



PUBLIC NOTICE
SPECIAL Board Meeting of the:
Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District
1516 Main Street
Susanville, CA 96130
(530)260-0067

Attachments available 01/24/25 at www.honeylakevalleyrcd.us

Date: Tuesday, January 28th, 2025

Location: 1516 Main Street, Susanville CA 96130

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, 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. ITEMS FOR RCD BOARD ACTION AND/OR DISCUSSION

- A. Consideration and approval of policy 3120 Investment of District and Watermaster Funds; and board officer responsible for the investment program (attachment)

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

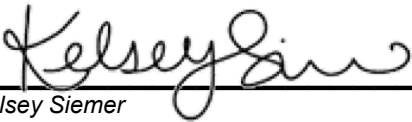
- B. Consideration and approval of CEQA NOE and Environmental Review for the Dyer Mountain Initiative WUI Fuel Treatments Project (attachment)

Tie to the Strategic Plan: Strategic Issue 1 – Build HLVRCO leadership & organizational capacity & Strategic Issue 2 - Prioritize the Conservation Needs of the Community

V. ADJOURNMENT

The next Honey Lake Valley RCD meeting will be **February 27th, 2025, at 3:30 PM.** The location is 1516 Main Street, Susanville, CA.

I certify that on Friday, January 24th, 2025 agendas were posted as required by Government Code Section 54956 and any other applicable law.

X 

Kelsey Siemer
District Manager

POLICY TITLE: Investment of District and Watermaster Services Funds
POLICY NUMBER: 3120

3120.1 Premise. The Legislature of the State of California has declared that the deposit and investment of public funds by local officials and local agencies is an issue of statewide concern California Government Code (CGC) §53600.6 and 53630.1; and,

CGC §5921 and §53601, et seq., allow the legislative body of a local agency to invest surplus monies not required for the immediate necessities of the local agency; and,

The Finance Division Manger or fiscal officer of a local agency is required to annually prepare and submit a statement of investment policy and such policy, and any changes thereto, is to be considered by the local agency’s legislative body at a public meeting (CGC §53646(a).

For these reasons, and to ensure prudent and responsible management of the public’s funds, it is the policy of the HLVRCD **and the Watermaster Service** to invest funds in a manner which will provide the highest investment return with the maximum security while meeting the daily cash flow demands of the District and conforming to all statutes governing the investment of the District **and Watermaster Service** funds.

3120.2 Scope. This investment policy applies to all financial assets of HLVRCD **and Watermaster Service**. These funds are accounted for in the Independent Annual Financial Report and include:

<u>Demand Account:</u>	<u>Investments:</u>
General Fund	Local Agency Investment Fund
Secretary Revolving Fund	(Others)
Operation and Maintenance Fund	
Enterprise Funds	
(Others)	

3120.3 Prudence. Investments shall be made with judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs; not for speculation, but for investment, considering the probable safety of their capital as well as the probable income to be derived. The standard of prudence to be used by investment officials shall be the “prudent investor” standard (CGC §53600.3) and shall be applied in the context of managing an overall portfolio. Investment officers acting in accordance with written procedures and this investment policy and exercising due diligence shall be relieved of personal responsibility for an individual security’s credit risk or market price changes, provided deviations for expectations are reported in a timely fashion and appropriate action is taken to control adverse developments.

3120.4 Objectives. As specified in CGC §53600.5, when investing, reinvesting, purchasing, acquiring, exchanging, selling, and managing public funds, the primary objectives of the investment activities, in priority order, shall be:

3120.4.1 Safety – Safety of principal is the foremost objective of the investment program. Investments of District **and the Watermaster Service** shall be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of capital in the overall portfolio. To attain this objective, diversification is required in order that potential losses on individual securities do not exceed the income generated from the remainder of the portfolio.

3120.4.2 Liquidity – The investment portfolio will remain sufficiently liquid to enable the District **and the Watermaster Service** to meet all operating requirements which might be reasonable anticipated.

3120.4.3 Return on Investments – The investment portfolio will be designed with the objective of attaining a market rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles, taking into account the investment risk constrains and the cash flow characteristics of the portfolio.

3120.5 Delegation of Authority. Authority to manage the investment program is derived from CGC §53600, et seq. Management responsibility for the investment program is hereby delegated to **(insert appropriate District officer)**, who shall establish written procedures for the operation of the investment program consistent with this investment policy. Procedures should include references to safekeeping, PSA repurchase agreements, wire transfer agreements, collateral/depository agreements, and banking services contracts, as appropriate. Such procedures shall include explicit delegation of authority to persons responsible for investment transactions. No person may engage in an investment transaction except as provided under the terms of this policy and the procedures established by the **(insert appropriate District officer)**. The **(insert appropriate District officer)** shall be responsible for all transactions undertaken and shall establish a system of controls to regulate the activities of subordinate officials. Under the provisions of CGC §53600.3, the **(insert appropriate District officer)** is a trustee and a fiduciary subject to the prudent investor standard.

3120.6 Ethics and Conflicts of Interest. Officers and employees involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with the proper execution of the investment program, or which could impair their ability to make impartial investment decisions.

3120.7 Authorized Financial Institutions and Dealers. The **(insert appropriate District officer)** will maintain a list of financial institutions, selected on the basis of credit worthiness, financial strength, experience, and minimal capitalization authorized to provide investment services. In addition, a list will also be maintained of approved security broker/dealers selected by credit worthiness that are authorized to provide investment and financial advisory services in the State of California. No public deposit shall be made except in a qualified public depository as established by state laws.

3120.7.1 For broker/dealers of government securities and other investments, the **(insert appropriate District officer)** shall only select broker/dealers who are licensed and in good standing with the California Department of Securities, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the National Association of Securities Dealers, or other applicable self-regulatory organizations.

3120.7.2 Before engaging in investment transactions with a broker/dealer, the **(insert appropriate District officer)** shall have received from said firm a signed Certification Form. This

form shall attest that the individual responsible for the District's **and the Watermaster Service's** accounts with the firm has reviewed this Investment Policy and that the firm understand the policy and intends to present investment recommendations and transactions to the District **and/or Watermaster Service** that are appropriate under the terms and conditions of this Investment Policy.

3120.8 Authorized and Suitable Investments The District **and Watermaster Service** is empowered by CGC §53601, et seq., to invest in the following:

3120.8.1 Bonds issued by the District or **Watermaster Service**.

3120.8.2 United States Treasury Bills, Notes, and Bonds.

3120.8.3 Registered state warrants or treasury notes or bonds issued by the State of California.

3120.8.4 Bonds, notes, warrants, or other evidence of debt issued by a local agency within the State of California, including pooled investment accounts sponsored by the State of California, County Finance Division Managers, other local agencies, or Joint Powers Agencies.

3120.8.5 Obligations issued by agencies or instrumentalities of the United States Government.

3120.8.6 Bankers' acceptances with a term not to exceed 270 days. Not more than 40% of surplus funds can be invested in bankers' acceptances and no more than 30% of surplus funds can be invested in the Barkers' acceptances of any single commercial bank.

3120.8.7 Prime commercial paper of U.S. corporations with assets greater than \$500 million, with a term not to exceed 180 days and the highest ranking issued by Moody's Investors Service (Moody's) or Standard & Poor's Corporation (S&P). Commercial paper cannot exceed 15% of total surplus funds provided that, if the average maturity of all commercial paper does not exceed 31 days, up to 30% of surplus funds can be invested in commercial paper.

3120.8.8 Negotiable certificates of deposits issued by federally or state chartered banks or associations. Not more than 30% of surplus funds can be invested in certificates of deposit.

3120.8.9 Repurchase/reverse repurchase agreements of any securities authorized by this section. Securities purchased under these agreements shall be no less than 102% of market value. (See special limits in CGC §53601(i))

3120.8.10 Medium term notes (not to exceed five (5) years) of U.S. corporations rated "A" or better by Moody's or S&P. Not more than 30% of surplus funds can be invested in medium term notes.

3120.8.11 Shares of beneficial interest issued by diversified management companies (money market mutual funds) investing in the securities and obligations authorized by the

Section Such funds must carry the highest rating of at least two of the three largest national rating agencies. Not more than 15% of surplus funds can be invested in money market mutual funds.

3120.8.12 Funds held under the terms of a trust indenture or other contract or agreement may be invested according to the provisions of those indentures or agreements.

3120.8.13 Collateralized bank deposits with a perfected security interest in accordance with the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) or applicable federal security regulations.

3120.8.14 Any mortgage pass-through security, collateralized mortgage obligation, mortgaged backed or other pay-through bond, equipment lease-backed certificate, consumer receivable pass-through certificate or consumer receivable backed bond of a maximum maturity of five (5) years. Securities in this category must be rated AA or better by a nationally recognized rating service. Not more than 30% of surplus funds may be invested in this category of securities.

3120.8.15 Any other investment security authorized under the provisions of CGC §5922 and §53601. See CGC 53601 for a detailed summary of the limitations and special conditions that apply to each of the above listed investment securities. CGC §53601 is included by reference in this Investment Policy.

3120.8.16 Prohibited Investments. Under the provisions of CGC §53601.6 and §53631.5, neither the District **nor the Watermaster Service** shall invest any funds covered by this Investment Policy in inverse floaters, range notes, interest-only strips derived from mortgage pools, or any investment that may result in zero interest accrual if held to maturity.

3120.9 Collateralization All certificates of deposits must be collateralized by the U.S. Treasury Obligations. Collateral must be held by a third party trustee and valued on a monthly basis. The percentage of collateralization on repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements will adhere to the amount required under CGC §53601(i)(2).

3120.10 Safekeeping and Custody All security transactions entered into by the District **or Watermaster Service** shall be conducted on delivery-versus-payment (DVP) basis. All securities purchased or acquired shall be delivered to the District **or Watermaster Service** by book entry, physical delivery, or by a third party custodial agreement as required by CGC §53601.

3120.11 Diversification The District **and Watermaster Service** will diversify its investments by security type and institution. It is the policy of the District **and Watermaster Service** to diversify its investment portfolio. Assets shall be diversified to eliminate the risk of loss resulting from over concentration of assets in a specific maturity, a specific issuer, or a specific class of securities. Diversification strategies shall be determined and revised periodically. In establishing specific diversification strategies, the following general policies and constraints shall apply:

3120.11.1 Portfolio maturities shall be matched versus liabilities to avoid undue concentration in a specific maturity sector.

3120.11.2 Maturities selected shall provide for stability of income and liquidity.

3120.11.3 Disbursement and payroll dates shall be covered through maturities, investments, marketable U.S. Treasury bills, or other cash equivalent instruments such as money market mutual funds.

3120.12 Reporting In accordance with CGC §5364(b)(1), the (insert appropriate District officer) shall submit to each member of the Board of Directors a quarterly investment report. The report shall include a complete description of the portfolio, the type of investments, the issuers, maturity dates, par values, and the current market values of each component of the portfolio, including funds managed for the District or Watermaster Service by third party contracted managers. The report will also include the source of the portfolio valuation. As specified in CGC §53646€, if all funds are placed in LAIF, FDIC-insured accounts, and/or in a county investment pool, the foregoing report elements may be replaced by copies of the latest statements from such institutions. The report must also include a certification that: (1) all investment actions executed since the last report have been made in full compliance with the Investment Policy, (2) the District or Watermaster Service will meet its expenditure obligations for the next six (6) months as required by CGC §53646(b)(2) and (3), respectively. The (insert appropriate District officer) shall maintain a complete and timely record of all investment transactions.

NOTICE OF CEQA EXEMPTION

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

From: Honey Lake Valley RCD
1516 Main Street
Susanville, CA 96130
530-260-0067

Date: January 28, 2025

Project Title:

Dyer Mountain Initiative WUI Fuel Treatments Project

Project Location:

MDBM, Township 27N, Range 9E, portions of Sections 1 & 2; T27N, R10E, portions of Section 6; T28N, R8E, portions of Sections 1-18 & 21-27; T28N, R9E, portions of Sections 2-36; T29N, R9E, portions of Sections 20, 29, & 32

Project Description:

The entire +/-35,533 acre project area lies within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The majority of the project area consists of overstocked forest stands, or stands where white fir and/or brush have established, that are at high risk of wildfire. Eighty-eight percent of our project treatments will be implemented within the Very High Fire Hazard severity zone. This includes not only the forests that surround the project's communities, but the forest within the communities themselves. This project will implement fuel reduction activities to improve the protection of homes, communities and public and private lands from fire while protecting environmental, natural and cultural resources. The project will reduce fuel loads in Eastside Pine (EPN), Sierra Mixed Conifer (SMC), Montane Hardwood Conifer (MHC), and Sagebrush (SGB) habitats on private lands along the Dyer Mountains running along the Lassen/Plumas County border and adjacent to, and/or near the communities of Clear Creek, Hamilton Branch, Westwood and Pine Town. Target fuels are brush, and small and suppressed trees. The project also includes the removal of dead, dying and/or hazard trees adjacent to homes that will reduce wildfire risk in the home ignition zone and to utility infrastructure.

The goals of the project include reducing threats to communities from large, severe wildfires by clearing vegetation from critical locations to reduce wildfire intensity and rate of spread on the landscape. This includes the completion of hazard and overstocked tree removal in Clear Creek where a previous CCI grant did not have sufficient funds to complete the project; removal of hazard and overstocked trees in Westwood & Pine Town; implementation of landscape-scale fuel treatments around and near the communities; the expansion of existing fuel breaks and establishment of new fuel breaks as shown on our project maps; reduce fire hazard in and near the communities of Hamilton Branch, Clear Creek, Westwood and Pine Town protect critical infrastructure; and improve ingress and egress along roads used by the public and used during fire suppression activities.

NOTICE OF CEQA EXEMPTION

Much of the thinning activity and removal of trees >11” dbh (biomass) will be conducted under California Forest Practice Exemptions. The balance of the treatment activities, including the mastication of brush and small trees, hand treatments of brush and small trees, prescribed fire, and herbicide 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 forest restoration and fuel reduction activities associated with the Dyer Mountain Initiative WUI Fuel Treatments project 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 and restoration activities. The Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (RCD) has determined that the objective of fuel reduction and forest restoration 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 improving forest health and reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire. 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

Lead Agency Contact Person:

Kelsey Siemer, District Manager
Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District
530-260-0067

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

ATTEST:

NOTICE OF CEQA EXEMPTION

I, Kelsey Siemer, 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 28th day of January, 2025 by the following vote:

Ayes: _____
Noes: _____

Abstentions: _____
Absent: _____

Kelsey Siemer, 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/Registered Professional Forester (RPF #3134)
Address:	705-670 Hwy 395E, Susanville, CA 96130
Phone:	(530) 260-0934
Email:	timkeeseey@tkeceological.com

Project Name:	Dyer Mountain Initiative WUI Fuel Treatments
Project Number:	CCI CAL FIRE #5GA20102
Program Type:	Fire Prevention
CAL FIRE Unit:	Lassen/Plumas/Modoc Unit
County:	Lassen and Plumas
Acres:	+/-35,533 acres
Legal Location:	MDBM, Township 27N, Range 9E, portions of Sections 1 & 2; T27N, R10E, portions of Section 6; T28N, R8E, portions of Sections 1-18 & 21-27; T28N, R9E, portions of Sections 2-36; T29N, R9E, portions of Sections 20, 29, & 32
Name of USGS 7.5' Quad Map(s): Roop Mountain, Diamond Mountain, and Janesville	
<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 on +/-35,533 acres of private lands generally located along the Highway 36 and 147 corridors from Hamilton Branch on the west to Pine Town on the East in Lassen and Plumas Counties, CA. The area includes over 1,565 habitable structures. Project expands on previously completed treatments in and around the Clear Creek community and the Mountain Meadows recreation area. All the treatments will occur within State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) and Local Responsibility Area (LRAs) (Westwood) for fire response. The vast majority of the project lies within a Very High Hazard Fire Severity Zone.</p> <p>The project area is within the: Peninsula Village (5518.440502); Hamilton Branch (5518.440702); Lower Robbers Creek (5518.450101); and Moonlight Pass (5518.450400) watersheds. The slope of the majority of the project area is flat to gently sloped with steeper slopes associated with treatments on Dyer Mountain. Elevation ranges from 4,650 – 5,480 feet, and average annual precipitation of 22-35. 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. The project was ranked as the #1 priority in the 2021 Lassen County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). A portion of the south end of the project near Mountain Meadows Reservoir burned in the Dixie Fire (2021).</p>

Existing Condition/Need for Proposed Project

The entire project area lies within the WUI. The majority of the project area consists of overstocked forest stands, or stands where white fir and/or brush have established, that are at high risk of wildfire. Eighty-eight percent of our project treatments will be implemented within the Very High Fire Hazard severity zone. This includes not only the forests that surround the project's communities, but the forest within the communities themselves. This project will implement fuel reduction activities to improve the protection of homes, communities and public and private lands from fire while protecting environmental, natural and cultural resources. The project will reduce fuel loads in Eastside Pine (EPN), Sierra Mixed Conifer (SMC), Montane Hardwood Conifer (MHC), and Sagebrush (SGB) habitats on private lands along the Dyer Mountains running along the Lassen/Plumas County border and adjacent to, and/or near the communities of Clear Creek, Hamilton Branch, Westwood and Pine Town (See Attachment A – Project Area Map). Target fuels are brush, and small and suppressed trees. The project also includes the removal of dead, dying and/or hazard trees adjacent to homes that will reduce wildfire risk in the home ignition zone and to utility infrastructure.

The goals of the project include reducing threats to communities from large, severe wildfires by clearing vegetation from critical locations to reduce wildfire intensity and rate of spread on the landscape. This includes the completion of hazard and overstocked tree removal in Clear Creek where a previous CCI grant did not have sufficient funds to complete the project; removal of hazard and overstocked trees in Westwood & Pine Town; implementation of landscape-scale fuel treatments around and near the communities; the expansion of existing fuel breaks and establishment of new fuel breaks as shown on our project maps; reduce fire hazard in and near the communities of Hamilton Branch, Clear Creek, Westwood and Pine Town protect critical infrastructure; and improve ingress and egress along roads used by the public and used during fire suppression activities.

Proposed Action

Much of the thinning activity and removal of trees >11" dbh (biomass) will be conducted under California Forest Practice Exemptions. The balance of the treatment activities, including the mastication of brush and small trees, hand treatments of brush and small trees, prescribed fire, and herbicide 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 Treatments:

Emergent brush treatment involves the use of herbicides to treat emergent vegetation in order to remove competition from planted conifer seedlings and maintain 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 Herbicides. Of the herbicides 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 vegetation control shall be with the use of herbicides. 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.

1.4. Erosion Control

Erosion control may include reseeding with native seed for stabilization of degraded areas and installation of brow logs to trap sediment from entering waterways. Erosion control will be installed on disturbed areas and all roads used for hauling and yarding per Forest Practice Rules (14 CCR §934 and §943).

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:

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?

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, Lassen County Air Pollution Control District (LCAPCD), guidelines for dust abatement and other air quality concerns were reviewed for this project. The project proposes underburning and pile burning within the project area. 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 LCAPCD Smoke Management Plan and the LCAPCD Air Pollution Permit issued for the proposed burn activities 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 – Wildlife and 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 (Diamond Mountain) 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, or rare species were identified within the project area. Habitat for rare plant species

does exist within the project area, but will be protected with Water course Lake Protection Zones (WLPZs) per Forest Practice Rules (14 CCR §936). Any special status plant species identified during project implementation will be flagged and avoided. It has been determined that the proposed project as designed will have no impact on threatened, endangered, candidate, or rare 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 and Botany). This assessment included a 3-mile CNDDDB search, a search of the CDFW BIOS system for sensitive wildlife species identified within the 9 quad search, and consideration of past experience in the area.

Habitat for the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae*), foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*), and southern long-toed salamander (*Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum*) exists within the project area, but will be protected by the WLPZ. Known occurrences of Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), greater sandhill crane (*Antigone canadensis tabida*), willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*), and California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*) will be monitored and, if active, protected per CA Forest Practice rules. Habitat for Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) and yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) exists within the project area, and if identified will be protected per CA Forest Practice Rules. The CDFW Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) website at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Gray-Wolf> will be monitored to determine if planned activities will intersect with known wolf locations. If so, CDFW will be consulted prior to the commencement of project activities. In addition, if any wolves, dens, or rendezvous sites are found prior to or during project operations, operations shall be suspended and consultation with CDFW shall occur immediately. 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 267 previously recorded resources within the Project Influence Zone (PIZ), and 19 resources 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 surveys of the project area.

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

Yes (See Attachment B – Dyer Mountain Initiative WUI Fuel Treatments Archaeological Survey Coverage Map)

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

No. The project will have no effect on any cultural resources. All identified sites and 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 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 (14 CCR §936).

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 provide mitigation measures to reduce smoke to a level

that does not impact local road visibility. 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 I, 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(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)

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 forest restoration and fuel reduction activities associated with the Dyer Mountain Initiative WUI Fuel Treatments project 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 and restoration activities. The Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (RCD) has determined that the objective of fuel reduction and forest restoration 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 improving forest health and reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire. 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,

Dyer Mountain Initiative WUI Fuel Treatments – Environmental Review Report Form (ERRF) Supporting an Exempt Project

(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.

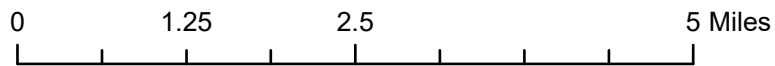
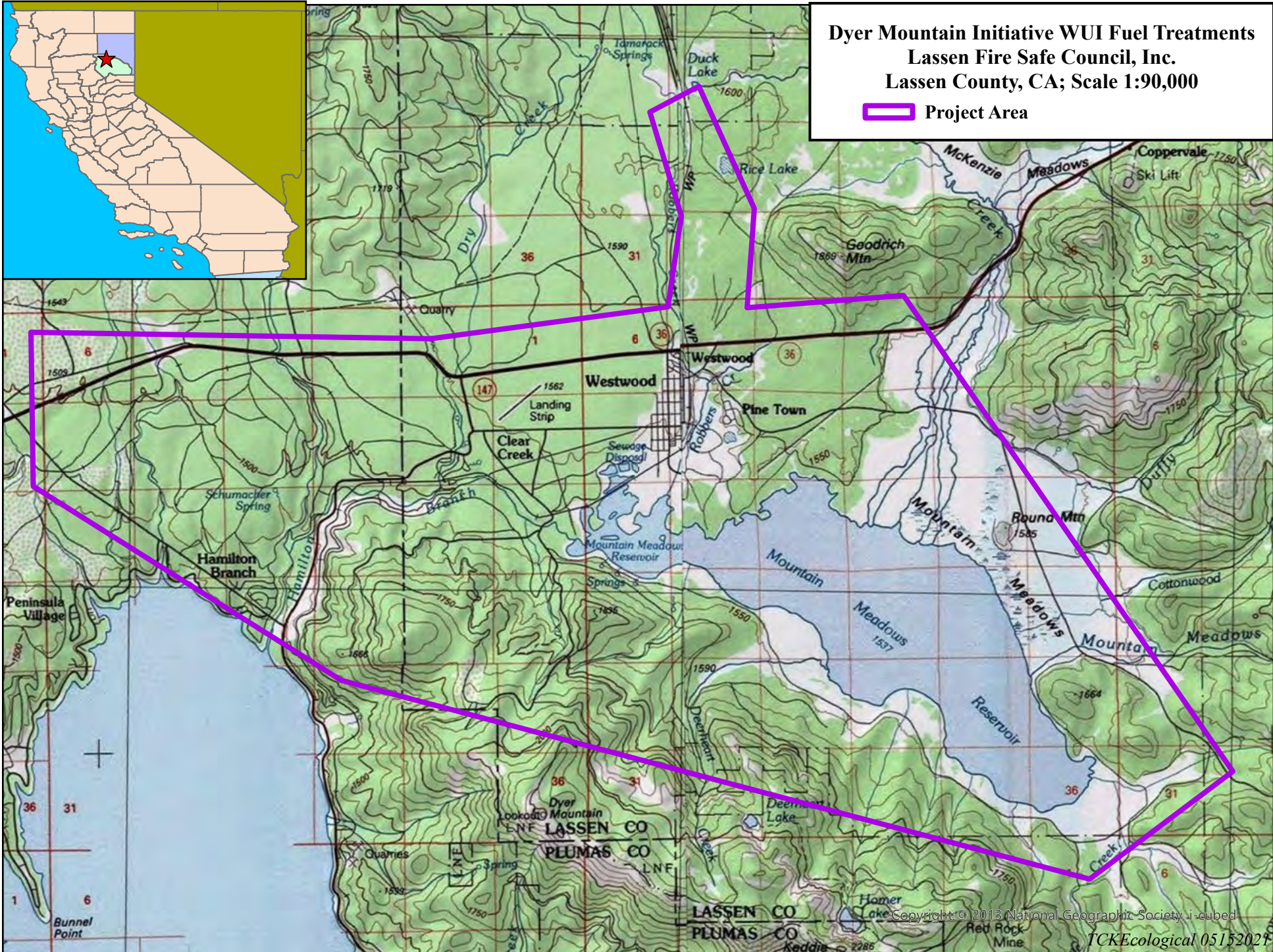
Signed:

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

Date



Dyer Mountain Initiative WUI Fuel Treatments
Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc.
Lassen County, CA; Scale 1:90,000
 **Project Area**



Attachment A: 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.	Yes	No known occupied habitat within the project area. Habitat within Watercourse Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ)- will be protected
<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	No known occupied habitat within the project area. Habitat within Watercourse Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ)- will be protected.
<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.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Habitat in the Project Area	Potential Impact
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.	Yes	Known nest sites within the project area will be monitored and protected per CA Forest Practice Rules .
<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	Known nest sites within the project area will be monitored and protected per CA Forest Practice Rules.
<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.	Yes	Known nest sites within the project area will be monitored and protected per CA Forest Practice Rules.
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's hawk	None	WL	A breeding resident throughout most of th wooded portion of the state. Dense stands of live oak, riparian deciduous, or other forest habitats near water used most frequently.	Yes	Known nest sites within the project area will be monitored and protected per Forest Practice rules.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Habitat in the Project Area	Potential Impact
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned hawk	None	WL	Breeds in ponderosa pine, black oak, riparian deciduous, mixed conifer, and Jeffrey pine habitats. North facing slopes, with plucking perches are critical requirements. Usually nests in dense, pole and small-tree stands of conifers, which are cool, moist, well shaded, with little ground-cover, near water.	Yes	Known nest sites within the project area will be monitored and protected per Forest Practice rules.
<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.	Yes	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.	Yes	Known nest sites within the project area will be monitored and protected per Forest Practice rules.
<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.	Yes	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.	Yes	Known nest sites within the project area will be monitored and protected per CA Forest Practice Rules.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Habitat in the Project Area	Potential Impact
<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	Yellow-headed blackbird	None	SSC	Breeds almost exclusively in marshes with tall emergent vegetation, such as tules or cattails, generally in open areas and edges over relatively deep water.	Yes	Habitat will not be impacted by proposed activities.
<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	Yellow warbler	None	SSC	Breeds in riparian woodlands, montane chaparral, and in open ponderosa pine and mixed conifer habitats with substantial amounts of brush	Yes	Known nest sites within the project area will be monitored and protected per CA Forest Practice Rules.
<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>	Double-crested cormorant	None	WL	A yearlong resident along the entire coast of California and on inland lakes, in fresh, salt, and estuarine waters. Requires undisturbed nest-sites beside water, on islands or mainland. Uses wide rock ledges on cliffs; rugged slopes; and live or dead trees, especially tall ones. Feeds mainly on fish.	Yes	Habitat will not be impacted by proposed activities.
<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	White-faced ibis	None	WL	Prefers to feed in fresh emergent wetland, shallow lacustrine waters, muddy ground of wet meadows, and irrigated or flooded pastures and croplands. Nests in dense, fresh emergent wetland near foraging areas.	Yes	Habitat will not be impacted by proposed activities.
<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Olive-sided flycatcher	None	SSC	Breeding habitat is primarily late-successional conifer forests with open canopies usually at mid to high elevations.	Yes	Habitat will not be impacted by proposed activities.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Habitat in the Project Area	Potential Impact
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. No recent detections within or adjacent to the project area.
<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 and elevation. No recent detections within or adjacent to the project area.
<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 been detected within project area; will be monitored during project implementation.
<i>Aplodontia rufa californica</i>	Sierra Nevada Mountain Beaver	None	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.	Yes	No known detections within treatment areas. Based on the species preferred habitat, not likely to be impacted by the current project

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Habitat in the Project Area	Potential Impact
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American badger	None	SSC	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils	Yes	Based on the species preferred habitat, not likely to be impacted by the current project.
<i>Gulo gulo</i>	Wolverine	None	Threatened; FP	In Northern Sierra Nevada, have been found in mixed conifer, red fir, and lodgepole habitats, and probably use subalpine conifer, wet meadow, and montane riparian habitats at elevations from 4,300 – 7,300 ft.	Yes	Outside of current range. No known detections within the project area
<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.

Biological Assessment – Botany

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Flowering Period	Elevation (m)	Habitat/Ecology	Impact	Rationale
Oreostemma elatum	Tall alpine-aster	None	1B.2	June-Aug	1000-2100	Mesic habitat within bogs and fens; meadows and seeps; Upper montane coniferous forest	No	Protected within WLPZ, no occurrences within project area.
Pyrocoma lucida	Sticky pyrocoma	None	1B.2	July-Oct	700-2050	Alkaline clay flats; sagebrush scrub; openings in lower montane coniferous forest; meadows and seeps	No	No known occurrences within the project area; habitat not likely to occur in treatment area.
Brasenia schreberi	Watershield	None	2B.3	June-Sept	<2200	Wetlands; Wetland-riparian; Ponds; slow streams; marshes; swamps	No	Protected within WLPZ. Habitat not impacted by proposed activities
Carex davyi	Davy's sedge	None	1B.3	May-Aug	1400-3300	Usually in wetlands; sub-alpine and red fir forests	No	Protected within WLPZ; usually found higher than project area.
Carex lasiocarpa	Woolly-fruited sedge	None	2B.3	June-July	600-2100	Lake, pond shores, generally standing water	No	Protected within WLPZ; usually found higher than project area.
Carex limosa	Mud sedge	None	2B.2	June-Aug.	1200-2700	Sphagnum bogs	No	No habitat within the project area.
Carex petasata	Liddon's sedge	None	2B.3	May-July		Dry to wet meadows, open forest	No	No known occurrences in the project area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Flowering Period	Elevation (m)	Habitat/Ecology	Impact	Rationale
<i>Carex sheldonii</i>	Sheldon's sedge	None	2B.2	May-Aug	1200-2000	Wetlands; riparian; Lower montane coniferous forest (mesic); marshes and swamps	No	Protected within WLPZ. No known occurrences within the project area.
<i>Juncus dudleyi</i>	Dudley's rush	None	2B.3	July-Aug	<2000	Wet areas in montane coniferous forest	No	Protected within WLPZ. No known occurrences within the project area.
<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>	Marsh skullcap	None	2B.2	Jun-Sept	1000-2100	Occurs in wetlands in Pine forests, freshwater wetlands, wet meadows, wetland-riparian	No	Protected within WLPZ. No known occurrences within the project area.
<i>Botrychium ascendens</i>	Upswept moonwort	None	2B.3	July-Aug	1500-3200	Moist meadows, open woodlands near streams and seeps	No	Protected within WLPZ. No known occurrences within the project area.
<i>Botrychium crenulatum</i>	Scalloped moonwort	None	2B.2	June-Sept	1500-3600	Saturated hard water seeps and stream margins, moist meadow, seeps, bogs, fens	No	Protected within WLPZ. No known occurrences within the project area.
<i>Botrychium minganense</i>	Mingan moonwort	None	2B.2	July-Sept	1500-3100	Wet soils in forests, along streams	No	Protected within WLPZ. No known occurrences within the project area.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Flowering Period	Elevation (m)	Habitat/Ecology	Impact	Rationale
<i>Botrychium montanum</i>	Western goblin	None	2B.1	July-Sept	1500-2100	Shady conifer woodland, especially under <i>Calocedrus</i> along streams	No	Protected within WPLZ. No known occurrences within the project area.
<i>Botrychium pinnatum</i>	Northwestern moonwort	None	2B.3	June-Oct	1900-2800	Moist fields, shrubby slopes	No	Protected within WPLZ. No known occurrences within the project area.
<i>Orthocarpus bracteosus</i>	Rosy orthocarpus	None	2B.1	June-Aug	500-2000	Moist meadows	No	Protected within WLPZ. Known occurrences adjacent to project area will not be impacted by proposed activities.
<i>Potamogeton praelongus</i>	White-stemmed pondweed	None	2B.3	July-Aug	1800-3000	Wetlands; freshwater marsh, swamps, lakes (deep water)	No	Aquatic. Not impacted by proposed activities.
<i>Rhamnus alnifolia</i>	Alder buckthorn	None	2B.2	May – July	1370-2130	Wetlands, red fir, lodgepole pine, wetland-riparian	No	Protected by WLPZ. No known occurrences within the project area.
<i>Astragalus pulsiferae</i> var. <i>suksdorfii</i>	Suksdorf's milk-vetch	None	1B.2	May – Aug	1300-1600	Loose, often rocky soil, often with pines, sagebrush,	No	Habitat will not be impacted by proposed activities.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Flowering Period	Elevation (m)	Habitat/Ecology	Impact	Rationale
<i>Betula glandulosa</i>	Dwarf resin birch	None	2B.2	May-June	1300-2300	Steams, meadow edges	No	Protected by WLPZ. No known occurrences within the project area.
<i>Boechera constancei</i>	Constance's rockcress	None	1B.2	May-July	1100-1900	Serpentine slopes, ridges	No	No habitat within the project area
<i>Drosera anglica</i>	English sundew	None	2B.3	June-Sept	1300-2000	Swamps, peatlands, often in Sphagnum	No	No habitat within project area.
<i>Erigeron lassenianus</i> var. <i>deficiens</i>	Plumas rayless daisy	None	1B.3	June-Sept	1200-1900	Open, rocky sites, barren flats, gravelly soils, sometimes serpentine	No	No known occurrences in the project area. Habitat within project area will not be disturbed by proposed activities.
<i>Eriogonum pyrolifolium</i> var. <i>pyrolifolium</i>	Pyrola-leaved buckwheat	None	2B.3	July-Sept	1600-3300	Alpine boulder and rock field (pumice, sandy, or gravelly)	No	No habitat within the project area.
<i>Eriogonum spectabile</i>	Barron's buckwheat	None	1B.2	July-Aug	2010-2050	Upper montane coniferous forest; rocky and sandy	No	No habitat within project area; found at higher elevations
<i>Lysimachia thyrsoflora</i>	Tufted loosestrife	None	2B.3	May-Aug	975-1675	Meadows and seeps (mesic); marshes and swamps; upper montane coniferous forests	No	Protected by WLPZ. No known occurrences within the project area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Flowering Period	Elevation (m)	Habitat/Ecology	Impact	Rationale
<i>Orcuttia tenuis</i>	Slender orcutt grass	Threatened	Endangered	May-Sept	200-1100	Vernal pools	No	Protected by WLPZ. No known occurrences within the project area.
<i>Packera indecora</i>	Rayless mountain ragwort	None	2B.2	July-Aug	<2300	Damp area along streams, meadows, woodlands	No	Protected by WLPZ. No known occurrences within the project area.
<i>Penstemon personatus</i>	Closed-throated beardtongue	None	1B.2	June-Sept	1065-2120	Chaparral; lower montane coniferous forest; upper montane coniferous forest	No	No known occurrences within the project area.
<i>Scheuchzeria palustris</i>	American scheuchzeria	None	2B.1	July-Aug	1400-2000	Floating mats, bogs, lake margins	No	Habitat within the project area will not be disturbed by proposed activities.
<i>Schoenoplectus subterminalis</i>	Water bulrush	None	2B.3	June-Aug	<2300	Fresh lakes, streams low in nutrients	No	Habitat within the project area will not be disturbed by proposed activities.
<i>Sedum albomarginatum</i>	Feather River stonecrop	None	1B.2	May-June	300-900	Steep serpentine slopes	No	No habitat within the project area; found at lower elevations.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Flowering Period	Elevation (m)	Habitat/Ecology	Impact	Rationale
<i>Stellaria longifolia</i>	Long-leaved starwort	None	2B.2	May-Aug	900-1830	Bogs and fens; meadows and seeps (mesic); riparian woodlands; upper montane coniferous forests	No	Protected by WLPZ. No known occurrences within the project area.
<i>Utricularia intermedia</i>	Flat-leaved bladderwort	None	2B.2	July-Aug	1200-1700	Shallow (<1 m) water; bogs and fens; meadows and seeps (mesic); marshes and swamps (lake margins); vernal pools	No	Habitat within the project area will not be disturbed by proposed activities.
<i>Utricularia ochroleuca</i>	Cream-flowered bladderwort	None	2B.2	June-July	1300-2400	Shallow (generally <30 cm) acidic water; meadows and seeps (mesic); marshes and swamps (lake margins)	No	Habitat within the project area will not be disturbed by proposed activities.

State Status

CNPS Rare Plant Rank




1B – Plant rare, threatened, or endangered in CA and elsewhere

2B – Plant rare, threatened, or endangered in CA, but common elsewhere

- .1 - Seriously threatened in CA
- .2 – moderately threatened in CA
- .3 – not very threatened in CA

Attachment B: Archaeological Survey Coverage Map

**Dyer Mountain Initiative WUI Fuel Treatments
Archaeological Survey Coverage
Lassen & Plumas Counties, CA; Scale 1:100,000**

-  Project Influence Zone (PIZ)
-  Dyer Mtn PIZ Archaeological Survey Coverage
-  Heavy Development Areas

