

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 12/06/20 at www.honeylakevalleyrcd.us

Date: Thursday, December 9th, 2020

Location: Via Zoom

Time: 3:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83514195066?pwd=OU1DTDIOa1FIWFk2aWMvSVM4WS9Idz09

Meeting ID: 835 1419 5066

Passcode: 391636

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: 10/7/2020, 10/22/2020, & 11/10/2020
- B. Treasurer's Report Claypool

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

V. <u>REPORTS</u>

- A. District Manager Report Stuemky
- B. NRCS Agency Report Stephens
- C. WAC Report Langston
- D. Modoc Regional RCD/CARCD Report Tippin
- E. Fire Safe Council Report Johnson
- F. IRWMP Report Claypool
- G. 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 to update Thompson Peak Initiative (TPI) Fuel Treatments Project – CEQA Categorical Exemption. (attachment) - TIM

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

B. Consideration and approval of the Cooperative Agreement between Lassen Fire Safe Council and HLV RCD for S. Eagle Lake WUI Fuel Treatment Project – Eagle Lake Rd. CEQA. (attachment) - TIM

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

C. Consideration and approval of the South Eagle Lake WUI Fuel Treatments Project – Eagle Lake Road Categorical Exemption. - TIM

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 of final draft of the 2019/2020 Susan River Watermaster Service Area Annual Use Report (attachment).

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

B. Consideration and Approval to pay BBK December 2020 Invoices (attachment).

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

VIII. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

The next Honey Lake Valley RCD meeting will be <u>January. 28th, 2020, at 3:30 PM.</u> The location is the USDA Service Center, 170 Russell Avenue, Suite C, Susanville, CA.

I certify that on Monday, December 06, 2020 agendas were posted as required by Government Code Section 54956 and any other applicable law.

X Andrea Stuemky

Andrea Stuemky

District Manager



PUBLIC NOTICE Special Meeting of the:

Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District
<u>Attachments available 10/06/20 at www.honeylakevalleyrcd.org</u>

Date: Wednesday, October 07, 2020

Teleconference: HELD REMOTELY Via ZOOM

Time: 4:00 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 5:02pm, the pledge of allegiance was recited, and a quorum was noted. Board member vacancy 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.

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

IV. <u>ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION AND/OR DISCUSSION – RCD</u>

- A. Consideration and approval to change banking institutions.
 - Numerous institutions located within Susanville, CA were discussed. Board member Laurie
 Tippin made a motion to approve a change in banking institutions. Will Johnson seconded, and
 the motion passed. All.

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

- B. Consideration and approval to make job offer for Soil Conservation Technician position.
 - Laurie Tippin made the motion to approve the District Manager to offer the Soil Conservation Technician job to the selected applicant. Will Johnson seconded, the motion passed. All.

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

ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION AND/OR DISCUSSION- WATERMASTER

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- C. Consideration and approval of a legal services agreement with Harper & Bums LLP (attachment).
 - Tabled until next board meeting, October 22, 2020.

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

VI. ADJOURNMENT – 5:18PM

District Manager

The next Honey Lake Valley RCD meeting will be <u>October 22th, 2020, at 5:30 PM.</u> The location is the USDA Service Center, 170 Russell Avenue, Suite C, Susanville, CA.

Respectfully Submitted,	APPROVED:
	Jesse Claypool, RCD Board Chairperson
Andrea Stuemky	DATE:
Andrea Stuemky	



PUBLIC NOTICE

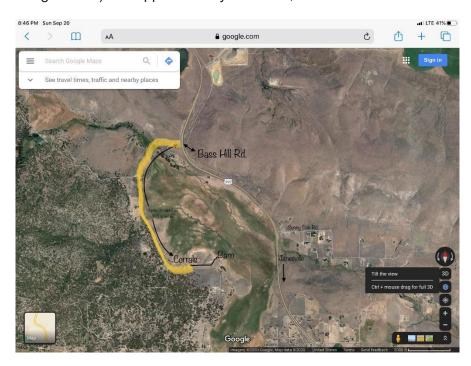
Regular Board Meeting of the:
Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District
170 Russell Ave. Suite C
Susanville, CA 96130
530-257-7271 ext. 100

Attachments available 10/19/2020 at www.honeylakevalleyrcd.org

Date: Thursday, October. 22nd, 2020

Location: The Bass Ranch, Janesville, CA

Take 395 heading to Janesville. At the top of Bass Hill take a right on Bass Hill Rd (It quickly turns into Wingfield Rd). Go approximately 1.6 miles, the corrals are on the left. Barn is located shortly after that.



Time: 5:30 PM

MEETING MINUTES *votes taken via role call*

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

Board member Jesse Claypool called the meeting to order at 5:52pm, the pledge of allegiance was recited, and a quorum was noted. Board member vacancy was noted.

MAPPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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. CONSENTITEMS

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

- A. Treasurer's Report Claypool
 - Jesse Claypool mentioned U.S. Bank as a possible new bank institution. Stuemky mentioned budget updates for the RCD and WM.

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

V. <u>REPORTS</u>

- A. Dsitrict Manager Report Stuemky
 - Stuemky discussed current work on CalRecycle and NACD grants as well as new grant applications.
- B. NRCS Agency Report Not present
- C. Lassen SWAT- No report
- D. WAC Report Adams
 - Adams discussed the Annual Use Report Meeting will be held next month. Vanacy with Mike leaving, board approved new application.
- E. Modoc Regional RCD/CARCD Report Tippin
 - Tippin discussed the meeting that occurred 10/21, voted on chair of regulatory RCD authority and Joint-Forestry committee.
- F. Fire Safe Council Report Johnson No Report
- G. IRWMP Report Claypool
 - Claypool discussed that a meeting with Jodie from IRWM.
- H. Unagendized reports by board members
 - Johnson discussed private citizen fire association, including SWAT info in apportionment letters.

 Jesse Claypool – discussed his schedule with the SDRMA and that CDSA has free online trainings.

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

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

- A. Consideration & approval of HLVRCD resolutions to be submitted to CARCD for member approval at the Nov 12 & 23 member business meeting.
 - Died due to lack of a motion.

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

- B. Identification & approval of HLVRCD board member delegate for the Nov 12 & 23 CARCD member business meeting & voting.
 - Died due to lack of a motion.

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

- C. Consideration and approval of 2020 update to HLVRCD policy #2500 regarding Vacation PTO (60 days vs. 180 days). (attachment)
 - Tippin made a motion to approve policy #2500, with changed to delete 2500.2.1. Langston seconded, the motion passed. All.

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

- D. Consideration and approval of 2020 update to HLVRCD policy #2520 regarding Sick Leave Accrual (4 hrs/pay period vs. 8hrs/month). (attachment)
 - Langston made a motion to approve policy #2520. Johnson seconded, the motion passed. All.

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

- E. Consideration and approval to amend and update the 2018/2019 CEQA categorical exemption for the South Eagle Lake WUI Fuel Treatments project to allow for prescribed burning along road A1 (Eagle Lake Road). (attachments)
 - Tippin made a motion to approve to amend and update the 2018/2019 CEQA categorical exemption for S. Eagle Lake WUI Fuel Treatments project. Johnson seconded, the motion passed. All.

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 of first draft of the 2019/2020 Susan River Watermaster Service Area Annual Use Report (attachment), previously tabled from 9/24/2020.
 - Board direction: update report with actual numbers to present at next meeting.

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

- B. Consideration and Approval to pay any outstanding Lozano Smith Invoices (attachment).
 - Langston made a motion not to pay the outstanding invoices, until all deliverables are retained by the HLVRCD board. Johnson seconded, the motion passed. All.

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

C. Consideration and Approval for renewing or replacing legal representation; Lozano Smith, Best Best and

Krieger, Harper and Burns LLP (attachment).

• Johnson made a motion to replace the HLVRCD's legal council, and to review representation choices. Langston seconded, the motion passed. All.

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

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

VIII. <u>ADJOURNMENT - 10/22/2020 at 8:34 PM</u>

Andrea Stuemky District Manager

The next Honey Lake Valley RCD meeting will be <u>TBD. 3:30 PM.</u> The location is the USDA Service Center, 170 Russell Avenue, Suite C, Susanville, CA.

Respectfully Submitted,	APPROVED:
Andrea Stuemky	DATE:



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 11/09/2020 at www.honeylakevalleyrcd.org

Date: Tuesday November 10, 2020

Location: HELD REMOTELY Via ZOOM

Time: 5:00 PM

<u>MEETING MINUTES</u> *votes taken via role call*

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

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

Board member Jesse Claypool called the meeting to order at 5:02pm, the pledge of allegiance was recited, and a quorum was noted. Board member vacancy was noted.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board member Laurie Tippin made a motion to approve agenda, Board member Robin Hansen 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. <u>ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION AND/OR DISCUSSION – RCD</u>

- A. Consideration, assignment, and approval of a board member to be the HLVRCD delegate for the upcoming CARCD business meetings on 11/12 & 11/23.
 - Tippin made a motion to appoint herself as the HLVRCD delegate. Hansen seconded, the motion passed. All.

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

VIII. <u>ADJOURNMENT – 11/10/2020 at 5:04 PM</u>

District Manager

The next Honey Lake Valley RCD meeting will be <u>December 9th. 3:30 PM.</u> The location is the USDA Service Center, 170 Russell Avenue, Suite C, Susanville, CA.

Respectfully Submitted,	APPROVED:
Andrea Stuemky	DATE:
Andrea Stuemky	

Thompson Peak Initiative Fuel Treatments

1. Project Description:

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 Diamond Mountains running along the Lassen/Plumas County border and adjacent to, and/or near the communities of Janesville and Milford (*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.

Much of the thinning activity and tree removal 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 emergent brush follow-up treatments will be conducted under this Notice of Exemption (NOE).

The Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (RCD) has determined that the project is exempt from CEQA under 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. 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; cultural resources; and hydrologic 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 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 archeological resource sites. The project will not result in cumulatively significant impacts. The Project will have no significant adverse effect on the environment.

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. Woody debris greater than 12" diameter will be retained for wildlife habitat. 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 brushflelds 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 (broadcast burn and pile and burn) 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.

2. Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plant Considerations:

An assessment of potential sensitive plants in the area was conducted and identified 2 plants as requiring surveys in potential habitat prior to operations (*See* Attachment B – Biological Assessment – Rare Plants). This assessment included a fifteen-quad search for rare plants using the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) BIOS system. This includes searching for rare plants identified within the area of the 7.5' quadrangles where the project is primarily located (Janesville, Stony Ridge, and Milford) along with the twelve surrounding quads. Consideration was given to past experience in the area.

The assessment identified Sticky pyrrocoma (*Pyrrocoma lucida* – CNPS Rank 1B.2) and Janish's beardtongue (*Penstemon janishiae* - CNPS Rank 2B.2) as sensitive plant species which could potentially be affected by operations. These two species are found in the Elyssian Valley portion of the project and botanical surveys for these species will be performed by a qualified specialist prior to project implementation of treatments within the Elyssian Valley portion of the project. Any plants which are discovered will be flagged and avoided such that direct impacts to individual plants do not occur and immediately surrounding habitat conditions do not change. Description of the plant and its protection measures are included below:

Sticky pyrrocoma (Pyrrocoma lucida) –

CNPS Rank 1B.2

<u>Description</u>: Sticky pyrrocoma (*Pyrrocoma lucida*), a dicot, is a perennial herb that blooms from July to October at elevations of 2,300-6,725 feet. Suitable habitat for this species is openings in sagebrush scrub and lower montane coniferous forests with alkali soils.

Threats: Grazing, vehicles, and hydrologic alterations.

Mitigations: Operations will be conducted to leave individuals and populations undisturbed by flagging an Equipment Limitation Zone (ELZ). Within the ELZ, operations will be limited to before leaf emergence (including over the snow operations), following seed set, or after senescence for the season. Trees will be directionally felled and yarded away from plants. Use of heavy equipment within the occurrence will be minimized to the extent feasible and limited to existing roads and/or skid trails.

Janish's beardtongue (Penstemon janishiae)

CNPS List 2B.2

<u>Description</u>: Janish's beardtongue (*Penstemon janishiae*), a dicot, is a perennial herb that blooms from May to July at elevations of 3,500 – 7,700 feet. Suitable habitat for this species includes sagebrush scrub juniper/scrub savanna, and ponderosa pine forest with igneous clay soils.

<u>Threats:</u> The species is potentially threatened by wind energy development, by vehicles and recreational activities.

<u>Mitigations</u>: Operations will be conducted to leave individuals and populations in an undisturbed state by flagging an Equipment Limitation Zone (ELZ). Within the ELZ, operations will be limited to before leaf emergence (including over the snow operations), following seed set, or after senescence for the season. Trees will be directionally felled and yarded away from plants. Use of heavy equipment within the occurrence will be minimized to the extent feasible and limited to existing roads and/or skid trails.

There are several rare species that may occur within the project area whose suitable habitat is within wetlands, wet meadows, and riparian areas that will be protected by Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones (WLPZ). These zones will be flagged around Class I, Class II, and Class III watercourses. Watercourse protection measures shall comply with the Rules and Regulations of the State Forest Practice Act specified in 14 CCR 936.5. These species include:

Sheldon's sedge	Carex sheldonii	CNPS Rank 2B.2
Alder buckthorn	Rhamnus alnifolia	CNPS Rank 2B.2
Santa Lucia Dwarf Rush	Juncus luciensis	CNPS Rank 1B.2
Plumas Ivesia	Ivesia sericoleuca	CNPS Rank 1B.2
Marsh skullcap	Scutellaria galericulata	CNPS Rank 2B.2
Grass alisma	Alisma gramineum	CNPS Rank 2B.2
Great Basin downingia	Downingia laeta	CNPS Rank 2B.2
Scalloped Moonwort	Botrychium creulatum	CNPS Rank 2B.2
Mingan Moonwort	Botrychium manganese	CNPS Rank 2B.2
Nuttall's ribbon-leaved pondweed	Potamogeton epihydrus	CNPS Rank 2B.2

See Attachment B – Biological Assessment – Botany for more information.

3. Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species Considerations:

An assessment of potential sensitive wildlife species in the area was conducted and identified seven wildlife species which warrant special considerations (*See* Attachment C: Biological Assessment – Wildlife). This assessment included a search of the CDFW BIOS system for sensitive wildlife species identified within the Janesville, Stony Ridge, and Milford 7.5' quadrangles, a California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) search of sensitive species within 5 miles of the project area, and consideration of past experience in the area.

This assessment identified the following seven sensitive species as having the potential to occur or occurring within the project area:

Western bumblebee (*Bombus occidentalis*) – State Candidate Threatened Mountain sucker (*Catostomus platyrhynchus*) – State Species of Special Concern (SSC) Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae*) – Federally endangered; State Threatened Foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylii*) – State Endangered Southern long-toed salamander (*Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum*) – State SSC Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) – State Threatened Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) – Federally endangered; State Endangered Field personnel will remain vigilant to evidence of these species within the project area. A description and protection measures for these species is listed below:

Western bumblebee (Bombus occidentalis) – State Candidate Threatened

<u>Description:</u> 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.

Queens overwinter in the ground in abandoned rodent (i.e. mouse, chipmunk or vole) nests at depths from 6-18 inches and typically emerge about mid-March. The queen then lays fertilized eggs and nurtures a new generation. She first creates a thimble-sized and shaped wax honey pot, which she provisions with nectar-moistened pollen for 8-10 individual first-generation workers when they hatch. The larvae will receive all of the proteins, fats, vitamins and minerals necessary for growth and normal development from pollen. Eventually all the larvae will spin a silk cocoon and pupate in the honey pot. The workers that emerge will begin foraging and provisioning new honey pots as they are created to accommodate additional recruits to the colony. Individuals emerging from fertilized eggs will become workers that reach peak abundance during July and August. Foraging individuals are largely absent by the end of September. Those that emerge from unfertilized eggs become males, which do not forage and only serve the function of reproducing with newly emerged queens. During the season, a range of 50 to hundreds of individuals may be produced depending on the quantity and quality of flowers available. When the colony no longer produces workers, the old queen will eventually die and newly emerged queens will mate with males and then disperse to found new colonies. During this extended flight that may last for up to two weeks she may make several stops to examine the ground for a suitable burrow. Bumble bees may forage up to a distance of 50 miles.

Threats: Bumble bees are threatened by many kinds of habitat alterations that may fragment or reduce the availability of flowers that produce the nectar and pollen they require, and decrease the number of abandoned rodent burrows that provide nest and hibernation sites for queens. Major threats that alter landscapes and habitat required by bumble bees include agricultural and urban development. Other major threats to bumble bees include: spread of pests and diseases by the commercial bumble bee industry, other pests and diseases, invasive species, natural pest or predator population cycles, climate change, and pesticides. Exposure to organophosphate, carbamate, pyrethroid and particularly neonicotinoid insecticides has recently been identified as a major contributor to the decline of many pollinating bees, including honey bees and bumble bees (Henry et al. 2012, Hopwood et al. 2012, Krupke et al. 2012). In the absence of fire, native conifers encroach upon meadows, which also decreases foraging and nesting habitat available for bumble bees.

<u>Mitigation:</u> No mitigation is necessary. The project will result in increased opening in the canopy. This will result in increased sunlight to the forest floor that will increase flowering plants that will improve bumblebee foraging habitat.

Mountain sucker (Catostomus platyrhynchus) – State Species of Special Concern (SSC)

<u>Description:</u> The mountain sucker is a slender, streamlined fish typically under 20 cm (8 in) in length. It is generally olive green or brown above, with pale underparts, and breeding males have a lateral red-orange band and fins suffused with the same color. 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

Threats: The main threats to the mountain sucker generally result from anthropogenic activities, with geographically isolated populations or those that previous anthropogenic activities have adversely affected being the most susceptible to extirpation. Habitat loss due to stream impoundment has been the cause of mountain sucker population declines in some drainages, while habitat degradation from increased sedimentation has also contributed to observed declines in others. Construction of passage barriers, such as dams and culverts, results in population and habitat fragmentation, leaving populations vulnerable to extirpation. Although less well understood, the introduction of non-native fishes also appears to threaten mountain sucker populations, primarily through increased predation, but also via increased competition.

<u>Mitigation:</u> Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones (WLPZ) will be flagged around Class I, Class II, and Class III watercourses. Watercourse protection measures shall comply with the Rules and Regulations of the State Forest Practice Act specified in 14 CCR 936.5. These protection measures will water quality and habitat impacts to the Mountain Sucker.

Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (Rana sierrae) – Federally endangered; State Threatened

<u>Description:</u> The Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog is a medium-size amphibian, measuring about 1.5 to 3.25 inches on average. Females tend to be slightly larger than males. Adult frogs have a mix of brown and yellow coloring on their upper (dorsal) body, but can also be grey, red, or greenish-brown, usually with dark spots or splotches, called cryptic coloration. These spots can look like lichen or moss and make the frog appear camouflaged. The belly and underside of their back legs, and sometimes the front legs, are yellow or light-orange.

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.

<u>Threats:</u> There has been a range-wide reduction in abundance and geographic extent of surviving populations of frogs following decades of fish stocking, habitat fragmentation, and most recently a disease epidemic. Surviving populations are smaller and more isolated, and breeding in disease-infested populations is highly reduced from historic norms. Studies show that populations of Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog have declined by almost 70 percent.

<u>Mitigation:</u> Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones (WLPZ) will be flagged around Class I, Class II, and Class III watercourses. Watercourse protection measures shall comply with the Rules and Regulations of the State Forest Practice Act specified in 14 CCR 936.5. These protection measures will water quality and habitat impacts to the SNYLF.

If any listed sensitive, threatened or endangered <u>amphibian species</u> is found once operations have started, all operations except the use of haul roads shall cease within a minimum 50 feet of the area or the WLPZ where such amphibians are located, and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife will be consulted within 48 hours for any further mitigation measures. A buffer area shall be flagged around the species for exclusion from project activities until the consultation occurs. Size of the buffer area will be not less than 50 feet, and potentially larger depending upon the location, terrain and sensitivity of the species.

Foothill yellow-legged frog (Rana boylii) – State Endangered

<u>Description:</u> Foothill Yellow-legged Frogs (FYLF) are small- to medium-sized frogs that are typically gray, brown, olive, or reddish with brown-black flecking and mottling, which often matches the local substrate. Foothill Yellow-legged Frogs have a relatively squat body and granular skin, giving them a rough appearance like toads, and their dorsolateral folds are indistinct compared to other western North American ranids. Their abdomen is white with variable amounts of dark mottling on the chest and throat, and as their name suggests, the undersides of their hind limbs are often yellow.

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.

Threats: Many Foothill Yellow-legged Frog populations are small, isolated from other populations, and possess low genetic diversity making them at greater risk of extirpation than robust populations. Threats to FYLF include dams and their altered flow regimes that asynchronous breeding cues, scouring and stranding of egg masses and tadpoles, reducing quality and quantity of breeding and rearing habitat, lessening tadpole growth rate, impeding gene flow among populations, and creating conditions that support the establishment and spread of non-native species. Additional threats include mining, livestock grazing, recreational activities, urban and agricultural land use and expansion, cannabis cultivation, timber harvest climate change, disease, and agricultural pollution. The species is particularly sensitive to some of the commonly used organophosphates.

Mitigation: See mitigation for Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frogs.

Southern long-toed salamander (Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum) – State SSC

<u>Description:</u> Adults are 1.6 to 3.4 inches long from snout to vent, 4 to 6.66 inches in total. The body is stout with 12-13 costal grooves and a broad rounded head, a blunt snout, small protuberant eyes, and no nasolabial grooves. The tail is flattened from side to side to facilitate swimming.

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.

<u>Threats:</u> This salamander does not appear to be in decline; however some populations might be at risk due to introduced fish and deforestation. UV-B radiation is another possible threat to high-altitude populations.

Mitigation: See mitigation for Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frogs.

Swainson's hawk (Buteo swainsoni) - State Threatened

<u>Description:</u> Breeds in the western United States and Canada and winters in South America. Adapted to open grasslands, it has become increasingly dependent on agriculture, especially alfalfa crops, as native communities are converted to agricultural lands. Diet primarily consists of voles; but will take other small mammals, birds, and insects. Often nest peripheral to riparian systems and lone trees in agricultural fields or pastures and roadside trees when available and adjacent to suitable foraging habitat. Occupy the Juniper/Sagebrush community in the Great Basin.

<u>Threats:</u> The most recognized threat to Swainson's hawks in the loss of their native foraging and breeding grounds. As important foraging areas are converted to urban landscapes or other unsuitable habitat, the aptitude for the landscape to support breeding pairs decreases. Other threats include climate change, infrastructure placement, disease, pesticide poisoning, and electrocution.

<u>Mitigation:</u> Known nests are not near forested areas where project treatments will take place and will not be affected by the proposed project.

Gray Wolf (Canis lupus) - Federally endangered; State Endangered

<u>Description:</u> 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).

Suitable habitat generally consists of areas with adequate prey where the likelihood of human contact is relatively low (Mladenoff et al 1999). Large undeveloped tracts of public land often provide suitable habitat and are generally required for the persistence of regional wolf populations in North America (Paquet and Carbyn 2003).

<u>Threats:</u> Loss of habitat is the primary threat to wolves as they require large areas away from humans to establish their home range. Conflict with humans and livestock leading to depredation.

Mitigation: The Project Biologist will periodically check the CDFW Gray wolf website at https://wwwl.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Gray-Wolf and click the link entitled "Map: Known Wolf Activity (PDF)" during the life of the project. If it is determined that planned operations will intersect with known wolf locations, then the biologist will consult with CDFW prior to the commencement of operations. In addition, if any wolves, dens, or rendezvous sites are found prior to or during timber operations, operations shall be suspended and consultation with CDFW shall occur immediately.

4. Cultural Resource Considerations:

The 22,614 acre project area has had a variety of cultural resource surveys conducted over approximately 14,586 acres, or 65% of the project area and 2,378 acres (11%) are in heavily developed areas that do not require surveys due to high disturbance to resources from human occupation (*See* Attachment D – Archaeological Survey Coverage Map). The remaining 24% that has not been surveyed is either in habitats that do not require the treatments specified in this project, such as meadows, or landowners have expressed that they do not want to participate in the project. Should these landowners opt back in to the project, then surveys will be required as well as an amendment to this project analysis. Surveys conducted on the 65% of the project area that has been surveyed includes: 5,242 acres (23%) that has been surveyed for CAL FIRE approved projects, such as Timber Harvest Plans (THPs) or Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans (NTMPs); 3,610 acres (16%) that were surveyed for a variety of projects for which NEIC has provided archaeological survey reports; 2,873 acres (13%) for a past Janesville Fire Safe Council project to develop a Janesville shaded fuel break; 200 acres (1%) for a LFSC project in Milford; and 2,661 acres (12%) surveyed specifically for this project by a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA), Sean Jensen of Genesis Society.

This assessment included:

• A records search at the Northeast Information Center, consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) regarding sacred land listings, and consultation with parties listed by the NAHC. The goals of the records search and consultation are to determine (a) the extent and distribution of previous archaeological surveys, (b) the locations of known archaeological sites and any previously recorded archaeological districts, and (c) the relationships between known sites and environmental variables. This step is designed to ensure that, during subsequent field survey work, all properties eligible or potentially eligible for inclusion on the California Register of Historical Resources are discovered, correctly identified, and properly interpreted. The present NEIC records search involved substantially more acreage than the proposed project treatment acreage. The broader records search coverage was conducted in order to gauge existing conditions within the larger area, and tailor the treatment areas based, in part, on these existing conditions.

- A complete-coverage, intensive-level pedestrian survey of portions of the APE. Specifically, no federally managed lands were subjected to intensive pedestrian survey during the present (2020) investigation. Further, the NEIC records search would reveal portions of the APE already subjected to adequate inventory, and therefore, these areas were not to be surveyed as part of the present effort. The purpose of the pedestrian survey is to ensure that any previously recorded sites identified during the records search are re-located and evaluations updated on the basis of existing field conditions vis-à-vis integrity. For previously undocumented sites encountered, the field survey involved formally recording these on State DPR-523 Primary Records. For both previously identified and newly identified sites, the level of field work was sufficient to recommend treatment consistent with avoiding, minimizing or mitigating potential adverse effects of the undertaking to sites considered significant or potentially significant per CEQA or eligible/potentially eligible for inclusion on the California Register of Historical Resources. Any existing recommendations or conclusions concerning significance/eligibility in the case of previously identified and evaluated resources was considered in developing the recommendations for site treatment presented in this survey report.
- A modified Class III survey report was developed that identifies project effects and
 recommends electronic flagging and impact avoidance as appropriate mitigation measures for
 sites recommended significant per CEQA and/or eligible or potentially eligible for inclusion
 on the California Register of Historical Resources and which might be affected by the
 undertaking (See Attachment E).

<u>Recorded Sites</u>: Fifty-four (54) sites were previously recorded within the present project's APE. A total of twenty-three (23) previously un-recorded sites, and nineteen (19) isolates were identified within the APE during the present pedestrian survey. Sites identified within the project area were evaluated for significance in relation to CEQA significance criteria. By definition, isolates do not achieve the threshold of historic property, significant historical resource, or unique archaeological resource, and thus warrant no further consideration or treatment. Site reference, affiliated age, recorded attributes, significance eligibility, and recommended treatment are listed in the table below.

Table 1: Cultural Sites within the TPI APE

Site Reference	Age	Attribute Code	Significance Eligibility	Recommended Treatment
P-18-000029	(Proto) Prehistoric	AP02, AP04, AP07, AP08, AP09, AP15	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-000054	Prehistoric	AP02, AP04, AP09	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-000073	Prehistoric	AP04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-000079	Prehistoric	AP02	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-000089	Prehistoric	AP02, AP16	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-000094	Prehistoric	AP02, AP04, AP15	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-000618	Prehistoric	AH03, AH04, AP02	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-000619	Prehistoric	AP02, AP04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-000620	Prehistoric	AP02	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-000621	Prehistoric	AP02, AP04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-000622	Prehistoric	AP04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-000623	Prehistoric	AP02, AP04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-000626	Prehistoric	AP02, AP04, AP15	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-000896	Historic	AH04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-000899	Prehistoric/Historic	AH04, AP02, AP04, AP08	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-000900	Prehistoric	AP02	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-001281	Prehistoric	AP02, AP04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-001376	Prehistoric	AP02, AP15	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-001377	Prehistoric	AP02	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-001383	Prehistoric	AP02, AP04, AP15	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-002138	Prehistoric/Historic	AP02, AH12	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-002139	Historic	AH04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-002142	Historic	AH04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-002145	Prehistoric	AP02	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-002147	Historic	AH04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-002148	Prehistoric	AP02	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-002149	Historic	HP04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-002150	Historic	AH04, HP04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-002151	Prehistoric/Historic	AH02, AH03, AH04, AP02, AP04, AP08, AP11	Significant/Eligible	Avoid

Site Reference	Age	Attribute Code	Significance Eligibility	Recommended Treatment
P-18-002152	Prehistoric	AP02	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-002153	Prehistoric/Historic	AH02, AH04, AH05, AH06, AH07, AH11, AH15, AP02	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-002155	Prehistoric	AP02	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-002156	Prehistoric	AP02	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-002162	Historic	AH02, AH10	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-002286	Historic	AH04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-002296	Prehistoric	AP02, AP04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-002300	Prehistoric/Historic	AP02, AP16, AH04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-003363	Prehistoric	AP04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-003520	Prehistoric	AP02	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-003522	Historic	AH04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-003523	Historic	AH04, AH10	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-003561	Prehistoric	AP02	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-003737	Historic	AH04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-005321	Prehistoric	AP02	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-005322	Prehistoric	AP04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-005323	Prehistoric	AP02	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-005324	Prehistoric	AP02	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-005326	Prehistoric/Historic	AP02, AP04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-005327	Prehistoric	AP02	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-18-005577	Prehistoric	AP02, AP04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-32-001481	Prehistoric	AP02, AP04, AP15	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-32-003560	Historic	AH02, AH04, AH11	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-32-004076	Historic	AH02, AH04, AH05	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
P-32-006320	Prehistoric	AP02, AP04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
TPI 1	Historic	AH02	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
TPI 2	Historic	AH04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
TPI 3	Historic	AH04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
TPI 4	Historic	AH04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid

Site Reference	Age	Attribute Code	Significance Eligibility	Recommended Treatment
TPI 5	Historic	AH04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
TPI 8	Historic	AH04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
TPI 9	Prehistoric	AP02, AP04, AP15	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
TPI 10	Prehistoric	AP02, AP04, AP12, AP15	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
TPI 11	Prehistoric	AP05	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
TPI 14	Prehistoric	AP02, AP04, AP14, AP15	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
TPI 15	Prehistoric	AP02, AP04, AP07, AP15	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
TPI 16	Prehistoric	AP02, AP15	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
TPI 17	Historic	AH04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
TPI 18	Prehistoric	AP02, AP15	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
TPI 20	Prehistoric	AP02, AP04, AP15	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
TPI 26	Historic	AH04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
TPI 27	Historic	AH04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
TPI 28	Historic	AH04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
TPI 29	Historic	AH06	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
TPI October 1	Historic	AH04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
TPI October 2	Historic	AH04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
TPI October 4	Prehistoric	AP02, AP04, AP15	Significant/Eligible	Avoid
TPI October 5	Historic	AH04	Significant/Eligible	Avoid

Attribute Codes: AP02-Lithic scatter; AP04-Bedrock milling feature; AP05 – Petroglyphs; AP07-Architectural feature; AP08-Cairns/rock features; AP09-Burials; AP11-Hearths/pits; AP12-Quarry; AP14 – Rock Shelter; AP15-Habitation debris; AP16-Other; AH02-Foundations/structure pads; AH03-Landscaping/orchard; AH04-Privies/dumps/trash scatters; AH05-Wells/cisterns; AH06-Water conveyance system; AH07-Roads/trails/railroad grades; AH10-Machinery; AH11-Walls/fences; AH12-Graves/cemetery; AH15-Standing structures; AH16-Other; HP14-Government buildings

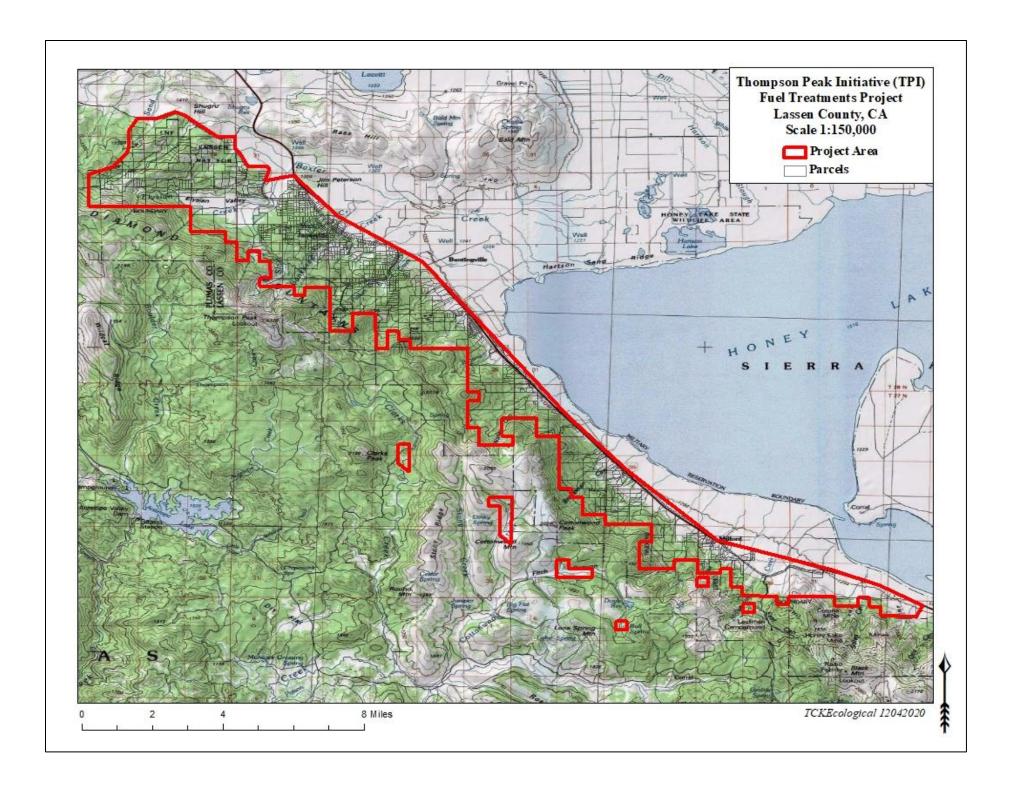
Field personnel will remain vigilant for any previously unknown cultural resource sites during all aspects of the project. The following general provisions will be followed should an inadvertent discovery of cultural resources be made:

- 1. <u>Consultation in the event of inadvertent discovery of human remains</u>: In the event that human remains are inadvertently encountered during tree cutting or other ground-disturbing activity or at any time subsequently, State law shall be followed, which includes, but is not limited to, immediately contacting the County Coroner's office upon any discovery of human remains.
- 2. <u>Consultation in the event of inadvertent discovery of cultural material</u>: The present evaluation and recommendations are based on the findings of an inventory-level surface survey only. There is always the possibility that important unidentified cultural materials could be encountered on or below the surface during the course of future fuel reduction activities. This possibility is particularly relevant considering the constraints generally to archaeological field survey, and particularly where past ground disturbance activities have partially obscured historic ground surface visibility. In the event of an inadvertent discovery of previously unidentified cultural material, archaeological consultation should be sought immediately.

5. Hydrologic Resource Considerations

Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones (WLPZ) will be flagged around Class II, class II, and Class III watercourses. Watercourse protection measures shall comply with the Rules and Regulations of the State Forest Practice Act specified in 14 CCR 936.5.

Attachment A - Project Area Map



Attachment B: Biological Assessment – Rare Plants

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CA Rare Plant Rank	Flowering Period	Elevation (m)	Habitat/ Ecology	Impact	Rationale
Carex davyi	Davy's sedge	None	None	1B.3	May-Aug	1400 - 3300	Usually in wetlands; sub-alpine and red fir forests	No	Protected within WLPZ; Usually found at higher elevations than project area
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 with WLPZ
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
Pyrrocoma 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	No	Found in Elyssian Valley portion of project area - Surveys will be conducted during flowering period prior to treatments in these areas
Potamogeton praelongus	white-stemmed pondweed	None	None	2B.3	July - Aug	1800 - 3000	Wetlands; freshwater marsh, swamps, lakes (deep water)	No	Aquatic
Rhamnus alnifolia	alder buckthorn	None	None	2B.2	May - July	1370 - 2130	Wetlands; red fir, lodgepole pine, wetland-riparian	No	Protected within WLPZ; Elyssian Valley area
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 within WLPZ ; Elyssian Valley area
Rumex venosus	winged dock	None	None	2B.3	May - June	1200 - 1800	Dry, sandy places; Great Basin scrub	No	Lack of suitable habitat
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
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 southeastern Plumas Co.
Scutellaria galericulata	marsh skullcap	None	None	2B.2	June-Sept	1000 - 2100	Occurs in wetlands in Pine forest, freshwater wetlands, wet meadows, wetland-riparian	No	Protected by WLPZ
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 project activities.
Alisma gramineum	grass alisma	None	None	2B.2	June-Aug	1200 - 1800	Occurs in wetlands; wetland- riparian; Ponds	No	Protected by WLPZ; Nearest identified location 10 mi. NW of project area, north of Susanville.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CA Rare Plant Rank	Flowering Period	Elevation (m)	Habitat/ Ecology	Impact	Rationale
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 project activities.
Mertensia longiflora	long bluebells	None	None	2B.2	Apr - June	1500 - 2200	Open, generally spring-moist, drying places of plains, foothills, especially with sagebrush or sparse ponderosa- pine forest;	No	Not found within project area. Nearest location in Willow Creek Valley, 16 mi. north of the project area.
Downingia laeta	Great Basin downingia	None	None	2B.2	May - July	1200 - 2200	Ditches, ponds, streams, vernal pools;	No	Found in areas of the project area that will not be disturbed by project activities, protected by WLPZ
Botrychium crenulatum	scalloped moonwort	None	None	2B.2	Jun-Sept	1500-3600	Saturated hard water seeps and stream margins, moist meadow, seeps, bogs, and fens	No	Found within WLPZ-will be protected
Botrychium minganense	Mingan moonwort	None	None	2B.2	July-Sept	1500-3100	Wet soils in forests, along streams	No	Found within WLPZ-will be protected
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	Found in Elyssian Valley portion of project area - Surveys will be conducted during flowering period prior to treatments in these areas
Penstemon sudans	Susanville beardtongue	None	None	1B.2	Jun-Jul	1200-2200	Open, rocky, igneous soils in sagebrush scrub, yellow-pine and montane forests; eastside scrub, forest	No	Found west of project area around Susanville
Phlox muscoides	squarestem phlox	None	None	2B.3	Jun-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 within project area.
Lomatium foeniculaceum ssp. macdougalii	Macdougal's lomatium	None	None	2B.2	June - July	1390 - 1800	Sagebrush scrub, pine woodland;	No	Not observed within project area.
Erigeron lassenianus var. deficiens	Plumas rayless daisy	None	None	1B.3	June-Sept	1360-1980	Serpentine, disturbed; gravelly disturbed sites, lower montane forests, serpentine	No	No habitat within project treatment areas.
Trifolium gymnocarpon ssp. plummerae	Plummer's clover	None	None	2B.3	May - June	1500 - 1800	Sagebrush scrub, juniper woodland	No	Not observed within project area.
Eriogonum microthecum var. schoolcraftii	Schoolcraft's wild buckwheat	None	None	1B.2	July - Sept	1300 - 1750	Sandy to rocky; Great Basin scrub and pinyon and juniper woodland	No	Not observed within the project area, occurs to the south near Doyle
Potamogeton epihydrus	Nuttall's ribbon-leaved pondweed	None	None	2B.2	Jul-Sept	400-1900	Shallow water, ponds, lakes, streams	No	Protected by WLPZ

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CA Rare Plant Rank	Flowering Period	Elevation (m)	Habitat/ Ecology	Impact	Rationale
lvesia aperta var. aperta	Sierra Valley ivesia	None	None	1B.2	June - Sept	1500 - 2300	Dry, rocky meadows, generally volcanic soils; in sagebrush scrub, ponderosa pine, or juniper woodland	No	Found south of project area around Sierra Valley
Astragalus pulsiferae var. pulsiferae	Pulsifer's milk-vetch	None	None	1B.2	May - Aug	1300 - 1900	Sandy or rocky soil, often with pines, sagebrush	No	Not observed within the project area.
Geum aleppicum	Aleppo avens	None	None	2B.2	June - Aug	1000 - 1600	Meadows in sagebrush scrub and ponderosa pine forest	No	Not observed within the project area, located west of Susanville and near Horse Lake
Allium atrorubens var. atrorubens	Great Basin onion	None	None	2B.3	May - June	1200 - 2100	Rocky and sandy soil in sagebrush scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland	No	Found north and east of Honey Lake, nearest occurrence 15 mi. from project area.
Thelypodium milleflorum	many-flowered thelypodium	None	None	2B.2	Apr - June	1300 -2500	Sandy soils in Great Basin scrub and chenopod scrub	No	Found north and east of Honey Lake, nearest occurrence 15 mi. from project area.
Suaeda occidentalis	western seablite	None	None	2B.3	July - Sept	<2200	Dry, saline, or alkaline wetlands	NO	No habitat in project area, Not found in project area. Found north of Honey Lake
Astragalus geyeri var. geyeri	Geyer's milk-vetch	None	None	2B.2	May - Aug	1200	Sandy areas; Great Basin scrub; Shadescale scrub	No	Not found in project area; Found east of Honey Lake is scrub flats
Ladeania lanceolata	lance-leaved scurf-pea	None	None	2B.3	May - July	<2500	Alluvial plains, sand in Great Basin scrub	No	Not found in project area; Found southeast of Honey Lake is scrub flats
Lupinus pusillus var. intermontanus	intermontane lupine	None	None	2B.3	May - June	<1600	Open, sandy areas in Great Basin scrub	No	Not found in project area, found north and east of Honey Lake
Phacelia gymnoclada	naked-stemmed phacelia	None	None	2B.3	Apr - June	1800 - 2300	Clay to gravelly soils generally in Great Basin scrub and pinyon/juniper woodland	No	Not found in project area, east of Honey Lake
Sidalcea multifida	cut-leaf checkerbloom	None	None	2B.3	May - Sept	2000 - 2800	Dry places; Great Basin scrub and ponderosa pine forest	No	Not found in project area, found east of Wendel
Sphaeralcea grossulariifolia	currant-leaved desert mallow	None	None	2B.3	May - Oct	<1700	Dry volcanic soils; Great Basin scrub, Chenopod scrub	No	Not found in project area, found in Skedaddle Mtns.
Chylismia claviformis ssp. cruciformis	cruciform evening-primrose	None	None	2B.3	Mar - May	1200 - 1600	Great Basin scrub	No	Not found in project area, found in Skedaddle Mtns. And Secret Valley

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CA Rare Plant Rank	Flowering Period	Elevation (m)	Habitat/ Ecology	Impact	Rationale
Eremothera minor	Nelson's evening-primrose	None	None	2B.3	Apr - July	1200	Sandy slopes, flats, Great Basin scrub	No	Not found in project area, found around the north side of Honey Lake, Wendel, and the Skedaddle Mtns.
Eriogonum nutans var. nutans	Dugway wild buckwheat	None	None	2B.3	May - Sept	l 1200 - 2300	Sand in Great Basin scrub and Juniper woodlands	No	Not found in project area, found east of Honey Lake and Skedaddle Mtns.
Potamogeton zosteriformis	eel-grass pondweed	None	None	2B.2	June - July	<1300	Ponds, lakes, streams	No	Not found in project area, found in wetlands northeast of Honey Lake
lvesia baileyi var. baileyi	Bailey's ivesia	None	None	2B.3	May - Aug	1700 - 2200	Volcanic crevices in Great Basin scrub and ponderosa pine forest	No	Not found in project area, found in Skedaddle and Fort Sage Mtns.
Alisma gramineum	grass alisma	None	None	2B.2	June - Aug	1200 - 1800	Ponds	No	Not found in project area, found north of Susanville, Willow Creek Valley and Madeline Plains
Dalea ornata	ornate dalea	None	None	2B.1	June	1.400	Open, rocky hillsides in juniper woodland	No	Not found in project area, found between Blacks Mtn. and Schaffer Mtn.
Phacelia inundata	playa phacelia	None	None	1B.3	May - Aug		Alkaline flats, dry lake margins, playas; Sagebrush Scrub, Alkali Sink, Yellow Pine Forest, wetland-riparian	No	Not found in project area, found in Secret Valley and Eagle Lake
Polygala subspinosa	spiny milkwort	None	None	2B.2	May - Aug	1350 - 2285	Desert Scrub, volcanic mesas, Great Basin scrub	No	Not found in project area, found in Schaffer and Skedaddle MTns. And Secret Valley

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

Attachment C: Biological Assessment – Wildlife

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Habitat in the Project Area	Potential Impact					
	Insects										
Pseudo- copaeodes eunus obscurus	Carson wandering skipper	Endangered Carson wander	ring skipper	Grassland habitats on alkaline substrates. Salt grass is the larval food plant and is commonly found in the salt-bush-greasewood community of the intermountain west. Known nectar sources for the adults include Thelypodium crispum (thelypody), Sisymbrium altissimum (tumble mustard), Pyrrocoma racemosus (racemose golden-weed), Cirsium arvense (Canada thistle), Cirsium vulgare (bull thistle), Lotus tenuis (slender birds-foot trefoil, Cleomella parviflora (slender cleomella), Cleomella plocasperma (small-flowered cleomella), and Heliotropium curassavicum (heliotrope); elevation less than 5,000 feet; presence of salt grass; near nectar sources; near open areas near springs or other water bodies; and possibly near geothermal activity.	No	Project implementation will not occur within critical or suitable habitat.					
Bombus occidentalis	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 Mountain suckers are characteristically found in		T					
Catostomus platyrhynchus	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	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
				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		
	_			Amphibians		
Rana sierrae	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
Rana boylii	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
Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum	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

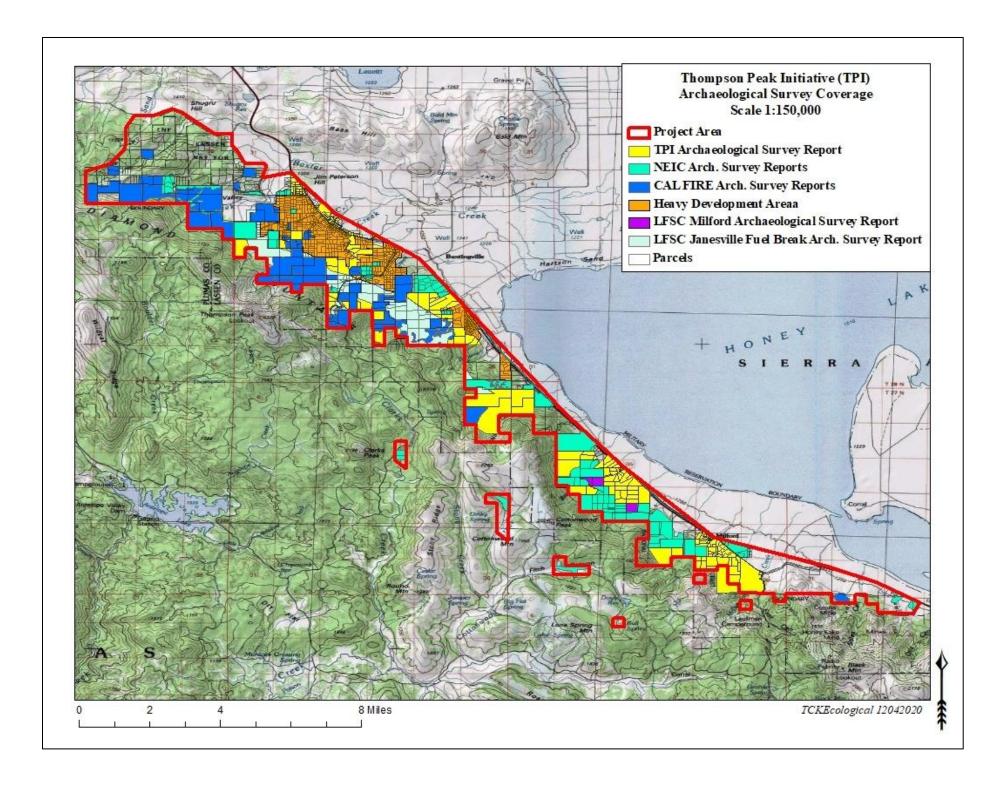
Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Habitat in the Project Area	Potential Impact
				Birds		
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	Delisted	Endangered	Occupy various woodland, forest, grassland, and wetland habitats. Large nests are normally built in the upper canopy of large trees, and snags typically conifers near water sources with fish.	No	No known nest sites within the project area; may forage or fly over
Strix occidentalis occidentalis	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.	Marginal	No known nest sites within the project area; may forage or fly over
Accipiter gentilis	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 within the project area; may forage or fly over
Aquila chrysaetos	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
Buteo swainsoni	Swainson's Hawk	None	Threatened	Breeds in the western United States and Canada and winters in South America. Adapted to open grasslands, it has become increasingly dependent on agriculture, especially alfalfa crops, as native communities are converted to ag lands. Diet primarily consists of voles; but will take other small mammals, birds, and insects. Often nest peripheral to riparian systems and lone trees in agricultural fields or pastures and roadside trees when available and adjacent to suitable foraging habitat. Occupy the	Yes	One known nest site in the Milford area. Nest site will not be impacted by proposed project activities.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Habitat in the Project Area	Potential Impact
				Juniper/Sagebrush community in the Great Basin.		
Falco mexicanus	Prairie Falcon	None	WL	Distributed from annual grasslands to alpine meadows, but associated primarily with perennial grasslands, savannahs, rangeland, some agricultural fields, and desert scrub areas. Usually nests in a scrape on a sheltered ledge of a cliff overlooking a large, open area	No	No known nest sites within the project area; may forage or fly over
Antigone canadensis tabida	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
Riparia riparia	Bank Swallow	None	Threatened	A neotropical migrant found primarily in riparian and other lowland habitats in California west of the deserts during the spring-fall period. In summer, restricted to riparian, lacustrine, and coastal areas with vertical banks, bluffs, and cliffs with fine-textured or sandy soils, into which it digs nesting holes. Predominantly a colonial breeder.	No	No known nesting colonies within the project area. Potential habitat within WLPZ will be protected
Agelaius tricolor	Tricolored Blackbird	None	Threatened	Forms the largest breeding colonies of any North American landbird. Breeding sites are open accessible water; a protected nesting substrate, including either flooded or thorny or spiny vegetation; and a suitable foraging space providing adequate insect prey within a few kilometers of the nesting colony.	No	No known nesting areas within the project area. Potential habitat within WLPZ will be protected
Pandion haliaetus	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

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Habitat in the Project Area	Potential Impact
Empidonax traillii	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	fly over No known nesting areas within the project area. Potential habitat within WLPZ will be protected
				Mammals		
Pekania pennanti	Fisher	None	SSC	High cover and structural complexity in large tracts of mature and old growth forests	No	Project outside current range. Surveys did not detect species within or adjacent to project area
Vulpes vulpes necator	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.
Canis lupus	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.
Antrozous pallidus	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,	Marginal	No known roosting sites and no activity detected.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Habitat in the Project Area	Potential Impact
				crevices, mines, and occasionally in hollow trees and buildings.		
Aplodontia rufa californica	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
Corynorhinus townsendii	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.

Attachment D: Archaeological Survey Coverage Map



Attachment E: TPI Cultural Resource Inventory Survey CONFIDENTIAL

NOTICE OF CEQA EXEMPTION

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

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

Date: December 9, 2020

Project Title:

Thompson Peak Initiative Fuel Treatments

Project Location:

Township 26 North, Range 14 East, Sections 1 & 4; Mount Diablo Meridian, State of California.

Township 26 North, Range 15 East, Sections 4 & 5; Mount Diablo Meridian, State of California.

Township 27 North, Range 13 East, Sections 1, 3, 10-12, 15, 24, & 25; Mount Diablo Meridian, State of California.

Township 27 North, Range 14 East, Sections 5-9, 16, 17, 20-22, 25-28, & 32-36; Mount Diablo Meridian, State of California.

Township 27 North, Range 15 East, Sections 30-33; Mount Diablo Meridian, State of California.

Township 28 North, Range 12 East, Sections 1-3, & 12; Mount Diablo Meridian, State of California.

Township 28 North, Range 13 East, Sections 5-10, 15-23, 25-28, & 36; Mount Diablo Meridian, State of California.

Township 28 North, Range 14 East, Section 31Mount Diablo Meridian, State of California.

Project Description:

The 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 a mixed conifer forest adjacent to, and/or near the communities of Janesville and Milford. The project site is mixed conifer forest and the 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.

Much of the thinning activity and tree removal will 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 (broadcast and pile burning) and emergent brush follow-up treatments will be conducted under this Notice of Exemption (NOE).

NOTICE OF CEQA EXEMPTION

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.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (HLVRCD) has reviewed the environmental/specialists' reports prepared by Registered Profesional Foresters and other 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 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

Jesse Claypool, Chairman	
Honey Lake Valley Resource Conserv	ation District
ATTEST:	
I, Andrea Stuemky, Clerk of the Board of Director Conservation District, do hereby certify that the I Conservation District approved this Notice of Ex 2020 by the following vote:	Honey Lake Valley Resource
Ayes:	Abstentions:
•	Absent:
Andrea Stuemky, Clerk of the Board of Directors Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation Distr	

Eagle Lake Road Prescribed Fire Project CEQA

Cooperative Agreement Between Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District

R

Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. (LFSC) December 9, 2020

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 Eagle Lake Road Prescribed Fire Project 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 Eagle Lake Road Prescribed Fire 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 December 9, 2020 through February 28, 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:

Tom Esgate, Managing Director

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

Execution: Honey Lake Valley RCD Jesse Claypool, Chairman Date Date 68-0003580 Tax ID# Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc.

Date

Exhibit A - Standard Clauses

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.

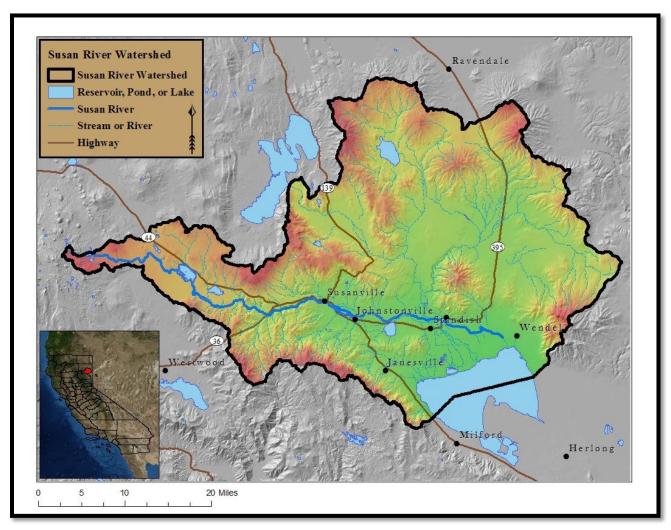
Notices

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.



SUSAN RIVER

WATERMASTER SERVICE AREA









ANNUAL USE REPORT - 2019/20

Susan River Watermaster Service Area

Annual Use Report- 2019/2020

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2019- June 30, 2020
Irrigation Season: March 1, 2020- October 31, 2020
Storage Season: November 1, 2019- February 29, 2020

Lassen County, California
Decree No.'s 4573, 8174 and 8175
Submitted by December 31, 2020 to
The Presiding Judge, Lassen County Superior Court



Prepared By:

Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District 170 Russell Ave. Susanville, CA 96130

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General Description:

The Susan River service area is located in the southern part of Lassen County in the vicinity of the town of Susanville. There are approximately 246 water right owners in the service area with total continuous allotments of 351.922 cubic feet per second in addition to storage rights held by several users. The source of supply is comprised of three stream systems as follows: Susan River, Baxter Creek, Parker Creek and their associated tributaries.

Susan River has its sources on the east slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in the southwesterly portion of Lassen County immediately east of Lassen National Park at an elevation of about 7,900 feet. Its channel runs easterly from Silver Lake through McCoy Flat Reservoir, through Susanville, and easterly on to Honey Lake.

Susan River has four major tributaries: Paiute Creek (entering from the north at Susanville), Gold Run and Lassen Creeks (entering from the south between Susanville and Johnstonville), and Willow Creek (entering from the north above Standish). Gold Run Creek and Lassen Creek rise on the north slope of Diamond Mountain at an elevation of about 7,600 feet. The watersheds of Paiute Creek and Willow Creek are lower and they rise on the south slopes of Round Valley Mountains.

A short distance below the confluence of Willow Creek and Susan River the river channel divides into three branches known as Tanner Slough Channel on the north, Old Channel in the middle, and Dill Slough Channel on the south. Two channels which take off of Dill Slough on the south are known as Hartson Slough and Whitehead Slough.

The Baxter Creek stream system is situated in Honey Lake Valley on the east slope of the Sierra Nevada about 10 miles southeast of Susanville in the southern portion of Lassen County. The principal streams in the Baxter Creek stream system are Baxter Creek (which rises in the extreme western portion of the basin and flows in an easterly direction), Elysian Creek, Sloss Creek, and Bankhead Creek (a tributary to Baxter Creek from the south). Elysian Creek has three tributaries: North Fork Elysian Creek, South Fork Elysian Creek, and Kanavel Creek.

Parker Creek is situated in Honey Lake Valley on the east slope of the Sierra Nevada about 15 miles southeast of Susanville in the southern portion of Lassen County. Its source is on the east

slope of Diamond Mountain and flows in an easterly direction for about 5 miles into Honey Lake. The primary area of water use in the Susan River service area is in Honey Lake Valley between Susanville and the northwest shore of Honey Lake, 25 miles in length. The valley floor is at an elevation of about 4,000 feet.

Water Supply:

The water supply in the Susan River service area comes from two major sources: snowmelt runoff and springs. The snowpack on the Willow Creek Valley and Paiute Creek watersheds, which embrace more than half of the Susan River stream system, melts early in the spring and usually is entirely depleted by the first of May. The irrigation requirements from this portion of the stream system after the first of May are almost entirely dependent upon the flow of perennial springs which remain constant throughout the year. Under normal conditions, the flows of Lassen Creek, Gold Run Creek, Baxter Creek, Parker Creek, and the Susan River above Susanville are well sustained by melting snows until early June. The flow from perennial springs in this portion of the water system is comparatively small. The Lassen Irrigation Company stores supplemental water in Hog Flat Reservoir and McCoy Flat Reservoir, located on the headwaters of the Susan River. This stored water is released into the Susan River, which is used as a conveyance and commingled with the natural flow usually during June and July. It is then diverted into the A and B Canal leading to Lake Leavitt for further distribution by the irrigation district.

Methods of Distribution:

Irrigation in the Susan River service area is accomplished by placing diversion dams in the main channel of the stream system, to raise the water to the level required to divert into the canals, sloughs and ditches. These dams for diversion are relatively large on the Susan River compared to those on the smaller tributaries. Various methods of irrigation are practiced; the most common approach is by flooding. With this technique, water is transported by a main conveyance channel along the high point of the lands to be irrigated. It is then dispersed by laterals along the higher ridges of the tract from which it can be distributed over the area to be irrigated by the smaller laterals of the ditch system. Sub-irrigation occurs in some areas incidental to surface irrigation or because of seepage from ditches or creek channels. During

the past several years, numerous users have increased the usage of sprinkler irrigation by wheel lines to improve the efficiency of their irrigation systems.

Watermaster Service Fiscal Information:

The FY 2019/2020 Watermaster Service budget was adopted on May 23, 2019 in the amount of \$180,000; remaining the same as the previous 2018/2019 Fiscal Year total assessment amount. Notification regarding the budget, apportionment and individual assessments were mailed to the users and filed with the Court before June 15, 2019. There were no filed objections to the budget or apportionment within 15 days or thereafter; and thus, deemed approved by the Court without further hearing. The approved budget, apportionment, and individual assessments were certified to the Lassen County Auditor and the Lassen County Board of Supervisors prior to August 10, 2019.

An audit for FY 2019 has been completed and is available on the Honey Lake Valley RCD website.

2019/2020 Water Allocation and Distribution:

The Susan River Watermaster Service Area experienced extremely light precipitation compared to the area's average. Based on California Cooperative Snow Surveys for the Susanville area, October 2019 through September 2020, the area received only 53% of the average precipitation amount. The general availability of water for the various stream systems are described below.

Parker Creek: First priority water rights were served through the early Spring.

Baxter/Elysian Creek: First priority users of both Baxter Creek and Elysian Creek could divert at prorated rates through early to mid-June.

Paiute Creek: The water supply in Paiute Creek was dry for most of year, with low flows in April and again in October.

Lassen Creek: There was sufficient water in Lassen Creek to meet the allocated water use until early June, at which time it began to taper off.

Hills Creek: The water supply in Hills Creek continued into early June.

Gold Run Creek: The water supply in Gold Run Creek fulfilled the water rights through mid-May, at which time it began to diminish.

Upper Susan River: At the start of Irrigation Season, March 1, the Upper Susan was at approximately 35% water availability of the full allocated water rights. From the start of April to mid-May, the river was flashy, only occasionally meeting full allocations, otherwise sustaining prorated allocations in the upper quartile. Users were prorated until early July, where only stockwater became available. Stockwater availability through the irrigation season and into the storage season was very limited; this caused farther downstream users to rely on well pumping, most users to supplement with well pumping, and neighboring users to rotate the water use.

Lower Susan River Below the Confluence of Willow Creek: The Lower Susan started off the season at approximately 25% of the Schedule 5, 3rd priority water rights. Full allocations were available for a short period of time during late March. Users were prorated early April and throughout the season. Due to low flow, stock water was only available to those higher upstream, or closer to the channel, from early June until late November. Users relied on well pumping either completely or as supplement.

Willow Creek: Prorated allocations were available through early June. Flows were sufficient enough for stockwater.

Bankhead/Sloss Creek: Irrigation water was available until early May.

Lassen Irrigation Company Storage Reservoirs: By the start of irrigation season, McCoy Flat stored to a stage height of 3.65 feet, equaling approximately 1,758 acre-feet of water. LIC began diverting water from McCoy on June 15, 2020, utilizing completely on July 6, 2020. Hog Flat reserved to a stage height of 4.58 feet, equaling approximately 1,350 acre-feet of water. This water was utilized starting on May 13, 2020 and was completely drained by approximately June 19, 2020.

Miscellaneous notable events:

- 1. The District Manager, Kayla Meyer, left the organization on June 26, 2020. Andrea Stuemky was hired as District Manager, starting on August 17, 2020. Andrea possesses a Bachelor's of Science in Biology, and a Master's of Science in Horticulture, Specialty Crops. She resides here in Susanville, and previously worked for the local Bureau of Land Management Eagle Lake Field Office, on the Botany team.
- 2. The June 3, 2019 Lassen County Superior Court decision denying the motion of the Dow-Bonomini 2013 Family Trust regarding a 2018 Irrigation Season complaint, was appealed by the Trust on July 22, 2019. Numerous extensions were filed by the Dow party. In May, both parties filed briefs and the case is waiting to be assigned a hearing date in the California Appellate Court.
- 3. The 2019 Irrigation Season Watermaster complaints to not allow the transfer of the user's Schedule 4 and Schedule 5 water rights for use below the confluence of the Susan River and Willow Creek; and the complaint of the Watermaster's decision to not allow the 2019 use of 740 acre-feet of water described in the Barham Kelly 3037 Judgment, were brought to the Lassen County Superior Court on February 14, 2020 and signed on March 6, 2020; with the travelling Judge upholding Dow's Appeal of the Watermaster's decision. This ruling was appealed by the RCD as Watermaster. This case is waiting for a scheduled hearing date in the California Appellate Court.
- 4. The District received two Public Records Requests from the Dow party. The first was filed on March 31, 2020, regarding a letter and all responses, that the Watermaster sent out asking for user's opinion on the current legal cases. The other request was submitted on May 26, 2020 requiring all correspondence between the RCD and LIC, for Watermaster topics or otherwise. Both requests were supplied in a timely manner.
- 5. In late May 2020, the WAC Upper Susan River Representative resigned from his position. No one has submitted an application for this position.
- 6. The RCD as Watermaster, changed legal representation from William P. Curley of Harper & Burns, LLP. and Mark Waterman of Lozano Smith, to Gene Tanaka and Steven M. Anderson of Best, Best, and Krieger LLP. This was filed with the California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District in early December 2020.

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ANDREA STUEMKY, RCD DISTRICT MANAGER HONEY LAKE VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT 170 RUSSELL AVENUE SUSANVILLE, CA 96130 December 1, 2020 Invoice 891977 AMS Page 1

INVOICE SUMMARY

For Professional Services Rendered Through November 30, 2020:

Our Matter # 83697.00001

Current Fees:

Re: GENERAL/WATER COUNSEL

Current Reimbursable Costs:		54.91
Total Current Billings For This Matter:	\$	7,545.41
Balance from Previous Statement: Payments and Other Credits Received:		0.00 0.00
Prior Outstanding Balance:		0.00
Total Amount Due:	\$	7,545.41

\$

7,490.50

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ANDREA STUEMKY, RCD DISTRICT MANAGER HONEY LAKE VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT 170 RUSSELL AVENUE SUSANVILLE, CA 96130 December 1, 2020 Invoice 891978 AMS Page 1

INVOICE SUMMARY

For Professional Services Rendered Through November 30, 2020:

Our Matter # 83697.00002

Re: DOW V. HONEY LAKE VALLEY RCD (CASE NO. C090304)

Current Fees:	\$ 119.00
Total Current Billings For This Matter:	\$ 119.00
Balance from Previous Statement: Payments and Other Credits Received:	 0.00 0.00
Prior Outstanding Balance:	0.00
Total Amount Due:	\$ 119.00

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ANDREA STUEMKY, RCD DISTRICT MANAGER HONEY LAKE VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT 170 RUSSELL AVENUE SUSANVILLE, CA 96130 December 1, 2020 Invoice 891979 AMS Page 1

INVOICE SUMMARY

For Professional Services Rendered Through November 30, 2020:

Our Matter # 83697.00003

Re: DOW V. HONEY LAKE VALLEY RCD (CASE NO. C091965)

Current Fees:	\$ 85.00
Total Current Billings For This Matter:	\$ 85.00
Balance from Previous Statement: Payments and Other Credits Received:	 0.00 0.00
Prior Outstanding Balance:	0.00
Total Amount Due:	\$ 85.00