

CHAPTER 4

Minor Revisions to the Draft EIR

4.1 Introduction

This chapter contains revisions and additions to the Draft EIR, issued November 2012. These changes clarify, amplify or make insignificant changes to the EIR. None of the changes identified in this chapter constitutes significant new information or results in any new significant impacts.

Revisions are listed in the order they appear in the Draft EIR. New text is indicated by underline and deletions are shown in ~~striketrough~~.

4.2 Changes to the Draft EIR

The County has made minor revisions to the Staff recommended goals, policies, and implementation measures contained in the 2012 draft of the 2035 Plumas County General Plan Update. In many instances these revisions have been made to incorporate the mitigation measures provided in the Draft EIR/Final EIR (“Required Additional Mitigating Policies and Implementation Measures”), to correct clerical errors, and in other instances the General Plan has been updated in response to comments. Specific changes to the EIR are identified below and are organized by Draft EIR chapter.

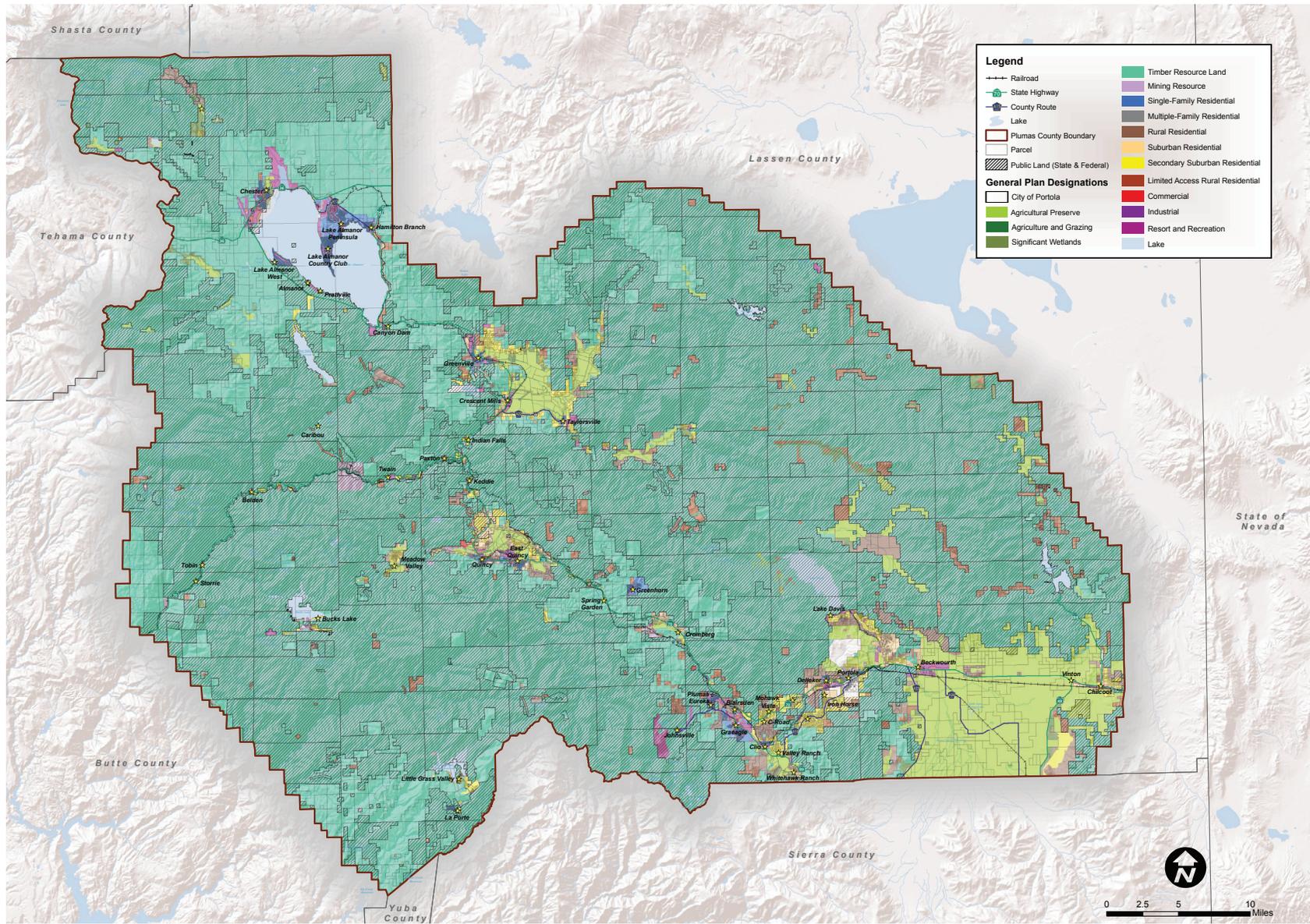
Changes to Chapter 1.0 Introduction

Draft EIR page 1-2, last (full) paragraph is amended as follows:

Other agencies may also utilize this DEIR for their decisions. For example, the Plumas County Local Agency Formation Committee may use the technical analysis in the Draft EIR for upcoming Sphere of Influence updates. The extent to which the EIR is relied upon will depend upon whether the actions are consistent with the 2035 Plumas County General Plan, there are new project-specific impacts requiring additional CEQA review, and whether the other agency chooses to use the EIR. There are no such proposed actions by other agencies currently known.

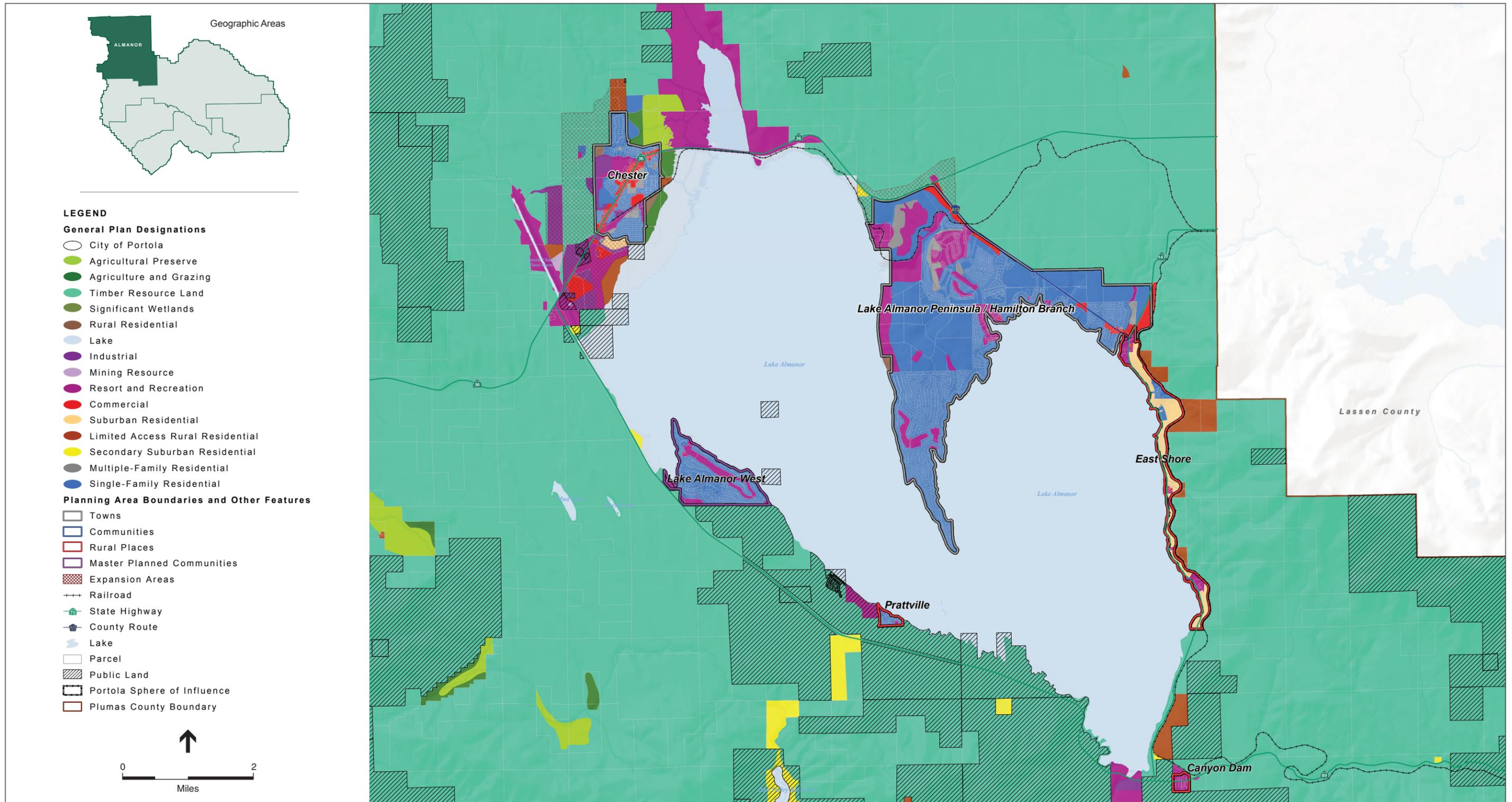
Changes to Chapter 3.0 Project Description

Draft EIR pages 3-9 through 3-15, Figures 3-2 through 3-8 are updated as shown in the following figures. As described in Chapter 3 (response to Comment I8-5), an additional countywide land use map is also provided. This figure is included as Figure 3-2, with the existing planning area maps shown as Figures 3-3 through 3-9.



SOURCE: Plumas County, 2013; and ESA, 2013

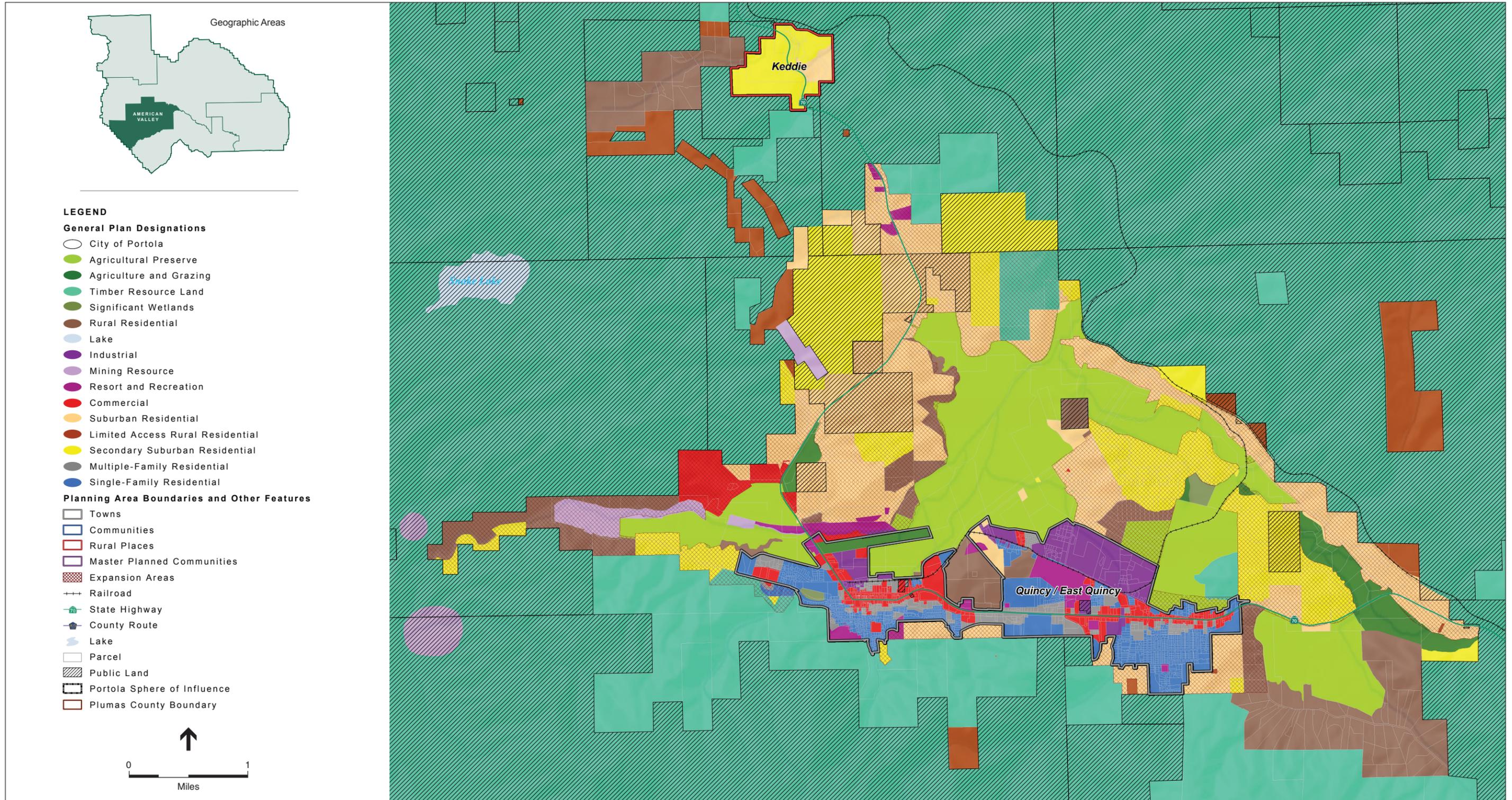
Plumas County General Plan Update EIR . 208739
Figure 3-2
 Plumas County Land Use Designations



SOURCE: Plumas County, 2011; and ESA, 2013

Plumas County General Plan Update EIR . 208739

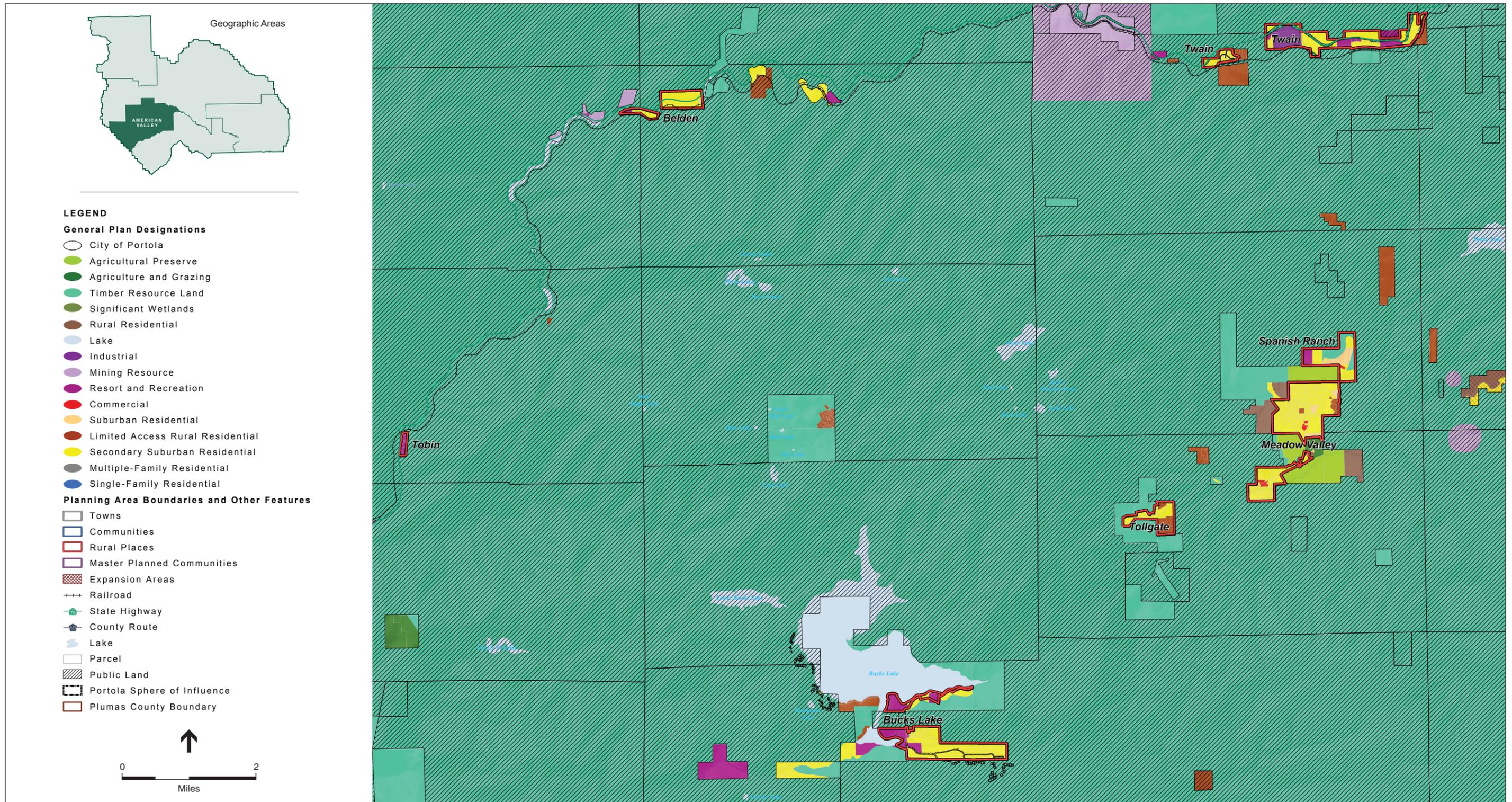
Figure 3-3
Almanor General Plan Designations and Planning Areas



SOURCE: Plumas County, 2011; and ESA, 2013

Plumas County General Plan Update EIR . 208739

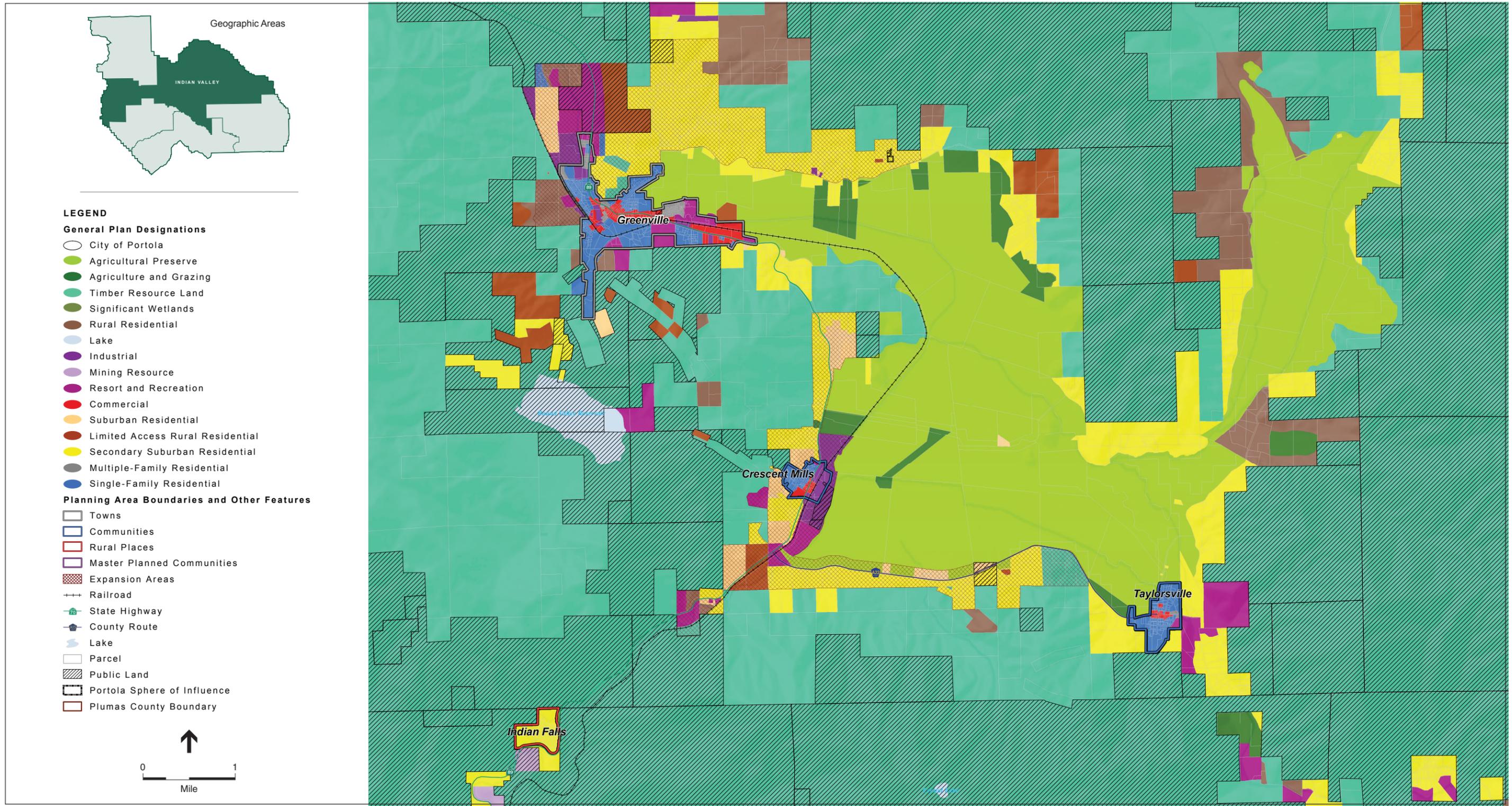
Figure 3-4
American Valley General Plan Designations and
Planning Areas



SOURCE: Plumas County, 2011; and ESA, 2013

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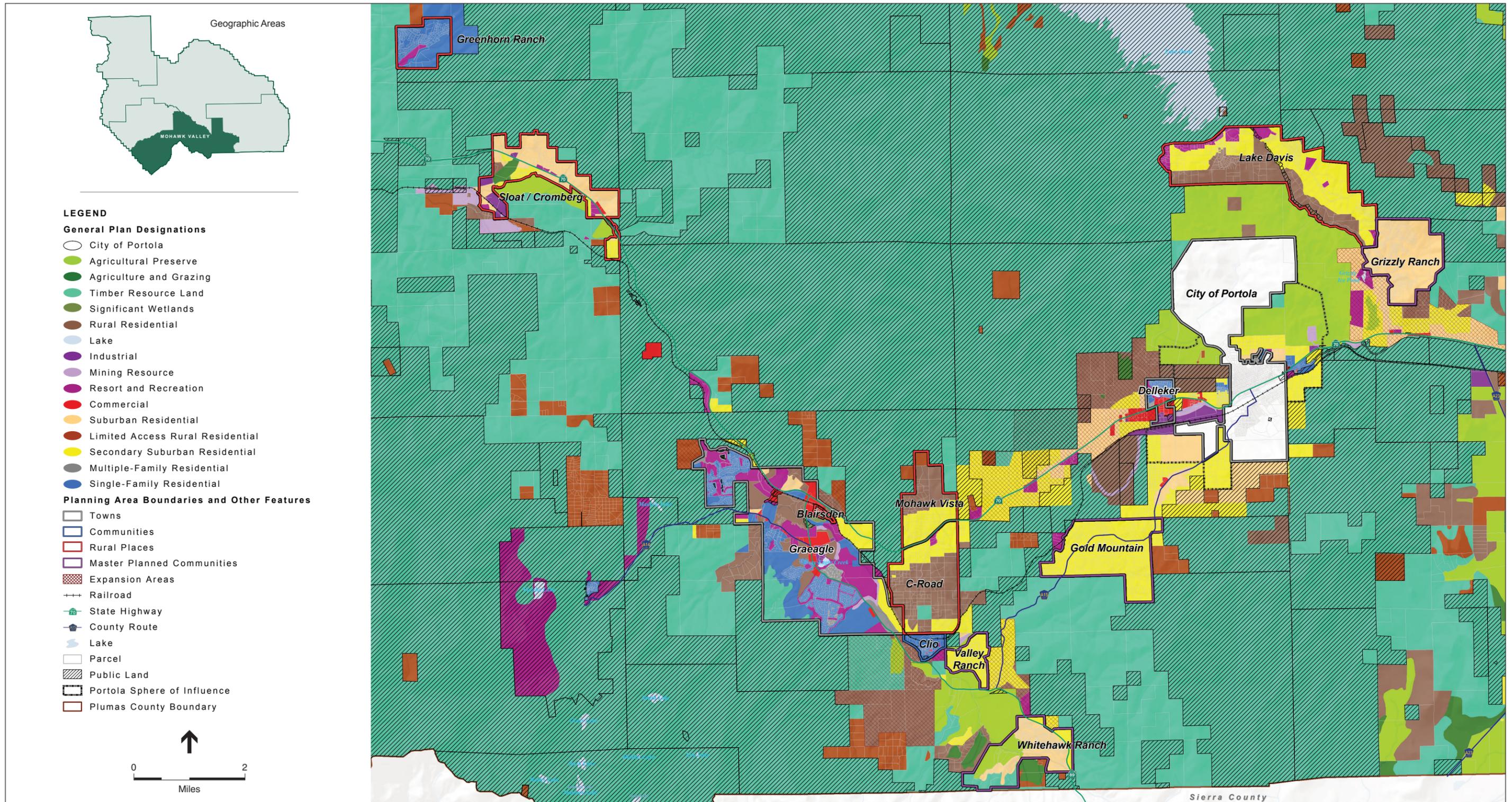
Figure 3-5
Meadow Valley, Bucks Lake, and Feather River Canyon
General Plan Designations and Planning Areas



SOURCE: Plumas County, 2011; and ESA, 2013

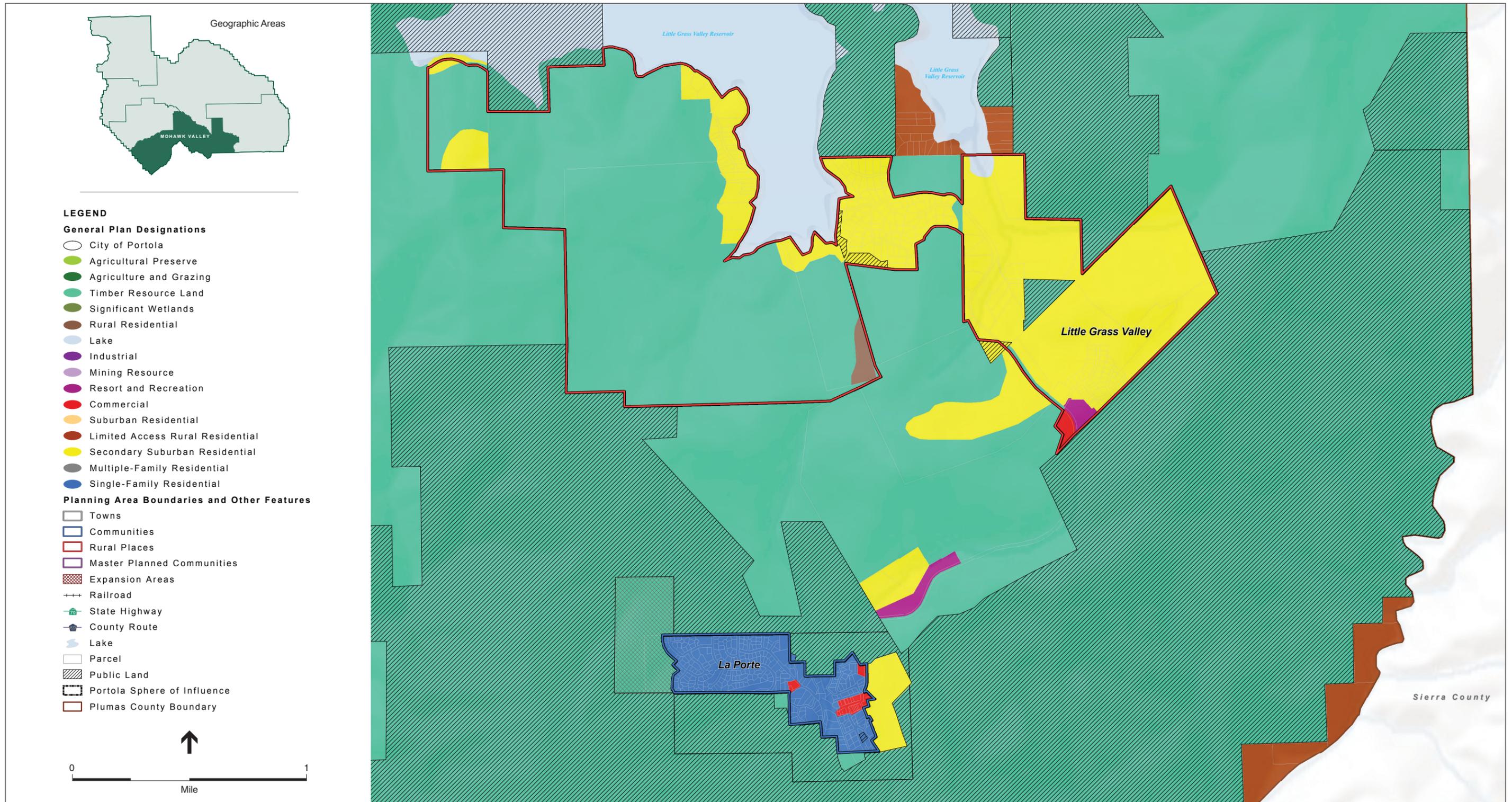
Plumas County General Plan Update EIR . 208739

Figure 3-6
Greenville, Crescent Mills, and Taylorsville
General Plan Designations and Planning Areas



SOURCE: Plumas County, 2011; and ESA, 2013

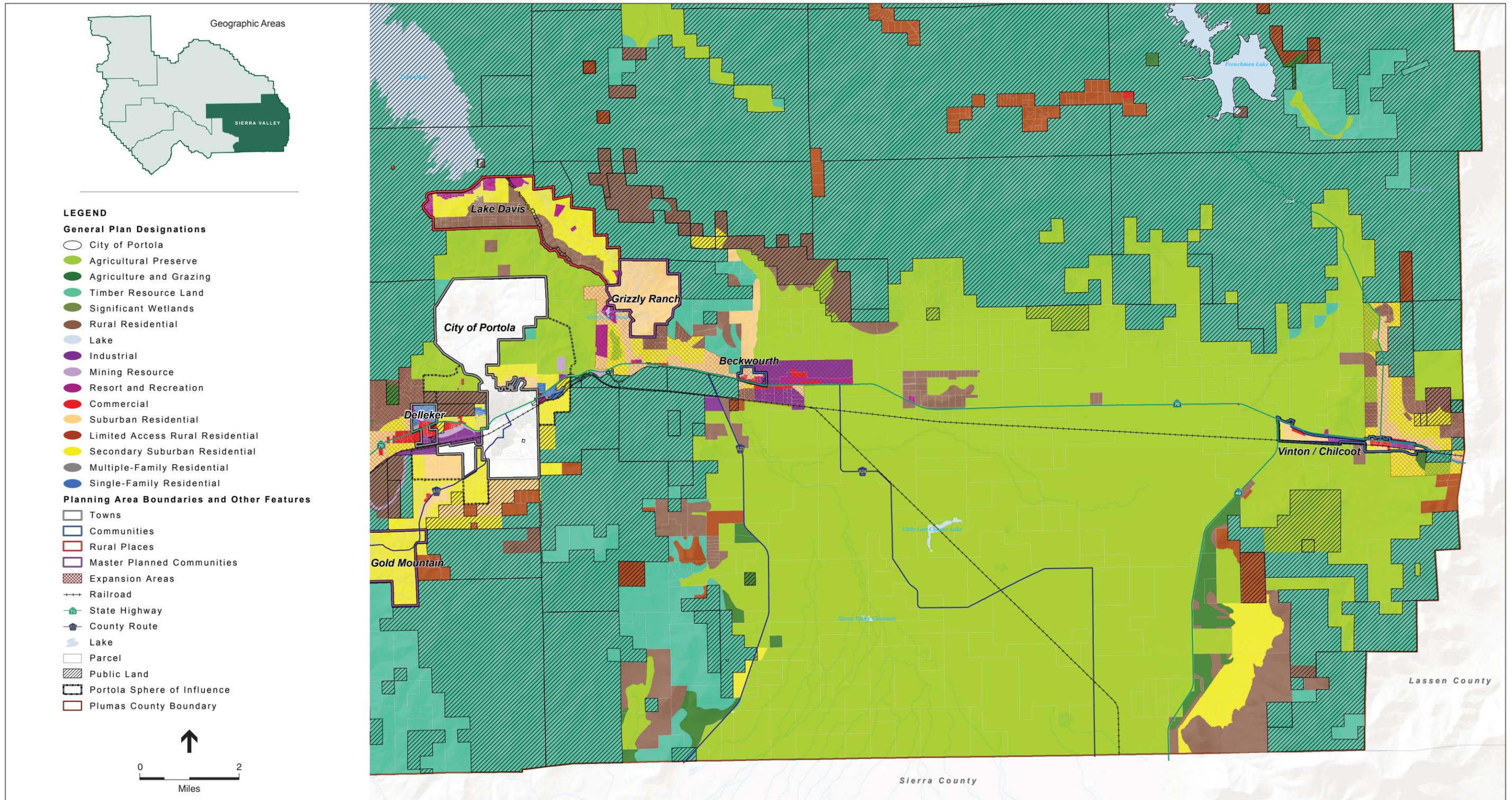
Plumas County General Plan Update EIR . 208739
Figure 3-7
 Mohawk Valley General Plan Designations and
 Planning Areas



SOURCE: Plumas County, 2011; and ESA, 2013

Plumas County General Plan Update EIR . 208739

Figure 3-8
Little Grass Valley and La Porte
General Plan Designations and Planning Areas



SOURCE: Plumas County, 2011; and ESA, 2013

Plumas County General Plan Update EIR . 208739
Figure 3-9
 Sierra Valley General Plan Designations and
 Planning Areas

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Section 4.2 Traffic and Circulation

Draft EIR page 4.2-2, the following new paragraph is inserted between the existing third and fourth paragraphs:

Caltrans oversees an ongoing process to allocate and prioritize funding of transportation improvements throughout the state. This primarily uses federal highway trust funds, state fuel tax funds other sources to fund the state highway account. This account is used to fund the State Highway Operation and Protection Plan (SHOPP), Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP), Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), Local Assistance Program, as well as other supporting functions. The RTIP funds are programmed through the local regional transportation planning agencies (in Plumas County, the Plumas County Transportation Commission). This process ensures a high degree of coordination between local and state decision makers with regards to allocation of funds for local projects.

Draft EIR page 4.2-3, the sixth paragraph is amended as follows:

The 2010 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) produced by the Plumas County Transportation Commission (PCTC) identifies the major transportation projects that are planned to occur throughout Plumas County. The RTP was adopted in January of 2011 and ~~It~~ provides a financially-constrained list of projects through 2030, as well as an unconstrained list of desired projects beyond 2030. RTPs are generally updated every three to five years. The 2010 RTP addresses the areas of transportation planning, funding, and management to help the County attain its overall transportation goals:

Draft EIR page 4.2-22, the second paragraph is amended as follows:

Traffic operating conditions on study roadway segments were analyzed. The operations analysis was conducted using the methodologies described above. Table 4.2-6 summarizes the operating LOS based on capacity thresholds. As shown, all roadways would operate within acceptable LOS, with the exception of SR 36 west of Chester and SR 36 east of Chester (unacceptable during peak hour time periods for specific segments). For the western roadway segment, traffic growth associated with future development would exacerbate the existing deficiency. While LOS grade would not degrade, the addition of traffic would increase the percent time drivers must follow another vehicle from 64 percent of the time to 72 percent of the time in the eastbound direction, and from 61 percent of the time to 73 percent of the time in the westbound direction. For the section east of Chester, LOS would degrade from LOS C to LOS D.

Draft EIR page 4.2-24, the footnote at the bottom of the page is amended as follows:

Development Agreement By and Between the County of ~~Placer~~ Plumas and Lake Almanor Associates LP, a California Limited Partnership Relative to the Development Known as Lake Front at Walker Ranch, April 10, 2012 Effective Date.

Section 4.9 Public Services, Recreation Resources, and Utilities

Draft EIR page 4.9-3, title amended as follows:

Plumas County Local Agency Formation Commission - Municipal Services Review and Spheres of Influence

Draft EIR page 4.9-3, second and third paragraphs amended as follows:

To assist with these functions, California Government Code Section 56425 requires LAFCOs to prepare and update Spheres of Influence and amend as necessary every five years for agencies subject to its jurisdiction. A Sphere of Influence is defined as a plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area of a local agency, as determined by the LAFCO Commission. In order to update a Sphere of Influence, Government Code Section 56430 requires LAFCOs to conduct Municipal Services Reviews (MSRs) that describe the municipal services provided by the agencies that are subject to LAFCO authority. MSR are comprehensive studies designed to collect and analyze information about the governance structures and efficiencies of service providers, to estimate their ability to meet current and future service needs, and to identify opportunities for greater coordination and cooperation between providers.

LAFCO may include one or more services in the review, and the study area may be the whole county, a single agency, or any subarea as determined by LAFCO. In addition to the statutory requirement to support a local agency’s Sphere of Influence, ~~the~~ the goals of the MSR are to determine, the location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the Spheres of Influence, infrastructure needs or deficiencies, growth and population projections for the affected area, financing constraints and opportunities, opportunities for shared facilities, and government structure options. MSR can therefore provide useful information in evaluating in a variety of public service issues.

Draft EIR page 4.9-4, the sixth paragraph is amended as follows:

Ambulance (including emergency medical response) providers serving Plumas County include Peninsula Fire District, Chester Fire Department, First Responder Emergency Medical Services (EMS), South Lassen EMS, Sierra Emergency Medical Services Alliance and Plumas District Hospital. The Eastern Plumas Healthcare District also provides ambulance service within its boundaries.

Draft EIR page 4.9-5, the fifth row in Table 4.9-2 is amended as follows:

Graeagle FPD	<p>26 firefighters per 1,000 residents.</p> <p>#1 Graeagle Station: Good condition - 1 Type I engine, 1 Type III engine, 1 Type 5 ALS Rescue, and 1 Type 1 water tender.</p> <p>#2 Graeagle Station: Good condition - 1 Type II engine, and 1 Type 5 ALS Rescue.</p>	<p>Identified fire protection infrastructure needs include an additional fire station (Station #2) and replacement fire fighting vehicles/equipment. <u>A Special Use Permit has been approved for the future construction of the fire station.</u></p>
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Section 4.10 Agricultural and Timber Resources

Draft EIR page 4.10-2, the third full paragraph is amended as follows:

California Timberland Productivity Act (TPA)

The California Timberland Productivity Act (TPA) of 1982 (Government Code Sections 51100 et seq.) was enacted to help preserve forest resources. Similar to the Williamson Act, this program gives landowners tax incentives to keep their land in timber production. ~~Contracts involving Timber Production Zones (TPZ) are on 10-year cycles.~~

Draft EIR page 4.10-3, the third full paragraph is amended as follows:

The land area of Plumas County is approximately 1.64 million acres, primarily composed of Sierra Mixed Coniferous Forest comprised of Ponderosa Pine, Jeffery Pine and Red Fir. The Plumas County Planning Department identifies approximately 87 percent of Plumas County's land area as "important timber." Of this, most is owned by the federal government. In 1994 ~~almost 40~~ 20 percent of Plumas County timber harvest was on public land. In 2007, only 10 percent of the County's timber harvest was on public land.

Draft EIR page 4.10-3, the fifth full paragraph is amended as follows:

Over the last 15 years, forest production in Plumas County has varied significantly. In 1994, timber production was about ~~105,000~~ 146.2 million board feet. By 2011, production was about ~~89,000~~ 77.7 million board feet. ~~In the intervening years, production was as high as 176 million board feet in 1999, and as low as 80 million in 2002.~~

Chapter 5 Alternatives

Draft EIR page 5-20, the second full paragraph is amended as follows:

Therefore, the Flexible Growth Alternative would ultimately provide additional growth and development opportunities outside of defined Planning Areas and result in ~~the additional rural development~~ additional rural development (leading to additional conversion/fragmentation) ~~of on~~ on open space lands (those designated as TPZ lands) ~~to more urbanized uses.~~ Consequently, biological resource impacts would be greater under this alternative (compared to the proposed project).

Chapter 8 References

Draft EIR page 8-5, the following references are updated for Section 4.9 as follows:

Policy Consulting Associates, LLC. 2011. Final Eastern Plumas Municipal Service Review, Adopted on October 3, 2011 ~~Public Review Draft, July 2011~~. Prepared for the Plumas Local Agency Formation Commission.

Policy Consulting Associates, LLC. 2012. Adopted Lake Almanor Area Municipal Service Review, Adopted on October 15, 2012 ~~Public Review Draft, September 2012~~. Prepared for the Plumas Local Agency Formation Commission.

The true amount of fertilizer N put on fields is unknown, but these estimates are closer to real numbers than 140 lbs N/ac figure from the Sacramento County GHG Inventory that consultants used for Plumas and Sierra Counties. I worked with UCCE colleagues to come up with figures then consulted with a few local growers as well as two major fertilizer salesmen who have serviced the area for years. It is important that nitrogen use efficiency be looked at, not just rate. –Holly George, University of California Cooperative Extension, Plumas-Sierra Counties, April 2013.

Agriculture Sector Notes for Plumas and Sierra County 2005 Community-Wide GHG Inventory Reports

CROP	# AC in Plumas County *	# AC in Sierra County*	Estimated Average #/ac N fertilizer **	Notes
Alfalfa Hay	6,000	1,200	10	N amount from fertilizers is estimate of the annual application of P fertilizers (across all fields) with 11-52-0 being applied. Not applied every year to all fields, with many fields receiving zero for many years. (Range 0-25 #N/ac/yr)
Meadow Hay	3,000	1,600	10	Most (~90%) of this acreage isn't fertilized as it is low quality forage; estimate ~10% of acreage receives 100#N/ac (Range 0-100#N/ac/yr)
Grain Hay	1,000	700	70	Range 0-150#N/ac/yr
Irrigated Pasture	35,000	11,445	25	Some improved irrigated pastures (~10%) are fertilized; but much of the acreage is a grass/sedge/rush mixture with the majority of the acreage (~90%) not being fertilized. (Range 0-80#N/ac/yr)

*Source of figures is 2005 Crop & Livestock Report prepared by Plumas-Sierra County Department of Agriculture

** Source of Estimated fertilizer application, UCCE Intermountain Farm Advisors (Holly George-Plumas-Sierra Counties, Steve Orloff-Siskiyou County, Rob Wilson-Intermountain Research and Extension Center-Tulelake) and Dan Putnam, Statewide Alfalfa-Forage Specialist, UC Davis.

Footnotes

1. These estimates may be high due to the widespread lack of inputs on some of these more marginal grounds, common practice for economic reasons.
2. Rate is only one of the factors when it comes to either water quality impacts or atmospheric gas emissions. Timing (single vs multiple), method of application (surface, knifing in, etc.), and source of fertilizer, plus use of nitrification inhibitors are at least as important if not more important. **This is an important message for the water regulators as well as the air boards.**