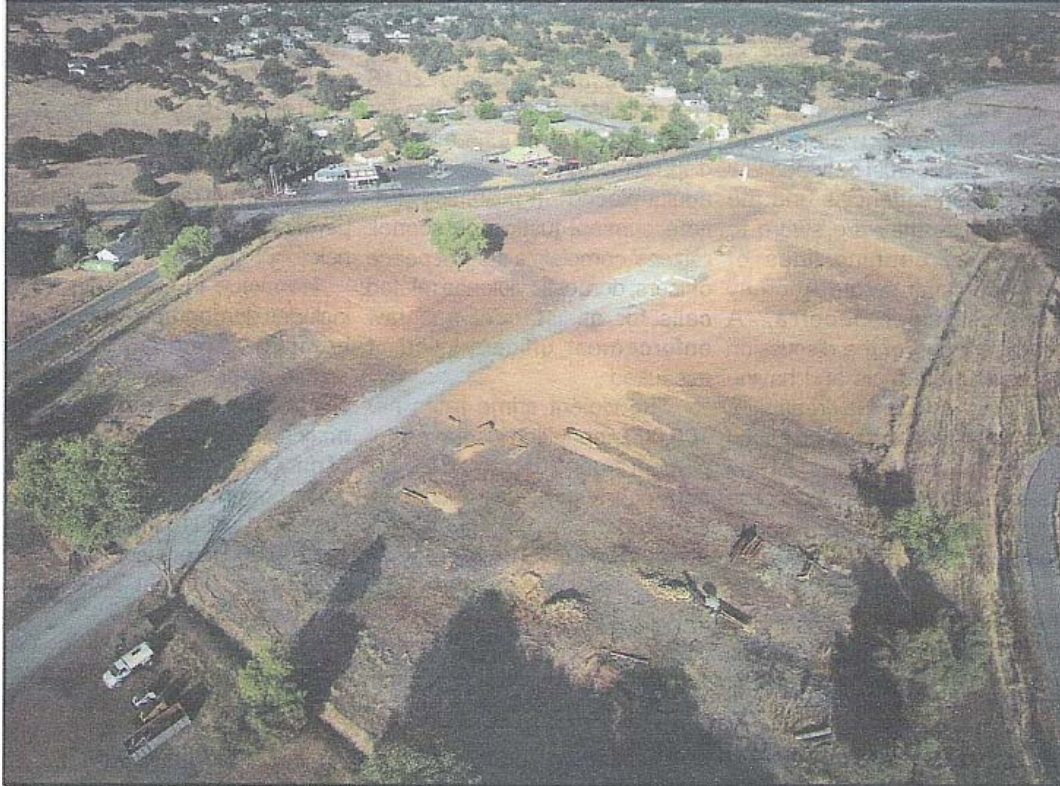


Tree work could shift to Toyon

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By Nick Baptista

Tree grinding work in Wallace has come to a halt and restoration of the property to a state prior to the beginning of the temporary operation is close to completion.



Aerial Harmony's Patrick Roy provides an overhead view of the restoration work at the former tree-grinding operation in Wallace.

Robert Smith, owner of Smith's Grinding out of Mountain Ranch, established the temporary tree grinding operation in early 2016 to dispose of logs from the Butte Fire burn area.

District 1 Supervisor Gary Tofanelli said disposal of Butte Fire-damaged logs has come to an end and the county is working with Smith to move his operations to the Toyon industrial area to grind dead trees being removed due to the drought and bark beetle infestation.

Wallace area residents were excited the grinding operation came to an end, Tofanelli said.

The operation became a topic during the 2016 District 1 Supervisor race as residents from nearby Wallace Lake Estates complained about the noise and dust attributed to grinding of the logs.

"They weren't really mad at Smith's Grinding," Tofanelli said, "they understood all of the circumstances."

The site of the temporary tree-grinding operation once was the site of a lumber mill dating back to 1955.

Tofanelli was satisfied with the restoration work. "It looks pretty good. It's back to the way it was before, if not better."