

# EL DORADO COUNTY MITIGATION FEES

## ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE FEE

The Ecological Preserve Fee Program addresses the need for mitigation of the impacts that development may have on existing rare plant habitats. Fee interests or conservation easements are purchased within a designated area to preserve rare plant habitats. El Dorado County is home to many rare plants that are only found within its borders.

Fees are not randomly created or increased. Not all applicants applying for a permit pay the same fee. The Ecological Preserve applies to three geographic areas; Mitigation Areas 0, 1 and 2. Your geographic location will determine which mitigation approach will be recommended.

Lands in Mitigation Area 0 are within an area designated as the preferred ecological preserve, where on-site mitigation is encouraged. This means you may either set aside part of the property as a protected area, or purchase and protect land in the same ecological preserve that is 1.5 times the developed acreage.

Lands in Mitigation Area 1 are within the rare soils study area and off-site mitigation through payment of the Ecological Preserve Fee is required.

Lands within Mitigation Area 2 are outside areas 0 and 1, but within the EID Service Area, and these lands would share the cost of impacts in the form of fees, because this area is determined to have direct or secondary effect on rare plant lands. This impact can be in the form of traffic congestion, reduced air quality and open space uses.

By law, the Ecological Preserve Fee collected by the County must be allocated strictly to mitigating rare plant preserves ensuring the fees are properly used.

Have questions? Please contact the Community Development Agency Ombudsman, Kyle Zimbelman, at 530-621-5935 or [kyle.zimbelman@edcgov.us](mailto:kyle.zimbelman@edcgov.us).

## PURPOSE

Fees collected to address the need for acquisition and restoration of rare plant habitat (land) due to development in areas that are home to such plants. .

