

7.3.2 Highways

A Scenic Highways Element used to be a mandatory element of general plans. While it is no longer required, it can be included in other general plan elements such as Conservation or Open Space. The Conservation Management Element of the Glenn County General Plan includes a section entitled Scenic Highways. According to that document, Glenn County does not include any eligible or State-designated scenic highways.

The previous adopted Scenic Highway Element recommended designation of State Highways 45 and 162 as scenic highways. It has also been suggested that State Highway 32 and County Road 99W be considered for scenic highway status. Eligible routes can be designated scenic by the California Director of Transportation following a request from the Board of Supervisors and the recommendation of the Department of Transportation Advisory Committee. Apparently, the main benefit of scenic highway designation is the promotion of tourism in the county; however, the process required for State designation, including restrictions on overhead utilities, may be out of proportion to the actual benefits which accrue.

The County can locally designate scenic highways and establish policy in the General Plan with regard to allowed uses, setbacks, and design standards. New signs and billboards can be limited or prohibited within such corridors.

7.4 Areas of Outstanding Scenic, Historic and Cultural Values

The Biological Resources Section of the Natural Resources Issue Paper identifies twelve important biological resource areas in Glenn County. Six of the areas (Llano Seco, Oxbow Waterfowl area, Oxbow Heron Rookery, Princeton Riparian Woodland, Sacramento River Wildlife Area and Sacramento River Oxbow Preserve) are associated with the Sacramento River and are intended to protect the unique riparian forest, marsh and floodplain bordering the Sacramento River. Two of the areas (St. Johns Mountain and Sheetiron Mountain) are within the Mendocino National Forest Service. The remaining areas are the Sacramento national Wildlife Refuge, Black Butte and Stony Gorge Reservoirs, and Orland Buttes. These resource areas qualify as areas of outstanding scenic value as well, along with vistas from the potential scenic highways identified in Section 7.3.2 above.

Areas of outstanding historic and cultural value include the historic sites identified in Section 7.1 above, areas along the county's watercourses, which have a high potential for archaeological resources, the Grindstone Indian Reservation, County parks and the Mendocino National Forest. Because the location of individual archaeological sites is not divulged, it is not possible to identify those areas in the General Plan.

7.5 Cultural Resources Opportunities, Constraints and Conclusions

- Disturbance of historical and cultural resources by development has not been a major issue in Glenn County due to the relatively slow pace of population growth and urban development. Mineral extraction may have the greatest potential to create such impacts. Compliance with the process outlined in Appendix K of the CEQA Guidelines should be incorporated as a