

**Kidder Creek Orchard Camp
Draft Environmental Impact Report
APPENDICES**

APPENDIX H

Emergency Access Road Extension: Botanical Resource Survey and Wildlife Resources Biological
Assessment – Resource Management

Botanical Resource Survey

For

**Kidder Creek Orchard Camps, Inc.
Easement for Ingress and Egress Emergency Road**



Thick growing small diameter Ponderosa pine and few scattered Douglas fir

**Prepared by Resource Management
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Introduction:

Botanical surveys were conducted for the Kidder Creek Orchard Camps, Inc. because they have a proposal to construct an ingress and egress emergency access road extension through privately owned Timbervest property, which would access USFS Road 42N07. The project is located in the U.S.G.S. Greenview Quadrangle, Township 42N Range 10W S ½ of the S ½ Section 1 M.D.M. in Siskiyou County (**Figure 2 Map topo**) (**Figure 3 Map ortho**). Three botanical visits were conducted to the proposed road construction site; one in February and two in March 2019. No special status plant species were detected. It is recommended no additional botanical surveys will be necessary for the ingress and egress access road extension. This report was prepared as a summary of the botanical assessment required by CEQA in accordance with EPA guidelines. This Botanical Assessment/Evaluation (BA/BE) is prepared in accordance with the legal requirements set forth under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, Section 15380. A “Special Status Species” is any species that meets the definition of “endangered, rare or threatened”.

The Area of Potential Effect (A.P.E.) is approximately six acres. The botanical assessment and survey was to determine if any rare, threatened, or endangered plants would be affected by the implementation and or activity anticipated by the proposed land use changes. These surveys incorporated survey protocols published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Survey Guidelines (*March 20, 2018*) as well as the botanical survey guidelines as required by CEQA, reviewed prior to the beginning of botanical surveys at the project site. The required botanical field surveys provide information used to determine the potential environmental effects of proposed projects on special status plants and sensitive natural communities as required by law (CEQA, CESA, and federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)).

Resource Management botanist Kathleen Tyler has been conducting floristic surveys for rare and sensitive plants in Siskiyou County on both public lands (BLM, USFS, and CDFG) and private lands for over 16 years. This surveyor has over fifty units of formal classes related directly to botany and the environment, additionally, workshops specific to keying out and identification of rare plant taxa, totaling over one hundred hours. This surveyor has also located new populations of rare plants and has recorded such sites to the CNDDDB (California Natural Diversity Database), on both public and private lands.

Methods:

Prefield preparation began with conducting a records search on the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), using the Greenview Quadrangle as the center Quadrangle of a nine quadrangle search for California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 1 or 2, as well as those ranked 3 or 4. Also plants that are considered locally significant plants that are not rare from statewide, but rare or uncommon locally (CEQA Guidelines). The project site is approximately four acres in its entirety (Figure 2 Map). Buffer acreage of approximately two acres adjacent to the project site was also surveyed. The sensitive plant survey was for specific target species as identified as possible but unlikely present as specified from the table generated from the CNDBB (Table 1-A) a general floristic inventory of plant species occurring on the project site. A complete and comprehensive survey was accomplished by walking transects with 100 ft. spacing throughout the project area. The survey corridor width for the project area was

approximately 300 feet wide following the white flagging used to identify the location of the proposed emergency ingress and egress access road. The survey route was implemented by making one pass in a northerly direction and the second in a southerly direction back to the starting point, approximately 150 feet apart, with each visit. Surveyor used a GPS unit to orient position on site and walked transects northerly and southerly. Each visit a minimum of one hour and half was spent to observe and survey.

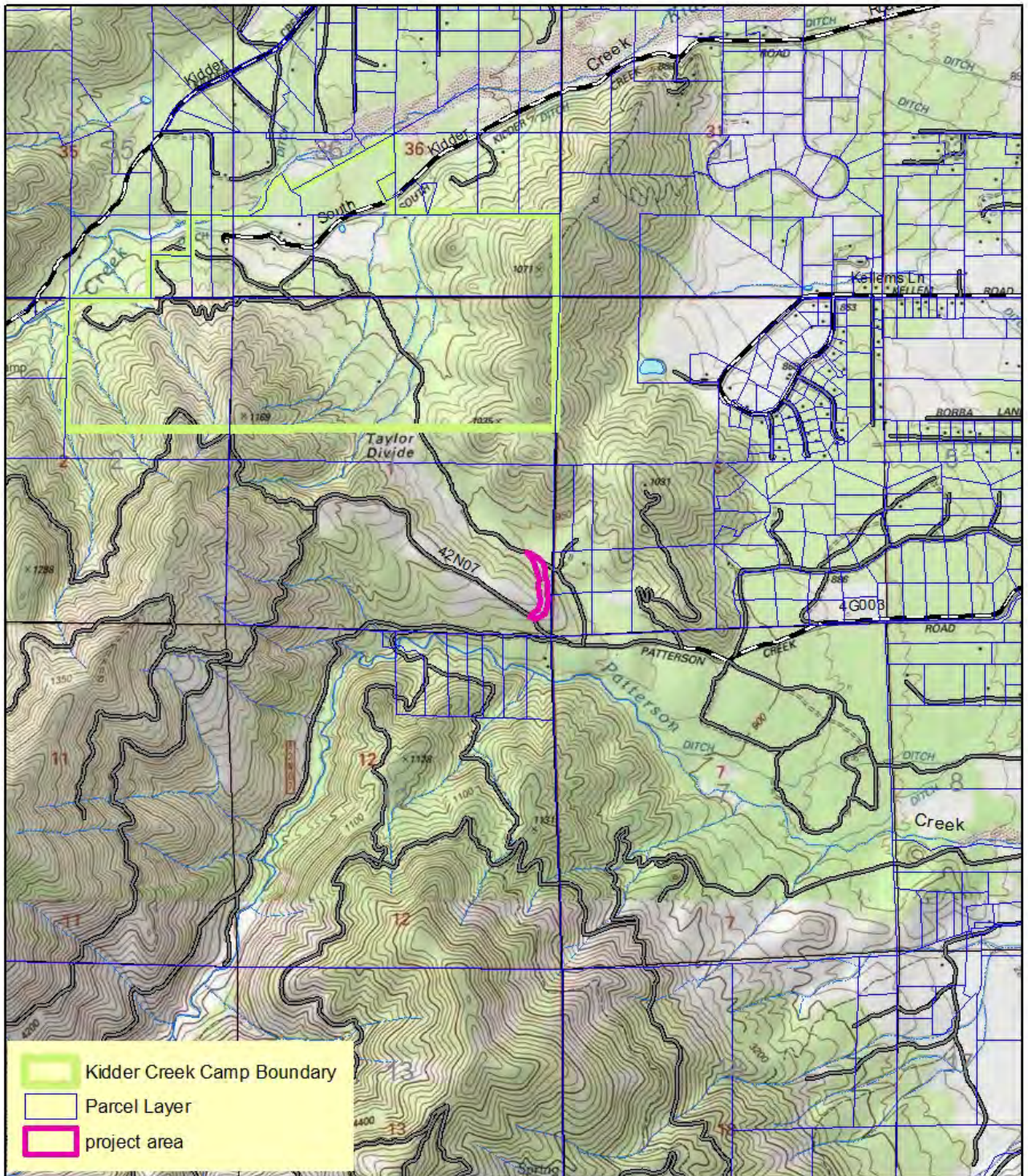
No reference sites were visited as it was determined (Table A-1) the plants listed by the CNDDDB Database for the Greenview Quadrangle and its surrounding Quadrangle, presented only a few plants had a low or unlikely probability of being present at the project site, based on habitat, substrate, moisture, water source, elevation, and forest type. On February 15, 2019, Resource Management botanist Kathleen Tyler completed a full botanical survey of the proposed project site. A list of plants present was compiled (Table 2). The second visit was conducted March 1st, and a third visit March 17th. It seemed unwarranted and highly unlikely after three visits that a species of concern would be located within the project's boundaries.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

The project area falls within the area described floristically in the Jepson Manual as the California Floristic Province, more specifically the Klamath Ranges. This project is located at the foot of the Marble Mountain Wilderness in the Siskiyou subrange of the Klamath (Cascades) Range. This area can be described as a Cismontane Woodland. The project area is located south of Kidder Creek and north of Patterson Creek, both creeks drain easterly into the Scott River. A large fire of record was the 1955 Kidder Creek fire, which occurred only a few months before the disastrous December 1955 flood. Adjacent portions of the Patterson Creek drainage were also burned at that time. The massive fires of 1987 did not burn any significant acreage in the upper Scott River watershed. Part of the project area has also been previously thinned or logged with an old skid road still visible. The dominant tree in the area is the Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) which is mostly small in diameter with a thick layer of needles on the rocky dry ground, there is an occasional small Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and knobcone pine (*Pinus attenuata*) which would indicate a previous fire situation. Scattered black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) and an infrequent white oak (*Quercus garryana*) and a few shrubs, grasses and almost void of herbaceous plants describe the flora of the area. Ponderosa pine is typically dominant on warm, dry sites with a short growing season and very low summer precipitation. No water sources are located in the Area of Potential Effect (A.P.E.); there is evidence of runoff onto the road and a small dry drainage that only has moisture during a heavy rain (approximately 1 foot wide and 6 inches deep). The ground tends to be a hard dry, almost reddish orange color.

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quad: Greenview
T42N R10W S1 MDM

Kidder Creek Orchard Camp Inc. Emergency Access Road Extension



0.2 0.1 0 0.2 Miles

1:24,000

Northern California Resource Center

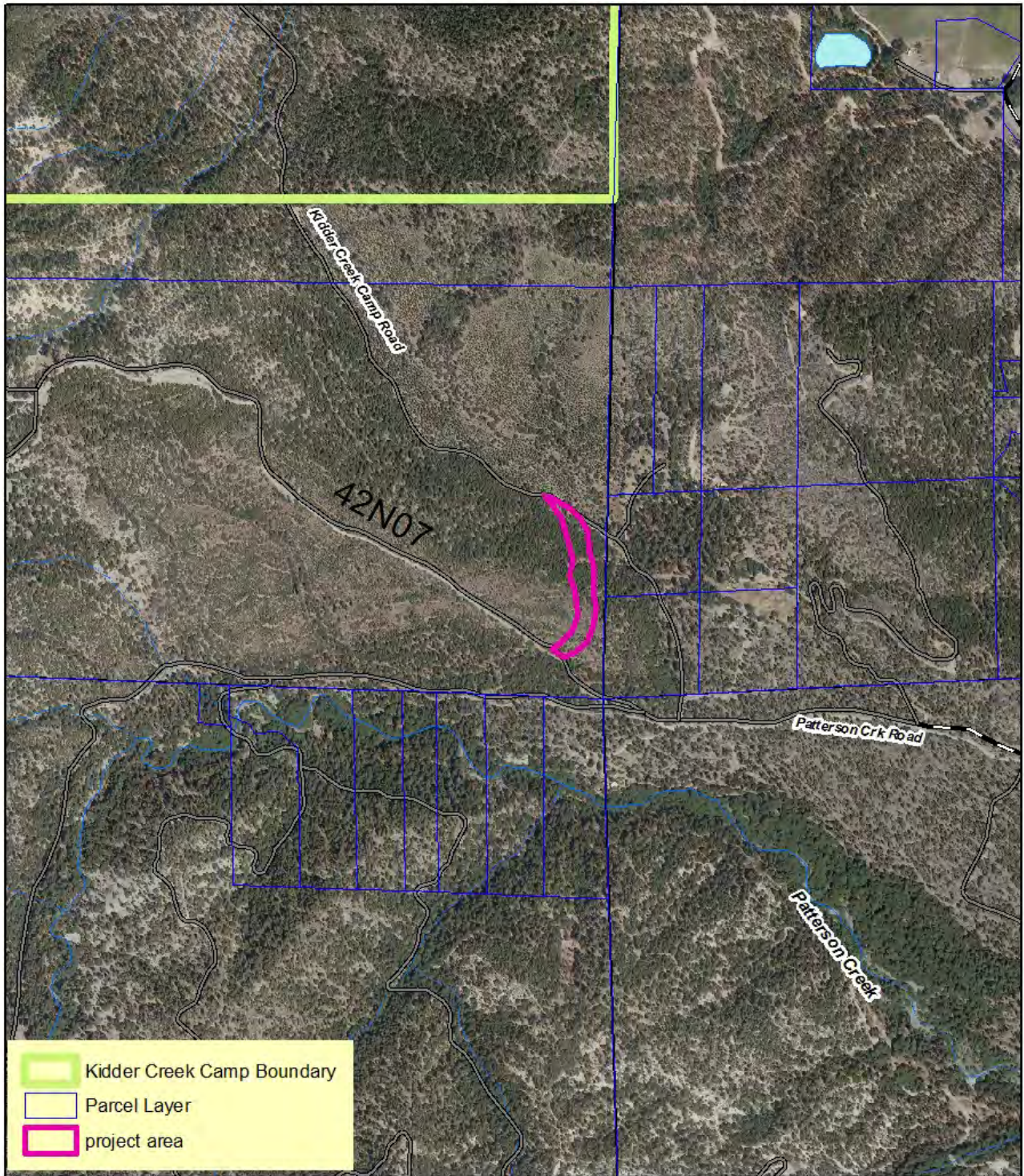
530.468.2888

Jan 2019

Figure 1

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quad: Greenview
T42N R10W S1 MDM

Kidder Creek Orchard Camp Inc. Emergency Access Road Extension



0.08 0.04 0 0.08 Miles

1:10,000

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530.468.2888
Jan 2019

Figure 2 Ortho map of project



Figure 3 Small diameter ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), with a thick layer of dropped needles

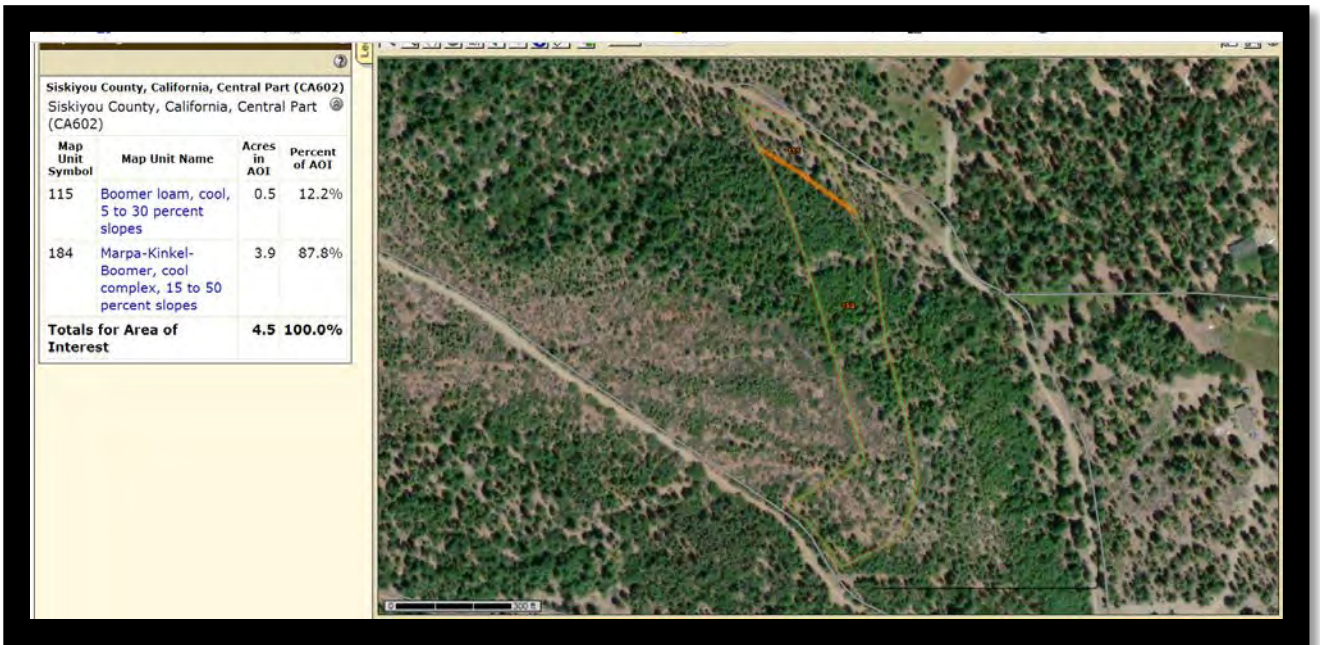


Figure 4 Screen Shot of Soil Survey map
<https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov>

Brief Description of the soil types associated with the project area

Description of Boomer

Setting

Landform: Mountains

Landform position (two-dimensional): Summit, shoulder

Landform position (three-dimensional): Upper third of mountain flank

Parent material: Residuum weathered from metamorphic rock

Description of Marpa

Setting

Landform: Mountains

Landform position (two-dimensional): Backslope *Landform position*

(three-dimensional): Mountain flank *Down-slope shape:* Concave

Across-slope shape: Concave

Parent material: Residuum weathered from metamorphic rock

RESULTS

Floristic surveys in 2019 resulted in not one detection of any plant species considered a special status plant, and no species identified by California Native Plant Society (CNPS) “watch list” (List 4). This is a botanical report documenting the floristic survey required by the State of California for the California Natural Resource Agency and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, in reference to an easement and construction of an ingress and egress road for the Kidder Creek Orchard Camps, Inc. The botanical survey was conducted on approximately six acres which encompassed the project site and surrounding areas bordering the project. Plant identification was completed with personal knowledge of local plants aided with the Jepson Manual (Hickman 1996), other botanical references (see references), a dissecting microscope, and the CalPhotos website (<https://calphotos.berkeley.edu>) and Jepson online sources.

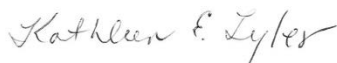
The floristic survey was conducted and the report provided before the construction of an easement for a private road to benefit Kidder Creek Orchard Camp with an ingress and egress emergency road across the SE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 1 M.D.M, of the Greenview Quadrangle, in Siskiyou County.

CONCLUSION:

Due to the extent of previous disturbances, logging and roads, dry site at the project area coupled with the limited area of habitat, it is very unlikely a rare, threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant is within the project area. No special status plant was found.

RECOMMENDATION: The project should be able to proceed, as there are no perceived threats to any special status plants.

Kathleen Tyler



March 31, 2019

Botanist Resource Management 530.468.2888

Plant List

2019

Kidder Creek Orchard Camp Inc. Ingress & Egress Road

Trees

Genus	Species	Common Name
<i>Abies</i>	<i>concolor</i>	white fir
<i>Calocedrus</i>	<i>decurrens</i>	incense cedar
<i>Juniperus</i>	<i>occidentalis</i>	western juniper
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>attenuata</i>	knobcone pine
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>ponderosa</i>	ponderosa pine
<i>Pseudotsuga</i>	<i>menziesii</i>	Douglas fir
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>garryana</i>	Oregon white oak
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>kelloggii</i>	black oak
<i>Salix</i>	<i>scouleriana</i>	Scouler's Willow

Shrubs

Genus	Species	Common Name
<i>Arctostaphylos</i>	<i>viscida</i>	white leaf manzanita
<i>Amelanchier</i>	<i>alnifolia</i>	serviceberry
<i>Berberis</i>	<i>aquifolium</i>	Oregon grape
<i>Ceanothus</i>	<i>cuneatus</i>	buck brush
<i>Ceanothus</i>	<i>integerrimus</i>	deerbrush
<i>Holodiscus</i>	<i>discolor</i>	oceanspray
<i>Ribes</i>	<i>Spp.</i>	gooseberry

Herbaceous Plants

Genus	Species	Common Name
<i>Draba</i>	<i>verna</i>	spring draba
<i>Pterospora</i>	<i>andromedeae</i>	pine drops

Grasses/Grass like plants

Genus	Species	Common Name
<i>Poa</i>	<i>bulbosa</i>	bulbous blue grass
<i>Poa</i>	<i>ssp.</i>	blue grass

Lichens and miscellaneous

Genus	Species	Common Name
Lichens		
Crustose lichens	unidentified species	growing on rocks
<i>Bryoria</i>	<i>ssp.</i>	
<i>Evernia</i>	<i>ssp.</i>	growing on oak branches
<i>Letharia</i>	<i>vulpina</i>	wolf lichen
<i>Tucken</i>	<i>ssp.</i>	
<i>Usnea</i>	<i>ssp.</i>	
Moss		
<i>Grimmia</i>	<i>ssp.</i>	hot rock moss
Fungi		
<u><i>Calocera</i></u>	<i>cornea</i>	Tuning fork mushroom

Table A-1
Potential Regionally Occurring Sensitive Botanical Species
Kidder Creek Orchard Camp Project for the Emergency Access Road Extension

Species Latin Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State/CNPS) ¹	Life Form/General Habitat Requirements ²	Blooming Period	Potential for Occurrence
<i>Meesia longiseta</i>	Long seta hump moss	--/--/2B.3	Moss. Carbonate, on soil, Bogs and fens, Meadows and seeps, Upper montane coniferous forest, elev. 1750 - 3045 meters		none
<i>Ptilidium californicum</i>	Pacific fuzzwart	--/--/4.3	Usually epiphytic on trees, fallen and decaying logs, and stumps; rarely on humus over boulders. Lower montane coniferous forest Upper montane coniferous forest elev. 1140 - 1800 meters	May-Jul	none
<i>Peltigera gowardii</i>	western waterfan lichen	--/--/4.2.2	foliose lichen (aquatic) On rocks in cold water creeks with little or no sediment or disturbance, Riparian forest elev. 1065 - 2620 meters		none
<i>Arnica viscosa</i>	Mt. Shasta Arnica	--/--/4.3	perennial rhizomatous herb, rocky, Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest elev. 1705 - 2745 meters	Aug-Sept	none
<i>Balsamorhiza lanata</i>	woolly balsamroot	--/--/1B.2	Perennial herb. Cismontane woodland, open woodland, grassy slopes; Elevation: 800-1050 meters	Apr-Jun	Low
<i>Chaenactis suffrutescens</i>	Shasta chaenactis	--/--/1B.3	Perennial herb. Lower montane coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest on sandy or serpentine soils. Elev. 750-2800 meters.	May-Sep	none
<i>Erigeron cervinus</i>	Siskiyou daisy	--/--/4.3	perennial rhizomatous herb, Lower montane coniferous forest in meadows and seeps elev. 730-1740 meters.	Jun-Aug	None

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<i>Erigeron petrophilus</i> var. <i>viscidulus</i>	Klamath Rock daisy	--/--/4.3	Perennial rhizomatous herb Habitat: sometimes serpentinite, Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest in meadows and seeps, upper montane coniferous forest elev. 1500 - 2700 meters	Jul-Sep	None
<i>Arabis oregana</i>	Oregon rockcress	--/--/4.3	perennial herb, serpentinite, Chaparral Lower montane coniferous forest 600 - 1830 meters	May	None
<i>Draba howellii</i>	Howell's draba	--/--/4.3	perennial herb, Subalpine coniferous forest (rocky) elev 1370 - 3000 meters	Jun-Jul	None
<i>Draba pterosperma</i>	Winged seed draba	--/--/4.3	perennial herb, Upper montane coniferous forest (rocky or gravelly, often carbonate) elev 1800 - 2500 meters	Jun-Aug	Low
<i>Campanula wilkinsiana</i>	Wilkin's harbell	--/--/1B.2	perennial rhizomatous herb, Meadows and seeps Subalpine coniferous forest Upper montane coniferous forest elev 1270 - 2600 meters	Jul-Sept	None
<i>Sabulina howellii</i>	Howell's sandwort	--/--/1B.3	annual herb, serpentinite, xeric, Chaparral Lower montane coniferous forest elev 550 - 1000 meters	Apr-July	None
<i>Drosera anglica</i>	English sundew	--/--/2B.3	perennial herb (carnivorous), Bogs and fens Meadows and seeps (mesic) elev 1300 - 2255 meters	Jun-Sept	None
<i>Trifolium siskiyouense</i>	Siskiyou Clover	--/--/1B.1	perennial herb sometimes streambanks meadows and seeps (mesic) elev 880 - 1500 meters	Jun-Jul	None
<i>Gentiana plurisetosa</i>	Klamath gentian	--/--/1B.3	perennial herb mesic, lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps upper montane coniferous forest elev 1200 - 1900 meters	July-Sept	None

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Species Latin Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/CNPS) ¹	Life Form/General Habitat Requirements ²	Blooming Period	Potential for Occurrence
<i>Phacelia greenei</i>	Scott Valley phacelia	--/--/1B.2	Annual herb. Closed-cone coniferous forest, Lower montane coniferous forest, Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest. Bare serpentine ridges and openings in yellow pine and red fir forest communities. elev 850-2380 meters.	Apr-Jun	None
<i>Lycopus uniflorus</i>	northern bugleweed	--/--/4.3	perennial herb Bogs and fens marshes and swamps elev 5 - 2000 meters	July-Sept	None
<i>Calochortus persistens</i>	Siskiyou mariposa lily	--/--/1B.2	perennial bulbiferous herb, Rocky, acidic Lower montane coniferous forest, North Coast coniferous forest elev 1000 - 1860 meters	Jun-Jul	None
<i>Erythronium citrinum</i> var. <i>citrinum</i>	Lemon colored fawn lily	--/--/4.3	perennial bulbiferous herb, usually serpentine Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest elev 150 - 1300 meters	Mar-May	Low
<i>Erythronium hendersonii</i>	Henderson's fawn lily	--/--/2B.3	perennial bulbiferous herb Lower montane coniferous forest elev 300 - 1600 meters	Apr-July	Low
<i>Sidalcea oregana</i> ssp. <i>eximia</i>	Coast checkerbloom	--/--/1B.2	perennial herb Lower montane coniferous forest Meadows and seeps North Coast coniferous forest elev 5 - 1340 meters	Jul-Aug	None
<i>Claytonia palustris</i>	Marsh claytonia	--/--/4.3	perennial herb, Meadows and seeps (mesic), Marshes and swamps, Upper montane coniferous forest elev 1000 - 2500 meters	May-Oct	None
<i>Lewisia cotyledon</i> var. <i>heckneri</i>	Heckner's Lewisia	--/--/1B.2	perennial herb Lower montane coniferous forest (rocky) elev 225 - 2100 meters	May-July	Low
<i>Lewisia cotyledon</i> var. <i>howellii</i>	Howell's Lewisia	--/--/3.2	perennial herb, rocky Broadleafed upland forest Chaparral Cismontane woodland Lower montane coniferous forest elev 150 - 2010 meters	Apr-July	Low

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Species Latin Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State/CNPS) ¹	Life Form/General Habitat Requirements ²	Blooming Period	Potential for Occurrence
<i>Epilobium septentrionale</i>	Humboldt County fuchsia	--/--/4.3	perennial herb, Habitat: sandy or rocky, Broad-leafed upland forest, North Coast coniferous forest elev 45 - 1800 meters	July-Sept	None
<i>Epilobium siskiyouense</i>	Siskiyou fireweed	--/--/1B.3	perennial herb Habitat: rocky, serpentinite, Alpine boulder and rock field, Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest elev 1700 - 2500 meters	July-Sept	None
<i>Botrychium pinnatum</i>	northwestern moonwort	--/--/2B.3	Perennial rhizomatous herb, Habitat: mesic. Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps Upper montane coniferous forest elev 1770-2040 meters	July-Oct	none
<i>Cypripedium fasciculatum</i>	clustered lady's-slipper	--/--/4.2	perennial rhizomatous herb Habitat: usually serpentinite seeps and streambanks Lower montane coniferous forest North Coast coniferous forest elev 100 - 2435 meters	Mar-Aug	low
<i>Cypripedium montanum</i>	Mountain lady's slipper	--/--/4.2	Perennial rhizomatous herb Habitat: Broadleafed upland forest, Cismontane woodland, Lower montane coniferous forest, North Coast coniferous forest. Elev 185 - 2225 meters	Mar-Aug	low
<i>Castilleja schizotricha</i>	split-hair paintbrush	--/--/4.3	perennial herb (hemiparasitic), Habitat: Upper montane coniferous forest (decomposed granitic or marble) elev 1500 - 2300 meters	Jul-Aug	none
<i>Abies amabilis</i>	Pacific silver fir	--/--/2B3	perennial evergreen tree Habitat: Upper montane coniferous forest, elev 1700 - 2195 meters		low
<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> var. <i>lasiocarpa</i>	subalpine fir	--/--/2B.3	perennial evergreen tree Habitat: Meadows and seeps, Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest elev 945 - 2225 meters		none

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Species Latin Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/CNPS) ¹	Life Form/General Habitat Requirements ²	Blooming Period	Potential for Occurrence
<i>Penstemon heterodoxus</i> <i>var. shastensis</i>	Shasta beardtongue	--/--/4.3	Perennial herb Habitat: volcanic, clay loam, Broadleafed upland forest Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps Upper montane coniferous forest elev 1100 - 2400 meters	May- Sept	low
<i>Collomia tracyi</i>	Tracy's collomia	--/--/4.3	annual herb, Habitat: rocky, sometimes serpentinite. Broadleafed upland forest, Lower montane coniferous forest elev 300 - 2100 meters	Jun-Jul	low
<i>Polemonium carneum</i>	Oregon polemonium	--/--/2B.2	perennial herb Habitat: Coastal prairie, Coastal scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest, elev 0 - 1830 meters	Apr-Sept	low
<i>Eriogonum diclinum</i>	Jaynes Canyon buckwheat	--/--/2B.3	perennial herb Habitat: Upper montane coniferous forest (often serpentinite) elev 1700 - 2400 meters	Jun-Sept	none
<i>Eriogonum hirtellum</i>	Klalmath Mt. buckwheat	--/--/1B.3	perennial rhizomatous herb, Habitat: serpentinite Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest Upper montane coniferous forest elev 610 - 1900 meters	Jul-Sept	none
<i>Eriogonum strictum</i> <i>var. greenei</i>	Greene's buckwheat	--/--/4.3	perennial herb Habitat: Lower montane coniferous forest (serpentinite, rocky) elev 800 - 2100 meters	Jul-Sept	none
<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i> <i>var. glaber</i>	Warner Mountains buckwheat	--/--/1B.3	perennial herb, Habitat: sandy or gravelly. • Great Basin scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest elev 1525 - 2405 meters	Jun-Sep	none
<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i> <i>var. glaber</i>	Scott Valley Buckwheat	--/--/1B.1	perennial herb, Habitat: sandy to gravelly flats. Cismontane woodland, Lower montane coniferous forest elev 800 - 900 meters	Jul-Sept	none

Table A-1
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Species Latin Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/CNPS) ¹	Life Form/General Habitat Requirements ²	Blooming Period	Potential for Occurrence
<i>Eriogonum ursinum var. erubescence</i>	blushing wild buckwheat	--/--/1B.3	perennial herb Habitat: Rocky, scree, talus. Chaparral (montane) Lower montane coniferous forest	Jun-Sept	low
<i>Androsace elongate ssp. acuta</i>	California androsace	--/--/4.2	annual herb Habitat: Chaparral., Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, Meadows and seeps Pinyon and juniper woodland Valley and foothill grassland elev 150 - 1305 meters	Mar-Jun	low
<i>Potentilla cristae</i>	crested potentilla	--/--/1B.3	perennial herb Habitat: seasonally mesic, often serpentinite seeps, gravelly or rocky, Alpine boulder and rock field, Subalpine coniferous forest elev 1800 - 2800 meters	(Jul)Aug-Sep	none
<i>Galium serpticum ssp. scotticum</i>	Scott Mountain bedstraw	--/--/1B.2	perennial herb Habitat: Lower montane coniferous forest (serpentinite) elev 1000 - 2075 meters	May-Aug	low
<i>Darlingtonia californica</i>	California pitcherplant	--/--/4.2	perennial rhizomatous herb (carnivorous) Blooming Period: Habitat: mesic, generally serpentinite seeps. Bogs and fens Meadows and seeps elev 0 - 2585 meters	Apr-Aug	none
<i>Mitellastra caulesecns</i>	leafy-stemmed mitrewort	--/--/4.2	perennial rhizomatous herb Habitat: mesic, sometimes roadsides, Broadleafed upland forest, Lower montane coniferous forest Meadows and seeps, North Coast coniferous forest Elev 5 - 1700 meters	(Mar)Apr-Oct	none

Table A-1
Potential Regionally Occurring Sensitive Botanical Species
Kidder Creek Orchard Camp Project for the Emergency Access Road Extension

Species Latin Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State/CNPS) ¹	Life Form/General Habitat Requirements ²	Blooming Period	Potential for Occurrence
<i>Smilax jamesii</i>	English Peak greenbrier	--/--/4.2	perennial rhizomatous herb Habitat: Stream banks and lake margins; sometimes mesic depressions. Broad-leafed upland forest Lower montane coniferous forest Marshes and swamps North Coast coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest	May-Jul(Aug- Oct)	none

1. **CNPS List 1B** includes plants that are rare, threatened, or endangered in CA and elsewhere.
S List 2 includes plants that are rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere.
S List 3 includes plants for which more information is needed—a review list.
S List 4 includes plants of limited distribution and should be documented as they are watch list species
Federal Candidate. This designation includes taxa that require additional information to propose for listing pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA), as amended.
Federally listed Endangered, pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA), as amended. This designation includes taxa that are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range.
Federally listed Threatened, pursuant to the FESA, as amended. This designation refers to species that are not presently threatened with extinction but are likely to become endangered throughout all or a significant portion of their range in the foreseeable future if special protection and management efforts are not undertaken.
State listed Endangered, pursuant to California Endangered Species Act (CESA). SE designation includes taxa that are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range.
ST: State listed Threatened, pursuant to CESA. ST designation includes taxa that are likely to become endangered throughout a significant portion of their range.
N/A: Not Applicable
“-”: no status/listing.

2. Plant habitat descriptions are from CDFW (2017a), CDFW (2017b), CNPS (2017), and Baldwin et. al (2012).

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Kidder Creek Orchard Camp

Emergency Access Road Extension Project

Wildlife Resources Biological Assessment



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March 22, 2019



Project Description:

The proposed Emergency Access Road Extension Project would provide an improved connection to the existing emergency access road for the Kidder Creek Orchard Camp (KCOC). This extension would be approximately 1,400 to 1,500 feet long of newly developed road located in an area consisting of secondary succession pine dominant forest. The emergency access road extension was not included in the initial proposal for development, and therefore; was not analyzed for its potential to impact environmental resources in the area. This Wildlife Resources Biological Assessment will address the additional potential impacts to protected species in and surrounding the project area to comply with both The Federal and California State Endangered Species Acts (ESA).

Project Location:

The Mt. Hermon/Kidder Creek Orchard Camp project area is located approximately 2.5 miles west of the intersection of Patterson Creek Road and State Highway 3, south of the community of Greenview, Siskiyou County, California. The proposed project area is located within Township 42N, Range 10W, Section 1 Mt. Diablo Meridian, Siskiyou County, California. The project lies within the Greenview 24K quadrangle.

Natural Environment:

The project area is dominated by secondary succession pine dominant forest structure with bordering oak savannas. The project area falls within the area described in the *Jepson Manual* as the California Floristic Province, more specifically the Klamath Ranges. The majority of the proposed project area lies within an area of preexisting timber harvests. The proposed road improvement area is primarily composed of granitic parent material with cobble and sand creating poor soil structure. This results in sparse vegetation growth typical to south east facing minor ridges in this part of Siskiyou County.

Wildlife Surveys:

A biological evaluation site visit was conducted by Resource Management Biologist Jamie Allen on January 16th, 2019. The intent of the site visit was to determine presence, or non-presence, of individual species identified as California or Federal sensitive, threatened, or endangered wildlife species and to habitat type the project and surrounding area for potential breeding or foraging uses. The intensive stand and ground search did not yield any detections of individual animals, populations, or habitat that may be affected by the project.

Wildlife Species List(s):

This Wildlife Resources Report identifies the potential effects of the proposed action(s) under the project, on threatened or endangered species listed under the Federal and California Endangered

Species Acts (ESA) or on their designated critical habitat in accordance with the ESA and regulatory guidance. We considered organisms that only appear on the official species list generated through CNDDDB nine quad search for state listed species and The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service IPaC trust resource report both created on 2/18/2019 (USFWS IPaC Consultation Code: 08EYRE00-2019-SLI-0069, Event Code: 08EYRE00-2019-E-00166).

Species that will not be affected by the proposed activities will be considered briefly and eliminated, with justification, from further, more detailed consideration. We will consider in detail those species that may be present in the action area and may be affected by the proposed activities. This document is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the ESA and its implementing regulations.

This analysis is based on the best scientific and commercial data available at the time this document was written. This includes information such as data collected from California Natural Resources Diversity Database, Natural Resource Information System Database, remote sensing vegetation analysis and guidance by The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and The Migratory Bird Treaty Act and includes the most recent and appropriate scientific research or species information.

Species Dropped from Detailed Discussion:

Invertebrates:

Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservation*) **Federally Listed- Endangered:**

Vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinechta lynchi*) **Federally Listed- Threatened:**

Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*) **Federally Listed- Endangered:**

The analysis area is outside the range of conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp and does not contain suitable habitat for vernal pool fairy shrimp and will therefore have “**no effect determination to all three species.**”

Birds:

Greater sandhill crane (*Antigone canadensis tabida*) **State Listed- Threatened:**

Sandhill Cranes can be found near large freshwater marshes, prairie ponds, marshy tundra during summer and on grain fields or prairies during migration and in winter. Its range in the Pacific Flyway is from Siberia and Alaska to California's Central Valley. California is unique in that it supports the Central Valley population of Greater Sandhill Cranes that winters in suitable agricultural fields and wetlands of the Central Valley and breeds in northeastern California, as well as parts of Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia, mostly on private lands including the greater Scott and Shasta Valleys. This project and adjacent area (.5 miles) do not

contain suitable habitat for breeding or foraging for the Greater sandhill crane; therefore, there will be **“no effect determination to the Greater sandhill crane.”**

Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) State Listed- Species of Special Concern:

The northern goshawk is an accipiter associated with mature primary to late succession forest structures in mixed conifer or true fir habitat types. Foraging habitat is variable and includes mixed coniferous forests, natural and man-made openings, and forest edges. Moderate and high-quality habitats contain abundant large snags and large logs for prey habitat and plucking posts. Goshawks generally breed in older-age coniferous, mixed, and deciduous forest habitats. This habitat provides large trees for nesting, a closed canopy for protection and thermal cover, and open spaces allowing maneuverability below the canopy. Forest stands containing nests are often small, about 25 to 250 acres; territories may contain one to five alternative nest areas. In Northern California, maximum distance between alternative nest stands was about one mile per CNDDDB and NRIS data sources.

On the Klamath National Forest, which surrounds the project area, many of the known goshawk sites are associated with northern spotted owl sites and goshawks were found incidentally while surveying for owls. Therefore, suitable goshawk habitat, for this analysis, is considered equivalent to nesting, roosting and foraging habitat defined for spotted owls. The overall habitat in and surrounding the project area is limited and has been reduced by timber harvest, natural wildfire, road building, and human development. No known sites are within the project's boundary or adjacent (within .5 miles). There is no available breeding suitable habitat within the project area; therefore, there will be no modification to suitable habitat within the project. This project will have **“no effect determination to the Northern goshawk.”**

Great Grey Owl (*Strix Nebulosa*) State Listed-Endangered:

The Great Gray Owl inhabits many types of forests in North America. It favors dense coniferous forests with close proximity to meadows or open fields. This combination allows conifer nesting and roosting along with the abundance of small rodents that occur in forest openings. In the Sierra Nevadas of California the Great Gray is a summer resident from 4000 -7000 ft. in elevation and winter resident from 3000 – 5000 ft. Nesting and summer records seem to concentrate in the 6000 – 7000 ft. meadows although there are nesting records as low as 2800 ft. and as high as 11,000 ft. They breed in mixed-conifer forests from 3000 – 6000 ft. and red fir from 6000 – 9000 ft. in elevation. The owls are prone to moving into the higher lodgepole pines in the late summer. In the winter the records seem to concentrate around the 4000 ft. level. There are no known siting's within the project or the surrounding adjacent (.5 mile) area. The elevation of the project is approximately 3200ft. elevation. All known nesting sites in Northern California and Southern Oregon are typically above 4000ft. elevation and associated with red fir dominated forests. With

the lack of suitable habitat in and adjacent to the project as well as the project's low elevation level there will be **"no effect determination to the Great grey owl."**

Western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) Federally Listed- Threatened, State Listed- Endangered:

The cuckoo is strongly associated with dense riparian vegetation typically composed of woodlands with low, scrubby, dense vegetation and surface water. In some areas, the cuckoo can be found in willow thickets or dogwood patches. On the Klamath National Forest, which surrounds the general area of this project, cuckoo habitat is limited in distribution to small areas along the Klamath River. The Klamath National Forest has no record of a cuckoo detection and the closest known detection is located on the Six Rivers National Forest near the mouth of the Eel River. The project will not modify habitat nor disturb potentially nesting cuckoo thus the project will have **"no effect determination to the cuckoo."** In addition, the project doesn't contain any cuckoo critical habitat; thus, this project will have **"no effect determination to cuckoo critical habitat."**

Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix Occidentalis Caruna*) Federally Listed- Threatened, State Listed- Threatened:

The Northern Spotted Owl is strongly associated with dense over story canopy that develops in late seral forest structures composed primarily of conifer dominant or in mixed coniferous forests in our inland Northern California bioregion. This along with an abundant food source primarily consisting of the dusky footed woodrat and abiotic features such as downed woody debris and proximity to water sources constitute suitable habitat. A minimum of 40% canopy closure is necessary to qualify for Foraging classification of habitat. Any canopy closure less than 40% does not qualify for suitable habitat. This project does not have the minimum canopy closure or primary constituents to qualify for Northern Spotted Owl habitat. There is no known historic presence of Northern Spotted Owl in or within .25 miles of the project boundary. The project will not modify habitat nor disturb potentially nesting Northern Spotted Owl and thus the project will have **"no effect determination to the Northern Spotted Owl."** In addition, the project doesn't contain any Northern Spotted Owl critical habitat thus this project will have **"no effect determination to Northern Spotted Owl critical habitat."**

Bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*) State Listed- Threatened:

Bank swallows live in low areas along rivers, streams, ocean coasts, or reservoirs. Their territories usually include vertical cliffs or banks where they nest in colonies of 10 to 2,000 nests. Though in the past Bank swallows were most commonly found around natural bluffs or eroding streamside

banks, more and more often these swallows populate human-made sites, such as sand and gravel quarries or road cuts. Bank swallows build nests, often in large colonies, in vertical banks and bluffs. These colonies are usually made in fairly loose soils that are easy for the birds to burrow into, and are located near large bodies of water so that there is ample room for vertical flying. Each individual Bank swallow chooses first a colony, according to its location, and then a nest site within the colony area. The male begins to dig a burrow into the bank before he has a mate; the female then hovers in front of burrows to choose a mate and his nest site. The nests are usually located mostly in the upper third of the bank to avoid ground predators. During the initial site visit the project area was determined to have no suitable habitat for nesting conditions for the Bank swallow. This project does not contain any nesting habitat for the Bank swallow and thus this project will have **“no effect determination to the Bank swallow.”**

Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) State Listed- Endangered:

The Bald eagle's natural range covers most of North America, including most of Canada, all of the continental United States, and northern Mexico. Northern birds are migratory, while southern birds are resident, remaining on their breeding territory all year. The bald eagle occurs during its breeding season in virtually any kind of American wetland habitat such as seacoasts, rivers, large lakes or marshes or other large bodies of open water with an abundance of fish. The bald eagle typically requires mature stands of coniferous or hardwood trees for perching, roosting, and nesting. Select tree species are less important to the eagle pair than the individual tree's height, composition and location. Selected trees must have good visibility, maintain a height of ~50 feet or greater, have an open structure, and proximity to prey. Bald eagles are protected in varying degrees under California Fish and Wildlife, the Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Bald eagle was delisted from Federal Endangered Species Act in 2007; however, it still remains listed as Endangered under state law. Although there are no known Bald eagle nests or observations identified in the nine quad California Natural Diversity Database, the project may provide suitable foraging and potential nesting habitat for the species. The Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 states that the direct take of active nests, eggs, or birds is prohibited by law and measures must be taken to minimize disturbance. Should nesting Bald eagles be observed in or within .25 miles of the project area, appropriate spatial and temporal buffers will be set by the appropriate overseeing agency and active monitoring of the nest site will continue until a reproductive determination has been made. There are currently no active Bald eagle nests in or within .25 miles of the proposed project area. If any new nest construction is identified within .25 miles before or during project implementation, proper disturbance mitigations will be set in place at that time as per recommendation by the overseeing agency; thus this project will have **“no effect determination to the Bald eagle.”**

Mammals:

Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) *Federally Listed- Endangered, State Listed Endangered:*

Most recently, a single male wolf was documented in the Scott Valley by a private game camera and confirmed by Fish and Wildlife Biologists. This wolf was determined to be dispersing through the area, however stayed in and around Siskiyou County for approximately 2 months. Before that the most recent detection of a new pair of wolves were confirmed in the Lassen National Forest area (>100 miles from the project area). Although the wolf is unlikely to occupy the project area, the species could occur in or near the project area and not yet be detected. If a wolf were present in the project area, it would be most likely a dispersing individual. Wolves are generalist predators and if present in the project area, a wolf could find enough food to survive. Wolves generally avoid areas of concentrated human use such as the project area and it's adjacency to State Highway 3. If a wolf or den is detected in the project area during the projects action timeline consultation with USFWS will be conducted to reach agreement and implement mitigation measures to avoid take on the individual(s) and habitat at that time. Therefore, we conclude the project will have **“no effect determination to the gray wolf.”** In addition, the project doesn't contain any Gray wolf critical habitat; thus, this project will have **“no effect determination to Gray wolf critical habitat.”**

Pacific Fisher (*Pekania pennanti*) *State Listed- Threatened:*

Historically, the species ranged the northern forests of Canada and the United States as well as forests in the Appalachian, Rocky and Pacific Coast Mountains. Today, fishers are found only in parts of their historic range. The West Coast population of fisher (*Pekania pennanti*), the subject of this action, is found only in Southern Oregon, Northern California and the Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. Fishers prefer large areas of dense mature coniferous or mixed forest and are solitary animals. They are mainly nocturnal, but may be active during the day. They travel many miles along ridges in search of prey, seeking shelter in hollow trees, logs, rock crevices, and dens of other animals. CNDDDB has documented detections of Pacific Fisher in adjacent quads to the project area in areas that contain suitable habitat for the species. The project area does not contain vegetation structure and or abiotic features that would constitute fisher denning or resting areas. It is highly unlikely that a fisher would be using the habitat within the project area other than dispersing through to suitable habitat. If a Pacific fisher is detected in the project area before or during the project's implementation consultation with California Fish and Wildlife will be made to determine what mitigations will be implimented to complete the intended action. With the lack of suitable habitat for the species inside the project area and no known denning locations the project will have **“no effect determination to the Pacific fisher.”**

Amphibians:

Oregon spotted frog (*Rana pretiosa*) *Federally Listed- Threatened:*

The areas proposed for treatment are well outside of the sub-basins where this species is either historically or currently extant, as identified in the Final Rule for Listing (USDI 2014), and there is therefore a discountable chance for it to occur within the project area. Therefore, this project will have “**no effect determination to the Oregon spotted frog.**” In addition, the project doesn’t contain any Oregon spotted frog critical habitat; thus, this project will have “**no effect determination to Oregon spotted frog critical habitat.**”

Cascades frog (*Rana cascadae*) *State Listed- Candidate Endangered:*

The Cascade frog was first discovered in the Cascade Mountains in the California regions. It can be found throughout the Cascade Mountains from Washington through Oregon, and California. They concentrate heavily around the high mountain lakes and streams. Its natural habitats are temperate forests, temperate grassland, rivers, swamps, freshwater lakes, intermittent freshwater lakes, freshwater marshes generally between 665 and 2,450 m (2,182 and 8,038 feet) in elevation. They can be found in relatively small, permanent and temporary ponds also found along streams in summer. The adults generally stay close to water, particularly along sunny shores, under dry summer conditions, but can be found traversing uplands during high humidity. This project area does not have contain cold water aquifer ponds or streams that may be suitable for the Cascades frog to inhabit and lay eggs. With the lack of suitable habitat for the species inside the project area, and no know individual detections, this project will have “**no effect determination to the Cascades frog.**”

Foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*) *State Listed- Candidate Threatened:*

Foothill yellow-legged frogs occur in the Coast Ranges from the Santiam River in Marion County, Oregon south to the San Gabriel River in Los Angeles County and along the west slopes of the Sierra/Cascade mountain ranges in most of central and northern California. Other isolated populations have been reported in the Baja California Norte, in southern California, and at Sutter Buttes in Butte County, California. The species is found at elevations ranging from sea level to 6,700 feet (2,000 m) in Baja California Norte. In California, foothill yellow-legged frog have been recorded in the Sierra as high as 6,000 feet (1,800 m) near McKesick Peak, Plumas National Forest and 6,365 feet (1,940 m) at Snow Mountain at the boundary of Lake and Colusa Counties. They are found in flowing streams and rivers with either rocky substrate or sunny banks. CNDDDB reports there are known sites of individual populations in adjacent quads to the project area at higher elevations in the headwaters of watersheds adjacent to Patterson Creek; however this project does not contain suitable habitat for the Foothill yellow-legged frog. If a Foothill yellow-legged frog is detected in the project area during the projects timeline mitigation measures will

be taken to avoid take on the individuals. With the lack of suitable habitat for the species inside the project area, and no known individual detections, this project will have **“no effect determination to the Cascades frog.”**

Scott Bar Salamander (*Plethodon Asupak*) State Listed- Threatened:

The Scott Bar Salamander occurs only in the Scott River drainage of Siskiyou County, California, at elevations from 1200-4200 feet above sea level. It has been found at Walker Gulch, Muck-a-Muck Creek, and Mill Creek, south of the Klamath River, in the Scott River drainage. The distribution follows lower-elevation federal matrix lands along the Klamath River's south bank eastward from Seiad Valley, and south along both shores of the Scott River. The holotype was collected at Muck-a-Muck Creek, at the confluence of the Scott and Klamath Rivers, Siskiyou County, California. This species is found in old-growth forests near streams. This species is a terrestrial forest-dweller and appears to reach highest density in closed-canopy forests, on north-facing slopes with rocky talus substrates, like the Siskiyou mountain salamander. There is no suitable habitat within the project area and this project area is outside of the known distribution of the Scott Bar Salamander; therefore, this project will have **“no effect determination to the Scott Bar Salamander.”**

Migratory Bird Treaty Act Compliance for Nesting Birds:

All vegetation (i.e., trees, shrubs) that will need to be removed for project implementation should be cut down between September 1st and March 1st to ensure that active nests are not removed as a result of the project. To avoid potential erosion impacts, vegetation removal should be limited to cutting of shrubs and trees at ground level to maintain the root system. Once the rainy season has passed, the root systems can be removed. Where ever possible the removal of trees should be minimized or avoided to protect the nesting habitat of song birds and raptors. Dead trees and snags provide nesting and foraging habitat for multiple species. Whenever possible and when not in conflict with fire hazard policies and public safety, dead trees and snags should be left standing.

Conclusion:

The project will provide an improvement to current emergency evacuation routes for Kidder Creek Orchard Camp. The short-term disturbance of the already altered landscape will result in a long-term benefit for the safety of Kidder Creek Orchard Camp and the adjacent land owners. This project will result in **“no effect determination”** to all state and federal ESA listed species at this time. If this project is to be implemented beyond six months from this evaluation, dating 2/18/2019, a new species list will need to be evaluated to ensure both State and Federal ESA listings have not changed.