

**Sierra County
Board of Supervisors'
Agenda Transmittal &
Record of Proceedings**

MEETING DATE: June 16, 2020	TYPE OF AGENDA ITEM: <input type="checkbox"/> Regular <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timed <input type="checkbox"/> Consent
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DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors
APPROVING PARTY: Peter W. Huebner, District 2
PHONE NUMBER: 530-289-3295

AGENDA ITEM: Presentation and report on the completion of the Sierra County Land Trust Packer Saddle Fuel Reduction Project.

SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTS ATTACHED: Memo Resolution Agreement Other

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Laurie Oberholtzer, Director, Sierra County Land Trust will update the Board of Supervisors on the Packer Saddle Fuel Reduction Projec which was funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy under Proposition 68.

FUNDING SOURCE:
GENERAL FUND IMPACT: No General Fund Impact
OTHER FUND:
AMOUNT: \$ N/A

ARE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL REQUIRED?

 Yes, -- --
 No

IS THIS ITEM ALLOCATED IN THE BUDGET? Yes No

IS A BUDGET TRANSFER REQUIRED? Yes No

SPACE BELOW FOR CLERK'S USE

<p>BOARD ACTION:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved as amended <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> No Action Taken	<input type="checkbox"/> Set public hearing For: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Direction to: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Referred to: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Continued to: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Authorization given to: _____	Resolution 2020- _____ Agreement 2020- _____ Ordinance _____ Vote: Ayes: Noes: Abstain: Absent: <input type="checkbox"/> By Consensus
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COMMENTS:

CLERK TO THE BOARD

DATE



PO Box 404, Sierra City, CA 96125 (530) 990-8043
www.sierracountylandtrust.org

January 9, 2020

Sierra County Board of Supervisors
Via: email

Dear Members of the Board:

I am happy to file this final report on our Fall, 2019 Packer Saddle Fuel Reduction Project. The project was completed on October 30. Thank you for your support on this project and to your staff for their assistance during the grant process and the project implementation. I would appreciate a date to discuss it with you at one of your February Board meetings.

Report:

The project was funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (\$167,200) using Proposition 68 funds. The work was done under a CalFire 1038j CEQA Exemption (Forest Fire Prevention Exemption Pilot Project). This project supports the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Program by reducing the risk of high intensity fire surrounding the headwaters of the north fork of the Yuba River-Packer Saddle and Lakes Basin area as well as surrounding public and private forest lands and nearby small communities. Benefits include protected and enhanced watershed health and developed water resources for downstream users, increased carbon storage capacity due to support for old growth trees across the landscape, protection against soil loss and sedimentation entering into a water delivery system, preservation and enhancement of sensitive riparian habitats, and increased overall forest resiliency. The project satisfies state goals for improving watershed conditions intended to cumulatively reduce the impacts of climate change

10,000 feet of road frontage, 150 feet on either side of road, totaling 69 acres were treated. Hand crews and small masticators and chippers were mainly used. Additional large excavator work was used where appropriate for 2 weeks to expedite work. Work included:

- Understory reduction which involved removal of brush, woody debris, and small saplings.
- Mid-story fuels and tree thinning included selective tree removal of up to 10-inch dbh to create adequate tree spacing. Dead, dying, and diseased trees were removed.
- Ladder fuels were reduced by removing branches to 8 to 10 feet above the forest floor. Vegetation was removed within the dripline of large trees.

A light-on-the-land approach was used to protect the aesthetics of this recreational area. Islands of low vegetation were retained, track marks were avoided, hand work was used on steep slopes, and care was taken to evenly distribute chips and lopped limbs. Specimen trees were protected. Snags for future nesting were retained.

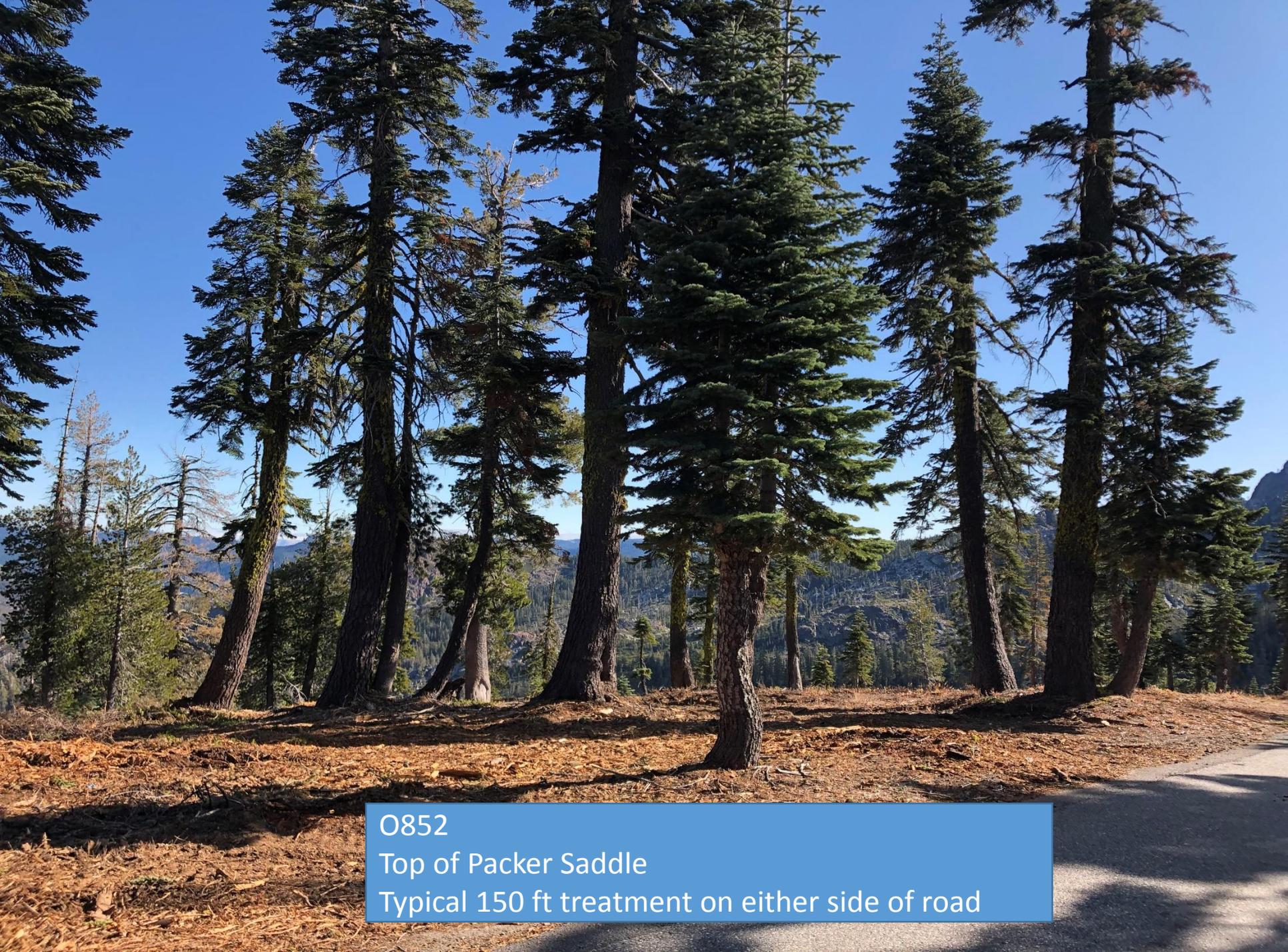
The professional forester overseeing the project was Kevin Whitlock of Under the Trees, and the forest contractor was Misita Tree and Land, both of whom did an excellent and sensitive job.

I have attached photos typical of the work performed. We have had many positive comments. I hope you will be pleased with the outcome.

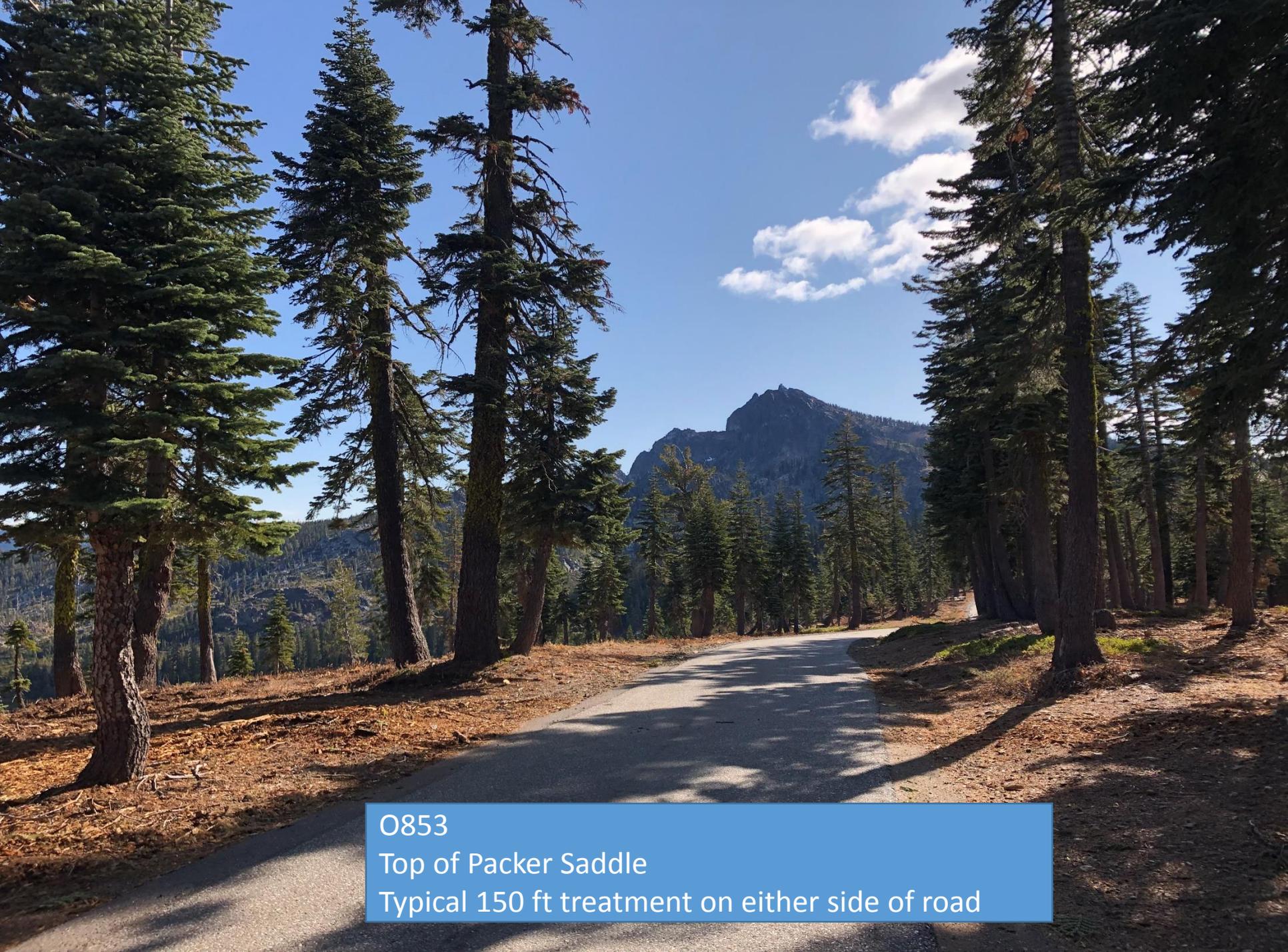
Sincerely,

Laurie Oberholtzer
Director

Attachment: 6 photos



O852
Top of Packer Saddle
Typical 150 ft treatment on either side of road



O853

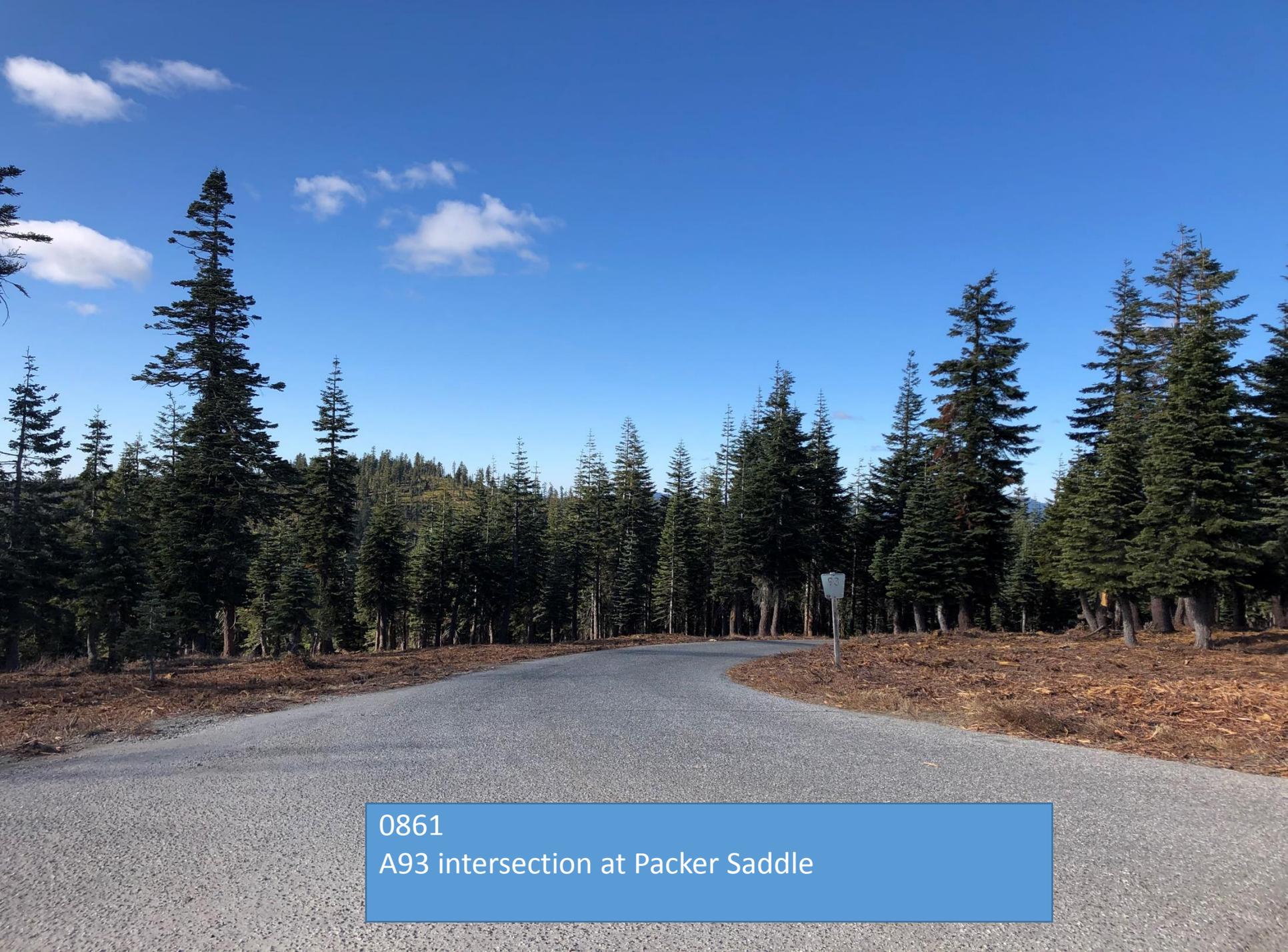
Top of Packer Saddle

Typical 150 ft treatment on either side of road



0855

Vegetation retained near trails for aesthetics
(Top of Sunrise Trail Downieville Downhill segment)



0861
A93 intersection at Packer Saddle



0862

Light on land approach

Note mules ear vegetation island untouched



0905

Lop and limb hand crew treatment on steep slopes