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Owl Study

Forest Ecosystem Management, PLLC
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May 26, 2020

Scott Butler, RPF
Environmental Resource Management
1128 Monaghan Court
Idaho Falls, ID 83404
Scott.butler@sbcglobal.net

RE: Northern Spotted Owl Assessment for Sodhani Project
Section 22 T08N, R06W MDB&M - Napa County

Scott,

This is an assessment for northern spotted owls (*Strix occidentalis caurinia*), or NSOs, for the Sodhani Project located at 3283 St Helena Highway near St. Helena, California (Attachment #1). The Project proposes to remove trees along an existing driveway. As the Project proposes to harvest trees, this assessment uses U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's guidelines for proposed management activities that may impact northern spotted owls.

Project Description:

The Sodhani Winery Project proposes to remove 10 trees along the existing driveway and structures (Attachment #2). There will be 10 trees removed including 3 olive trees, 2 madrones, 1 Douglas-fir, 1 maple tree, and 3 fruit trees.

The Sodhani Property is located off St. Helena Highway and Napa Valley; therefore, along the edge of large agricultural development. The trees to be removed are close to buildings, a vineyard, along an access road, and a large expanse of unsuitable habitat to the east of Highway 128/29 (Attachment #3). The location of the 10 trees is within unsuitable northern spotted owl habitat due to lack of contiguous canopy closure, adjacent to vineyard, and presence of actively-used structures. The forest immediately adjacent to the Project Area does meet USWS definitions of suitable northern spotted owl habitat.

Known Northern Spotted Owl Territories:

According to the California Department of Fish & Wildlife's spotted owl viewer dated 26MAY20, there is one known northern spotted owl territory within 1.3 miles of the Project (Attachment #4). An assessment area of 1.3 miles from the project was used. The 1.3 mile assessment area was created by USFWS for a Take Avoidance of northern spotted owls within the California Interior (outside the redwood zone). Although Napa County does have redwoods, the environmental conditions in the area

are hotter/drier than the coastal redwood zone; therefore, the 1.3 mile assessment area was used for this Project. A summary of the report includes:

Owls Sites Found (there is one known NSO territory within 1.3 miles of the Project Area):

- NAP005 – Northern Spotted Owl Territory is located approximately .8 miles from the Project Area. This territory is based upon a pair of NSOs located with 1 young in 1989. The territory was found active in 1987, 1989, 1990, 1991, and 1998. Surveys in 2000 and 2002 did not detect any NSOs. In 2020, surveys found this site to be active with a pair of northern spotted owls.

Northern Spotted Owl Habitat:

The attributes for northern spotted owl habitat includes a forest with:

- Dense, multi-layered canopy of several trees species (conifers and hardwoods).
- Trees of varying sizes and ages.
- Abundant logs, snags/cavity trees, and trees with broken tops or platform-like substrates (i.e. broken tops, mistletoe, debris piles, or old raptor/squirrel nests).
- Open spaces among lower branches to allow flight under the canopy.

USFWS more specifically defines northern spotted owl habitat within the California Interior as follows:

- High Quality Nesting/Roosting Habitat: Mixed tree species with basal area of 210+ ft² and $\geq 15''$ quadratic mean diameter, and ≥ 8 trees per acre of trees $\geq 26''$ in diameter at breast height, and $\geq 60\%$ canopy closure.
- Suitable Nesting/Roosting Habitat: Mixed tree species with basal area ranging from 150 - 180+ ft² and $\geq 15''$ quadratic mean diameter, and ≥ 8 trees per acre of trees $\geq 26''$ in diameter at breast height, and $\geq 60\%$ canopy closure.
- Suitable Foraging Habitat: Mixed tree species with basal area ranging from 120 - 180+ ft² and $\geq 13''$ quadratic mean diameter, and ≥ 5 trees per acre of trees $\geq 26''$ in diameter at breast height, and a mix of $\geq 40\%$ to 100% canopy closure.
- Low Quality Foraging Habitat: Mixed tree species with basal area ranging from 80 - 120+ ft² and $\geq 11''$ quadratic mean diameter, and $\geq 40\%$ canopy closure.

Due to the Project location adjacent to existing vineyards, hardwood forest habitat type, and lack of forest layering; the removal of 10 trees (1 conifer and 9 hardwoods) will not impact northern spotted owl habitat. However, there is suitable northern spotted owl habitat within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of the project.

Northern Spotted Owl Surveys & Protocol Review:

In 2019, northern spotted owl disturbance-only surveys were completed for an adjacent landowner. In 2020, surveys were again completed at the same 3 survey stations (Attachment #5). The stations are located where they would cover the accessible northern spotted owl habitat within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of this Project.

In 2019, no northern spotted owls were detected. In 2020, a pair of northern spotted owls was detected within NAP0005 territory and includes:

- 08APR20 - Scott Butler detected a vocal pair of northern spotted owls moving around up Mill Creek.
- 21APR20 – Pam Town detected a pair of northern spotted owls prior to sunset indicating an active activity center.
- 15MAY20 – Scott Butler observed a pair of northern spotted owls during the daytime verifying an active activity center.
- 18MAY20 – Pam Town was hoping to mouse the pair during the daytime; however, no northern spotted owls were detected (passing storms – rain, hail and wind).

Northern Spotted Owl Survey Data

<u>Date</u>	<u>Miscellaneous Information</u>	<u>Station #</u>	<u>Survey Time</u>	<u>Owl Response & Notes</u>
04MAR19	Mostly Cloudy & Calm Surveyor: SB & HM	2 – 3	1930 – 1952	N/R – Walk between STA2 and STA3 broadcast calling. Frogs & SWOW
	Survey #1	1	1958 - 2009	N/R (frogs)
15MAR19	Cloudy & Calm Surveyor: SB & HM	1	2053 - 2103	N/R (frogs, distant traffic, helicopter)
	Survey #2	3	2112 – 2122	N/R (frogs, jet)
		2	2126 – 2137	N/R (dogs, frogs)
02APR19	Cloudy & Calm Surveyor: HM	1	0007 – 0019	N/R (jet)
	Survey #3	3	0025 – 0035	N/R (frogs, jet)
		2	0038 – 0048	N/R (frogs)
23APR19	Clear & Warm Surveyor: SB	1	2000 - 2010	N/R (truck)
	Survey #4	2	2013 – 2023	N/R (turkey)
		3	2030 - 2040	N/R
04MAY19	Clear, Calm & Warm Surveyor: PT	3	0315 – 0325	N/R (Frogs)
	Survey #5	2	0330 – 0340	N/R (frogs)
		1	0346 – 0356	N/R
16MAY19	Cloudy & Lt breeze Surveyor: SB	1	2138 – 2148	N/R
	Survey #6	2	2152 – 2202	N/R
		3	2205 – 2215	N/R
02MAR20	Quiet, warm & Lt breeze Surveyor: SB	1	1906 – 1916	N/R

	Survey #1	2	1922 – 1932	N/R
		3	1935 – 1945	N/R (crickets)
08APR20	Cloudy & Lt breeze Surveyor: SB	3	2326 – 2336	N/R – High fog
	Survey #2	2	2341 – 2351	N/R
		1	2353 – 0003	Vocal Pair of NSOs Up Mill Creek (NAP005)
21APR20	Few clouds & calm Surveyor: PT	1	1820 – 1830	N/R
	Survey #3	Further Up Mill Creek	1834 - 1850	At 1845 hours ? sex NSO upstream on Mill Creek
		Further Up Mill Creek	1853 - 1900	At 1854 Pair of NSOs vocal near historic AC (NAP005)
15MAY20	Surveyor: SB	NAP0005	1100 - 1200	Pair of NSOs were observed (NAP005)
	Look for Owl			
18MAY20	Cloudy & Lt breeze Surveyor: PT	NAP0005	1500 - 1700	N/R – passing storms may have effected response
	Look for Owl			

Owl Response: N/R from Northern Spotted Owls (all other owls identified)

NSO Protocol Review

- Protocol Followed: 2011 Protocol for Surveying Proposed Management Activity that may impact NSOs (Revised 09JAN12).
 - Surveys for Disturbance Only Projects: Activities that do not modify spotted owl habitat but could result in disturbance to spotted owls usually represent short-term effects compared to the long-term effects of habitat modification. Therefore, a one-year six visit survey can apply to noise-disturbance only actions. Six visits that cover spotted owl habitat within 0.25 mile from the project area will be effective until the beginning of the following breeding season. If operations are not completed by year two, three spot check survey visits each year should occur in years two and three.
 - 2019 is Year 1 – 6 Surveys
 - 2020 is Year 2 – 3 Surveys
- Surveyors: SB = Scott Butler, RPF; HM = Heather Morrison, RPF; PT = Pamela Town, Wildlife Biologist
- Except for Survey #1 between Stations 2 & 3, 10 – Minute Point Count Survey Used. Broadcast calling while slowly walking between stations 2 and 3 was used on 04MAR19. This continuous walking survey is an acceptable survey procedure (page 10 of protocol)
- Digital Recording Used

- Survey Stations ¼ to ½ mile apart: Yes
- At least 7 Days between Surveys: Yes
- Surveys Between Sunset and Sunrise: Yes, until looking for NAP0005

- Barred Owls Detected: None
- Years Northern Spotted Owls were Detected: 2020 (NAP005)
 - Daytime follow-up if NSO Detected: Yes
 - Other Owl Species Detected: Saw-whet Owl

- Survey Coverage of 0.25 miles of NSO Habitat outside Project Area: Yes

Northern Spotted Owl Protection Measures:

The Sodhani Project is not within suitable northern spotted owl habitat; however, there is suitable northern spotted owl habitat within ¼ mile of the project and a known active territory within 1.3 miles. To protect potential northern spotted owls in the area the following applies:

- No timber harvest operations between 01FEB – 09JUL **OR**
- Complete Disturbance-Level Surveys
 - ***NOTE: Disturbance-Level Surveys have been completed in 2019 and 2020 in the NSO suitable habitat within ¼ mile of the Sodhani Project; therefore, seasonal restrictions in 2020 no longer apply. However,***
- If timber harvest operations are not completed by the following NSO breeding season (01FEB21), three spot check survey visits in each year of operations are required or no surveys and seasonal restrictions (01FEB – 09JUL) apply.

NOTE: If Project Boundary expects to expand into the forested area, a new northern spotted owl review will be required. This information is based upon a Project Boundary within unsuitable NSO habitat.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Gone Hooting,

Pam Town

Pamela Town
Consulting Wildlife Biologist

Attachments:

- Attachment #1 – Topo Map of Project Area (1 page)
- Attachment #2 – Project Plan Map (1 page)
- Attachment #3 – Aerial Map of Project Area and NSO Activity Center (1 page)
- Attachment #4 – NSO Database Report (5 pages)
- Attachment #5 – NSO Survey Stations (1 page)

Definitions:

- Activity Center: Area of concentrated activity of either a pair of NSOs or a single territorial NSO, represented by a mapped location (usually a nest tree) that occurs within, but not necessarily in the exact center of, the core area. Where clusters of site centers exist in a core area a geographic centroid or nearest neighbor calculation may be used as a designated activity center for habitat analysis purposes. A single territory may also have more than one designated activity center.
- Territory: A spatial area of landscape that is defended by a single resident or pair of northern spotted owls. Specific NSO territories generally refer to a fixed geographic area. Over time, individual spotted owls may occupy different territories (i.e. breeding dispersal, interference competition with barred owls, changes in habitat or prey availability, etc.).
- Territory Identification Number (NAP0007): A number generated by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife assigned to a geographic area currently and/or historically occupied by northern spotted owls.
- Suitable Habitat: Areas meeting the criteria for nesting/roosting habitat and/or foraging habitat.
- Unsuitable Habitat: Areas not meeting the criteria for nesting/roosting habitat and/or foraging habitat.
- NSO Breeding Season: February 1st to August 31st in the California inland ecotype.

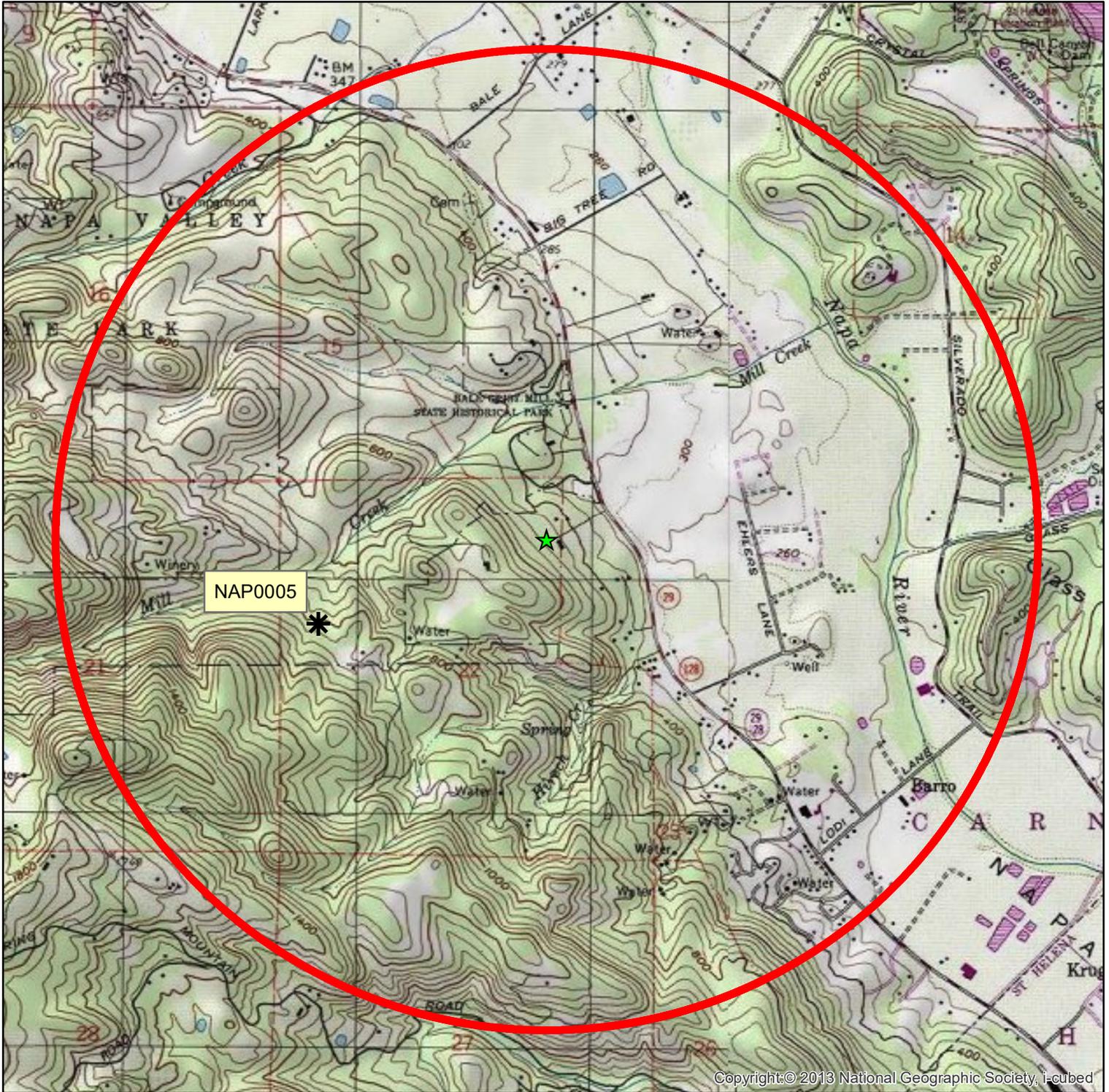
References:

Protocol for Surveying Proposed Management Activities That May Impact Northern Spotted Owls. Endorsed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. February 2, 2011 and Revised January 9, 2012.

Northern Spotted Owl Viewer (BIOS CA Natural Diversity Database). Managed by California Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Zeiner, D.C., W.F. Laudenslayer, K.E. Mayer, and M. White, eds. 1988 – 1990. California's Wildlife. Vol. I – III. California Department of Fish & Game, Sacramento, CA.

Sodhani Project



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Legend

- ★ Sodhani Project
- Sodhani Project 1.3 Mile Buffer
- * NSO Activity Center

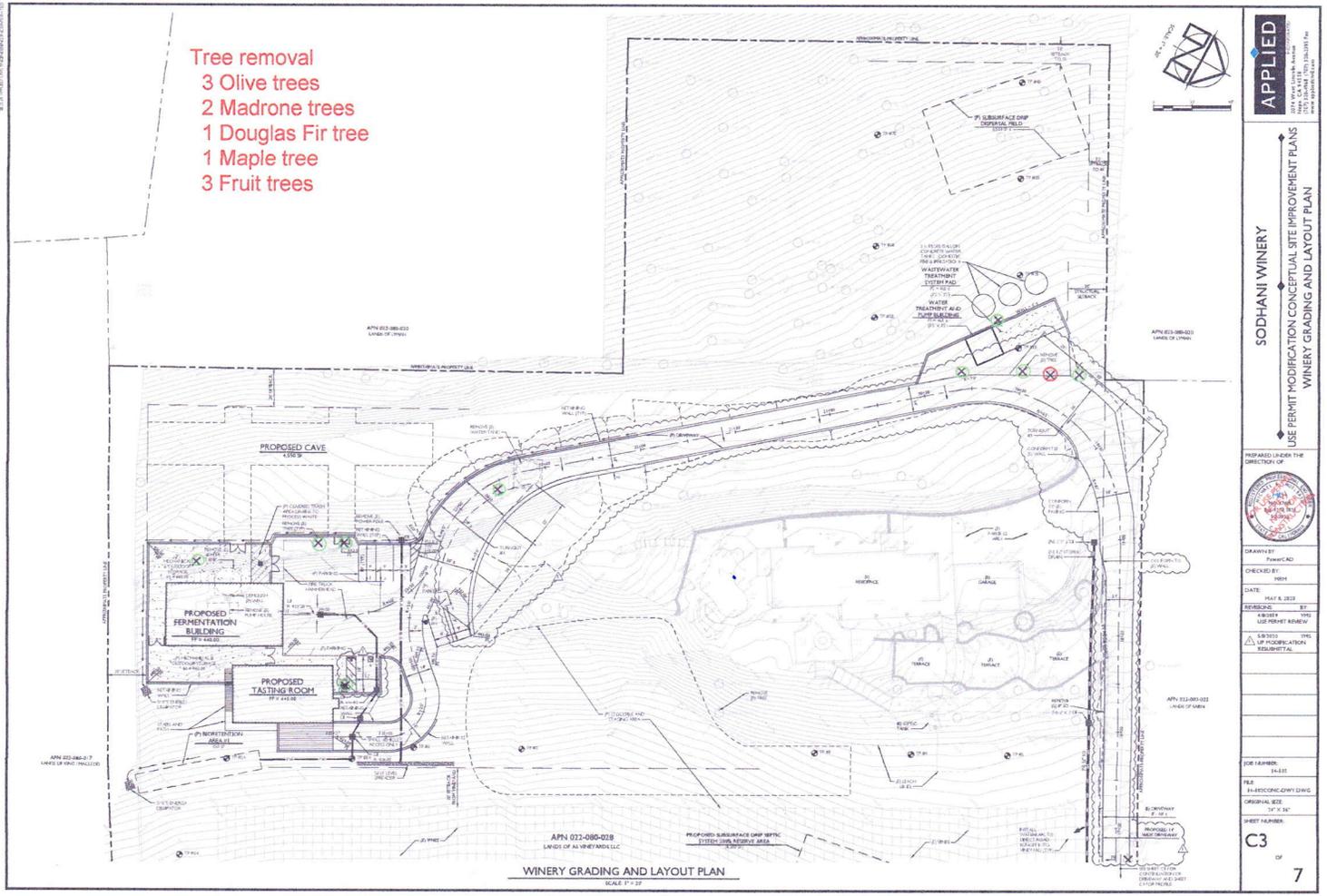
Section 22 T08N, R06W MDB&M
Napa County



1 in = 2,500 ft

Date: 5/26/2020

Tree removal
 3 Olive trees
 2 Madrone trees
 1 Douglas Fir tree
 1 Maple tree
 3 Fruit trees



WINERY GRADING AND LAYOUT PLAN
 SCALE 1" = 20'



SODHANI WINERY
 USE PERMIT MODIFICATION CONCEPTUAL SITE IMPROVEMENT PLANS
 WINERY GRADING AND LAYOUT PLAN



PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF	
DRAWN BY	PANISAC
CHECKED BY	HEBA
DATE	MAY 4, 2023
REVISIONS	BY: KESHER / DATE: 05/04/2023
CONTRACT	10000 W. 15th Street, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90048
PROJECT	10000 W. 15th Street, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90048
SHEET NUMBER	14-023
FILE	14-023CONC-001-DWG
ORIGINAL SITE	10000 W. 15th Street, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90048
SHEET NUMBER	C3
OF	7

Sodhani Project



Legend

- ★ Sodhani Project
- Sodhani Project 1.3 Mile Buffer
- * NSO Activity Center

Section 22 T08N, R06W MDB&M
Napa County



1 in = 2,500 ft

Date: 5/26/2020

Data Version Date:
04/28/2020
Report Generation Date:
5/26/2020

Report #1 - Spotted Owl Sites Found
Known Spotted Owl sites having observations
within the search area.



Meridian, Township, Range, Section (MTRS) searched:

M_08N_06W Sections(13,14,15,16,17,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29);

NOTES:

Sodhani

*Project
T8N R6W
Sec 22*

Masterowl	Subspecies	LatDD NAD83	LonDD NAD83	MTRS	AC Coordinate Source
NAP0001	NORTHERN	38.539867	-122.546050	M 08N 06W 17	Contributor 2.5 Mile
NAP0005	NORTHERN	38.532391	-122.521177	M 08N 06W 22	Contributor 0.8 Miles
NAP0033	NORTHERN	38.508038	-122.526177	M 08N 06W 33	Contributor 2.6 Mile

*Owls
within 1.3 Miles
NAP0005*

Data Version Date:
04/28/2020

Report Generation Date:
5/26/2020

Report #2 - Observations Reported
List of observations reported by site.



Meridian, Township, Range, Section (MTRS) searched:

M_08N_06W Sections(13,14,15,16,17,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29);

NOTES:

Sodhani

Only relevant
Pages are
submitted

NAD83
2020-Pair

Type	Date	Time	#Adults	Age/Sex	Pair	Nest	#Young	Latitude DD NAD83	Longitude DD NAD83	MTRS	Coordinate Source
POS	2002-05-21	2034	1	UM				38.542015	-122.555067	M 08N 06W 17	Quarter-section centroid
POS	2002-05-25	2006	1	UM				38.545439	-122.550168	M 08N 06W 17	Section centroid
NEG	2002-05-30	2135	0					38.545439	-122.550168	M 08N 06W 17	Section centroid
POS	2002-06-12	2134	1	UF				38.545439	-122.550168	M 08N 06W 17	Section centroid
POS	2002-06-29	1922	1	UF		Y	1	38.542015	-122.555067	M 08N 06W 17	Quarter-section centroid
NEG	2002-07-02	2131	0					38.542242	-122.582552	M 08N 07W 13	Quarter-section centroid
NEG	2003-02-07	1806	0					38.545439	-122.550168	M 08N 06W 17	Section centroid
POS	2003-05-04	1125	1	UM				38.542015	-122.555067	M 08N 06W 17	Quarter-section centroid
NEG	2003-05-08	1052	0					38.545439	-122.550168	M 08N 06W 17	Section centroid
POS	2003-05-26	2046	1	UU				38.542015	-122.555067	M 08N 06W 17	Quarter-section centroid
POS	2004-02-05	1501	1	UU				38.542015	-122.555067	M 08N 06W 17	Quarter-section centroid
POS	2004-04-26	1138	2	UMUF	Y	Y		38.545439	-122.550168	M 08N 06W 17	Section centroid
NEG	2005-04-17	1419	0					38.545439	-122.550168	M 08N 06W 17	Section centroid
POS	2005-04-18	1543	1	UM				38.541700	-122.545854	M 08N 06W 17	Quarter-section centroid
POS	2010-03-21		2	UMUF	Y			38.543540	-122.536938	M 08N 06W 16	Contributor
AC	2012-05-28	1638	2	UMUF	Y	Y		38.539867	-122.546050	M 08N 06W 17	Contributor

Masterowl: NAP0005 Subspecies: NORTHERN

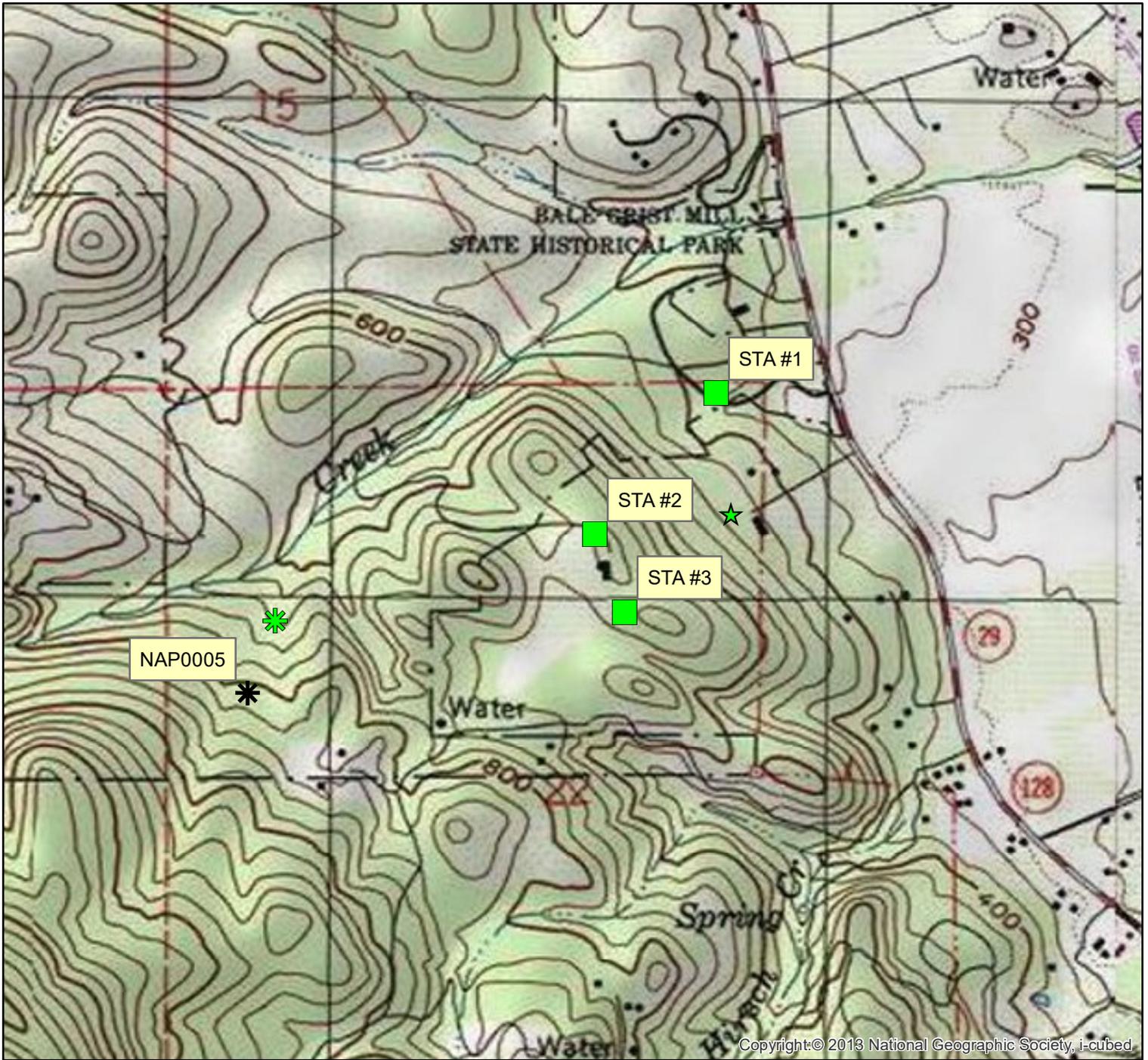
<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>#Adults</i>	<i>Age/Sex</i>	<i>Pair</i>	<i>Nest</i>	<i>#Young</i>	<i>Latitude DD NAD83</i>	<i>Longitude DD NAD83</i>	<i>MTRS</i>	<i>Coordinate Source</i>
POS	1983-12-27		1	UU				38.534425	-122.518352	M 08N 06W 22	Quarter-section centroid
POS	1987		2	UMUF	Y			38.534410	-122.532293	M 08N 06W 21	Half-section centroid
POS	1987		2	UMUF	Y			38.534425	-122.518352	M 08N 06W 22	Quarter-section centroid
AC	1989-07-30	0630	2	UMUF	Y		1	38.532391	-122.521177	M 08N 06W 22	Contributor
POS	1989-07-30		2	UMUF	Y		1	38.534418	-122.527692	M 08N 06W 21	Quarter-section centroid
POS	1990-04-29	1640	1	UM				38.534425	-122.518352	M 08N 06W 22	Quarter-section centroid
POS	1991-01-01	0343	1	UM				38.532391	-122.521177	M 08N 06W 22	Contributor
POS	1991-04-11	1629	1	UM				38.530855	-122.513729	M 08N 06W 22	Section centroid
POS	1991-05-05	2045	1	UM				38.532391	-122.521177	M 08N 06W 22	Contributor
POS	1991-09-29	2028	1	UM				38.534425	-122.518352	M 08N 06W 22	Quarter-section centroid
NEG	1992		0					38.530855	-122.513729	M 08N 06W 22	Section centroid
NEG	1992-03-01	1757	0					38.530855	-122.513729	M 08N 06W 22	Section centroid
NEG	1993-04-03	2031	0					38.534418	-122.527692	M 08N 06W 21	Quarter-section centroid
NEG	1996-10-13	1935	0					38.534425	-122.518352	M 08N 06W 22	Quarter-section centroid
POS	1998	0215	2	UMUF	Y			38.534418	-122.527692	M 08N 06W 21	Quarter-section centroid
NEG	2000-04-03	2228	0					38.530904	-122.532304	M 08N 06W 21	Section centroid
NEG	2000-05-16	2001	0					38.534418	-122.527692	M 08N 06W 21	Quarter-section centroid

Type	Date	Time	#Adults	Age/Sex	Pair	Nest	#Young	Latitude DD NAD83	Longitude DD NAD83	MTRS	Coordinate Source
NEG	2000-06-29	1925	0					38.530904	-122.532304	M 08N 06W 21	Section centroid
NEG	2002-02-08	2400	0					38.534418	-122.527692	M 08N 06W 21	Quarter-section centroid
NEG	2002-02-08	2400	0					38.534425	-122.518352	M 08N 06W 22	Quarter-section centroid
NEG	2002-03-12	2400	0					38.534425	-122.518352	M 08N 06W 22	Quarter-section centroid
NEG	2002-06-10	2400	0					38.534425	-122.518352	M 08N 06W 22	Quarter-section centroid
NEG	2002-06-10	2400	0					38.534418	-122.527692	M 08N 06W 21	Quarter-section centroid

Masterowl: NAP0033 Subspecies: NORTHERN

POS	1995-06-26	2129	2	UMUF	Y			38.513105	-122.518884	M 08N 06W 27	Quarter-section centroid
POS	1995-07-12	2045	1	UM				38.513105	-122.518884	M 08N 06W 27	Quarter-section centroid
POS	1997-03-18	1900	1	UM				38.513105	-122.518884	M 08N 06W 27	Quarter-section centroid
POS	1997-03-31	1832	1	UM				38.513105	-122.518884	M 08N 06W 27	Quarter-section centroid
POS	1997-04-19	1510	2	UMUF	Y	N		38.515786	-122.515552	M 08N 06W 27	Contributor
POS	1999-03-28	1905	1	UM				38.513105	-122.518884	M 08N 06W 27	Quarter-section centroid
POS	2000-06-29	2206	1	UM				38.516446	-122.514033	M 08N 06W 27	Section centroid
NEG	2001-01-01	0225- 0240	0					38.513105	-122.518884	M 08N 06W 27	Quarter-section centroid
NEG	2001-02-08	2059	0					38.516446	-122.514033	M 08N 06W 27	Section centroid
NEG	2001-02-16	1716	0					38.516446	-122.514033	M 08N 06W 27	Section centroid

Sodhani Project - NSO Stations



Legend

- ★ Sodhani Project
- NSO Station
- * NSO Activity Center
- ★ 2020 NSO Detections

Section 22 T08N, R06W MDB&M
Napa County



1 in = 1,223 ft

Date: 5/26/2020

Forest Ecosystem Management, pllc