



# California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Environmental Review Report for an Exempt Project

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

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Project Name:	Slater Post-Fire Restoration Project (Hopkins, Gould-Thomason, Grabarz and Higdon)
Project Number:	Unknown
Program Type:	Forest Health, Post-Fire Reforestation
CAL FIRE Unit:	Siskiyou-SKU
County:	Siskiyou
Acres:	400
Legal Location:	T17N R07E Sec 9; T18N R07E Sec 32; T18N R06E Sec 16 MDBM; T18N R04E Sec 2 and 3 HUM
Name of USGS 7.5'Quad Map(s):	Happy Camp, Deadman Point, Polar Bear Mountain, Broken Rib Mountain.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Vicinity Map Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Project Location Map Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Photos Attached	

<b>Other Public Agency Review or Permit Required:</b>		
Would the project result in:	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Alterations to a watercourse (DFW - Lake and Stream Alteration Agreement)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conversion of timberland (CAL FIRE - Conversion Permit or Exemption)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Demolition (Local Air District - Demolition Permit)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Soil disturbance over 1 acre (RWQCB - SWPPP)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fill of possible wetlands (404 Permit - USACE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Discuss any above-listed topic item checked Yes and consultation with agencies:</b>		
This project is intended to increase planted seedling survival rate by spraying competing vegetation.		

<b>Project Description and Environmental Setting (describe the project activities, project site and its surroundings, its location, and the environmental setting):</b>
<p>Pursuant to CEQA Section 21080(b)(3) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a) this project is exempt from CEQA as the project will "maintain[s], repair[s], restore[s]... property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster-stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor.</p> <p>This project is located on privately owned property in the vicinity of Happy Camp California.</p> <p>The project area was devastated in the 2020 Slater Fire. The Slater Fire experienced explosive weather-driven growth consuming more than 166,127 acres (67,229 ha), claimed two lives, injured 12 people, and was 100% contained on November 16. Most if not all natural habitat including timber resources, shrubs, grasses and wildlife were destroyed during this fire event.</p> <p>Notices of Emergency Timber Operations 2-20EM-00264SIS, 2-20EM-00233SIS, 2-19EM00160-SIS and 1-20EM-00220-DEL were filed by RPF #2864 Jesse McNames which included a comprehensive review of known occurrences of Rare, Threatened, or Endangered plant or animal species within the treatment areas where none were discovered. Additionally, a California Archaeological Addendum was filed for the project area by the RPF. Salvageable timber resources were removed from the project area in 2021. The RPF was able to replant all these properties above with Douglas-fir and Ponderosa Pine in the Fall of 2021 at approximately 300 trees per acre.</p> <p>The project intends to accomplish the following goals: 1) reduce the threat of future wildfire by treating competing brush species around planted seedlings. 2) improve forest health by releasing healthy young tree seedlings from competing vegetation through nonrestrictive herbicide application 3) increase carbon storage through the management of newly planted tree seedlings. Treatment to accomplish these goals include herbicide applications to ensure seedling survival.</p>

**Aesthetics**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

A majority of the Indian Creek watershed other surrounding watersheds have been destroyed by this wildfire event. Any effort within the project area to increase conifer survival and reduce aggressive brush species will be a benefit. Long term the planted trees will help to green up the watershed and provide improved aesthetics.

There will be no negative impacts to Aesthetics with this project.

**Agriculture and Forest Resources**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 Yes  No Would any trees be felled? If yes, discuss protection of nesting birds, if necessary.  
 Yes  No Would the project convert any prime or unique farmland?  
 Yes  No Would the project result in the conversion of forest land or timberland to non-forest use?  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

No significant negative impacts to Agriculture or Forest Resources are expected from this project. It is likely that there will be positive impacts to forest resources from reforestation of these burned areas.

**Air Quality**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 Yes  No The local Air Quality Management District guidelines for dust abatement and other air quality concerns were reviewed for this project.  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

No negative impacts to air quality will result from this project.

**Biological Resources**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 Yes  No Will the project potentially effect biological resources?  
 Yes  No Was a current California Natural Diversity Database review completed? Results discussed below:  
 Yes  No Was a biological survey of the project area completed? Results discussed below:  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

A query of the California Natural Diversity Data Base was conducted on March 25th, 2024. Scoping was conducted within the Happy Camp, Deadman Point, Polar Bear Mountain and Broken Rib Mountain Quads, and the surrounding 14 quads to determine the potential occurrence of State or Federally listed plant and animal species and animal species of special concern within or directly adjacent to the project area. According to CNDDDB, the following listed species are known to occur near the project area:

**SCOTT BAR, SISKIYOU MOUNTAIN and DEL NORTE SALAMANDER ASSESSMENT**

These species are listed as Threatened by the State. The range of the species in the project vicinity is limited to the Scott bar Mountains and Siskiyou Mountain range. Habitat is associated with deep talus and rocky rubble in montane forests.

There are multiple known occurrences of these species within the assessment area. No occurrences are found within the project area and the project area does not contain potential habitat for these species.

Treatment activities will not adversely impact these species.

**PACIFIC TAILED FROG ASSESSMENT**

The range of the species is in streams of the Coast Range and the Klamath Mountains in northwestern California. The range of the species extends north into British Columbia, and as far east as western Montana. Tailed frog habitat includes cold water perennial streams and associated riparian areas. Typically, this species is found along perennial cold water streams in conifer forests, but may also be found in montane hardwood-conifer forests.

Habitat for this species exists within the project area. Streams will all receive buffers that exclude treatment. Therefore, impacts to this species from grant treatment activities are unlikely.

Treatment activities will not adversely impact tailed frog.

#### UPPER KLAMATH - TRINITY RIVER CHINOOK SALMON ASSESSMENT

This species is listed as Threatened by the State. The range of the species within California includes streams of the coastal & Klamath Mountains. Salmon typically inhabit small coastal streams as well as larger rivers and some of their smaller tributaries with low gradient reaches. Indian Creek and Elk Creek are fish bearing streams and are within the project area. The project is within the area covered by the Anadromous Salmonid Protections in the FPRs. These rules designate wider stream buffers along with other enhanced protection measures.

Treatment activities will not adversely impact Chinook salmon.

#### COHO SALMON ASSESSMENT

This species is listed as Threatened by the State. The range of the species within California includes streams of the coastal & Klamath Mountains. Salmon typically inhabit small coastal streams as well as larger rivers and some of their smaller tributaries with low gradient reaches. Indian Creek and Elk Creek are fish bearing streams and are within the project area. The project is within the area covered by the Anadromous Salmonid Protections in the FPRs. These rules designate wider stream buffers along with other enhanced protection measures.

Treatment activities will not adversely impact Coho salmon.

#### BUMBLE BEE ASSESSMENT

Franklin's bumble bee is listed as Endangered under the ESA, and along with the western bumble bee is a candidate for listing by the State. The range of the Franklin's bumble bee is limited to the Klamath Mountains of northern California and southern Oregon while the western bumble bee extends throughout the western United States. This project is outside the ranges of Suckley's cuckoo and Western Bumble both have occurrences within the assessment area but not within the project areas. Colony sites are often associated with rodent holes and intact grass clumps. The species generally pollinate in open meadows and other wet areas where a higher diversity/density of flowering plants exist. There are meadows and large grassy areas within the project area. Herbicide use that reduces the abundance of diverse floral resources has been listed as a potential threat to bumble bees. A Pesticide Control Advisor (PCA) will develop and direct the use of herbicides. Meadows and large grassy areas will be avoided with this project. There will be no herbicide applications within these areas.

The project treatment areas will be limited to those areas where seedlings have been planted. Meadows and grassy areas that contain potential habitat will be avoided and not impacted from this project.

#### BALD EAGLE ASSESSMENT

This species is listed as Endangered by the State and is a Board of Forestry Sensitive species. The bald eagle requires wetland habitat such as seacoasts, rivers, large lakes or marshes or other large bodies of open water with an abundance of fish.

The project area does not contain suitable habitat for the bald eagle.

#### GOLDEN EAGLE ASSESSMENT

This species is a Board of Forestry Sensitive species. Nest sites include cliff ledges, rock outcrops and large conifers near foraging habitat. Foraging areas include grassland, oak savanna, open woodland and chaparral and agricultural areas.

The project will not adversely impact potential habitat for the golden eagle.

#### GREAT GRAY OWL ASSESSMENT

This species is listed as Threatened by the State. The range of the species within California includes the Southern Cascades, Klamath and Sierra Nevada mountains. According to the CDFW's RAREFIND 5, the nearest known detection is approximately 10 miles north of the project area. The project is not adjacent to or within ¼ mile of an open meadow complex

that is greater than 10 acres in size. The project does not propose to modify any suitable nesting or roosting habitat within ¼ mile of an open meadow complex representing suitable habitat for great gray owls.

The project will not adversely impact potential habitat for the great grey owl.

#### GREAT BLUE HERON ASSESSMENT

This species is a Board of Forestry Sensitive species. The great blue heron is fairly common year-round throughout most of California. They are associated with shallow estuaries, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, marshes, rivers, creeks and other fresh or saline wetlands, where they feed on a variety of fish and other aquatic and semi-aquatic organisms, and occasionally small mammals. They generally nest in colony's (rookeries) located in secluded groves of tall trees near foraging areas. There is one known great blue heron rookery occurrence adjacent to the project area. No large, scenic trees within 300' of the recorded rookery trees or trees with heron rookery occurrence will be felled or otherwise damaged by this project. During the critical period of March 15 to July 15, any timber operations will approach the rookery site buffer will be staged with a gradual approach to the nest sites.

The project treatments will not have a significant effect on the great blue heron.

#### NORTHERN GOSHAWK ASSESSMENT

This species is a Board of Forestry Sensitive species. The range of the species is throughout California. Nest sites include snags or large trees in montane coniferous forests. Nesting sites are often made on crooks, forks, and large platforms in conifers. There are no known activity center within the project area.

The assessment area contains potential habitat for the northern goshawk. As stated in the project description no large, scenic, and/or mature live trees will be removed which are potentially most likely to contain a nest site. If a nest is found during operations then operations in the vicinity will cease until site specific protection measures can be developed.

The project treatments will not have a significant effect on the northern goshawk.

#### NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL ASSESSMENT

This species is listed as Threatened under both the State and Federal Endangered Species Acts. The range of the species is throughout northern California. Nest sites include snags or large trees in montane coniferous forests. Nesting sites are often made on crooks, forks, and large platforms in conifers.

The project area contains potential habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl. As stated in the project description no large, scenic, and/or mature trees will be removed which are potentially most likely to contain a nest site. Mistletoe clumps, witches' broom, hardwoods, and other habitat structures will not be disturbed by this project. No habitat changes are anticipated from the project.

The project treatments will not have a significant effect on the northern spotted owl.

#### OSPREY ASSESSMENT

This species is a Board of Forestry Sensitive species. The range of the species is throughout California. Nest sites include snags or large trees in a variety of habitats usually within ½ mile, but up to 1 mile of a large reservoir, lake or river that provides foraging habitat. There are no known occurrences of osprey within or adjacent to the project area.

The project treatments will not have a significant effect on osprey.

#### PEREGRINE FALCON ASSESSMENT

This species is a CDFW Watch List species. The range of the species is throughout California. Species nesting sites are restricted to ledges of large rock cliff faces but some nests are found on city buildings and bridges.

The project will not adversely impact potential habitat for the peregrine falcon.

#### WILLOW FLYCATCHER ASSESSMENT

This species is listed as Threatened under CESA. The range of the species within California includes the Coast redwood, Southern Cascades and Klamath Mountains. Habitat includes willows, brush thickets, deciduous tree thickets near streams and wet areas.

The project area does not contain suitable habitat for the Willow flycatcher.

#### GRAY WOLF ASSESSMENT

This species is listed as Endangered under both the State and Federal Endangered Species Acts. The range of this species within California is limited to the northern portion of the state. Wolves are habitat generalists that primarily prey on large ungulates such as elk and deer, but will also take a variety of smaller animals, along with domesticated animals and livestock.

The project will not adversely impact potential habitat for the gray wolf.

#### FISHER ASSESSMENT

This species is a Species of Special Concern for CDFW. The range of the species within California includes the Coast redwood, Southern Cascades, Klamath and Sierra Nevada Mountains.

The project area contains potential habitat for the fisher; therefore, green cull trees or “wolf trees” will be retained within the parameters of the treatment. Lower limbs on wolf trees will be removed as prescribed from the pruning treatment. As stated in the project description no large, scenic, and/or mature trees will be removed which are potentially most likely to contain a den site. Retention of these structures is likely to provide denning and resting sites and may provide habitat for small mammal species which may be prey for fisher. If a den is found during operations then operations in the vicinity will cease until site specific protection measures can be developed.

There are multiple known occurrences of the species near treatment units. However, these were generally in areas that experience severe wildfire. As stated above, no trees or snags that provide habitat for fisher will be felled during this project.

Treatment activities will not adversely impact potential fisher habitat.

#### MARTEN ASSESSMENT

The range of the species within California includes the Coast redwood, Southern Cascades, Klamath and Sierra Nevada Mountains. Marten habitat is associated with mixed and pure coniferous forests, with the Siskiyou county occurrences being above 6,900' elevation. This project area is below 6,050' elevation.

The project area contains potential habitat for the Marten. However, there will be no trees felled with the proposed project. If a den is found during operations, operations in the vicinity will cease until site specific protection measures can be developed.

Treatment activities will not adversely impact potential marten habitat.

#### YREKA PHLOX ASSESSEMNT

Yreka phlox (*Phlox hirsuta*) is listed as Endangered under both ESA and CESA. The range of species within California is limited to small portions of the Klamath Mountains. Habitat associated with the species includes rocky serpentine or ultramafic soils in montane forests between 2500'-6000'.

There are no known occurrences of Yreka phlox within the project area. The project will not impact adversely Yreka phlox.

#### BLUSHING BUCKWHEAT ASSESSMENT

Blushing wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum ursinum* var. *erubescens*) is a state rare plant species and has no federal status. The range of species within California expands from the Klamath range to the central coastal range. Habitat associated with the species includes talus/scree fields and rock outcroppings in montane forests between 2400-6300'.

There is no known habitat or known populations of blushing buckwheat within this project area. There will be no adverse impacts to this species from the proposed treatments.

#### OREGON POLEMONIUM ASSESSMENT

Oregon polemonium (*Polemonium carneum*) is a state rare plant species and has no federal status. The range of species within California expands from the Southern Cascades, Klamath Mountains and coastal ranges. Habitat associated with the species includes grasslands, coastal prairies, and meadows in montane forests between 0-6000'.

There are no known occurrences of Oregon polemonium within the project area. The project will not impact adversely Oregon polemonium.

**HECKNER'S LEWISIA ASSESSMENT**

Heckner's lewisia (*Lewisia cotyledon* var. *heckneri*) is a state rare plant species and has no federal status. The range of species within California is limited to the Klamath Mountains. Habitat associated with the species includes rocky areas and rock outcroppings in montane forests between 750'-6900'.

There are no known occurrences of Heckner's lewisia within the project area. The project will not impact adversely Heckner's lewisia.

**HOWELL'S LEWISIA ASSESSMENT**

Howell's lewisia (*Lewisia cotyledon* var. *howellii*) is a state rare plant species and has no federal status. The range of species within California is limited to the Klamath Mountains. Habitat associated with the species includes rocky areas and rock outcroppings in montane forests and sometimes woodlands between 1000'-6900'.

There are no known occurrences of Howell's lewisia within the project area. The project will not impact adversely Howell's lewisia.

**SISKIYOU MARIPOSA LILY ASSESSMENT**

Siskiyou mariposa lily (*Calochortus persistens*) is a state rare plant species and has no federal status. The range of the species within California is restricted and mapped in very small portions of Siskiyou County on shallow dry metavolcanic soils.

There are no known occurrences of Siskiyou Mariposa Lily within the project area. The project will not impact adversely Siskiyou Mariposa Lily.

**MCDONALDS ROCKCRESS**

McDonald's rockcress (*Arabis mcdonaldiana*) is a federal and state endangered species. Habitat includes rocky outcrops, ridges, slopes and flats on serpentine from 300'-6,000 feet. Two occurrences within the assessment area both above 5,400 feet elevation. Closest occurrence is 6 miles from project area. Habitat association includes steep rocky slopes with large peridotite boulders. Also associated with *Pinus jeffreyi* needle litter and festuca dominated hummocks, *Calocedrus decurrens*, *abies magnifica*.

There are no known occurrences of this species with the project area and no suitable habitat present. There will be no impacts to this species from this project.

If any sensitive plant species are identified before or during implementation of treatments, operators will avoid trampling species of concern or rare plants, by hanging equipment exclusion zone flagging (or using pin flags if more effective) and directing crews away from the site(s) to protect these species.

**Cultural Resources/Tribal Cultural Resources**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- Yes  No Was a current archaeological records check completed? Results discussed below:
- Yes  No Was a CAL FIRE staff or contract archaeologist consulted? Results discussed below:
- Yes  No Was an archaeological survey of the project area completed? Results discussed below:
- Yes  No Will the project effect any historic, archaeological or tribal cultural resources?
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

An Archaeological Survey was conducted by RPF#2864 for the project area. Archaeological records check request with map was sent to the Northeastern Information Center on 10-29-2020 and 1-18-21 and to the Northwest Information Center on 10-21-20. Emergency Notice Notification Letters with map was also mailed on 7-15-2019, 11-07-20, 10-29-20 and 10-22-20 to the following Native American groups. No response was received from any of the Native American groups or individuals below.

- Native American Heritage Commission
- Karuk Tribe, Orleans and Happy Camp Offices
- Klamath Tribe
- Quartz Valley Indian Reservation
- Shasta Indian Nation

- Shasta Nation
- Winnemem Wintu Tribe Mount Shasta and Redding Offices
- Wintu Tribe of Northern California
- Mr. Howard Wynant
- Elk Valley Rancheria
- Resighini Rancheria
- Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation

A complete California Archaeological Addendum will be provided as a separate document.

### Energy

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

### Geology and Soils

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

There will be no significant impacts to Geology or Soils from proposed treatments.

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions

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

This project is focused on treating severely wildfire damaged timberland and returning into a healthy productive carbon sequestering forest. There will be no green living trees cut or removed with this proposed project.

Forestlands are, in general, a carbon sink where CO<sub>2</sub> is captured and fixed by the process of photosynthesis, which removes carbon from the atmosphere and sequesters carbon in wood fiber. (CARB 2018, OFRI 2007, U.S.EPA 2005). Managed commercial forests make a significant contribution to the sequestration of carbon and mitigation of GHG. (IPCC 2007; Mader 2007; OFRI 2006; US-EPA 2005). Several studies have documented a positive net effect of carbon sequestration by commercial timberlands where forests are grown, harvested, and processed into wood products. (James et al. 2007; Perez-Garcia et al. 2005; Lippke et al 2004). Even when CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from timberland management, timber harvest, and forest products uses are considered, the long-term, sustainable, and intensive management of commercial timberlands to produce wood products generates a net carbon sequestration benefit that mitigates GHG (Ibid.) Not only is carbon sequestered by trees, but it may be stored for long periods of time in wood products. It is estimated that at the end of 100 years, a majority of the solid wood products manufactured from the log are still sequestered (US Dept of Energy -1605(b), tables).

California Air Resources Board. 2019. California Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks. Sacramento, CA.

Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI). 2006. Forests, Carbon and Climate Change: A Synthesis of Scientific Findings. <http://www.oregonforests.org/media/pdf/CarbonRptFinal.pdf>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.E.P.A.).2005 Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Potential in U.S. Forestry and Agriculture. <http://www.epa.gov/sequestration/pdf/greenhousegas2005.pdf>

United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).2007 Climate Change 2007: Mitigation. Contribution of Working Group III to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. <http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/wg3/ar4-wg3-chapter9.pdf>

Mader, S. 2007 Climate Project: Carbon Sequestration and Storage by California Forests and Forest Products. <http://www.foresthealth.org/pdf/CH2M%20Hill%20Forest%20Carbon%20Study.pdf>

James, C.; B. Krumland, and P. Eckert. 2007. Carbon Sequestration in California Forests: Two Case Studies in Managed Watersheds. [http://www.spi-ind.com/html/pdf\\_forests/CARBONSEQUESTRATION.pdf](http://www.spi-ind.com/html/pdf_forests/CARBONSEQUESTRATION.pdf)

Perez-Garcia, J.; B. Lippke, J. Connick, and C. Manriquez. 2005. An Assessment of Carbon Pools, Storage, and Wood Products Market Substitution Using Life-Cycle Analysis Results. Wood Fiber Science 37(5):99-113

Lippke, B.; J. Perez-Garcia, J. Bowyer, J. Meil. 2004. CORRIM: Life Cycle Environmental Performance of Renewable Building Materials. Forest Products Journal 54(6):8-19

U.S. Department of Energy 2005. 1605(b) Tables. <http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/1605/index.html>

There will be no significant negative Greenhouse Gas Emissions resulting from this proposed project.

### Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Herbicides will be used to control competing vegetation in planted areas excluding watercourses. Buffers will be installed around watercourses that are equal or greater than the required buffer of the California Forest Practice Rules. Herbicides will be prescribed by a licensed agricultural Pest Control Advisor. Herbicide application will be performed with backpack sprayers by Licensed Pest Control Operators that must also read and follow any additional restrictions and/or mitigation measures listed on the PCA recommendation. A County Spray permit will be obtained prior to application of any herbicide and will comply with any protection measures outlined within the permit. Additionally, all State and Federal Laws, including the CA Forest Practice Rules, will be adhered to during application. The specific chemicals to be used currently is unknown, but applicator will follow all handling, mixing, transportation and safety information on labels. A Registered Professional Forester will be on site during application to oversee operation. No restricted materials will be used.

In addition to the above measures and considerations, the following are examples of additional protections.

- a) Planning Measures
- 1) All unit boundaries and watercourse protection boundaries identified prior to any application.
  - 2) Visit all units prior to application to determine treatment needs, evaluate sensitive areas, property lines and other areas needing protection. No herbicides will be applied within a 50-foot buffer of ESA or CESA listed plant species, if present, or within 50 feet of sensitive resources.
  - 3) Supply good maps to applicators including sensitive areas, property lines, unit boundaries and batching areas.
- b) Ground Applications
- 1) Supervising RPF will utilize buffers equal to or greater than in the Forest Practice Rules to protect valuable resources as appropriate for soil active and non-soil active herbicides
  - 2) All mixing and loading will be done in a safe location away from any watercourses or surface water.
  - 3) All units will be shown to applicator prior to the application. Special attention will be given to watercourses, property lines and other sensitive areas where spraying will not occur.
  - 4) Keep detailed records of application amounts, weather, and all occurrences related to the spray application.
  - 5) Do not spray when winds exceed 10 mph.
  - 6) Do not transport mixed chemical down any highway.
  - 7) Secure all chemical during transport with rope or transport in a locked storage compartment.
  - 8) Have a spill kit on site and a spill contingency plan.

The project is not likely to result in adverse impacts created by hazardous conditions or hazardous materials.

### Hydrology and Water Quality

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 Yes  No Will the project potentially affect any watercourse or body of water?  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:



Indian Creek, Elk Creek and several unnamed tributaries exist within the project area. On the ground buffers will be placed along these watercourses in accordance with the California Forest Practice Rules. Within these buffer areas there will be no herbicide applications.

There will be no adverse impacts to Hydrology or Water Quality with this project.

**Land Use and Planning**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The project area is private timber property, and these treatments are intended to restore the intended land use. There will be no negative impacts to Land Use or Planning with this project.

**Mineral Resources**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

**Noise**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

**Population and Housing**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

**Public Services**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

**Recreation**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

**Transportation and Traffic**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Indian Creek Road runs through the project area and is a USFS public road. There will be a slight increase in traffic on this road during this operation from spray crews. This road access thousands of private and public timber property where operations such as this occur regularly. There will be no adverse impacts to transportation or traffic with this operation.

**Utilities and Service Systems**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

There are overhead powerlines and local utilities within the project area. There will be no negative impacts to utilities or service systems with this operation.

**Wildfire**  
 This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project is post fire restoration with the goal of treating competing vegetation through sound forest management and decreasing the risk of future wildfire.  
 This project will not increase the risk of wildfire.

**Changes Made to Avoid Environmental Impacts:**

If nest and den sites for Northern Spotted Owls, goshawk, raptors, fisher, ringtail, gray wolf, or marten are found during the project, all operations in the vicinity will cease until site specific protection measures can be developed.

If any sensitive plant species are identified before or during implementation of treatments, operators will avoid trampling species of concern or rare plants, by hanging equipment exclusion zone flagging (or using pin flags if more effective) and directing crews away from the site(s) to protect these species.

Stream course buffers in place where there will be no herbicide application.

Fueling, servicing equipment and herbicide mixing will be done away from any surface water or water courses.

No herbicides will be applied within a 50-foot buffer of ESA or CESA listed plant species, if present, or within 50 feet of sensitive resources.

Herbicides will not be applied to flowering native plants within occupied or suitable habitat during the bumble bee flight season (March through September).

<b>Mandatory Findings of Significance:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
(a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? “Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probably future projects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Justification for Use of a Categorical Exemption (discuss why the project is exempt, cite exemption number(s), and describe how the project fits the class):**

The preparation of this ERRF is not in response to analyzing the applicability of a Categorical Exemption or the various classes of a Categorical Exemption, but rather to provide substantial information on the project, the environmental conditions of the project area, and the information known by the project proponent to demonstrate that compliance with other environmental laws and regulations will be complied with even though the project is statutorily exempted from CEQA. Pursuant to CEQA Section 21080(b)(3) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a) this project is exempt from CEQA as the project will it “maintain[s], repair[s], restore[s]... property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster-stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor. While an environmental checklist is not required, the information contained herein demonstrates that sufficient environmental data has been captured on the project area to assure that compliance with other environmental laws and regulations is attained. Therefore, no conclusion of determination of applicability of a Categorical Exemption has been provided.

