



COUNTY OF ALPINE
Community Development Department
50 Diamond Valley Road
Markleeville, CA 96120

Notice of Exemption

PROJECT TITLE	Mesa Vista Extension PTA		
PROJECT LOCATION	38°48'17.25"N; 119°47'48.51"W	COUNTY	Alpine
LEAD AGENCY	Alpine County		
CONTACT	Sam Booth		
ADDRESS	50 Diamond Valley Road, Markleeville, CA 96120	Phone	(530) 694-2140

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is located within the community of Woodfords, California. The project area is a 121 acre treatment area encompassed by HWY-89 to Paynesville California located approximately ½ mile to the northeast. The project area is dominated by native sagebrush habitat of California Wildlife Habitat Relationship (CWHR) size class varies. The proposed project will reduce the continuity of sagebrush in effort to reduce hazardous fuel loading and arrangement such that the flame length, intensity, rate of spread, and duration of potential wildfire is reduced.

The proposed project will 1) Utilize mechanical mastication to reduce the extent of sagebrush on site, targeting 70% of the sage for mastication, 2) leave remaining sagebrush in a discontinuous, mosaic fashion of 30% for habitat which will not contribute to horizontal or vertical fuels, and 3) off-haul and/or chip/mulch debris for in the masticated zones to retain soil moisture and aid in fire resilience.

No conifer snags are located in the Mesa Vista, and no harvestable timber is being utilized. The desired, post treatment conditions will not contribute to initiating or sustaining a crown fire and will have projected flame lengths of less than 2 feet in the surface fuels, with increased resilience to wildfire. The resulting stand would appear well thinned with the primary carrier of the fire being leaves and/or grasses. The proposed action will effectively reduce hazardous fuels within the project area.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class 4 §15304 Minor Alterations to Land

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under Categorical Exemption: 15304 Minor Alterations to Land (Class 4) which allows minor alteration of vegetation including fuel management activities to reduce volume of flammable vegetation, provided the activities do not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant/animal species or cause significant erosion and sedimentation of waters. The removal of brush will be restricted to those that reduce the vertical and horizontal continuity of fuels, and/or provide for improved ingress/egress in the event of wildfire. The proposed project has been designed to protect hydrology and soil resources to prevent significant erosion or sedimentation. The project, as designed, is consistent with the use of a Categorical Exemption.

Field review by County staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. The County has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland or timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation or traffic, utilities and service systems or to wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the

Department is kept on file at the Alpine County Community Development Department, 50 Diamond Valley Road, Markleeville, CA 96120.

For Filing:

Date: 3/19/25 Signed: 

Sam Booth
Community Development Director
50 Diamond Valley Road
Markleeville, CA 96120

Environmental Review Report for an Exempt Project

Note: This report form is intended for use to document a limited environmental impact analysis supporting the filing of a notice of exemption document for a proposed project. Although the project appears to fit within the descriptions for allowable categorical exemptions, this report presents the project proponent's review for possible exceptions that would preclude finding the project to be categorically exempt as discussed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. This report will be filed with the CEQA administrative record for this project to document the environmental impact analysis conducted by the project proponent.

Author:	Matthew Setty, Nevada Environmental Consulting, LLC.
Title:	Forest Health Project Coordinator
Address:	5985 Home Gardens Dr. STE B Reno, NV 89502
Phone:	775-544-1149
Email:	matt@nvenv.net

Project Name:	Mesa Vista Extension PTA
Program Type:	Fuels Reduction
County:	Alpine
Acres:	121
Legal Location:	Section 24., T11N., R19E., MDBM
USGS Quad Map:	Woodfords, California-Nevada
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vicinity Map <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Location Map <input type="checkbox"/> Photos Attached	

Other Public Agency Review or Permit Required:		
Would the project result in:	YES	NO
Alteration to a watercourse (DFW-Lake & Stream Alteration Agreement)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conversion of timberland (CAL FIRE-Conversion Permit or Exemption)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Demolition (Local Air District-Demolition Permit)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Soil disturbance over 1 acre (LRWQCB-SWPPP)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fill of possible wetlands (404 Permit-USACE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discuss any above-listed topic item checked YES and consultation with agencies:		

Project Description and Environmental Setting (describe the project activities, project site and its surroundings, its location, and the environmental setting):

The project is located within the community of Woodfords, CA. The project area is 121 acre treatment area, see attached site map.

The project area is dominated by native sagebrush habitat.

The proposed project will 1) Utilize mechanical mastication to reduce the extent of sagebrush on site, targeting 70% of the sage for mastication; and 2) leave remaining sagebrush in a discontinuous, mosaic fashion, residual shrubs will not contribute to horizontal or vertical fuels.

Removal of vegetation with a DBH ≤ 12 " will be mechanically masticated, and/or hand trimmed. The desired, post treatment stand conditions will not contribute to initiating or sustaining a crown fire and will have projected flame lengths of less than 2-4 feet in the surface fuels, with increased resilience to wildfire. The resulting project area would appear well thinned with the primary carrier of the fire being leaves and/or grasses. The proposed action will effectively reduce hazardous fuels within the project area.

Environmental Impact Analysis

Aesthetics

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further

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

As the proposed project is designed to reduce hazardous fuels, shrub habitats within the project area will appear "thinned" and of reduced shrub density. The proposed action will not degrade the existing visual character of the site or its surroundings. Native brush species will be retained in a mosaic arrangement such that aesthetic quality of the vegetation type will not be adversely affected. The proposed project does not contain any scenic vistas, nor is the project area visible from an established scenic vista. No significant impact to aesthetics is expected from project implementation.

Agricultural and Forest Resources

This topic does not apply to this project and not evaluated further.

Air Quality

This topic does not apply to this project and is not evaluated further.

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

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

Consultation with an Air Quality Specialist with the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District indicates that operation of a masticator for these types of projects would not trigger dust Air District permitting. Use of skid steers and other mini-tracked equipment exhaust does not require a permit.

Any equipment used for this project would be subject to Great Basin Unified Air Quality District Rule 401 for Fugitive Dust.

Biological Resources

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further

Yes No Will the project potentially effect biological resource?

Yes No Was a current U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation review completed? Results discussed below:

A scoping process was conducted to identify species of plants, animals, and habitats that is not directly impacted by the proposed project. Sources used include the USFW IPaC; the California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) (January 2024, Woodfords; Markleeville 7.5'

USGS Quad), and California Native Plant Society (CNPS, February 2024) search of rare plants for the Woodfords 7.5' Quad. Results of the scoping process indicated that the project area does not present suitable habitat for four (4) plant species of status, and twelve (12) wildlife species.

Plant species identified in the CNDDDB search yielded no detections of any of these four candidate species, including Tahoe draba, Carson Valley monkeyflower, Few-flowered eriastrum and Golden violet. There is no critical habitat located in the Mesa Vista project.

Wildlife species include the North American Wolverine, California Spotted Owl, Northwestern Pond Turtle, and Monarch Butterfly. There is no critical habitat located in the Mesa Vista project. Bald & Golden Eagles are a listed species, but there is no critical habitat located in the Mesa Vista project, as the project area does not support habitat. A Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) list of species breeding seasons were listed in the IPaC. An MBTA nesting survey was conducted per CEQA compliance within 14 days of construction work, with no inhabited nest findings. MBTA surveys will be scheduled to occur during the nesting period of March 1 to August 31 annually, all project areas will be surveyed prior to any portion of construction causing ground disturbance within 14-days of work. No significant impact to biological resources is expected from project implementation. The subject biological resources were systematically surveyed for by the project proponent. The proposed project will not adversely affect the habitat (see IPaC) for the aforementioned species as operations will retain native vegetation in a mosaic fashion, maintaining the same vegetation type post-treatment.

Cultural Resources/Tribal Cultural Resources

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further

Yes No Was a current archaeological records check completed? Results discussed below:

Yes No Was an archaeological survey of the project area completed? Results discussed below:

Yes No Will the project effect any historic, archaeological or tribal cultural resources?

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

See attached cultural report supplied by G2 Archaeology. A portion (8 parcels) of the Mesa Vista total acreage were surveyed to date. Continued survey will transpire as the fuels reduction projects move forward on a parcel by parcel need.

Procedures for Post-Approval Discovery of Cultural Resources: If a cultural resource is discovered within a project area after the project has been approved, the following procedures apply:

1. If a new discovery is located operations will cease within 100 feet of the boundary as defined by the qualified Archaeologist.
2. The lead agency and project proponent shall be immediately notified.
3. The Archaeologist shall evaluate the new discovery.
4. The Archaeologist shall ensure that the newly discovered site is recorded and its discovery and protection measures are documented in the project files.
6. If the newly discovered site is a Native American Archaeological or Cultural Site, the Archaeologist shall notify the appropriate Native American tribal group and the NAHC, if appropriate.

Project implementation is not expected to adversely affect any historic, archaeological, or tribal cultural resource.

Geology and Soils

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further

An itemization of soil types presented within the project area are provided in "Soil Type Map" on page 11.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions:

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further
- Yes No Would the project generate significant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?
- Yes No Would these GHG emissions result in a significant impact on the environment?
- Yes No Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

In 2006, Assembly Bill 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, was enacted. This law specifically established a statewide Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions cap for 2020, based upon the 1990 emissions levels, and required state agencies to develop California's first strategy to identify and prepare for the expected impacts of a changing climate. Hence, projects that may potentially produce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions needed to be analyzed.

Currently, California's 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan: The Strategy for Achieving California's 2030 Greenhouse Gas Target (Plan) is guided by the objective to reduce emissions by 40 percent below 1990 levels by year 2030. The Plan states that successful implementation of existing programs has put California on track to achieve the 2020 target. Additionally, the California Forest Carbon Plan – 2018, also describes goals and related specific actions to improve overall forest health, enhance carbon storage resilience, increase sequestration, and reduce GHG emissions, and provides principles and policies to guide and support those actions. A key finding of this plan states "Fuel reduction in forests, whether through mechanical thinning, use of ecologically beneficial fire, or sustainable commercial timber harvest to achieve forest health goals, involves some immediate loss of forest carbon, but these treatments can increase the stability of the remaining and future stored carbon." The proposed project is consistent with these Plans.

This temporary impact is mitigated through the benefits to forest health in the form of increased growth rates, increased stand health and vigor, reduction of vegetation competition, encouragement of natural regeneration, and reduced risk of catastrophic wildfire.

This project, as proposed, will not have a significant impact on the annual release of greenhouse gases. No adverse impacts to Greenhouse Gas Emissions is anticipated with this project.

Hydrology and Water Quality

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

Land Use and Planning

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

Mineral Resources

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

Noise

- This topic could apply, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The proposed project will entail the use of heavy equipment for mastication of sagebrush. Equipment operations associated with fuel reduction activities will be within the allowable limits established by the County of Alpine. During the actual fuel reduction activities, there could be an increase in normal noise levels due to activity associated with the operation of heavy equipment. However, equipment operations shall be limited to the hours of 7am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Normal noise levels will return once fuels reduction treatment is completed. The project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. Adverse impacts to ambient noise levels are not anticipated as a result of project implementation.

Population and Housing

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

Public Services

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

Recreation

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

Transportation and Traffic

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

Utilities and Service Systems

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

Wildfire

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

The proposed project is designed to reduce hazardous fuels within the community of Woodfords. Fuel reduction activities associated with this project will not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, but rather enhance and support emergency response and ingress/egress in the event of wildfire. The project will not expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors. The project does not include prescribed fire. Areas of reduced fuel loading resulting from project implementation will reduce fire risk to the residents of Woodfords by reducing the potential flame length, rate of spread, intensity and duration of wildfire within the subdivision. Thus, the project does not exacerbate fire risk or result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. The post-treatment stand will be a well-thinned forested landscape where the largest most fire-resilient trees have been retained, people and/or structures will not be exposed to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes. No significant adverse impact to wildfire is expected as a result of project implementation.

Changes Made to Avoid Environmental Impacts:

Adverse environmental impacts have been avoided through careful review of site conditions prior to treatment method determination. Site soils, slope, habitat, cultural resources, and water resources were thoroughly examined during project design and layout.

This will also allow for the retention of the habitat and preferred canopy closure of avian species identified during the biological scoping process. Sensitive species have been identified during the scoping process and surveyed for, and protocol established should any such species be located during project activities. Mastication of all project slash will prevent the need to use burning for slash abatement, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Mandatory Findings of Significance: Yes No

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

Conclusion:

After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the description for the various classes of categorical exemptions to CEQA, the Lead Agency has determined that the project fits within one or more of the exemption classes and no exceptions exist at the project site which would preclude the use of this exemption. The possibility of (a) sensitive location, (b) cumulative impact, (c) significant impact due

to unusual circumstances, (d) impacts to scenic highways, (e) activities within a hazardous waste site, and (f) significant adverse change to the significance of a historical resource. A notice of exemption will be filed at the State Clearinghouse. After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the description for the various classes of categorical exemptions to CEQA, CAL FIRE has determined that the project does not fit within the description for the various exemption classes or has found that exceptions exist at the project site that precludes the use of a categorical exemption for this project. Additional environmental review will be conducted and the appropriate CEQA document used may be a negative declaration or a mitigated negative declaration.

Project Site Mapping



Woodfords/Mesa Vista Proposed Project Area

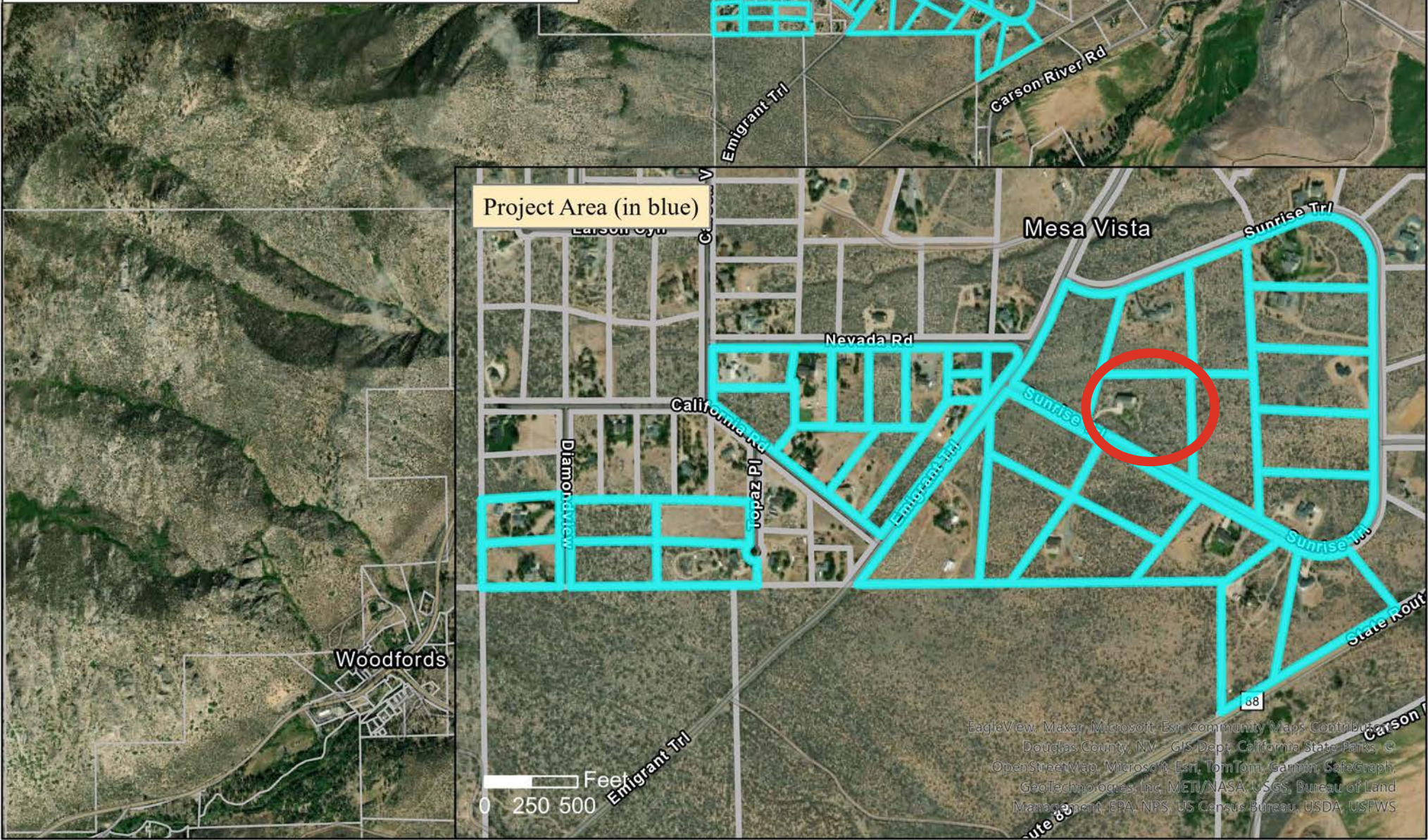
5GG22100, 2023 Eastern Alpine Communities
Hazardous Fuels Reduction

NAD 1983 California Teale Albers



8/14/2024
E. Duprey

Project Area Vicinity Map

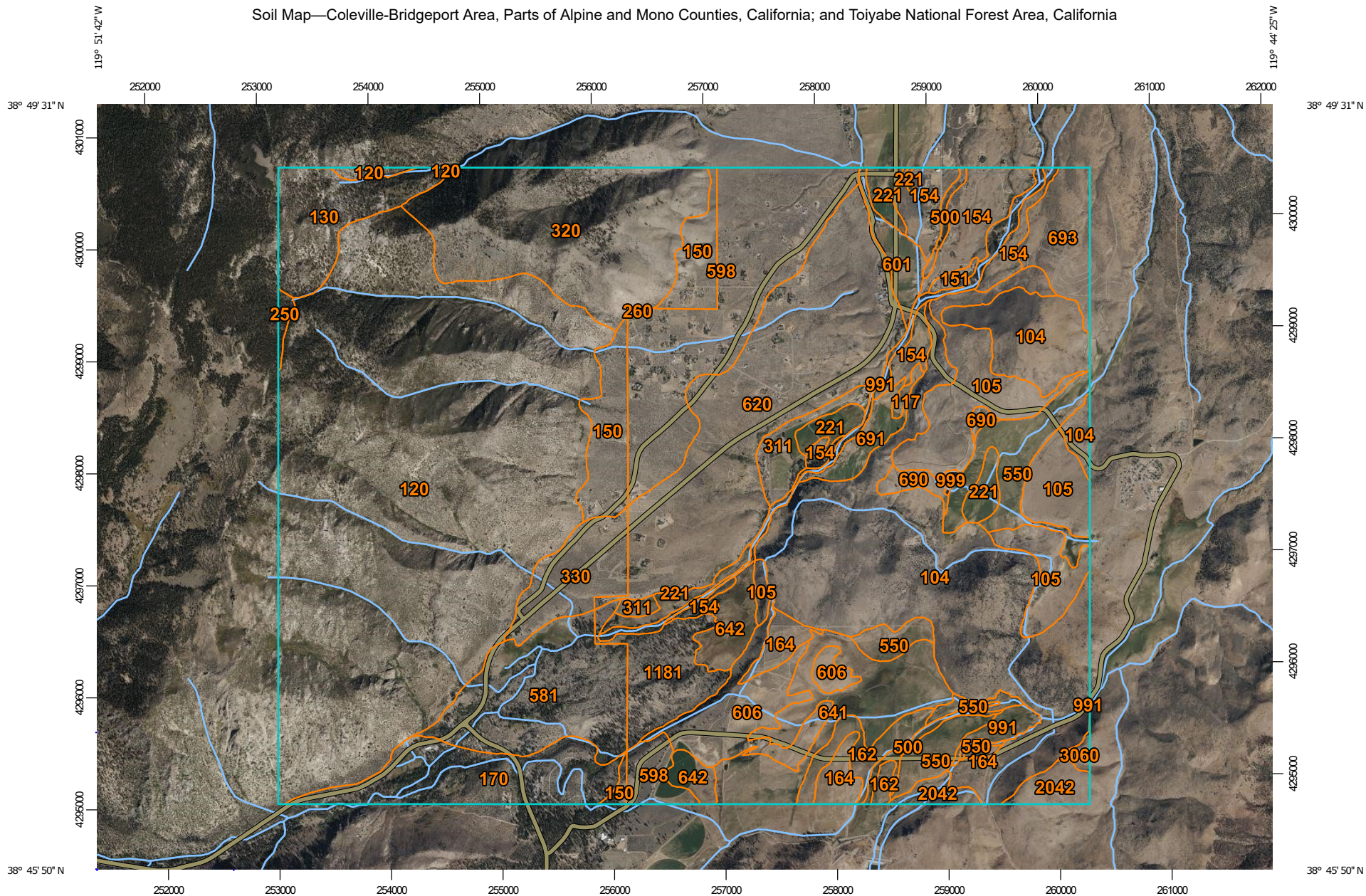


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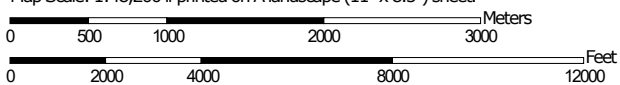
The State of California and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection make no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy of data or maps. Neither the State nor the Department shall be liable under any circumstances for any direct, special, incidental, or consequential damages with respect to any claim by any user or third party on account of, or arising from, the use of data or maps.

Soil Type Map

Soil Map—Coleville-Bridgeport Area, Parts of Alpine and Mono Counties, California; and Toiyabe National Forest Area, California



Map Scale: 1:48,200 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.




Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 11N WGS84



MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)

 Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils

 Soil Map Unit Polygons

 Soil Map Unit Lines

 Soil Map Unit Points

Special Point Features



Blowout



Borrow Pit



Clay Spot



Closed Depression



Gravel Pit



Gravelly Spot



Landfill



Lava Flow



Marsh or swamp



Mine or Quarry



Miscellaneous Water



Perennial Water



Rock Outcrop



Saline Spot



Sandy Spot



Severely Eroded Spot



Sinkhole



Slide or Slip



Sodic Spot



Spoil Area



Stony Spot



Very Stony Spot



Wet Spot



Other



Special Line Features

Water Features



Streams and Canals

Transportation



Rails



Interstate Highways



US Routes



Major Roads



Local Roads

Background



Aerial Photography

MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey URL:

Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Coleville-Bridgeport Area, Parts of Alpine and Mono Counties, California

Survey Area Data: Version 13, Sep 3, 2024

Soil Survey Area: Toiyabe National Forest Area, California

Survey Area Data: Version 17, Sep 10, 2024

Your area of interest (AOI) includes more than one soil survey area. These survey areas may have been mapped at different scales, with a different land use in mind, at different times, or at different levels of detail. This may result in map unit symbols, soil properties, and interpretations that do not completely agree across soil survey area boundaries.

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Oct 5, 2022—Oct 24, 2022

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
104	Nomisurway-Squirdirt association	1,282.1	12.5%
105	Nomisurway-Devada association	458.8	4.5%
117	Mindlebaugh loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	10.0	0.1%
151	Brockliss gravelly loamy coarse sand, 0 to 4 percent slopes	13.9	0.1%
154	Brockliss stony loamy sand, 0 to 8 percent slopes	290.2	2.8%
162	Calpine gravelly coarse sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	90.9	0.9%
164	Calpine stony coarse sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	87.8	0.9%
221	Dresselwet sandy loam, 2 to 4 percent slopes	138.1	1.3%
260	Franktown-Rock outcrop complex, 50 to 75 percent slopes	2.1	0.0%
311	Holbrook gravelly fine sandy loam, 4 to 8 percent slopes	86.6	0.8%
500	Jubilee loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	40.2	0.4%
550	Jubilee-Kimmerling complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	296.0	2.9%
598	Mottskel very bouldery loamy coarse sand, 4 to 15 percent slopes	629.9	6.1%
601	Mottsville loamy coarse sand, 2 to 4 percent slopes	62.8	0.6%
606	Mottsville loamy sand, 2 to 8 percent slopes	233.5	2.3%
620	Oest very bouldery sandy loam, 4 to 8 percent slopes	858.6	8.4%
641	Ophir gravelly sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	294.8	2.9%
642	Ophir gravelly sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	112.2	1.1%
690	Springmeyer gravelly fine sandy loam, 4 to 15 percent slopes	35.7	0.3%
691	Springmeyer loam, 2 to 4 percent slopes	61.1	0.6%

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
693	Indiano stony fine sandy loam, 4 to 15 percent slopes	143.3	1.4%
991	Riverwash	119.7	1.2%
999	Water	4.2	0.0%
1181	Murain association	174.6	1.7%
2042	Heenlake-Chenhigh-Joecut association	82.9	0.8%
3060	Duco-Smallcone-Cagle association	12.5	0.1%
Subtotals for Soil Survey Area		5,622.4	54.8%
Totals for Area of Interest		10,257.3	100.0%

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
120	Toiyabe-Corbett-Rock outcrop complex, 30 to 50 percent slopes	2,668.6	26.0%
130	Sofgran-Klauspeak-Temo association	212.8	2.1%
150	Mottskel very bouldery loamy coarse sand, 2 to 15 percent slopes	230.6	2.2%
170	Burnlake-Roadcat association	292.8	2.9%
250	Florand-Lostridge-Fishsnooze association	12.9	0.1%
320	Franktown-Rock outcrop complex, 50 to 75 percent slopes	660.8	6.4%
330	Oest very bouldery sandy loam, 4 to 8 percent slopes	168.4	1.6%
581	Murain association	387.1	3.8%
Subtotals for Soil Survey Area		4,634.0	45.2%
Totals for Area of Interest		10,257.3	100.0%

IPaC

IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

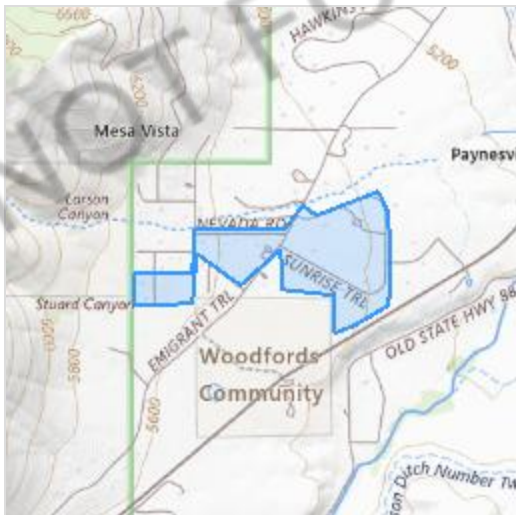
Project information

NAME

Mesa Vista

LOCATION

Alpine County, California



DESCRIPTION

Some(Fuels Reduction)

Local office

Reno Fish And Wildlife Office

☎ (775) 861-6300

📅 (775) 861-6301

1340 Financial Boulevard, Suite 234

Reno, NV 89502-7147

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Log in to IPaC.
2. Go to your My Projects list.
3. Click PROJECT HOME for this project.
4. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species¹ and their critical habitats are managed by the [Ecological Services Program](#) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries²).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact [NOAA Fisheries](#) for [species under their jurisdiction](#).

-
1. Species listed under the [Endangered Species Act](#) are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the [listing status page](#) for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).
 2. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
North American Wolverine <i>Gulo gulo luscus</i> Wherever found This species only needs to be considered if the following condition applies: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Species may be present based on transient occurrence as it moves through or too suitable habitat. Effects should be considered to species and projects should consult with the Service, however, depending on the project, consultation may not be necessary. No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5123	Threatened

Birds

NAME	STATUS
California Spotted Owl <i>Strix occidentalis occidentalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7266	Proposed Threatened

Reptiles

NAME	STATUS
Northwestern Pond Turtle <i>Actinemys marmorata</i> Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1111	Proposed Threatened

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> Wherever found There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Proposed Threatened

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There are no critical habitats at this location.

You are still required to determine if your project(s) may have effects on all above listed species.

Bald & Golden Eagles

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act ² and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds
<https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC
<https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

There are Bald Eagles and/or Golden Eagles in your [project](#) area.

Measures for Proactively Minimizing Eagle Impacts

For information on how to best avoid and minimize disturbance to nesting bald eagles, please review the [National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines](#). You may employ the timing and activity-specific distance recommendations in this document when designing your project/activity to avoid and minimize eagle impacts. For bald eagle information specific to Alaska, please refer to [Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity](#).

The FWS does not currently have guidelines for avoiding and minimizing disturbance to nesting Golden Eagles. For site-specific recommendations regarding nesting Golden Eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

If disturbance or take of eagles cannot be avoided, an [incidental take permit](#) may be available to authorize any take that results from, but is not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity. For assistance making this determination for Bald Eagles, visit the [Do I Need A Permit Tool](#). For assistance making this determination for golden eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

Ensure Your Eagle List is Accurate and Complete

If your project area is in a poorly surveyed area in IPaC, your list may not be complete and you may need to rely on other resources to determine what species may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys). Please review the [Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#), to help you properly interpret the report for your specified location, including determining if there is sufficient data to ensure your list is accurate.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to bald or golden eagles on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these bald or golden eagles are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

Review the FAQs

The FAQs below provide important additional information and resources.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read ["Supplemental](#)

[Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is $0.25/0.25 = 1$; at week 20 it is $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

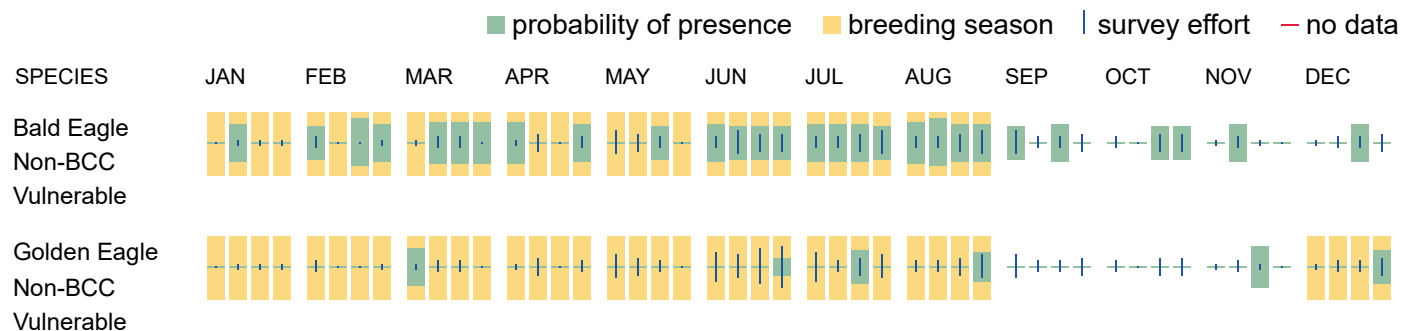
To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (-)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



Bald & Golden Eagles FAQs

What does IPaC use to generate the potential presence of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The potential for eagle presence is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are an eagle ([Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) requirements may apply).

Proper interpretation and use of your eagle report

On the graphs provided, please look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical line) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal line). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort line or no data line (red horizontal) means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list and associated information help you know what to look for to confirm presence and helps guide you in knowing when to implement avoidance and minimization measures to eliminate or reduce potential impacts from your project activities or get the appropriate permits should presence be confirmed.

How do I know if eagles are breeding, wintering, or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating, or resident), you may query your location using the [RAIL Tool](#) and view the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If an eagle on your IPaC migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it (indicated by yellow vertical bars on the phenology graph in your "IPaC PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY" at the top of your results list), there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.

To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is $0.25/0.25 = 1$; at week 20 it is $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$.

The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

Breeding Season ()

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort ()

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data ()

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

Migratory birds

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹ prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). The incidental take of migratory birds is the injury or death of birds that results from, but is not the purpose, of an activity. The Service interprets the MBTA to prohibit incidental take.

1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds
<https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds

- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC
<https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

Measures for Proactively Minimizing Migratory Bird Impacts

Your IPaC Migratory Bird list showcases [birds of concern](#), including [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#), in your project location. This is not a comprehensive list of all birds found in your project area. However, you can help proactively minimize significant impacts to all birds at your project location by implementing the measures in the [Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds](#) document, and any other project-specific avoidance and minimization measures suggested at the link [Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds](#) for the birds of concern on your list below.

Ensure Your Migratory Bird List is Accurate and Complete

If your project area is in a poorly surveyed area, your list may not be complete and you may need to rely on other resources to determine what species may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys). Please review the [Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles document](#), to help you properly interpret the report for your specified location, including determining if there is sufficient data to ensure your list is accurate.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

Review the FAQs

The FAQs below provide important additional information and resources.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
American Dipper <i>Cinclus mexicanus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds Mar 21 to Aug 21
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31
Black Swift <i>Cypseloides niger</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8878	Breeds Jun 15 to Sep 10

Black-throated Gray Warbler <i>Setophaga nigrescens</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds May 1 to Jul 20
California Gull <i>Larus californicus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 31
Calliope Hummingbird <i>Selasphorus calliope</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9526	Breeds May 1 to Aug 15
Cassin's Finch <i>Haemorhous cassinii</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9462	Breeds May 15 to Jul 15
Clark's Grebe <i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 31
Evening Grosbeak <i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 15 to Aug 10
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
Hermit Warbler <i>Setophaga occidentalis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds May 5 to Jul 15
Lawrence's Goldfinch <i>Spinus lawrencei</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9464	Breeds Mar 20 to Sep 20

<p>Lewis's Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes lewis</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9408</p>	<p>Breeds Apr 20 to Sep 30</p>
<p>Long-eared Owl <i>asio otus</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3631</p>	<p>Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 15</p>
<p>Oak Titmouse <i>Baeolophus inornatus</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9656</p>	<p>Breeds Mar 15 to Jul 15</p>
<p>Olive-sided Flycatcher <i>Contopus cooperi</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3914</p>	<p>Breeds May 20 to Aug 31</p>
<p>Pinyon Jay <i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9420</p>	<p>Breeds Feb 15 to Jul 15</p>
<p>Western Grebe <i>aechmophorus occidentalis</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6743</p>	<p>Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 31</p>
<p>Willet <i>Tringa semipalmata</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p>	<p>Breeds Apr 20 to Aug 5</p>

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is $0.25/0.25 = 1$; at week 20 it is $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (—)

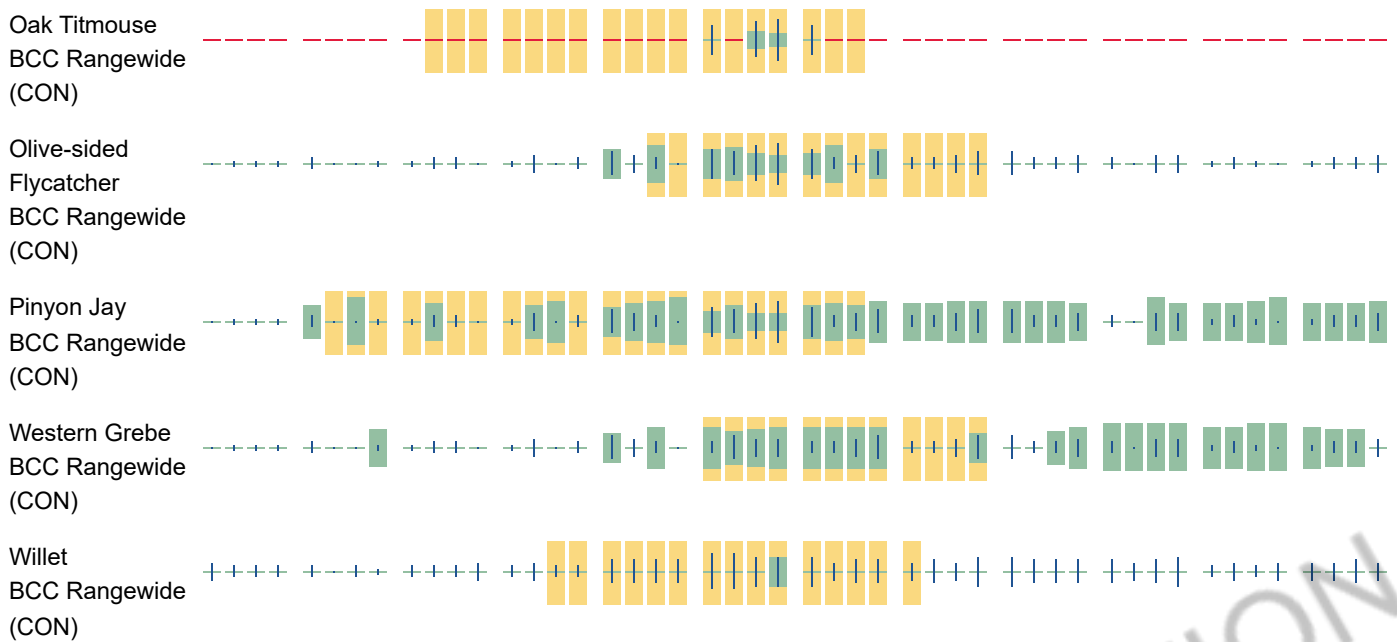
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

■ probability of presence ■ breeding season | survey effort — no data

SPECIES JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC



Migratory Bird FAQs

Tell me more about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

[Nationwide Avoidance & Minimization Measures for Birds](#) describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year-round. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is one of the most effective ways to minimize impacts. To see when birds are most likely to occur and breed in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. [Additional measures](#) or [permits](#) may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location, such as those listed under the Endangered Species Act or the [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) and those species marked as “Vulnerable”. See the FAQ “What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?” for more information on the levels of concern covered in the IPaC migratory bird species list.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) with which your project intersects. These species have been identified as warranting special attention because they are BCC species in that area, an eagle ([Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, and to verify survey effort when no results present, please visit the [Rapid Avian Information Locator \(RAIL\) Tool](#).

Why are subspecies showing up on my list?

Subspecies profiles are included on the list of species present in your project area because observations in the AKN for **the species** are being detected. If the species are present, that means that the subspecies may also be present. If a subspecies shows up on your list, you may need to rely on other resources to determine if that subspecies may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys).

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). This data is derived from a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#).

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go to the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating, or resident), you may query your location using the [RAIL Tool](#) and view the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your IPaC migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it (indicated by yellow vertical bars on the phenology graph in your "IPaC PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY" at the top of your results list), there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are [Birds of Conservation Concern](#) (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially BCC species. For more information on avoidance and minimization measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts, please see the FAQ "Tell me more about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds".

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the [Northeast Ocean Data Portal](#). The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the [NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf](#) project webpage.

Proper interpretation and use of your migratory bird report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical line) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal line). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list does not represent all birds present in your project area. It is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list and associated information help you know what to look for to confirm presence and helps guide implementation of avoidance and minimization measures to eliminate or reduce potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about avoidance and minimization measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds".

Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.

To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is $0.25/0.25 = 1$; at week 20 it is $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$.

The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

Breeding Season ()

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort ()

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data ()

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

Facilities

Wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries

Refuge and fish hatchery information is not available at this time

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

This location did not intersect any wetlands mapped by NWI.

NOTE: This initial screening does **not** replace an on-site delineation to determine whether wetlands occur. Additional information on the NWI data is provided below.

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tubercid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

NOT FOR CONSULTATION