

Parcel on Deer Creek transferred from PG&E to Lassen Forest

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This stretch of Deer Creek at the Ponderosa Way bridge,... (Bill Husa — Enterprise-Record)

A 151-acre parcel of PG&E-owned land on Deer Creek has been transferred to the Lassen National Forest.

The property is located where Ponderosa Way crosses Deer Creek, about 25 miles north of Chico in Tehama County. It was completely surrounded by Lassen Forest lands prior to the transfer, which was finalized Thursday.

It's the first transfer of PG&E lands to the Forest Service under the program to preserve 140,000 acres of the utility's watershed lands, which was part of the 2003 settlement of PG&E's bankruptcy.

The Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council (Stewardship Council) announced the transfer, as well as a conservation covenant on the land held by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

The Stewardship Council recommends potential land owners, conservation easement holders, conservation covenant holders and related enhancements on the lands. PG&E works with the potential landowners and conservation easement holders on the property transfer process, and then the California Public Utilities Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, where appropriate, approve the land donations and conservation easements or conservation covenants.

After the property transfers, Tehama County will receive payment in lieu of property taxes and will choose either a lump sum payment or an annuity to offset the losses in tax revenue that would have been paid by PG&E.

PG&E watershed lands are located in 21 counties throughout the Sierra Nevada, Southern Cascade and North Coast mountain ranges and include more than 1,000 parcels that will be protected.