



PUBLIC NOTICE
Board Meeting of the:
Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District
170 Russell Ave. Suite C
Susanville, CA 96130
5302574127 ext. 100
Attachments available 3/22/21 at www.honeylakevalleyrcd.us

Date: Thursday, March 25th, 2021
Location: HELD REMOTELY Via ZOOM

This Virtual Meeting is held pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020 that directs Californians to follow public health directives including canceling large gatherings. The Executive Order also allows local legislative bodies to hold meetings via conference calls while still satisfying state transparency requirements. Executive Order N-33-20, prohibits people from leaving their homes or places of residence except to access necessary supplies and services or to engage in specified critical infrastructure employment.

Note: Pursuant to the Brown Act, Section 54953(b)(2). Section (b) (2) requires that all votes taken during a teleconference meeting shall be by roll call. Any agenda item may be discussed in a different order, if necessary. The Board may take action whether items are listed as action, information or discussion. The meeting is being held solely by remote means and will be made accessible to members of the public seeking to attend and address the Board solely through the phone number set forth below.

Join us on Zoom with information below:

Meeting ID: 875 8922 1871
Passcode: 762114
One tap mobile
+16699006833,,87589221871#,,,,*762114# US (San Jose)
+13462487799,,87589221871#,,,,*762114# US (Houston)

Dial by your location
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Time: 3:30 PM

AGENDA

NOTE: THE HONEY LAKE VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT MAY ADVISE ACTION ON ANY OF THE AGENDA ITEMS SHOWN BELOW.

NOTE: IF YOU NEED A DISABILITY-RELATED MODIFICATION OR ACCOMMODATION, INCLUDING AUXILIARY AIDS OR SERVICES, TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT THE DISTRICT OFFICE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER AND ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE AT LEAST A DAY BEFORE THE MEETING.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL**

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Tie to the Strategic Plan: Strategic Issue 1 – Build HLVRCD leadership & organizational capacity.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Per RCD Board Policy No. 5030.4.1, during this portion of the meeting, any member of the public is permitted to make a brief statement, express his/her viewpoint, or ask a question regarding matters related to the District. Five (5) minutes may be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of twenty (20) minutes to each subject matter.

IV. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 2/25/2021
- B. Treasurer's Report
- C. Correspondence

Tie to the Strategic Plan: Strategic Issue 1 – Build HLVRCD leadership & organizational capacity.

V. REPORTS

- A. District Manager Report – Stuemky
- B. NRCS Agency Report – Stephens
- C. SWAT - Hanson
- D. WAC Report – Langston
- E. Modoc Regional RCD/CARCD Report – Tippin
- F. Fire Safe Council Report – Johnson
- G. IRWMP Report – Claypool
- H. Unagendized reports by board members

Tie to the Strategic Plan: Strategic Issue 1 – Build HLVRCD leadership & organizational capacity.

VI. ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION AND/OR DISCUSSION – RCD

- A. Consideration and approval of the cooperative agreement between HLVRCD and LFSC to be CEQA lead agency on the Hwy 36 Fuel Reduction project (between Hwy 44 and Eagle Lake Rd.). (attachment) – Tim Keeseey

Tie to the Strategic Plan: Strategic Issue 1 – Build HLVRCD leadership & organizational capacity

- B. Consideration and approval of CEQA Notice of Exemption for Hwy 36 Fuel Reduction project. (attachment) – Tim Keeseey

Tie to the Strategic Plan: Strategic Issue 1 – Build HLVRCD leadership & organizational capacity

- C. Consideration and approval of cooperative agreement between HLVRCD and LFSC to be CEQA lead agency on the Bootsle Project. (attachment) – Tim Keeseey

Tie to the Strategic Plan: Strategic Issue 1 – Build HLVRCD leadership & organizational capacity

- D. Consideration and approval of approval of CEQA Notice of Exemption for Bootsle Project. (attachment) – Tim Keeseey

Tie to the Strategic Plan: Strategic Issue 1 – Build HLVRCD leadership & organizational capacity

- E. Consideration and approval about the formation of an official Property Owners Burn Association modeled after the Plumas and Butte County RCD's programs. Previously tabled from 2/25 meeting – Will Johnson

Tie to the Strategic Plan: Strategic Issue 1 – Build HLVRCD leadership & organizational capacity

- F. Consideration and approval of HLVRCD CWPP project submission for the upcoming CWPP meeting discussing fuel treatments, prescriptive burns, and drainage systems.– Will Johnson

Tie to the Strategic Plan: Strategic Issue 1 – Build HLVRCD leadership & organizational capacity

VII. ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION AND/OR DISCUSSION– WATERMASTER

- A. Consideration and Approval to pay BBK March 2021 Invoices #898994 (\$1,974.51) and #898995 (\$1,702.59) (attachments).

Tie to the Strategic Plan: Strategic Issue 1.4 – Watermaster services are professionally provided.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The next Honey Lake Valley RCD meeting will be **April 22nd, 2021, at 5:30 PM.** The location is the USDA Service Center, 170 Russell Avenue, Suite C, Susanville, CA.

I certify that on Monday, March 22nd, 2021 agendas were posted as required by Government Code Section 54956 and any other applicable law.

X 

Andrea Stuemky
District Manager



PUBLIC NOTICE
Regular Board Meeting of the:
Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District
170 Russell Ave. Suite C
Susanville, CA 96130
530-257-7271 ext. 100
Attachments available 2/22/21 at www.honeylakevalleyrcd.us

Date: Thursday, February 25th, 2021

Location: HELD REMOTELY Via ZOOM

This Virtual Meeting is held pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020 that directs Californians to follow public health directives including canceling large gatherings. The Executive Order also allows local legislative bodies to hold meetings via conference calls while still satisfying state transparency requirements. Executive Order N-33-20, prohibits people from leaving their homes or places of residence except to access necessary supplies and services or to engage in specified critical infrastructure employment.

Note: Pursuant to the Brown Act, Section 54953(b)(2). Section (b) (2) requires that all votes taken during a teleconference meeting shall be by roll call. Any agenda item may be discussed in a different order, if necessary. The Board may take action whether items are listed as action, information or discussion. The meeting is being held solely by remote means and will be made accessible to members of the public seeking to attend and address the Board solely through the phone number set forth below.

Time: 3:30 PM

MEETING MINUTES
votes taken via role call

NOTE: THE HONEY LAKE VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT MAY ADVISE ACTION ON ANY OF THE AGENDA ITEMS SHOWN BELOW.

NOTE: IF YOU NEED A DISABILITY-RELATED MODIFICATION OR ACCOMMODATION, INCLUDING AUXILIARY AIDS OR SERVICES, TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT THE DISTRICT OFFICE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER AND ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE AT LEAST A DAY BEFORE THE MEETING.

I. CALL TO ORDER. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. ROLL CALL

Board member Jesse Claypool called the meeting to order at 3:35pm, and a quorum was noted.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board member Will Johnson made a motion to approve agenda, Board member Laurie Tippin seconded, and the motion passed. All.

Tie to the Strategic Plan: Strategic Issue 1 – Build HLVRCD leadership & organizational capacity.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

Per RCD Board Policy No. 5030.4.1, during this portion of the meeting, any member of the public is permitted to make a brief statement, express his/her viewpoint, or ask a question regarding matters related to the District. Five (5) minutes may be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of twenty (20) minutes to each subject matter.

IV. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 1/28/2021
- B. Treasurer's Report
- C. Correspondence

Board member Robin Hanson made a motion to approve agenda, Board member Laurie Tippin seconded, and the motion passed. All.

Tie to the Strategic Plan: Strategic Issue 1 – Build HLVRCD leadership & organizational capacity.

V. REPORTS

- A. District Manager Report – Stuemky
 - Stuemky reported on bank account updates, CalRecycle grant updates, DACI grant updates, and future grant opportunities.
- B. NRCS Agency Report – Stephens
 - Stephens reported on the NRCS money available for workshops, and fire restoration related projects.
- C. SWAT – Hanson
 - Hanson reported that she and Will Johnson are working together to put together invasive weed information to send out with apportionments and have info available on our website.
- D. WAC Report – Langston
 - Langston reported that there is not much activity other than irrigation season beginning next week. WAC meeting next month, and that the WM truck is fixed.
- E. Modoc Regional RCD/CARCD Report – Tippin
 - Tippin reported that the CARCD meeting discussed the Riparian Corridor restoration grant funding would be available soon. CARCD also has funding capacity now for a revolving loan fund for RCD's.
- F. Fire Safe Council Report – Johnson
 - Johnson reported a conversation with Tom Esgate, and is currently working on a CWPP plan to submit.

- G. IRWMP Report – Claypool
- Claypool reported that he talked with Joe Egan about the Johnstonville Dam project to get an update. JUB Engineering will most likely be leading that project as well.
- H. Unagendized reports by board members –
- Tippin reported that NACD conference had a large amount of participation, and was a worthwhile conference.
 - Hanson reported that she was working on getting her CSDA login to complete the required board trainings.
 - Claypool reported that board members needed to submit their 700 forms soon. Reminded the board about CSDA webinars available. He also reported on the DM 6-month evaluation and that they approved a wage increase of \$2.00/hr.

Tie to the Strategic Plan: Strategic Issue 1 – Build HLVRCD leadership & organizational capacity.

VI. ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION AND/OR DISCUSSION – RCD

- A. Consideration and agreement to submit a letter of support to CSDA, supporting AB 361 Brown Act/Declared Emergencies. (attachment)
- Board member Laurie Tippin made a motion to approve the letter of support, board member Wayne Langston seconded and the motion passed. All.

Tie to the Strategic Plan: Strategic Issue 1 – Build HLVRCD leadership & organizational capacity

- B. Consideration and approval of HLVRCD to partner with CalTrans in a cooperative agreement with CalTrans and LFSC regarding clearing around right-a-ways along highways in Lassen County. – Tom March
- Board member Laurie Tippin made a motion to approve the partnership and cooperative agreement with CalTrans, board member Will Johnson seconded and the motion passed. All.

Tie to the Strategic Plan: Strategic Issue 1 – Build HLVRCD leadership & organizational capacity

- C. Consideration and approval the new policy #2505 regarding paid holidays, in agreement with approved Employee Handbook changes section 6.6 - pg. 25. (attachment)
- Board member Laurie Tippin made a motion to approve policy #2505, board member Will Johnson seconded and the motion passed. All.

Tie to the Strategic Plan: Strategic Issue 1 – Build HLVRCD leadership & organizational capacity

- D. Consideration and discussion about local biochar production (small scale open flame cap burns and kilns) with regard to future programming and demonstrations. – Will Johnson
- Will Johnson discussed different educational materials that the RCD could create and

post on the website, create webinars and workshops, etc. Wayne Langston suggested that he and Johnson get together for burning and to create appropriate educational materials.

Tie to the Strategic Plan: Strategic Issue 1 – Build HLVRCD leadership & organizational capacity

- E. Consideration and approval about the formation of an official Property Owners Burn Association modeled after the Plumas and Butte County RCD's programs. – Will Johnson
- Tabled for future meeting: March 25th 2021.

Tie to the Strategic Plan: Strategic Issue 1 – Build HLVRCD leadership & organizational capacity

- F. Consideration and discussion about developing items to submit to the upcoming CWPP meeting for fuel treatments, prescriptive burns, and drainage systems. (attachment) – Will Johnson
- Will Johnson discussed the different projects that the RCD can submit for the CWPP solicitation. Some examples included habitat improvements, Bizz Johnson/Hobo Camp trail, Susan river overgrown river corridor. The CWPP project ideas are due March 29th by 5pm.

Tie to the Strategic Plan: Strategic Issue 1 – Build HLVRCD leadership & organizational capacity

VII. ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION AND/OR DISCUSSION– WATERMASTER

- A. Consideration and Approval to pay BBK February 2021 Invoices #896771 (\$2,029.58) and #896772 (\$4,340.34) (attachments).
- Board member Will Johnson made a motion to approve the payment to BBK for the February invoices, board member Robin Hanson seconded and the motion passed. All.

Tie to the Strategic Plan: Strategic Issue 1.4 – Watermaster services are professionally provided.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – 02/25/2021 at 5:47PM

The next Honey Lake Valley RCD meeting will be **March 25th, 2021, at 3:30 PM.**
The location is the USDA Service Center, 170 Russell Avenue, Suite C, Susanville, CA.

Respectfully Submitted,



Andrea Stuemky
District Manager

APPROVED: _____
Jesse Claypool, RCD Board
Chairperson

DATE:

South Eagle Lake (SEL) Hwy 36 Right-of-Way CEQA

Cooperative Agreement Between

**Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District
&
Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. (LFSC)**

March 25, 2021

Project Identification:

This agreement is for the Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (HLVRCD) to serve as the lead agency, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15051 (b) (1), for the proposed Hwy 36 Right-of-Way (ROW) Fuel Treatments Project.

HLVRCD and LFSC Responsibilities:

LFSC will prepare the necessary documentation for meeting the goal of full compliance under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and all CEQA process documentation for the Hwy 36 Right-of-Way (ROW) Fuel Treatments Project. HLVRCD will review, organize, file and adopt all necessary documentation in compliance with CEQA Guidelines. All products will be delivered in accordance with the attached Standard Clauses (Exhibit A).

Duration of Contract:

The duration of this Contract will extend from March 22, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

Project Managers:

The project manager for Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. is Tom Esgate. Project manager for the HLVRCD is Andrea Stuemky.

Method of Payment:

Payment will be for CEQA County Clerk Processing fee of \$50 plus \$1,400 for RCD staff time, not to exceed \$1,450.

Standard Provisions:

Exhibit A, containing standard provisions are included below and by this reference incorporated herein.

Execution:

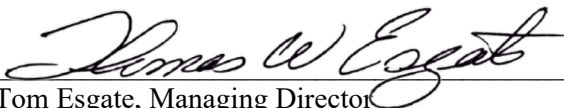
Honey Lake Valley RCD

Honey Lake Valley RCD

Date

68-0003580
Tax ID#

Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc.



Tom Esgate, Managing Director

3/22/21
Date

Standard Clauses
Exhibit A

Worker's Compensation Clause

Vendor agrees to comply with provisions of Section 3700 of the California Labor Code which requires every employer to be insured against liability for workers' compensation or to undertake self-insurance in accordance with the provisions of that Code, before commencing the performance of the work under this Contract. Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. will make its contractors and subcontractors aware of this provision and determine that they have complied with it before commencing work on the project. Volunteer laborers are exempt from the worker's compensation provision of the California Labor Code.

National Labor Relations Board Clause

In accordance with Public Contract Code Section 10296, Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. declares under penalty of perjury that no more than one final, unappealable finding of contempt of court by a federal court has been issued against the Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. within the immediately preceding two-year period because of Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc.'s failure to comply with an order of a federal court which orders Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. to comply with an order of the National Labor Relations Board.

Nondiscrimination Clause

During the performance of this Contract, Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc., its contractors, and subcontractors shall not deny the Contract's benefit to any person on the basis of religion, color, ethnic group identification, sex, age, physical or mental disability, nor shall they discriminate unlawfully against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, physical handicap, mental disability, medical condition, marital status, age (over 40), or sex. Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. shall insure that the evaluation and treatment of employees and applicants for employment are free of such discrimination. Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc., its contractor, and subcontractor shall comply with the provisions of the Fair Employment and Housing Act (Government Code Section 12900 et seq.) and the regulations promulgated thereunder (California Administrative Code, Title 2 Sections 7285.0 et seq.), the provisions of Article 9.5, Chapter 1, Part 1, Division 3, Title 2 of the Government Code (Government Code Section 11135-11139.5), and the regulations or standards adopted by the awarding State agency to implement such article.

Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc., its contractors, and subcontractors shall give written notice of their obligations under this clause to labor organizations with which they have a collective bargaining or other agreement.

Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. shall include the nondiscrimination and compliance provision of this clause in all subcontracts to perform work under the Contract.

Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc., its contractors, and subcontractors shall permit access by representatives of the Department of Fair Employment and Housing and the awarding State agency, upon reasonable notice, at any time during the normal business hours, but in no case less than 24 hours notice, to such of its books, records, accounts, other sources of information, and its facilities as said Department or Agency shall require to ascertain compliance with this clause. The Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc.'s signature on this contract shall constitute a certification under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. has, unless exempted, complied with the nondiscrimination program requirements of Government Code Section 12990 and Title 2, California Code of Regulations Section 8103.

Hold Harmless

The Vendor and Landowner agree to mutually save harmless, Landowners and Vendor, their agents or employees and to hold the same free and harmless from any and all claims, demands, damages, losses, costs, expenses or liability due or incident to, either in whole or in part, and whether directly or indirectly, related to the project resulting from any and all contractors, subcontractors, materialmen, laborers and any other person, firm or corporation furnishing or supplying work, services, materials or supplies in connection with the performance of this contract, and from any and all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any person, firm or corporation who may be injured or damaged by the Landowner or Vendor in the performance of this contract, except all claims due to willful negligence or fraud. The hold harmless damages shall include damages from floods, fires or other Acts of Nature, as well as, any upstream or downstream effects.

Compliance With Laws, Regulations, Permit Requirements

The Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. shall at all times comply with, and require its contractors and subcontractors to comply with, all applicable federal and State laws, rules and regulations, permit and all applicable local ordinances, specifically including but not limited to environmental, procurement and safety laws, rules, regulations, permits and ordinances.

Successors and Assigns

This Contract and all of its provisions shall apply to and bind the successors and assigns of the parties hereto. No assignment or transfer of this Contract or any part hereof, rights hereunder or interest herein by the Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. shall be valid unless and until it is approved by the Landowners and made subject to such reasonable terms and conditions as the Landowners may impose.

Audit Requirement

Pursuant to Government Code Section 10532, the contracting parties shall be subject to the examination and audit of the State and the State Auditor General for a period of three years after final payment under this Contract with respect to all matters connected with the performance of this Contract, including but not limited to the cost of administering this Contract. All records of the Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. shall be preserved for this purpose for at least three years after completion of the project.

Remedies Not Exclusive

The use by either party of any remedy specified herein for the enforcement of this Contract is not exclusive and shall not deprive the party using such remedy of, or limit the application of, any other remedy provided by law.

Amendments

This Contract may be amended at any time by mutual agreement of the parties, except insofar as any proposed amendments are in any way contrary to applicable law. Requests by the Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. for amendments must be in writing stating the amendment request and the reason for the request.

Waiver of Rights

It is the intention of the parties hereto that from time to time either party may waive any of its rights under this Contract unless contrary to law. Any waiver by either party hereto of rights arising in connection with this Contract shall not be deemed to be a waiver with respect to any other rights or matters.

Notices

All notices that are required either expressly or by implication to be given by one party to the other under this Contract shall be signed for the Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. and for the Landowners by such officers as from time to time may be authorized in writing to so act. All such notices shall be deemed to have been given if delivered personally or if enclosed in a properly addressed, postage paid envelope and deposited in a United States Post Office for delivery by registered or certified mail.

NOTICE OF CEQA EXEMPTION

To: Lassen County Clerk
220 South Lassen Street
Susanville, CA 96130

From: Honey Lake Valley RCD
170 Russel Avenue
Susanville, CA 96130
530-257-7271

Date: March 25, 2021

Project Title:

Hwy 36 Right-of-Way Fuel Treatments between Hwy 44 and Eagle Lake Rd.

Project Location:

Township 30 North, Range 11 East, portions of Sections 33-36; Mount Diablo Meridian, State of California.

Project Description:

This project will implement fuel reduction activities to reduce fuels within the Hwy 36 ROW between Hwy 44 and Eagle Lake Road resulting in a large fuel break that can be used by fire fighters and safety personnel to protect homes, communities and public and private lands from fire while protecting environmental, natural and cultural resources. The project will reduce fuel loads and create a fuel break along Hwy 36 adjacent to, and/or near the community of Lake Forest and Susanville. The target fuels are small and suppressed trees, brush, and downed fuels. The project also includes the removal of trees within the ROW to enhance the fuel break and improve highway safety.

Much of the thinning activity and tree removal will be conducted under a California Forest Practice Rules Utility ROW Exemption (§1104.1(b)). The balance of the treatment activities, including the mastication of brush and small trees, hand treatments of brush and small trees and emergent brush follow-up treatments will be conducted under this Notice of Exemption (NOE).

Exempt Status (Guidelines Section and Class): Categorical Exemption:

15304, which exempts minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

This review for hazard fuel reduction on the Hwy 36 Caltrans ROW concludes that project implementation as designed would have less than significant impact in each resource area. Class 4 exemption (CCR Section 15304) covers minor alterations to vegetation such as fuel reduction activities. The Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (RCD) has determined that the objective of fuel reduction and the implementation activities as designed for this project will result in minor alterations to land and therefore fit within the CCR Section 15304 exemption. Additional environmental analysis was conducted by Registered Professional Foresters and Environmental Specialists regarding proposed project effects on rare, threatened and endangered plants; threatened, endangered and

NOTICE OF CEQA EXEMPTION

special status wildlife species; and cultural resources. The Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (HLVRCD) has reviewed these reports and determined that the project's implementation will result in multiple benefits, including improvement of a fuel break along Hwy 36 that will protect property, human lives, and communities. There will be no significant adverse impacts on endangered, rare, or threatened species or their habitats. There are no hazardous materials at or around the project site. The project will avoid all archeological resource sites. The project will not result in cumulatively significant impacts. The Project will have no significant adverse effect on the environment.

Public Agencies that will be involved with the project:

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District
Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

Andrea Stuemky, District Manager
Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District
530-257-7271

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Jesse Claypool, Chairman
Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District

ATTEST:

I, Andrea Stuemky, Clerk of the Board of Directors, Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, do hereby certify that the Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District approved this Notice of Exemption on the 25th day of March, 2021 by the following vote:

Ayes: _____ Abstentions: _____
Noes: _____ Absent: _____

Andrea Stuemky, Clerk of the Board of Directors
Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District

Environmental Review Report for an Exempt Project

Note: This report form is intended for use by Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (RCD) staff to document a limited environmental impact analysis supporting the filing of a Notice of Exemption (NOE) document for a proposed Honey Lake Valley RCD project. Although the project appears to fit within the descriptions for allowable Categorical Exemptions, this report presents Honey Lake Valley RCD's review for possible "Exceptions" that would preclude finding the project to be categorically exempt as discussed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. This report will be filed with the CEQA administrative record for this project to document the environmental impact analysis conducted by the District.

Author:	Tim Keeseey
Title:	Ecologist/RPF #3134
Address:	1012 Bryant Ave., Chico, CA 95926
Phone:	(530) 260-0934
Email:	timkeeseey@tkeceological.com

Project Name:	Hwy 36 between Hwy 44 and Eagle Lake Road
Project Number:	151 South Eagle Lake WUI Fuel Treatments
Program Type:	Fuel Treatments
CAL FIRE Unit:	Lassen/Plumas/Modoc Unit
County:	Lassen
Acres:	147
Legal Location:	Township (T) 30 North (N), Range (R) 11 East (E), portions of Sections 33 through 36 Mount Diablo Meridian
Name of USGS 7.5' Quad Map(s):	Roop Mountain and Susanville
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Vicinity Map Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Location Map Attached	

Other Public Agency Review/Permit Required:		
Would the project result in:	YES	NO
Alterations to a watercourse (DFW - Lake and Stream Alteration Agreement)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conversion of timberland (CAL FIRE - Conversion Permit or Exemption)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Demolition (Local Air District - Demolition Permit)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Soil disturbance over 1 acre (RWQCB - SWPPP)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fill of possible wetlands (404 Permit - USACE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Discuss any above-listed topic item checked Yes and consultation with agencies:		
<p>There is no planned work within watercourses, or alterations to watercourses within this project. There is no timberland conversion as part of this project. There will be no soil disturbance greater than 1 acre, nor major soil disturbance beyond minor alteration to the vegetation composition, and there is no disturbance or fill to wetlands as part of this project. The project is not located within any transportation right-of-way or scenic highway designation boundary.</p>		

Project Description and Environmental Setting (Describe the project activities, project site and its surroundings, its location, and the environmental setting):
<p>Proposed Project Location</p> <p>The project area is located within the Highway 36 Right-of-way (ROW) between Hwy 44 and the junction with Eagle Lake Road, +/-1.5 miles west of the City of Susanville. It includes portions of: Township (T) 30 North (N), Range (R) 11 East (E), Sections 33 through 36. The project area is within the Cheney Creek (8637.200400) and Lower Piute Creek (8637.200501) watersheds. The project area encompasses 147 acres of Caltrans ROW associated with Hwy 36. The project area is fairly flat to gentle sloping terrain with elevation ranges from 4,800 – 4,960 feet, and average annual precipitation of 18 inches. The project area lies within a wildland urban interface zone (WUI), which is an area where human habitation is mixed with areas of flammable wildland vegetation.</p>
<p>Existing Condition/Need for Proposed Project</p> <p>The Hwy 36 ROW project area is primarily comprised of upland eastside pine stands. Dominant conifer vegetation within the project area includes Jeffrey and ponderosa pine with mixtures of white fir, sugar pine and incense cedar. Understory vegetation is thick in portions of the project area with brush including, bitterbrush (<i>Purshia tridentata</i>) and sagebrush (<i>Artemisia sp.</i>). Experience from the recent Hog Fire (2020) and Sheep Fire (2020), which catastrophically burned thousands of acres within Lassen County, have demonstrated the Hwy 36 is a critical fuel break/anchor point for fire fighters and safety personnel to utilize in order to stop the movement of catastrophic wildfires thereby saving properties, lives, and entire</p>

communities. Maintenance of vegetation within the ROW is needed to develop a fuel break that provides safe conditions for fire fighters and safety personnel to fight future catastrophic wildfires threatening the communities of Lake Forest, Susanville, and associated inhabited areas.

Proposed Action

This project will implement fuel reduction activities to reduce fuels within the Hwy 36 ROW between Hwy 44 and Eagle Lake Road resulting in a large fuel break that can be used by fire fighters and safety personnel to protect homes, communities and public and private lands from fire while protecting environmental, natural and cultural resources. The project will reduce fuel loads and create a fuel break along Hwy 36 adjacent to, and/or near the community of Lake Forest and Susanville (*See Project Vicinity Map*). The target fuels are small and suppressed trees, brush, and downed fuels. The project also includes the removal of trees within the ROW to enhance the fuel break and improve highway safety.

Much of the thinning activity and tree removal will be conducted under a California Forest Practice Rules Utility ROW Exemption (§ 1104.1(b)). The balance of the treatment activities, including the mastication of brush and small trees, hand treatments of brush and small trees and emergent brush follow-up treatments will be conducted under this Notice of Exemption (NOE).

1.1. Mastication and Hand Treatment of Brush and Small Trees

Mastication involves the pulverization of brush, slash, and excessive natural tree regeneration to improve forest health and redistribute understory fuels in order to maintain an average spacing of trees of 17' by 17' (150 trees per acre). Trees that are over 18" in height and less than 8" diameter at breast height (dbh) will be treated. Brush greater than 18" in height will be treated. Snags less than 12" dbh will be treated, unless they show signs of use by wildlife or are marked with an "L", "W", or tag identifying them as a "Wildlife Tree". Woody debris less than 12" diameter which extends greater than 12" from the ground will be treated. Areas with concentrations of activity fuels (i.e. logging slash) will be treated. Treated materials will not extend greater than 12" from the ground.

Good form should be considered when selecting leave trees in order to reduce the number of trees with crooks, doglegs, multiple tops, or other defects. Trees exhibiting poor vigor, mechanical damage, or disease and or insect infestation shall not be retained unless they are the best available tree. Trees that have a likelihood of creating a "ladder" for fire to move into the crowns of overstory trees have a lower priority as leave trees. Trees that do not exceed the maximum size and that are within 10' of roads that have the potential to affect vehicular traffic use or to allow a fire to spread across the road shall be treated. Leave trees will be prioritized in the following order: 1) incense cedar; 2) ponderosa pine; 3) white fir; and 4) sugar pine

1.2. Emergent Brush Follow-Up Treatments:

Emergent brush follow-up treatments involves the use of pesticides to treat emergent vegetation in order to maintain the fuel break and forest spacing established by the mastication and hand thinning.

After brushfields and dense tree stands are cleared, native and non-native woody species aggressively reoccupy the site, regardless of the method of initial brush removal. The regrowth is typically from both old, vigorously sprouting plants and new dense stands of small seedlings, but in certain situations either seedlings or sprouts alone make up most of the regrowth. Control of this brush regrowth has been the most persistent and perplexing problem in converting dense stands of small diameter, unhealthy trees and shrubs that are subject to stand replacing and dangerous fire conditions to productive timber stands that can withstand a low to medium intensity fire and provide increased wildfire protection to communities. Sprouts from previously dormant buds on root crowns, stems, or roots left after initial brush removal have been most difficult to control. Herbicides have been shown to be an efficient cost-effective method of meeting this objective.

The following alternatives were considered, in addition to the one selected, and were disregarded for the following reasons:

- 1) Do Nothing. Loss of vegetation control investments, loss of property values due to associated fire hazard, and watershed impacts from anticipated wildfire.
- 2) Mechanical or Manual Treatment. Mechanical and manual treatments alone are not cost effective and would

require multiple re-entries to re-treat the re-sprouting brush. This method would result in scarification of additional weed seeds that would result in ongoing germinate brush.

3) Biological Treatment. There is no known effective biological treatment. Cattle and sheep are grazers and not browsers and would not effectively forage on the target brush species. Goats are browsers and could be used to forage on the target brush species; however, the brush would re-sprout resulting in the need for ongoing treatments. There are very few goat herds available for brush control in the region. Goats can be very selective on which brush species they will browse.

4) Other Pesticides. Of the pesticides registered for this use, these were determined to be the most appropriate when considering cost-effectiveness and safety to desirable crop trees and the environment.

All pest control shall be with the use of pesticides. The landowner does not have any other cost-effective alternative to consider.

1.3. Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fire is a very cost and time efficient management tool. The native species within the project boundary have all evolved with and are adapted to frequent fire intervals. Using low intensity, more frequent prescribed fires allows native species to thrive and can also reduce invasive species populations. Prescribed burning, in this project, will be used to reduce the fuel load of ground fuels, coarse woody debris, as well as a portion of the above ground biomass. The purpose of the fire is to reduce the risk of large damaging fires by creating conditions that increase effectiveness of fire suppression.

Through prescribed fire, land managers can have a say in the timing and intensity of the fire. Land managers can also lessen the impacts or provide benefits for other environmental resources. Fire hazard reduction may be an objective of prescribed fire; however, there are other objectives such as wildlife habitat improvement, range improvement, enhancement of the project areas appearance, and improved safety by reducing the amount of dead and dying vegetation. If a wildfire does happen to enter an area that was treated, the wildfire may be contained sooner with reduced area burned at high intensity. The reduced number of acres or fire intensity will have benefits to other resource, including environmental resources, public health, and public and firefighter safety.

All prescribed fires will be subject to local and state regulation to maintain air quality and reduce fire escape risk. Prescribed burning is regulated by the Lassen County Air Pollution Control District (LCAPCD) in compliance with the state smoke management plan, Title 17. Prescribed burn projects must submit a Smoke Management Plan to LCAPCD for review and approval. The plan is developed to minimize air quality impacts of the project. Burning is done on approved burn days as determined by LCAPCD. This process ensures that there are no significant smoke impacts to public health from the project.

The desired fire intensity is low to moderate. A prescribed burn plan will be developed for prescribed fires within the project area prior to implementation that outlines the parameters (timing, weather, fuel moisture, etc.) necessary to implement the project to ensure that the fire remains low to moderate intensity and does not escape the project perimeter. In addition the plan will identify protocols should the fire escape. All prescribed fire activities carry a risk of fire escape, but the project design has reduced this risk below a significant level. By conducting burns in the off-season and with highly trained fire professionals (CAL FIRE) on site, the project reduces the risk of wildfire below the level of risk associated with the no-project alternative. Spotting outside of fire lines should not be a problem with correct firing methods and weather patterns as prescribed in the burn plan. By reducing fuels while leaving slope and other factors unchanged, the project will reduce, not exacerbate the effects of any future wildfire.

Environmental Impact Analysis

Aesthetics

This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.

This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The existing visual character of the site and its surroundings is expected to improve as thinning creates longer vistas and better opportunities to view wildlife and native wildflowers. The proposed project does not contain any scenic vistas, nor is the project area visible from an established scenic vista.

Agriculture and Forest Resources

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.
 This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

- Yes No Would any trees be felled? If yes, discuss protection of nesting birds and compliance with FPRs.
 Yes No Would the project convert any prime or unique farmland?
 Yes No Would the project result in the conversion of forest land or timberland to non-forest use?

Tree felling will be conducted under a FPR utility ROW exemption (1104.1(b)), and will abide by FPR's regarding the protection of nesting birds. Proposed activities, as designed under this exemption will not affect nesting birds. If nesting birds are identified adjacent to the project area during implementation, all identified nests will be protected with buffers and Limited Operating Periods (LOP's), similar to those within the FPRs.

Air Quality

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.
 This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

- Yes No The local Air Quality Management District (LCAPCD) guidelines for dust abatement and other air quality concerns were reviewed for this project.

The project proposes underburning and pile burning of up to 148 acres. Creation of smoke will occur as a result of this project. All burn operations will occur in compliance with all standards set forth by the Lassen County Air Pollution Control District (LCAPCD) Smoke Management Plan and LCAPCD Air Pollution Permit to mitigate air quality impacts to a level of less than significant.

Biological Resources

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.
 This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

- Yes No Will the project potentially effect biological resources?
 Yes No Was a current CNDDDB review completed? Results discussed below.
 Yes No Was a biological survey of the project area completed? Results discussed below.

An assessment of potential threatened, endangered, and rare (California Native Plant Society Rank 1 and 2) vascular plants, bryophytes, lichens, and fungi, was conducted, and surveys for species with potential habitat in the project area was conducted. (See Attachment A – Biological Assessment – Botany). This assessment included a CNDDDB 3-mile search around the project area, and a nine-quad search for rare plants using the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) BIOS system (<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/BIOS>). This includes searching for rare plants identified within the area of the 7.5' quadrangles where the project is primarily located (Susanville) along with the eight surrounding quads. The Calflora (<https://www.calflora.org/>), and California Native Plant Society inventory of rare plants (<http://www.rareplants.cnps.org/>) were also used, as well as consideration to past experience in the area. No endangered, threatened, candidate, rare, or species of special concern were identified within the project area. Habitat that supports these species within the project area will be protected with Water course Lake Protection Zones (WLPZs). It has been determined that the proposed project as designed will have no impact on threatened, endangered, candidate, rare, or watch list botanical species.

An assessment of potential threatened, endangered, and wildlife species of special concern was conducted, and a survey was conducted of the project area (See Attachment A: Biological Assessment – Wildlife). This assessment included a 3-mile CNDDDB search (See Attachment A), a search of the CDFW BIOS system for sensitive wildlife species identified within the Susanville and Roop Mountain 7.5' quadrangles, and consideration of past experience in the area.

Suitable habitat or evidence of endangered, threatened, or wildlife species of special concern was not identified during project surveys. It has been determined that the proposed project as designed will have no impact on threatened, endangered, candidate, or wildlife species of special concern.

Cultural Resources

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.
 This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Yes No Was a current archaeological records check completed?

Yes. The Northeast Information Center (NEIC) Archaeological Records Search identified 0 previously recorded sites within the project area, and two sites adjacent to the project area.

Yes No Was a Staff or Contract Archaeologist consulted? Yes.

An RPF with CALFIRE Archaeological Training for Resource Professionals Certification conducted background research and a survey of the project area.

Yes No Was an archaeological survey of the project area completed?

Yes; no sites were identified during the archaeological survey.

Yes No Will the project effect any historic buildings or archaeological site?

No. The project will have no effect on any cultural resources. Any additional sites discovered during implementation will be documented, flagged and avoided.

Geology and Soils

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.
 This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Mastication treatments are expected to result in an increase in effective soil cover and fine organic matter as masticated debris is broadcasted away from the machine.

Effective soil cover and surface organic matter standards would be met with hand treatment because the forest floor is substantially less disturbed relative to mechanical thinning and because hand piling limits the amount of slash that can be cost-effectively removed from the treated units. Soil compaction and topsoil displacement caused by hand thinning treatments would be practically nonexistent since no heavy equipment traffic is involved. Pile burning would decrease soil cover to zero under the pile and there is a risk of nutrient pollution in ash moving off site to water bodies. The small areal extent of burn piles on the landscape would ensure that runoff in the treated areas would not be substantially increased and soil nutrients not significantly impacted.

Prescribed fire can decrease soil cover since the duff layer and fine organic matter will be partially consumed by fire, but prescribed fire treatments would be designed and timed to burn at low severity so that effective soil cover and surface organic matter are not heavily impacted. Additionally, specifications would be included in contracts or direction to crews to ensure that minimum soil cover and surface organic matter standards and desired conditions are met. BMPs used during prescribed burning are highly effective at preventing water quality impacts.

In summary, vegetation treatments proposed under this project would not significantly impair soil quality. Water quality would effectively be protected by BMPs and project design elements, assuring that State-defined beneficial uses of water would not be significantly affected. Soil hydrologic function would be protected, and vegetation treatments would not significantly affect project area hydrology.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.
 This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below

Yes No Would the project generate significant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?

Not when considered over the life of the project. This project would include up to 148 acres of underburning and pile-burning which may cause an immediate release of carbon, and hence a small and short-term impact to GHG emissions. This project's modest release of GHGs should be weighed alongside the potential for catastrophic wildfire, with its extreme release of greenhouse gases, which the project is designed to make less likely. California's Forest Carbon Action Plan describes how Sierran forests were and are able to act as a long-term carbon sink even as they burned regularly, but forests that experienced long-term fire suppression eventually became net carbon sources. Thus, GHG releases from low-intensity fire are not inconsistent with net GHG reductions; in fact, they may be necessary to achieve them. In conclusion, this project, as proposed, will have no significant adverse impact on the annual release of GHGs.

Yes No Would these GHG emissions result in a significant impact on the environment?

No. See above.

Yes No Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

No, this project does not conflict with the State of CA plan to reduce carbon or greenhouse gas emissions, and is a permissible practice within the LCAPCD.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.
 This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Hydrology and Water Quality

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.
 Yes No Will the project potentially affect any watercourse or body of water?
 This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Mastication equipment will be utilized for hazardous fuel reduction activities. For the protection of water quality, existing drainage patterns, and to minimize surface runoff and surface erosion, the project incorporates FPR WLPZ protection buffers where mechanical equipment is excluded.

The project entails treatment of suppressed trees, dead and dying trees, woody vegetation and brush, and will have no effect on groundwater supplies. Through the establishment of the WLPZs, existing drainage patterns will be protected. The project will not alter the course of any stream or river.

Land Use and Planning

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.

This project does not conflict with any land use or planning or change the land use designation for any parcel.

This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Mineral Resources

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.

There are no known or related mineral resources or extraction as part of this project, and the project does not restrict access for any future mineral extraction activities.

This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Noise

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The proposed project will entail the use of mechanical equipment. Equipment operations will be within the allowable limits established by the County of Lassen. During the actual fuel reduction activities, there could be an increase in normal noise levels due to activity associated with the operation of masticators and chainsaws. The project is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport. The project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. The project area is rural and sparsely inhabited and over 2 miles from any school, hospital, or daycare center.

Population and Housing

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.

This project has no applicability to population and housing issues in Lassen County, CA.

- This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Public Services

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.

This project has no applicability to public services or infrastructure in Lassen County, CA. Involvement of police protection, schools, parks, and other public services are not required for project implementation. As such, no adverse impacts to public services are expected from project implementation.

- This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Recreation

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.

This project is not located within any special or designated recreation areas. As such, adverse impacts to recreational resources as a result of implementation of the proposed project are not expected.

- This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Transportation/Traffic

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.

- This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Minimal increases in traffic along adjacent public roads could occur as a result of project implementation as the project coordinators, equipment operators, fire crews, and hand thinning crew will be accessing project units. This increase in traffic will be minor and insignificant as the regional roads have been designed to accommodate the anticipated level of traffic. Smoke management plans for prescribed fires and pile burning will address provide mitigation measures to reduce smoke to a level that does not impact travelers on Hwy 36. As such, the project as proposed will not cause significant changes in current transportation traffic patterns and frequencies.

Utilities and Service Systems

This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.

This project will have no bearing or effect on public utilities or service systems.

This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Project Design Features That Avoid Environmental Impacts:

Adverse environmental impacts have been avoided through careful review of site conditions prior to treatment method determination. Site soils, slope, habitat, and water resources were thoroughly examined during project design and layout. Equipment has been excluded from slopes over 40% and all Class II and III Watercourse Protection Zones to provide for soil and water resource protection as well as to protect sensitive aquatic life. All water features have been afforded protection from equipment operations through the establishment of WLPZs. Sensitive plants and wildlife have been identified during the scoping process and surveyed for and the project as designed will not adversely affect them. Sensitive cultural resources have been surveyed for and the project has been designed to have no impact on them.

Mandatory Findings of Significance:

YES **NO**

(a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

(b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probably future projects)

(c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Justification for Use of a Categorical Exemption (discuss why the project is exempt, cite exemption number(s), and describe how the project fits the class): Based on no effects, negative, or cumulative impacts to natural resources, and a greenhouse gas benefit, this project fits within a Categorical Exemption.

This review for hazard fuel reduction on the Hwy 36 Caltrans ROW concludes that project implementation as designed would have less than significant impact in each resource area. Class 4 exemption (CCR Section 15304) covers minor alterations to vegetation such as fuel reduction activities. The Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (RCD) has determined that the objective of fuel reduction and the implementation activities as designed for this project will result in minor alterations to land and therefore fit within the CCR Section 15304 exemption. Additional environmental analysis was conducted by Registered Professional Foresters and Environmental Specialists regarding proposed project effects on rare, threatened and endangered plants; threatened, endangered and special status wildlife species; and cultural resources. The Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (HLVRCD) has reviewed these reports and determined that the project’s implementation will result in multiple benefits, including improvement of a fuel break along Hwy 36 that will protect property, human lives, and communities. There will be no significant adverse impacts on endangered, rare, or threatened species or their habitats. There are no hazardous materials at or around the project site. The project will avoid all archeological resource sites. The project will not result in cumulatively significant impacts. The Project will have no significant adverse effect on the environment.

Conclusion:

After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the description for the various classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA, Honey Lake Valley County RCD has determined that the project fits within one or more of the exemption classes and no exceptions exist at the project site which would preclude the use of this exemption. The District considered the possibility of (a) sensitive location, (b) cumulative impact, (c) significant impact due to unusual circumstances, (d) impacts to scenic highways, (e) activities within a hazardous waste site, and (f) significant adverse change to the significance of any historical resource. A Notice of Exemption will be filed with the Lassen County Clerk-Recorder.

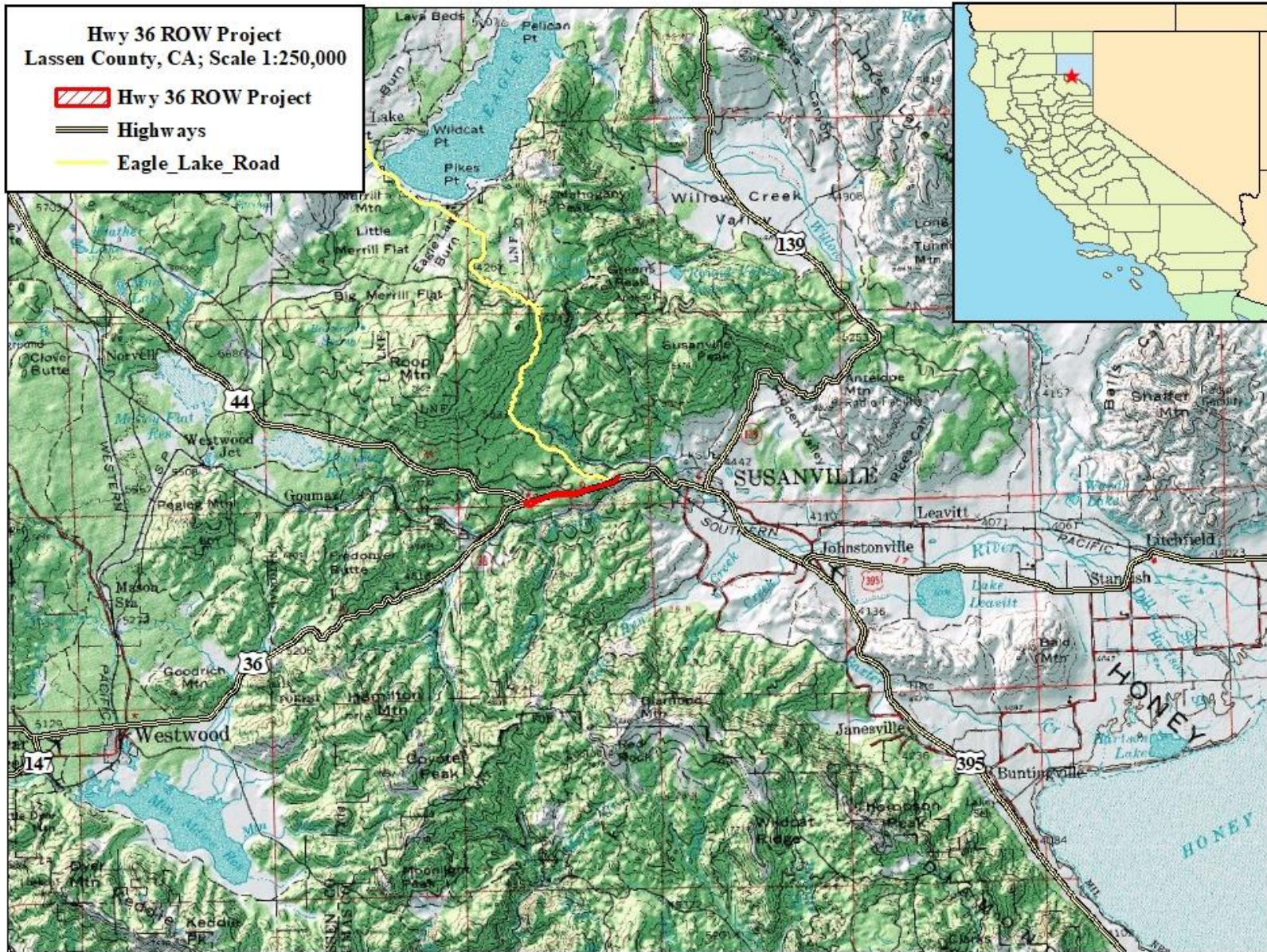
After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the description for the various classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA, Honey Lake Valley County RCD has determined that the project does not fit within the description for the various exemption classes or has found that exceptions exist at the project site which precludes the use of a Categorical Exemption for this project. Additional environmental review will be conducted and the appropriate CEQA document used may be a Negative Declaration or a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Signed:

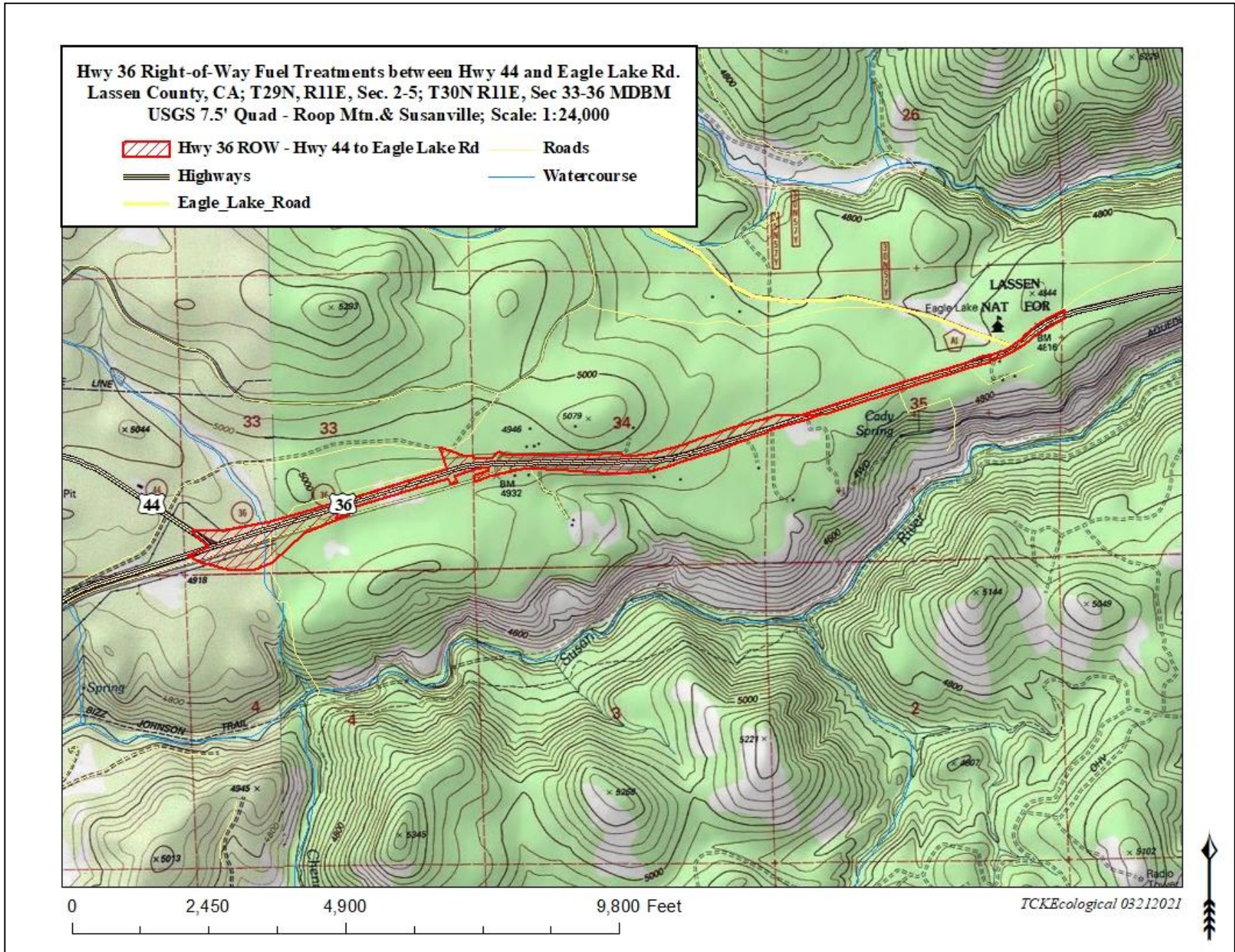
Jesse Claypool, Chairman, Board of Directors
Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District

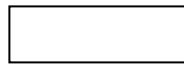
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Map 1: Project Vicinity Map



Map 2: Project Location Map





Attachment A: Biological Assessment – Botany and Wildlife

South Eagle WUI - Hwy 36 Project: Biological Assessment - Botany

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CA Rare Plant Rank	Flowering Period	Elevation (m)*	Habitat/ Ecology	Impact	Rationale
<i>Alisma gramineum</i>	grass alisma	None	None	2B.2	June-Aug	1200-1800	Occurs in wetlands, wetland-riparian; ponds	No	Protected by WLPZ
<i>Lomatium roseanum</i>	adobe lomatium	None	None	1B.2	June-July	1460-2250	Openings, gravelly or rocky; Great Basin scrub; Lower montane coniferous forest	No	Habitat not likely to occur in treatment areas.
<i>Artemisia tripartita ssp. tripartita</i>	threetip sagebrush	None	None	2B.3	Aug.	2200-2600	Rocky, volcanic; Upper Montane coniferous forest (openings)	No	No habitat in project area; Open areas at higher elevations
<i>Pyrrocomma lucida</i>	sticky pyrrocoma	None	None	1B.2	July-Oct	700-2050	Alkaline clay flats; sagebrush scrub; openings in lower montane coniferous forest; meadows and seeps	No	Marginal habitat; not observed during project surveys
<i>Mertensia longiflora</i>	long bluebells	None	None	2B.2	Apr-June	1500-2200	Open, generally spring-moist, druing places of plains, foothills, especially with sagebrush or sparse ponderosa-pine forest	No	No occurrences observed in project area; Nearest observation in Willow Creek Valley 10 mi NE of project area
<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	watershield	None	None	2B.3	June-Sept	<2,200	Wetlands; Wetland riparian; Ponds; slow streams; marshes; swamps	No	Protected by WLPZ; No habitat within project area
<i>Carex davyi</i>	Davy's sedge	None	None	1B.3	May-Aug	1400 - 3300	Usually in wetlands; sub-alpine and red fir forests	No	Protected by WLPZ
<i>Carex sheldonii</i>	Sheldon's sedge	None	None	2B.2	May-Aug	1200-2000	Wetlands; riparian; Lower montane coniferouse forest (mesic); marshes and swamps	No	Protected by WLPZ
<i>Astragalus pulsiferae var. pulsiferae</i>	Pulsifer's milk-vetch	None	None	1B.2	May-June	1300-1700	Volcanic or clay; Great Basin scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland	No	Not observed during project surveys
<i>Phacelia inundata</i>	playa phacelia	None	None	1B.3	May-Aug	1300-2000	Alkaline flats, playas, dry lake margins in Sagebrush Scrub, Alkali Sink, Yellow Pine Forest, wetland-riparian	No	No habitat in project area
<i>Juncus dudleyi</i>	Dudley's rush	None	None	2B.3	July-Aug	<2000	Wet areas in montane conifer forest	No	Protected by WLPZ
<i>Juncus luciensis</i>	Santa Lucia dwarf rush	None	None	1B.2	April-July	300-2040	Wet, sandy soils of seeps, meadows, vernal pools, streams, roadsides; chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest	No	Protected by WLPZ
<i>Botrychium ascendens</i>	upswept moonwort	None	None	2B.3	July-Aug	1500-3200	Moist meadows, open woodland near streams and seeps	No	Protected by WLPZ
<i>Botrychium crenulatum</i>	scalloped moonwort	None	None	2B.2	June-Sept	1500-3600	Saturated hard water seeps and stream margins, mosit meadows, seeps, bogs, and fens	No	Protected by WLPZ

South Eagle WUI - Hwy 36 Project: Biological Assessment - Botany

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CA Rare Plant Rank	Flowering Period	Elevation (m)*	Habitat/ Ecology	Impact	Rationale
<i>Botrychium minganense</i>	Mingan moonwort	None	None	2B.2	July-Sept	1500-3100	Wet soils in forests, along steams	No	Protected by WLPZ
<i>Botrychium montanum</i>	western goblin	None	None	2B.1	July-Sept	1500-2100	Shady conifer woodland, especially under <i>Calocedrus</i> along streams	No	Protected by WLPZ; No habitat within project area
<i>Penstemon janishiae</i>	Janish's beardtongue	None	None	2B.2	May-July	1065-2350	Generally igneous-clay soils in sagebrush scrub, juniper/shrub savanna; ponderosa pine forest	No	No occurrences observed during project surveys; Nearest occurrence in Elysian Valley, E. of project area at lower elevation.
<i>Phlox muscoides</i>	squarestem phlox	None	None	2B.3	June-Aug	1400-2700	Open rocky areas; alpine rock	No	No habitat within project treatment areas
<i>Eriogonum ochrocephalum</i> var. <i>ochrocephalum</i>	ochre-flowered buckwheat	None	None	2B.2	May-June	1300-1700	Volcanic or clay; Great Basin scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland	No	Not observed during project surveys; marginal habitat
<i>Rumex venosus</i>	winged dock	None	None	2B.3	May-June	1200-1800	Dry, sandy places; Great Basin scrub	No	Lack of suitable habitat in project area
<i>Stuckenia filiformis</i> ssp. <i>alpina</i>	slender-leaved pondweed	None	None	2B.2	May-July	300-2150	Shallow, clear water of lakes, drainage channels	No	No habitat in project area
<i>Rhamnus alnifolia</i>	alder buckthorn	None	None	2B.2	May-July	1370-2130	Wetlands; red fir, lodgepole pine, wetland-riparian	No	Protected by WLPZ
<i>Ivesia sericoleuca</i>	Plumas ivesia	None	None	1B.2	May-Oct	1300-2320	Vernally mesic, generally volcanic meadows, vernal pools, Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, freshwater wetlands, wetland-riparian	No	Protected by WLPZ

CNPS Rare Plant Ranks

1B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in CA and elsewhere

2B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in CA, but common elsewhere

Threat Ranks

.1 - seriously threatened in CA

.2 - moderately threatened in CA

.3 - not very threatened in CA

South Eagle WUI – Hwy 36 Project: Biological Assessment - Wildlife

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Habitat in the Project Area	Potential Impact
Insects						
<i>Bombus occidentalis</i>	Western bumblebee	None	Candidate Endangered	Three basic habitat requirements: suitable nesting sites for the colonies, nectar and pollen from floral resources available throughout the duration of the colony period (spring, summer and fall), and suitable overwintering sites for the queens. Nests occur primarily in underground cavities such as old squirrel or other animal nests and in open west-southwest slopes bordered by trees.	Yes	Habitat will benefit from project by increasing foraging habitat through increased canopy openings
Fish						
<i>Catostomus platyrhynchus</i>	Mountain Sucker	None	Species of Special Concern (SSC)	Mountain suckers are characteristically found in shallow water and have a high tolerance for organic pollution and warm temperatures. Mountain suckers, unlike most stream-dwelling fishes in western North America, spawn in summer (June to early August) rather than spring. In California, adults have been observed moving into small streams during later July to feed on algae and to spawn. Spawning probably occurs at night in riffles located immediately below pools. Mountain suckers feed primarily on algae and diatoms but will feed on aquatic invertebrates as well.	No	No habitat within the project area. Documented occurrence in the Susan River +/- 1.5 miles east of project area will not be effected by project treatments.

South Eagle WUI – Hwy 36 Project: Biological Assessment - Wildlife

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Habitat in the Project Area	Potential Impact
Amphibians						
<i>Rana sierrae</i>	Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog	Endangered	Threatened	Associated with streams, lakes and ponds in montane riparian, lodgepole pine, subalpine conifer, and wet meadow habitats at elevations from 4,500 - 11,980 ft. Aquatic species usually found within a few feet of water. Eggs are usually laid in shallow water attached to gravel or rocks. Tadpoles may require up to two over-wintering periods to complete their aquatic development.	No	No habitat within the project area. Nearest occurrence 17 miles SE of project area.
<i>Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum</i>	Southern Long-Toed Salamander	None	SSC	Adults spend much of their lives underground, often utilizing the tunnels of burrowing mammals such as moles and ground squirrels. Transformed adults are rarely found outside of the breeding season. They are mostly found under wood, logs, rocks, bark and other objects near breeding sites which can include ponds, lakes, and streams, or when they are breeding in the water.	Marginal	Marginal habitat within Watercourse Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ)- will be protected.
Birds						
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	Delisted	Endangered	Occupy various woodland, forest, grassland, and wetland habitats. Large nests are normally built in the upper canopy of large trees, and snags typically conifers near water sources with fish.	No	No known nest sites within the project area; may forage or fly over
<i>Strix occidentalis occidentalis</i>	California Spotted Owl	None	SSC	This species is closely related to the Northern spotted owl and has a similar life history utilizing mature forests for habitat.	No	No known nest sites or observations within 3 miles of the project area. May forage or fly over.

South Eagle WUI – Hwy 36 Project: Biological Assessment - Wildlife

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Habitat in the Project Area	Potential Impact
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern Goshawk	None	SSC	Generally, prefer dense forests with large trees and relatively high canopy closures like late successional forest stands.	No	No known nest sites or observations within 3 miles of the project area. May forage or fly over.
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle	None	Fully Protected (FP), Watch List (WL)	Live in open and semi open country; avoid developed areas and uninterrupted stretches of forest. Canyonlands, rimrock terrain, and riverside cliffs and bluffs. Nest on cliffs and steep escarpments in grasslands, chaparral, scrublands, forest, and other vegetated areas.	No	No known nest sites within the project area; may forage or fly over
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	None	WL	Nests on platform of sticks at the top of large snags, dead-topped trees, on cliffs, or on human made structures. Nest usually within 400 m of fish-producing water.	No	No known nest sites within the project area; may forage or fly over
Mammals						
<i>Pekania pennanti</i>	Fisher	None	SSC	High cover and structural complexity in large tracts of mature and old growth forests	No	No denning habitat. May forage in project area, but unlikely due to proximity of highway and human population.
<i>Vulpes vulpes necator</i>	Sierra Nevada Red Fox	None	Threatened	High mountains of the Sierra Nevada in open conifer woodlands and mountain meadows near treeline.	No	Project area outside of current range.
<i>Canis lupus</i>	Gray Wolf	Endangered	Endangered	Wolves have historically occupied diverse habitats in North America, including tundra, forests, grasslands, and deserts (Mech 1970). As a consequence, and because they travel long distances and require large home ranges, wolves are considered habitat generalists (Paquet and Carbyn 2003).	Marginal	Has not been detected within project area to date, but will be monitored during project implementation. Very unlikely due to road density within project.

South Eagle WUI – Hwy 36 Project: Biological Assessment - Wildlife

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Habitat in the Project Area	Potential Impact
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	pallid bat	None	SSC	Wide variety of habitats is occupied, including grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests from sea level up through low elevation mixed conifer forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. Day roosts are in caves, crevices, mines, and occasionally in hollow trees and buildings.	No	No known roosting sites and no activity detected within the project area. Known occurrence near Susan River +/- 1.5 miles SW of project area will not be effected by project treatments.
<i>Aplodontia rufa californica</i>	Sierra Nevada Mountain Beaver		SSC	Not related to true beavers, this nocturnal rodent prefers moist cool deciduous and coniferous forests. Burrows usually consist of a network of tunnels built in deep soil. Burrow entrances often contain clumps of wilted vegetation which the animal likely uses as a kind of food cache as well as a source of nesting material. .	No	Based on the species preferred habitat, it is not likely to be affected by the current project. Documented occurrence +/-1.5 miles west of project in 1899.
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Townsend's big-eared bat	None	SSC	Found in all but subalpine and alpine habitats. Most abundant in mesic habitats. Requires caves, mines, tunnels, buildings, or other human-made structures for roosting and nesting.	No	No known roosting sites and no activity detected.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American badger	None	SSC	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils.	Marginal	No dens or sign observed during project surveys.

Hwy 36 ROW Project
CNDDDB - 3 mile buffer
Lassen County, CA

 Hwy 36 ROW Project


Hwy36_CNDDDB3mile

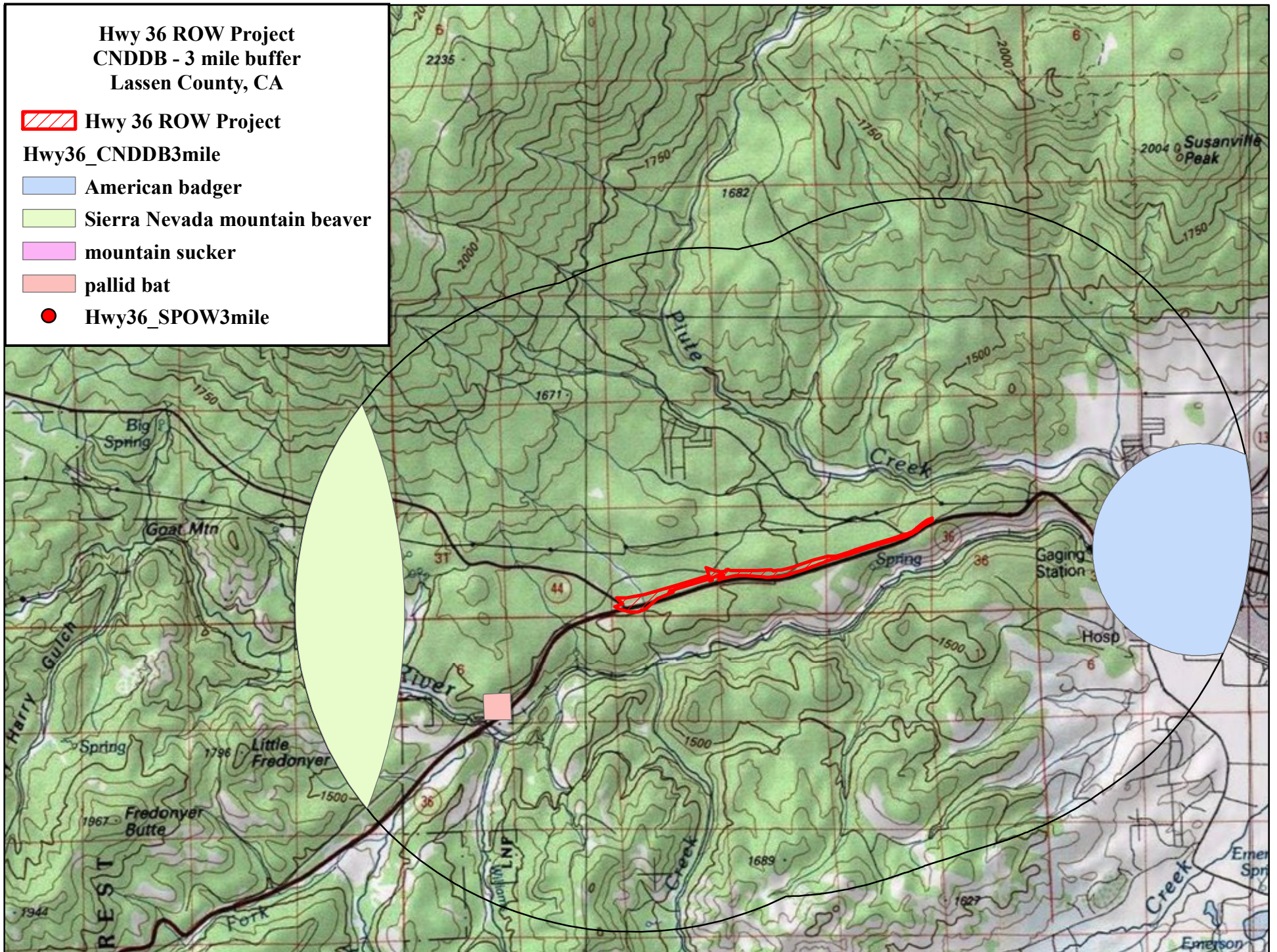
 American badger

 Sierra Nevada mountain beaver

 mountain sucker

 pallid bat

 Hwy36_SPOW3mile



0 7,500 15,000 30,000 Feet

TCKEcological 02152021



Thompson Peak Initiative (TPI) Bootsole Project CEQA

**Cooperative Agreement Between
Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District**

&

Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. (LFSC)

March 25, 2021

Project Identification:

This agreement is for the Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (HLVRCD) to serve as the lead agency, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15051 (b) (1), for the proposed Thompson Peak Initiative (TPI) Bootsole Project.

HLVRCD and LFSC Responsibilities:

LFSC will prepare the necessary documentation for meeting the goal of full compliance under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and all CEQA process documentation for the TPI Bootsole Project. HLVRCD will review, organize, file and adopt all necessary documentation in compliance with CEQA Guidelines. All products will be delivered in accordance with the attached Standard Clauses (Exhibit A).

Duration of Contract:

The duration of this Contract will extend from March 22, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

Project Managers:

The project manager for Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. is Tom Esgate. Project manager for the HLVRCD is Andrea Stuemky.

Method of Payment:

Payment will be for CEQA County Clerk Processing fee of \$50 plus \$1,400 for RCD staff time, not to exceed \$1,450.

Standard Provisions:

Exhibit A, containing standard provisions are included below and by this reference incorporated herein.

Execution:

Honey Lake Valley RCD

Honey Lake Valley RCD

Date

68-0003580

Tax ID#

Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc.

Tom Esgate
Tom Esgate, Managing Director

3/22/21
Date

Standard Clauses
Exhibit A

Worker's Compensation Clause

Vendor agrees to comply with provisions of Section 3700 of the California Labor Code which requires every employer to be insured against liability for workers' compensation or to undertake self-insurance in accordance with the provisions of that Code, before commencing the performance of the work under this Contract. Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. will make its contractors and subcontractors aware of this provision and determine that they have complied with it before commencing work on the project. Volunteer laborers are exempt from the worker's compensation provision of the California Labor Code.

National Labor Relations Board Clause

In accordance with Public Contract Code Section 10296, Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. declares under penalty of perjury that no more than one final, unappealable finding of contempt of court by a federal court has been issued against the Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. within the immediately preceding two-year period because of Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc.'s failure to comply with an order of a federal court which orders Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. to comply with an order of the National Labor Relations Board.

Nondiscrimination Clause

During the performance of this Contract, Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc., its contractors, and subcontractors shall not deny the Contract's benefit to any person on the basis of religion, color, ethnic group identification, sex, age, physical or mental disability, nor shall they discriminate unlawfully against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, physical handicap, mental disability, medical condition, marital status, age (over 40), or sex. Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. shall insure that the evaluation and treatment of employees and applicants for employment are free of such discrimination. Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc., its contractor, and subcontractor shall comply with the provisions of the Fair Employment and Housing Act (Government Code Section 12900 et seq.) and the regulations promulgated thereunder (California Administrative Code, Title 2 Sections 7285.0 et seq.), the provisions of Article 9.5, Chapter 1, Part 1, Division 3, Title 2 of the Government Code (Government Code Section 11135-11139.5), and the regulations or standards adopted by the awarding State agency to implement such article.

Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc., its contractors, and subcontractors shall give written notice of their obligations under this clause to labor organizations with which they have a collective bargaining or other agreement.

Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. shall include the nondiscrimination and compliance provision of this clause in all subcontracts to perform work under the Contract.

Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc., its contractors, and subcontractors shall permit access by representatives of the Department of Fair Employment and Housing and the awarding State agency, upon reasonable notice, at any time during the normal business hours, but in no case less than 24 hours notice, to such of its books, records, accounts, other sources of information, and its facilities as said Department or Agency shall require to ascertain compliance with this clause. The Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc.'s signature on this contract shall constitute a certification under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. has, unless exempted, complied with the nondiscrimination program requirements of Government Code Section 12990 and Title 2, California Code of Regulations Section 8103.

Hold Harmless

The Vendor and Landowner agree to mutually save harmless, Landowners and Vendor, their agents or employees and to hold the same free and harmless from any and all claims, demands, damages, losses, costs, expenses or liability due or incident to, either in whole or in part, and whether directly or indirectly, related to the project resulting from any and all contractors, subcontractors, materialmen, laborers and any other person, firm or corporation furnishing or supplying work, services, materials or supplies in connection with the performance of this contract, and from any and all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any person, firm or corporation who may be injured or damaged by the Landowner or Vendor in the performance of this contract, except all claims due to willful negligence or fraud. The hold harmless damages shall include damages from floods, fires or other Acts of Nature, as well as, any upstream or downstream effects.

Compliance With Laws, Regulations, Permit Requirements

The Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. shall at all times comply with, and require its contractors and subcontractors to comply with, all applicable federal and State laws, rules and regulations, permit and all applicable local ordinances, specifically including but not limited to environmental, procurement and safety laws, rules, regulations, permits and ordinances.

Successors and Assigns

This Contract and all of its provisions shall apply to and bind the successors and assigns of the parties hereto. No assignment or transfer of this Contract or any part hereof, rights hereunder or interest herein by the Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. shall be valid unless and until it is approved by the Landowners and made subject to such reasonable terms and conditions as the Landowners may impose.

Audit Requirement

Pursuant to Government Code Section 10532, the contracting parties shall be subject to the examination and audit of the State and the State Auditor General for a period of three years after final payment under this Contract with respect to all matters connected with the performance of this Contract, including but not limited to the cost of administering this Contract. All records of the Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. shall be preserved for this purpose for at least three years after completion of the project.

Remedies Not Exclusive

The use by either party of any remedy specified herein for the enforcement of this Contract is not exclusive and shall not deprive the party using such remedy of, or limit the application of, any other remedy provided by law.

Amendments

This Contract may be amended at any time by mutual agreement of the parties, except insofar as any proposed amendments are in any way contrary to applicable law. Requests by the Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. for amendments must be in writing stating the amendment request and the reason for the request.

Waiver of Rights

It is the intention of the parties hereto that from time to time either party may waive any of its rights under this Contract unless contrary to law. Any waiver by either party hereto of rights arising in connection with this Contract shall not be deemed to be a waiver with respect to any other rights or matters.

Notices

All notices that are required either expressly or by implication to be given by one party to the other under this Contract shall be signed for the Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. and for the Landowners by such officers as from time to time may be authorized in writing to so act. All such notices shall be deemed to have been given if delivered personally or if enclosed in a properly addressed, postage paid envelope and deposited in a United States Post Office for delivery by registered or certified mail.

NOTICE OF CEQA EXEMPTION

To: Lassen County Clerk
220 South Lassen Street
Susanville, CA 96130

From: Honey Lake Valley RCD
170 Russel Avenue
Susanville, CA 96130
530-257-7271

Date: March 25, 2021

Project Title:

Thompson Peak Initiative (TPI) Bootsole Project

Project Location:

The project area is located on top of the escarpment above the community of Janesville, CA; approximately 1.5 miles south of Thompson Peak, 3 miles south of Janesville, and 4 miles west of route 395.

It includes all or portions of:

Township (T) 28 North (N), Range (R) 13 East (E), Sections 31 through 33;
T27N, R12E, Sections 1 and 12; and
T27N, R13E, Sections 4 through 10 and 16 through 18
Mount Diablo Meridian

Project Description:

The project proposes treatments in conifer stands that would selectively remove conifers, using variable density silviculture prescriptions to promote a mixture of tree sizes and structural diversity throughout the project area. Residual stands would be more open, increasing the amount of available soil moisture and sunlight for individual trees. Prescriptions would generally retain old-growth and large trees while promoting shade-intolerant, fire-resistant conifers. Select conifers would be removed using a combination of ground-based mechanical thinning, hand thinning, hand piling, grapple piling, mastication and prescribed burning. Following conifer removal, prescribed burning could be used to reduce surface fuels throughout the project area.

Aspen and meadow treatments would remove encroaching conifers from the interior of meadows and aspen stands and thin conifers in the surrounding forest areas to minimize seed sources and prevent future conifer encroachment.

The project also proposes to improve system roads and obliterate unauthorized non-system roads that are negatively impacting watershed condition. Obliteration of roads that are not part of the National Forest Transportation System (non-system roads) would be completed using a combination of tracked mechanical equipment and manual labor with hand tools.

Project activities may occur beginning in Spring 2021.

Exempt Status (Guidelines Section and Class): Categorical Exemption:

15304, which exempts minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.

NOTICE OF CEQA EXEMPTION

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (HLVRCD) has reviewed the environmental/specialists' reports prepared by Registered Professional Foresters, Plumas National Forest specialists, and other contractual specialists and has determined that the project's implementation will result in multiple benefits, including restoration of the forest, watershed, and wildlife habitat. There will be no significant adverse impacts on endangered, rare, or threatened species or their habitats. There are no hazardous materials at or around the project site. The project will avoid all archaeological resource sites. The project will not result in cumulatively significant impacts. The Project will have no significant adverse effect on the environment.

Public Agencies that will be involved with the project:

Plumas National Forest, Beckwourth Ranger District
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District
Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

Andrea Stuemky, District Manager
Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District
530-257-7271

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Jesse Claypool, Chairman
Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District

ATTEST:

I, Andrea Stuemky, Clerk of the Board of Directors, Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, do hereby certify that the Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District approved this Notice of Exemption on the 25th day of December, 2021 by the following vote:

Ayes: _____ Abstentions: _____
Noes: _____ Absent: _____

Andrea Stuemky, Clerk of the Board of Directors
Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District

Environmental Review Report for an Exempt Project

Note: This report form is intended for use by Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (RCD) staff to document a limited environmental impact analysis supporting the filing of a Notice of Exemption (NOE) document for a proposed Honey Lake Valley RCD project. Although the project appears to fit within the descriptions for allowable Categorical Exemptions, this report presents Honey Lake Valley RCD's review for possible "Exceptions" that would preclude finding the project to be categorically exempt as discussed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. This report will be filed with the CEQA administrative record for this project to document the environmental impact analysis conducted by the District.

Author:	Tim Keeseey
Title:	Ecologist/RPF #3134
Address:	1012 Bryant Ave., Chico, CA 95926
Phone:	(530) 260-0934
Email:	timkeeseey@tkeceological.com

Project Name:	Bootsole Project
Project Number:	122 Thompson Peak Initiative (TPI)
Program Type:	Fuel Reduction
CAL FIRE Unit:	Lassen/Plumas/Modoc Unit
County:	Plumas
Acres:	4,233
Legal Location:	Township (T) 28 North (N), Range (R) 13 East (E), Sections 31 through 33; T27N, R12E, Sections 1 and 12; and T27N, R13E, Sections 4 through 10 and 16 through 18 of the Mount Diablo Meridian
Name of USGS 7.5' Quad Map(s):	Janesville and Antelope Lake
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Vicinity Map Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Location Map Attached	

Other Public Agency Review/Permit Required:		
Would the project result in:	YES	NO
Alterations to a watercourse (DFW - Lake and Stream Alteration Agreement)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conversion of timberland (CAL FIRE - Conversion Permit or Exemption)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Demolition (Local Air District - Demolition Permit)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Soil disturbance over 1 acre (RWQCB - SWPPP)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fill of possible wetlands (404 Permit - USACE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Discuss any above-listed topic item checked Yes and consultation with agencies:		
<p>There is no planned work within watercourses, or alterations to watercourses within this project. There is no timberland conversion as part of this project. There will be no soil disturbance greater than 1 acre, nor soil major disturbance beyond minor alteration to the vegetation composition, and there is no disturbance or fill to wetlands as part of this project. The project is not located within any transportation right-of-way or scenic highway designation boundary.</p>		

Project Description and Environmental Setting (Describe the project activities, project site and its surroundings, its location, and the environmental setting):
<p>Proposed Project Location</p> <p>The project area is located on top of the escarpment above the community of Janesville, CA; approximately 1.5 miles south of Thompson Peak, 3 miles south of Janesville, and 4 miles west of route 395. It includes all or portions of: Township (T) 28 North (N), Range (R) 13 East (E), Sections 31 through 33; T27N, R12E, Sections 1 and 12; and T27N, R13E, Sections 4 through 10 and 16 through 18 of the Mount Diablo Meridian (see Figure 1). The project area is within all or portions of Antelope Creek, Clarks Creek, McDermott Creek, and Boulder Creek Hydrologic Unit Code 6 watersheds. The project area encompasses 4,424 acres of National Forest System lands located within the Last Chance Management Area (MA 40), as identified in the 1988 Plumas National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. The elevation of the project area ranges from 5,800-6,800 feet with average annual precipitation ranging from 20 to 30 inches. Topography consists of flat to gently sloping terrain. Approximately 600 acres of the project area lies within a wildland urban interface zone (WUI), which is an area where human habitation is mixed with areas of flammable wildland vegetation.</p>
<p>Existing Condition</p> <p>The Bootsole project area is primarily comprised of upland eastside pine stands with meadows and aspen stringers, or narrow, connected aspen groves that follow the riparian corridor. Aspen is located both in upland and lowland meadows and riparian</p>

areas. There are infrequent Sierran mixed conifer stands at the highest elevations and northwestern portion of the project area. Dominant conifer vegetation within the project area includes Jeffrey and ponderosa pine with mixtures of white fir, sugar pine and incense cedar at higher elevations, and lodgepole pine in lower, moist areas.

Eastside pine stands and Sierran mixed conifer stands within the project area are currently overstocked due to fire suppression and past management activities. White fir is encroaching into these stands and is not well adapted to the dry conditions; leaving stands susceptible to insect and disease infestation and high severity stand replacing wildfire. Many stands have experienced elevated levels of tree mortality associated with insects, pathogens and drought and contain high numbers of standing and down dead trees. Jeffrey pine and lodgepole pine is encroaching on the aspen stringers and meadows and has created carpets of advanced regeneration throughout some pine stands.

Encroachment of shade-tolerant conifers on aspen stands is resulting in decreased size and health of these unique habitats. Aspen trees are experiencing increased competition for light, water, and nutrients which is impacting stand vigor and new growth. Aspen communities are particularly important for supporting diverse wildlife and plant communities and stands with dense conifers are at high risk of losing their ability to sustain diversity. Meadows are similarly being encroached upon by lodgepole pine and white fir, resulting in decreased meadow sizes and leading to the decline of meadow communities on the landscape.

A California Spotted Owl Protected Activity Center (CSO PAC) is located in the west-central portion of the project area. With the current fuel loading surrounding and within the PAC, there is a risk of habitat loss due to high-severity stand replacing fire. Several stand replacing wildfires have occurred near and adjacent to the project area in recent years including the Moonlight, Antelope, Diamond, Sheep, and Walker fires. The frequency of fires in the recent past and the high fuel loadings underscore the necessity of thinning stands to protect wildlife habitat in the project area, especially the CSO PAC, from being destroyed by high severity fire.

Furthermore, within the project area there are system roads in need of maintenance as well as multiple non-system roads that are contributing to decreased hydrologic function by changing natural drainage patterns, compacting soils, and contributing sediment to adjacent waterways.

To address these undesirable conditions, a list of proposed actions has been developed that would restore desired conditions and goals in the Bootssole project area as described in the Plumas National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA) Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (ROD). Opportunities were identified to meet goals related to forest structure and function, fire and fuels management, plant and animal communities, and wildlife habitat.

Need for the Proposal

Based on the existing conditions described above, action is needed to:

- improve the growth and vigor of forest stands making them more resilient to drought stress, insect infestation, and disease outbreaks;
- reduce surface, ladder, and canopy fuels to reduce the size, intensity, and severity of fires within the Bootssole project area and increase the resilience of stands to wildfires;
- reduce conifer densities within aspen stands and meadows to promote vigorous, healthy aspen stands and meadow systems that can support diverse wildlife and plant species;
- reduce road-related impacts to the watershed within the project area.

Proposed Action

The project proposes treatments in conifer stands that would selectively remove conifers, using variable density silviculture prescriptions to promote a mixture of tree sizes and structural diversity throughout the project area. Residual stands would be more open, increasing the amount of available soil moisture and sunlight for individual trees. Prescriptions would generally retain old-growth and large trees while promoting shade-intolerant, fire-resistant conifers. Select conifers would be removed using a combination of ground-based mechanical thinning, hand thinning, hand piling, grapple piling, mastication and prescribed burning. Following conifer removal, prescribed burning could be used to reduce surface fuels throughout the project area.

Aspen and meadow treatments would remove encroaching conifers from the interior of meadows and aspen stands and thin conifers in the surrounding forest areas to minimize seed sources and prevent future conifer encroachment.

The project also proposes to improve system roads and obliterate unauthorized non-system roads that are negatively impacting watershed condition. Obliteration of roads that are not part of the National Forest Transportation System (non-system roads) would be completed using a combination of tracked mechanical equipment and manual labor with hand tools.

Project activities may occur beginning in Spring 2021. Proposed treatments are described below by treatment and vegetation type. Mechanical variable density thinning, mechanical fuels, hand thin, and prescribed burn only units are shown in Figure 2. The acreage of each treatment type is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Bootssole Project Acreage by Treatment Type

Silviculture Treatment	Acres	Explanation
Mechanical Thin	≤ 3,080 ¹	General Forest Stands: Removal of conifers <30" DBH by variable density thinning. Follow up underburn and/or mechanical fuels treatment would take place in some units. Aspen and Meadows: Removal of conifers located in the interior of aspen stands/clones, meadows, and meadow buffers and within a 150' extended treatment zone (ETZ). Follow up underburn would take place in some units.
Mechanical Fuels Treatment	359	Hand thin or mechanically thin trees <11.0" DBH with machine piling or mastication of brush and activity created slash and specified existing down material. Follow up underburn or pile burn would take place in these units.
Hand Thin	331	Hand thin trees <6.0" DBH with hand piling or lop and scatter of activity created slash and specified existing down material. ¹ Follow up pile burning or underburning would take place.
Prescribed Burn Only	463	Utilize low to moderate intensity prescribed fire to reduce surface accumulation of vegetative material. Areas may receive hand thinning pretreatments to meet burn plan goals. Existing roads and natural barriers would be utilized as fire lines to minimize new ground disturbance although additional improvements or fire line construction around the burn area perimeter may be necessary.
Total Treatment Acres	4,233	

Mechanical Thin

General Forest Stands

The project proposes to remove conifers less than 30 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) to promote resistance to disturbance (i.e. insects/disease, wildfire) and develop a more resilient stand that can better withstand current and predicted future conditions.

Conifer removal would be accomplished by individual tree selection utilizing Variable Density Thinning (VDT). Variable density thinning is a compilation of various thinning treatment elements; dense groups/clumps of trees, canopy openings

¹ Where mechanical treatments are not possible due to site sensitivity or prohibitive access, units may be hand thinned and trees >6" DBH removed.

(gaps) where few or no trees exist; and widely spaced trees within the matrix. This combination of activities would promote a mixture of tree sizes within a stand and across the landscape, restoring structural diversity while increasing fire resilience. A portion of smaller, healthy/vigorous trees would be left for diversity, structure, and to provide for the next generation of forest. Canopy cover and basal area would vary based upon stand type and stand potential.

In areas proposed for mechanical treatment, mechanical ground-based equipment would be used to harvest select trees greater than or equal to three inches DBH up to 30 inches DBH. Whole-tree yarding would be used when possible. Conifers ranging from 10.0 to 29.9 inches DBH would be removed and processed as sawlogs. Conifers ranging from 3.0 to 9.9 inches DBH would be removed as biomass chips where access for mechanical ground-based equipment and/or chip vans is not restricted. Existing downed wood would also be removed as biomass where levels are above desired condition. Where chip removal is not possible, biomass-size conifers may be treated on site through various mechanisms including: mastication; hand thin (using chainsaws), pile and burn; lop and scatter; and mechanical pile and burn. Equipment would generally be restricted to slopes of 35 percent or less although equipment could work on short pitches of slopes up to 45 percent outside of Riparian Conservation Areas.

Follow-up treatment may occur in some units to achieve desired conditions and remove material less than 3" DBH using mastication, pile and burn, or lop and scatter. Underburning may occur throughout some general forest stands as a secondary treatment.

Aspen

The project proposes to remove conifers within aspen stands to improve stand condition and wildlife habitat. Conifers would be removed from within aspen stands and where aspen occurs as a minor component within other forest types. Treatment would entail the removal of conifers located in the interior of aspen stands/clones and within a 150-foot extended treatment zone (ETZ) from the outer most aspen stem. Trees greater than 30.0 inches DBH would be removed. Exceptions to conifer removal in these areas would be shade-intolerant, fire-resistant trees that exhibit old growth/legacy characteristics such as platy bark, flat top; indicating their co-existence with the aspen prior to fire exclusion policies; these trees would need to show characteristics that indicate they are not a threat to aspen including slower growth and reduced seed production to be retained. Mechanical removal would be used where possible with hand thinning occurring in areas where mechanical treatment is not feasible due to site sensitivity, slope steepness, or accessibility.

Species such as juniper, lodgepole pine and white fir would not be retained. Lodgepole pine is a prolific seed producer and produces viable seed at an early age thus giving it a competitive edge in establishment and succession without disturbance. Also, white fir generally produces more cones along or within openings than in adjacent closed stands and is considered shade tolerant. This shade tolerance allows white fir to become established in the understory of aspen and gradually replace aspen as the dominant tree.

Aspen groves would be underburned to promote desired herbaceous plants, aspen regeneration (suckering), and reduce residual conifer regeneration. If above treatments fail to stimulate aspen growth response in decadent, declining aspen stands, aspen stems may be cut to stimulate new growth response. Temporary fencing around aspen stands may be installed post-treatment if needed based on monitoring. The temporary fencing would be installed and maintained by the Forest Service and would remain in place until determined to be effective by the interdisciplinary team.

Meadows

Removal of conifers within and around meadows would be accomplished using the same conifer parameters as the aspen units. Mechanical removal would be used where possible with hand thinning occurring in areas where mechanical treatment is not feasible due to site sensitivity, accessibility, or slope steepness. Meadow extended treatment zones (ETZs) would occur from existing meadow edges and extend up to 100 feet into forested stands. Meadow boundary delineators may include vegetation and soil composition, topography, changes in landform, or changes in soil moisture. Conifers within meadow ETZs would be thinned, targeting lodgepole pine and white fir for removal of seed sources to maintain meadow habitats. Prescribed burning would be used in meadows to reduce conifer regeneration and promote herbaceous vegetation.

Thinning in aspen and meadows is not designed to meet objectives associated with fuels or stand densities, therefore the removal of trees greater than 30.0 inches DBH is permissible consistent with SNFPA ROD. (USDA 2004b, p.51).

Mechanical Fuels

Forest fuels less than 11 inches in diameter would be removed from 359 acres of the project area. This area includes stands that have desired spacing of overstory trees but abundant understory and ladder fuels. Thinned material would be chipped and removed as biomass where access for mechanical ground-based equipment and/or chip vans is not restricted. Where chip removal is not possible, biomass-size conifers may also be treated on site through various mechanisms including mastication;

hand thin (using chainsaws), pile and burn; lop and scatter; and mechanical pile and burn.

Hand Thin

Hand thinning would be used to remove fuels less than 6 inches DBH from the 300-acre California Spotted Owl Protected Activity Center (PAC). California Spotted Owl PACs are designed to provide habitat for California Spotted Owls. Treatments are intended to help provide quality nesting and roosting habitat for current and/or future occupants, and to make the habitat more resilient to future disturbance. Fire-resistant trees would be promoted and shade-tolerant conifers would be prioritized for removal.

Stands would be hand thinned as needed to facilitate prescribed burning and to promote legacy² and critical habitat trees. Thinned materials would be piled for later burning. Areas around any critical habitat trees including nesting, roosting, and high-value legacy trees would be raked. Underburning would occur in these areas once the hand thinning and pile burning treatments have been completed.

Hand thinning may also occur in stands identified for mechanical thinning or mechanical fuels when mechanical treatments are not possible due to site sensitivity or prohibitive access.

Prescribed Fire

Within stands that do not meet conditions for thinning treatments, prescribed burning would be used to reduce heavy fuel loading of small diameter trees and promote dominant/co-dominant trees. This would result in creating a more resilient ecosystem less prone to catastrophic wildfire.

Approximately 3,770 acres of the project area would also be analyzed for reintroducing fire to the ecosystem through prescribed burning as a secondary treatment. Where it is not feasible or recommended to underburn, pile burning would be used to remove fuels. Prescribed burning in this project is planned with an efficient economy-of-scale approach. Incidental hand thinning with chainsaws may occur as needed to facilitate prescribed burning.

Transportation Management

Road Reconstruction and Maintenance

The project proposes to repair, maintain, and/or reconstruct National Forest System roads that are contributing to watershed impacts. Action would be taken to improve road drainage, reduce erosion caused by concentrated road runoff, and reduce sedimentation from roads into the stream network. Specific miles of roads and road segments will be identified during project planning. Road treatments would be prioritized in areas with insufficient drainage, issues with water crossings, and roads contributing direct sedimentation to waterways.

Reconstruction would involve the widening of curves, excavating and/or placing fill material to reshape the roadbed so that runoff is less concentrated. Road dips with rock armored outlets may be installed to better disperse runoff from road surfaces. Construction of armored overflow dips at certain culverts would ensure that if the culvert is plugged, stream diversion along the road would be minimal. Additional improvements may include out-sloping road segments, constructing low water crossings, installation of rip-rap aprons on fill slopes, and replacing culverts.

Road maintenance may consist of installation of road dips to better disperse runoff from road surfaces, brushing, blading the road surface, and improving drainage.

Road Obliteration

Approximately 8.5 miles of routes not added to the National Forest Transportation System (NFTS) within the project area are proposed for obliteration. Obliteration may involve recontouring, subsoiling, or abandonment. Abandonment is appropriate where the road has become completely overgrown with vegetation. Obliteration may also involve removing drainage structures, restoring vegetative cover, blocking access, or some combination of these treatments. Obliterating roads would promote vegetative recovery, decrease compaction, increase infiltration into the roadbed, increase soil stability, and reduce erosion.

Environmental Impact Analysis

² Legacy trees display old-growth characteristics. For ponderosa and Jeffrey pine a legacy tree is defined as a tree that has the following characteristics: (1) platy, yellow bark on four panels (on at least 1/2 to 3/4 of the bole), (2) downward or outward sweeping branches on at least the top 1/3 of the tree, and (3) a rounding or flat top, regardless of age or diameter.

Aesthetics

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:
 As the proposed project is designed to reduce hazardous fuels, forested areas within the project area will appear “thinned” and exhibit reduced stand density. The existing visual character of the site and its surroundings is expected to improve as thinning creates longer vistas and better opportunities to view wildlife and native wildflowers. The proposed project does not contain any scenic vistas, nor is the project area visible from an established scenic vista.

Agriculture and Forest Resources

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:
 - Yes No Would any trees be felled? If yes, discuss protection of nesting birds and compliance with FPRs.
 - Yes No Would the project convert any prime or unique farmland?
 - Yes No Would the project result in the conversion of forest land or timberland to non-forest use?
 The project is located on USDA Forest Service managed lands, and so FPRs do not apply. However, mitigation measures similar to those in the FPRs have been incorporated into the project design. Surveys have been conducted during 2019 and 2020 for Northern goshawks and in 2020 for California Spotted owls. Another season of CA spotted owl surveys will be completed during 2021. All identified nests will be protected with buffers and Limited Operating Periods (LOP’s), similar to those within the FPRs, if identified prior to or during project implementation.

Air Quality

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:
 - Yes No The local Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD) guidelines for dust abatement and other air quality concerns were reviewed for this project.
 The project proposes underburning and pile burning of up to 3,770 acres. Creation of smoke will occur as a result of this project. All burn operations will occur in compliance with all standards set forth by the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD) Smoke Management Plan, NSAQMD Air Pollution Permit, and the Plumas National Forest’s “Bootssole Project” NEPA integrated design features (IDFs) to mitigate air quality impacts to a level of less than significant.

Biological Resources

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:
 - Yes No Will the project potentially effect biological resources?
 - Yes No Was a current CNDDDB review completed? Results discussed below.
 - Yes No Was a biological survey of the project area completed? Results discussed below.
 A scoping process was conducted to identify species of plants, animals, and habitats that could potentially be impacted by the proposed project. Sources used include the California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service iPAC (accessed 1-4-2021), and Plumas National Forest records for the project area.

 Surveys for listed, endangered, rare, and sensitive botanical and wildlife species has been conducted on the entire project area. Specific protocol level surveys for amphibians (2015 and 2016), northern goshawks (2019 and 2020), and California spotted owls (2020) have been conducted in the project area.

 One rare plant species, *Scutellaria galericulata* (marsh skullcap) CNPS Rank 2b.2, was identified within the project area and will be flagged and avoided. A Biological Assessment(BA)/Biological Evaluation (BE)/Noxious Weed Risk Assessment and Management Strategy was developed to analyze project impacts on Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, Lichens, and Fungi to meet NEPA analysis requirements. See Attachment A for additional analysis of botanical species requiring analysis under CEQA. It has been determined that the proposed project as designed will have no impact on

threatened, endangered, candidate, rare, or watch list botanical species.

No endangered, threatened, or sensitive amphibian species were identified during surveys of suitable habitat. Additional surveys for amphibians will occur in 2021 and 2022. No goshawk nest sites were identified. One goshawk was observed in the project area. No CA spotted owl nests were identified. There is a historic nest site in the project area, along with an owl PAC and HRCA. An additional year of CA spotted owl surveys will occur during 2021. A Biological Assessment (BA) Consultation report for threatened, endangered, and candidate wildlife species, and specifically the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (SNYLF), was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The USFWS concurred with the determination that the project may affect and is not likely to adversely affect the Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged frog or critical habitat. A Biological Evaluation (BE), Management Indicator Species (MIS) report, and Migratory Bird Report were developed to analyze project impacts on Forest Sensitive wildlife and species of special concern to meet NEPA analysis requirements. See Attachment A for additional analysis of wildlife species requiring analysis under CEQA. It has been determined that the proposed project as designed will have no impact on threatened, endangered, candidate, or wildlife species of special concern.

Cultural Resources

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Yes No Was a current archaeological records check completed?

Yes; results discussed below.

Yes No Was a Staff or Contract Archaeologist consulted?

Yes. The PNF Beckworth District Archaeologist conducted background research, a survey of the entire project area, and develop a specialist report for the project.

Yes No Was an archaeological survey of the project area completed?

Yes. The Bootssole Project area contains eight previously recorded archaeological sites, including one multi-component site and seven historic sites. One site, an historic arborglyph site no longer requires protection due to the fact that all of the carved aspen trees recorded have died and no longer contain the historic carvings. Other historic sites include cabins and corrals associated with ranching as well as mining sites.

Yes No Will the project effect any historic buildings or archaeological site?

No. It is recommended that the Bootssole Project proceed as currently planned following Standard Resources Protection Measures (SRPMs) defined in the Region 5 Programmatic Agreement with SHPO (USDA 2018). All sites will be flagged and avoided during operations. The Plumas Heritage Program Manager (HPM) may approve project activities within sites boundaries that follow the Regional PA however, this approval must be documented before implementation occurs.”

USDA. 2018. Programmatic Agreement Among the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5), California State Historic Preservation Officer, Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding the Processes For Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for Management of Historic Properties By the National Forests of the Pacific Southwest Region (2013, as amended 2018).

Geology and Soils

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Expected effects to soil quality as a result of mechanical thinning treatments are consistent with those described in the PSWEBP and would not be significantly detrimental. Treatments are generally expected to reduce effective soil cover, fine organic matter, and large woody debris in the short term, though compliance with the PNF LRMP standards would still be achieved. In the event of a wildfire in the project area, the proposed actions would decrease the likelihood of treated units experiencing high soil burn severity capable of adversely affecting soil hydrologic function and soil productivity. The areal extent of soil compaction would increase after implementation

due to skid trail, temporary road, and landing construction. However, the expected extent of detrimental soil compaction for the action alternative would not be of a size or pattern that would result in a significant change in production potential for the project area. Any detrimental soil displacement on mechanical thinning units is expected to occur in small, discontinuous areas and not be of an aerial extent that would significantly impair soil productivity within the forest stand. No effects on soil productivity are predicted from the proposed Borax fungicide treatments.

Expected effects to hydrology and water quality as a result of mechanical thinning treatments are consistent with those described in the PSWEBP and would not impair State-defined beneficial uses of water. Extensive monitoring on PNF has demonstrated that BMPs and standard design elements are effective at preventing erosion and sedimentation from mechanical thinning treatments.

Detrimental soil effects of grapple or machine piling are considered less likely compared to mechanical thinning as described in the PSWEBP. Mastication treatments are expected to result in an increase in effective soil cover and fine organic matter as masticated debris is broadcasted away from the machine.

Effects of mechanical thinning within aspen stands and meadows would have similar effects on soil measures as mentioned above for mechanical thinning and mechanical fuels treatments. With effective implementation of applicable BMPs, project design elements, and other condition-based management approach elements, effects within treated aspen stands and meadows due to mechanical thinning and fuels treatments are not expected to be of a size or pattern that would result in significant detrimental effects to soil quality, water quality, or hydrologic condition.

Effective soil cover and surface organic matter standards would be met with hand treatment because the forest floor is substantially less disturbed relative to mechanical thinning and because hand piling limits the amount of slash that can be cost-effectively removed from the treated units. Soil compaction and topsoil displacement caused by hand thinning treatments would be practically nonexistent since no heavy equipment traffic is involved. Pile burning would decrease soil cover to zero under the pile and there is a risk of nutrient pollution in ash moving off site to water bodies. The small areal extent of burn piles on the landscape would ensure that runoff in the treated areas would not be substantially increased and soil nutrients not significantly impacted. Accessing the burn pile work areas in fall, winter, and spring (when fuel and weather conditions are favorable for burning) can result in vehicle traffic on wet native surface roads. Wet weather restriction design elements would protect the road system from rutting and forming areas where runoff can be concentrated and potentially cause sedimentation to streams.

Consistent with the effects described in the PSWEBP, prescribed fire can decrease soil cover since the duff layer and fine organic matter will be partially consumed by fire, but prescribed fire treatments would be designed and timed to burn at low severity so that effective soil cover and surface organic matter are not heavily impacted. Additionally, specifications would be included in contracts or direction to crews to ensure that minimum soil cover and surface organic matter standards and desired conditions are met. BMP effectiveness monitoring on PNF has demonstrated that prescribed fire BMPs are highly effective at preventing water quality impacts.

In summary, vegetation treatments proposed under the Bootssole project would not significantly impair soil quality. Water quality would effectively be protected by BMPs and project design elements, assuring that State-defined beneficial uses of water would not be significantly affected. Soil hydrologic function would be protected, and vegetation treatments would not significantly affect project area hydrology.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.

This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below

Yes No Would the project generate significant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?

The project would generate 93,987 tons of GHG emissions from prescribed burning of 4,233 acres. If a catastrophic wildfire were to burn only the same 4,233 acres, 167,585 tons of GHGs would be released into the atmosphere. Therefore, compared to a wildfire burning through the project area, implementing the Bootssole project would result in 73,598 fewer tons of GHGs emitted.

The greenhouse gas (GHG) benefits of the project were calculated using the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Quantification Methodology for the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Forest Health Program (CARB 2019). The GHG benefits from removing forest fuels are derived from the benefit that proposed treatments would confer to the project area if a wildfire were to burn; total aboveground carbon storage at the end of 50 years is compared for treated and untreated stands in which a simulated fire enters the area halfway through a 25-year effective treatment period. Additional benefits accrue from the long-term storage of carbon removed as wood and the short-term benefit of using wood chips to generate electricity. Under the modeling scenarios specified, by CARB (2019), the Bootssole Project would result in substantial net GHG benefits (Table 2).

GHG benefits from implementation of the Bootssole Project were estimated to be 446,383 MT CO₂e. Accounting for the 79,890 tons of CO₂ and the additional 14,397 tons of other GHGs (including: 311 tons of methane or approx. 9,300 MT CO₂e; 53 tons of nitrous oxide or approx. 15,000 MT CO₂e; and water vapor) emitted by prescribed burning would result in a net GHG benefit from implementing the Bootssole Project.

Table x. Greenhouse gas benefits from implementing fuels reduction and biomass utilization activities associated with the Bootssole Project.

Net GHG Benefit (MT CO₂e)	446,383
GHG benefit from fuels reduction activities (MT CO₂e)	376,241
GHG benefit from fuels reduction in eastside pine and Sierran mixed conifer stands (MT CO ₂ e)	312,840
GHG benefit from fuels reduction in mechanical fuels (MT CO ₂ e)	49,401
GHG benefit from aspen restoration	14,000
GHG benefit from fuels reduction in CSO PAC (MT CO ₂ e)	0
GHG benefit from biomass utilization activities (MT CO₂e)	70,142
GHG benefit from utilizing biomass for electricity generation (MT CO ₂ e)	3,470
GHG benefit of carbon stored long-term in wood products (MT CO ₂ e)	66,672

Yes No Would these GHG emissions result in a significant impact on the environment?

The project will result in a net benefit with respect to GHG emissions over the long term. Short-term GHG emissions from prescribed burning would occur over several years and would account for a small percentage of the normal background emissions occurring across the landscape, and therefore would not be a significant impact on the environment.

Yes No Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

No, this project does not conflict with the State of CA plan to reduce carbon or greenhouse gas emissions, and is a permissible practice within the NSAQMD.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.

This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Hydrology and Water Quality

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.
- Yes No Will the project potentially affect any watercourse or body of water?
- This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Mechanized equipment will be utilized for hazardous fuel reduction activities. For the protection of water quality, existing drainage patterns, and to minimize surface runoff and surface erosion, the project incorporates the WLPZ/RCA protection buffers specified by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Order R5-2017-0061, and the Forest Service SNFPA ROD.

The project entails treatment of suppressed trees, dead and dying trees, woody vegetation and brush, and will have no effect on groundwater supplies. Through the establishment of the WLPZs, existing drainage patterns will be protected. The project will not alter the course of any stream or river.

Land Use and Planning

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.

This project does not conflict with any land use or planning or change the land use designation for any parcel.

- This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Mineral Resources

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.

There are no known or related mineral resources or extraction as part of this project, and the project does not restrict access for any future mineral extraction activities.

- This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Noise

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The proposed project will entail the use of mechanical equipment. Equipment operations will be within the allowable limits established by the County of Plumas. During the actual fuel reduction activities, there could be an increase in normal noise levels due to activity associated with the operation of heavy equipment. The project is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport. The project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. The project area is rural and sparsely inhabited and over 2 miles from any school, hospital, or daycare center.

Population and Housing

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.

This project has no applicability to population and housing issues in Plumas County, CA.

- This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Public Services

- This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.

This project has no applicability to public services or infrastructure in Plumas County, CA. This project involves hazardous fuels reduction in a remote area with no public services. Involvement of police protection, schools, parks, and other public services are not required for project implementation. As such, no adverse impacts to public services are expected from project implementation.

This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Recreation

This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.

This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project is not located within any special or designated recreation areas. The project area is federal land which is open to the public for quiet recreation, fishing and hunting, hiking and dispersed camping at any time. No developed recreational facility exists in the project area. The project area consists of 4,233 acres surrounded by thousands of acres of open public lands available for recreation. Although portions of the project area will become briefly unusable for recreation while treatment is underway, the large adjacent tracts of adjacent public land will remain usable, and thus the effect on recreation will be transient and insignificant. Furthermore, the project area will be available for recreation again as soon as treatment is complete – usually within 1-3 days. As such, adverse impacts to recreational resources as a result of implementation of the proposed project are not expected.

Transportation/Traffic

This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.

Minimal increases in traffic along adjacent public roads could occur as a result of project implementation as the project coordinators, equipment operators, fire crews, and hand thinning crew will be accessing project units. This increase in traffic will be minor and insignificant as the regional roads have been designed to accommodate the anticipated level of traffic. A temporary road closure to accommodate prescribed fire could be necessary but will be planned and noticed well in advance, reducing impacts on community members in this remote rural area to less than significant. Also, due to the interconnectivity of roads in the project area, no road closure to accommodate prescribed fire would leave any recreationist without the means of ingress/egress. As such, the project as proposed will not cause significant changes in current transportation traffic patterns and frequencies.

This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Utilities and Service Systems

This topic does not apply to a project of this type and was not evaluated further.

This project will have no bearing or effect on public utilities or service systems.

This topic could apply to a project of this type, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Project Design Features That Avoid Environmental Impacts:

Adverse environmental impacts have been avoided through careful review of site conditions prior to treatment method determination. Site soils, slope, habitat, and water resources were thoroughly examined during project design and layout. Equipment has been excluded from slopes over 40% and all Class I – III Watercourse Protection Zones to provide for soil and water resource protection as well as to protect sensitive aquatic life. All water features have been afforded protection from equipment operations through the establishment of EEZs and ELZs. Sensitive plants and wildlife have been identified during the scoping process and surveyed for and the project as designed will not adversely affect them. Sensitive cultural resources have been surveyed for and the project has been designed to have no impact on them.

Mandatory Findings of Significance:

YES NO

(a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probably future projects)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Justification for Use of a Categorical Exemption (discuss why the project is exempt, cite exemption number(s), and describe how the project fits the class): Based on no effects, negative, or cumulative impacts to natural resources, and a greenhouse gas benefit, this project fits within a Categorical Exemption.

This review for restoration planned for Federally owned public lands concludes that project implementation as designed would have less than significant impact in each resource area. Class 4 exemption (CCR Section 15304) covers minor alterations to vegetation such as fuel reduction activities. The objective of fuel reduction and the implementation activities as designed for this project will result in minor alterations to land and therefore fit within the CCR Section 15304 exemption.

Conclusion:

After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the description for the various classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA, Honey Lake Valley County RCD has determined that the project fits within one or more of the exemption classes and no exceptions exist at the project site which would preclude the use of this exemption. The District considered the possibility of (a) sensitive location, (b) cumulative impact, (c) significant impact due to unusual circumstances, (d) impacts to scenic highways, (e) activities within a hazardous waste site, and (f) significant adverse change to the significance of any historical resource. A Notice of Exemption will be filed with the Lassen County Clerk-Recorder.

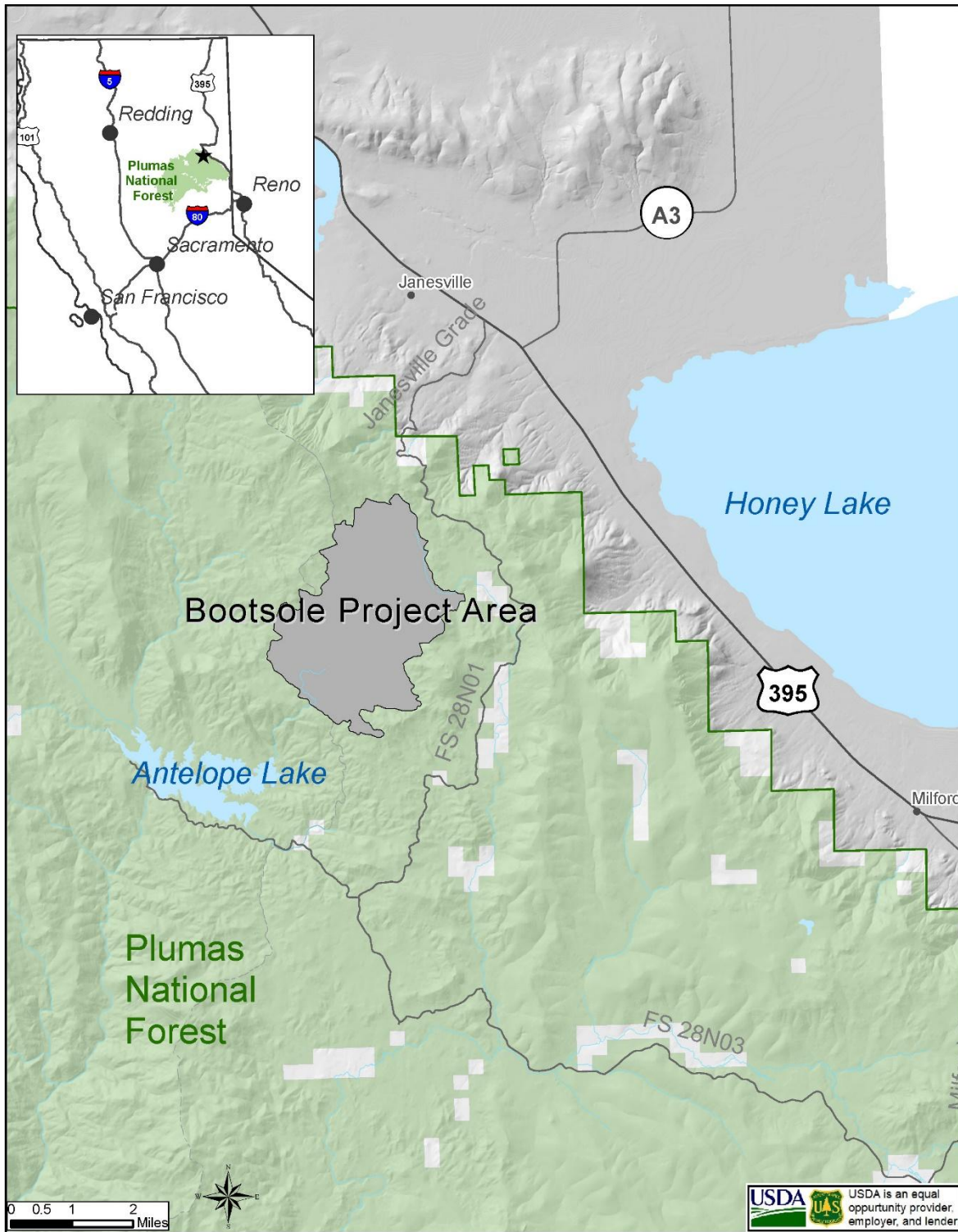
After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the description for the various classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA, Honey Lake Valley County RCD has determined that the project does not fit within the description for the various exemption classes or has found that exceptions exist at the project site which precludes the use of a Categorical Exemption for this project. Additional environmental review will be conducted and the appropriate CEQA document used may be a Negative Declaration or a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Signed:

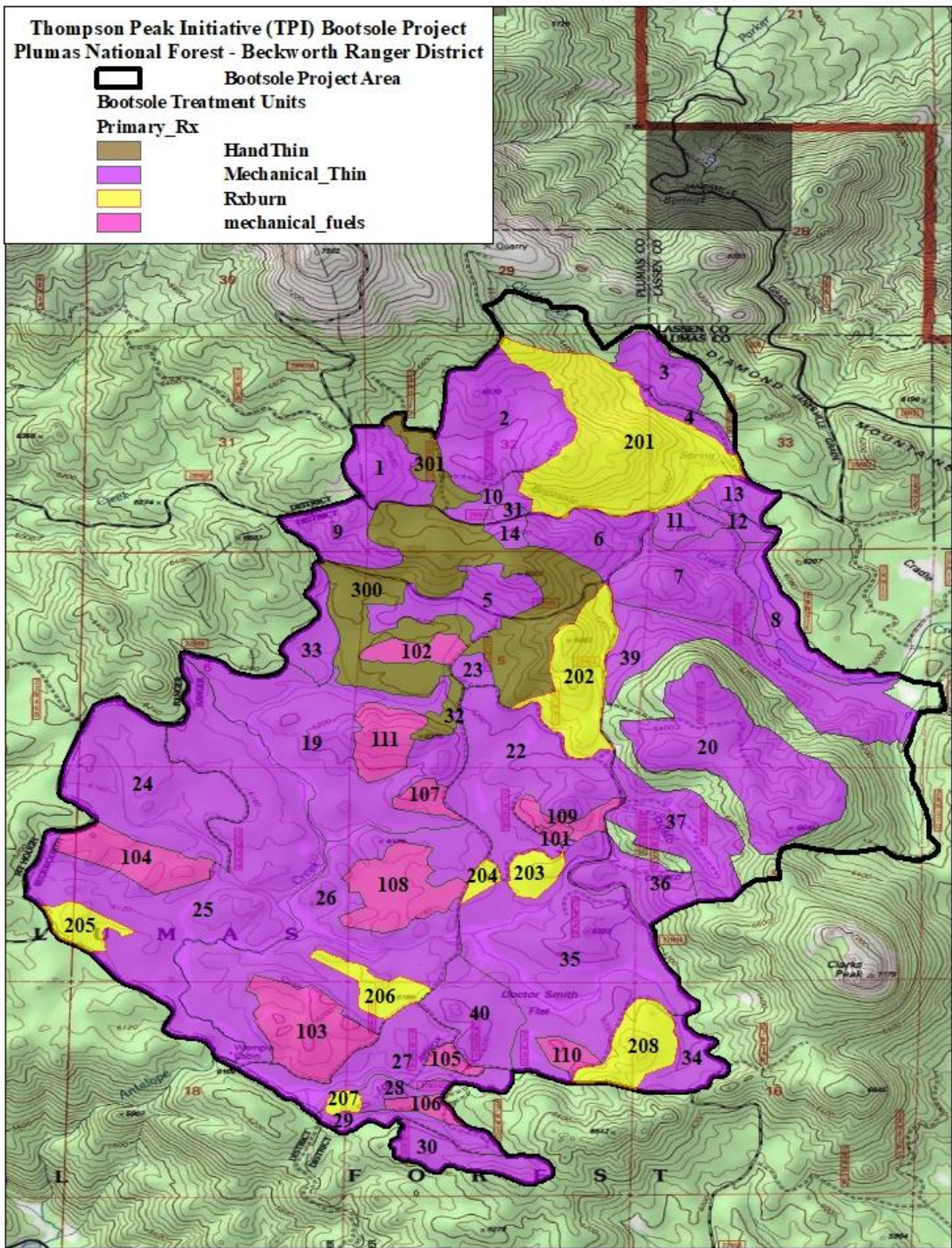
 Jesse Claypool, Chairman, Board of Directors
 Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District

 Date

Map 1: Project Vicinity Map



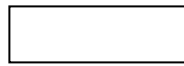
Map 2: Project Location Map



0 0.3 0.6 1.2 Miles

TCKEcological 03/11/2021





Attachment A: Biological Assessment – Botany and Wildlife

TPI Bootssole Project: Biological Assessment - Botany

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CA Rare Plant Rank	Flowering Period	Elevation (m)*	Habitat/ Ecology	Impact	Rationale
Antelope and Janesville Quads									
Carex davyi	Davy's sedge	None	None	1B.3	May-Aug	1400 - 3300	Usually in wetlands; sub-alpine and red fir forests	No	Protected by WLPZ/RCA
Carex sheldonii	Sheldon's sedge	None	None	2B.2	May-Aug	1200-2000	Wetlands; riparian; Lower montane coniferous forest (mesic); marshes and swamps	No	Protected by WLPZ/RCA
Lomatium roseanum	adobe lomatium	None	None	1B.2	June-July	1460-2250	Openings, gravelly or rocky; Great Basin scrub; Lower montane coniferous forest	No	Habitat not likely to occur in treatment areas.
Pyrocoma lucida	sticky pyrrocoma	None	None	1B.2	July-Oct	700-2050	Alkaline clay flats; sagebrush scrub; openings in lower montane coniferous forest; meadows and seeps	Np	Marginal habitat; not observed during project surveys
Potamogeton praelongus	white-stemmed pondweed	None	None	2B.3	July-Aug	1800-3000	Wetlands; freshwater marsh, swamps, lakes (deep water)	No	Aquatic habitat will not be disturbed by proposed treatments
Rhamnus alnifolia	alder buckthorn	None	None	2B.2	May-July	1370-2130	Wetlands; red fir, lodgepole pine, wetland-riparian	No	Protected by WLPZ/RCA
Juncus luciensis	Santa Lucia dwarf rush	None	None	1B.2	April-July	300-2040	Wet, sandy soils of seeps, meadows, vernal pools, streams, roadsides; chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest	No	Protected by WLPZ/RCA
Scutellaria galericulata	marsh skullcap	None	None	2B.2	June-Sept	1000-2100	Occurs in wetlands in Pine forests, freshwater wetlands, wet meadows, wetland-riparian	No	One occurrence documented in project area will be flagged and avoided; Protected by WLPZ/RCA
Rumex venosus	winged dock	None	None	2B.3	May-June	1200-1800	Dry, sandy places; Great Basin scrub	No	Lack of suitable habitat in project area
Ivesia sericoleuca	Plumas ivesia	None	None	1B.2	May-Oct	1300-2320	Vernally mesic, generally volcanic meadows, vernal pools, Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, freshwater wetlands, wetland-riparian	No	Protected by WLPZ/RCA
Other seven quads (Diamond Mtn., Standish, Kettle Rock, Stony Ridge, Genessee Valley, Babcock Peak, Squaw Valley Peak)									
Astragalus lentiformis	lens-pod milk-vetch	None	None	1B.2	May-July	1460-1910	Volcanic, sandy; Great Basin scrub; lower montane coniferous forest	No	Found primarily in SE Plumas County; not observed during project surveys
Claytonia umbellata	Great Basin claytonia	None	None	2B.3	May-Aug	1900-3500	Talus slopes, stony flats, rock crevices	No	Habitat will not be impacted by proposed treatments

TPI Bootsle Project: Biological Assessment - Botany

Trichodon cylindricus	cylindrical trichodon	None	None	2B.2	-	50-2000	Moss; Sandy, exposed soil, roadbanks in broadleaved upland forest, meadows and seeps, and upper montane coniferous forest	No	Not observed during project surveys
Alisma gramineum	grass alisma	None	None	2B.2	June-Aug	1200-1800	Occurs in wetlands, wetland-riparian; ponds	No	Protected by WLPZ/RCA; Nearest occurrence 10 mi. NW of project area
Artemisia tripartita ssp. tripartita	threetip sagebrush	None	None	2B.3	Aug.	2200-2600	Rocky, volcanic; Upper Montane coniferous forest (openings)	No	Open areas at higher elevations not affected by proposed treatments
Mertensia longiflora	long bluebells	None	None	2B.2	Apr-June	1500-2200	Open, generally spring-moist, druing places of plains, foothills, especially with sagebrush or sparse ponderosa-pine forest	No	No occurrences observed in project area; Nearest observation in Willow Creek Valley 15 mi N of project area
Downingia laeta	Great Basin downingia	None	None	2B.2	May-July	1200-2000	Ditches, ponds, streams, vernal pools	No	Protected by WLPZ/RCA
Botrychium crenulatum	scalloped moonwort	None	None	2B.2	June-Sept	1500-3600	Saturated hard water seeps and stream margins, mosit meadows, seeps, bogs, and fens	No	Protected by WLPZ/RCA
Botrychium minganense	Mingan moonwort	None	None	2B.2	July-Sept	1500-3100	Wet soils in forests, along steams	No	Protected by WLPZ/RCA
Penstemon janishiae	Janish's beardtongue	None	None	2B.2	May-July	1065-2350	Generally igneous-clay soils in sagebrush scrub, juniper/shrub savanna; ponderosa pine forest	No	No occurences observed during project surveys; Nearest occurrence in Elysian Valley, N. of project area at lower elevation.
Penstemon sudans	Susanville beardtongue	None	None	1B.2	June-July	1200-2200	Open, rocky, igneous soils in sagebrush scrub, yellow-pine and montane forests; eastside scrub, forest	No	No occurrences observed in project area; Found north of project area around Susanville
Phlox muscoides	squarestem phlox	None	None	2B.3	June-Aug	1400-2700	Open rocky areas; alpine rock	No	No habitat within project treatment areas
Eriogonum ochrocephalum var. ochrocephalum	ochre-flowered buckwheat	None	None	2B.2	May-June	1300-1700	Volcanic or clay; Great Basin scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland	No	Not observed during project surveys

CNPS Rare Plant Ranks

1B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in CA and elsewhere

2B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in CA, but common elsewhere

Threat Ranks

.1 - seriously threatened in CA

.2 - moderately threatened in CA

.3 - not very threatened in CA

TPI Bootsole: Biological Assessment - Wildlife

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Habitat in the Project Area	Potential Impact
Insects						
<i>Bombus occidentalis</i>	Western bumblebee	None	Candidate Endangered	Three basic habitat requirements: suitable nesting sites for the colonies, nectar and pollen from floral resources available throughout the duration of the colony period (spring, summer and fall), and suitable overwintering sites for the queens. Nests occur primarily in underground cavities such as old squirrel or other animal nests and in open west-southwest slopes bordered by trees.	Yes	Habitat will benefit from project by increasing foraging habitat through increased canopy openings
Amphibians						
<i>Rana sierrae</i>	Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog	Endangered	Threatened	Associated with streams, lakes and ponds in montane riparian, lodgepole pine, subalpine conifer, and wet meadow habitats at elevations from 4,500 - 11,980 ft. Aquatic species usually found within a few feet of water. Eggs are usually laid in shallow water attached to gravel or rocks. Tadpoles may require up to two over-wintering periods to complete their aquatic development.	Yes	VES Protocol amphibian surveys were conducted in suitable habitat within project area and no frogs were detected. Additional survey will be conducted prior to implementation. USFWS concurrence.
<i>Rana boylei</i>	Foothill yellow-legged frog	None	Endangered	They inhabit partially shaded, rocky perennial streams and their life cycle is synchronized with the seasonal timing of streamflow conditions. They breed in streams with riffles containing cobble-sized or larger rocks as substrate. These frogs need perennial water where they can forage through the summer and fall months. Usually found within a few feet of water.	Yes	VES Protocol amphibian surveys were conducted in suitable habitat within project area and no frogs were detected. Additional survey will be conducted prior to implementation. Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ)-will be protected

TPI Bootsole: Biological Assessment - Wildlife

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Habitat in the Project Area	Potential Impact
<i>Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum</i>	Southern Long-Toed Salamander	None	SSC	Adults spend much of their lives underground, often utilizing the tunnels of burrowing mammals such as moles and ground squirrels. Transformed adults are rarely found outside of the breeding season. They are mostly found under wood, logs, rocks, bark and other objects near breeding sites which can include ponds, lakes, and streams, or when they are breeding in the water.	Yes	Habitat within Watercourse Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ)- will be protected. VES surveys prior to implementation.
Birds						
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	Delisted	Endangered	Occupy various woodland, forest, grassland, and wetland habitats. Large nests are normally built in the upper canopy of large trees, and snags typically conifers near water sources with fish.	No	No known nest sites within the project area; may forage or fly over
<i>Strix occidentalis occidentalis</i>	California Spotted Owl	None	SSC	This species is closely related to the Northern spotted owl and has a similar life history utilizing mature forests for habitat.	Yes	Spotted Owl PAC and HRCA within project area Surveys in 2020 found area currently unoccupied. Will be surveyed again in 2021. Proposed treatments within PAC and HRCA meet Forest Service requirements under SNFPA ROD.
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern Goshawk	None	SSC	Generally, prefer dense forests with large trees and relatively high canopy closures like late successional forest stands.	No	Survayed in 2019 and 2020. No nests sites within the project area; may forage or fly over

TPI Bootsole: Biological Assessment - Wildlife

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Habitat in the Project Area	Potential Impact
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle	None	Fully Protected (FP), Watch List (WL)	Live in open and semi open country; avoid developed areas and uninterrupted stretches of forest. Canyonlands, rimrock terrain, and riverside cliffs and bluffs. Nest on cliffs and steep escarpments in grasslands, chaparral, scrublands, forest, and other vegetated areas.	No	No known nest sites within the project area; may forage or fly over
<i>Antigone canadensis tabida</i>	Greater Sandhill Crane	None	Threatened, FP	Winter in the Central Valley and nest in six northeastern CA counties. Nest in healthy undisturbed wetland ecosystems.	No	No known nesting areas located within the project area. Potential habitat within WLPZ will be protected
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	None	WL	Nests on platform of sticks at the top of large snags, dead-topped trees, on cliffs, or on human made structures. Nest usually within 400 m of fish-producing water.	No	No known nest sites within the project area; may forage or fly over
<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Willow Flycatcher	None	Endangered	A rare to locally uncommon, summer resident in wet meadow and montane riparian habitats at 600-2500 m (2000-8000 ft) in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Range. Most often occurs in broad, open river valleys or large mountain meadows with lush growth of shrubby willows. Nesting site usually near languid stream, standing water, or seep.	No	No known nesting areas within the project area. Potential habitat within WLPZ will be protected
Mammals						
<i>Pekania pennanti</i>	Fisher	None	SSC	High cover and structural complexity in large tracts of mature and old growth forests	No	Project outside current range. Habitat for Fisher will improve in the long term post treatment

TPI Bootsole: Biological Assessment - Wildlife

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Habitat in the Project Area	Potential Impact
<i>Vulpes vulpes necator</i>	Sierra Nevada Red Fox	None	Threatened	High mountains of the Sierra Nevada in open conifer woodlands and mountain meadows near treeline.	No	Project area outside of current range.
<i>Canis lupus</i>	Gray Wolf	Endangered	Endangered	Wolves have historically occupied diverse habitats in North America, including tundra, forests, grasslands, and deserts (Mech 1970). As a consequence, and because they travel long distances and require large home ranges, wolves are considered habitat generalists (Paquet and Carbyn 2003).	Yes	Has not been detected within project area to date, but will be monitored during project implementation.
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	pallid bat	None	SSC	Wide variety of habitats is occupied, including grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests from sea level up through low elevation mixed conifer forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. Day roosts are in caves, crevices, mines, and occasionally in hollow trees and buildings.	Marginal	No known roosting sites and no activity detected.
<i>Aplodontia rufa californica</i>	Sierra Nevada Mountain Beaver		SSC	Not related to true beavers, this nocturnal rodent prefers moist cool deciduous and coniferous forests. Burrows usually consist of a network of tunnels built in deep soil. Burrow entrances often contain clumps of wilted vegetation which the animal likely uses as a kind of food cache as well as a source of nesting material. .	Marginal	Based on the species preferred habitat, it is not likely to be affected by the current project
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Townsend's big-eared bat	None	SSC	Found in all but subalpine and alpine habitats. Most abundant in mesic habitats. Requires caves, mines, tunnels, buildings, or other human-made structures for roosting and nesting.	Marginal	No known roosting sites and no activity detected.

CONSERVATION BURN WORKSHOP

March 19 9am - 11am



A virtual workshop about burning woody material like old grapevines in a way that greatly reduces particulate releases, captures carbon, and improves compost and soil health.

Topics and speakers will include:

- **Ins and Outs of Prepping for a Conservation Burn**
 - Raymond Baltar: Co-Founder & Director, Sonoma Biochar Initiative
- **Biochar Benefits to Soil Health**
 - Josiah Hunt: CEO, Pacific Biochar
- **Napa Green- New Certification and Incorporating Conservation Burning**
 - Anna Brittain: Executive Director, Napa Green

This workshop will be held online via Zoom. Once registration is complete, a link will be sent to your email with information about joining the workshop.

Registration Details

\$30/person - Register at NapaRCD.org/ConservationBurn

Members of Napa Valley Vintners should contact Michelle Novi for a reduced price: mnovi@napavintners.com

Questions?
Miguel@NapaRCD.org

This workshop is made possible with support from



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ANDREA STUEMKY, RCD DISTRICT MANAGER
HONEY LAKE VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
170 RUSSELL AVENUE
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March 3, 2021
Invoice 898995
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INVOICE SUMMARY

For Professional Services Rendered Through February 28, 2021:

Our Matter # 83697.00003
Re: DOW V. HONEY LAKE VALLEY RCD (CASE NO. C091965)

Current Fees:	\$	<u>252.00</u>
Total Current Billings For This Matter:	\$	252.00
Balance from Previous Statement:		4,340.34
Payments and Other Credits Received:		<u>(2,889.75)</u>
Prior Outstanding Balance:		1,450.59
Total Amount Due:	\$	<u><u>1,702.59</u></u>

INVOICE IS DUE AND PAYABLE UPON RECEIPT

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SUSANVILLE, CA 96130

March 3, 2021
Invoice 898994
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INVOICE SUMMARY

For Professional Services Rendered Through February 28, 2021:

Our Matter # 83697.00002
Re: DOW V. HONEY LAKE VALLEY RCD (CASE NO. C090304)

Current Fees:	\$	292.50
Current Reimbursable Costs:		<u>0.51</u>
Total Current Billings For This Matter:	\$	293.01
Balance from Previous Statement:		2,029.58
Payments and Other Credits Received:		<u>(348.08)</u>
Prior Outstanding Balance:		1,681.50
Total Amount Due:	\$	<u><u>1,974.51</u></u>

INVOICE IS DUE AND PAYABLE UPON RECEIPT