

California Department of Fish & Wildlife



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Cannabis Enforcement Program

CDFW Mission

The Mission of the Department of Fish and Wildlife is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.



Selected Fish and Game Code Sections

- Stream alteration and water diversion (§ 1602)
- Water pollution (§ 5650)
- Refuse disposal into water (§ 5652)
- Fish passage (§ 5901)
- Sufficient water for fish (§ 5937)
- Obstruction of a stream (§ 5948)
- Rare native plants (§ 1908)
- Fully protected species (§§ 3511, 4700, 5050, 5515)
- Migratory nongame birds (§ 3513)
- Bird nests and eggs (§ 3503)
- Birds of prey (§ 3503.5)

Permitted Cannabis Operations

- CDFW fully supports a regulated cannabis market.
- CDFW continues to support discretionary review of individual projects, however potential cumulative impacts must be identified, and minimized or mitigated.
- CDFW seeks to work with Mendocino County as well as individual permittees to avoid or reduce environmental impacts.



Common Environmental Impacts at Cannabis Sites

- Water diversion
- Water pollution (sediment, petroleum, trash)
- Habitat loss
 - Including sensitive natural communities such as oak woodlands and riparian areas
- Grading, associated erosion and sediment delivery
- Light pollution
- Noise pollution

Common Environmental Impacts at Cannabis Sites

- Allowing cultivation in sensitive areas without appropriate protections can lead to many of the same impacts as unpermitted cultivation.







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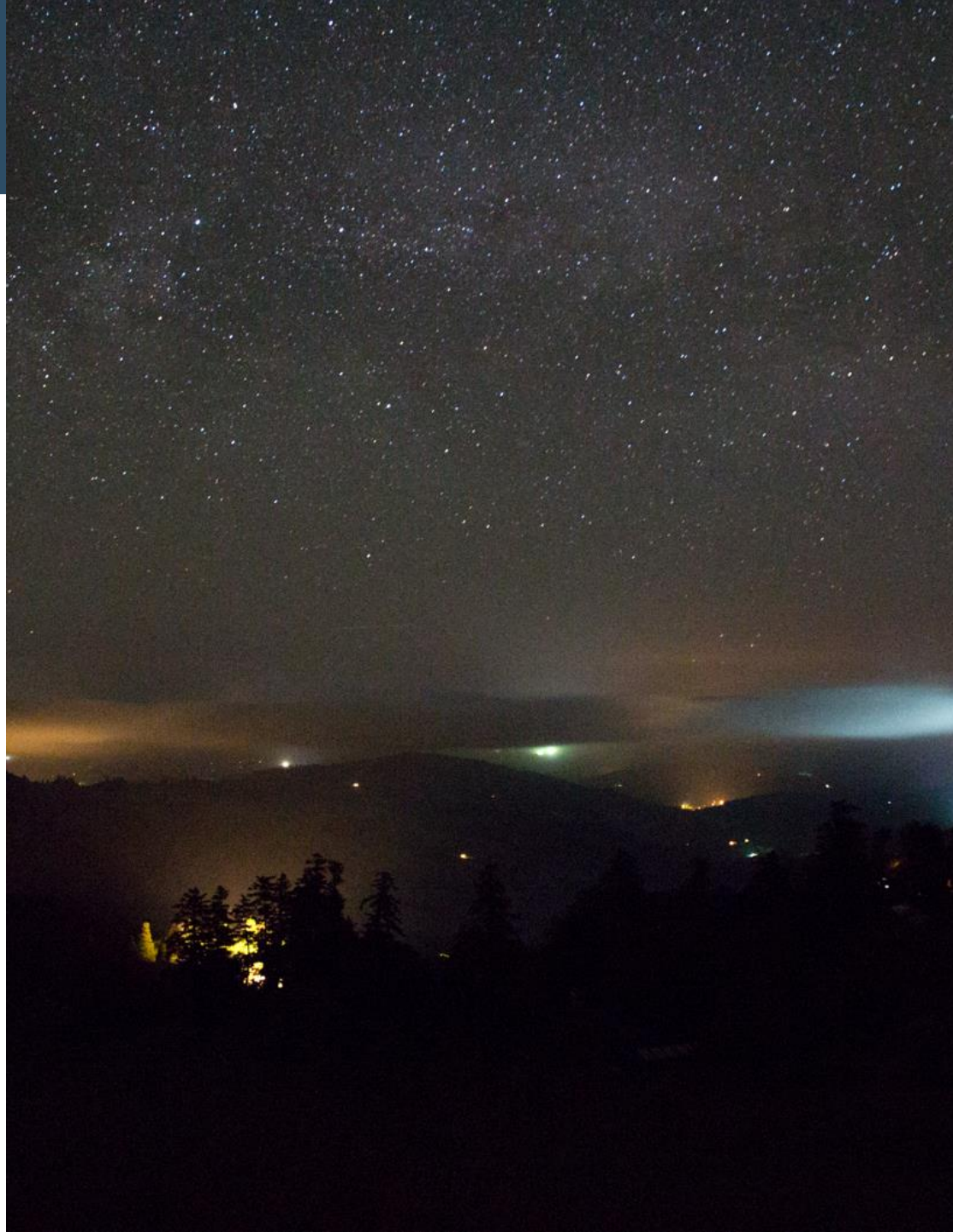


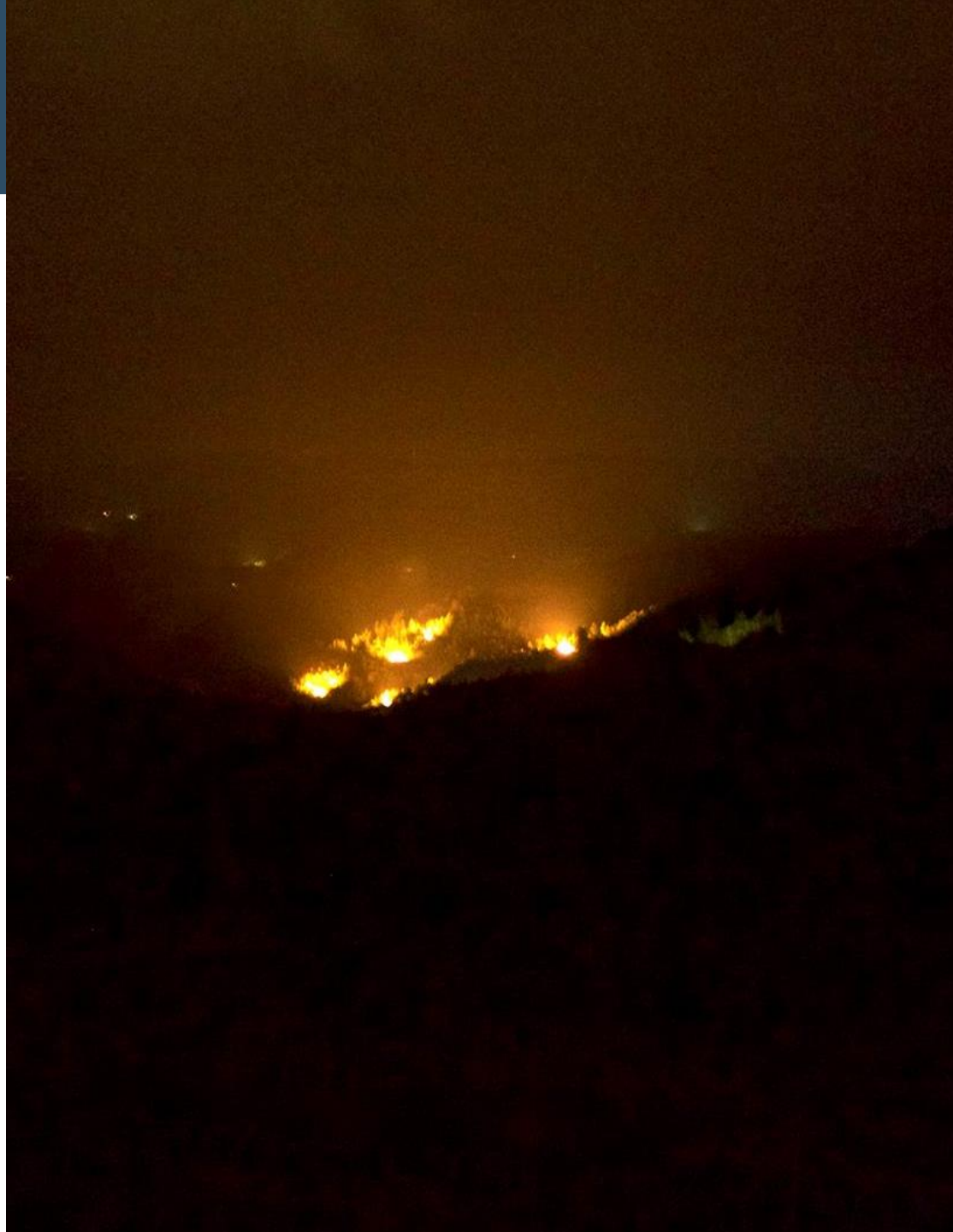
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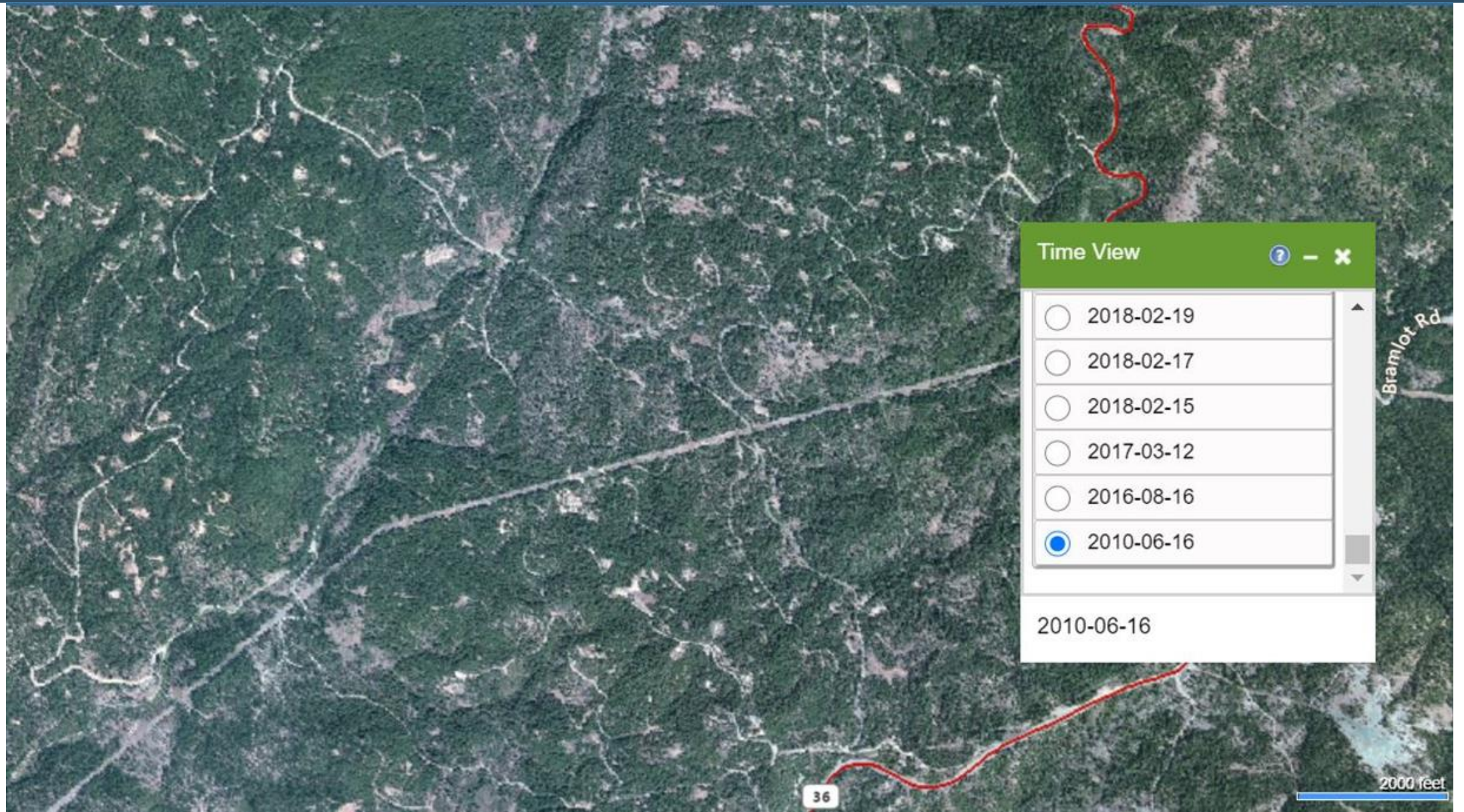


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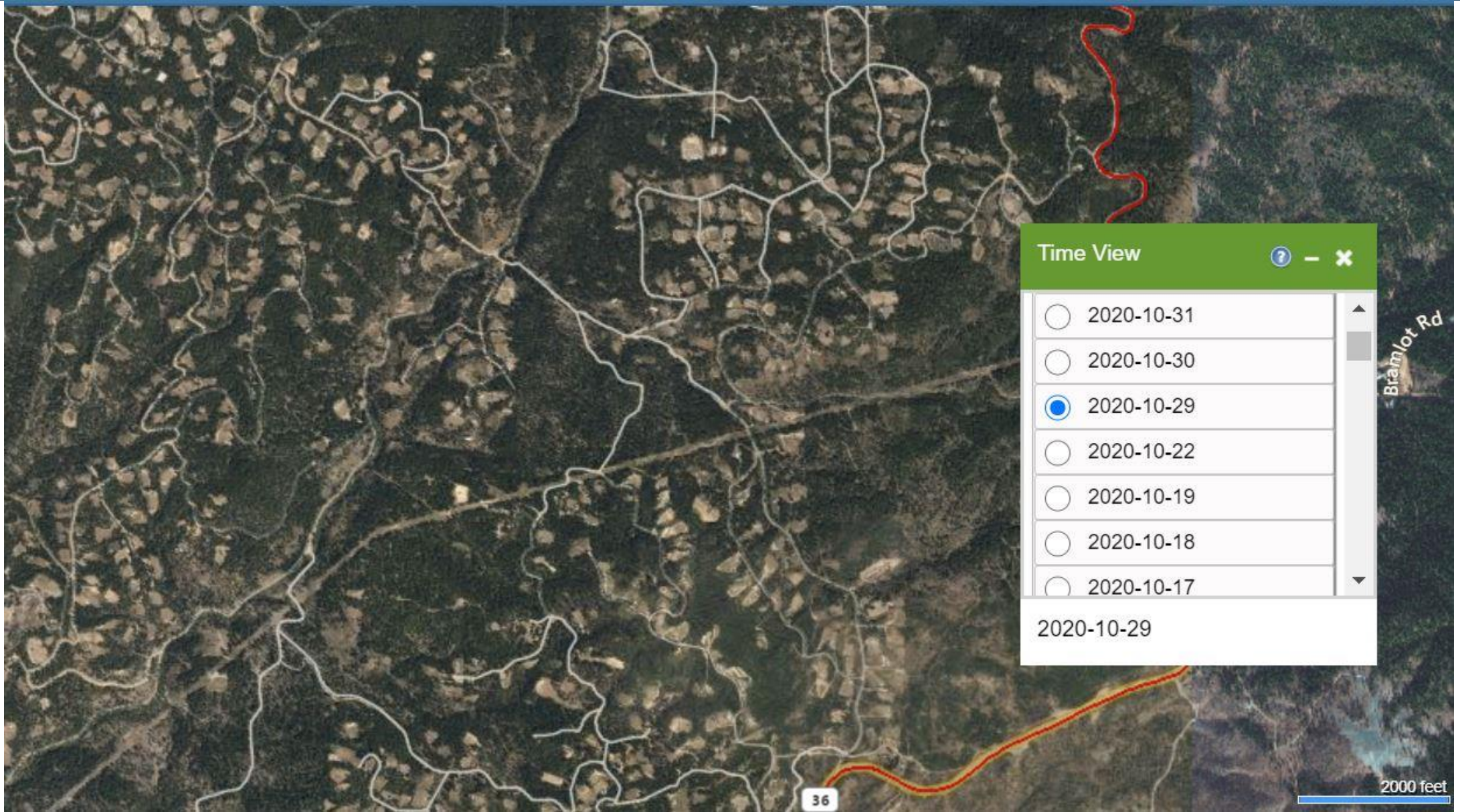




Cumulative Impacts



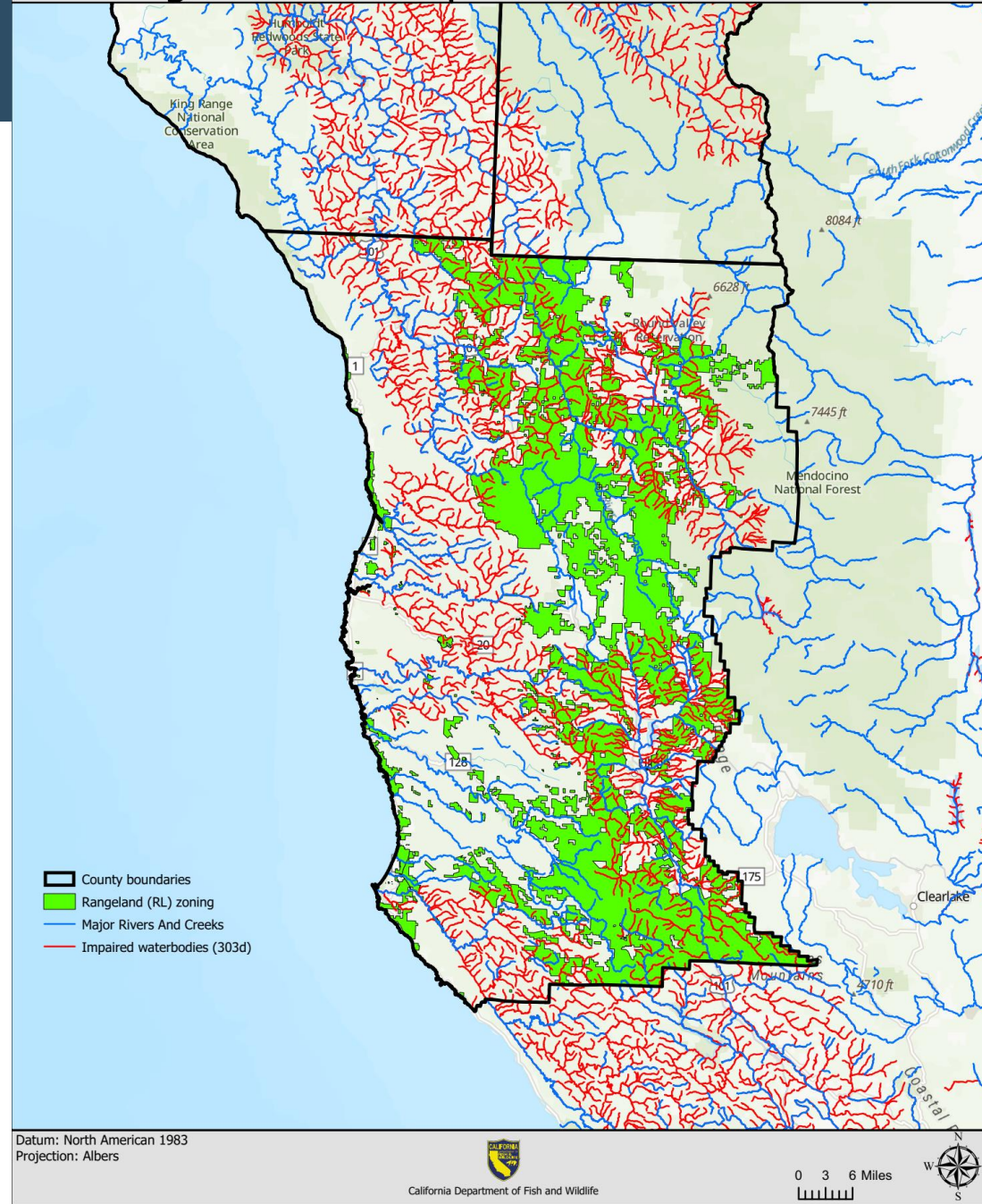
Cumulative Impacts



Cumulative Impacts

- The proposed ordinance would permit cultivation on up to 10% of a given parcel over 10 acres in size in Rangeland (RL), Agricultural (AG), and Upland Residential (UR) zoning districts.
- The Mendocino County General Plan EIR states that both RL and AG zoning districts are commonly associated with oak woodlands, as well as other habitat types.
- Rangeland alone is estimated to make up approximately 735,000 acres of Mendocino County.
- Allowing development on 10% of large RL parcels poses a risk of significant cumulative habitat loss, based on this provision alone.

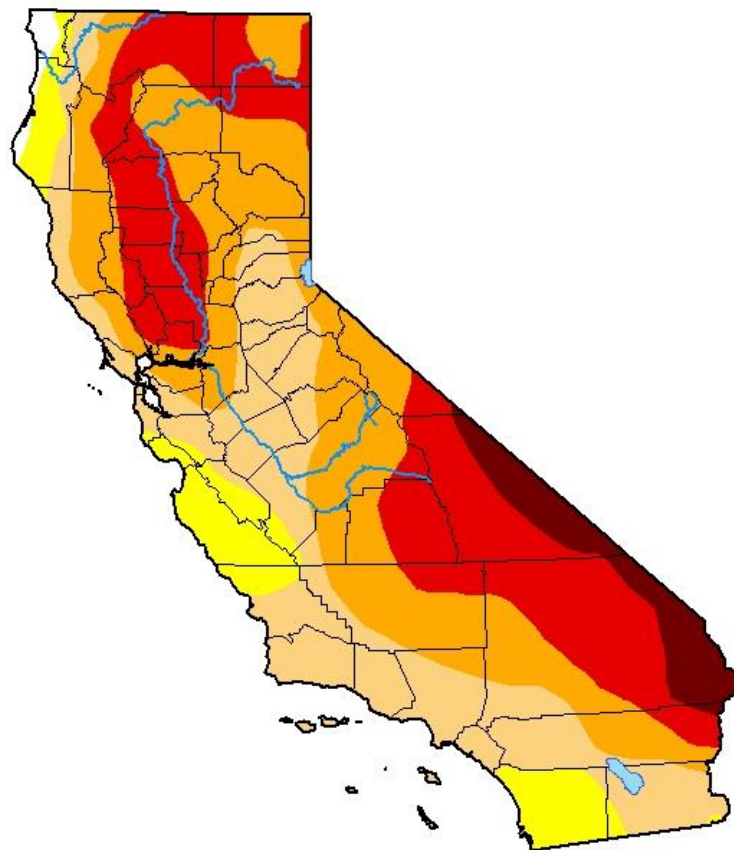
Rangeland and Impaired Water Bodies









Current Conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor California

March 23, 2021
(Released Thursday, Mar. 25, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

-  None
-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Moderate Drought
-  D2 Severe Drought
-  D3 Extreme Drought
-  D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Mendocino County General Plan

The Mendocino County General Plan recognizes the importance of water resources in the County.

Water Resources Policies

Policy RM-6: Promote sustainable management and conservation of the county's water resources.

Action Item RM-6.1: Develop and implement a methodology to determine the supply and use of water in all the county's watersheds.

Mendocino County General Plan

The Mendocino County General Plan also recognizes the importance of oak woodlands and intact habitats.

Ecosystems Policies

- Policy RM-24: Protect the county's natural landscapes by restricting conversion and fragmentation of timberlands, oak woodlands, stream corridors, farmlands, and other natural environments.
- Policy RM-25: Prevent fragmentation and loss of our oak woodlands, forests, and wildlands and preserve the economic and ecological values and benefits.

Basic Purposes of CEQA

- Inform governmental decision makers and the public about the potential environmental impacts of proposed activities.
- Identify ways to avoid or reduce environmental impacts.
- Prevent significant environmental impacts by requiring changes in projects through the use of alternatives or mitigation measures.
- Disclose to the public the reasons why a governmental agency approved the project in the manner the agency chose.

(See CEQA section 15002 for full text)

Options to Address Proposed Ordinance

For Phase 3 as it is currently proposed:

- Development should be limited to areas with the lowest potential for risk to the environment. For example: areas with existing development, without sensitive species or habitats, located outside of impaired watersheds.
- Ordinance must include detailed definitions, specific avoidance measures, and clearly defined standards and conditions.

Or

- County should conduct full CEQA review, potentially an EIR, to address cumulative impacts.

Options to Address Proposed Ordinance

- Another potential option includes creating a discretionary Phase 3 process to address projects that incorporate all protective measures included in the existing Mitigated Negative Declaration. The County could then conduct CEQA review for a future “Phase 4” that would potentially allow for expansion, pending public review and a full analysis of cumulative impacts.
- A scaled-down Phase 3 as described would allow Phase 1 applicants to enter a discretionary process through the County.

Please Consult with CDFW

CDFW looks forward to working with the County to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate the potential environmental impacts of its cannabis regulatory program.

Report Unpermitted Cannabis Cultivation and Environmental Crimes to CalTIP

If you have information about an environmental crime or illegal cultivation activity, you can dial the toll free CalTIP number at **1-888 334-CalTIP (888 334-2258)**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can remain anonymous.

Anyone with a cell phone may also send an anonymous tip to CDFW by texting "**CalTIP**", followed by a space and the message, to **847411** (tip411).





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<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Cannabis>