

PHYSICAL SETTING

Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation. Paradise Ridge Memorandum of Understanding Summary Status Report. Butte County: May 31, 2001.³⁹

This document describes the Lime Saddle area as located in the Ridge area of Butte County, adjacent to and south-southeast of the town of Paradise. The study area is a 5 1/2 mile by 1/2 to 1 mile strip located in the Ridge area, with an area of about 2,750 acres. There is an elevation difference of about 1,080 feet between the north and south ends of the study area.

The Ridge Inventory Sub-Unit is the center of the Foothill Inventory Sub-Unit, bordered on the north by Butte Creek and on the south by the Feather River. The Ridge contains the city of Paradise and surrounding urban developments. Del Oro Water Company (DOWC) and Paradise Irrigation District (PID) provide water to these urban areas. PID consists of the Magalia Reservoir, Paradise Dam and Reservoir, and a water treatment plant, is approximately 11,250 acres in size, and serves 25,772 people with 10,000 current connections. Anticipated growth rate in this area is approximately 20% through 2020. DOWC serves the Lime Saddle district, which is approximately 4.3 square miles with 265 service connections. DOWC serves four separate service areas with two groundwater wells, has an agreement with PID to receive treated surface water in the north, and water drawn from Lake Oroville in the south. DOWC also serves the Paradise Pines District utilizing five groundwater wells.

Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc. Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation. Agricultural Water Demand Forecast. Technical Memorandum. Butte County: October 2003.³⁰

A description of Butte County's five distinct geographical areas East Butte (including Cherokee, Esquon, Pentz, Richvale, Thermalito, and Western Canal), West Butte, North Yuba, Vina and Mountain-Foothill (including Paradise) is provided. The soil types, crops grown and water sources are included for each region.

Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc. Basin Management Objective Development Packet, Cherokee. Technical Memorandum. Butte County: May 2004.¹³

The Sacramento Valley groundwater basin is divided into four sub-basins. East Butte Sub-Basin contains the Butte, Biggs, West Gridley, Butte Sink, Richvale, Thermalito, Esquon, Cherokee, and Pentz areas. A description of the Cherokee area is provided which includes information regarding 14,700 acres in the northern portion of the East Butte Sub-Basin.

The Pentz area, 1,900 acres in the northern portion of the East Butte Sub-Basin, has land characterized by non-irrigated vegetation, pasture and low density residential.

Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc. Basin Management Objective Development Packet, Western Canal. Technical Memorandum. Butte County: May 2004.¹⁵

The Western Canal area is described in this document as covering approximately 44,500 acres, corresponding to the Butte County portion of the Western Canal Water District that also serves part of Glenn County.

Miller, Michael. The Butte College Wildlife Refuge. Butte College Facilities and Management. Oroville: June 1991.²⁷

The physical setting of the Butte College campus is located in the Pentz Foothills on the western side of the Feather River Canyon watershed. Elevation changes from 260' to 780' are noted within valley transition zones on the campus site. Annual average rainfall on the campus is 27", while pan evaporation is close to 60". Shallow caves, outcrops, seeps, intermittent streams, small ponds, cliffs, and rock ledges serve as special habitat features.