Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project
U.S. Forest Service Tahoe National Forest
Initial Study/Negative Declaration

May 2022

State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation,
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

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Prepared for:

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NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project: Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project

Project Sponsor: U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Tahoe National Forest, Truckee Ranger District

Lead Agency: California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division

Availability of Documents: The Initial Study for this Negative Declaration is available for review on the OHVR Division's website on the CEQA/EIR Notices page at: https://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=26379

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The OHMVR Division proposes to award grant funds to the Tahoe National Forest to construct a two-acre, day-use parking area for over-snow vehicle (OSV) and off-highway vehicle (OHV) staging. The project would include removing 40 mature trees plus additional small trees and brush, grading and leveling the ground surface, adding road base and paving, installing a double vault toilet, installing signage, and moving an existing gate. After construction the area would be naturalized through revegetation and replacement of forest mulch within the areas outside of the parking facility.

PROPOSED FINDING

The OHMVR Division has reviewed the Initial Study and determined there is no substantial evidence that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. No changes to the project plans or best management practices incorporated in the project are required. Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines sections 15064(f)(3) and 15070(a), a Negative Declaration has been prepared for consideration as the appropriate CEQA document for the project.

BASIS OF FINDING

Based on the environmental evaluation presented in the attached Initial Study, the project would not cause significant adverse effects related to aesthetics, agricultural and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology/soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, tribal cultural resources, utilities/service systems, and wildfire. In addition, substantial adverse effects on humans, either direct or indirect, would not occur. The project would not affect any important examples of the major periods of California prehistory or history. Nor would the project 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, or substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal. The project would not have impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS AND CUSTODIAN OF DOCUMENTS

The record, upon which all findings and determinations related to the approval of the project are based, includes the following:

1. The Negative Declaration and all documents referenced in or relied upon by the Negative Declaration.

2. All information (including written evidence and testimony) provided by OHMVR Division staff to the decision maker(s) relating to the Negative Declaration, the approvals, and the project.

3. All information (including written evidence and testimony) presented to the OHMVR Division by the environmental consultant who prepared the Negative Declaration or incorporated into reports presented to the OHMVR Division.

4. All information (including written evidence and testimony) presented to the OHMVR Division from other public agencies and members of the public related to the project or the Negative Declaration.

5. All applications, letters, testimony, and presentations relating to the project.

6. All other documents composing the record pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21167.6(e).

The OHMVR Division is the custodian of the documents and other materials that constitute the record of the proceedings upon which the OHMVR Division's decisions are based. The contact for this material is:

Jon O'Brien, Environmental Program Manager
CDPR, OHMVR Division
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001
Phone: (916) 204-0871
Email: Jon.obrien@parks.ca.gov

Pursuant to section 21082.1 of CEQA, the OHMVR Division has independently reviewed and analyzed the IS/ND for the proposed project and finds these documents reflect the independent judgment of the OHMVR Division.

Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project
Initial Study

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Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

The California Department of Parks and Recreation, Off-highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division proposes to award grant funds to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS or Forest Service) Tahoe National Forest, Truckee Ranger District for the Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project. The proposed project is a two-acre, day-use parking area for over-snow vehicles (OSV) and off-highway vehicle (OHV) staging on national forest land located off Cabin Creek Road in Placer County, California.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR §15000 et seq.) establish the OHMVR Division as the lead agency. The lead agency is defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15367 as "the public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project." The lead agency decides whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Negative Declaration is required for the project and is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental review document.

According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a public agency shall prepare a proposed Negative Declaration or a Mitigated Negative Declaration when:

1. The Initial Study shows that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, or

2. The Initial Study identifies potentially significant effects, but:

    a. Revisions in the project plans made before a proposed Negative Declaration and Initial Study are released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, and

    b. There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.

Pursuant to Section 15070, the OHMVR Division has determined a Negative Declaration is the appropriate environmental review document for the Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project.

1.2 LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

The OHMVR Division is providing funding for the project and is the CEQA lead agency. The contact person for the lead agency regarding the project is:

Jon O'Brien, Environmental Program Manager
CDPR, OHMVR Division
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001
Phone: (916) 204-0871
Email: Jon.obrien@parks.ca.gov

1.3 DOCUMENT PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION

This document is a CEQA Initial Study for the proposed Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement project. The purpose of this Initial Study is to evaluate the potential environmental effects of

developing the Cabin Creek Trailhead. This document is organized as follows to meet the requirements of CEQA:

- Chapter 1 – Introduction. This chapter introduces the project and describes the purpose and organization of this document.
- Chapter 2 – Project Description. This chapter describes the project objectives and characteristics including the standard practices or best management practices that would be implemented by the Forest Service as part of the project. It also identifies the required permits and approvals.
- Chapter 3 – Environmental Checklist and Responses. This chapter presents project setting information and responses to the CEQA-based environmental checklist questions for each resource topic for the impacts associated with the proposed project.
- Chapter 4 – References and Report Preparation. This chapter identifies all printed references and personal communications cited in this report and provides a list of those involved in the preparation of this document.

Chapter 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROJECT LOCATION AND SITE DESCRIPTION

The project would take place on two acres of USFS land within the Truckee Ranger District of the Tahoe National Forest in Placer County (Figure 1). The proposed project is located on Forest Service Road 1-8-01, approximately 300 feet west of the intersection with Cabin Creek Road (Figure 2). The project site is surrounded by predominantly Jeffrey pine forest interspersed with Forest Service roads. There is an existing road turnout opposite the site that is currently used for parking by OHV and snowmobile recreationists. The Placer County Eastern Regional Landfill is located approximately 700 feet north of the site. State Route (SR) 89 is located about 0.4 miles east of the site. The City of Truckee is located approximately two miles north of the site.

The project site is currently occupied by a Jeffrey pine forest. Trees on the project site are predominantly mature Jeffrey pines, ranging from approximately 6 to 30 inches in diameter at breast height (dbh). Smaller, scattered white firs ranging from approximately 2 to 6 inches dbh are also present on the site. A variety of shrubs, herbs, and lichen are present in the understory. The site is relatively level at 6,300 feet in elevation. Photographs of the project site are shown in Figure 3.

2.2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Cabin Creek, accessed via the Cabin Creek Road (Placer County route 90-50) and Forest Service Road 1-8-01, is a popular recreation destination on the Truckee Ranger District both summer and winter. The Cabin Creek Road area provides opportunity for motorcycle riding on the Coldstream Trail (FS 15E05); four wheel drive vehicle (4 X 4) riding on the Pole Creek OHV route (FS 16E84); winter recreation for snowmobilers and other cold weather enthusiasts on the Cabin Creek Loop Trail (FS 16E51), access to rock climbing on the cliffs above Deep Creek; biking trails; and educational experience for visitors to the old Standford Wood Camp. Figure 4 shows the existing motorized recreational opportunities in the project area.

Currently during the summer months, parking is limited to informal/unmanaged pullouts, which leads to vegetation damage, erosion, and water quality degradation impacting the Truckee River watershed. In the wintertime, the limited public access parking is further constrained by snow conditions. Access to plowed parking is limited to patrons of Coldstream Adventures, which has been operating snowmobile tours from the location since 1996 under a Tahoe National Forest Special Use Permit (SUP TRU242).

2.3 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project is to provide the public with improved and sustainable parking to access winter and summer recreation opportunities, develop a functional trailhead to meet growing parking and user needs, mitigate issues of erosion and sedimentation impacting the Truckee River watershed, and address resource damage and safety concerns associated with this currently unmanaged parking/ staging area.

Both Cabin Creek Road and Forest Service Road 1-8-01 connect to SR 89 south, a main travel artery connecting the town of Truckee to Tahoe City and destinations within the Lake Tahoe basin. Recreational use in the area has grown significantly in recent years, and plans are currently underway to develop additional recreation opportunities along the SR 89 corridor. The Tahoe National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan (LRMP; 1990), as amended by

the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Record of Decision (ROD; 2004) reaffirms that providing recreational opportunities is one of the Forest Service's major missions in California, along with providing sustainable, healthy ecosystems. The Forest Service identified the following issues that would be addressed by the project in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Decision Memo prepared for the project (USDA 2021):

- Action is needed to provide for safe and sustainable parking access to existing and planned future recreational opportunities in the Cabin Creek area to meet the current and growing demand from multiple user groups.
- Action is needed to reduce erosion and sediment production originating from the informal, unmanaged, and limited parking that currently provides the only public access to recreational opportunities in the Cabin Creek area.
- Action is needed to mitigate continued and expanding damage to local vegetation caused by growing numbers of recreational users parking at informal, unmanaged pullouts which continue to grow.

Each of these actions are consistent with Management Direction as defined in the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Record of Decision (ROD) (2004) for the protection of natural and cultural resources and the provision of public recreational opportunity. Actions follow the Standards and Guidelines for the Truckee River (069) and Pole (070) Management Areas specified in the Tahoe National Forest LRMP (1990).

2.4 PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

The OHMVR Division proposes to award grant funds to the Tahoe National Forest for development of a two-acre, day use parking area for OSV and OHV staging. The project would formalize parking to access Cabin Creek, Pole Creek, and Coldstream trails (Figure 4). The Cabin Creek Trailhead and project activities are described below. Once constructed, the staging area would be maintained by the Tahoe National Forest.

2.4.1 Site Development

Paved Parking. The new staging area would be developed as conceptually shown on Figure 5. One-way vehicle entrance and exit points would connect to Forest Service Road 1-8-01. The staging area would be constructed with asphalt pavement over an aggregate base. The pavement would be striped for 40 trailer spaces (14’ x 45’) and 18 standard vehicle spaces.

Site Naturalization. Temporarily disturbed areas surrounding the staging area would be naturalized through revegetation and replacement of forest mulch within the areas outside of the parking facility.

Vault Toilet and Sign Installation. A new double vault toilet and signs would be installed after paving is completed. The vault toilet is a self-contained unit, and no installation or connection to water and sewer utility lines is proposed. Signage installation includes a standard USFS recreation sign, a 2-panel trailhead kiosk with informational signage, and traffic flow signs. An existing gate would be moved and re-painted and gate signs replaced.

Permittee Storage Area. The proposed staging area would include a permittee storage area comprising a shipping container used for equipment storage under permit. This area would be cleared of trees and partially covered with compacted aggregate base. The storage area would not be paved.

2.4.2 Site Preparation

The proposed project would remove all trees smaller than 25-inch dbh on the project site. An estimated 40 mature trees would be removed, as well as smaller trees and brush. Larger Jeffrey pines (25-inch dbh or greater) would be retained. All white firs on the site are relatively small and would be removed. There are no other tree species on the site. Removed trees would be sold as timber.

Grading would be performed as necessary after the removal of trees and other vegetation. The site is relatively level; no soil import or export is expected from grading activities.

2.5 CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE AND EQUIPMENT

Tahoe National Forest plans to begin project implementation in fall 2022, with the following phases:

- Work with contracting for paving and toilet purchase; place order for vault toilet; place order for signs;
- Clear trees; prep and level site;
- Paving; site naturalization; and
- Install vault toilet; sign construction and installation; move and repaint gate.

Construction equipment would include a dump truck, excavator, backhoe, grader, asphalt paving machine, and roller/compactor. All equipment would be staged on-site. Construction could require up to 200 truck trips to and from the site.

2.6 STANDARD MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS INCORPORATED INTO PROJECT

Tahoe National Forest has incorporated resource protection measures as a standard management requirement into the project design to reduce and avoid potential impacts on hydrology and soils, botanical resources, terrestrial wildlife, and invasive species. Additionally measures to protect unknown cultural resources if discovered would be implemented per the USFS Pacific Southwest Region Programmatic Agreement (2018) with the California, State Historic Preservation Officer for Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. These measures are presented in the USFS Decision Memo for the Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project attached as Appendix A.

In addition to the resource protection measures in the Decision Memo, Tahoe National Forest has agreed to conduct a preconstruction survey for nesting birds and avoid impacts to active nests (Rawlinson, 2022), consistent with California Fish and Game Code and CEQA standard practice.

2.7 REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Proposed state funding of the project requires approval by the OHMVR Division. The proposed project would occur on national forest land and has been approved by the USFS in a Decision Memo (Appendix A; USFS 2021). No other permits or approvals are required for this project.

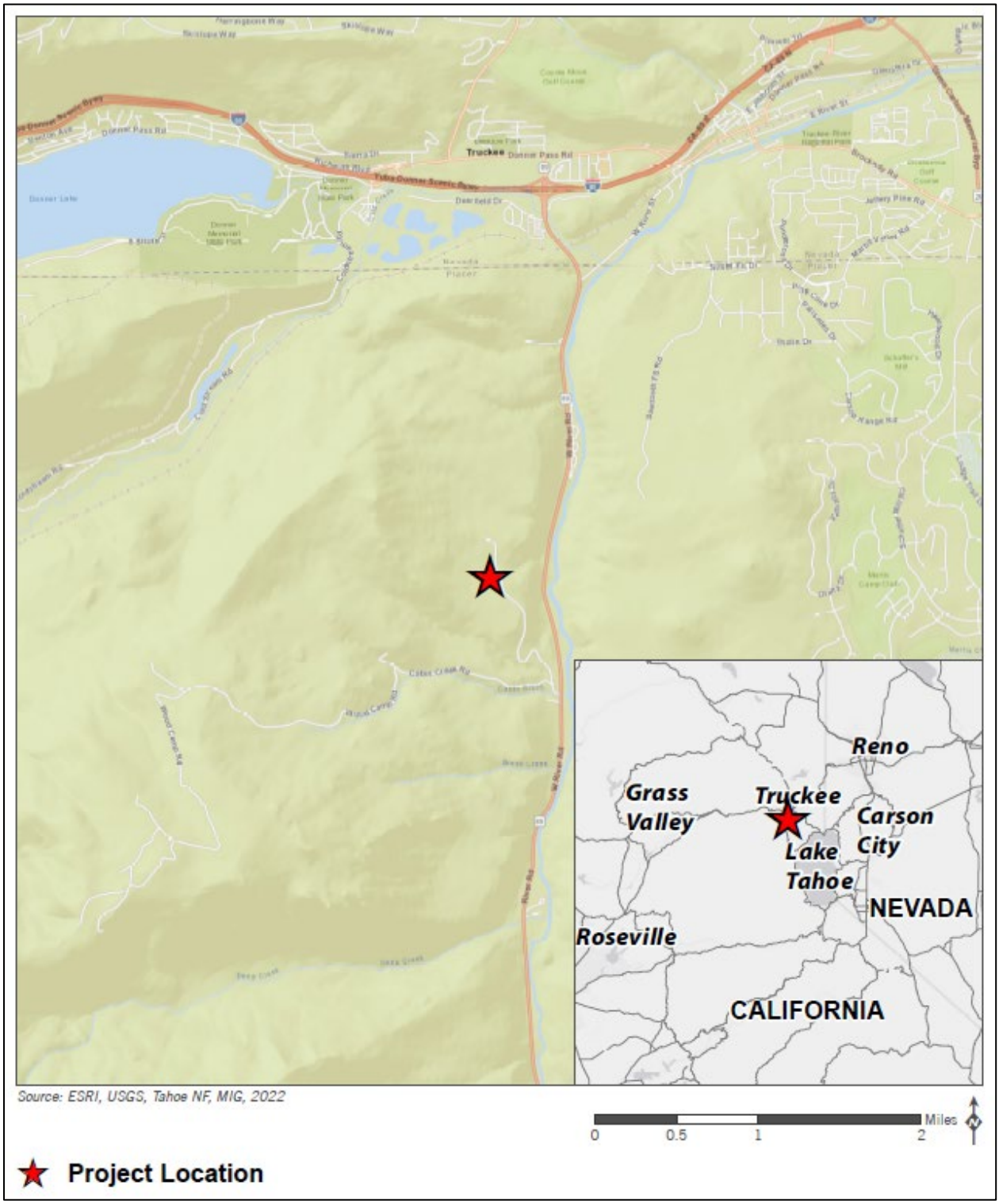

Figure 1 Regional Location

Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project

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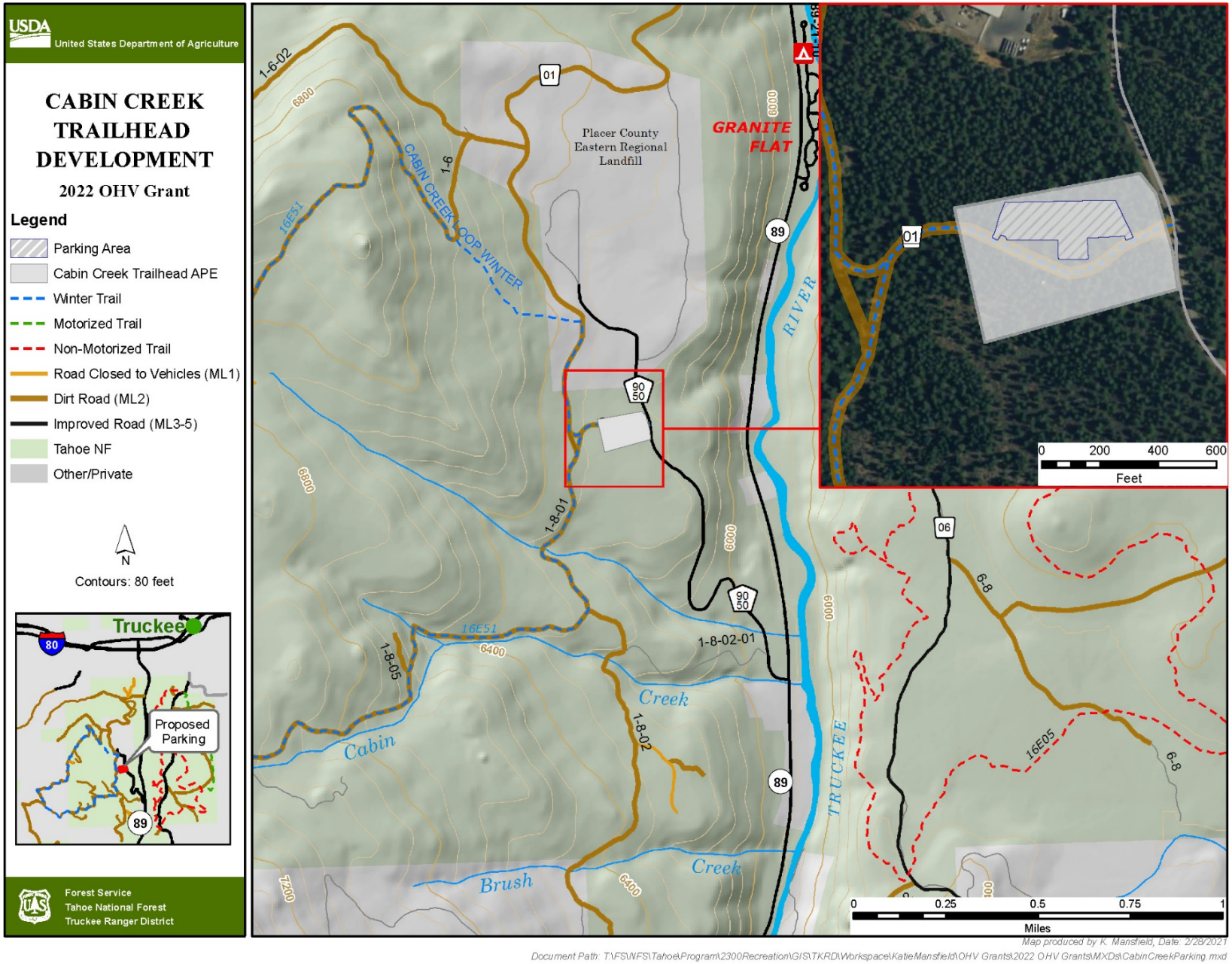

Figure 2 Cabin Creek Trailhead Project Location

Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project

Photo 1. Looking north into project site from adjacent Forest Service road.

Photo 2. Looking north into project site from adjacent Forest Service road.

Figure 3 Photographs of Project Site

Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project

Photo 3. Looking east from Forest Service road adjacent to project site.

Photo 4. Looking west from Forest Service road adjacent to project site.

Figure 3 Photographs of Project Site

Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project

Photo 5. Looking north from middle of project site.

Photo 6. Looking south from middle of project site.

Figure 3 Photographs of Project Site

Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project

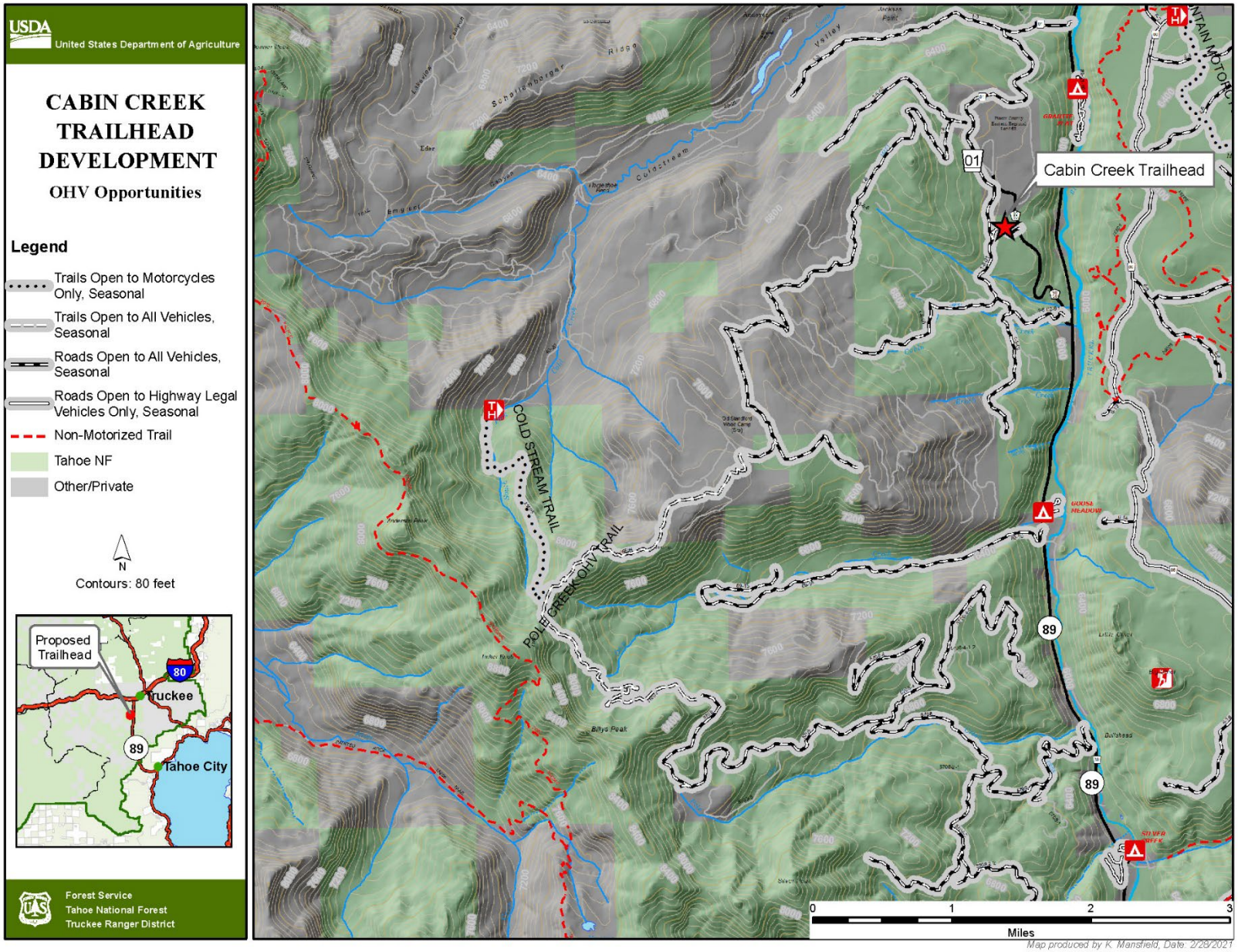

Figure 4 Existing OHV Opportunities in Project Area

Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project

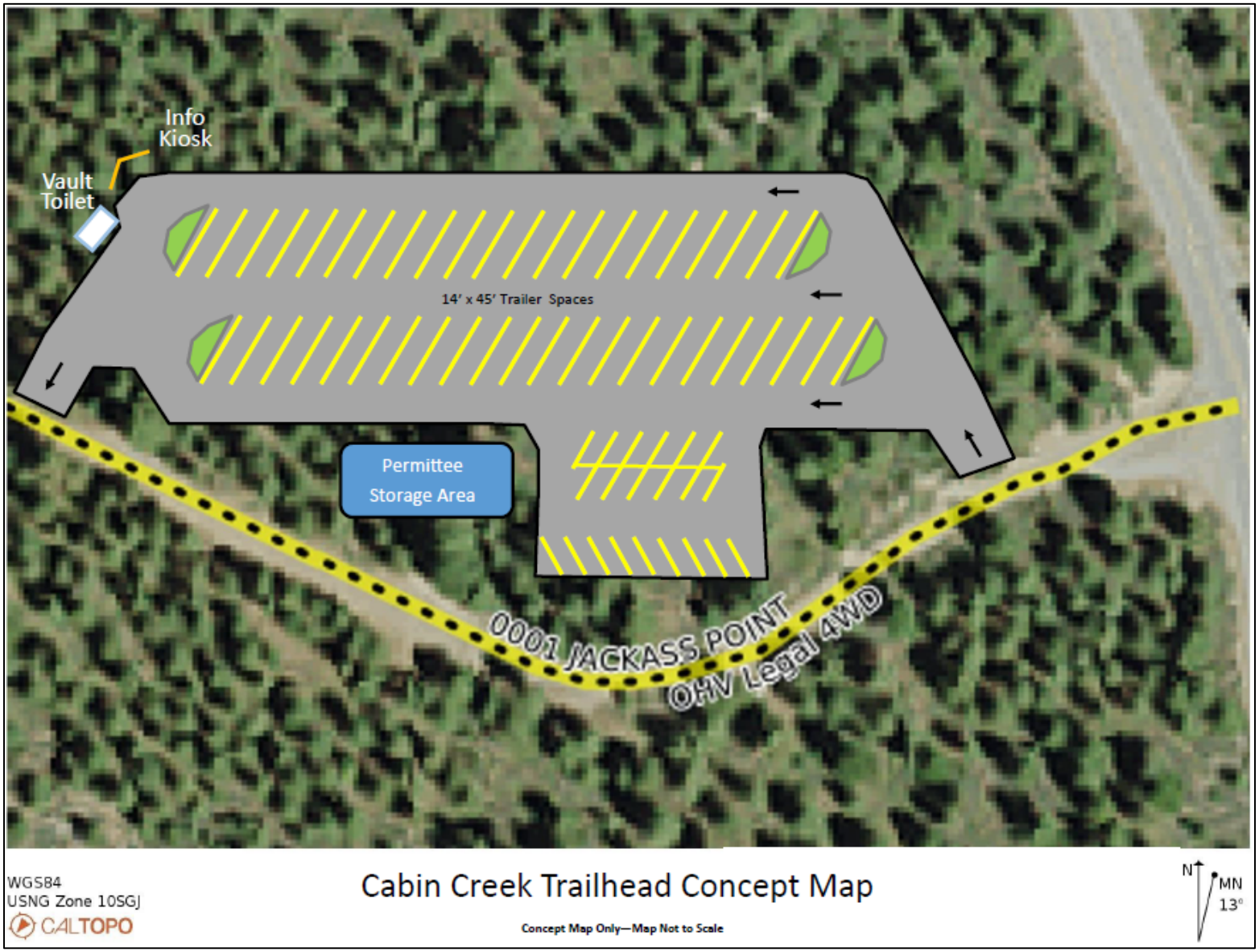

Figure 5 Conceptual Project Plan

Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project

Chapter 3. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND RESPONSES

PROJECT INFORMATION

1. **Project Title:** Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project

2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** CDPR, OHMVR Division
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Jon M. O'Brien, Environmental Program Mgr.
Jon.OBrien@parks.ca.gov (916) 204-0871

4. **Project Location:** Tahoe National Forest, Cabin Creek Road, Placer County

5. **Project Assessor's Parcel Number:** not applicable

6. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** Kaitlin Mansfield
Tahoe National Forest
Truckee Ranger District Office
10811 Stockrest Springs Road
Truckee, CA 96161

7. **General Plan Designation:** As a National Forest the property is owned by the federal government and therefore any general plan designations assigned by the local land use authority do not apply.

8. **Zoning:** not applicable

9. **Description of the Project:** The OHMVR Division proposes to award grant funds to the Tahoe National Forest for a two-acre, day-use parking area for over-snow vehicles (OSV) and off-highway vehicle (OHV) staging. The project would include removal of approximately 40 mature trees, removal of additional small trees and brush, grading and leveling of the ground surface, addition of road base and paving, installation of a double vault toilet, installation of signage, and moving an existing gate. After construction the area would be naturalized through revegetation and replacement of forest mulch within the areas outside of the parking facility.

10. **Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:** The project site is bordered by Cabin Creek Road to the east, Forest Service Road 1-8-01 to the south, and forested land to the north and west. The Placer County Eastern Regional Landfill is approximately 0.1 mile to the north, and SR 89 is about 0.4 mile to the east of the site.

11. **Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, has consultation begun?** Katie Metraux, Environmental Compliance Associate at the OHMVR Division, sent consultation letters in February 2022 to tribal contacts per CEQA requirements. The United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) responded to the request for consultation for more information. UAIC was satisfied with the consultation. The USFS consulted with tribes per NEPA requirements in 2021, and the consultation was determined to be complete.

12. **Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required:** None

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐	Aesthetics	☐	Agriculture and Forestry Resources	☐	Air Quality
☐	Biological Resources	☐	Cultural Resources	☐	Energy
☐	Geology/Soils	☐	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐	Hazards and Hazardous Materials
☐	Hydrology/Water Quality	☐	Land Use/Planning	☐	Mineral Resources
☐	Noise	☐	Population/Housing		Public Services
☐	Recreation	☐	Transportation	☐	Tribal Cultural Resources
☐	Utilities/Service Systems	☐	Wildfire	☐	Mandatory Findings of Significance
X	None				

DETERMINATION*:* (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

X I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there would not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in 5. below, may be cross-referenced).

5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration (Section 15063(c)(3)(D)). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

    a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.

    b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.

    c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7. Supporting Information Sources. A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8. Explanation(s) of each issue should identify:

    a) The criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate the significance of the impact addressed by each question; and

    b) The mitigation measures, if any, prescribed to reduce the impact below the level of significance.

3.1 AESTHETICS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	**X**	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	**X**	☐

3.1.1 Environmental Setting

The project site is visible from Forest Service Road 1-8-01, which is adjacent to the project site and is open to the public. The site and surrounding area are currently Jeffrey pine forest.

3.1.2 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

No Impact. Scenic vistas in the Tahoe National Forest can be viewed from mountain tops or open areas such as valleys or lakes and reservoirs. The project site is at a relatively low elevation compared to surrounding topography, and views from the project site are limited to a small area due to the many tall trees on and near the project site. As a result, the proposed project would not impact any scenic vistas.

b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

No Impact. The project site is not visible from any state scenic highways; therefore, the proposed project would not damage scenic resources within a state scenic highway. SR 89, located approximately 0.4 mile east of the project site, is eligible for listing as a state scenic highway (Caltrans 2021). The project site is not visible from SR 89 due to the distance from the site and the Jeffrey pine forest between the highway and the site. There are no other designated or eligible state scenic highways in the project area.

c. In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point)? If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project would change the visual character of the approximately 2-acre project site from a Jeffrey pine forest to a paved staging area with vault toilets and kiosks. The project site is visible from Forest Service Road 1-8-01, which is open to the public. Due to screening from the forest and curves in the Forest Service road, the project site is only visible from a small section of Forest Service road. Although views of the project site from the Forest Service road would change after project completion, the project would not substantially change the visual character or quality of the project area overall. Large trees in the project site (over 25-inch dbh) would be avoided by the project and would not be removed. In addition, after construction temporarily disturbed areas would be naturalized through revegetation and replacement of forest mulch. Therefore, potential impacts to the visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings would be less than significant.

d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project would not include lighting but would include standard reflective traffic control signs installed around the parking area. There is no housing or sensitive receptors in the project area, and the new reflective signs and vault toilet would not create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views of the area.

3.2 AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g)).	☐	☐	**X**	☐
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	**X**	☐
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	**X**	☐

3.2.1 Environmental Setting

The project site is located in the Tahoe National Forest on forested land. No farmland occurs in the area. The project area is not used for commercial timber, although selective timber harvest occurs in the project area as part of fuel reduction efforts to reduce wildfire risks (Brokaw 2021).

3.2.2 Discussion

Would the project:

a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

No Impact (Responses a – b). The project is located on USFS land in mountainous areas of the Tahoe National Forest and with established recreational and resource management uses. There is no farmland within or near the project area. The project area does not contain any farmland, any lands under Williamson Act contracts, or any Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as defined by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (CDOC 2016). The Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program and Williamson Act do not apply to federal land.

c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

Less Than Significant Impact. (Responses c – d). The proposed project would convert approximately 2 acres of forest land to a paved staging area. The project would include the removal of approximately 40 mature Jeffrey pine trees, as well as smaller trees and shrubs. Large trees (25-inch dbh or greater) at the project site would be avoided by the project and would not be removed. After construction, temporarily disturbed areas would be naturalized through revegetation and replacement of forest mulch. The mature trees removed would be sold as timber. The proposed staging area would support existing recreational uses in the forest, and the project would not cause the rezoning of forest land or convert forest land to a non-forest use in the larger project area. The area surrounding the project site would remain as forest land after project completion and would continue to support selective timber harvest for fuel reduction efforts. Therefore, the project would not conflict with zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land or timberland, and would not convert significant areas of forest land to a non-forest use. Potential impacts to forest land would be less than significant.

e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project would not involve other changes in the existing environment that could result in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to a non-forest use. There is no Farmland in the project area (see response to Questions a and b above), and the project would not convert significant areas of forest land to a non-forest use (see response to Questions c and d above).

3.3 AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	**X**	☐
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	**X**	☐
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	**X**

3.3.1 Environmental and Regulatory Setting

Air quality is a function of pollutant emissions and topographic and meteorological influences. The physical features and atmospheric conditions of a landscape interact to affect the movement and dispersion of pollutants and determine its air quality. Federal, state, and local governments manage air quality through the implementation of laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards. The federal National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) have been established for carbon monoxide, lead (Pb), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), ozone (O3), fine particulate matter (particles 2.5 microns in diameter and smaller, or PM2.5), inhalable coarse particulate matter (particles 10 microns in diameter and smaller, or PM10), and sulfur dioxide (SO2). California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) are more stringent than the national standards for the pollutants listed above and include the following additional pollutants: hydrogen sulfide (H2S), sulfates (SOX), and vinyl chloride.

Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB)

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) divides the state into air basins that share similar meteorological and topographical features. The project area is located near Truckee in Placer County within the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB). The MCAB lies along the northern Sierra Nevada Mountains close to or contiguous with the Nevada border and covers roughly 11,000 square miles. Elevations range from a few hundred feet at the Sacramento County boundary to more than 10,000 feet above sea level at the Sierra Crest. CARB officially recognizes the MCAB as an area impacted by ozone transport from upwind air basins (17 CCR §70500).

Placer County Air Pollution Control District (APCD)

The Placer County APCD is a special district created by state law to enforce local, state, and federal air pollution regulations. Currently, the Placer County APCD has 9 regulations containing over 200 rules designated to control and limit emissions from sources of air pollutants and

administer state and federal air pollution control requirements (Placer County APCD 2021). The eastern portion of the MCAB under the jurisdiction of the Placer County APCD is in non-attainment of state and federal ambient air quality standards for ozone, and of state ambient air quality standards for PM_{10}. (EPA 2021; CARB 2019). The Placer County APCD has established significance thresholds, shown in Table 3-1, to determine if a project would have air quality impacts under CEQA (Placer County APCD 2017).

Table 3-1. Placer County Thresholds of Significance

Pollutant	Construction Threshold (lbs/day)	Operational Threshold (lbs/day)
ROG	82	55
NO_x	82	55
PM_{10}	82	82

Source: Placer County APCD 2017

3.3.2 Discussion

Would the project:

a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

No Impact. The Placer County APCD is responsible for maintaining air quality and regulating emissions of air quality pollutants within the project vicinity. The Placer County APCD carries out its responsibility by preparing, adopting, and implementing plans, regulations, and rules that are designed to achieve attainment of state and national air quality standards. The 2017 Sacramento Regional 2008 NAAQS 8-Hour Ozone Attainment and Reasonable Further Progress Plan, which covers the portion of Placer County that is in nonattainment, discusses control strategies to reduce emissions and achieve attainment of the NAAQS by 2024 (SMAQMD 2017). The proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the regional and federal ozone or particulate matter attainment plans, as described in the previous section, including planning for OHV emissions in the county. The project would not increase urban growth, introduce new stationary sources of air pollutants, or result in new land uses within the MCAB or the jurisdiction of the Placer County APCD. Therefore, the project would not conflict with or obstruct an applicable air quality plan.

b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

Less than Significant Impact. Construction of the new staging area would occur over a short period of approximately four months, with most of the equipment being used only 15 days out of the total four-month period. The project's potential construction emissions were modeled using the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District's (SMAQMD) Road Construction Emissions Model (RCEM), Version 9.0.0. The RCEM is a model recommended by Placer County APCD to estimate emissions from linear construction projects (Placer County APCD 2017). The emissions modeling reflects the construction activities, duration, and equipment usage contained in the project description. The proposed project's maximum potential daily construction emissions are summarized in Table 3-2. See Appendix B for detailed construction emissions assumptions.

Table 3-2. Maximum Project Construction Emissions

Pollutant	Project Emissions (lbs/day)	Placer County APCD Construction Threshold (lbs/day)	Threshold Exceeded
ROG	4.9	82	No
NO_x	19.6	82	No
PM_{10}	11.0	82	No

Source: MIG 2021

As shown in Table 3-2, the proposed project's construction emissions would not exceed Placer County APCD-recommended CEQA thresholds of significance and would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in non-attainment criteria air pollutants.

The proposed trailhead improvement project is designed to safely accommodate existing demand and is not anticipated to substantially change visitation levels, motorized trail miles travelled, or otherwise result in a change in emissions associated with the use of the trail. As such, the proposed project would not result in an operations-related air quality impact.

c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Less than Significant Impact. Sensitive receptors are defined by CARB as people who have a heightened risk of negative health outcomes due to exposure to air pollution. These include children, the elderly, and asthmatics. Sensitive receptor locations are where sensitive receptors may congregate, which may include hospitals, schools, and day care centers (CARB 2021).

Project construction would emit a maximum of 0.75 pounds per day of diesel particulate matter, a toxic air contaminant; however, there are no sensitive receptors in close proximity to the work area. The nearest residences are located approximately 1.8 miles east of the project site, the nearest hospital approximately 2.6 miles north of the project site, and the nearest school approximately 2.5 miles north of the project site. In addition, there is no known naturally occurring asbestos in the project area. For these reasons, the proposed project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

No Impact. While the project would produce odors associated with construction, such as diesel fuel, motor oil and exhaust, the odors would be temporary and intermittent and would not affect a substantial number of people due to the remoteness of the proposed work areas.

3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	**X**	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	**X**	☐
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	**X**	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	**X**

3.4.1 Regulatory Setting

Federal Regulations

Federal Endangered Species Act. The Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) establishes a broad public and federal interest in identifying, protecting, and providing for the recovery of threatened or endangered species. The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce are designated in FESA as responsible for identifying endangered and threatened species and their critical habitat, carrying out programs for the conservation of these species, and rendering opinions regarding the impact of proposed federal actions on listed species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) are charged with implementing and enforcing FESA. USFWS has authority over terrestrial and continental aquatic species, and NMFS has authority over species that spend all or part of their life cycle at sea, such as salmonids.

Section 9 of FESA prohibits the unlawful "take" of any listed fish or wildlife species. Take, as defined by FESA, means "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such action." The USFWS's regulations define harm to mean "an act which actually kills or injures wildlife." Such an act "may include "significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering" (50 CFR § 17.3). Take can be permitted under FESA pursuant to sections 7 and 10. Section 7 provides a process for take permits for federal projects or projects subject to a federal permit, and Section 10 provides a process for incidental take permits for projects without a federal nexus. FESA does not extend the take prohibition to federally listed plants on private land, other than prohibiting the removal, damage, or destruction of such species in violation of state law.

U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA; (16 U.S.C. §§703–712) prohibits take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the USFWS. Under the MBTA, absent a permit, it is illegal to disturb an active nest of a protected migratory bird species, since this could result in killing a bird, destroying a nest, or destroying an egg. The USFWS oversees implementation of the MBTA.

State Regulations

California Endangered Species Act. The California Endangered Species Act (CESA; California Fish and Game Code §§2050 *et seq.*) generally parallels FESA. It establishes the policy of the state to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance threatened or endangered species and their habitats. Section 2080 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibits the take, possession, purchase, sale, and import or export of endangered, threatened, or candidate species, unless otherwise authorized by permit or by the regulations. "Take" is defined in Section 86 of the California Fish and Game Code as to "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill." This definition differs from the definition of "take" under FESA. CESA is administered by the CDFW. CESA allows for take incidental to otherwise lawful projects but mandates that state lead agencies consult with the CDFW to ensure that a project would not jeopardize the continued existence of threatened or endangered species.

California Species of Special Concern and California Fully Protected Species. California species of special concern (CSSC) are broadly defined as animals not listed under FESA or CESA, but which are nonetheless of concern to CDFW because they are declining at a rate that could result in listing, or historically occurred in low numbers, and known threats to their persistence currently exist. This designation is intended to result in special consideration for these animals by the CDFW, land managers, consulting biologists, and others, and is intended to focus attention on the species to help avert the need for costly listing under FESA and CESA and cumbersome recovery efforts that might ultimately be required. This designation also is intended to stimulate collection of additional information on the biology, distribution, and status of poorly known at-risk species, and focus research and management attention on them. Although these species generally have no special legal status, they are given special consideration under CEQA during project review.

Four sections of the California Fish and Game Code list 37 fully protected species (California Fish and Game Code §§ 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515). Most of the species on these lists have subsequently been listed under CESA and/or FESA. Fully protected species may generally not be taken or possessed except for scientific research. Incidental take of species that are designated as fully protected may be authorized via development of a natural community conservation plan (NCCP; California Fish and Game Code § 2800 et seq.).

Nesting Birds. Nesting birds, including raptors, are protected under California Fish and Game Code Section 3503, which reads, “It is unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation made pursuant thereto.” In addition, under California Fish and Game Code Section 3503.5, “it is unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds-of-prey) or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto”. Passerines and non-passerine land birds are further protected under California Fish and Game Code 3513. Disturbance that causes nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort is considered “take” by CDFW.

Non-Game Mammals. Sections 4150-4155 of the California Fish and Game Code protects non-game mammals, including bats. Section 4150 states “A mammal occurring naturally in California that is not a game mammal, fully protected mammal, or fur-bearing mammal is a nongame mammal. A non-game mammal may not be taken or possessed except as provided in this code or in accordance with regulations adopted by the commission.” The non-game mammals that may be taken or possessed are primarily those that cause crop or property damage. Bats are classified as a non-game mammal and are protected under the California Fish and Game Code.

California Native Plant Protection Act. The California Native Plant Protection Act (CNPPA) of 1977 preserves, protects, and enhances endangered and rare plants in California by specifically prohibiting the importation, take, possession, or sale of any native plant designated by the California Fish and Game Commission as rare or endangered, except under specific circumstances identified in the CNPPA. Various activities are exempt from the CNPPA, although take as a result of these activities may require other authorization from CDFW. Section 1911 of the CNPPA dictates that all state departments and agencies shall utilize their authority in furtherance of the purposes of the CNPPA by carrying out programs for the conservation of endangered or rare native plants. Notwithstanding that provision, CNPPA section 1913 directs that the performance by a public agency of its obligation to provide service to the public shall not be restricted because of the presence of rare or endangered plants.

California Native Plant Society Inventory. The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) has prepared and regularly updates an “Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California.” These rankings are incorporated into the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) as California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) in collaboration with CDFW. In general, the CDFW qualifies plant species on CRPR List 1B (Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere) or List 2 (Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, But More Common Elsewhere) for protection under CEQA. Species on CNPS List 3 (Plants About Which We Need More Information – A Review List) or List 4 (Plants of Limited Distribution – A Watch List) may, but generally do not, qualify for protection under CEQA.

3.4.2 Environmental Setting

Vegetation

Tree species present on the project site include Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) and white fir (*Abies concolor*). Plants observed in the understory include bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), mahala mat (*Ceanothus prostratus*), mountain whitethorn (*Ceanothus cordulatus*), tobacco brush (*Ceanothus velutinous*), greenleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos patula*), meadow rue (*Thalictrum* sp.), golden currant (*Ribes aurum*), common woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum lanatum*), squirrel tail grass (*Elymus elymoides*), woolly mule ears (*Wyethia mollis*), and wolf lichen (*Letharia vulpina*).

This plant community corresponds to the Jeffrey pine forest alliance in CDFW's Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program (VegCAMP). Possible associations include *Pinus jeffreyi/ Purshia tridentata* var. *tridentata* and *Pinus jeffreyi/Ceanothus prostrates*, which are considered sensitive by CDFW, and *Pinus jeffreyi*/*Abies concolor,* which is not considered sensitive (CDFW 2021).

Wildlife

Birds observed in the project area during the October 4, 2021, site visit included common raven (*Corvus corax*), dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*), evening grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*), northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), red-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*), and Stellar's jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*). Other bird species commonly observed in the project area include American robin (*Turdus migratorius*), brown creeper (*Certhia americana*), mountain chickadee (*Poecile gambeli*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), red-tailed hawk *(Buteo jamaicensis*), warbling vireo (*Vireo gilvus*), and song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), among others (Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2021).

Mammals observed during the October 4, 2021, site visit included lodgepole chipmunk (*Neotamias speciosus*) and black bear (*Ursus americanus,* scat observed). Other common mammals in the project area include mountain lion (*Puma concolor*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), mountain cottontail (*Sylvilagus nuttallii*), whitetail jackrabbits (*Lepus townsendii*), North American porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*), western gray squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*), and a variety of other rodents (USDA 2012).

No reptiles or amphibians were observed in the project area, but common terrestrial species likely include western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), alligator lizard (*Elgaria* spp.), gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer*), western rattlesnake (*Crotalus oreganus*), and others (California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society 2021).

Special-Status Species

Special-status species are those plants and animals that are legally protected or otherwise recognized as vulnerable to habitat loss or population decline by federal, state, or local resource conservation agencies and organizations. In this analysis, special-status species include:

- Species listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as threatened or endangered under FESA (50 CFR §17.12 [listed plants], 50 CFR §17.11 [listed animals], and various notices in the Federal Register [proposed species]);
- Species listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing by the state of California as threatened or endangered under CESA (14 CCR §670.5);
- Species listed as sensitive by the USFS;
- Species that meet the definitions of rare or endangered under CEQA (CEQA Guidelines §15380);
- Plants listed as rare under the California Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA; California Fish and Game Code §1900 et seq.);

- Animal species listed as CSSC by CDFW; animal species listed as California Fully Protected (CFP) by CDFW (California Fish and Game Code §§3511 [birds], 4700 [mammals], 5050 [amphibians and reptiles], and 5515 [fish]); and plants considered by CNPS and CDFW to be "rare, threatened, or endangered in California" (CRPR 1A, 1B, and 2).

Zoe Maxon, USFS Biological Technician (Plants) Tahoe National Forest Truckee Ranger District, visited the project site on July 30, 2021, to survey for botanical resources (Patterson 2021). The project site was also reviewed for the potential presence of sensitive wildlife species by Todd Rawlinson USFS District Wildlife Biologist Tahoe National Forest Truckee Ranger District (Rawlinson 2021). The two assessments above, along with the databases for species occurrence information (CNDDB 2021, CNPS 2021, IPAC 2021; discussed below) serve as the basis for the biological analysis for special-status species included herein.

MIG performed a review of available information on special-status species documented from the project region to evaluate the potential for them to occur at the project site based on the presence or absence of suitable habitat or detection in the vicinity of the study area. Review of information included: 1) a search of the CNDDB and CNPS Rare Plant Inventory records of species occurring within the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Truckee 7.5-minute quadrangle (where the proposed project is located) and eight surrounding quads; 2) review of the USFWS list of federal endangered and threatened species using the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) online tool; 3) citizen science observations from iNaturalist and eBird; and 4) review of available USFS Tahoe National Forest Truckee Ranger District memos concerning botanical and wildlife resources (Patterson 2021; Rawlinson 2021).

The potential for species occurrence was evaluated based on the habitat requirements of each species relative to the habitat conditions documented in the project area. Species were considered to have no or low potential to occur in the project area due to one or more of the following reasons: 1) no recent documented occurrences within 5 miles of the project area or the species is known to be extirpated from the project area; 2) no suitable habitat present; and 3) the project area is outside of the expected range of the species. These species were eliminated from consideration and are not discussed further.

Appendix C tables list the special-status plant and animal species that occur in the general region of the project, along with their protection status, geographic distribution, habitat, and basis for determining which species had the potential to occur at the project site. Special-status species with the potential to occur on the project site are described in more detail in the section below. Of note, additional CNDDB-tracked taxa that do not have special-status protections are included the tables for informational purposes but are excluded from this analysis.

Special-status Plants. No special-status plant species are anticipated to occur within the project site based on the habitat assessment conducted by the USFS (Patterson 2021); and no additional species that were detected by the database review are known to occur in the habitat types present at the project site.

Special-status Animals. Seven special-status animal species may have suitable habitat within the project site. Pacific marten (*Martes caurina sierrae*), Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), and California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*) were reported by the USFS to have potential to occur (Rawlinson 2021). An additional four animal species identified from the database search have potential to occur, including western bumblebee (*Bombus occidentalis*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), long-legged myotis (*Myotis volans*), and fisher (*Pekania pennanti*). These species are further discussed below.

Special-Status Species with Potential to Occur at the Project Site

Western bumblebee. This insect is listed as Sensitive by the USFS. This species is widely distributed in the western United States and Canada but has experienced a decline in range and population sizes, which led to its proposed State Endangered listing.[1] This species is generally found in wide range of habitats, from urban to natural, and requires nectar and pollen throughout most of year excepting winter months. Due to the wide range of habitats this species has been observed in, suitable habitat is considered present within the project site. Probability for occurrence of this species is high, and the nearest known occurrence to the project is approximately 3.0 miles from the project site (CNDDB 2021).

Cooper's hawk. This large raptor is currently designated as a "Watch-list" Species by the CDFW. This species is generally found in North America from southern Canada to Mexico and can be found in scattered locations in Central America (CDFW 2021, NatureServe 2021). Cooper's hawks typically prefer generally open to marginally open woodlands, and typically prefer to nest in riparian areas and flood plains in deciduous trees and oaks but can also be found nesting in developed areas or marginally suitable habitats (CDFW 2021, NatureServe 2021). Due to the wide range of habitats this species has been observed in, suitable habitat is considered present within the project site. Probability for occurrence of this species is high, and the nearest known occurrence to the project is approximately 6.0 miles from the project site (CNDDB 2021).

Northern goshawk. This large raptor is designated as a CSSC and is currently listed as Sensitive by the USFS. This species is generally found in the northern hemisphere, including North America and Eurasia (CDFW 2021, NatureServe 2021). Northern goshawks typically occur within coniferous forests, and often nest near water sources (CDFW 2021, NatureServe 2021). As the project site contains coniferous species, and goshawks sometimes nests in areas not immediately adjacent to water sources, suitable habitat is considered present within the project site. Probability for occurrence of this species is high, and the nearest known occurrence to the project is approximately 1.2 miles from the project site (CNDDB 2021).

California spotted owl. This owl is designated as a CSSC and is currently designated as Sensitive by the USFS. California spotted owls are distributed primarily in California (Southern Cascades south, to the western Sierra Nevada and Central Valley, and continue south to the Mexican border) of the United States, with some populations in western Mexico (Baja California; CDFW 2021, NatureServe 2021). This species is generally found in old growth forests but can occasionally be found in younger forests with larger trees (CDFW 2021, NatureServe 2021). As the project site and vicinity contains some large trees, suitable habitat is considered present within the project site. Probability for occurrence of this species is moderate, and the nearest known occurrence to the project is less than 1.6 miles from the project site (CNDDB 2021).

Long-legged myotis. This bat species is currently listed as Sensitive by the USFS. The long-legged myotis species has a broad distribution within Western North America from Alaska and British Columbia to Central Mexico (CDFW 2021, NatureServe 2021). This species is generally found in areas near water sources, roosts in woodland and forest trees during the day, and night roosts in caves and mines (CDFW 2021, NatureServe 2021). Nursery sites for this species vary and can range from hallowed out trees to crevices and buildings (CDFW 2021, NatureServe 2021). As this species can be found in a myriad of similar habitats, but typically closer to water

[1] Pending ongoing litigation, the western bumble bee has no legal status under CESA and is not currently considered a candidate for listing under CESA (https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB/News/legal-status-of-bumble-bees-in-california. Accessed January 19, 2022).

sources, there is moderate potential for this species to occur at the project site. The nearest known occurrence to the project is approximately 5.6 miles from the project site (CNDDB 2021).

Pacific marten. This small mammal is currently designated as Sensitive by the USFS and is generally found in forested areas if the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountains of California (CDFW 2021). Pacific martens will typically nest and den in old-growth conifer forests; however, this species has been known to nest in a variety of differently-aged stands if snags or other cavities are present (CDFW 2021). Due to the overall preference of this species to old-growth forests, habitat for this species is marginally present; therefore, there is only moderate potential for this species to occur at the project site. The nearest known occurrence to the project is approximately 11.5 miles from the project site (CNDDB 2021).

Fisher. This small mammal is currently listed as Sensitive by the USFS. Fishers range includes the northern United States to Canada; however, many populations of these species are known to be extirpated in the southern portion of its range (CDFW 2021, NatureServe 2021). This species is generally found in older growth forests that provide cover for dens but may occur in habitats with intermediate to large trees (CDFW 2021, NatureServe 2021). Due to the overall preference of this species to old-growth forests, habitat for this species is marginally present; therefore, there is only moderate potential for this species to occur at the project site. The nearest known occurrence to the project is approximately 11.5 miles from the project site (CNDDB 2021).

3.4.3 Discussion

Would the project:

a. **Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**

Less than Significant Impact. The Botanical Review (Patterson 2021) prepared for the project concluded the “proposed action will not affect any federally threatened, endangered, proposed or candidate or any USFS Sensitive [TES] botanical species. [The] determination is based on a) the lack of TES botanical species known or expected to occur within the project area, and b) the absence of suitable habitat for these species.” Based on review of the project, the report further concluded “there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the location, intensity and amount of work described.” In addition, the following resource protection measure from the NEPA Decision Memo is incorporated into the project to protect special-status plants:

- *Botanical Resources:* Surveys determined no presence of any Threatened, Endangered, or Forest Sensitive (TES) plant species at the proposed project location. If any TES plant species is detected prior to or during implementation, work will stop and the District Botanist will be notified in order to make a further determination.

The project also includes resource protection measures to prevent the spread of invasive plants (see NEPA Decision Memo in Appendix A), which protects native vegetation, including special-status plants, if present.

The USFS further determined there would be no significant impacts to USFS Sensitive animal species (including threatened and endangered species). The Wildlife Report (Rawlinson 2021) concluded that: “No measurable effects to migratory birds (MBTA) or changes in habitat for Management Indicator Species are anticipated” based on the project as designed. In addition,

Tahoe National Forest has agreed to conduct a preconstruction survey for nesting birds and avoid impacts to active nests (Rawlinson 2022), consistent with California Fish and Game Code and CEQA standard practice.

Although the wildlife report (Rawlinson 2021) and this IS/ND note northern goshawk, Cooper's hawk, California spotted owl, long-legged myotis, fisher, and Pacific marten could occur on the project site, the following resource protection measures from the NEPA Decision Memo (Appendix A) are incorporated into the project to protect these species:

- *TES species*: If any TES species (Federally threatened, endangered, proposed, or Forest Service sensitive species) previously unknown in the project area are detected or found nesting or roosting within 0.25 miles of project activities, appropriate mitigation measures would be implemented based on input from the aquatics biologist, botanist, and/or wildlife biologist. Measures can include, but are not limited to, flagging and avoiding a plant site, implementing a species specific LOP, or designating a protected activity center.

- *Raptor nest*: If any active Raptor nest is identified within the boundaries of, or directly adjacent to the project area (within 100 meters) during implementation, a buffer would be placed around the active nest and at the discretion of the District Biologist a species specific LOP may be put into place for the buffer zone.

- *Carnivore nests/denning structures*: If any large stick nests or signs of active denning are observed or detected within or adjacent to the project area (within 100 meters), work will cease in the immediate area and the occurrence will be reported to the wildlife biologist to determine any potential need for further review and/or mitigation measures

TES species, nests, or dens identified during project activities would be immediately reported to the District Wildlife Biologist. Activities in the immediate area would be paused until the biologist can respond. The biologist would determine if an LOP or other actions are necessary. As a result, project construction would not significantly affect these species.

Despite high potential for occurrence of western bumblebee, it is not expected that this species would be significantly impacted by the project since the project would not remove a significant amount of bee habitat, and as a flying insect, bees are unlikely to be disturbed by project construction or subsequent visitor use activities. Furthermore, recreational and visitor use is not expected to cause significant new impacts, particularly because the area is largely adjacent to existing roads that already receive regular travel by visitors.

b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?

Less Than Significant Impact. There is no riparian habitat in the project area. The closest stream to the project site is an unnamed tributary to the Truckee River, located about 0.4 mile south of the site (NWI 2021). Therefore, the project would not impact riparian habitat.

Two vegetation associations of the Jeffrey pine forest vegetation alliance (mapped according to CDFW's Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program) that may be present on the project site are considered sensitive by CDFW: *Pinus jeffreyi*/*Purshia tridentata* var. *tridentata* and *Pinus jeffreyi*/*Ceanothus prostratus.* The proposed project could remove up to two acres of one or both of these vegetation associations. However, these vegetation associations are locally common in the project area, and the project would remove a relatively small area of this

vegetation compared to the larger surrounding area where this vegetation is present. Therefore, the proposed project would not significantly impact these sensitive vegetation associations or remove them from the larger project area. Resource protection measures from the NEPA Decision Memo have been incorporated into the project to prevent the spread of invasive species into natural communities (see Decision Memo in Appendix A). After construction, temporarily disturbed areas would be naturalized through revegetation and replacement of forest mulch. Therefore, potential impacts to sensitive natural communities in the project area would be less than significant.

c. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

No Impact. There are no wetlands or other jurisdictional waters on or near the project site, and none would be affected by the proposed project.

d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project site is in the Tahoe National Forest, a large, forested area with abundant wildlife movement opportunities and potential nursery sites for terrestrial wildlife such as nesting birds and denning mammals. There is no aquatic habitat on the project site, and therefore no aquatic movement corridors or nursery sites in the project area.

The proposed project would convert approximately two acres of Jeffrey pine forest to a paved parking area with associate appurtenances including restrooms. However, the project would not include fencing, new roads, or other wildlife movement barriers. Wildlife movement opportunities in the project area would be similar to existing conditions after project completion. In addition, resource protection measures incorporated in the project include use of 100-meter buffer zones during project construction for nesting raptors and denning mammals found in the project area (see response to Question a above or the NEPA Decision Memo in Appendix A). With incorporation of these Resource protection measues, the project would not interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

No Impact. The project site is on federal (USFS) land, and no local policies or ordinances apply to the project area. Therefore, the project does not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

No Impact. There are no adopted habitat conservation plans, natural community conservation plans, or other approved local habitat related plans in affect in the project area.

3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☐	**X**	☐
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	**X**	☐
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	**X**	☐

3.5.1 Environmental Setting

The Tahoe National Forest prepared a cultural resources report (R2019051700067) for the project (Tahoe National Forest 2019) that evaluated a 7-acre Area of Potential Effects (APE), which includes the approximately 2-acre project site. A review of the Tahoe National Forest heritage database identified two previous surveys and no previously recorded sites within the APE. The previous surveys do not cover the full extent of the proposed staging area and are inadequate due to age of the surveys; thus, a new survey of the whole APE was conducted for this project. Archaeological field survey of the staging area placement was conducted on August 26, 2019, by Truckee Ranger District Archaeological Technician Arianna Heathcote. No new historic properties were recorded during this survey, and there are no historic properties in the APE.

To meet CEQA requirements, a search of the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) was performed for the project. The results of the search included no cultural resources and nine previous cultural reports from the project area ranging from 1989 to 2003 (NCIC 2021). Only the Cabin Creek Sno Park Archaeological Reconnaissance Report, Number 05-17-866 (Tahoe National Forest 1989) overlapped with the project site and was provided in full.

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was also performed for the project. No cultural resources were identified (NAHC 2021).

3.5.2 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?

b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

Less Than Significant Impact (Responses a – b). No historical or archeological resources were identified in the project area in the cultural resources report prepared for the project by the Tahoe National Forest (2019) or in the results of the CHRIS search (NCIC 2021) or SLF search (NAHC 2021) performed to meet CEQA requirements. If any previously unknown cultural resources are discovered during project implementation, operations would cease until analysis is conducted and protection measures are implemented as needed consistent with the Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement.

c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

Less Than Significant Impact. Although not expected, if human remains were inadvertently discovered, the Tahoe National Forest would follow the procedures as outlined in California Health and Safety Code section 7050.5 per the USFS Region 5 Programmatic Agreement with the California.State Historic Preservation Officer (USDA and SHPO 2013) All project activities at the find site must come to a complete stop and no further excavation or disturbance of the area or vicinity would occur. The county coroner must be contacted immediately, and if the coroner determines or has reason to believe that the remains are Native American, the coroner would contact the NAHC within 24 hours of making this determination. Whenever the NAHC receives notification of a discovery of Native American human remains from a county coroner, the NAHC follows the procedures as outlined in Public Resources Code section 5097.98.

Per the Programmatic Agreement, if the remains are determined to be Native American or if Native American (Indian) cultural items pursuant to Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) are uncovered, the provisions of NAGPRA and its regulations at 43 CFR 10 and Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) at 43 CFR 7 would be followed on federal lands.

The CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR §15064.5(e)) reference the appropriate state law (PRC §5097.98) that applies when human remains are accidentally discovered. This language states:

> In the event that human remains are accidently discovered, the project must come to a complete stop and no further excavation or disturbance of the area or vicinity will occur. The county coroner is to be called immediately to determine that the remains are of Native American ancestry. If the coroner confirms that the remains are Native American, within 24 hours of the discovery the coroner is to contact the [NAHC]. The NAHC will identify the person(s) believed to be the Most Likely Descendent (MLD), and the MLD will decide, along with the property owner, to appropriate treatment or disposal of the human remains and associated grave goods as provided in PRC §5097.98. If the NAHC cannot identify the MLD, the MLD fails to make a recommendation, or the property owner rejects the MLD's recommendations, the property owner can rebury the remains and associated burial goods in an area not subject to ground disturbance (14 CCR §15064.5).

Existing state Public Resources Code and Health and Safety Code ensures that the NAHC would be notified upon discovery of Native American human remains and that proper treatment measures would be implemented. Therefore, with these protective state laws in place, the potential project impact on human remains is less than significant.

3.6 ENERGY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	**X**

3.6.1 Environmental Setting

Energy consumption is closely tied to the issues of air quality and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, as the burning of fossil fuels and natural gas for energy has a negative impact on both, and petroleum and natural gas currently supply most of the energy consumed in California.

In general, California's per capita energy consumption is relatively low, in part due to mild weather that reduces energy demand for heating and cooling, and in part due to the government's proactive energy-efficiency programs and standards. According to the California Energy Commission (CEC), Californians consumed about 279,510 gigawatt hours (GWh) of electricity and 12,331 million therms of natural gas in 2020 (CEC 2021b and CEC 2021c). The CEC estimates that by 2030, California's electricity consumption will reach between 326,026 GWh and 354,209 GWh with an annual growth rate of 0.99 to 1.59 percent (CEC 2017), and natural gas consumption is expected to reach between 13,207 million and 14,190 million BTU with an annual growth rate of 0.25 to 0.77 percent (CEC 2017).

In 2019, total electricity use in Placer County was 2,915 million kilowatt hours (kWh), including 1,450 million kWh of consumption for non-residential land uses (CEC 2021b). Natural gas consumption was 96 million therms in 2019, including 30 million therms from non-residential uses (CEC 2021c). There were an estimated 198 million gallons of gasoline and 17 million gallons of diesel sold in Placer County in 2019 (CEC 2021c).

Energy conservation refers to efforts made to reduce energy consumption to preserve resources for the future and reduce pollution. It may involve diversifying energy sources to include renewable energy, such as solar power, wind power, wave power, geothermal power, and tidal power, as well as the adoption of technologies that improve energy efficiency and adoption of green building practices. Energy conservation can be achieved through increases in efficiency in conjunction with decreased energy consumption and/or reduced consumption from conventional energy sources.

3.6.2 Regulatory Setting

Since increased energy efficiency is closely tied to the state's efforts to reduce GHG emissions and address global climate change, the regulations, policies, and action plans aimed at reducing GHG emissions also promote increased energy efficiency and the transition to renewable energy sources. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the state address climate change through numerous pieces of legislation, regulations, planning, policy-making,

education, and implementation programs aimed at reducing energy consumption and the production of GHG.

The proposed project, which consists of a parking area, double vault toilet, signage, and a kiosk would not involve the development of facilities that include energy intensive equipment or operations. While there are numerous regulations that govern GHG emissions reductions through increased energy efficiency, the following regulatory setting description focuses only on regulations that: 1) provide the appropriate context for the proposed project's potential energy usage; and 2) may directly or indirectly govern or influence the amount of energy used to develop and operate the proposed improvements. See the Regulatory and Environmental Setting discussion in Section 3.8.1, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, for a description of the key regulations related to global climate change, energy efficiency, and GHG emission reductions.

CARB Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) Regulation

CARB initially approved the LCFS regulation in 2009, identifying it as one of the nine discrete early action measures in its original 2008 Scoping Plan to reduce California's GHG emissions. Originally, the LCFS regulation required at least a 10% percent reduction in the carbon intensity of California's transportation fuels by 2020 (compared to a 2010 baseline). On September 27, 2018, CARB approved changes to the LCFS regulation that require a 20% reduction in carbon intensity by 2030. These regulatory changes exceed the assumption in CARB's 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan, which targeted an 18% reduction in transportation fuel carbon intensity by 2030 as one of the primary measures for achieving the state's GHG 2030 target.

3.6.3 Discussion

Would the project:

a. Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

No Impact. The proposed project consists of the construction of a staging area for OHV and OSV users. The construction activities would require the use of construction equipment and generate construction-related vehicle trips that would combust fuel, primarily diesel and gasoline. This use of energy is necessary to provide parking and access to trails and to prevent the erosion and damage to vegetation and water quality that is caused by existing informal parking. The use of these fuels to construct necessary facilities is not wasteful or unnecessary, and construction activities would occur in an efficient manner that would avoid unnecessary fuel combustion. No impact would occur.

b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

No Impact. As the project is taking place on federal land, the trailhead improvement project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. There are no plans for renewable energy or energy efficiency applicable to the project or its location. No impact would occur.

3.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42).	☐	☐	☐	**X**
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	**X**	☐
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	**X**

3.7.1 Environmental Setting

Regional Geology

The project site is located along the western slope of the Sierra Nevada Geomorphic Province. The Sierra Nevada Geomorphic Province is a tilted fault block nearly 400 miles long. Its east face is a high, rugged multiple scarp in contrast with the gentle western slope, which disappears under sediments of the Great Valley. Deep river canyons are cut into the western slope. Their upper courses, especially in massive granites of the higher Sierra Nevada, are modified by glacial sculpturing, forming such scenic features as the Yosemite Valley. The high crest

culminates in Mount Whitney, with an elevation of 14,495 feet above sea level near the eastern scarp. The metamorphic bedrock contains gold-bearing veins in the northwest trending Mother Lode. The northern Sierra Nevada boundary is marked where bedrock disappears under the Cenozoic volcanic cover of the Cascade Range (CGS 2002).

Local Geology, Soils, and Topography

The project site is located in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Truckee 7.5-minute quadrangle. The project site is underlain by tertiary pyroclastic and volcanic mud flow deposits (Tv^{p}, CDOC 2015). Soils at the project site are mapped as EXE- Lorack variant gravelly loam, 2 to 30 percent slopes (NRCS 2021). The site is relatively level, ranging from approximately 6,295 to 6,305 feet in elevation. The lower lying Truckee River is to the east of the site, and a higher elevation ridge is to the west.

3.7.2 Discussion

Would the project:

a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

iv) Landslides?

No Impact (Responses a[i] – a[iv]). Although California is a seismically active region, the project site is not in an area with significant seismic hazards. There are no Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones in the project area. The closest fault to the project site is the West Tahoe Fault, located approximately 24 miles southeast of the site (CDOC 2021). The project site is not within an area of strong seismic ground shaking (CGS and USGS 2016). The project site is not within a seismic hazard zone for seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction, or for landslides (CDOC 2021). The proposed project is a new staging area for OHV and OSV recreation. Project activities would not have the potential to exacerbate existing geologic conditions such as seismic-related ground failure, liquefaction, or landslides, or be likely to adversely affect existing geological conditions because the trailhead improvement does not involve new major structures or earthmoving and the site does not contain geologic hazards.

b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project would not result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil. Construction of the proposed staging area would result in temporary soil disturbance on and adjacent to the project site. However, resource protection measures from the NEPA Decision Memo incorporated in the project include a site-specific erosion control plan that would be implemented during construction to minimize erosion and loss of topsoil (see Appendix A). Further, one specific purpose of the project is to reduce erosion and sediment production originating from the informal, unmanaged, and limited parking that currently provides the only public access to recreational opportunities in the Cabin Creek area (section 2.3 Project

Objectives). Therefore, the project is expected to reduce existing erosion and sedimentation in the project area over the long term.

c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

No Impact. As stated in response to Question a above, the project site is not in a seismic or geologic hazard area subject to landslides or liquefaction (CDOC 2021). Lateral spreading involves the lateral movement of a liquefied soil layer (and overlying layers) toward a free face and caused by seismic shaking. Therefore, as the project area is not in a liquefaction hazard area, the risk of lateral spreading is also low.

Subsidence is the sinking of the Earth's surface in response to geologic or man-induced causes. Subsidence is primarily caused by groundwater extraction, aquifer-system compaction, drainage of organic soils, underground mining, hydro-compaction (i.e., shallow soil subsidence from adding water), natural compaction, sinkholes, and thawing permafrost (NOAA 2021). None of these causes of subsidence apply to the project area, and the project is not expected to result in on- or off-site subsidence. The proposed development of a staging area is surficial in nature and does not have the potential to become unstable resulting in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Project activities would not exacerbate geologic unit or soil stability conditions.

d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

No Impact. Expansive soil or clay is considered to be one of the more problematic soils, and it causes damage to various structures because of its swelling and shrinking potential when it comes into contact with water (Patel 2019). The soil mapped at the project site is a gravelly loam (NRCS 2021) and does not have a high clay content typical of expansive soil. The proposed project is development of a new staging area for OHV and OSV recreation. The project is surficial in nature and does not have the potential to become unstable due to expansion, creating a substantial risk to life or property. Project activities would not exacerbate expansive soil conditions.

e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

No Impact. The proposed project includes the installation of a new double vault toilet that would be periodically emptied by a service truck. The project does not propose the installation of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems.

f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

No Impact. The project would not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature. Fossils form in certain sedimentary rocks, such as limestone, shales, or sandstones (AGI 2021). The project area is underlain by volcanic rock (CDOC 2015), and no fossils have been mapped in the project area (Macrostat 2021). In addition, the project site is relatively level, and the proposed staging area would not require

extensive excavation or grading to construct. Therefore, the proposed project is not expected to impact paleontological resources. No unique geologic features are present in the project area.

3.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	**X**	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	**X**

3.8.1 Regulatory and Environmental Setting

Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere and affect regulation of the earth's temperature are known as "greenhouse" gases (GHG). Many chemical compounds found in the earth's atmosphere exhibit the GHG property. GHGs allow sunlight to enter the atmosphere freely. When sunlight strikes the earth's surface, some of it is reflected back towards space as infrared radiation (heat). GHGs absorb this infrared radiation and trap the heat in the earth's atmosphere.

GHGs that contribute to climate regulation are a different type of pollutant than criteria or hazardous air pollutants because climate regulation is global in scale, both in terms of causes and effects. Some GHGs are emitted to the atmosphere naturally by biological and geological processes, but GHG emissions from human activities contribute significantly to overall GHG concentrations in the atmosphere, and climate scientists have become increasingly concerned about the effects of these emissions on global climate change.

The effects of increased GHG concentrations in the atmosphere include climate change (increasing temperature and shifts in precipitation patterns and amounts), reduced ice and snow cover, sea level rise, and acidification of oceans. These effects in turn impact food and water supplies, infrastructure, ecosystems, and overall public health and welfare.

GHGs can remain in the atmosphere long after they are emitted. The potential for a GHG to absorb and trap heat in the atmosphere is considered its global warming potential (GWP). The reference gas for measuring GWP is carbon dioxide (CO_2), which has a GWP of one. By comparison, methane (CH_4) has a GWP of 25, which means that one molecule of CH_4 has 25 times the effect on global warming as one molecule of CO_2. Multiplying the estimated emissions for non-CO_2 GHGs by their GWP determines their carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e), which enables a project's combined global warming potential to be expressed in terms of mass CO_2 emissions.

The California's 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan (2017 Scoping Plan Update; CARB 2017) identifies measures needed to achieve Senate Bill (SB) 32's GHG reduction target of 40% below 1990 levels by 2030.

Placer County APCD's *Review of Land Use Projects under CEQA Policy,* adopted in 2016 and amended in 2021, establishes the thresholds of significance for criteria pollutants and greenhouse gases. This policy also establishes the review principles, which serve as guidelines for the Placer County APCD staff when acting as a commenting agency in the review of environmental documents prepared by lead agencies (Placer County APCD 2021). The

environmental analysis presented below uses the Placer County APCD thresholds of significance to evaluate the proposed project's GHG emissions levels.

3.8.2 Discussion

Would the project:

a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project's GHG emissions were estimated using the same methodology (RCEM) employed to estimate criteria air pollutant emissions (see Section 0) The estimated emissions, shown in Table 3-3, would not exceed the GHG threshold set by the Placer County APCD (Placer County APCD 2017). See Appendix B for detailed construction emissions assumptions.

Table 3-3. Project GHG Emissions Estimates

Project Emissions	Placer County APCD Bright-line Threshold	Threshold Exceeded
213.5 tons CO_2e	10,000 ($MTCO_2e$/yr)	No

Source: MIG 2021 (see Appendix B)

b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

No Impact. The project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for reducing GHG emissions. Construction vehicle and equipment GHG emissions are identified and planned for in CARB's GHG emissions inventory and 2017 Scoping Plan Update, which contains measures designed to achieve the state's GHG reduction goals outlined in SB32. Moreover, the project would not contain any activities or emissions sources that are subject to state or federal GHG permitting or reporting regulations.

3.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	**X**	☐
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	**X**	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	**X**	☐

3.9.1 Environmental and Regulatory Setting

A material is considered hazardous if it appears on a list of hazardous materials prepared by a federal, state, or local agency, or if it has characteristics defined as hazardous by such an agency. Chemical and physical properties such as toxicity, ignitability, corrosivity, and reactivity, cause a substance to be considered hazardous. These properties are defined in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Sections 66261.20-66261.24. A “hazardous waste” is any hazardous material that is discarded, abandoned, or to be recycled. The criteria that render a material hazardous also make a waste product hazardous (California Health and Safety Code § 25117). According to this definition, fuels, motor oil, and lubricants in use at a typical construction site and airborne lead built up along roadways could be considered hazardous.

The project site is currently Jeffrey pine forest adjacent to a forest service road. No hazardous materials are currently used or stored at the site.

3.9.2 Discussion

Would the project:

a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

Less Than Significant Impact (Responses a – b). Project construction would involve the use of hazardous fuels and fluids in the short-term; however, resource protection measures from the NEPA Decision Memo incorporated in the project include a spill containment plan, required remediation of contaminated soils, approved fuel storage and fuel filling sites, and specific design features for paved surface drainage (see Appendix A). In addition, all hazardous construction materials would be transported, used, and disposed of in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

After construction, the new staging area would not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials over the long-term. The use of hazardous materials during the operational phase of the project would be limited to small quantities of cleaning fluids for the vault toilets that would not be stored or disposed of onsite and would be used in accordance with applicable regulations.

c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or hazardous waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

No Impact. The project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or hazardous waste. The project site is in the Tahoe National Forest and there are no existing or proposed schools within one-quarter mile of the site.

d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

No Impact. No hazardous material sites are known to occur on or near the project site. The project site is not included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (CalEPA 2021). According to the State Water Resources Control Board Geotracker map, there are no hazardous materials sites within one mile of the project site (SWRCB 2021). Therefore, the project would not create a hazard to the public or the environment due to hazardous materials sites.

e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

No Impact. The project site is not located within an airport land use plan area or within two miles of a public or public use airport. The closest airport is the Truckee Tahoe Airport, located approximately four miles northeast of the project site.

f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No Impact. The proposed project is a new staging area for OHV and OSV recreation. The project site entrance off Forest Service Road 1-8-01 quickly connects to Cabin Creek Road (County Road 90/50) and is within one mile of access to SR 89. There are no established emergency evacuation routes at the project site. The project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an existing emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

g. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project site is in a forested area where wildland fires may occur but is not located in a very high fire hazard severity zone (see section 3.20 Wildfire). The proposed project is a new staging area for OHV and OSV recreation that would serve existing visitor use. The project does not propose new land uses or buildings which would introduce new fire hazards or exacerbate existing wildland fire hazards. Building materials include pavement, signs and a double vault toilet which are not highly flammable. Therefore, the project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires.

3.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	☐	☐	**X**	☐
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	**X**	☐
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i) Result in substantial on- or offsite erosion or siltation;	☐	☐	**X**	☐
ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	☐	☐	**X**	☐
iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	**X**	☐
iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	**X**	☐
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	**X**	☐

3.10.1 Regulatory Setting

In addition to CEQA, other federal and state laws apply to the hydrology and water quality identified in this report. Each of these laws is identified and discussed below.

Federal Clean Water Act, Section 402

The Clean Water Act (CWA) is the primary federal legislation governing water quality and forms the basis for several state and local laws throughout the nation. The objective of the CWA is “to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters.”

The Clean Water Act (CWA) authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to regulate water quality in California by controlling the discharge of pollutants to water bodies from point and non-point sources through the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

The State and Regional Water Quality Control Boards entered into an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service that requires the agency to control non-point source discharges by implementing control actions certified by the State Board as BMPs. BMPs are designed to protect water quality including sediment, turbidity, and water temperature. All project activities would meet all applicable BMPs.

3.10.2 Environmental Setting

The project site is in the Truckee River Watershed approximately 0.4 miles west of the Truckee River, 0.4 miles north of an unnamed tributary, and 0.6 miles north of Cabin Creek (NWI 2021;Figure 2). No streams or drainages occur on the project site.

The Truckee River is the only source of surface-water outflow from Lake Tahoe, flowing for 120 miles from the outlet of Lake Tahoe in California, into Nevada, through the city of Reno, until it terminates at Pyramid Lake. The majority of the streamflow in the Truckee River comes from the Sierra Nevada snowpack. The Truckee River supplies water to a diverse group of water users: power generation, municipalities, industry, and agriculture as well as being the primary source of water for Pyramid Lake (USGS 2021).

3.10.3 Discussion

Would the project:

a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality. Project construction would cause temporary ground disturbance that could result in erosion and sedimentation at the project site. Construction would also include construction fuels and fluids that could result in leaks or accidental spills affecting surface and groundwater at the project site. However, the project includes resource protection measures from the NEPA Decision Memo to protect water quality such as an erosion control plan, a spill containment plan, required remediation of contaminated soils, approved fuel storage and fuel filling sites, and specific design features for paved surface drainage (see Appendix A). In addition, the Forest Service regional engineer is designing the staging area to Forest Service engineering drainage specifications to provide for adequate water management. One of the project purposes is to protect water quality by reducing erosion and sediment production originating from the informal, unmanaged, and limited parking that currently provides the only public access to recreational opportunities in the Cabin Creek area.

b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project would add approximately two acres of impervious surface area to the project site, which is currently unpaved forestland. However, resource protection measures from the NEPA Decision Memo incorporated in the project include specific

design features for paved surface drainage (see Appendix A). In addition, the Forest Service regional engineer is designing the staging area to Forest Service engineering drainage specifications to provide for adequate water management. The project would not utilize groundwater or interfere with groundwater recharge in the larger project area, which would remain as pervious forestland. Therefore, the project would not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge.

c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:

i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;

ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;

iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or

iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?

Less Than Significant Impact. (Responses c[i] – c[iv]). The project site is relatively level and has no streams or drainages. The creation of a parking area would not alter the course of a stream or a river or substantially change drainage patterns. Although the project could increase erosion or siltation temporarily during construction, the project is expected to decrease erosion and siltation in the long term. One of the project purposes is to reduce erosion and sediment production originating from the informal, unmanaged, and limited parking that currently provides the only public access to recreational opportunities in the Cabin Creek area. In addition, BMPs incorporated in the project include an erosion control plan to avoid or minimize erosion and siltation during construction. Therefore, the project would not result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off-site.

The project would add approximately two acres of impervious surface area to the project site, which is currently unpaved forestland. However, resource protection measures from the NEPA Decision Memo incorporated in the project include specific design features for paved surface drainage (see Appendix A). In addition, the Forest Service regional engineer is designing the staging area to Forest Service engineering drainage specifications to provide for adequate water management. The area surrounding the site would remain as pervious forestland. Although the new impervious staging area would increase the amount of surface runoff from the project site, the project is not expected to result in flooding on or off-site dure to project site design features for drainage, and because the surrounding forestland is expected to be able to absorb runoff from the site.

There are no existing or planned stormwater drainage systems in the project area, and the project is expected to reduce polluted runoff overall by eliminating informal parking that results in erosion and sedimentation. Resource protection measures from the NEPA Decision Memo require implementation of a substance spill prevention and containment plan to address potential pollutants from paved surface drainage (see Appendix A).

The project would not impede or redirect flood flows. The project site is not within a flood zone (FEMA 2018). The project does not propose buildings or structures that could impede or redirect flood flows.

d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

No Impact. The project site is not in a flood hazard zone (FEMA FIRM 06061C0137H). In addition, the project is not near the coast or a large body of water and thus is not at risk of inundation by tsunami or seiche.

e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project would not conflict with the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Lahontan RWQCB 2019) with the resource protection measures from the NEPA Decision Memo incorporated in the project for water quality protection (see Appendix A). No sustainable groundwater management plan applies to the project area (SWRCB 2021). See responses to Questions a through c above regarding the potential impacts of the project on water quality and groundwater. All impacts were found to be less than significant.

3.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	**X**

3.11.1 Environmental Setting

The project site is located on federal land adjacent to Forest Service Road 1-8-01. The site is within a national forest in an area managed for natural resources and recreational uses including OHV and OSV recreation.

3.11.2 Discussion

Would the project:

a. Physically divide an established community?

No Impact. The proposed project is a staging area for OHV and OSV recreation and would not physically divide an established community. The project site is in the Tahoe National Forest, and there are no established communities in the project area.

b. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

No Impact. The NEPA Decision Memo (Appendix A) found the proposed project is consistent with the Tahoe National Forest Land and Management Plan (USDA 1990), as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Record of Decision (USDA 2004). The project was designed in conformance with Forest Plan direction including all applicable standards, objectives, and guidelines. The proposed action is consistent with all other Federal, state, and local laws and requirements.

3.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local -general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	**X**

3.12.1 Discussion

Would the project:

a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

No Impact (Responses a – b). No important mineral resources would be removed from the project area, nor would the availability of any mineral resources be affected by the proposed project.

3.13 NOISE

Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?	☐	☐	**X**	☐
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	**X**	☐
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	**X**

3.13.1 Environmental Setting

Noise can be defined as unwanted sound, with sound being a detectable vibratory disturbance. On a seasonal basis, sounds of vehicle engines are common in the project area and vicinity. The project site location is in Tahoe National Forest and is not located near sensitive receptors such as residences and schools.

3.13.2 Discussion

Would the project result in:

a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable standards of other agencies?

Less than Significant Impact. Noise levels would temporarily increase during construction due to the use of heavy equipment. However, there are no sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the project site that would be affected by heavy equipment noise. The nearest residences, schools, and hospitals are all over 1.5 miles away from the project site, and the trails accessed by the proposed staging area are designed for OHV use and would not be impacted by any increases in ambient noise that could result from project construction.

b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

No Impact. Localized ground vibrations may occur during construction work to construct parking area due to the use of heavy equipment. However, there are no sensitive receptors or structures in the vicinity of the project site that would be affected by groundborne vibration or groundborne noise.

c. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No Impact. The project area is not located within two miles of a public airport or private airport or airstrip. The nearest airport, Truckee Tahoe Airport, is approximately four miles northeast of the Project site.

3.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	**X**

3.14.1 Discussion

Would the project:

a. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

No Impact. The proposed project would not induce substantial unplanned population growth in the project area, either directly or indirectly. The new staging area is designed to meet existing parking demand from current OHV and OSV recreation visitor use levels and avoid damage to natural resources presently occurring from informal and unmanaged parking areas. The formalization of a parking area does not expand recreation opportunity and is not expected to generate increased recreational demand in the project area. No additional trails for motorized recreation are planned for the project area, although non-motorized recreational opportunities may be expanded in the area in the future (Brokaw 2021). No specific projects are proposed, and any future activities would be subject to separate environmental review.

b. Displace substantial numbers of people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. The project would not displace any housing or people as it does not involve the removal of existing housing.

3.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
i) Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
ii) Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
iii) Schools?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
iv) Parks?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
v) Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	**X**

3.15.1 Discussion

Would the project:

a. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

i) Fire protection?

ii) Police protection?

iii) Schools?

iv) Parks?

v) Other public facilities?

No Impact (Responses a[i] – a[v]). The proposed project would not induce population growth or significantly increase recreational demand in the project area (see response to Question a in Section 3.14 Population and Housing). Therefore, the project would not increase the demand for public services and facilities compared to existing conditions. The project is not expected to increase risks to people or structures from wildfires (see response to Question h in Section 3.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials). The project is not expected to increase crime or the need for police protection. The project site is on Forest Service land, and there are no permanent residents in the project area that require schools, parks, or other public facilities.

3.16 RECREATION

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	**X**	☐

3.16.1 Existing Setting

The Tahoe National Forest is an increasingly popular recreation destination for multiple user groups. The Tahoe National Forest is located in the Sierra Nevada mountain range between the metropolitan areas of Sacramento, California and Reno, Nevada within one hour travel time of 2.5 million people. The Tahoe National Forest is also a recreational destination for residents of the San Francisco Bay Area (population of about seven million people), an approximate 3-hour drive away. Encompassing an area of over 1,178,000 acres, with approximately 838,777 acres being National Forest System (NFS) lands, the Tahoe National Forest is one of the only U.S. National Forests to have both OHV and OSV managed programs (USDA 2021). As described in section 2.2, Cabin Creek is a popular year-round recreation destination on the Truckee Ranger District (USDA 2021).

3.16.2 Discussion

Would the project:

a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

No Impact. The proposed project is not expected to significantly increase recreational demand in the project area (see response to Question a in Section 3.14 Population and Housing). The project would not increase visitor use in the Tahoe National Forest such that new recreational facilities would be needed, nor would the project intensify uses on other recreational facilities resulting in or accelerating physical deterioration of those facilities. No neighborhood or regional parks are located in the project area and none would be impacted.

b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project is a new staging area to meet existing demand for OHV and OSV recreation and to avoid damage to natural resources from existing informal and unmanaged parking areas. The project would provide a formalized parking area to access existing motorized trails but does not include new or expanded trails or other recreational facilities. Adverse physical effects on the environment from the new staging area

would be avoided through resource protection measures from the NEPA Decision Memo incorporated in the project (see Appendix A).

3.17 TRANSPORTATION

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	**X**	☐
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	**X**

3.17.1 Environmental Setting

Regional access to the project site is provided by SR 89, which runs north-south from Truckee, where it connects to Interstate 80, to South Lake Tahoe, where it connects to Highway 50. Local access is provided by Cabin Creek Road and Forest Service Road 1-8-01.

Transit services in the project area include the Truckee Trolley providing winter service to ski resorts and the airport, Truckee Dial-a-Ride providing on-demand service to persons with disabilities, Tahoe Area Regional Transit providing service between Truckee and Tahoe City, No Stress Express providing an airport shuttle service, Greyhound Bus Lines providing regional and long-distance bus service, and railroad lines providing regional and long-distance passenger train service. The Truckee-Tahoe Airport also provides transportation to and from the project area (Town of Truckee 2006).

At present, the trail and nonmotorized bikeway network in the project area is relatively limited, but additional trails and bike routes are proposed in the Truckee area. For example, Class II bike lanes are proposed along SR 89 North and South (Town of Truckee 2006).

3.17.2 Discussion

Would the project:

a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?

No Impact. The proposed project is a new staging area to meet existing demand for OHV and OSV recreation, and to avoid damage to natural resources from existing informal and unmanaged parking areas. The project would provide a formalized parking area to access existing off-highway motorized trails but would not affect the existing local or regional circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.

b. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3(b), which pertains to vehicle miles traveled?

Less Than Significant Impact. Vehicle miles traveled would increase temporarily during the short-term construction period due to workers and equipment accessing the site. Phased construction would occur intermittently from approximately May through September and would require up to 200 truck trips. However, the proposed project is not expected to significantly increase recreational demand in the project area (see response to Question a in Section 3.14 Population and Housing), and therefore is unlikely to increase vehicle miles traveled in the project area over the long term.

c. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

No Impact. The proposed project would not include hazardous design features or incompatible uses. The project site is adjacent to a Forest Service road and is not near any dangerous intersections, sharp curves, or busy roadways. The proposed project is a new staging area to meet existing demand for OHV and OSV recreation, and to avoid damage to natural resources from existing informal and unmanaged parking areas. The project is compatible with existing recreational and natural resources management uses of the project area.

d. Result in inadequate emergency access?

No Impact. Project related work would not affect existing traffic patterns or emergency access routes. The proposed staging area is being designed to Forest Service engineering standards, which includes appropriate access for emergency vehicles.

3.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resources, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe.	☐	☐	☐	**X**

3.18.1 Environmental and Regulatory Setting

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 created a formal CEQA role for California Native American tribes by creating a formal consultation process and establishing that a substantial adverse change to a tribal cultural resource has a significant effect on the environment. Tribal cultural resources are defined as:

1. Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:
    a) Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources
    b) Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC section 5020.1(k)
2. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in PRC section 5024.1 (c). In applying the criteria set forth in PRC section 5024.1 (c) the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

A cultural landscape that meets the criteria above is also a tribal cultural resource to the extent that the landscape is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape. In addition, a historical resource described in PRC section 21084.1, a unique archaeological resource as defined in PRC section 21083.2(g), or a “non-unique archaeological resource” as defined in PRC section 21083.2(h) may also be a tribal cultural resource if it conforms with above criteria.

AB 52 requires a lead agency, prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report for a project, to begin consultation with a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project if: (1) the California Native American tribe requested to the lead agency, in writing, to be informed by the lead agency through formal notification of proposed projects in the geographic area that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribe, and (2) the California Native American tribe responds, in writing, within 30 days of receipt of the formal notification, and requests the consultation. AB 52 states: "To expedite the requirements of this section, the Native American Heritage Commission shall assist the lead agency in identifying the California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area."

The OHMVR Division sent letters on February 8, 2022 to tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area the project. The list is generated by the Native American Heritage Commission. Affiliated tribes included The United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC), the Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe, the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, and the Wilton Rancheria. UAIC contacted the Division on March 17, 2022 to request more information about the project. The Forest Service project manager responded to UAIC and provided the requested information.

3.18.2 Discussion:

Would the project:

Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resources, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

a. **Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?**

b. **A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe.**

No Impact (Responses a – b). The project comprises development of a new staging area to formalize parking access to an existing OHV trail network. The project would change the two-acre site from mixed Jeffrey pine and white fir forest to a paved surface staging area. The project activities would not change the existing land use of the area and would not substantially alter the landscape. No tribal resource concerns were raised in response to the OHMVR Division tribal outreach efforts. The project would not affect known tribal cultural resources.

3.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
e) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	**X**

3.19.1 Discussion

Would the project:

a. **Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?**

b. **Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?**

c. **Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?**

No Impact (Responses a – c). The proposed project is a new staging area to provide formal parking access for OHV and OSV recreation and avoid damage to natural resources from the existing informal and unmanaged parking areas. The project would not include new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. The new staging area would not include water, lighting, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities. The project would not require water supplies or wastewater

treatment. A double vault toilet would be installed at the site, which would be periodically serviced. The Forest Service regional engineer is designing the staging area to Forest Service engineering drainage specifications to provide for adequate storm water management.

d. Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

No Impact (Responses d – e). The proposed project would not generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair attainment of solid waste reduction goals. No dumpster or solid waste receptacle would be provided at the staging area; therefore, the project is not expected to generate solid waste over the long term. In addition, the proposed project is not expected to significantly increase recreational demand in the project area (see response to Question a in Section 3.14 Population and Housing), and therefore is unlikely to result in a significant increase in solid waste generated by recreationists. Solid waste generated during the short-term construction period is expected to be minimal. Trees removed would be sold as lumber and not contribute to solid waste. The site is relatively level, and grading would not generate excess soil for off-site disposal. The project would comply with all applicable federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

3.20 WILDFIRE

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
c) Require the installation of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts To the environment?	☐	☐	**X**	☐
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, Or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	**X**

3.20.1 Environmental Setting

The project site is in a forested area that could experience wildfires. The site is on federal property (National Forest) in a federal responsibility area (CAL Fire 2007) and not within in a state responsibility area. According to the Wildfire Hazard Potential (WHP) map developed by the USFS Fire Modeling Institute, the project site is in an area of moderate wildfire hazard (USFS 2014).

3.20.2 Discussion

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No Impact. The project is not located in a state responsibility area or a very high fire hazard severity zone. The project site entrance off Forest Service Road 1-8-01 quickly connects to Cabin Creek Road (County Road 90/50) and is within one mile of access to SR 89. There are no established emergency evacuation routes. The project would not impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

b. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

No Impact. The project is not located in a state responsibility area or a very high fire hazard severity zone. The project would clear two acres of forest vegetation to create a paved surface parking area. The project does not introduce new land uses, potential ignition sources, or change in topography that could exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby expose site visitors to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire. The proposed project does not include structures for human habitation, and building materials (e.g., pavement, signs, and vault toilet) are not highly flammable. The project area is relatively level, and there are no nearby slopes that could increase the risk of uncontrolled wildfire spread. The project area is also managed for fuel reduction to reduce wildfire hazards in the area.

c. Require the installation of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project is not located in a state responsibility area or a very high fire hazard severity zone. In addition, the project would not include the installation of roads, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities.

d. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

No Impact. The project is not located in a very high fire hazard severity zone. In addition, the project area is relatively level and is not prone to wildfire induced landslides or slope instability. In addition, the project site is not in a flood hazard zone and is not subject to downstream flooding (see responses to Questions c[iv] and d in Section 3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality.

3.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially 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, substantially 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?	☐	☐	**X**	☐
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the efforts of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☐	**X**
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	**X**

3.21.1 Discussion

a. Does the project have the potential to substantially 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, substantially 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?

Less Than Significant Impact. As explained in response to Question a in Section 3.4 Biological Resources, the resource protection measures from the NEPA Decision Memo applied to this project would ensure impacts on biological resources are less than significant (see Section 3.4 Biological Resources and Appendix A). With implementation of these BMPs, the project would not 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, or substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal.

As explained in response to Question a in Section 3.5 Cultural Resources, no historical or archeological resources were identified in the project area in the cultural resources report prepared for the project by the Tahoe National Forest R2019051700067 (2019) or in the CHRIS search or SLF search performed to meet CEQA requirements. If any previously unknown cultural resources are discovered during project implementation, operations would cease until analysis is conducted and protections measures are implemented as needed consistent with the

Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement. Therefore, the project would not 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 the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the efforts of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

No Impact. The project does not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. The project is designed to mitigate issues of erosion and sedimentation impacting the Truckee River watershed, and address resource damage and safety concerns associated to this currently unmanaged parking/ staging area. Resource protection measures from the NEPA Decision Memo incorporated in the project would prevent significant impacts during project construction (see Appendix A). There are no other past, current, or probable future projects in the project area that could combine with the project to result in cumulatively considerable impacts.

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

No Impact. The project does not have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly. The project is a new staging area to meet existing recreational needs and reduce resource damage from informal parking. The project does not include structures for human habitation, hazardous materials, ongoing emissions, loud noises, or other features that could impact human beings. All potential project-related impacts would be less than significant with resource protection measures from the NEPA Decision Memo incorporated in the project (see Appendix A).

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Appendix A. NEPA Decision Memo

Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project
USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest, Truckee Ranger District
Placer County, CA (June 7, 2021)

USDA

DECISION MEMO

Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project

USDA Forest Service
Tahoe National Forest
Truckee Ranger District
Placer County, CA
T. 17N R. 16E Section 33

I. Background

The Tahoe National Forest (TNF) is an increasingly popular recreation destination for multiple user groups. The TNF is located in the Sierra Nevada mountain range between the metropolitan areas of Sacramento, CA and Reno, NV within one hour travel time of 2-1/2 million people. The TNF is also a recreational destination for residents of the San Francisco Bay Area (population of about seven million people), an approximate 3-hour drive away. Encompassing an area of over 1,178,000 acres, with approximately 838,777 acres being National Forest System (NFS) lands, the TNF is one of the only U.S. National Forests to have both Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) and Over Snow Vehicle (OSV) managed programs.

Cabin Creek, accessed via the Cabin Creek Rd. (Placer County route 90-50) and Forest Service system road 01, is a popular recreation destination on the Truckee Ranger District both summer and winter, providing opportunity for motorcycle riding on the Coldstream Trail (FS 15E05), 4 X 4 challenges on the Pole Creek OHV route (FS 16E84), winter adventure for snowmobilers and other cold weather enthusiasts on the Cabin Creek Loop Trail (FS 16E51), access to rock climbing on the cliffs above Deep Creek, Biking trails, and educational experience for amateur archaeologists visiting the old Standford Wood Camp. (See Area Map, Appendix B)

Currently, during the summer months, parking is limited to informal/unmanaged pullouts, leading to vegetation damage, erosion, and water quality degradation impacting the Truckee River watershed. In the wintertime, only limited informal parking exists for public access and for patrons of a TNF Special Use Permittee (Coldstream Adventures – SUP TRU242) which has been operating snowmobile tours from the location since 1996.

II. Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project is to provide the public with improved and sustainable access to winter and summer recreation opportunities, develop a functional trailhead to meet growing parking and user needs, mitigate issues of erosion and sedimentation impacting the Truckee River watershed, and address resource damage and safety concerns associated to this currently unmanaged parking / staging area.

Both the Cabin Creek (90-50) and FS 01 roads connect to Highway 89 south, a main travel artery connecting the town of Truckee to Tahoe City and destinations within the lake Tahoe basin. Recreational use in the area has grown significantly in recent years and plans are currently underway to develop additional recreation opportunities along the Highway 89 corridor. The 1990 Tahoe National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan (LRMP, 1990), as amended by the 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Record of Decision (ROD, 2004) reaffirms that providing recreational opportunities is one of the Forest Service's major missions in California, along with providing sustainable, healthy ecosystems.

Action is needed to provide for safe and sustainable access to existing and planned future recreational opportunities in the Cabin Creek area to meet the current and growing demand from multiple user groups.

Action is needed to reduce erosion and sediment production originating from the informal, unmanaged, and limited parking that currently provides the only public access to recreational opportunities in the Cabin Creek Area.

Action is needed to mitigate continued and expanding damage to local vegetation caused by growing numbers of recreational users parking at informal, unmanaged pullouts which continue to grow.

Each of these actions are consistent with Management Direction as defined in the 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Record of Decision (ROD, 2004) for the protection of natural and cultural resources and the provision of public recreational opportunity. Actions follow the Standards and Guidelines for the Truckee River (069) and Pole (070) Management Areas (LRMP, 1990).

III. Decision

As Truckee District Ranger, it is my decision to approve the construction of an improved, paved parking/staging area covering approximately 2 acres along the southern terminus of Forest Service Road 01 at its junction with the Cabin Creek Road (Placer County Road 90-50). (See Map, Appendix A)

Implementation will include limited removal of trees, placement of an informational kiosk and area maps, installation of permanent vault toilets, and strict adherence to Resource Protection Measures as defined by Truckee Ranger District resource specialists. (See Map, Appendix C)

My decision is based on analysis of current district records that show a thorough review of relevant scientific information, consideration of responsible opposing views, and the acknowledgement of incomplete or unavailable information, scientific uncertainty, and risk.

In summary, it is my decision to approve this action for the following reasons:

- I am familiar with the Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project area and believe this action will achieve project objectives to provide safe and sustainable access to year round recreational opportunities, create a functional trailhead to meet growing demand, protect water quality in the Truckee River watershed, and stop resource damage currently impacting local vegetation.
- The project presents an opportunity to improve the user experience for a multitude of recreational activities available in the Cabin Creek area.
- The project will allow the Truckee Ranger District to better manage multiple use recreation and proposed future recreation opportunities in the Cabin Creek area and along the Highway 89 south corridor.

IV. Scoping and Public Involvement

The TNF held multiple meetings throughout 2020 to discuss the proposal with user groups, the Special Use Permit (SUP) holder, and other interested members of the public. During the winter of 2020-2021, the Truckee District Recreation

Staff Officer met with groups including the Lake Tahoe Snowmobilers, the Truckee Dirt Riders, the Sierra Avalanche Center, Outdoor Alliance, Winter Wildlands, local outdoor retailers, permitted outfitter and guides, and members of the general public to discuss summer and winter recreation access, opportunities for improvement, and potential solutions. The TNF hosted a well-publicized TEAMs meeting on 2/6/21 – including mass emails, news release, etc...

The project was published in the Tahoe National Forest quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions at the end of February, 2021.

V. Resource Protection Measures

Hydrology and Soils

Measures will be implemented during construction to protect aquatic resources, control sediment, and meet water quality standards. Regional Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be employed and strictly enforced including a site-specific erosion control plan, Spill containment plan, required remediation of contaminated soils, approved fuel storage and fuel filling sites, and specific design features for paved surface drainage.

Botanical Resources

Surveys determined no presence of any Threatened, Endangered, or Forest Sensitive (TES) plant species at the proposed project location. If any TES plant species is detected prior to or during implementation, work will stop and the District Botanist will be notified in order to make a further determination.

Invasive Plant Species

- Education – Workers should be educated about the potential for noxious weeds and spread prevention methods. A free educational booklet "Invasive Weeds of the Tahoe National Forest" is available at the Truckee Ranger District Office and can provide information about local noxious weeds and spread prevention.

- Equipment Cleaning – All equipment and vehicles (Forest Service and contracted) operating off-road must be free of invasive plant material before moving into the project area. Equipment will be considered clean when visual inspection does not reveal soil, seeds, plant material or other such debris. Cleaning shall occur at a vehicle washing station or steam-cleaning facility before the equipment and vehicles enter the project area.

- Early Detection – Any noxious weed infestations discovered prior to or during project implementation should be flagged and avoided. Report new infestations to District Botanist.

- Project-related disturbance – Minimize the amount of ground and vegetation disturbance. As necessary, reestablish vegetation on disturbed bare ground to reduce invasive species establishment; revegetation is especially important in staging areas.

- Weed-free construction materials – All gravel, aggregate, fill, mulch, topsoil, erosion control materials and other construction materials are required to be weed-free. When possible, use onsite materials such as pine needles, unless contaminated with invasive species. Otherwise, obtain weed-free materials from sources that have been certified as weed-free. Any materials which would be stored on site for extended periods of time (6 months) should be covered with a barrier to prevent the materials to become infested with non-native plants.

- Post Project Monitoring – For projects involving ground disturbance or use of imported materials, notify the District Botanist after the project is completed, so that the project area can be monitored for invasive plants post project implementation (as funding allows).

Wildlife

- TES species: If any TES species (Federally threatened, endangered, proposed, or Forest Service sensitive species) previously unknown in the project area are detected or found nesting or roosting within 0.25 miles of project activities, appropriate mitigation measures would be implemented based on input from the aquatics biologist, botanist, and/or wildlife

biologist. Measures can include, but are not limited to, flagging and avoiding a plant site, implementing a species specific LOP, or designating a protected activity center.

- Raptor nest: If any active Raptor nest is identified within the boundaries of, or directly adjacent to the project area (within 100 meters) during implementation, a buffer would be placed around the active nest and at the discretion of the District Biologist a species specific LOP may be put into place for the buffer zone.

- Carnivore nests/denning structures: If any large stick nests or signs of active denning are observed or detected within or adjacent to the project area (within 100 meters), work will cease in the immediate area and the occurrence will be reported to the wildlife biologist to determine any potential need for further review and/or mitigation measures

***No Aquatic Wildlife Habitat is present within the Proposed Project Area**

VI. Archaeological/Cultural Resources

Section 106 compliance for this project is being completed under the provisions of the Programmatic Agreement between the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5), California State Historic Preservation Officer, Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding The Process for Compliance With Section 106 of The National Historic Preservation Act for Management of Historic Properties by the National Forests of the Pacific Southwest Region (Regional PA).

The Project area has been surveyed and analyzed for cultural resources (Cabin Creek Parking Report #R2019051700066, 8/26/2019). The proposed project would not affect any cultural resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, nor would it cause the loss or destruction of any significant cultural resources. If any previously unknown cultural resources are discovered during project implementation, operations would cease until analysis is conducted and protections measures are implemented as needed consistent with the Cultural Resources PA.

VII. Reasons for Categorically Excluding this Action

An environmental analysis and review determined that this action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA). The applicable category of actions is identified in agency procedures as 36 CFR 220.6(e)(3) Approval, modification, or continuation of special uses that require less than 20 acres of NFS lands. Subject to the preceding condition, examples include but are not limited to:

(i) Approving the construction of a meteorological sampling site;

(ii) Approving the use of land for a one-time group event;

(iii) Approving the construction of temporary facilities for filming of staged or natural events or studies of natural or cultural history;

(iv) Approving the use of land for a utility corridor that crosses a national forest;

(v) Approving the installation of a driveway or other facilities incidental to use of a private residence; and

(vi) Approving new or additional communication facilities, associated improvements, or communication uses at a site already identified as available for these purposes.

And 220.6 (d) (5) Repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities. Examples include but are not limited to:

(i) Applying registered herbicides to control poison ivy on infested sites in a campground;

(ii) Applying registered insecticides by compressed air sprayer to control insects at a recreation site complex;

(iii) Repaving a parking lot; and

(iv) Applying registered pesticides for rodent or vegetation control.

The proposed project location has been utilized as a winter recreation staging area for snowmobile use by permitted, local Outfitter and Guide, Coldstream Adventures, under its most recent Special Use Permit (SUP TRU242) since 2017. The location is also utilized as a public staging area to access the Coldstream Motorcycle Trail (15E05), the Pole Creek OHV route (16E84), and the Cabin Creek Snow Loop Trail (16E51).

Based on my review of the project record, I find that there are **no extraordinary circumstances** that would warrant further analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS. Resource conditions identified in agency procedures that should be considered in determining whether extraordinary circumstances might exist include:

- **Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species**. The action would not affect any federally threatened or endangered species or their designated critical habitat. The action will not cause a trend toward Federal listing or a loss of viability for any Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region Sensitive Species.
- **Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds.** The project is designed to improve existing conditions at the site. Expected results include reduced sedimentation into the Truckee River watershed. BMPs outlined under Resource Protection Measures (RPMs) will mitigate potential impacts to water quality from hazardous materials under the Spill Plan, sedimentation and erosion under the Erosion Control Plan, and future drainage under project design standards for effective paved surface drainage.
- **Congressionally designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas.** None are present
- **Inventoried roadless areas or potential wilderness areas.** None are present.
- **Research natural areas.** None are present.
- **American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites.** This action would not pose any significant adverse effects on cultural or historical resources. No potential to cause effects - 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1). The proposal

is a type of activity that does not have the potential to cause effects on any kind of prehistoric or historic resource, even if such resources were in the project area as the site was surveyed, and the project designed to specifically avoid documented heritage resources. Cultural Resource Inventory Report R2019051700066.

- **Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas.** This action would not pose any significant adverse effects on cultural or historical resources. No potential to cause effects - 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1). The proposal is a type of activity that does not have the potential to cause effects on any kind of prehistoric or historic resource, even if such resources were in the project area as the site was surveyed, and the project designed to specifically avoid documented heritage resources. Cultural Resource Inventory Report R2019051700066.

VIII. Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations

This decision is consistent with the Tahoe National Forest Land and Management Plan (1990), as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Record of Decision (2004). The project was designed in conformance with Forest Plan direction including all applicable standards, objectives, and guidelines. The proposed action is consistent with all other Federal, State, and local laws and requirements.

IX. Administrative Review Opportunities

Decisions made under Categorical Exclusions are not subject to objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218.

X. Implementation Date

This decision is not subject to objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218 and may begin immediately. Work is expected to commence in May, 2022.

USDA

Contact

For additional information concerning this decision, contact: John Groom, Public Services Staff Officer, Tahoe National Forest, Truckee Ranger District, 10811 Stockrest Springs Road, Truckee, CA 96161, (530) 587-3558, john.groom@usda.gov.

6-7-2021

JONATHAN COOK-FISHER
DISTRICT RANGER

Date

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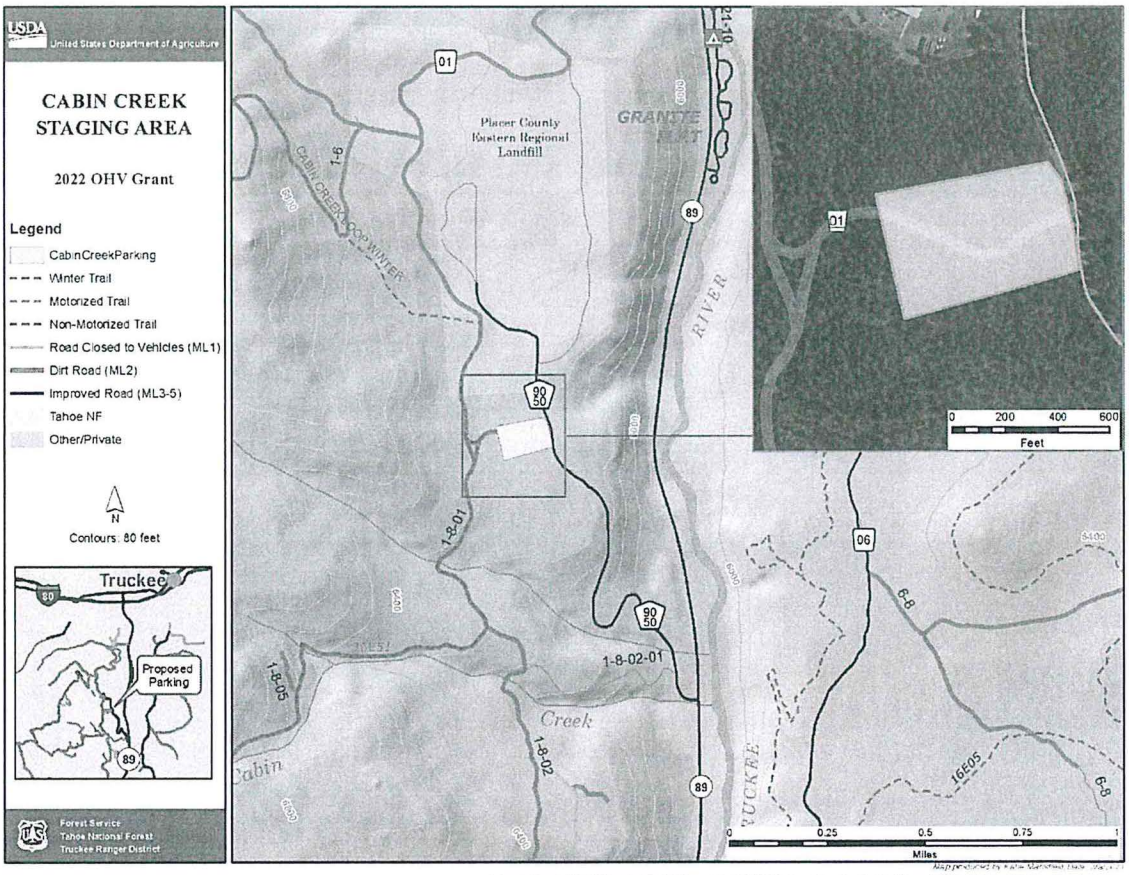
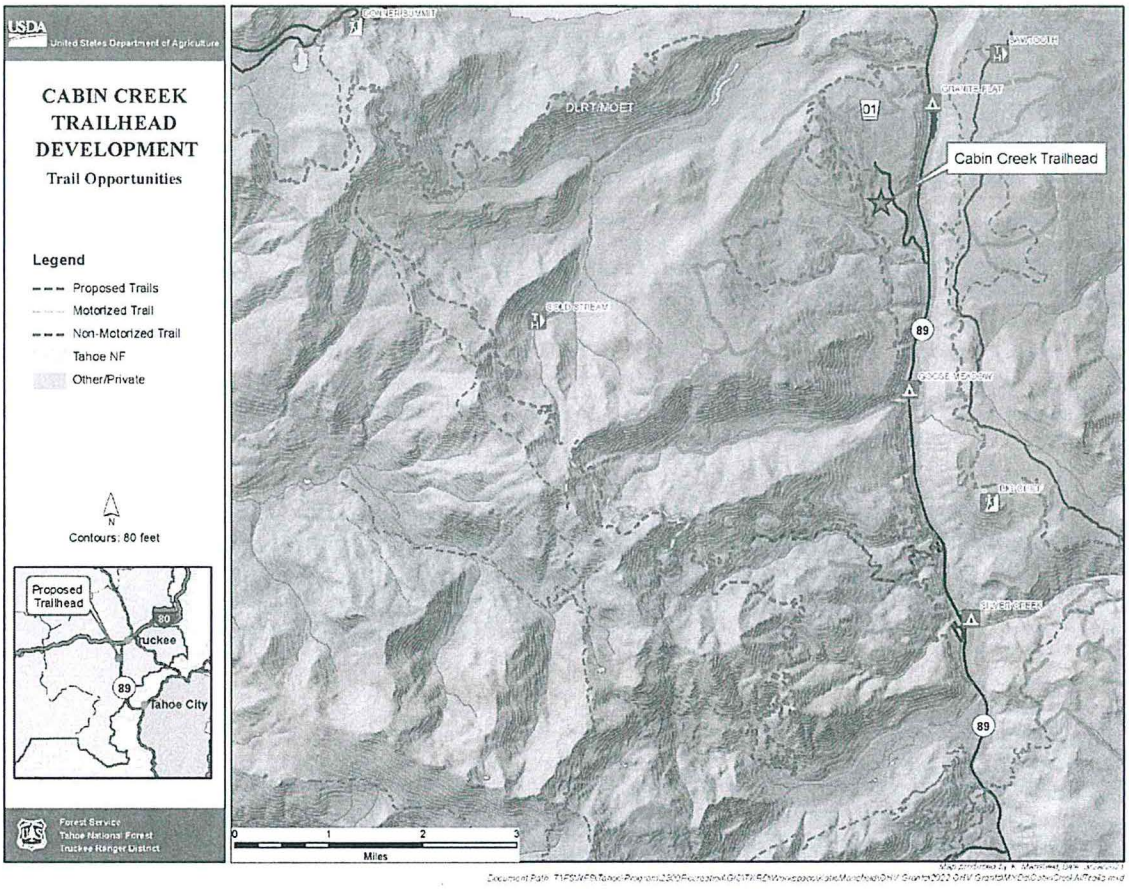
Appendix A:



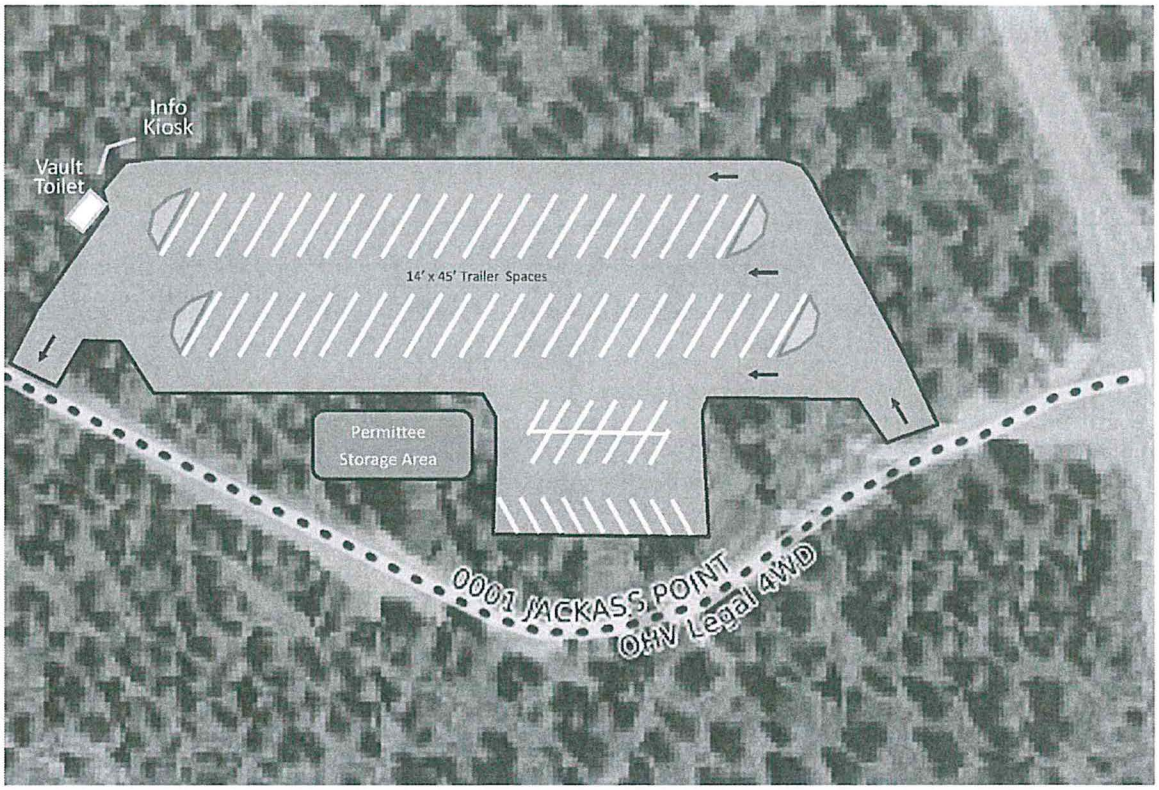
USDA

Appendix B:



USDA

Appendix C:



WGS84
USNG Zone 10SGJ
CALTOPO

Cabin Creek Trailhead Concept Map

Concept Map Only—Map Not to Scale

N MN 13°

Appendix B. Air Quality Data: Daily Emissions Estimates

Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project
Road Constructions Emissions Model, Version 9.0.0

Appendix B: Air Quality Data: Daily Emissions Estimates

Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 9.0.0

Daily Emission Estimates for -> Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project Project Phases (Pounds)	ROG (lbs/day)	CO (lbs/day)	NOx (lbs/day)	Total PM10 (lbs/day)	Exhaust PM10 (lbs/day)	Fugitive Dust PM10 (lbs/day)	Total PM2.5 (lbs/day)	Exhaust PM2.5 (lbs/day)	Fugitive Dust PM2.5 (lbs/day)	SOx (lbs/day)	CO2 (lbs/day)	CH4 (lbs/day)	N2O (lbs/day)	CO2e (lbs/day)
Grubbing/Land Clearing	4.88	29.09	19.55	11.04	1.04	10.00	2.83	0.75	2.08	0.08	7,514.14	1.51	0.30	7,642.57
Grading/Excavation	4.50	27.40	15.57	10.94	0.94	10.00	2.76	0.68	2.08	0.06	5,702.85	1.18	0.17	5,783.39
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	3.19	17.20	2.80	10.44	0.44	10.00	2.30	0.22	2.08	0.03	3,028.46	0.31	0.15	3,080.19
Paving	3.54	21.61	6.26	0.63	0.63	0.00	0.39	0.39	0.00	0.04	3,677.04	0.52	0.15	3,735.76
Maximum (pounds/day)	4.88	29.09	19.55	11.04	1.04	10.00	2.83	0.75	2.08	0.08	7,514.14	1.51	0.30	7,642.57
Total (tons/construction project)	0.18	1.04	0.47	0.41	0.03	0.37	0.10	0.02	0.08	0.00	210.22	0.04	0.01	213.45

Notes:

Project Start Year ->	2022
Project Length (months) ->	4
Total Project Area (acres) ->	2
Maximum Area Disturbed/Day (acres) ->	1
Water Truck Used? ->	Yes

	Total Material Imported/Exported Volume (yd^3/day)		Daily VMT (miles/day)			
Phase	Soil	Asphalt	Soil Hauling	Asphalt Hauling	Worker Commute	Water Truck
Grubbing/Land Clearing	400	0	204	0	3,600	0
Grading/Excavation	0	0	0	0	3,600	0
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	0	0	0	0	3,600	0
Paving	0	0	0	0	3,600	0

PM10 and PM2.5 estimates assume 50% control of fugitive dust from watering and associated dust control measures if a minimum number of water trucks are specified.
Total PM10 emissions shown in column F are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns G and H. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column I are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns J and K.
CO2e emissions are estimated by multiplying mass emissions for each GHG by its global warming potential (GWP), 1 , 25 and 298 for CO2, CH4 and N2O, respectively. Total CO2e is then estimated by summing CO2e estimates over all GHGs.

Total Emission Estimates by Phase for -> Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project Project Phases (Tons for all except CO2e. Metric tonnes for CO2e)	ROG (tons/phase)	CO (tons/phase)	NOx (tons/phase)	Total PM10 (tons/phase)	Exhaust PM10 (tons/phase)	Fugitive Dust PM10 (tons/phase)	Total PM2.5 (tons/phase)	Exhaust PM2.5 (tons/phase)	Fugitive Dust PM2.5 (tons/phase)	SOx (tons/phase)	CO2 (tons/phase)	CH4 (tons/phase)	N2O (tons/phase)	CO2e (MT/phase)
Grubbing/Land Clearing	0.02	0.13	0.09	0.05	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	33.06	0.01	0.00	30.51
Grading/Excavation	0.09	0.54	0.31	0.22	0.02	0.20	0.05	0.01	0.04	0.00	112.92	0.02	0.00	103.88
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	0.04	0.23	0.04	0.14	0.01	0.13	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.00	39.98	0.00	0.00	36.89
Paving	0.02	0.14	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.27	0.00	0.00	22.37
Maximum (tons/phase)	0.09	0.54	0.31	0.22	0.02	0.20	0.05	0.01	0.04	0.00	112.92	0.02	0.00	103.88
Total (tons/construction project)	0.18	1.04	0.47	0.41	0.03	0.37	0.10	0.02	0.08	0.00	210.22	0.04	0.01	193.64

PM10 and PM2.5 estimates assume 50% control of fugitive dust from watering and associated dust control measures if a minimum number of water trucks are specified.
Total PM10 emissions shown in column F are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns G and H. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column I are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns J and K.
CO2e emissions are estimated by multiplying mass emissions for each GHG by its global warming potential (GWP), 1 , 25 and 298 for CO2, CH4 and N2O, respectively. Total CO2e is then estimated by summing CO2e estimates over all GHGs.
The CO2e emissions are reported as metric tons per phase.

Appendix C. Special-Status Species Tables

Cabin Creek Trailhead Improvement Project

Appendix C: Special-Status Species Tables

Table C-1. Special-Status Plant Species with the Potential to Occur in the Project Area

Species[1]	Status[2]	Range in California[3]	Habitat Requirements[2, 3, 5]	Life Form; Blooming Period[3]	Potential Occurrence in the Project Area[3, 4, 5]
NON-VASCULAR SPECIES					
upswept moonwort *Botrychium ascendens*	CRPR 2B.3, USFS-S	Sierra Nevada Range and other mountain ranges from the northeastern border of California to near Los Angeles.	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps. Grassy fields, coniferous woods near springs and creeks. 1115-3265 m.	perennial rhizomatous herb; (Jun)Jul-Aug	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
scalloped moonwort *Botrychium crenulatum*	CRPR 2B.2, USFS-S	Sierra Nevada Range and other mountain ranges from the northeastern border of California to near Los Angeles.	Bogs and fens, meadows and seeps, upper montane coniferous forest, lower montane coniferous forest, marshes and swamps. Moist meadows, freshwater marsh, and near creeks. 1185-3110 m.	perennial rhizomatous herb; Jun-Sep	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
common moonwort *Botrychium lunaria*	CRPR 2B.3, USFS-S	Northeastern Sierra Nevada Range from Sierraville to Lee Vining, and Warner Mountains in northeastern California.	Meadows and seeps, subalpine coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest. 1950-3415 m.	perennial rhizomatous herb; Aug	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
Mingan moonwort *Botrychium minganense*	CRPR 2B.2, USFS-S	Sierra Nevada Range from near Mt. Shasta to Sequoia National Park, and and Warner Mountains in northeastern California.	Lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, bogs and fens, meadows and seeps. Creekbanks in mixed conifer forest. 1190-3295 m.	perennial rhizomatous herb; Jul-Sep	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
western goblin *Botrychium montanum*	CRPR 2B.1, USFS-S	Sierra Nevada Range from Modoc National Forest to Inyo National Forest, and the Warner Mountain Range.	Lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps. Creekbanks in old-growth forest. 1430-2430 m.	perennial rhizomatous herb; Jul-Sep	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.

Species[1]	Status[2]	Range in California[3]	Habitat Requirements[2, 3, 5]	Life Form; Blooming Period[3]	Potential Occurrence in the Project Area[3, 4, 5]
Bolander's bruchia *Bruchia bolanderi*	CRPR 4.2 USFS-S	Sierra Nevada Range and other mountain ranges in California from the northern border to Sequoia National Forest.	Damp soils within Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps, and Upper montane coniferous forest. Moss which grows on damp clay soils. Seems to colonize bare soil along streambanks, meadows, fens and springs. This species has an ephemeral nature and is disturbance adapted. 1610-3340 m.	perennial herb; unknown	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
Blandow's bog moss *Elodium (Helodium) blandowii*	CRPR 2B.2, USFS-S	Sierra Nevada Range from Modoc National Forest to Sequoia National Forest.	Meadows and seeps, subalpine coniferous forest. Moss growing on damp soil, especially under willows among leaf litter. 1490-3050 m.	moss; unknown	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
three-ranked hump moss *Meesia triquetra*	CRPR 4.2	Sierra Nevada Range and other mountain ranges in California from the northern border to Sequoia National Park.	Bogs and fens, meadows and seeps, upper montane coniferous forest, subalpine coniferous forest. Moss growing on mesic soil. Saturated bogs, fens, seeps and meadows in coniferous to subalpine forests. 1300-2955 m.	moss; July	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
broad-nerved hump moss *Meesia uliginosa*	CRPR 2B.2, USFS-S	Sierra Nevada Range and other mountain ranges in California from the northern border to Sequoia National Forest.	Meadows and seeps, bogs and fens, upper montane coniferous forest, subalpine coniferous forest. Moss on damp soil. Often found on the edge of fens or raised above the fen on hummocks/shrub bases. 1095-2805 m.	moss; Jul-Oct	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.

Species[1]	Status[2]	Range in California[3]	Habitat Requirements[2, 3, 5]	Life Form; Blooming Period[3]	Potential Occurrence in the Project Area[3, 4, 5]
elongate copper moss *Mielichhoferia elongata*	CRPR 4.3, USFS-S	Sierra Nevada Range from Plumas National Forest to Sequoia National Park, and Coast Range from Klamath National Forest to San Luis Obispo.	Cismontane woodland. Moss growing on very acidic, metamorphic rock or substrate; usually in higher portions in fens. Often on substrates naturally enriched with heavy metals (e.g., copper) such as mine tailings. 5-1085 m.	moss; unknown	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and the project location is out of the known geographic and elevational range for this species.
Hiroshi's flapwort *Nardia hiroshii*	CRPR 2B.3	Only known from the Norden USGS quad in Nevada County.	Meadows and seeps. Damp soil with granitic bedrock. 2195 m.	liverwort; unknown	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
western waterfan lichen *Peltigera gowardii*	CRPR 4.2, USFS-S	Sierra Nevada Range from Lassen National Forest to Sequoia National Forest, and Klamath and Mendocino National Forests in the northwest.	Riparian forest. On rocks in cold water creeks with little or no sediment or disturbance. Often associated with rich bryophyte flora. 1065-2375 m.	foliose lichen (aquatic); unknown	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
GYMNOSPERMS					
white bark pine *Pinus albicaulis*	CBR, USFS-S	Sierra Nevada Range and other mountain ranges from northern border to Sequoia National Forest.	Subalpine plant communities generally mixed-conifer associations. 2350- 2750 m.	tree; May-June	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and the project location is out of the known elevation range for this species.
ANGIOSPERM: MONOCOTS					
mountain bent grass *Agrostis humilis*	CRPR 2B.3	Sierra Nevada Range from Lake Tahoe to Sequoia National Park.	Alpine boulder and rock field, meadows and seeps, subalpine coniferous forest. Sometimes on calcareous substrates. Probably undercollected; high elevation grass. 1525-3400 m.	perennial herb; Jul-Sep	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.

Species[1]	Status[2]	Range in California[3]	Habitat Requirements[2, 3, 5]	Life Form; Blooming Period[3]	Potential Occurrence in the Project Area[3, 4, 5]
Davy's sedge *Carex davyi*	CRPR 1B.3	Sierra Nevada Range from Lassen National Forest to Yosemite National Park.	Subalpine coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest. 1605-3230 m.	perennial herb; May-Aug	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
woolly-fruited sedge *Carex lasiocarpa*	CRPR 2B.3	Sierra Nevada Range from Shasta-Trinity National Forest to Lake Tahoe, and Warner Mountain Range.	Bogs and fens, marshes and swamps. Sphagnum bogs, freshwater marsh, lake margins. 600-1965 m.	perennial rhizomatous herb; Jun-Jul	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
mud sedge *Carex limosa*	CRPR 2B.2	Sierra Nevada Range from Shasta-Trinity National Forest to Sierra National Forest, and Warner Mountain Range.	Bogs and fens, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, upper montane coniferous forest. In floating bogs and soggy meadows and edges of lakes. 1370-2790 m.	perennial rhizomatous herb; Jun-Aug	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
clustered lady's-slipper *Cypripedium fasciculatum*	CRPR 4.2, USFS-S	California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming	North coast coniferous forest, lower montane coniferous forest. In serpentine seeps and on moist streambanks. 100-2435 m.	perennial rhizomatous herb; Mar-Aug	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area. Also, is the project site is outside of the known geographical range of this species.
mountain lady's-slipper *Cypripedium montanum*	CRPR 4.2, USFS-S	Sierra Nevada Range, Coast Range, and other mountain ranges from northern border to Sierra National Forest inland and Santa Cruz on the coast.	Lower montane coniferous forest, broadleafed upland forest, cismontane woodland, north coast coniferous forest. On dry, undisturbed slopes. 185-2225 m.	perennial rhizomatous herb; Mar-Aug	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and the project location is out of geographic range for this species.
slender cottongrass *Eriophorum gracile*	CRPR 4.2	Sierra Nevada Range from Mt. Shasta to Yosemite National Park, Coast Range from Santa Rosa to Coalinga, and Warner Mountain Range.	Bogs and fens, meadows and seeps, upper montane coniferous forest. Acidic soils. 1280-2900 m.	perennial rhizomatous herb (emergent); May-Sep	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.

Species[1]	Status[2]	Range in California[3]	Habitat Requirements[2, 3, 5]	Life Form; Blooming Period[3]	Potential Occurrence in the Project Area[3, 4, 5]
Butte County fritillary *Fritillaria eastwoodiae*	USFS-S	Western side of Sierra Nevada Range from Eldorado National Forest north to southern range of Shasta-Trinity National Forest.	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest. Usually on dry slopes but also found in wet places; soils can be serpentine, red clay, or sandy. 4550-1475 m.	perennial bulbiferous herb; Mar-Jun	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area. Also, the project site is outside of known elevation and geographical ranges of this species.
American manna grass *Glyceria grandis*	CRPR 2B.3	Sierra Nevada Range from Lake Tahoe to Sequoia National Park, coastal mountains from Arcata to Point Arena.	Bogs and fens, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps. Wet meadows, ditches, streams, and ponds, in valleys and lower elevations in the mountains. 60-2045 m.	perennial rhizomatous herb; Jun-Aug	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
Center Basin rush *Juncus hemiendytus* var. *abjectus*	CRPR 4.3	Sierra Nevada Range from the northern border to Sequoia National Forest, and Warner Mountain Range.	Subalpine coniferous forest, meadows and seeps. Mesic sites. 1400-3400 m.	annual herb; May-Jun(Jul)	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
Santa Lucia dwarf rush *Juncus luciensis*	CRPR 1B.2	Sierra Nevada Range from Modoc National Forest to Lake Tahoe, Coast Range from near Santa Rosa to San Diego.	Vernal pools, meadows and seeps, lower montane coniferous forest, chaparral, Great Basin scrub. Vernal pools, ephemeral drainages, wet meadow habitats and stream sides. 280-2035 m.	annual herb; Apr-Jul	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
Sierra blue grass *Poa sierrae*	CRPR 1B.3, USFS-S	Western side of Sierra Nevada Range from Shasta-Trinity National Forest to El Dorado National Forest.	Lower montane coniferous forest. Shady, moist, rocky slopes. Often in canyons. 365-1915 m.	perennial rhizomatous herb; Apr-Jul	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and the project location is out of geographic range for this species.

Species[1]	Status[2]	Range in California[3]	Habitat Requirements[2, 3, 5]	Life Form; Blooming Period[3]	Potential Occurrence in the Project Area[3, 4, 5]
Nuttall's ribbon-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton epihydrus*	CRPR 2B.2	Sierra Nevada Range from the northern border to Sierra National Forest, northwestern mountains from Redding to Gualala.	Marshes and swamps. Shallow water, ponds, lakes, streams, irrigation ditches. 295-2640 m.	perennial rhizomatous herb (aquatic); (Jun)Jul-Sep	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
Robbins' pondweed *Potamogeton robbinsii*	CRPR 2B.3	Klamath National Forest and Sierra Nevada Range from Plumas National Forest to Kings Canyon National Park.	Marshes and swamps. Deep water, lakes. 1525-3495 m.	perennial rhizomatous herb (aquatic); Jul-Aug	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
northern slender pondweed *Stuckenia filiformis* ssp. *alpina*	CRPR 2B.2	Sierra Nevada Range from Mt. Shasta to Inyo National Forest, Coast Range from Healdsburg to Santa Cruz.	Marshes and swamps. Shallow, clear water of lakes and drainage channels. 5-2325 m.	perennial rhizomatous herb (aquatic); May-Jul	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
ANGIOSPERMS : DICOTS					
Galena Creek rockcress *Arabis rigidissima* var. *demota*	CRPR 1B.2, USFS-S	Endemic to the mountains surrounding Lake Tahoe.	Broadleaved upland forest, upper montane coniferous forest. Well-drained, stony soil underlain by basic volcanic rock. 2270-2805 m.	perennial herb; Jul-Aug	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and the project site is outside of the known elevation range for this species.
threetip sagebrush *Artemisia tripartita* ssp. *tripartita*	CRPR 2B.3	Northern Lake Tahoe region and near Janesville.	Upper montane coniferous forest. Openings in the forest. Rocky, volcanic soils. 2285-2440 m.	perennial shrub; Aug	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and the project location is out of the known elevation range for this species.
Austin's astragalus *Astragalus austiniae*	CRPR 1B.3	Upper elevations near Lake Tahoe.	Alpine boulder and rock field, subalpine coniferous forest. Rocky. 2440-2965 m.	perennial herb; (May)Jul-Sep	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and the project location is out of the known elevation range for this species.

Species[1]	Status[2]	Range in California[3]	Habitat Requirements[2, 3, 5]	Life Form; Blooming Period[3]	Potential Occurrence in the Project Area[3, 4, 5]
Lemmon's milkvetch *Astragalus lemmonii*	CRPR 1B.2, USFS-S	Eastern side of Sierra Nevada Range from Modoc National Forest to Inyo National Forest.	Great Basin scrub, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps. Lakeshores, meadows and seeps. 1005-2865 m.	perennial herb; May-Aug(Sep)	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area. Also, the project site is outside of the known geographic range for this species.
Modoc Plateau milk-vetch *Astragalus pulsiferae* var. *coronensis*	CRPR 4.2; USFS-S	Eastern side of Sierra Nevada Range from Modoc National Forest to Plumas National Forest.	Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodland. In sandy silt, friable surface, hard-packed beneath, among basalt cobble; volcanic substrate. 1345-1890 m.	perennial herb; (Apr)May-Jul	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and the project location is out of geographic range for this species.
Webber's milk-vetch *Astragalus webberi*	CRPR 1B.2, USFS-S	Occurs only in USGS Quads for Caribou, Crescent Mills, Taylorsville, and Twain in Plumas National Forest.	Lower montane coniferous forest, broadleafed upland forest, meadows and seeps. Open brushy slopes and flats in xeric pine forest or mixed pine-oak forest. 725-1220 m.	perennial herb; May-Jul	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and the project location is out of geographic range for this species.
woolly-leaved milk-vetch *Astragalus whitneyi* var. *lenophyllus*	CRPR 4.3†	Sierra Nevada Range from Plumas National Forest to Eldorado National Forest.	Alpine boulder and rock fields, subalpine coniferous forest. Rocky sites. 2135-3050 m.	perennial herb; Jul-Aug	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and the project location is out of geographic range for this species.
Fresno ceanothus *Ceanothus fresnensis*	CRPR 4.3†	Sierra Nevada Range from Plumas National Forest to Sequoia National Forest.	Cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest. In openings. 900-2105 m.	perennial evergreen shrub; (Apr)May-Jul	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
fell-fields claytonia *Claytonia megarhiza*	CRPR 2B.3	Sierra Nevada Range from Plumas National Forest to Inyo National Forest, and Warner Mountain Range.	Alpine boulder and rock field, subalpine coniferous forest. In the crevices between rocks, rocky or gravelly soil. 2560-3505 m.	perennial herb; Jul-Sep	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and the project location is out of the known elevation range for this species.

Species[1]	Status[2]	Range in California[3]	Habitat Requirements[2, 3, 5]	Life Form; Blooming Period[3]	Potential Occurrence in the Project Area[3, 4, 5]
clustered-flower cryptantha *Cryptantha glomeriflora*	CRPR 4.3†	Sierra Nevada Range from Lassen National Forest to Sequoia National Forest.	Great Basin scrub, meadows and seeps, subalpine coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest. Granitic or volcanic soils; sandy sites. 1800-3750 m.	annual herb; Jun-Sep	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
English sundew *Drosera anglica*	CRPR 2B.3	Klamath National Forest, Sierra Nevada Range from Shasta-Trinity National Forest to Truckee, and Warner Mountain Range.	Bogs and fens, meadows and seeps. 600-2045 m.	perennial herb (carnivorous);Jun-Sep	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
subalpine fireweed *Epilobium howellii*	CRPR 4.3†	Sierra Nevada Range from Plumas National Forest to Kings Canyon National Park.	Meadows and seeps, subalpine coniferous forest. Wet meadows, mossy seeps. 2000-3120 m.	perennial stoloniferou s herb; Jul-Aug	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
starved daisy *Erigeron miser*	CRPR 1B.3	Upper elevations southwest and northwest of Lake Tahoe.	Upper montane coniferous forest. Rocky, granitic outcrops. 1550-2775 m.	perennial herb; Jun-Oct	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
northern Sierra daisy *Erigeron petrophilus* var. *sierrensis*	CRPR 4.3†	Sierra Nevada Range north of Spring Valley/Happy Valley area to just south of Lake Almanor.	Lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, cismontane woodland. Rocky foothills to montane forest, sometimes on serpentine. 300-2075 m.	perennial rhizomatous herb; Jun-Oct	**Low Potential.** Occurrences are known in the vicinity of the project; however, the project is not expected to impact suitable habitat.
Donner Pass buckwheat *Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *torreyanum*	CRPR 1B.2, USFS-S	North of Lake Tahoe to west of Reno.	Upper montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps. Steep slopes and ridgetops; rocky, volcanic soils; usually in bare or sparsely vegetated areas. 1810-2560 m.	perennial herb; Jul-Sep	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.

Species[1]	Status[2]	Range in California[3]	Habitat Requirements[2, 3, 5]	Life Form; Blooming Period[3]	Potential Occurrence in the Project Area[3, 4, 5]
subalpine aster *Eurybia merita*	CRPR 2B.3	Near Mt. Shasta and northeast of Lake Tahoe.	Upper montane coniferous forest. Generally in mesic sites. 1300-2000 m.	perennial herb; unknown	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
amethyst stickseed *Hackelia amethystina*	CRPR 4.3†	Sierra Nevada Range from Plumas National Forest to Stanislaus National Forest, and Mendocino National Forest and surrounding areas.	Lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps. In meadows, forest clearings, or along streambanks and roadsides, often in deep soil. 1500-2315 m.	perennial herb; Jun-Jul(Aug)	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
Sierra Valley ivesia *Ivesia aperta* var. *aperta*	CRPR 1B.2, USFS-S	North of Lake Tahoe to just south of Honey Lake.	Great Basin scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps. Usually in loamy soils derived from volcanics. Grassy areas w/in sagebrush scrub or other communities. 1480-1985 m	perennial herb; Jun-Sep	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
Dog Valley ivesia *Ivesia aperta* var. *canina*	CRPR 1B.1, USFS-S	Near Lake Tahoe west of Reno.	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows. Shallow rocky soil of volcanic origin. 1735-1920 m.	perennial herb; Jun-Aug	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
Plumas ivesia *Ivesia sericoleuca*	CRPR 1B.2, USFS-S	Sierra Nevada Range from Janesville to Lake Tahoe.	Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, vernal pools. Vernally mesic areas; usually volcanic substrates. 1315-2135 m.	perennial herb; May-Oct	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.

Species[1]	Status[2]	Range in California[3]	Habitat Requirements[2, 3, 5]	Life Form; Blooming Period[3]	Potential Occurrence in the Project Area[3, 4, 5]
Cantelow's lewisia *Lewisia cantelovii*	CRPR 1B.2, USFS-S	Western side of Sierra Nevada Range from Shasta Trinity National Forest to Eldorado National Forest.	Broadleaved upland forest, lower montane coniferous forest, cismontane woodland, chaparral. Mesic rock outcrops and wet cliffs, usually in moss or clubmoss; on granitics or sometimes on serpentine. 325-1375 m.	perennial herb; May-Oct	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and the project location is out of geographic and elevational range for this species.
Hutchinson's lewisia *Lewisia kelloggii* ssp. *hutchisonii*	CRPR 3.2, USFS-S	Sierra Nevada Range from Shasta-Trinity National Forest to Stanislaus National Forest; also Klamath and Six Rivers National Forests in the northwest.	Upper montane coniferous forest. On slate; in openings and on ridgetops. Sometimes on rhyolite tuff. 765-2365 m.	perennial herb; (Apr)May-Aug	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
Kellogg's lewisia *Lewisia kelloggii* ssp. *kelloggii*	CRPR 3.2, USFS-S	Sierra Nevada Range from Lassen National Forest to Yosemite National Park.	Upper montane coniferous forest. On slate; in openings and on ridgetops. Sometimes on rhyolite tuff. 765-2365 m.	perennial herb; (Apr)May-A	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
long-petaled lewisia *Lewisia longipetala*	CRPR 1B.3, USFS-S	Upper elevations southwest and northwest of Lake Tahoe.	Alpine boulder and rock field, subalpine coniferous forest. Mesic rocky sites; in cracks of granite or gravelly volcanic soils. 2560-2865 m.	perennial herb; Jul-Aug(Sep)	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area. Also the project site is outside of the known elevational range of this species.
saw-toothed lewisia *Lewisia serrata*	CRPR 1B.1. USFS-S	Western Sierra Nevada Range in El Dorado and Placer counties.	Broadleafed upland forest, lower montane coniferous forest, riparian forest. Shaded, north-facing moss-covered, metamorphic rock cliffs. 800-1435 m.	perennial herb; May-Jun	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and the project location is out of geographic and elevational range for this species.
Gray's lomatium *Lomatium grayi*	CRPR 2B.3	Warner Mountain Range and near Truckee.	Great Basin scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland. 1400-1985 m.	perennial herb; Apr-Jun	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.

Species[1]	Status[2]	Range in California[3]	Habitat Requirements[2, 3, 5]	Life Form; Blooming Period[3]	Potential Occurrence in the Project Area[3, 4, 5]
sagebrush bluebells *Mertensia oblongifolia* var. *oblongifolia*	CRPR 2B.2	Warner Mountain Range and near Truckee.	Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, subalpine coniferous forest. Usually in mesic sites. 1580-2410 m.	perennial herb; Apr-Jul	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and the project location is out of the known geographic and elevational range for this species.
Follett's monardella *Monardella follettii*	CRPR 1B.2, USFS-S	Mountainous areas in Plumas National Forest.	Lower montane coniferous forest. Open rocky serpentine slopes. 755-1680m.	perennial shrub; Jun-Sep	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and the project location is out of the known geographic and elevational range for this species.
Layne's ragwort *Packera layneae*	FT, SR, CRPR 1B.2	Western Sierra Nevada Range in El Dorado, Placer, Tuolumne, and Yuba counties.	Chaparral, cismontane woodland. Ultramafic soil (serpentine or gabbro); occasionally along streams. 205-1060 m	perennial herb; Apr-Aug	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and the project location is out of geographic range for this species.
closed-throated beardtongue *Penstemon personatus*	CRPR 1B.2, USFS-S	Sierra Nevada Range from Plumas National Forest to Tahoe National Forest.	Lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, chaparral. Usually on north-facing slopes in metavolcanic soils. 1340-2125 m.	perennial herb; Jun-Sep(Oct)	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and the project location is out of geographic range for this species.
Stebbins' phacelia *Phacelia stebbinsii*	CRPR 1B.2, USFS-S	Upper elevations southwest and northwest of Lake Tahoe.	Lower montane coniferous forest, cismontane woodland, meadows and seeps. Among rocks and rubble on metamorphic rock benches. 605-2320 m.	annual herb; May-Jul	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and the project location is out of geographic range for this species.
beautiful shootingstar *Primula pauciflora*	CRPR 4.2†	Sierra Nevada Range and other mountain ranges from the northern border to Inyo National Forest.	Great Basin scrub, meadows and seeps, pinyon and juniper woodland. Mesic sites. 1000-2380 m.	perennial herb; Apr-Jun	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.

Species[1]	Status[2]	Range in California[3]	Habitat Requirements[2, 3, 5]	Life Form; Blooming Period[3]	Potential Occurrence in the Project Area[3, 4, 5]
sticky pyrrocoma *Pyrrocoma lucida*	CRPR 1B.2, USFS-S	Upper elevations southwest and northwest of Lake Tahoe.	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, Great Basin scrub. Alkaline flats, clay soils. 760-2090 m.	perennial herb; Jul-Oct	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
alder buckthorn *Rhamnus alnifolia*	CRPR 2B.2	Sierra Nevada Range from Lassen National Forest to Lake Tahoe.	Meadows and seeps, lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, riparian scrub. Mesic sites. 1460-2135 m.	perennial deciduous shrub; May-Jul	**Low Potential.** Occurrences are known near the Sawtooth area and Truckee; however, the project is not expected to impact suitable habitat.
Tahoe yellow cress *Rorippa subumbellata*	SE, CRPR 1B.1	Lake Tahoe region.	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps. Sandy beaches, on lakeside margins and in riparian communities; on decomposed granite sand. 1895-2410 m.	perennial rhizomatous herb; May-Sep	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
marsh skullcap *Scutellaria galericulata*	CRPR 2B.2	Sierra Nevada Range from northern border to Eldorado National Forest, and Stockton area.	Marshes and swamps, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps. Swamps and wet places. 0-1950 m.	perennial rhizomatous herb; Jun-Sep	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
cut-leaf checkerbloom *Sidalcea multifida*	CRPR 2B.3	Eastern side of Sierra Nevada Range from Honey Lake to Bridgeport, and Sequoia National Park and Forest.	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, Great Basin scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland. 1280-2760 m.	perennial herb; May-Sep	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
Rocky Mountains Canada goldenrod *Solidago lepida* var. *salebrosa*	CRPR 3.2†	Modoc National Forest, Plumas National Forest, and northwest of Lake Tahoe.	Meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps. Moist streambanks, lakesides, moist meadows. 1075-1385 m.	perennial rhizomatous herb; Jul-Sep	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
Munro's desert mallow *Sphaeralcea munroana*	CRPR 2B.2	Within California, known only from the Tahoe City USGS quad in Placer County.	Great Basin scrub. Dry open places. 2000 m.	perennial herb; May-Jun	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.

Species[1]	Status[2]	Range in California[3]	Habitat Requirements[2, 3, 5]	Life Form; Blooming Period[3]	Potential Occurrence in the Project Area[3, 4, 5]
obtuse starwort *Stellaria obtusa*	CRPR 4.3	Sierra Nevada Range from Lassen National Forest to Yosemite National Park; also Six Rivers and Mendocino National Forests in the northwest.	Upper montane coniferous forest, lower montane coniferous forest, riparian woodland. Streams or seeps in conifer forest. 150-2135 m.	perennial rhizomatous herb; May-Sep (Oct)	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.
Howell's tauschia *Tauschia howellii*	CRPR 1B.3, USFS-S	Klamath National Forest, Inyo National Forest, and Kings Canyon National Park.	Subalpine coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest. Hot dry ridge summits and slopes in decomposed granite gravel and red sand. 1720-2440 m.	perennial herb; Jun-Aug	**Not Expected.** No occurrences are known to exist in the project area, and suitable habitat is not present within the project area.

STATUS KEY:
Federal
FE: Federally-listed Endangered
FT: Federally-listed Threatened
USFS-S: United States Forest Service - Sensitive

State
SE: State-listed Endangered
SR: State-listed Rare
ST: State-listed Threatened

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR):
1B: Plants listed as rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
2B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
3: Plants about which we need more information
4: Watch list: plants of limited distribution

CNPS CRPR added a decimal threat rank to the List rank to parallel that used by the CNDDB. This extension replaces the E (Endangerment) value from the R-E-D Code. CRPR ranks therefore read like this: 1B.1, 1B.2, etc. Threat code extensions and their meanings are as follows:
.1 – Seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree of immediacy of threat)
.2 – Fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened)
.3 – Not very endangered in California (<20% of occurrences threatened or no current threats known)

NOTES:
†CRPR List 3 and 4 species are included in the table for informational purposes only and are not included in the CEQA analysis. List 3 and 4 species that are also listed as sensitive by the USFS are included in the analysis.

SOURCES:
1.United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPAC) Species List (October 28, 2021).
2. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) Rarefind 5 search of Truckee USGS Quad and eight surrounding quads; BIOS five mile radius search (October 28, 2021).

3. California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Rare and Endangered Plant Inventory search of Truckee USGS Quad and eight surrounding quads (October 28, 2021).
4. Patterson, Mary. 2021. Botanical Review of Proposed Cabin Creek Parking. Filed at USFS Tahoe Truckee Ranger District, File codes: 2670-Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Plants and Animals. 2900-Invasive Species Management.
5. USFS Tahoe. 2021. Habitat Management Program for Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division Department of Parks and Recreation, Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program

Table C-2. Special-Status Animal Species with the Potential to Occur in the Project Area

Species[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	Status[1]	Geographic Distribution [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	Habitat Requirements [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	Potential for Occurrence [6, 7]
INVERTEBRATES				
Morrison bumblebee *Bombus morrisoni*	CNDDB	From the Sierra-Cascade ranges eastward across the intermountain west.	Food plant genera include *Cirsium, Cleome, Helianthus, Lupinus, Chrysothamnus,* and *Melilotus.*	**High Potential.** There is suitable habitat for this species in the project area. However, since this species is currently only CNDDB-tracked, and therefore not known to be a sensitive species at this time, no impacts are assessed for this analysis.
Western bumblebee *Bombus occidentalis*	USFS-S	Once common and widespread, this species has declined precipitously from central CA to southern British Columbia, perhaps from disease.	Western bumble bees use a **wide variety of natural, agricultural, urban, and rural** habitat types. Require suitable nesting sites, overwintering sites for the queens, and nectar and pollen resources throughout the spring, summer, and fall.	**High Potential.** There is suitable habitat for this species in the project area.
Lake Tahoe benthic stonefly *Capnia lacustra*	CNDDB	Endemic to Lake Tahoe. Found at depths of 95-400 ft.	Associated with deepwater plant communities of algae, mosses and liverworts.	**Not Expected.** Project activities would not occur within specific habitats and conditions required by the species. Additionally, the project site is not within he known range for this species.
Kings Canyon cyrptochian caddisfly *Cryptochia excella*	CNDDB	Narrowly distributed in cold springs in the Sierra Nevada.	Restricted to spring stream and source.	**Low Potential.** Project activities would not occur in specific habitats and conditions required by the species.
Monarch butterfly *Danaus plexippus*	FC, USFS-S	North America from southern Canada south to South America and the Caribbean. Winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico.	Roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby.	**Low Potential.** Activities would not occur along or in close proximity to any known occurrences on TNF.

Species[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	Status[1]	Geographic Distribution [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	Habitat Requirements [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	Potential for Occurrence [6, 7]
Amphibious caddisfly *Desmona bethula*	CNDDB	Sierra Nevada, including Madera, Mariposa, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, and Sierra counties, and Sequoia National Park	Mostly small, first order streams in open, wet meadows. Also found in beaver ponds and second order streams. Final instar larvae leave the water at night to feed on riparian vegetation and return to water at sunrise.	**Low Potential.** Project activities would not occur in specific habitats and conditions required by the species.
Kings Creek ecclysomyian caddisfly *Ecclisomyia bilera*	CNDDB	Narrowly distributed in springs in the Sierra Nevada and Cascades.	Fresh water sources, springs	**Low Potential.** Project activities would not occur in specific habitats and conditions required by the species.
Sagehen Creek goeracean caddisfly *Goeracea oregona*	CNDDB	Known from several sites in Nevada Co. and perhaps also from Mt. Tamalpais in Marin Co.	Found in relatively warm springs.	**Low Potential.** Project activities would not occur in specific habitats and conditions required by the species.
Great Basin rams-horn *Helisoma newberryi*	USFS-S	Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Oregon, and California. Confined to spring complexes on the periphery of the Great Basin.	Larger lakes and slow rivers, including larger spring sources and spring-fed creeks. Snails burrow in soft mud.	**Low Potential.** Project activities would not occur in specific habitats and conditions required by the species.
Cold Spring caddisfly *Lepidostoma ermanae*	CNDDB	Only known from cold springs in the vicinity of Sagehen Creek.	Cold springs.	**Low Potential.** Project activities would not occur in specific habitats and conditions required by the species.
Western pearlshell *Margaritifera falcata*	CNDDB	Dense growth of small deciduous trees and shrubs, wet soil, and abundance of forbs in the Sierra Nevada and east slope.	Needs dense understory for food and cover. Burrows into soft soil. Needs abundant supply of water.	**Low Potential.** Project activities would not occur in specific habitats and conditions required by the species.
Lake Tahoe amphipod *Stygobromus lacicolus*	CNDDB	Endemic to Lake Tahoe.	Found in the benthos of Lake Tahoe.	**Not Expected.** Project activities would not occur within specific habitats and conditions required by the species. Additionally, the project site is not within he known range for this species.
Sheldon's amphipod *Stygobromus sheldoni*	CNDDB	Known only from springs in Nevada County.	Aquatic habitats, springs.	**Low Potential.** Project activities would not occur within specific habitats and conditions required by the species.

Species[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	Status[1]	Geographic Distribution [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	Habitat Requirements [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	Potential for Occurrence [6, 7]
Lake Tahoe stygobromid *Stygobromus tahoensis*	CNDDB	Known only from Lake Tahoe	Found in the benthos of Lake Tahoe.	**Not Expected.** Project activities would not occur within specific habitats and conditions required by the species. Additionally, the project site is not within he known range for this species.
FISH				
Mountain sucker *Catostomus platyrhynchus*	CSSC	Restricted to the Lahontan drainage system.	Generally occupy pool-like habitats. Abundance greatest in areas with dense cover.	**Not Expected.** Project activities would not occur within specific habitats and conditions required by the species. Additionally, the project site is not within he known range for this species.
Lahontan cutthroat trout *Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi*	FT	Historically in all accessible cold waters of the Lahontan Basin in a wide variety of water temps and conditions.	Cannot tolerate presence of other salmonids. Requires gravel riffles in streams for spawning.	**Not Expected.** Project activities would not occur within specific habitats and conditions required by the species. Additionally, the project site is not within he known range for this species.
Mountain whitefish *Prosopium williamsoni*	CSSC	Western North America, from California to Alaska	Mountain whitefish inhabit clear, cold streams and rivers, and occasionally lakes.	**Not Expected.** Project activities would not occur within specific habitats and conditions required by the species. Additionally, the project site is not within he known range for this species.
Lahontan Lake tui chub *Siphateles bicolor pectinifer*	CSSC	Lahontan Basin from California to Nevada: Lake Tahoe (formerly); Pyramid Lake, Nevada; Walker Lake, Nevada. Possibly (need taxonomic study) also Topaz Lake, California and Nevada; Honey Lake, California, and populations on the Little Truckee River.	Inhabits large, deep lakes. Tolerates a wide range of physiochemical water conditions. Spawns in near-shore shallow areas over beds of aquatic vegetation.	**Not Expected.** Project activities would not occur within specific habitats and conditions required by the species. Additionally, the project site is not within he known range for this species.

Species[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	Status[1]	Geographic Distribution [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	Habitat Requirements [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	Potential for Occurrence [6, 7]
AMPHIBIANS				
Southern long-toed salamander *Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum*	CSSC	High elevation meadows and lakes in the Sierra Nevada, Cascade, and Klamath mountains.	Aquatic larvae occur in ponds and lakes. Outside of breeding season adults are terrestrial and associated with underground burrows of mammals and moist areas under logs and rocks.	**Low Potential.** Project activities would not occur in specific habitats and conditions required by the species.
Northern leopard frog *Lithobates pipiens*	CSSC	Native range is east of Sierra Nevada-Cascade Crest.	Near permanent or semi-permanent water in a variety of habitats. Highly aquatic species. Shoreline cover, submerged and emergent aquatic vegetation are important habitat characteristics.	**Low Potential.** Project activities would not occur in specific habitats and conditions required by the species.
Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog *Rana sierrae*	FE, ST, USFS-S	Diamond Mountains northeast of the Sierra Nevada in Plumas County, CA south through the Sierra Nevada to Matlock Lake just east of Kearsarge Pass, Inyo County	Always encountered within a few feet of water. Tadpoles may require 2 - 4 years to complete their aquatic development.	**Low Potential.** Project activities would not occur in specific habitats and conditions required by the species.
BIRDS				
Cooper's hawk *Accipiter cooperii*	WL	North America from southern Canada to Mexico, and Central America.	Woodland, chiefly of open, interrupted or marginal type. Nest sites mainly in riparian growths of deciduous trees, as in canyon bottoms on river flood-plains; also, live oaks.	**High Potential.** There is suitable habitat for either foraging or nesting for this species in the project area.
Northern goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*	CSSC, USFS-S	Inhabits forested areas all around the northern hemisphere, including both North America and Eurasia.	Within, and in vicinity of, coniferous forest. Uses old nests and maintains alternate sites. Usually nests on north slopes, near water. Red fir, lodgepole pine, Jeffrey pine, and aspens are typical nest trees.	**High Potential.** There is suitable habitat for either foraging or nesting for this species in the project area.
Greater sandhill crane *Antigone canadensis tabida*	ST, CFP, USFS-S	Nests in wetland habitats in northeastern California; winters in the Central Valley.	Prefers grain fields within 4 miles of a shallow body of water used as a communal roost site; irrigated pasture used as loafing sites.	**Not Expected.** There is no suitable habitat for either foraging or nesting for this species in the project area
Black swift *Cypseloides niger*	CSSC	Southeast Alaska to Costa Rica and West Indies	Breeds in small colonies on cliffs behind or adjacent to waterfalls in deep canyons and sea-bluffs above the surf; forages widely.	**Not Expected.** There is no suitable habitat for either foraging or nesting for this species in the project area

Species[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	**Status**[1]	**Geographic Distribution** [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	**Habitat Requirements** [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	**Potential for Occurrence** [6, 7]
Willow flycatcher *Empidonax traillii*	SE, USFS-S	North, South, and Central America	Inhabits extensive thickets of low, dense willows on edge of wet meadows, ponds, or backwaters; 2000-8000 ft elevation. Requires dense willow thickets for nesting/ roosting. Low, exposed branches are used for singing posts/hunting perches.	**Not Expected.** There is no suitable habitat for this species in the analysis area.
Bald eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalis*	SE, CFP, USFS-S	Year-round resident in northern California, winters throughout the rest of the state.	Ocean shore, lake margins, and rivers for both nesting and wintering. Most nests are within 1 mile of water. Nests in large, old-growth, or dominant live tree with open branches, especially ponderosa pine. Roosts communally in winter.	**Low Potential.** There is suitable habitat for this species in the project area. While this species may pass through the project site, it is not expected to nest or forage at this site due to the lack of adjacent water sources.
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*	USFS-S, WL	From Canada to Southern America.	Ocean shore, bays, freshwater lakes, and larger streams. Large nests built in tree-tops within 15 miles of a good fish-producing body of water.	**Low Potential.** Project activities would not occur within specific habitats and conditions required by the species.
Black-backed woodpecker *Picoides arcticus*	CNDDB	Coniferous forests in the Sierra Nevada and Cascades to the Siskiyou Mountains.	Recently burned coniferous forest, areas with dense standing dead trees, and less commonly in unburned forests	**Low Potential.** Project activities would not occur within specific habitats and conditions required by the species. This species typically prefers burned areas.
Yellow warbler *Setophaga petechia*	CSSC	Summer resident throughout much of California.	Riparian plant associations in close proximity to water. Also nests in montane shrubbery in open conifer forests in Cascades and Sierra Nevada. Frequently found nesting and foraging in willow shrubs and thickets, and in other riparian plants including cottonwoods, sycamores, ash, and alders.	**Low Potential.** Project activities would not occur within specific habitats and conditions required by the species.

Species[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	Status[1]	Geographic Distribution [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	Habitat Requirements [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	Potential for Occurrence [6, 7]
California spotted owl *Strix occidentalis occidentalis*	CSSC, USFS-S	Southern Cascade Range of northern California south along the west slope of the Sierra Nevada and in mountains of central and southern California nearly to the Mexican border, and northern Baja California.	Old-growth forests or mixed stands of old-growth and mature trees. Occasionally in younger forests with patches of big trees. High, multistory canopy dominated by big trees, many trees with cavities or broken tops, woody debris, and space under canopy.	**Moderate Potential.** There is suitable habitat for this species in the project area. This species generally prefers mature or old growth forest but does possess some large trees that could support this species.
MAMMALS				
Sierra Nevada mountain beaver *Aplodontia rufa californica*	CSSC	Dense growth of small deciduous trees and shrubs, wet soil, and abundance of forbs in the Sierra Nevada and east slope.	Needs dense understory for food and cover. Burrows into soft soil. Needs abundant supply of water.	**Low Potential.** Project activities would not occur in specific habitats and conditions required by the species.
North American porcupine *Erethizon dorsatum*	CNDDB	Forested habitats in the Sierra Nevada, Cascade, and Coast ranges, with scattered observations from forested areas in the Transverse Ranges.	Wide variety of coniferous and mixed woodland habitat.	**High Potential.** There is suitable habitat for this species in the project area. However, since this species is currently only CNDDB-tracked, and therefore not known to be a sensitive species at this time, no impacts are assessed for this analysis.
North American wolverine *Gulo gulo luscus*	ST, CFP, USFS-S	Found in the north coast mountains and the Sierra Nevada. Found in a wide variety of high elevation habitats.	Needs water source. Uses caves, logs, burrows for cover and den area. Hunts in more open areas. Can travel long distances.	**Not Expected.** There is no suitable habitat for this species in the project area.
Silver-haired bat *Lasionycteris noctivagans*	CNDDB	Throughout the United States (excluding Florida), Mexico, and Canada	Primarily a coastal and montane forest dweller, feeding over streams, ponds and open brushy areas. Roosts in hollow trees, beneath exfoliating bark, abandoned woodpecker holes, and rarely under rocks. Needs drinking water.	**Moderate Potential.** There is suitable habitat for this species in the project area. The project site may not be ideal for roosting bats of this species as it is not immediately adjacent to water. However, since this species is currently only CNDDB-tracked, and therefore not known to be a sensitive species at this time, no impacts are assessed for this analysis.

Species[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	Status[1]	Geographic Distribution [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	Habitat Requirements [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	Potential for Occurrence [6, 7]
Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare *Lepus americanus tahoensis*	CSSC	Boreal riparian areas in the Sierra Nevada.	Thickets of deciduous trees in riparian areas and thickets of young conifers, and similar riparian woodlands.	**Low Potential.** Project activities would not occur in specific habitats and conditions required by the species.
Western white-tailed jackrabbit *Lepus townsendii townsendii*	CSSC	Great Basin and surrounding areas from Sierra Nevada to Colorado, then north to British Columbia (CAN).	Sagebrush, subalpine conifer, juniper, alpine dwarf shrub and perennial grassland. Open areas with scattered shrubs and exposed flat-topped hills with open stands of trees, brush and herbaceous understory.	**Low Potential.** There is no suitable habitat for this species in the project area. Soils at the project site are not known to be easily friable and the project site does not possess the quality of open areas that this species typically occupies.
Pacific marten *Martes caurina sierrae*	USFS-S	Mixed evergreen forests with more than 40% crown closure along Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountains.	Needs variety of different-aged stands, particularly old-growth conifers and snags which provide cavities for dens/nests.	**Moderate Potential.** There is suitable habitat for this species in the project area. It is not expected that the project site possesses what would be considered mature or old-growth forest, and therefore habitat for this species would be marginal.
Long-legged myotis *Myotis volans*	USFS-S	Western North America from Alaska to central Mexico.	Most common in woodland and forest habitats above 4000 ft. near water sources. Trees are important day roosts; caves and mines are night roosts. Nursery colonies usually under bark or in hollow trees, but occasionally in crevices or buildings.	**Moderate Potential.** There is suitable habitat for this species in the project area. The project site may not be ideal for roosting bats of this species as it is not immediately adjacent to water.
Gray-headed pika *Ochotona princeps schisticeps*	CNDDB	California, Oregon, Nevada, and Utah. Sierra Nevada to mountainous regions in the Great Basin.	Mountainous areas, generally at higher elevations, often above the treeline up to the limit of vegetation. At lower elevations found in rocky areas within forests or near lakes. Talus slopes, occasionally on mine tailings. Prefers talus-meadow interface.	**Low Potential.** Project activities would not occur within specific habitats and conditions required by the species.

Species[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	Status[1]	Geographic Distribution [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	Habitat Requirements [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	Potential for Occurrence [6, 7]
Fisher *Pekania pennanti*	CSSC, USFS-S	Northern US to CAN; many populations extirpated in southern range	Intermediate to large-tree stages of coniferous forests and deciduous-riparian areas with high percent canopy closure. Uses cavities, snags, logs and rocky areas for cover and denning. Needs large areas of mature, dense forest.	**Moderate Potential.** There is suitable habitat for this species in the project area. It is not expected that the project site possesses what would be considered mature or old-growth forest, and therefore habitat for this species would be marginal.
American badger *Taxidea taxus*	CSSC	Occurs throughout California, the western United States, and Canada.	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils. Needs sufficient food, friable soils and open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents. Digs burrows.	**Low Potential.** There is no suitable habitat for this species in the project area. Soils at the project site are not known to be easily friable and the project site does not possess the quality of open areas that this species typically occupies.
Sierra Nevada red fox *Vulpes vulpes necator*	FPE, ST, USFS-S	Historically found from the Cascades down to the Sierra Nevada.	Found in a variety of habitats from wet meadows to forested areas. Use dense vegetation and rocky areas for cover and den sites. Prefer forests interspersed with meadows or alpine fell-fields.	**Low Potential.** Project activities would not occur within specific habitats and conditions required by the species.

STATUS KEY:
Federal
FE: Federally-listed Endangered
FT: Federally-listed Threatened
FPE: Federally Proposed Endangered
USFS-S: United States Forest Service – Sensitive Species

State
SE: State-listed Endangered
ST: State-listed Threatened
SCE: State-listed Candidate Endangered
CSSC: California Species of Special Concern
CFP: California Fully Protected
WL: California Watch List
CNDDB: Species tracked by the CNDDB; included for informational purposes only

Notes:
† Species tracked by the CNDDB that do not meet the definition of a special-status species are included in the table for informational purposes only and are not included in the CEQA analysis.

SOURCES:
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