of maintaining the site, its environmental features, roads and power transmission line maintenance, recognizing that the roads offer some value to the Park Service as well as to the users of the facility.

Above all, be flexible.

Thank you,

Pete & Merian Droesch
275-0713

Keep Private: Yes
Name: Gregory L. Goodson
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 1325 Britt Ln
Red Bluff, CA 96080
USA
E-mail: GregGdsn@aol.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/04/2009
Date Received: 02/04/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No
Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

It is felt that the towers on Shasta Bally provide no significant hurt, and that they do contribute to valuable services, particularly in the public health and safety fields. I feel that to require them to move would not only negatively impact public health and safety, but would be a serious negative impact on budgets, and thereby on taxpayers, particularly during this critical economic time.
To require non-public towers to move could also impact taxpayers in loss of services and/or increased costs for services related to those towers.
I submit that the towers should be left alone, and that any necessary maintenance and improvements or upgrades should be allowed.
Thank you - Greg Goodson

Keep Private: Yes
Name: Dennis Bebensee
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 7490 Shasta Forest Drive, Shingletown CA 96088
Shingletown, CA 96088
USA
E-mail: manytrees@frontiernet.net

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/04/2009
Date Received: 02/04/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No
Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

It is unbelievable that the NPS would even consider abandoning or destroying this valuable communications site. Foremost the NPS must consider all values not just scenic and environmental values. 99% of the public in Shasta County or California will never visually see this site within any reasonable distance that would effect their visual quality, but yet 99% of the public and government agencies routinely use this site for television and communications.

Alternative F is the best choice. It is not true as you stated in the scoping letter that this alternative would increase physical and visual impact. It is not appropriate to stand a few feet or even several hundred feet from this project and state that you can see these impacts. You cannot even see the top of Shasta Bally from most areas of Whiskeytown NP and as you get further away and are able to see the top, there is no visual detriment. As for the physical impacts, it would be extremely difficult to damage or destroy these few acres of mostly rocky mountain top and these few acres could only have an insignificant environmental effect upon the rest of the park. The road can or should already have already been designed to bear traffic needed to build and maintain this site and not have any significant impact upon the surrounding area.

This project is not inconsistent with the parks purpose and NPS management policies. Since when does the NPS have the right to bury their head in the sand and ignore public benefits and costs?

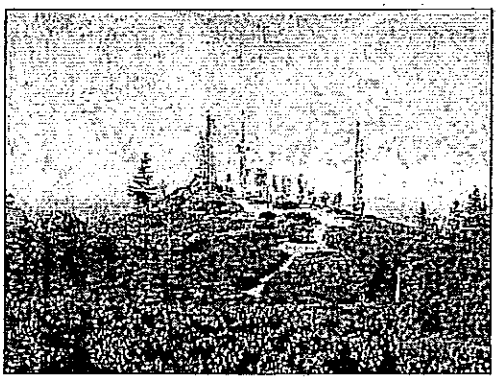
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

530-242-3460 phone
530-246-5154 fax

SHASTA BALLY SUMMIT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT FORM



Note: Contact Information Optional

Feb 5, 2009, 9:51 am

NAME: Harold Hodgkins (transcribed by BA from Jim's voicemail)

AFFILIATION:

ADDRESS:

PHONE: 527-3856

E-MAIL:

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

Would like to comment on Shasty Bally
Would like it to remain as a communication site.
Very few sites left if you let it go, you'll never
get it back. Keep it as a communications site

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

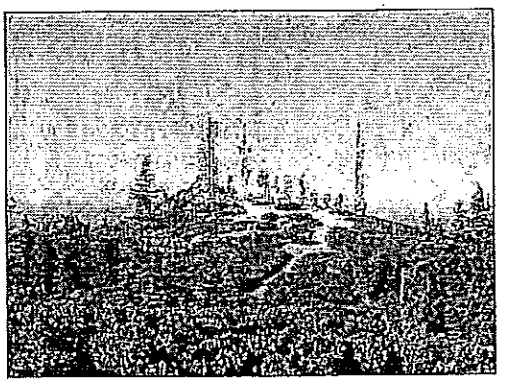
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

530-242-3460 phone
530-246-5154 fax

SHASTA BALLY SUMMIT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT FORM



Note: Contact Information Optional

9:30 - left msg.

NAME: William Coumes Feb 5, 10:00

AFFILIATION: (transcribed by BA

ADDRESS: from call w/ Jim)

PHONE: 628-4227

E-MAIL:

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

- top of Whiskeytown should be improved not turned into wilderness. He lives in Trinity Co.
- Keep towers & add any that are required
- Should have skipped bitching S-B. Park goes too far out
- Osprey nest cut down @ 3rd pond? PG&E? fall 2008 "CD area" - Motion Fire
- Discussion of PGE line in Trinity....

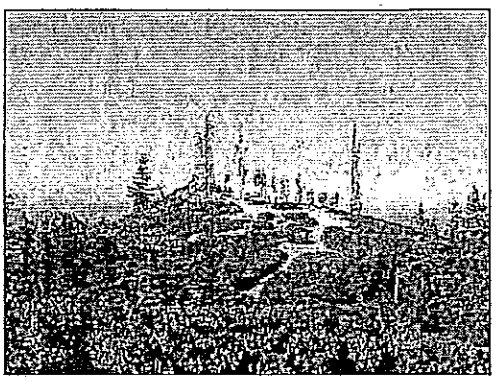
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

530-242-3460 phone
530-246-5154 fax

SHASTA BALLY SUMMIT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT FORM



Note: Contact Information Optional

message left on Jim's voicemail Feb 4, 2009 5pm. (transcribed by BA from Jim's voice mail)

NAME: Jeff Williams

AFFILIATION:

ADDRESS:

PHONE: 623-3078

E-MAIL:

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

I think it should stay in same general area. Don't move it, let them use it

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

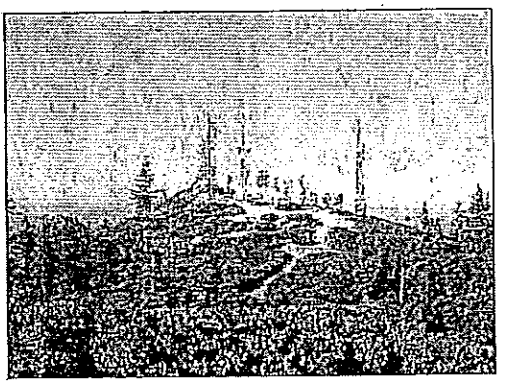
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

530-242-3460 phone
530-246-5154 fax

SHASTA BALLY SUMMIT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT FORM



Feb 5, 2009, 9:30 am.

Note: Contact Information Optional

NAME: Linda Roberts (transcribed by BA during phone call w/ Jim)

AFFILIATION:

ADDRESS: Redding

PHONE: 243-9963

E-MAIL:

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

- Redding resident. Went to H.S. at Central Valley
- Towers should be continued. Don't add new ones unless they stay in existing footprint. Don't expand down the hill.
- Don't discontinue for 2 reasons:
  (1) Shasta Bally is the best place for emergency communications.
  (2) It would take a lot ecologically to remove the towers now and take out infrastructure in the ground. We don't need to spend money now doing that.

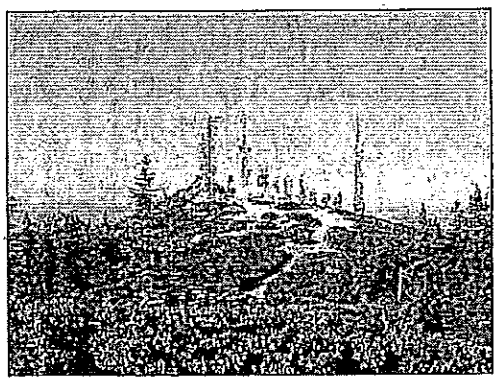
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

530-242-3460 phone
530-246-5154 fax

SHASTA BALLY SUMMIT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT FORM



Note: Contact Information Optional

NAME: Cathy Johnson Feb 5, 2009, 9:35 am

AFFILIATION: (transcribed by BA during phone call w/ Jim)

ADDRESS: Hayfork

PHONE: 628-4221

E-MAIL:

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

- No satellite TV - can't afford it. Only news comes from Shasta Bally TV.
- Would like to see towers stay for fire & emergency
- Comes through WHIS frequently - Son likes the view through telescope.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

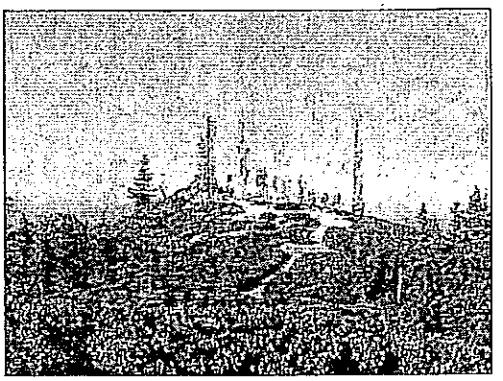
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

530-242-3460 phone
530-246-5154 fax

SHASTA BALLY SUMMIT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT FORM



Note: Contact Information Optional

2/4/09

NAME: Tracy Costello

AFFILIATION:

ADDRESS:

PHONE: 530-235-4690

E-MAIL:

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: Shasta Bally summit is not a great spot for recreation and the towers provide an important purpose.

The towers are an eyesore, but are existing non-contaminating. We are still selling water from Shasta Lake at depression rates.

Keep the towers within the site + add towers if necessary. We need uninterrupted radio channel communications.

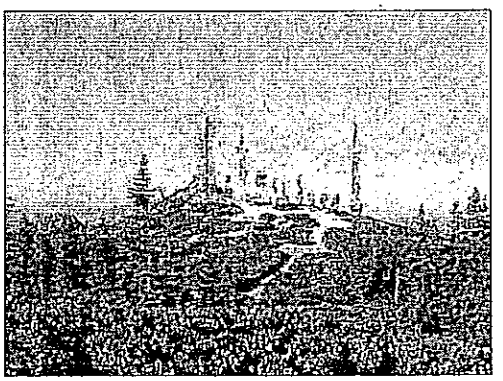
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

530-242-3460 phone
530-246-5154 fax

SHASTA BALLY SUMMIT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT FORM



Note: Contact Information Optional

NAME: Carol Knight

AFFILIATION:

ADDRESS: Redding CA

PHONE: 530- NO NUMBER

E-MAIL:

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: Lived here since 1970 & I am against removing the towers. They are important to police & media. Keep the towers.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

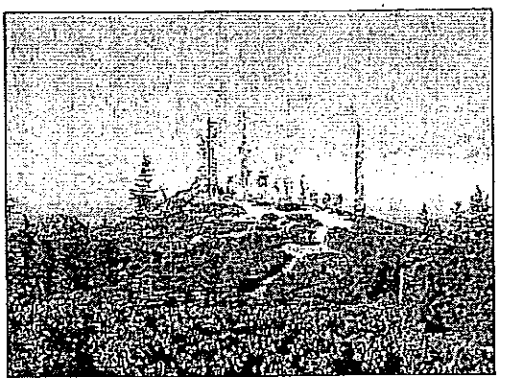
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

530-242-3460 phone
530-246-5154 fax

SHASTA BALLY SUMMIT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT FORM



Note: Contact Information Optional

NAME: Earl Hanson

AFFILIATION:

ADDRESS:

PHONE: 530 241 - 2670

E-MAIL:

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: The need for communications far exceed the parks need to protect the park.

IF the tower site needs to expand, it should be allowed, Potential expansion should be allowed.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

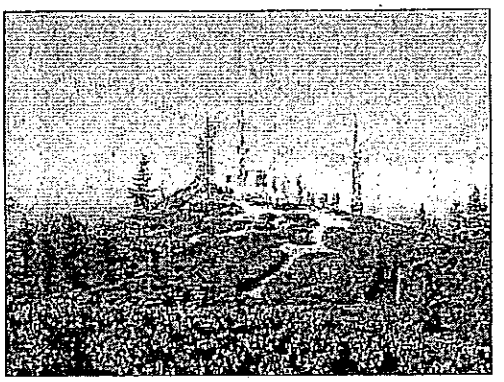
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

Whisk

530-242-3460 phone
530-246-5154 fax

SHASTA BALLY SUMMIT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT FORM



Note: Contact Information Optional

NAME: Cal Oberst

AFFILIATION:

ADDRESS:

PHONE: 530-244-3011

E-MAIL:

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: Lived here since 1977 + don't find the towers offensive. The towers are important to the community.

It is ridiculous that the county just approved 40 wind turbines on Hatchett mountain and at the same time take Shasta Bally's down. Leave the towers.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

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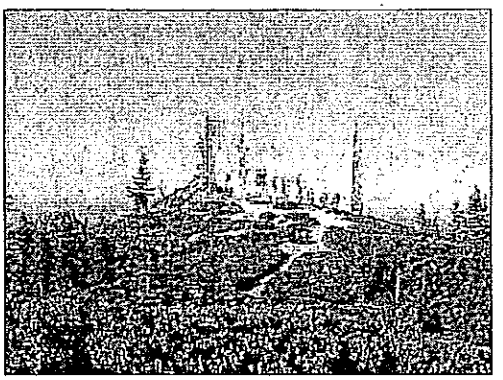
SHASTA BALLY SUMMIT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT FORM



Note: Contact Information Optional

Feb. 4, 09

NAME: Ronald F. Cibart

AFFILIATION: Mule Deer Foundation

ADDRESS:

PHONE: 530-549-3361

E-MAIL:

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: Keep the towers - But do more for the deer + promoting deer hunting. Please restore the habitat for the deer. We need to reduce the mountain lions so we have more deer.

Keep Private: No
Name: Jeanne L. Hodge
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Weaverville, CA 96093
USA
E-mail: jhodge@snowcrest.net

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/05/2009
Date Received: 02/05/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No
Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am commenting on the Shasta Bally Summit Site Plan.

I think that the need for communications in the rural areas affected should be given a higher priority, and that at least the existing tenants should be allowed to remain. I have never heard anyone complain about the towers. They have been here for many years, and are vital to the communications and quality of life of residents and visitors.

The first meetings for public comment were apparently not announced in Trinity County, which is directly affected by the decision. Perhaps they were publicized in Shasta County. Even at this point, press releases have not clearly indicated that public comment was requested or how to make comments.

I strongly urge that Alternative B, D, or F be considered, which all permit the existing tenants to remain. Physical and visual impacts are minimal, and greatly outweighed by the need for communication for safety, economic development, and information purposes.

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Anderson, CA 96007
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Date Sent: 02/05/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Contains Request(s): No
Notes:

Park Correspondence Log:
Date Received: 02/05/2009
Form Letter: No
Type: Web Form

Correspondence Text

Please support Alternative F.

We see the need to maintain & support the many communication services that are provided at this site & no better location. This would include, but is not limited to emergency services, public safety, including national news/ crisis notification, traffic control with industrial, commercial, state & county implications, with law enforcement needs as well as consumer services such as cell phone, video (TV), & audio (radio).

Our rural environment requires strategic placement of broadcast towers for any communications to be viable and accessible, for work, housing, recreation, travel, safety and etc. A solution that allows continuation of these services, with provisions for expansion as the population ever increases, is absolutely vital.

Keep Private:	Yes
Name:	John A. Milestone
Organization:	Native Son's of the Golden West
Organization Type:	I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:	937 Dolores St. #A San Francisco, CA 94110 USA
E-mail:	samoishi@yahoo.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New	**Park Correspondence Log:**
Date Sent: 02/06/2009	**Date Received:** 02/06/2009
Number of Signatures: 1	**Form Letter:** No
Contains Request(s): No	**Type:** Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Whiskey NRA is a beautiful park. As an annual visitor, I strongly believe in leaving no trace behind, however; I was so shocked to see the facility on top of Shasta Bally, something that looked like a set from a 1950's science fiction movie -placed in such a pristine location. This is a mess left behind from the past, and I strongly feel it should be phased out and the natural beauty restored as soon as possible.

Keep Private: No
Name: John P. Hollinrake
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 701 Mulberry Ln.
Lincoln CA 95648
Lincoln, CA 95648
USA
E-mail: johnhollinrake@earthlink.net

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/06/2009
Date Received: 02/06/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No
Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I support Alternative C. I am a hiker, backpacker, and landscape photographer. I have seen the structures on Shasta Bally and I believe they should be removed and the site restored. I am a founding member of an international volunteer conservation organization that brings volunteers into international parks and our US National Parks to do habitat restoration and trail maintenance.

Based on my work with my conservation organization, I am familiar with the types of challenges that Whiskeytown must face in dealing with this in-holding within the NRA boundaries. I have the following concerns about the present use of the Shasta Bally site and believe that the remedy is to phase out the telecommunications towers as technology enables the users to switch to alternative broadcasting methods.

My concerns are as follows:
1. I am particularly troubled by the access road and the erosion caused by this poorly designed dirt road. Runoff can lead to increased siltation of the streams, and this in turn leads to an impact on fish and amphibians.
2. There is a public safety issue related to the traffic on the road by all of the site users. I am informed that a cement truck crashed on the road when a user was installing a new tower. Hikers can encounter trucks and cars on blind curves with the potential for death or injury.
3. Aesthetically, the towers and structures are an eyesore and ruin one of the region's most outstanding mountain views.
4. The use of the site for a multitude of transmission towers is inconsistent with the aims of the NPS to preserve and protect the NRA public resource.

Keep Private:	Yes
Name:	Olive M. Ayhens
Organization:	
Organization Type:	I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:	85 Devoe St. #2C Brooklyn, NY 11211 USA
E-mail:	ayhens@gmail.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New	**Park Correspondence Log:**
Date Sent: 02/06/2009	**Date Received:** 02/06/2009
Number of Signatures: 1	**Form Letter:** No
Contains Request(s): No	**Type:** Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

I was an artist in residence at Whiskey town during July of 2007. During this period I took a trip up to Shasta Bally. it was magnificent!!! Everything should be done to preserve this mountain top. I am hoping to return to draw and paint at Shasta Bally.

Keep Private:	Yes
Name:	Steve Wopschall
Organization:	
Organization Type:	I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:	PO Box 491623 Redding, CA 96049 USA
E-mail:	

Correspondence Information

Status: New	**Park Correspondence Log:**
Date Sent: 02/07/2009	**Date Received:** 02/07/2009
Number of Signatures: 1	**Form Letter:** No
Contains Request(s): No	**Type:** Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

I believe that the communication towers on Shasta Bally should remain. They serve the important interests of: Emergency communications, infrastructure communications, and commercial broadcasts. The towers have a Radio wave "Footprint" that is unique and difficult to achieve comparable results using other locations. Not once have my family, friends, or visitors that we have hosted to this area, considered the towers or structures an eyesore or visual blight.

If the towers were removed, the work performed by those towers would have to be located elsewhere. Other mountain peaks would have to be built-up with the towers and structures. Other roads would have to be built. Other power lines would have to be built to provide constant power. It would actually cause greater environmental harm to remove those towers when you consider the relocation of those services.

Current technology does not allow the transition from repeater and broadcast towers to all satellite technology.

The roads to Shasta Bally's structures also allows visitors to this area to drive to one of the best scenic views in this area. My family really enjoys taking visitors to our area to this peak in the summer. The refreshing temperature change accompanied by the gorgeous views is an outstanding experience.

Keep Shasta Bally as it is!

Sincerely,

The Steve Wopschall Family
Redding, CA

Keep Private:	No
Name:	Ethel L. Schmidt
Organization:	
Organization Type:	I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:	2055 Penn Drive Redding Redding, CA 96002 USA
E-mail:	mightytrees@gmail.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New	**Park Correspondence Log:**
Date Sent: 02/07/2009	**Date Received:** 02/07/2009
Number of Signatures: 1	**Form Letter:** No
Contains Request(s): No	**Type:** Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Since I am an avid listener of KSOR public radio that uses a transmitter on Shasta Bally I would like that station to continue to do so. Losing the ability to receive the only radio station that I care to listen to would be a personal hardship. Moving the transmitter to another site would not be feasible, especially in the current economic situation. Therefore I encourage the adoption of Alternative D but I feel that anyone using the site must contribute to the maintenance of the road.

Keep Private: No
Name: Bob F. Madgic
Organization: Sierra Club
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 6412 Clear View Dr.
Anderson, CA 96007
USA
E-mail: bmadgic@charter.net

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/09/2009
Date Received: 02/09/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No
Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I strongly urge Whiskeytown NPS to choose Alternative C for the future of Shasta Bally Summit Site Plan. Optional sites for towers surely exist in Shasta County, with no loss of performance. Communication technology will also change, and there is reason to believe that such towers will not be needed in the future to the degree they are today.
There is only one summit of Shasta Bally, it being the highest peak on the western range south of Highway 299, as well as in Whiskeytown National Park itself. It should be restored to its natural condition.
The foremost mission of the NPS is to preserve the natural landscape, not to advance commercial interests. It needs to adhere to this mission whenever possible. This is one such case when the mission is clear.
Bob Madgic, author "A Guide to California's Freshwater Fishes."

Keep Private: No
Name: Brian Waligorski
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Anderson, CA 96007
USA
E-mail: bgorski@clearwire.net

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Date Sent: 02/10/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Contains Request(s): No
Notes:

Park Correspondence Log:
Date Received: 02/10/2009
Form Letter: No
Type: Web Form

Correspondence Text

In regards to the communications site on Shasta Bally, the decision to eventually shut down this site should not be made in haste. Yes it is a beautiful location with a 360 degree view of the surrounding area, but it's that same commanding view that enables public safety and other forms of communications for almost one third of California. The unique location of this mountain top provides the most wide ranging and reliable mode of communications for the area. Be it television, commercial radio, law enforcement, public service, or amateur radio, all of these communication resources provide a very important means of private and public communication.
Of greatest concern resulting from the removal of the communications equipment is the impact to emergency communication infrastructure for the surrounding areas. Should any public or private disaster plans rely on the use of existing Shasta Bally communication equipment, significant impacts to those disaster communication plans would result, and thereby impact public safety. No other mountain top or ridgeline in the Northern California region can provide as great a location for communication infrastructure because the equipment needs unobstructed surroundings to allow radio waves to travel as far as possible and operate at maximum efficiency. Relocation of this equipment would require at least two sites to cover the same geographical area.
This communication ability is a very important resource that needs to be preserved and made available to all emergency planners and their agencies in the surrounding counties. In these uncertain times, I hope that the National Park Service will see the benefit to the people of Northern California to allow the Shasta Bally communications site to co-exist within the NPS as it has for over 40 years.

Respectfully,

Brian Waligorski
Anderson,CA

Amateur Radio Call Sign: N6RZR

Keep Private: No
Name: Travis Finch
Organization: Velocity Technology Cooperative, Inc.
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: P.O. Box 246
Weaverville, CA 96093
USA
E-mail: tf@velotech.net

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Date Sent: 02/12/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Contains Request(s): No
Notes:

Park Correspondence Log:
Date Received: 02/12/2009
Form Letter: No
Type: Web Form

Correspondence Text

Shasta Bally is a vital communications site for most of the North State. This site serves to provide a cellular backhaul for portions of Trinity County, microwave backhaul to Siskiyou County, and emergency communications and television coverage for much of Northern California. Several "alternative sites" namely South Fork Mountain, have been suggested. South Fork Mountain does not have line-of-sight to Siskiyou County, nor Trinity County. Utilizing the South Fork site would require construction of additional sites to continue providing service, thus causing more environmental destruction. Another site, Hoadley Peak, has been suggested as an alternate site. This site is owned by BLM and is for use by government entities only, rendering it useless for telephone and television purposes. Furthermore, it has a line-of-sight to only a thin slice of Redding, making co-location in the Redding area rather difficult.

One of the main reasons sighted for the proposed removal of the Shasta Bally site is the fact that the electrical lines running to the sight are not visually attractive. These lines are only visible from the far western portion of the Whiskeytown Recreation Area. There are, however, numerous other high-voltage lines that criss-cross the area; three in total. These electrical lines are far more of a visual impact than the lines on Shasta Bally. Why are these lines not being considered for removal?

All of the Alternatives with the exception of A and E require a reduction of visual and aural impacts. The lights visible on Shasta Bally are barely detectable when compared to ambient starlight, and are only visible at the far eastern edges of the Recreation Area. Many nights the lights are not visible due to fog or inclement weather. Requiring modifications made to light sources is simply unreasonable. Installation of sound barriers and "low-noise" fans is also an unreasonable request as the sounds emitted from the site are only detectable when present at the site. Furthermore, installation of sound barriers would needlessly disturb the environment.

All Alternatives with the exception of A and E also require the improvement of Shasta Bally Road. The road to the Shasta Bally site, and the site itself are composed mostly of decomposed granite. Realignment of the road would needlessly burden taxpayers in addition to destablizing soils.

Alternatives B and D call for the relocation of the electrical lines to Shasta Bally Road. Again, the soils are already unstable, and burying the lines under the road would cause irreprable environmental damage. Furthermore, if there is erosion and road loss as a result of the realignment and burying of the eletrical lines, travel to the site will become impossible, greatly impacting users of the site and the

services they provide. These Alternatives also call for the use of alternative energy sources. Alternative energy sources such as solar would be cost prohibitive given the amount of power required to power something such as a television transmitter.

As a future tenant of the site, I would favor Alternative F, which allows new tenants, structures, and enlargement of the existing site. As wireless communications become more prevalent in our society, sites such as this will become more important. To sacrifice this site purely because some view it as visually unappealing is both irresponsible and short-sighted.

Keep Private: No
Name: Dero B. Forslund
Organization: Trinity County
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: P.O. Box 1613
Weaverville, CA 96093
USA
E-mail: dforslund@trinitycounty.org

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/12/2009
Date Received: 02/12/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No
Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

The proposed changes in the permitting of the communication facilities is ill-conceived. While Whiskeytown National Recreation Area is managed by the National Park Service efforts to treat is as anything but a important part of the Central Valley Project with substancial recreational opportunities are misdirected. Just as the Carr Powerhouse, penstocks and the dam itself are the are important to the operation of the Central Valley Project the communication facilities located on Shasta Bally are important to the communication needs of Shasta and Trinity Counties. The communication needs of the communities should outweigh other considersations.

Alternative F is the only alternative that should be considered with the addition of providing for the extention of the proposed leases beyond the 10 year limit. The current efforts to limit the use of Shasta Bally as a communication site is the very reason the leases should be offered for a longer time or there should be provisions for extensions to the term of the leases. Licensees will not likely want to make investments in upgrades and maintance as needed if there is no guarantee that they will be able to receive a return on the investment.

The Environmental Assessment does not seem to take into account the economic loss to the communities served by the communication facilities some of which have been in place for 50 years and provide to only communication access to much of Trinity County.

The prime goal of the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area should be to enhance the recreational opportunities of the Area without impacting the important role the area has in providing services to the surronding communities. i.e. transporation of water and generation of power for the Central Valley Project, Highway access via State Highway 299W, electric transmission via PG&E transmission and Western Area Power Administration transmission lines and now communication facilities located on Shasta Bally. The fact that these facilities can coexist with the recreational opportunities should be encouraged not down played by the Park Service.

Request legislation to allow for longer leases for communication facilities on Shasta Bally and then adopt Alternative F. Include the economic impacts to Trinity County in the environmental Assessment process.

Dero Forslund
Trinity County Administrative Officer

Keep Private: No
Name: Kevin P. Mulvany
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/13/2009
Date Received: 02/13/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No
Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Howdy:

I am a lifelong resident of California and an avid hiker and camper throughout the state. I have visited Whiskeytown on a number of occasions and enjoyed the beautiful scenery, wildlife, and plants.

I would like the park service to seriously consider option "C" with regards to Mt. Bally. This mountain is a prominent feature in the park and an obvious choice for a hiking destination and spectacular vista point for park visitors in the future.

Phasing out the commercial use of this site over time seems quite reasonable, as it gives both industry and other interested parties an opportunity to find suitable alternatives to the present communication facilities. It is hard to believe that with the rapid development of new technologies, the operation currently located on top of this majestic peak can't be eliminated in the future.

Commercial interests in other parks, such as the toll roads originally utilized to access Yosemite Valley in the 1800's, served their purpose for a time, but were ultimately phased out, resulting in better utilization of the unique resources the parks had to offer to the public. It seems quite obvious that having an array of towers right on top of the most prominent peak in a national treasure like Whiskeytown is a problem crying out for correction.

No future park visitor is ever likely to look up at Mt. Bally, or stand atop its summit, and sigh, "if only we had some nice metal towers up here to improve the scenery".

Thank you for your consideration.
Kevin Mulvany, Hiker,naturalist,taxpayer

Keep Private: Yes
Name: Dianna M. Thrasher
Organization: Sierra Club
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Redding, CA 96003
USA
E-mail: diannamt@c-zone.net

Status: New
Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/14/2009
Date Received: 02/14/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No
Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

After attending the December 11, 2008, public scoping meeting and gathering information from the website and newspaper articles, I am convinced that the only alternative that the NPS should consider is ALTERNATIVE C - Permit Existing Tenants with a Phase Out Period Followed by Site Restoration. The Phase Out Period of ten to fifteen years would allow the entities that are currently remaining to develop and/or acquire future technology that would meet their telecommunication needs, which would most likely render the Shasta Bally site undesirable (weather, inadequate access road, etc.).

The Shasta Bally summit would be the perfect end to a mountain climb without the transmission station and all the equipment, buildings, towers, and fence. Friends that have made the climb said that they were shocked at the amount of man-made materials found there, which ruined the view experience.

The summit should be allowed to revert to the natural state, because of its sensitive high-elevation habitat. As global warming progresses, high-elevation plants and animals will ascend in elevation in order to survive. The five acres taken over by the transmission site could be restored to provide precious habitat for unusual and even rare species. Whiskeytown is located on the edge of the Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion, which is considered a global center of biodiversity. Many citizens of the surrounding area take hikes to specifically view unusual plants, flowers, and trees, and care deeply about conserving unique plant communities in their National Parks.

I am concerned about the addition of ALTERNATIVE F- Permit New Structures and Enlargement of Existing Telecommunications Infrastructure, which was originally listed as dismissed as inconsistent with the park's purpose and NPS management policies. It is unacceptable and irresponsible to even consider adding additional structures and enlarging the current footprint to satisfy the demands of the business community.

Another concern is the amount of taxpayer funds that have been spent in order to accommodate business interests in the past that did not pay fees sufficient to maintain the road, etc., thereby forcing the park to do the needed maintenance. I believe that the NPS Right-of-Way Permits should include fees that cover all the costs of maintaining the site and roads, and include another fee to compensate for the visual intrusion that I can see from my home.

Whiskeytown is a beloved park and will be even more desirable in ten to fifteen years when the Shasta Bally summit has been restored to its natural state. My grandchildren can look forward to climbing to the summit to enjoy the view unimpeded by man-made structures and to experience a truly remote region.

Thank you for considering my comments about the future management of the Shasta Bally summit.

Keep Private: Yes

Name: Linda L. Miller
Organization: Member
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: Po box 1253
Hayfrok, Ca 96041
Hayfork, CA 96041
USA
E-mail: lindalee@com-pair.net

Correspondence Information

Status: New
Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/15/2009
Date Received: 02/15/2009
Number of Signatures: 1
Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No
Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I just got the com-pair services two weeks ago and had no knoledge that this was going on and I am very upset with this. THere is no reasonably prices internet services other that dial up that will work in Hayfork. I use this to compunicate with my children and grandchildren. I would like to know more about this issue and what is going on and when a decision has to be made. From what I understand on your information site that by Sept 1, 2009 you will find a decision and inform the members of these services the out come. I have as I said never heard about this until today and I see that today is the end of phase 3 what does this mean for my internet service with com-pair. Please let me know. Thank you, Linda

Congressman Wally Herger
410 Hemsted Drive, Suite 115
Redding CA 96002
Phone: (530) 223-5898
Fax: (530) 223-5897

FAX COVER SHEET
Number of pages
(Including cover) 4

DATE: 2-11-09

FROM: Dave Meurer dave.meurer@mail.house.gov

TO: REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Recipient Fax #

Comments:

The information contained in this message is confidential and may also contain privileged information protected in accordance with Title V, Section 552(a) of the United States Code, (1974 Federal Privacy Act). The information is intended only for the use of the individual, agency or entity to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, dissemination, or distribution of this communication is prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify us immediately and delete the message. Any use, modification or republication of this communication, including any attached files, documents, data or other information which has not been expressly authorized by us is prohibited.

Memorandum

FROM: Dave Meurer

TO: Jonathon Jarvis, NPS Regional Director

RE: Shasta Bally

2/11/09

The original (with many attachments) will follow by mail. This issue is extremely important to Congressman Herger, and he would appreciate your personal review of this matter. The Congressman will also be contacting the acting National Park Service Director Dan Wenk, but wanted you to have a heads up.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. I can be reached at 530.223.5898.

Dave Meurer
Field Representative
Congressman Wally Herger
410 Hemsted Drive
Suite 115
Redding CA 96002

FAX: 530.223.5897 E-MAIL: dave.meurer@mail.house.gov

WALLY HERGER
3D DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

PLEASE REPLY TO:
☐ WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2268 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-3076

DISTRICT OFFICES:
☐ 55 INDEPENDENCE CIRCLE, SUITE 104
CHICO, CA 95973
(530) 893-8501
☑ 410 HEMPSTED DRIVE, SUITE 115
REDDING, CA 96001
(530) 223-5898

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
CHAIRMAN
HUMAN RESOURCES
TRADE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0502

February 9, 2009

Jonathon Jarvis, Regional Director
National Park Service
Pacific West Region
One Jackson Center
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607-4807

Dear Jonathon:

It is my understanding that you will be the deciding official regarding the selection of an alternative dealing with the future management of Shasta Bally. For that reason, I welcome this opportunity to outline my concerns and forward to you the views of several parties, including public safety agencies, who have expressed alarm about a Park Service Environmental Assessment (EA) that includes an alternative to phase out broadcast facilities located on Shasta Bally. Attached you will find letters from the Shasta County Sheriff's office, Shascom (the 911 emergency call systems administrator), the Shasta County Board of Supervisors, the Trinity County Board of Supervisors, Verizon Wireless, KRCR TV (the local ABC affiliate), and KIXE (the local public television broadcaster). Additionally, I have heard strong concern from PG&E, the Redding Police Department, and a host of individual citizens. Additional letters will be forthcoming.

I share many of the concerns that have been expressed in the attached letters, and I strongly oppose any modification to the current use of Shasta Bally if the net effect is to degrade the quality of the signals that are utilized by current broadcasters. The local television stations, radio stations, and public safety agencies that have broadcast facilities on Shasta Bally have informed me that there is no current viable alternative to Shasta Bally without degrading signal coverage. In my view, public safety should trump any concerns that may have been expressed about the visual impacts of the site. Indeed, to the average observer the site is barely visible. The broad public is not clamoring for the removal of broadcast facilities from Shasta Bally. Park Service staff have noted that only "a few" people have expressed an objection to the antennas and equipment.

I have informed the local Park Superintendant of my position on this matter. I also expressed to him my concern that the Park Service issued a document dismissing *Alternative F (Permit New Structures and Enlargement of Existing Telecommunications Infrastructure)* as "inconsistent with the park's purpose and NPS management policies" prior to taking any public input. Given the vital role that Shasta Bally plays in current broadcasting, and the high likelihood of future broadcast needs at the site, I requested that Alternative F be put back on the table as a live option (which the Park Service has agreed to do). However, given the fact the Park Service has already deemed this alternative as "inconsistent with the park's purpose and NPS management policies," I remain concerned that Alternative F, which is widely supported by the current broadcasters and public safety agencies, will not receive serious consideration. Indeed, public statements of local Park Service representatives have generated enormous concern that the agency has its mind made up. A local press report noted: *"This is our Half Dome," Milestone said, referring to the signature geological feature of Yosemite National Park, "would you put antennas on top of Half Dome?"*

Because of the enormous interest that has been generated by this issue, I am requesting your careful consideration of this matter. If you concur with your staff that it would be "inconsistent with the park's purpose and NPS management policies" to permit new structures and enlarge existing telecommunications infrastructure, several broadcasters have asked me to help facilitate a transfer of the administrative jurisdiction of Shasta Bally to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). As a sister agency within the Department of Interior, and an adjoining land manager, it may be the most pragmatic solution to allow the BLM to manage the mountain. The BLM is not bound by restrictive regulations that would make expanded broadcast facilities inconsistent with the agency mission. Indeed, communications facilities are quite common on lands managed by the BLM.

I have assigned this case to my Field Representative, Dave Meurer. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact him at my Redding office. He can be reached at (530) 223-5898. Thank you for your review of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Wally Herger

WALLY HERGER
Member of Congress

WH:hh

603 N. Market Street
Redding, CA 96003
(530) 243-5493
FAX (530) 243-7443
www.kixe.org

February 9, 2009

Superintendent, Whiskeytown NRA
P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

Dear Superintendent Milestone:

Enclosed is the Northern California Educational Television Association –KIXE- response to the Shasta Bally Summit Site Plan Environmental Assessment as proposed by the National Park Service.

Cordially,

Myron A Tisdel
President and General Manager

Cc: NPS Regional Director Jon Jarvis
U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein
U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer
U.S. Congressional Wally Herger
CA State Senator Sam Aanestad
NCETVA Board of Directors
COBi
Shasta Bally Tenants

w.mat.c.sb ea response

P.O.V
Great Getaways
NOVA
Baking with Julia
Arthur
California Country
This Old House
Homerime
Reading Rainbow
Sid Webb's Digital Studio
Mystery!
A Place of Our Own
Globe Trekker
Woodwright's Shop
American Experience
Imagination Station
The Lawrence Welk Show
Scientific American Frontiers
Maya & Miguel
California's Gold
NOW
Austin City Limits
Newshour with Jim Lehrer
Monty Python
American Masters
Classic Gospel
Wild Chronicles
Between the Lions
Great Performances

It's Our Station...
Let's Support It!

Nightly Business Report
The Red Green Show
Cyberchase
California Connected
Real Simple
Sesame Street
Masterpiece Theatre
Tracks Ahead
Independent Lens
Dragon Tales
Joy of Painting
Charlie Rose
Barney & Friends
Frontline
Sewing with Nancy
Los Niños En Su Casa
Healthy Body, Healthy Mind
It's a Big, Big World
Antiques Roadshow
Keeping Up Appearances
Washington Week
Mister Rogers' Neighborhood
New Yankee Workshop
American Consumer
Postcards from Buster
Nature
Victory Garden
Washington Week
Clifford The Big Red Dog

603 N. Market Street
Redding, CA 96003
(530) 243-5493
FAX (530) 243-7443
www.kixe.org

February 9, 2009

KIXE Response to the NPS Preliminary Draft Alternatives for Shasta Bally [Page 1 of 5]

Northern California Educational Television Association is the California non-profit corporation owning KIXE, the educational-public television station licensed to Redding. Since 1964, KIXE has been a tenant with a tower, antenna, transmitter and rack mounted equipment on Shasta Bally Mountain. KIXE owns its own transmitting tower and antennas to broadcast educational programs on two standard definition digital channels and one high definition digital channel from this site. Through a series of translators which rebroadcast signals from Shasta Bally the station covers a ten county area in the north-east corner California.

This paper is a response from KIXE regarding the proposed changes in management and use of Shasta Bally specifically as proposed by the National Park Service Site Plan Environmental Assessment.

In June of 2006, KIXE submitted Form 299 "Application for Transportation and Utility Service on Federal Lands" as required of the NPS, specifically Whiskeytown Recreational Area Superintendent James Milestone. To date, KIXE has never received any response to this application. If KIXE had not submitted Form 299, Milestone said we would be required to vacate the site within 30 days. Since 2006 Superintendent Milestone verbally claims that it is the intention of the NPS to decommission the site and restore it to its natural state. KIXE opposes this decision as it would deprive educational television to citizens above the valley and in the surrounding mountain areas. KIXE is concerned by pre-decisional comments as they pertain to the alternative proposals submitted by the National Park Service.

P.O.V.
Great Getaways
NOVA
Baking with Julia
Arthur
California Country
This Old House
Hometime
Reading Rainbow
Sid Webb's Digital Studio
Mystery!
A Place of Our Own
Globe Trekker
Woodwright's Shop
American Experience
Imagination Station
The Lawrence Welk Show
Scientific American Frontiers
Maya & Miguel
California's Gold
NOW
Austin City Limits
Newshour with Jim Lehrer
Monty Python
American Masters
Classic Gospel
Wild Chronicles
Between the Lions
Great Performances

It's Our Station...
Let's Support It!

Nightly Business Report
The Red Green Show
Cyberchase
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Real Simple
Sesame Street
Masterpiece Theatre
Tracks Ahead
Independent Lens
Dragon Tales
Joy of Painting
Charlie Rose
Barney & Friends
Frontline
Sewing with Nancy
Los Ninos En Su Casa
Healthy Body, Healthy Mind
It's a Big, Big World
Antiques Roadshow
Keeping Up Appearances
Washington Week
Mister Rogers' Neighborhood
New Yankee Workshop
American Consumer
Postcards from Buster
Nature
Victory Garden
Washington Week
Clifford The Big Red Dog

KIXE Response to the NPS Preliminary Draft Alternatives for Shasta Bally [page 2 of 5]

KIXE is an important community resource for the ten northeast counties of California. In addition to providing commercial-free television programming that sets the standard for fairness and accountability, KIXE partners with other community organizations to provide enrichment for our citizens.

The website of the National Park Service states that the Telecommunications Act of 1996 "directs all federal agencies to assist in the national goal of achieving a seamless telecommunications system throughout the U.S. by accommodating requests to telecommunications companies for the use of property, rights-of-way, and easements to the extent allowable under each agency's mission. Unlike other nonconforming use the National Park Service is legally obligated to permit telecommunications infrastructure within the parks if such facilities can be structured to avoid interference with park purposes." As the communications site was in place long before the Whiskeytown Recreational Area was established and as it hasn't caused a problem for 50 years, how is it being determined to be causing one now?

Superintendent Milestone stated at the December tenants meeting called by the NPS, that ten-year right-of-way permits are the longest that the NPS will grant. This is not true and brings into question the NPS's ability to manage a communications site such as Shasta Bally. A ten-year right-of-way permit is not feasible for a telecommunications site. The U.S. Code of Regulations CFR Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 14 Sub Part G, Paragraph 14.90 allows the National Park Service to grant up to 50 year right-of-ways and are not limited to the 10-year ROW's as stated by Superintendent Milestone at the December meeting. <u>KIXE requests the NPS grant a 50 year ROW in any alternative or plan selected.</u>

Alternative B of the proposed alternatives limits business development to meet the current telecommunications changes occurring in the United States. Lowering antenna height or masking towers to look like trees, another NPS suggestion, or moving the existing building to be underground or to have towers be no higher than trees are all unfeasible requirements.

KIXE Response to the NPS Preliminary Draft Alternatives for Shasta Bally [Page 3 of 5]

Tower height is governed by power output and radio frequency (RF) propagation. The NPS stating that two 50-foot towers might be able to replace one 100-foot tower indicates a lack of understanding regarding radio frequency disbursement. Lowering tower height would exceed RF exposure limits set by the FCC. Masking towers to look like trees may work for cell towers but not for broadcast towers, certainly not towers that are subjected to the high wind forces and heavy ice loads such as those on Shasta Bally. NPS suggesting that towers be painted green is contrary to existing federal FCC and FAA regulations. The transmit site is above tree-line and therefore lowering the towers to be at tree height in essence would remove the towers from Shasta Bally and therefore is not a viable recommendation. Federal Regulations require the licensee-(KIXE) to maintain the equipment licensed to each station for television transmission. Therefore having the NPS assume this responsibility, as suggested in Altgernative B, is not feasible and would jeopardize the public television station license of KIXE. KIXE recommends the NPS contract with a telecommunications engineering consultant if the NPS continues with these suggested alternatives. This consultant could have a dual purpose - relieve the burden of the expense of education currently on the backs of the tenants and assist the NPS in their decisions.

Alternative C would require a relocation of the KIXE transmitter to another location. Shasta Bally is unique by having power located at the site, and it is unique for the height of the mountain and the accessibility for maintenance.

There is no other location in Northern California that matches Shasta Bally. Other sites are higher but lack power and accessibility. Some sites have the power and accessibility but not the "reach" into Trinity, Siskiyou or other counties to the north, east and west. Any interruption or altering of the current KIXE signal will deny underserved and remote populations of these counties their access to their only source of educational public television. There are places far more accessible but lack the other criteria. Any other location would be prohibitively expensive to develop and take many years to obtain governmental clearances.

KIXE Response to the NPS Preliminary Draft Alternatives for Shasta Bally [Page 4 of 5]

KIXE recommends the NPS to provide a 50-year ROW and let us all take that period to explore other technical and physical possibilities.

Alternative D is very similar to "B" and has the same restrictions. While Alternative D allows for business growth, the restrictions prevent this alternative from being viable. KIXE recommends Alternative D be excluded from consideration along with A, B, C and E.

KIXE appreciates Congressman Herger understanding that Shasta Bally is an important telecommunications and business asset for the United States and also for asking Superintendent Milestone to reconsider Alternative F. This alternative allows KIXE to continue to operate and evolve the business of public service broadcasting as new technology and service needs develop over the years. KIXE recommends serious consideration on the part of NPS to place alternative F back into consideration and place this alternative (F) at the top of all of the proposed alternatives.

Finally, KIXE can understand why Superintendent Milestone is so adamant to return Shasta Bally back into its natural state. In spite of all of the rhetoric, one should not forget that Whiskeytown Lake is a result of and a part of the California Water Project. Lawrence and James Carr along with George Flaherty were the financial catalyst to build the road to the top of Shasta Bally long before it was purchased by the NPS. This road allowed Frank Crawford and others to build the telecommunications site which exists today. Shasta Bally was chosen upon the recommendation of three different consulting firms, each stating that Shasta Bally was the best and the only site that could get a communication signal over the surrounding area.

KIXE Response to the NPS Preliminary Draft Alternatives for Shasta Bally [Page 5 of 5]

IF only one recommendation is accepted from KIXE it must be that a 10-year right-of-way permit is prohibitively restrictive. Please issue the longer permit of 50 years as allowed by Federal NPS regulation.

Submitted by _____
Myron A Tisdel
President and General Manager

Dated: February 9, 2009

CITY OF REDDING

PETER T. HANSEN, CHIEF OF POLICE

REDDING POLICE DEPARTMENT
1313 California Street, Redding, CA 96001-3396
530.225.4200 FAX 530.225.4553

February 10, 2009

Jim Milestone, Superintendent
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
PO Box 188
Whiskeytown CA 96095

Dear Mr. Milestone,

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and participate in the future planning of the communication site on Shasta Bally within the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

Shasta Bally is a very strategic and unique location for serving Northern California's communication needs, particularly public safety agencies. We have reviewed the Preliminary Draft Alternatives listed in the Shasta Bally Summit Site Plan Environmental Assessment. We attended recent public scoping meetings hosted by members of the National Park Service, and we are concerned about the long term effect this plan may have on our ability to maintain and/or enhance our communications equipment on the site.

Of the alternatives listed in the Environmental Assessment, Alternative F is the only one which would provide our agencies with the ability to both maintain our existing telecommunications infrastructure and allow for new structures and/or upgrades as systems and technologies improve. This is the alternative we support at this time. Shasta Bally Summit remains the most vital and strategic site available to provide the coverage and capabilities we need to provide radio broadcast signals for critical public safety telecommunications reaching well beyond the borders of Shasta County. Additional plans are being drafted to enhance various public safety telecommunications for the region. This would provide additional service to police, fire, and medical agencies at the local, state, and federal level within Shasta, Tehama, and Siskiyou counties.

The presence of private broadcasting entities is also vital to our public safety agencies as they currently provide a critical public service by broadcasting the Emergency Alert System (EAS) during emergencies or critical incidents within Shasta, Tehama, and Trinity Counties. Without their systems in place, public safety may be compromised.

Without a long-term commitment of the governing body of the site, the public safety community may be greatly impaired in our ability to communicate by reduction in coverage areas if the equipment cannot be added to or enhanced. This in turn may force costly alternatives to public safety agencies to implement alternative infrastructures to maintain adequate telecommunications. Our needs include a long-term agreement to allow the necessary investment of technology placed on Shasta Bally Summit. If there is a stated plan to allow a

limited presence today, there is no guarantee of a long-term commitment because of the limited 10-year right-of-way permit process of which we have been advised.

We wish to convey that members of our public safety agencies are able to provide further long range solutions and alternatives should the current Site Plan become inadequate. Some solutions may involve additional federal legislation, management of the site by another agency, multiple agency partnerships, etc.

If further information is needed, please do not hesitate to call upon any of us.

Sincerely,

Peter Hansen	Dale Webb	Tom Bosenko
Chief of Police	Chief of Police	Sheriff
Redding Police Department	Anderson police Department	Shasta County Sheriff's Office

br/cf

c: The Honorable Wally Herger, US House of Representatives
Sheriff Clay Parker, Tehama County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Lorrac Craig, Trinity County Sheriff's Office

COMPLETE
Wireless Consulting, Inc.

February 6, 2008

Sent via U.S. Mail
Sent via Electronic Transmission

Jim Milestone
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
National Park Service
P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA

Re: Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
Shasta Bally Wireless Telecommunication's Facility

Dear Mr. Milestone:

This letter is in response to the "Public Scoping Newsletter" November, 2008 as it relates to the Shasta Bally Summit Site Plan. For many years Verizon Wireless has maintained a wireless telecommunications facility at Whiskeytown Shasta Bally. This critical network facility provides 24 hour service to Whiskeytown National Recreation Area visitors & personnel as well as area residents, businesses, & travelers along Highway 299 between Redding & Lewiston. For your reference, I've included three propagation maps demonstrating 1) the Verizon Wireless service provided currently by the existing Whiskeytown facility; 2) the Verizon Wireless service that will be provided after planned system upgrades; and 3) the Verizon Wireless service that will be provided should the Shasta Bally installation be removed.

Given this site's vital role in current network communication and the likelihood of technological advances that may require new structures or enlargement of existing structures, Verizon Wireless respectfully requests that the National Park service seriously consider Alternative F: Permit New Structures and Enlargement of Existing Telecommunications Infrastructure. The wireless telecommunications industry has evolved rapidly in recent years. Although I am not aware of any current need for expansion of the existing facilities, new technological innovations are introduced daily. The trend of these developments is to require more equipment and more equipment space. As technology advances, a blanket prohibition on site development may ultimately impair communication near Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

Comprehensive cellular coverage is dependant upon the Whiskeytown installation. Immediate termination of site operations (**Alternative E**) or eventual termination (**Alternative C**) will both lead to the public health and safety risks inherent in communication failure. Mobile phone use has become an extremely important system for public safety as they are often the first mode of

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cwood@completewireless.net

2009 V Street
Sacramento, CA 95818
Phone: (916) 224-6149 Fax: (916) 313-3730

communication with public health and safety officers and emergency response teams. In undeveloped areas, such as Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, and along roads and highways without public call boxes, mobile phones are often the only means for emergency roadside communication. Motorists with disabled vehicles (or worse) can use their phone to call in and request appropriate assistance. With good cellular coverage along important roadways, emergency response is just a phone call away.

This network installation increases public safety to those who visit the park and work to preserve it. This site has been designed to cover and enhance safety to the following users:

- Public health and safety officers, emergency response teams and park personnel who make the Whiskeytown National Recreational Area a safe place to visit;
- Park visitors and personnel at Whiskeytown National Recreational Area;
- Residents, public services, and business in the surrounding area;
- Vehicle users and along Highway 299 between Redding & Lewiston.

Furthermore, as a back up system to traditional landline phone service, mobile phones have proven to be extremely important during natural disasters and other catastrophes. Wireless telecommunication serves as a standby to traditional land-line networks. Verizon Wireless has made a tremendous effort to strengthen and enhance its network reliability and to keep emergency responders and the public connected during natural disasters. When traditional land-line service has been interrupted, as may be the case during power outages or fire, Verizon Wireless strives to maintain clear uninterrupted lines of communication. Many public agencies, including the following, use Verizon Wireless services and would be severely impacted by the loss of service:

- Shasta County Sheriff's Department;
- Redding Police Department;
- Cal-Fire, Shasta-Trinity;
- National Park Service;
- U.S. Forest Service;
- Trinity County Sheriff's Department;
- Shasta Probation Department;
- Shasta-Trinity National Forest Service;
- Redding School District;
- Shasta-Union High School District.

I thank you for all the time and energy you and your team have put into this project. Verizon Wireless understands the National Park Service's commitment to cooperative conservation and civic engagement. I trust that the National Park Service will recognize the essential nature of the

services provided by the Whiskeytown Shasta Bally wireless facility, and understand that maintenance of this facility will improve, rather than impair, opportunities for park enjoyment. In light of the above, I respectfully request that the National Park Service adopt Alternative F.

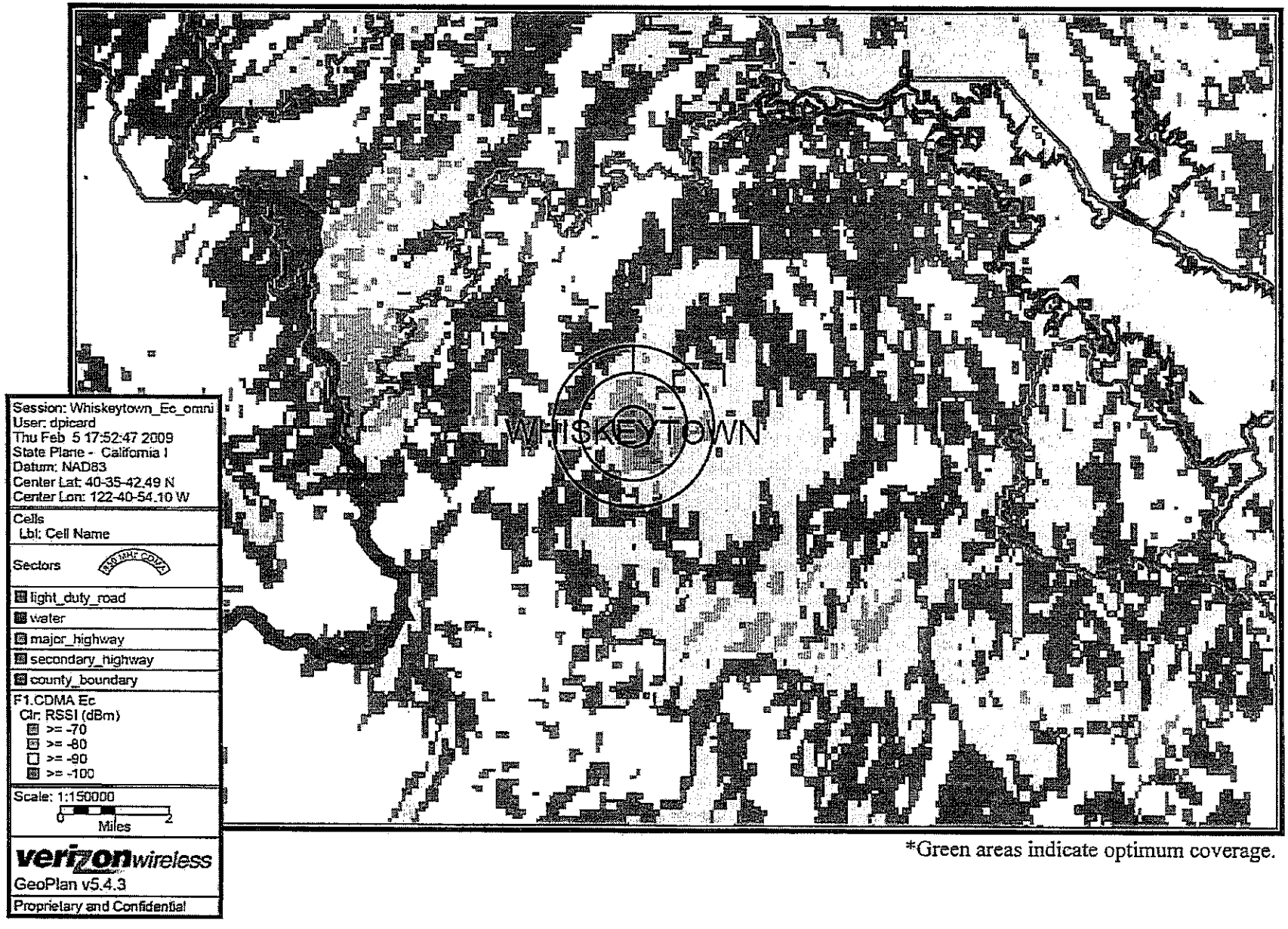
If you have questions, or wish to discuss this matter in greater detail, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at (916) 217-9991 or by e-mail at cwood@completewireless.net. Thank you.

Very Truly,

Crystal D. Wood, CWC Inc.
Representing Verizon Wireless

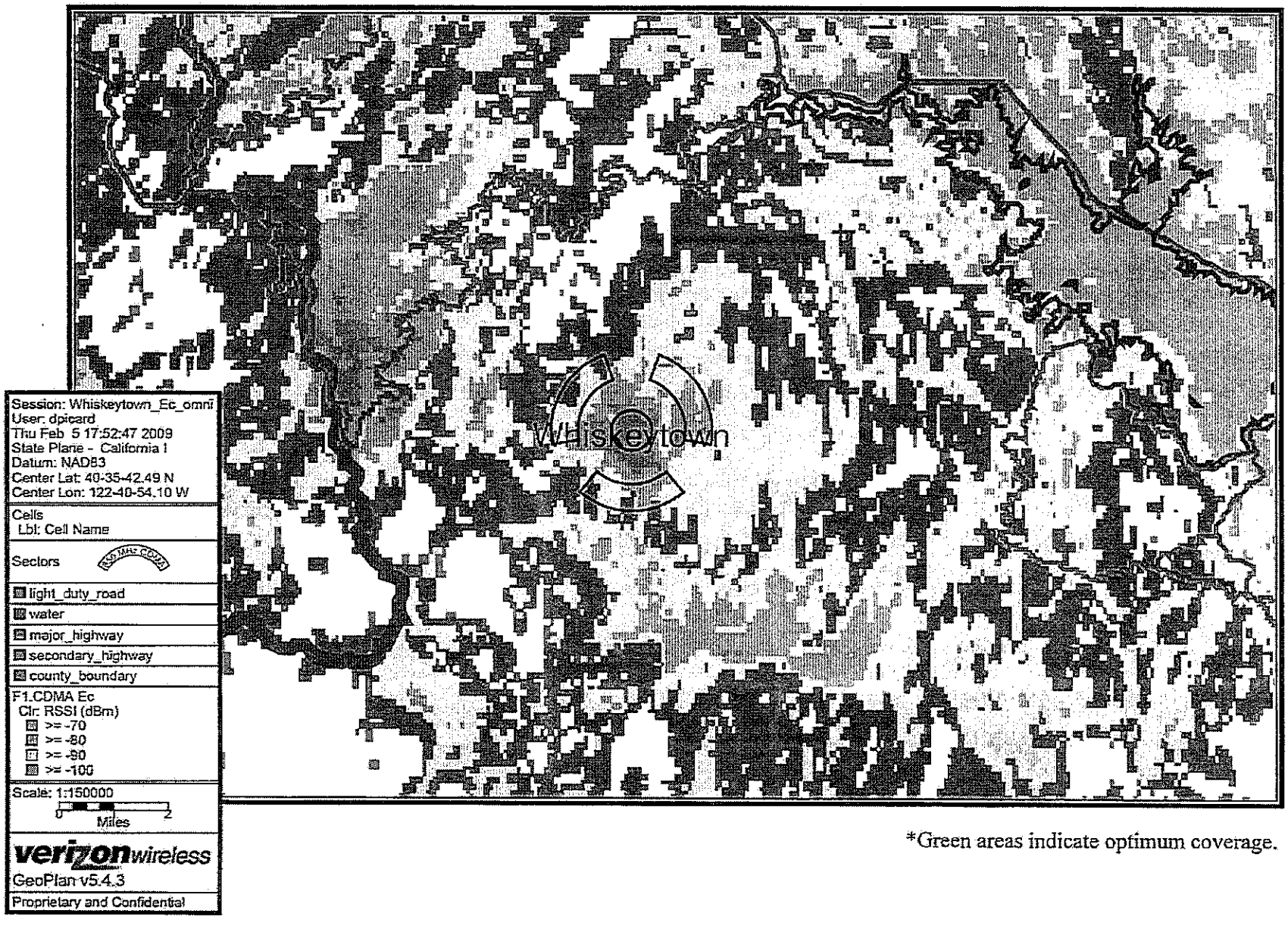
CC: DAVE MEURER, FIELD REPRESENTATIVE FOR CONGRESSMAN WALLY HERGER
PETER MAUSHARDT, VERIZON WIRELESS

Coverage provided by existing installation at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area



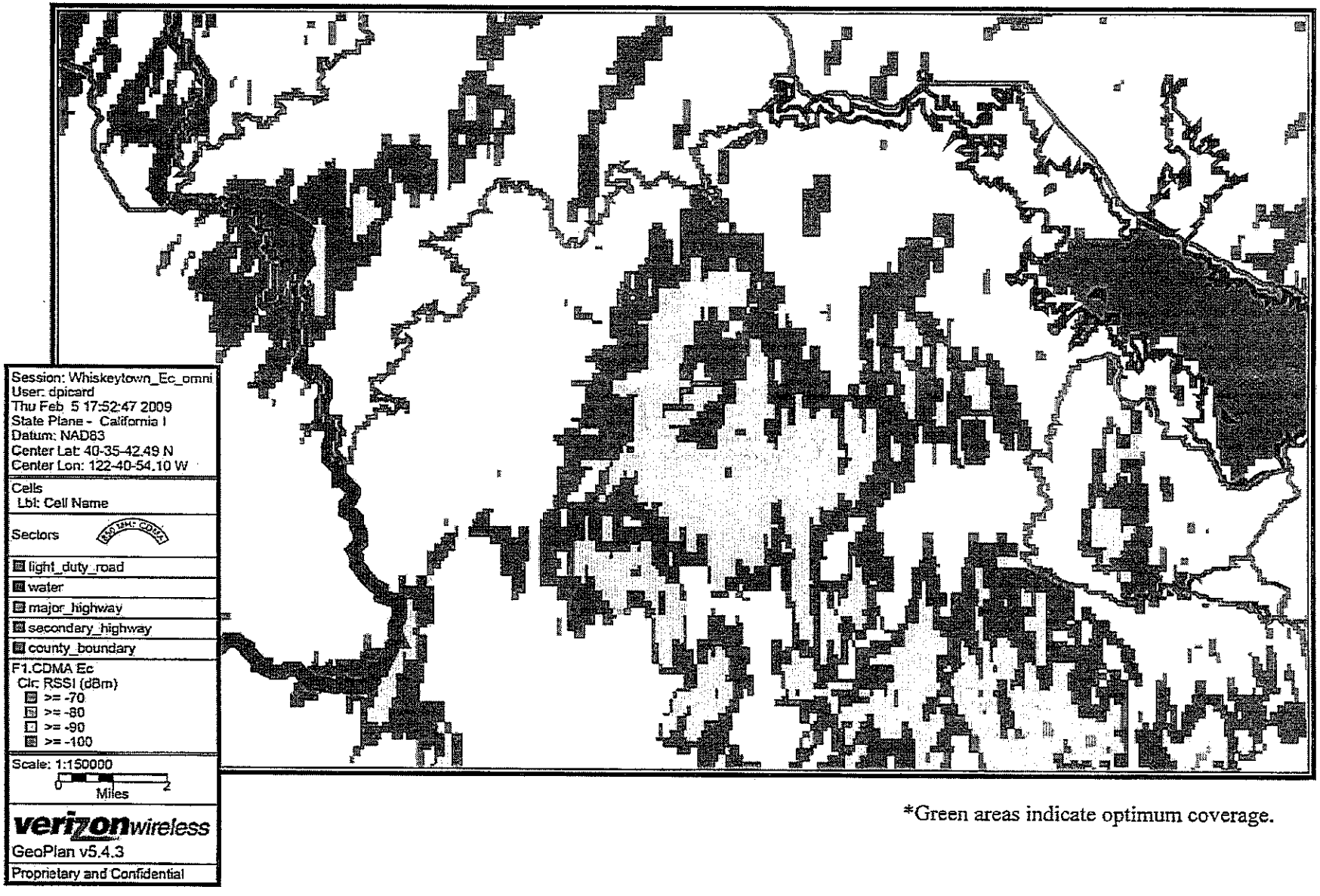
*Green areas indicate optimum coverage.

Coverage provided by an upgraded 3-sector Whiskeytown National Recreation Area



*Green areas indicate optimum coverage.

Coverage provided by existing installation at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area



*Green areas indicate optimum coverage.

SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

SHASTA GROUP
MOTHER LODE CHAPTER
P.O. Box 491554
REDDING, CA 96049-1554
(530) 547-0777
www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/shasta

February 13, 2009

Jim Milestone
Superintendent
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
PO Box 188
Whiskeytown, California 96095

Re: Shasta Bally Summit Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Milestone:

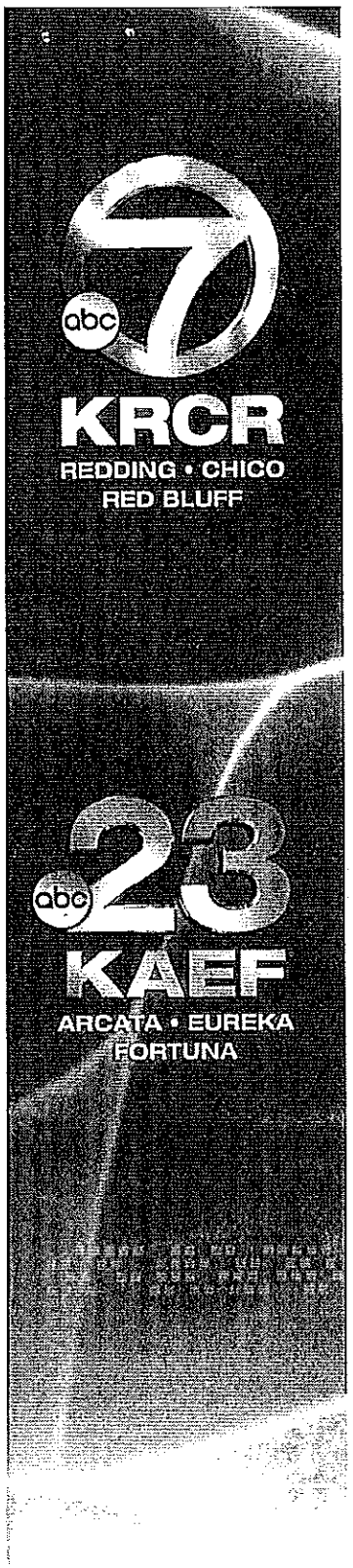
The Shasta Group of the Sierra Club's Mother Lode Chapter strongly supports Alternative C of the options presented at the public hearing I attended on December 11, 2008 in Redding on this important subject. I would also like to thank you for the clear, unbiased and thorough explanation of the history of the issue, the legal background and the consequences of whatever action is ultimately taken.

The Sierra Club understands that it is not the intent of the National Park Service to cause interruptions in television or above-all public safety communications. We do understand as well that Alternative C would give existing users a reasonable time to develop alternative locations or improved technology to accomplish the same or a better level of service in the future as they should. We are aware that satellite and fiber-optic technology already exists that would reduce the need for much of the equipment on Shasta Bally right now. Over the next ten to fifteen years there is no doubt that the obsolescent structures and antennae on Shasta Bally will be 100% replaceable without a diminution in communication efficiency or economy. Quite the contrary…it is expensive and difficult to keep operations going in the harsh environment of the summit of Shasta Bally. Why do things the hard way if there is a better alternative?

It was my impression at the public hearing that much of the opposition to Alternative C comes from the existing communications operators who have a stake in the status quo. We think the status quo is unacceptable. The ugly cluster of buildings and antennae is a blight on the mountain and needs to be removed as soon as practically possible. It is grossly out of keeping with the natural spirit and history of Shasta Bally itself, as well as Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express our views.

Sincerely Yours,

Bruce Waggoner
Group Chair



February 4, 2009

Jim F. Milestone, Superintendent
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
PO Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

Regarding National Park Service Alternatives for the Future of Communication Facilities on Shasta Bally Mountain in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, Shasta County, Northern California

Dear Mr. Milestone,

The National Park Service (NPS) is trying to determine how it will manage the Shasta Bally Mountain radio/television communications site. The NPS has proposed four alternatives including:

- Alternative A: No Action, which Superintendent Milestone says they can not implement.
- Alternative B: Permit Existing Tenants and Enhance Natural Resources Protection
- Alternative C: Permit Existing Tenants with a Phase Out Period Followed by Site Restoration
- Alternative D; Permit Existing Tenants and New Co-located Tenants with Limited Natural Resource Protection.
- Additionally, at Congressman Herger's request the NPS has added the previously dismissed Alternative F: Permit New Structures and Enlargement of Existing Telecommunications Infrastructure.

The NPS preparation process offers these alternatives as to how the site might be managed and it leaves many concerns as well. Here, I will attempt to note our concerns and our preferred alternative.

KRCR-TV (ABC) has been broadcasting it's free to the public television programming and emergency information from the Shasta Bally communications site for 53 years. Citizens of Shasta, Trinity, Modoc, Siskiyou, Tehama, Lassen, Glenn, Butte and Plumas counties are capable of receiving our signal. The public information KRCR provides includes daily news, weather, emergency information, public service announcements, Amber Alerts, national and local advertising opportunities and entertainment programming. Aside from the obvious importance of news, weather and emergency information, it's worth noting the value in advertising opportunities to our community. Television advertising drives customers to local and national businesses which in turn support a healthy economy.

California Broadcasting, Inc.
755 Auditorium Drive
Redding, CA 96001
tel 530.243.7777
fax 530.243.0217

The summit of Shasta Bally Mountain was chosen as the ideal location for the transmitter and tower over five decades ago because its' height and clearance from obstacles allowed for the best coverage in this very large area of broadcast responsibility. The location is simply the best spot at which to broadcast a television signal and reach the most viewers. Other locations were studied before transmission was established in 1956 and have been studied again recently. If California Broadcasting, Inc. (CBI), which comprises both KRCR-TV (ABC) in the Chico-Redding television market and KAEF-TV (ABC) in the Eureka television market of Humboldt and Del Norte counties were forced to relocate from the Shasta Bally communications site thousands of Northern California citizens would not be able to receive free broadcasts of news, weather and emergency information affecting our community. Additionally, the FCC requires that relocation "maintain close proximity to existing broadcast facilities" and that a move "result in no more than 2% reduction in viewer coverage". Both of these FCC requirements will be extremely difficult to accomplish given the size of the coverage area and local topography. So, the alternative C suggested by the National Park Service relocating the communications site away from its current location on Shasta Bally Mountain is not a viable option and should be excluded from further consideration.

There are still other concerns that exist regardless of which alternative may be selected for the future management of the Shasta Bally Mountain radio/television communications site. The proposed ten year term of a Right of Way Permit needs to be expanded to the full fifty years admissible. According to US Code of Regulations CFR Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 14, Sub Part G, Paragraph 14.90, the NPS may grant a ROW permit of fifty years "for communication purposes and for radio, television" communications facilities. The proposed ten year ROW permit leaves very little time for research, studies, equipment purchases, installation preparations and permitting that will be required if a relocation of the site becomes necessary at the end of the ROW term. As this communications site is of extreme importance to radio/television emergency communications in Northern California we request that the ROW permit for this major communications site be granted for the allotted fifty year period as allowed by the code referenced above.

Another serious concern we have at this time is our lack of a real cost estimate from the NPS. We still do not know what is being proposed as payment from CBI for use of the site. NPS Superintendent Milestone has stated to me on several occasions that we would be paying only slightly more than we were paying under the COBi arrangement. CBI paid ¼ of the fee paid by COBi which was $2,500 per year. CBI paid $625 per year. According to the proposal letter from Mr. Milestone dated December 19, 2008, received December 23, 2008 "major permittees" (we assume we fall into that category) would be paying $1,800 per month or $21,600 per year plus an unspecified "additional charge" that may be "appropriate" if occupying more than a 50'x50' space. There would be additional charges to major permittees from minor permitees having equipment located around major permittees properties. These additional charges are not specified nor is it specifically stated who will be considered major or minor permittees. CBI is still unclear as to what it will cost us to remain on site. We need to know what the dollar figure we write on each monthly check we send to the NPS will be for operating from the Shasta Bally communications site.

If we consider just the base fee proposed at $21,600 per year, we are looking at an annual cost that is 35 times higher than our most recent cost! We need to know exactly what the NPS and Superintendent Milestone are proposing that CBI pay to remain at the Shasta Bally communications site in order to determine the operational viability to remain on the site. We hope for a fair situation, in which CBI can continue to operate at a fair cost to provide the broadcast services we have provided for 53 years and hope to provide for many years into the future of Northern California.

It is proposed that the "four major permittees" pay half of a road maintenance fee stated as being $17,500 per year. CBI does use this road for periodic trips to the Shasta Bally communications site, however the road is used much more frequently by NPS personnel and by visitors to the Whiskeytown Recreation Area. CBI will typically use the road between 25 and 30 times per year while NPS personnel will use the road nearly every day and recreation area visitors will use the road hundreds of times in the year. We believe assessing a fee equaling 50% of the road maintenance fees to the "four major permittees" who are responsible for a very small percentage of the roads use is unfair. There should be no road maintenance fee charged to the major permittees as the road is primarily used by NPS personnel and recreation area users.

It is important to note that CBI operates both KRCR-TV (ABC) in the Chico-Redding television market and KAEF-TV (ABC) in the Eureka television market. The Shasta Bally radio/television communications site is of significant importance to both of these television broadcast areas. CBI equipment serves to broadcast the KRCR (ABC) television signal to the Chico-Redding television market while it also relays the KAEF (ABC) signal from our Redding facility across Trinity and Humboldt counties to the KAEF (ABC) transmitter located in Eureka, California. From there it is broadcast to the Eureka television market. If CBI were forced to relocate from the Shasta Bally site, there would not only be significant interruption in service to the Chico-Redding television market but also to the Eureka television market. Several added relay sites would be necessary to "bounce" the transmission signal around Shasta, Trinity and Humboldt County mountainous terrain to successfully link the facility in Redding with the facility in Eureka. This would require significant expense and new disruptions to multiple mountaintop sites around Northern California while the same coverage would not likely be attained. Instead of continued operation of a communication site that has been in place since 1956 we would be disrupting multiple sites around Northern California at great expense to ultimately achieve an outcome that serves fewer citizens with emergency, news, weather, public service announcements, advertising opportunities and entertainment communications.

CBI prefers the proposed Alternative F which provides for possible future growth of the site as we do not know today what the future of communications may bring or how the citizens of Northern California may participate and benefit. CBI proposes an assessment of fair lease costs by BLM or the Forest Service be conducted and evaluated. Both BLM and the Forest Service have long records of fair and functional management of communications sites. CBI proposes a ROW permit term of fifty years as is provided

by US Code of Regulations CFR Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 14, Sub Part G, Paragraph 14.90. There should be no road maintenance fee charged to the Shasta Bally site tenants who are responsible for a very small percentage of the road traffic. Additionally, CBI proposes that NPS and the tenants of the Shasta Bally radio/television communications site agree to work together on practical site improvements over the term of the ROW permit to accomplish the NPS mission of minimizing impact on the environment while maintaining effective informational, emergency and entertainment radio/television broadcast operations for the citizens of Northern California.

Respectfully,

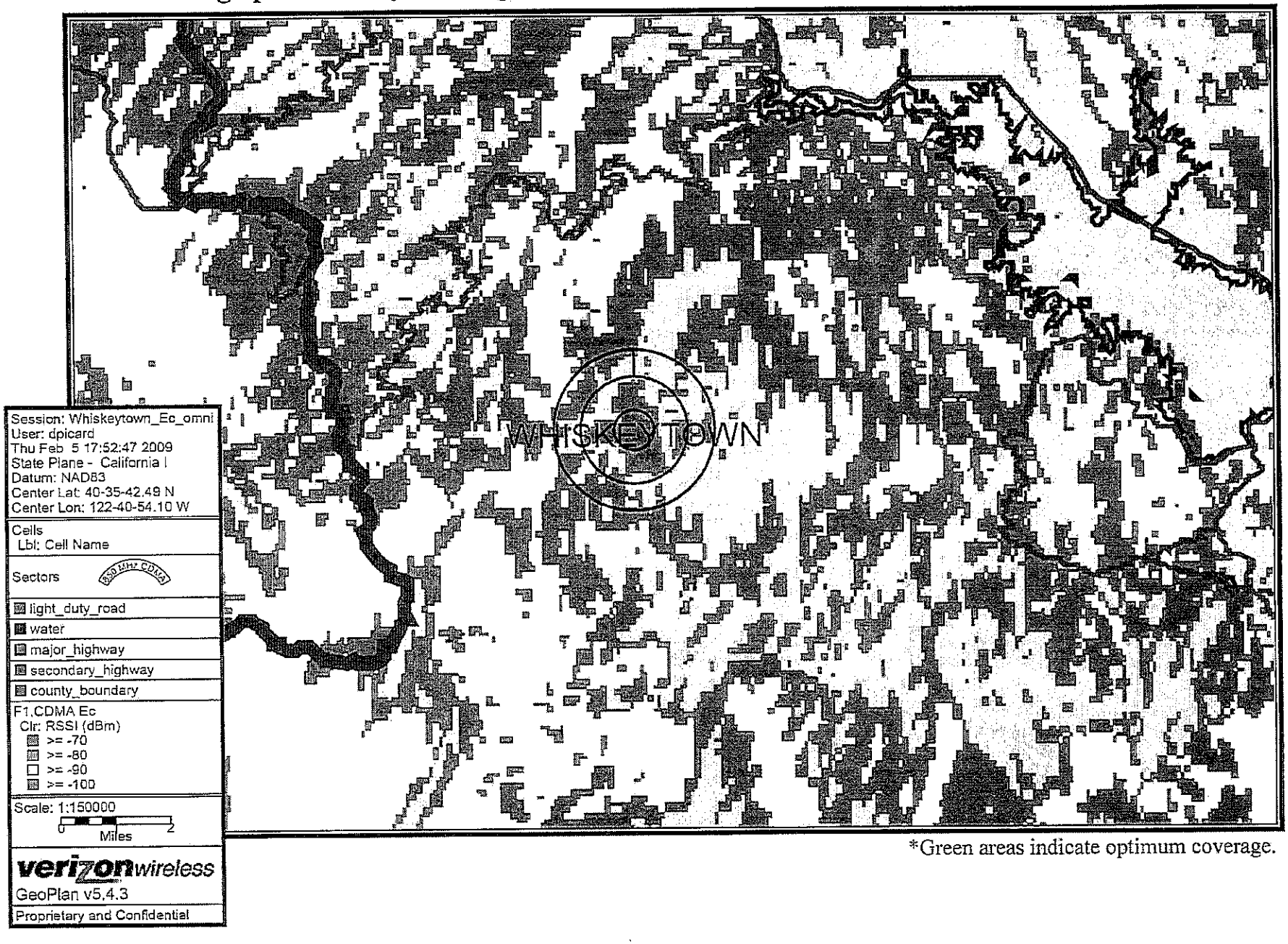
Michael R. Fezatte
Vice President, General Manager
Bonten Media Group, KRCR-TV/KAEF-TV
755 Auditorium Drive
Redding, CA 96001
Office: 530 243-7777 ext. 111
Direct: 530 241-6822
Cell: 530 638-5789
mfezatte@krcrtv.com

KRCR 7 KAEF 23

BONTEN

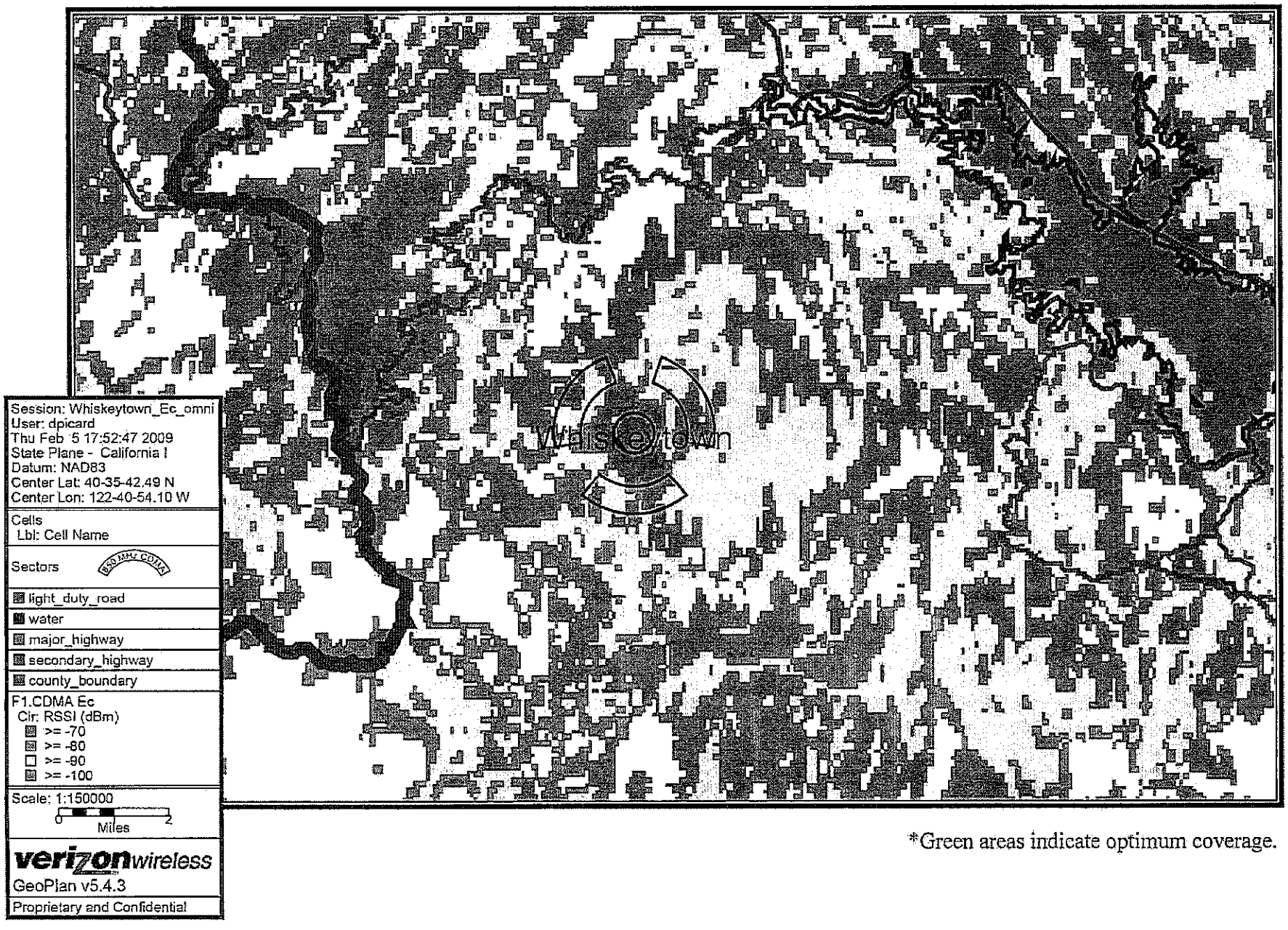
cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, Congressman Wally Herger, Congressman Tom McClintock, Randall Bongarten, Tom Cupp

Coverage provided by existing installation at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area



*Green areas indicate optimum coverage.

Coverage provided by an upgraded 3-sector Whiskeytown National Recreation Area



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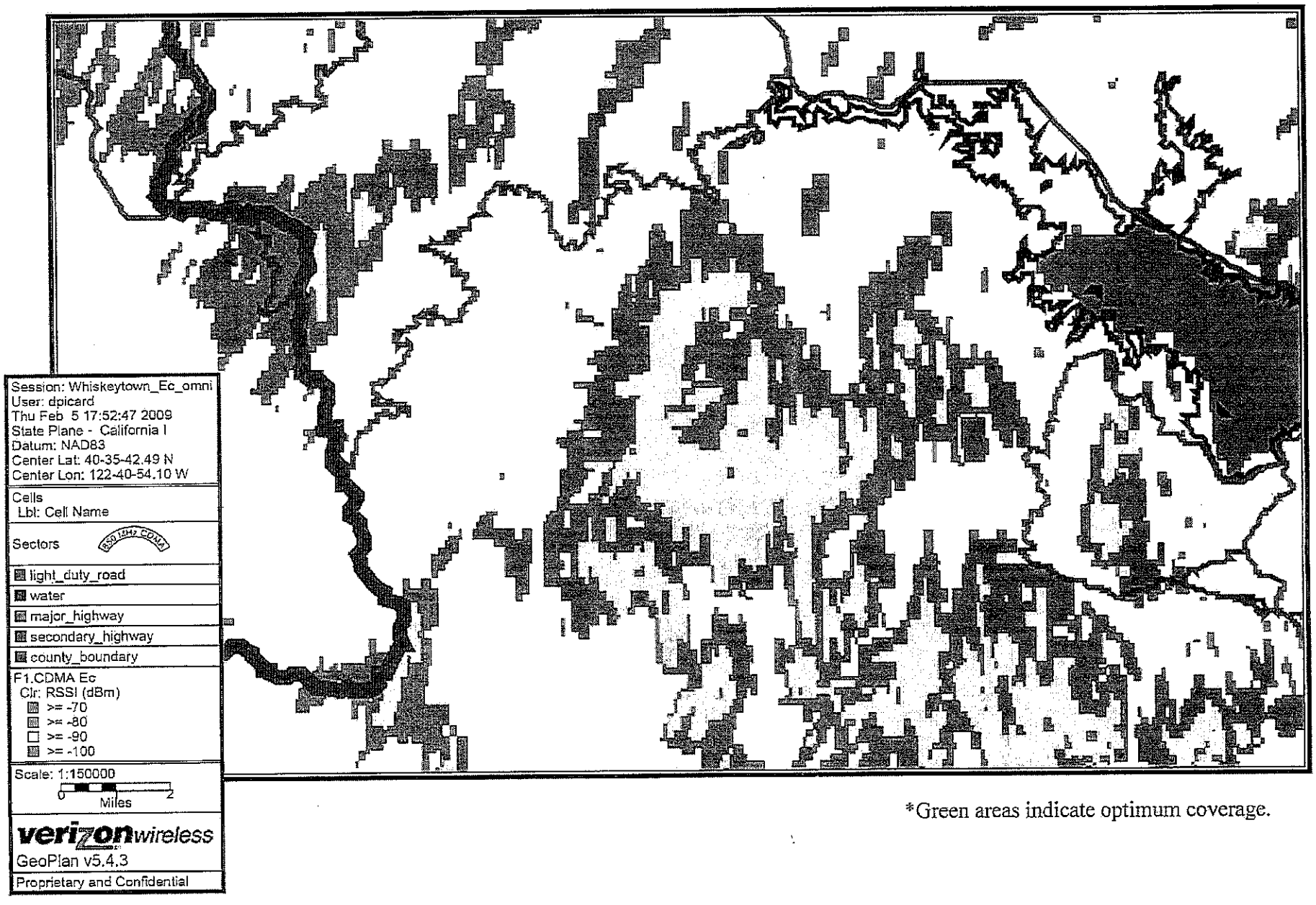
Coverage provided by existing installation at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area



*Green areas indicate optimum coverage.

RESULTS RADIO

February 10, 2009

Mr. Jim Milestone
Superintendent, Whiskeytown NRA
P. O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

RE: Comments on Preliminary Draft Alternatives for Shasta Bally Telecommunications Site Users

Dear Mr. Milestone:

Following the two meetings held December 11, 2008, Results Radio's comments on the alternatives as presented are submitted herewith. Please note that in these comments we will use the term Site Users to refer collectively to all telecommunications operators, users and tenants who had occupied the Shasta Bally Telecommunications Site pursuant to agreements with California Oregon Broadcasting, Inc. and who desire to remain as site users under a future administrator.

Alternative A: We understand that this alternative has been dismissed by the National Park Service ("NPS") since the alternative did not contemplate issuance of Right-of-Way ("ROW") permits to Site Users as required by Federal regulations. We understand this position and agree with dismissal of Alternative A.

Alternative B: We found this alternative to be too vague to evaluate since it involved management of facilities "...in such a manner that provides for the enhancement and protection of natural resources such as vegetation, wildlife, water quality, air quality and similar resources", but provides no suggestion as to what that might involve and whether burdensome requirements would be placed on Site Users as a result. It also fails to address the ever-changing needs of the local telecommunications infrastructure by flatly prohibiting any additional future users on this critical site. It is our opinion that this alternative should be rejected.

Alternative C: A "phase out" of Site Users is not possible without drastic impact on the Site Users and the community at large. There has apparently been no research into the complicated rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") to determine if relocation of existing Site User facilities are legally or technically possible, nor has there been any evaluation of the financial impact on the Site Users and other negative impacts to the communities served. We would point out that these communities include underserved rural communities, low-income communities and minority communities who would be unfairly discriminated against. This alternative must be firmly rejected.

1355 N. Dutton Avenue, Suite 225, Santa Rosa, CA 95401-7107 t: (707) 546-9185 f: (707) 546-9188 w: www.resultsradiollc.com

Alternative D: While this alternative addresses the need for critical improvements to telecommunications infrastructure, it again fails to give specifics as to what "limited natural resource" protection actually means in terms of economic and technical impacts on the Site Users and the communities they serve. We are also puzzled by the 'Action 1' item that suggests "reducing tower height to that of surrounding overstory trees" when it is clear that there are no trees at the summit. We also question the need for a chain-link fence around the entire facility since this might add to the visual impact and since the existing locked gate as been adequate to prevent vandalism and unauthorized access. Further, we find it unnecessary and inadvisable to relocate the power line to Shasta Bally road since its current location is far less visible from Highway 299 due to terrain and existing foliage and because the cost would be prohibitive. We would suggest that Alternative D might have some merit if all proposed environmental improvements be funded totally by the Federal government since the improvements are ostensibly for the benefit of the public and not the Site Users themselves. We also express concern that there is no accommodation made for towers and equipment that will need to be replaced by Site Users in the future as a consequence of normal wear and tear.

Alternative E: Terminating all Site Users would be so disruptive as to incite chaos and public outrage and is not worthy of any consideration. We understand that NPS has also, to its credit, rejected this alternative and we certainly agree.

Alternative F: While we understand that this alternative has been dismissed by NPS, we believe that it is indeed worthy of consideration since it is the only alternative that fully addresses the needs and desires of the residents of Shasta, Trinity and Stanislaw counties to gain their rightful access to communications services that may arise in the future.

We would like to discuss some pertinent points that we have noted thus far in the process:

1. No consideration has been given as to the technical implications of any of the stated alternatives. NPS acknowledged at the meetings of December 11, 2008 that no consultants with expertise in telecommunications science, FCC administrative law, structural analysis of communications towers, or cost accounting have been engaged. Kleinfelder is a well-known and reputable firm, but it is uncertain whether it has any of the essential expertise in the cited areas. In fact, the two Kleinfelder representatives at the meeting were biologists[1] as opposed to specialists with training and experience in telecommunications as is clearly necessary in this matter. It is imperative that no decisions be made until the full impact of any suggested or required changes have been fully described, analyzed and vetted with respect to full impacts to the *entire* community, not just park visitors.
2. Apparently, no analysis has been done to determine how many park visitors would actually benefit from any proposed changes at the site. It is known that the road is closed at least six months out of the year, and that many of the public users of the

[1] Brian Mulvey's business card identifies him as a "Senior Fisheries Biologist".

road are "off-road vehicle enthusiasts" who cause considerable wear and tear to the road, but who may have little or no interest in the views or other ecological considerations. No objective alternatives analysis can be made without further study in this area.

3. We are concerned with an apparent perception that all costs of aesthetic mitigation should be borne by the Site Users. We reject this notion. Current Site Users designed, built and maintained their facilities on the good faith understanding that they were in full compliance with both the terms of their leases and with all Federal, state and county regulations and that the master lease would be renewed for 50 years in 2006 under its then-current terms. When NPS broke the master lease with COBI, it assumed COBI's obligations "as-is, where-is" and cannot ethically change the rules in the middle of the game. Placing excessive costs on Site Users would result in the decimation of their operations, both public and private. Layoffs, loss of community services and other serious financial hardships would clearly result from any significant required expenditures, especially during the current national economic recession. Any public good gained by "window dressing" changes at the site would be far outweighed by the negative social and economic impacts on local residents. Since the aesthetic changes proposed in some of the alternatives are ostensibly for the good of all of the citizens of the United States, we believe that there is a clear case for public funding. This can come in the form of these costs being borne by NPS itself, or by special appropriation by Congress, and, perhaps, supplemented by temporary or permanent dedication of ROW fees to cover the NPS-directed costs of aesthetic mitigation.

4. While the cost of road maintenance and renewal was discussed at length in the December 11th meetings, there was no discussion regarding allocation of such costs between the Site Users, the government and other users. While, as a Site User, we will not be opposed to paying a fair share of *reasonable* road-related costs, we also believe the public and all other users should pay their fair share. Indeed, at the December 11 meeting, you referred to the road as an important asset of the public. Typically, the cost of upkeep of an asset is borne by the asset's owners. There should be an equitable formula for division of road maintenance and necessary road renewal costs based on projected use by each of the individual Site Users, by the public, by NPS employees and by any other user group or individual.

Considering all of the above we would like to make our suggestion for a modified version of Alternative D with additions noted in *italics* and deletions noted as ~~strikethroughs~~:

ALTERNATIVE D
PERMIT EXISTING AND NEW CO-LOCATED TENENATS
WITH LIMITED NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

This is similar to Alternative B with the addition of new entities provided they are able to co-locate on existing infrastructure. New structures or increases to existing infrastructure would not be allowed *without a showing of compelling public benefit.*

Action 1: Reduce Physical and Visual Impacts of Telecommunications Equipment

- Encourage existing users to consolidate buildings, poles and towers where technically *and economically* feasible *with costs to be paid by the Federal government either by direct reimbursement of expenditures or by temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of Right of Way fees.*
- If permit holders elect to terminate their operations, require them to remove their equipment.
- Minimize the noise projected from the telecommunications equipment by repairing or installing low-noise fans *where technically feasible and according to modifications approved by the equipment manufacturers.* ~~Install sound walls or barriers around equipment generating noise that impacts the surrounding area and the visitor experience.~~
- *Subject to compliance with Federal Aviation Administration regulations,* minimize the external lighting coming off of the telecommunications equipment by using shading, decreasing lumens or using less intrusive colored lighting, and directing the light downward to minimize its visual impact.
- Minimize visual impacts *to the extent economically feasible* by camouflaging towers and infrastructure~~,~~ *by using* non-reflective surface treatments or materials~~, reducing tower height to that of surrounding overstory trees~~.
- *National Park Service to* restore and revegetate unused areas that have been disturbed.

Action 2: Provide a Security ~~Fence Around~~ *Gate at the entrance of the* Telecommunications ~~Equipment~~ *Facility*

- ~~Delineate the footprint of existing telecommunications equipment and install a chain-link security fence around the entire footprint using materials that minimize the visual impact.~~
- Install a secure, controlled gate at the entrance to the facility *with minimal adjacent fencing, adequate to discourage casual unauthorized access.*

Action 3: Grade and Gravel Road

- Improve road surface from Sheep Camp to the summit (Shasta Bally Road) where possible *but only to the extent needed for reasonable safety and access for current demonstrated user groups*. Some realignment may be necessary. When possible, grade the road to eliminate sections of slopes greater than 30-40%.
- Install drainage Best Management Practices (BMPs) along the road and repair all culverts.
- *Cost of all such improvements to site users will be based on their proportionate use of the road allocated in a fashion that recognizes usage by all parties including site users, Federal personnel and usage by members of the public.*

~~**Action 4: Relocate Power Line to Shasta Bally Road**~~

<(entire action deleted)>

We would like to thank the National Park Service for considering our input to this process and we remain available to speak or meet with you at anytime in the future. We look forward to working with you in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jack W. Fritz II
President
Results Radio of Redding, LLC

Ronald E. Castro
Chief Technical Officer
Results Radio of Redding, LLC

cc: US Senator Diane Feinstein
cc: US Congressman Wally Herger
cc: Dave Meurer, Field Representative to US Congressman Wally Herger

Pacific Gas and
Electric Company

Bryan R. Barr
Senior Government Relations
Representative
Public Affairs

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Redding, CA 96002
(530) 246-6431
(530) 246-6408 Fax
BRBd@pge.com

February 13, 2009

Jim Milestone
Superintendent
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, California 96095

Dear Superintendent Milestone:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on proposed alternatives contained in the Shasta Bally Summit Environmental Assessment. At Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), we are committed to being an environmental leader. As a supplier of energy to approximately five percent of Americans and more than 40 percent of Californians, we recognize that the choices we make about the way we produce and deliver our products and serve our customers can have a direct impact on the environment. We also believe that a healthy environment is necessary for the well-being and vitality of our customers, our employees, the communities we serve, and for society at large.

Beginning in 1959, PG&E has relied on Shasta Bally for our telecommunications infrastructure. Today, Shasta Bally supports both a microwave backbone and a VHF radio system for PG&E. Our equipment is housed in the KRCR building and we own the adjacent 87' steel lattice tower. The microwave radios are FCC licensed, 6GHz, linking Tuscan Buttes to the east and Oregon Mountain to the west. This is part of a larger backbone microwave network, linking the California north coast and associated mountaintops with key PG&E facilities and control centers. The Oregon Mountain path utilizes an 8' parabolic dish antenna mounted at 67' AGL. The Tuscan Butte path utilizes 2 – 6' dishes mounted at 67' and 30' AGL.

The FCC licensed 150 MHz VHF base radio utilizes a transmitting antenna mounted at 57' AGL. This base radio is used to communicate with field crews responsible for operating and maintaining PG&E's gas and electric infrastructure in Shasta, Trinity, and Tehama counties.

Operating requirements demand that our telecommunications infrastructure be highly reliable, operating 24 x 7, during periods of adverse weather, electric outages, and natural or man-made disasters. Please understand what this telecommunications infrastructure supports.

PG&E has reviewed the National Park Service's Public Scoping Newsletter dated November, 2008 relating to the Shasta Bally Summit Site Plan Environmental Assessment and offers the following comments to the preliminary draft alternatives:

Alternative A: No Action

As the National Park Service states that this alternative is unacceptable, we have no comment.

Alternative B: Permit Existing Tenants and Enhance Natural Resource Protection

Action 1: Reduce Physical and Visual Impacts of Telecommunications Equipment

Action 1 proposes to encourage existing users to consolidate buildings, poles and towers where technically feasible. PG&E currently shares use of its 87' steel tower with California Broadcasting Company. Use of the tower by others would require review and approval based on the operating parameters of the requestor (frequency, power, antenna type, position on tower, etc). The standard practice for the design and installation of telecommunications facilities requires engineering minimal antenna feed lines lengths in order to reduce loss. As a result, we anticipate that only the equipment located in California Broadcasting Companies' existing building could feasibly be supported by PG&E's tower. Additionally, any proposed use by others would require a mutually acceptable license agreement, compensating PG&E for use of its asset.

Action 1 also proposes to minimize the noise projected from the telecommunications equipment by repairing or installing low-noise fans, and use of sound walls or barriers around equipment generating noise that impacts surrounding areas and the visitor experience. However, neither PG&E's tower, nor its telecommunications equipment generate detectable noise.

Action 1 proposes to minimize the external lighting coming off of the telecommunication equipment. PG&E does not operate any lighting on Shasta Bally.

Action 1 proposes to minimize visual impacts by camouflaging tower and infrastructure, using non-reflective surface treatments or materials, reducing tower height to that of surrounding over-story trees. Pursuant to FCC guidelines, California Broadcasting Inc.'s use of PG&E's tower as a "broadcast tower," required that it be painted. PG&E engineers considered the possibility of reducing the tower height. However, based on our analysis, the RF propagation requirements and other technical considerations will not allow for a reduction in antenna height without a material impact to the system performance and reliability.

Action 2: Provide a Security Fence Around Telecommunications Equipment

Action 2 proposes to delineate the footprint of existing telecommunications equipment and install a chain-link security fence around the entire footprint using material and design that minimize the visual impact. PG&E acknowledges that a security fence would be a reasonable measure to protect the telecommunications equipment. PG&E believes that the cost of any security fencing should be allocated between all existing users at the Shasta Bally Summit on a proportionate basis..

Action 2 also proposes to install a secure, controlled gate at the entrance to the facility. PG&E agrees that controlled access would be a reasonable measure, but must afford PG&E full access to its facilities on a 24-hour/365 day basis.

Action 3: Grade and Gravel Road

Action 3 proposes to improve road surface from Sheep Camp to the summit (Shasta Bally Road) where possible. PG&E agrees that Shasta Bally Road should be maintained in a safe condition for all public users.

Action 4: Relocate Power Line to Shasta Bally Road

Action 4 proposes to minimize power needs by use of alternative energy sources and building and equipment designs that emphasize energy conservation. PG&E is committed to energy conservation. We design our telecommunications facilities to the highest standards and strive to be a leader in energy efficiency. Our power requirements at Shasta Bally are quite limited, with a static load of 1200 watts and a peak load of less than 2000 watts. The only viable alternative power source for this site would be solar panels. However this would require additional space to mount panels, and a greatly expanded battery plant. Currently, it does not appear that there is space available for either the panels or the battery plant, and we do not see this as a viable alternative.

Action 4 also proposes to relocate the power line facilities including the poles, guys, and conductor, leave the transformer in place and convert the power line to underground by trenching in either a direct bury or place-in-conduit configuration. Action 4 inaccurately treats PG&E's operation and maintenance of the Power Line as though it were based upon a lease, permit or other temporary land right. As described more fully below, PG&E holds permanent easements that authorize the operation and maintenance of the existing Power Line facilities. These easements were acquired by PG&E prior to NPS acquiring any interest in the land, and constitute a superior land right. Therefore, to the extent Action 4 contemplates a proposed relocation of the existing Power Line facilities, it must make adequate provision for providing PG&E with equivalent land rights in the new location that is satisfactory to PG&E, and for the payment of all costs associated with relocating the Power Line facilities.

1. Description PG&E's Power Line.

PG&E operates and maintains a three-phase 12kV overhead electric power line (the "Power Line") to serve its customers at the Shasta Bally Summit Site. The Power Line extends approximately 6.3 miles from a point near the intersection of Highway 299 and Trinity Mountain Road to the Shasta Bally Summit Site. The Power Line was first put into operation in 1956 and has been in continuous public service.

Beginning in 1956, PG&E acquired easements from several property owners. These easements are summarized in Attachment 1.

A portion of the Power Line, measuring approximately 4,780 feet (0.9 miles) in length was installed on properties owned by the United States. This portion of the Pole Line has been installed and maintained pursuant to a Right of Way permit originally issued by the Bureau of Land Management to PG&E in 1958 (BLM number SAC 052456). The location of the Power Line subject to the Right of Way Permit is generally located near Highway 299 and is further depicted in the drawings in Attachment 1. The original authorization under this BLM permit expired in 2008. On February 5,

2009, PG&E submitted an application to the National Park Service for a Special Use Permit (Standard Form 299) for the facilities originally authorized by the BLM permit.

2. Relocation/Conversion of PG&E's Power Line.

Action 4 proposes that the existing PG&E Power Line, including poles, guys, anchors and conductor would be relocated and converted to an underground location by trenching in either direct bury or place-in-conduit configuration within the existing public right of way known as Shasta Bally Road.

Any relocation of PG&E's distribution facilities to a new location would be governed by PG&E's Electric Tariff Rule 15.I. All of PG&E's tariff rules are available at its website, www.pge.com/tariffs/. Rule 15.I provides that relocation at the request of or for the convenience of a customer must be performed at the customer's expense. Specifically, Rule 15.I provides:

FACILITY RELOCATION OR REARRANGEMENT.

Any relocation or rearrangement of PG&E's existing facilities, at the request of, or to meet the convenience of an Applicant or customer, and agreed upon by PG&E, normally shall be performed by PG&E. Where new facilities can be constructed in a separate location, before abandonment or removal of any existing facilities, and Applicant requests to perform the new construction work, it can be performed under the applicable provisions of Section G, Applicant Installation Options.

In all instances, PG&E shall abandon or remove its existing facilities, at the option of PG&E. Applicant or customer shall be responsible for the costs of all related relocation, rearrangement and removal work.

Furthermore, the customer is required to provide PG&E with satisfactory rights of way for the new location that are substantially equivalent to its existing easements, and without cost or condemnation by PG&E. As noted above, the existing Power Line is within private easements held by PG&E. Relocation of the Power Line to a dedicated public right of way such as Shasta Bally Road would not constitute an equivalent land right. Under California Public Utilities Code section 851, PG&E is prohibited from disposing of its property necessary and useful for the performance of its duty to the public without obtaining the approval of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

In addition, Action 4 proposes the overhead distribution line would be converted to an underground location within Shasta Bally Road. Any conversion of PG&E's overhead facilities to an underground location is governed by PG&E's Electric Tariff Rule 20. This can be accomplished through a Rule 20-A, provided the city or county of jurisdiction creates an underground district that includes the locations of the overhead facilities to be relocated and designates allocated Rule 20-A funds to finance the conversion. Alternatively, the agency sponsoring the underground conversion may fund a portion of the underground conversion according to the provisions of Electric Rule 20-B or, if the project does not meet the requirements of Electric Rule 20B, according to the provisions of Electric Rule 20-C. Rule 20-B provides a credit to the cost of the underground conversion project equal to the cost for a new, equivalent overhead system. Rule 20-C is a stand-alone conversion where the credit is limited to the salvage value of the existing overhead system.

Under Rule 20, PG&E would require that the customer provide equivalent land rights for the underground location. With respect to the distribution line providing service to the Shasta Bally Summit, this would require the provision of an easement for the underground electric line. Such an easement must be provided to PG&E without cost to or condemnation by PG&E.

Under existing law, no city, county, redevelopment agency, aviation, scenic highway or coastal commission, nor any other public agency may require a regulated private utility to convert its facilities to underground contrary to a utility's tariffs on file with the CPUC.

Action 4 refers to the possibility of installing the underground line in a direct bury configuration. A direct bury configuration does not meet PG&E's standards.

Lastly, despite recent public comments, as a publically owned utility, PG&E has the duty and responsibility to maintain our facilities in order to provide safe and reliable electric service to those communities in which we serve. At no time has the National Park Service, or Whiskeytown National Recreation Area paid PG&E or their own staff to inspect or prune vegetation along our power line in order to comply with GO-95 Rule 35 or most importantly, Public Resource Code 4293. In fact, over the past three years, roughly 780 resource hours were spent inspecting our facilities for vegetation related issues, not including any other activities undertaken to inspect wires, poles or the removal of hazard trees created by the National Park Service's control burn in the later part of 2008.

Alternative C: Permit Existing Tenants with a Phase Out Period Followed by Site Remediation.

As previously stated in Alternative B, Actions 1-4, PG&E's continued presence at Shasta Bally is critical to our gas and electric operations. Until such time that technology or operational changes permit, PG&E requests a continued presence.

Action 5: Removal of PG&E's Power Line.

Alternative C refers to a phase out of telecommunications equipment at the Shasta Bally Summit over a ten to fifteen year period, and a plan would be developed to decommission the Power Line and associated equipment. As noted above, PG&E's Power Line is located within private easements and it has been in continuous public service. PG&E recognizes it has a continuing obligation to serve its existing customers located adjacent to or within the boundaries of the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, including but not limited to those located at the Shasta Bally Summit. Any request or directive that PG&E remove the Power Line while it remains in public service would constitute an interference with PG&E's existing easement rights. However, to the extent there are no remaining customers requiring service from the Power Line, PG&E would de-activate or remove its distribution facilities, as warranted.

Alternative D: Permit Existing and New Co-Located Tenants with Limited Natural Resource Protection

Please see Alternatives B and C for response.

Alternative F: Permit New Structures and Enlargement of Existing Telecommunications Infrastructure

PG&E believes that Alternative F should be considered to allow the enlargement of existing telecommunication infrastructure as may be warranted by technological innovation.

PG&E remains committed to partnering with the National Park Service in protecting and preserving our environment and natural resources. However, we would petition to maintain our current operations at Shasta Bally. Any relocation or disruption of either our backbone microwave or base radio will negatively impact our ability to provide safe, reliable gas and electric service. Furthermore, we would implore that any future proposals have technical merit and that future management of this site be restricted to agencies and personnel with a knowledge of telecommunications site management principles and operating procedures.

I remain available to discuss any new proposals.

Jason A. Thomas for Bryan R. Barr

Bryan R. Barr
Senior Government Relations Representative
Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Cc: Congressman Wally Herger

Appendix B

Mitigation Measures and Best Management Practices

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