

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2019059070

Project Title: Castle Crags State Park Root Creek Drainage Forest Fuels Management and Public Safety Improvement

Lead Agency: California Department of Parks and Recreation

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Project Location: Dunsmuir, Shasta County

City

County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

Castle Crags State Park is located at the north end of the Sacramento Valley off Interstate 5 in Shasta County; approximately 14 miles south of the City of Mount Shasta, and 6 miles south of Dunsmuir. The project area is defined as the approximately 435-acre Root Creek Drainage, which encompasses the northern slope of Kettlebelly Ridge, Vista Point Road parking and viewing location, a portion of the Pacific Crest Trail, and land next to and just west of I-5. The California Department of Parks and Recreation proposes to conduct forest fuel treatments within the Root Creek Drainage and reestablish a secondary emergency access road exiting Vista Point. The project consists of three main activities:

1. Implementation of the Forest Management Plan and Fuels Reduction: Forest fuels in the Root Creek Drainage would be reduced via hand and mechanical thinning, followed by biomass disposition and prescribed and pile burning.
2. Ongoing Vegetation Management: Ongoing vegetation management and herbicide application would be used to control noxious weeds.
3. Reestablish Secondary Emergency Access Road to Vista Point: A secondary emergency access road between the park entrance and Vista Point would be reestablished to provide emergency access and to replace a failing culvert in Root Creek and improve water quality.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

Daily project-generated emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NOx) could exceed the Shasta County Air Quality Management District's thresholds of significance if all project activities were to occur concurrently. This impact would be reduced to a less-than-significant level by phasing project activities such that grading of the secondary emergency access road would not occur concurrently with mechanical thinning activities involving the use of a shredder, skidder, or feller/buncher (Mitigation Measure AQ-1).

Special-status plants may occur directly within the road bed of the emergency access road or footprint of the upper Root Creek culvert crossing being replaced, and could be trampled or removed. Also, the application of herbicides for ongoing vegetation management could result in removal of special-status plants if they occur directly adjacent or intermixed with invasive plants undergoing herbicide application. Impacts to special-status plants would be reduced to a less-than-significant level by implementing pre-construction surveys prior to ground-disturbing activities and achieving no net loss of occupied habitat or individuals through measures and best practices such as seed collection and transplantation (Mitigation Measure BIO-1).

Previously unrecorded prehistoric archaeological materials could be discovered during construction. This impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level by implementing pre-construction surveys prior to ground-disturbing activities and flagging and/or fencing all cultural resources with a buffer of 50 feet for avoidance (Mitigation Measure CU-1).

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

There are no known areas of controversy, and no issues have been raised by other agencies or the public.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
State Water Resources Control Board
Shasta County Air Quality Management District