




State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2025 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE**  
**CASH RECEIPT**  
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/25) Previously DFG 753.5a

**Print**  **Save**

RECEIPT NUMBER:  
47-02/24/2025-008

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (if applicable)

**SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.**

LEAD AGENCY SHASTA VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 02/24/2025
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING SISKIYOU COUNTY	DOCUMENT NUMBER 2025-47-008	

PROJECT TITLE  
MCKINLEY SCOTT FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT-AMENDED TREATMENT AREAS

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME SHASTA VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SVRCD)	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 215 EXECUTIVE COURT, SUITE A	CITY YREKA	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 96097

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

Local Public Agency     School District     Other Special District     State Agency     Private Entity

**CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:**

- Environmental Impact Report (EIR) \$ 4,123.50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND) \$ 2,968.75 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW \$ 1,401.75 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Exempt from fee
    - Notice of Exemption (attach)
    - CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)
  - Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)
- 
- Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only) \$ 850.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - County documentary handling fee \$ 50.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 50.00
  - Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT METHOD:**

Cash     Credit     Check     Other

**TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 50.00**

SIGNATURE <b>X</b>	ENDORSED-D. BROOKS	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Dana Brooks Deputy Clerk
-----------------------	--------------------	---



# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

FEB 24 2025

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	McKinley Scott Fuel Reduction Project – Amended Treatment Areas	<b>BY:</b> LAURA BYNUM, CLERK ENDORSED-D. BROOKS
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	The project is located on the southern slopes of the Scott Bar Mountains, between the Scott and Klamath Rivers east to McKinley Mountain. Legal Description: T44N, R9W; T44N, R10W; T45N, R9W MDBM	<b>COUNTY:</b> Siskiyou Deputy Clerk
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD)	
<b>CONTACT</b>	Elisabeth Nielsen, Siskiyou County	
<b>ADDRESS</b>	Dan Blessing, Shasta Valley RCD	<b>PHONE:</b> 805-458-2684

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project goals are to 1) improve forest health and resilience to severe wildfire, drought, disease, and pests, 2.) reduce wildfire risk for nearby communities and infrastructure, 3) facilitate fire suppression operations, 4) increase long-term carbon capture and storage to ensure treated and adjacent forested areas remain net sinks of carbon and continue to provide an abundance of ecosystem and societal benefits.

This project will be conducted under a Forest Health Grant, Project # 8GG20636. The amended project consists of reducing roadside vegetation in the Scott Bar Mountains.

The amended project area is dominated by mixed conifer forests with areas of hardwoods and rock outcroppings. Elevations along Meamber Creek Road range from approximately 2,855' to 4,660' with gentle to moderate slopes (generally 5 – 45% with some areas up to 60%). Elevations along Indian Creek Road range from approximately 3,655' to 5,315' with gentle to moderate slopes (generally 5 – 45%).

The project will create shaded fuelbreaks up to 100 ft.-wide on either side of designated road, by thinning overstocked brush, small trees, and limbing ladder fuels. Activities will include, but are not limited to, thinning and hand piling cut material.

Residual trees will be pruned to a height of 8 – 10 feet, but not more than 50% of the crown may be removed. All mature trees will be retained. Trees greater than 10" dbh will not be removed unless they are a hazard to the road or personnel. The project area will be fully stocked upon completion of the project.

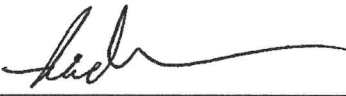
### EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 (e) Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

### REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

Public Resources Code, Division 13, Chapter 6, Article 19, Section 15304 allows minor alteration of vegetation including fuel management activities to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation, provided the activities do not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant/animal species, or cause significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. Minimal ground disturbance is expected from this amended project. A current CNDDDB and USFWS search was conducted. The project as proposed will not have a negative impact upon any listed species of plant or animal with potential to be found within the project area. A current Archaeological records check was obtained. However, this project amendment will not conduct ground-disturbing activities. This project as proposed is not expected to result in a significant impact on the environment. Documentation of the environmental review is kept on file at Shasta Valley RCD, 215 Executive Court, Suite A, Yreka, CA 96097 – Attention Dan Blessing.

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

  
 Rod Dowse, District Manager  
 Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District

02/24/25  
 Date

~~FILED~~  
Siskiyou County  
~~FEB 24 2025~~

**Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District  
Environmental Review Report for an Exempt Project**



**Note:** This report form is intended for use by Shasta Valley Resource Conservation (SVRCD) staff to document a finalized environmental impact analysis supporting the filing of a notice of exemption document for a proposed SVRCD project. Although the project appears to fit within the descriptions for allowable categorical exemptions, this report presents SVRCD 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 SVRCD.

~~FILED~~  
Siskiyou County  
~~FEB 24 2025~~  
LAURA BYNUM, CLERK  
Deputy Clerk

Author:	John Kessler
Title:	Forest Program Manager, FWS Forestry Services, LLC.
Address:	1216 Fruit Growers Rd., Hilt CA 96044
Phone:	(530) 643-9232
Email:	jkessler@fwsforestry.com

~~FILED~~  
Siskiyou County  
~~FEB 24 2025~~  
LAURA BYNUM, CLERK  
Deputy Clerk

Project Name:	McKinley Scott Fuel Reduction Project, Amendment 1- Hand Thinning
Program Type:	Forest Health
Acres:	418 acres
Legal Location:	Indian Creek Road: portions of T44N, R9W, sections 4, 5, 6; T44N, R10W section 1; and T45N, R9W section 33, MDB&M Meamber Creek Road: portions of T44N, R10W, sections 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, and 23, MDB&M
Name of USGS 7.5' Quad Map(s):	Russel Peak, CA and Scott Bar, CA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Vicinity Map Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Location Map Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Photos Attached	

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

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

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

This amendment to the Environmental Review Report Form for CCI Grant #8GG20636 (McKinley Scott Fuel Reduction) is developed to address potential environmental impacts from conducting roadside hand thinning and slash piling on private timberlands currently owned by Acer Klamath Forests, LLC (AKF) and managed by FWS Forestry Services California, LLC (FWS). The timberlands covered by this document were formerly owned by Fruit Growers Supply Co. The amended project area is located on the south side of Scott Bar Mountain in the Meamber Creek drainage and above the Indian, Rattlesnake, and Patterson Creek drainages and is approximately 7 miles north of Fort Jones, CA in central Siskiyou County.

This supplemental project will reduce hazardous fuels in roadside stands within 100' either side of Indian Creek and Meamber Creek Roads. The stand types to be treated include pine plantations, mixed-age natural mixed conifer stands, and non-commercial forest lands, mainly brush and hardwoods. Treatment activities will include hand falling of small trees (< 10" DBH), limbing up residual trees to a height of approximately 8' above surrounding ladder fuels but no more than 50% of the live crown, and hand piling cut trees and limbs.

The project area is characterized by mixed conifer stands, plantations composed of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir ranging from 3 to 32 years old and isolated brush patches and rock outcroppings. The native mixed conifer stands are composed of ponderosa pine, sugar pine, white fir, Douglas-fir, and incense cedar. Elevations along Meamber Creek Road range from approximately 2,855' to 4,660' with gentle to moderate slopes (generally 5 - 45% with some areas up to 60%). Elevations along Indian Creek Road range from approximately 3,655' to 5,315' with gentle to moderate slopes (generally 5 - 45%). The portion of the project covered by this document is entirely on Acer Klamath Forests property

Water sources that are touched or crossed by this treatment include three seeps, twenty-one Class III stream segments, and seven Class II stream segments (for Meamber Creek Road) and eight seeps, nine Class III stream segments, and four Class II stream segments (for Indian Creek Road). Wildlife is abundant and includes fisher, deer, black bear, squirrels, and numerous birds. There is habitat for numerous flowering plants, both rare and common. There are no species known to be present in the project areas that are listed as either Threatened or Endangered under the Endangered Species Act or Rare, Threatened or Endangered under the California Endangered Species Act.

The project intends to 1.) improve forest health and resilience to severe wildfire, drought, disease, and pests, 2.) reduce wildfire risk for nearby communities and infrastructure, 3) facilitate fire suppression operations, 4) increase long-term carbon capture and storage to ensure treated and adjacent forested areas remain net sinks of carbon and continue to provide an abundance of ecosystem and societal benefits.

McKinley Scott Fuel Reduction Project Amendment 1 treatments include approximately 418 acres of hand thinning within 100' on either side of the designated road segments, along with hand piling of slash in the treated areas. The treatment prescriptions will reduce hazardous fuel loads and horizontal and vertical fuel connectivity within the project footprint and facilitate future maintenance of these treatments.

Understory surface will be treated with the objective to limit surface fire with flame lengths of four feet or less in order to facilitate direct suppression operations and reduce the risk of crown fire initiation. This will be done by reducing surface fuels to less than five tons per acre in the treatment areas.

The objective of ladder fuel treatments is to increase canopy base heights, creating a separation between surface fuels and canopy fuels of no less than six-feet and up ten-feet, dependent on-site specific conditions. Treatments will focus on the removal of young and/or suppressed advanced regeneration tree species less than 10-inch diameter at breast height, removing medium and large shrubs where they contribute to vertical and horizontal fuel continuity and removing lower branches from residual trees.

## Environmental Impact Analysis

### Aesthetics

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

Lands included in the Meamber Creek Road portion of the project are owned by AKF and are behind locked gates, which limit public access to the project area. Lands included in the Indian Creek Road portion of the project are owned by AKF but are not behind locked gates, so are accessible to a relatively small number of public who hunt and/or collect firewood.

Views of the project area for significant numbers of the public are limited by distance and topography, and there should be no discernable change in appearance of the project area in general. While those that visit the areas along the Indian Creek segments will be able to travel through the treatment area, thinning roadside stands is generally considered a positive activity, as it improves visibility and vistas. This project will not have a significant negative effect on aesthetics.

### 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:

The entire project area is located on "Timberland Production Zone" (TPZ) zoned land, in accordance with the Z'berg- Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 and the Z'berg-Warren-Keene-Collier Forest Taxation Reform Act of 1976. The lands are managed for the "maximum sustained production of high-quality timber products... achieved while giving consideration to values relating to sequestration of carbon dioxide, recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, fisheries, regional economic vitality, employment, and aesthetic enjoyment" and to encourage "the protection of immature trees and restricting the use of timberland to the production of timber products and compatible uses." The project area has been primarily utilized for timber production for over the last 70 years. It is the timberland owner's intention to maintain the project area for timber production.



The goal of this project is to reduce hazardous fuel loads and horizontal/vertical fuel connectivity in order to prevent impacts to forest resources caused by severe wildfire.

No healthy, mature, scenic trees will be removed.

Please see the Biological Resources discussion to see protections for nesting birds.

No negative impacts to Agriculture or Forest Resources are expected from this project.

**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:

According to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the Siskiyou County Air Pollution Control District is currently designated within "attainment" of California's standards related to Particulate Pollution (PM 10 and PM 2.5) and Ozone (ppm). In 2021 Siskiyou County exceeded the state's 24-hour maximum allowable emission levels of PM 2.5, on 32 occurrences, due to wildfire. The proposed project is designed to prevent or reduce the spread of wildfires which could contribute to Siskiyou Counties' "attainment" status.

Treatment activities associated with the project are expected to be minimal. Hand treatments are expected to make essentially no impacts to air quality. Road traffic from operations is expected to be at a level to not require road surface maintenance measures.

No negative impacts to Air Quality are expected 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 January 25th, 2022. Scoping was conducted within the Horse Creek, Indian Creek Baldy, McKinley Mtn., Russell Peak, and Scott Bar 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 CNDDB, the following listed species are known to occur near the project area:

CASCADES FROG ASSESSMENT

The range of the species within California includes the Southern Cascades and Klamath Mountains. Cascades frogs are associated with high mountain lakes, small streams, and ponds in meadows where they breed in pools associated with early snow melt. The project area is located in the suspected range of the Cascades frog, however there are no current or historic occurrences of the species within the project area.

The project will not adversely impact potential habitat for the Cascade frog because project activities will not occur in or near riparian areas.

SCOTT BAR SALAMANDER ASSESSMENT

The range of the species in the project vicinity is limited to the Scott bar Mountains. This species is associated with deep talus and rocky rubble in montane forests. The amended project area is outside the known range of, and does not support potential habitat for the Scott Bar Salamander.

Treatment activities will not adversely impact Scott Bar salamander habitat.

#### TAILED FROG ASSESSMENT

The range of the species includes the Coast Range and the Klamath Mountains in northwestern California, where they are associated with small, cool, permanent watercourses in montane and coastal forests. They are generally found in the splash zone or in other wet, protected sites along small, cool, streams. Typically, this species is found along perennial cold water streams in conifer forests, but may also be found in montane hardwood-conifer forests.

The amended project area may contain suitable habitat for the tailed frog, but hand thinning of small understory trees and shrubs should have no significant effect on stream temperature or other habitat characteristics.

#### WESTERN POND TURTLE ASSESSMENT

The range of the species is throughout California. This species is generally associated with slack or slow-moving water such as ponds, lakes, rivers, and irrigation ditches, but it lays its eggs in nearby grasslands and other more open habitats.

The project area does not contain suitable habitat for the Western Pond turtle.

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

The range of the species within California includes rivers and creeks of the coastal & Klamath Mountains. Salmon typically inhabit rivers and large creeks along with smaller, low gradient tributaries. There are no fish bearing streams within the project area.

The project area does not contain suitable habitat for Chinook salmon

#### COHO SALMON ASSESSMENT

See chinook

The project area does not contain suitable habitat for Coho salmon

#### BUMBLE BEE ASSESSMENT

The range of the Franklin's bumble bee is limited to the Klamath Mountains of northern California and southern Oregon. The western bumble bee is known to occur though much of the western United States, southern Canada, and the Rocky Mountains. Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee occurs within a portion of the range of the western bumble bee as it is a social parasite on that species. Suckley's bumble bee has rarely been found in California and its exact range is unknown due to its rarity. The range of the crotch bumble bee is generally the southern 2/3 of the state, therefore out of the range of this project area.

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 no meadows or large grassy areas within the project treatment areas. 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.

While no habitat has been found within treatment areas, the following avoidance measures would be used if suitable habitat is located: No herbicides will be applied within a 50-foot buffer of ESA or CESA listed plant species or within 50 feet of sensitive resources. Avoid removal of flowering plants until after the growing and active flight season. Herbicides will not be applied to flowering native plants within occupied or suitable habitat during the flight season (March through September).

Areas of suitable habitat for Franklin's and western bumble bee will not be affected as these areas are at very low priority for reducing hazardous forest fuels.

#### BALD EAGLE ASSESSMENT

Bald eagles are found throughout much of California where they are associated with large bodies of fish-bearing water, such as lakes, reservoirs, rivers, and bays. They nest in large conifers near foraging areas.

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

#### GOLDEN EAGLE ASSESSMENT

Golden eagles are found throughout much of California where they are associated with large expanses of open habitat, such as grassland, oak savanna, chaparral, open woodland, agricultural areas, and open canyons. Nest sites include cliff ledges, rock outcrops and large conifers near foraging habitat. Although this species could occur in the project area, they have large home ranges and are generally associated with more open areas than what is found in or adjacent to the project area.

The project area contains potential habitat for the golden eagle. 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. If a nest is found during operations, then operations in the vicinity will cease until site specific protection measures can be developed.

#### GREAT GRAY OWL ASSESSMENT

The range of the species within California includes the Southern Cascades, Klamath and Sierra Nevada mountains. According to the CNDDDB there are no known great gray owl detections within 20 miles 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

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.

The project area does not contain suitable habitat for the great blue heron.

#### NORTHERN GOSHAWK ASSESSMENT

The range of the species is throughout the forested and wooded regions of California. This species is generally associated with montane forested habitats and mixed conifer-hardwood stands. Nests are generally constructed in large conifers and occasionally hardwoods. Nests are generally constructed on large limbs against the bole of the tree, but may also be built on crooks, forks, and large platforms in conifers, and to a lesser extent, in hardwoods. The closest known occurrence (unconfirmed, 1991) is 1/4 mile away from the project.

The project area contains potential habitat for the northern goshawk. 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. If a nest is found during operations, then operations in the vicinity will cease until site specific protection measures can be developed.

#### NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL ASSESSMENT

The range of the northern spotted owl (NSO) in California is throughout the forested regions of western and central northern California. This species is associated with mature forested habitat and mixed conifer-hardwood stands generally at elevations below 6,000 feet. Nest stands are usually found at the lower third of slope, and contain large trees, with complex structure and high overhead canopy cover. Platforms, such as mistletoe brooms, and cavities in conifers and hardwoods are used for nesting.

NSO activity centers (ACs) SIS0262, SIS0368, SIS0370, and SIS0599 are within 1.3 miles of the project area. Three of these ACs are within ½ mile of the project (SIS0262, SIS0368, and SIS0599), with SIS0262 and SIS0368 being within ¼ mile of the amended treatment areas. This project will not change or downgrade any suitable habitat types and no nest stands will be treated.

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 be retained to the extent possible. Since this project does not propose to remove overstory trees, no habitat changes are anticipated from the project.

The main disturbance concern from this project is noise disturbance during the February 15 to August 31 NSO breeding period. SIS0262 and SIS0599 were not surveyed in 2024. SIS0368 as surveyed in 2024 and a non-nesting pair was located on April 22 of that year. Three spot check surveys of nesting/roosting habitat within ¼ mile of treatment activities will be conducted if mechanical treatments are conducted during the breeding season. However, these amended treatment areas will only receive hand chainsaw thinning.

#### OSPREY ASSESSMENT

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.

The project area does not contain suitable habitat for the osprey.

PEREGRINE FALCON ASSESSMENT

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 area does not contain suitable habitat for the peregrine falcon.

SWAINSON'S HAWK ASSESSMENT

The range of the species within California is restricted to portions of the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys, and valley habitats in Siskiyou and Modoc counties.

The project area does not contain suitable habitat for the Swainson's hawk.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER ASSESSMENT

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

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 treatments will not degrade the habitat or change the potential for use by wolves.

To determine whether gray wolves have been documented within or in the vicinity of a treatment area or if the treatment area is within the known home range of a documented gray wolf or gray wolf pack, CDFW will be contacted before implementation of treatment activities to obtain general information about documented gray wolf activity and current home ranges within or in the vicinity of a treatment area that has not been made publicly available. If gray wolf activity (e.g., occurrences or overlapping home range) has been documented in a treatment area, pursuant to information provided by CDFW, then treatment activities will not be initiated in the treatment area until CDFW have provided further guidance.

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

FISHER ASSESSMENT

The range of the species within California includes the Coast redwood, Southern Cascades, Klamath and Sierra Nevada Mountains. Fishers use a variety of forested and wooded habitat, but require cavities for breeding.

The project area contains potential habitat for the fisher; therefore, green cull trees or "wolf trees" will be retained within the perimeter 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 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

Treatment activities will not adversely impact potential fisher habitat.

SIERRA NEVADA RED FOX ASSESSMENT

The range of the species within California is restricted to portions of the Southern Cascades and Sierra Nevada mountains (CDFG 2000). Typically, the species is found to use red fir, lodgepole pine, and subalpine habitats, foraging in meadows and barren rock and talus slopes. Some surveys have been conducted to determine the presence of mesocarnivores within the project area, and no Sierra Nevada red fox have been detected on Acer Klamath Forests timberlands.

There are no known occurrences within the project area; therefore, project activities will not adversely impact the Sierra Nevada red fox.

WOLVERINE ASSESSEMENT

The range of the species within California is restricted to portions of the Southern Cascades and Sierra Nevada mountains (CDFG 2000d). Habitat associated with wolverines includes high alpine and subalpine meadows, scree fields, and forests.



The project area does not contain suitable habitat for the wolverine.

#### MARTEN ASSESSMENT

The range of the species within California includes the Coast redwood, Southern Cascades, Klamath and Sierra Nevada Mountains. Martens are associated with higher elevation mixed and pure coniferous forests.

The project area contains potential habitat for the Marten; 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 marten. 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.

#### RINGTAIL ASSESSMENT

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 Ringtail; 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 are likely to provide denning and resting sites and may provide habitat for small mammal species which may be prey for ringtail. If a den is found during operations then operations in the vicinity will cease until site specific protection measures can be developed.

Treatment activities will not adversely impact potential ringtail habitat.

#### BOTANICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The botanical scoping for this project produced a list of 37 plant species within the USGS quads covering this project area and the surrounding 10 quad maps. The species considered for additional review from this list include one species listed under CESA as Rare (Siskiyou mariposa-lily, *Calochortus persistens*), which is addressed below. The remaining species are either CRPR list 1 or 2.

English sundew (*Drosera anglica*), Oregon fireweed (*Epilobium oregonum*), long seta hump moss (*Meesia longiseta*), Robbins' pondweed (*Potamogeton robbinsii*), tufted saxifrage (*Saxifraga cespitosa*), and Siskiyou clover (*Trifolium siskiyouense*) are species that are associated with wet areas, fens, bogs, wet meadows, and ponds. There are no known occurrences of these species within the project area and this project area does not include those habitat types, so there is no potential effect on these species from this project and these species will not receive further consideration.

Nard sedge (*Carex nardina*), Mielichhofer's copper moss (*Mielichhoferia mielichhoferiana*), and Marble Mountains stonecrop (*Sedum marmorense*) are species that are associated with elevations above this project. Pacific silver fir (*Abies amabilis*) and subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa* var. *lasiocarpa*) are also associated with higher elevation forests than are found in the project area. There are no known occurrences of these species within the project area and there is no potential effect on these species from this project, therefore these species will not receive further consideration.

Scott Valley buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *lautum*), and Howell's sandwort (*Sabulina howellii*) are species that are associated with elevations below this project. There are no known occurrences of these species within the project area and there is no potential effect on these species from this project, therefore these species will not receive further consideration.

#### 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 amended project area. The project area does not contain suitable habitat for the Yreka Phlox.



**SISKIYOU MARIPOSA LILY ASSESSMENT**

Siskiyou mariposa lily (*Calochortus persistens*) is listed as Rare under CESA 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.

**BLUSHING BUCKWHEAT ASSESSMENT**

Blushing wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum ursinum* var. *erubescens*) is listed as Rare under CESA 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 are no known occurrences of blushing buckwheat within the amended project area. The project will not impact adversely blushing buckwheat.

**OREGON POLEMONIUM ASSESSMENT**

Oregon polemonium (*Polemonium carneum*) is a CRPR list 2B.2 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 amended project area. The project will not impact adversely Oregon polemonium.

**HECKNER'S LEWISIA ASSESSMENT**

Heckner's lewisia (*Lewisia cotyledon* var. *heckneri*) is a CRPR list 1B.2 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 amended project area. The project will not impact adversely Heckner's lewisia.

**HOWELL'S LEWISIA ASSESSMENT**

Howell's lewisia (*Lewisia cotyledon* var. *howellii*) is a CRPR list 3.2 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 amended project area. The project will not impact adversely Howell's lewisia.

**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:

As this amended project consists entirely of hand chainsaw work with associated hand piling of cut material, this amendment will not include any ground disturbing activities. Therefore, this amended project will not have any significant effect on Cultural Resources.

**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:

The project does not conflict with a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. The very limited use of energy resources to access the remote site, conduct the fuels reduction tasks, and protect the neighboring forest and residences during the prescribed burns will create a negligible environmental impact and will have no effect on energy consumption at a regional or larger scale.

The proposed treatment will not have a significant impact to Energy.

**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:

Soils within the amended project area are comprised of Atter, Kindig-Neuns, and Marpa-Kinkel-Boomer complex. All are gravelly loams and are moderate to well drained. The project area does not contain any unstable slopes. Cut material will be piled with the intent to burn at some time in the future. Burning will be conducted in a manner to maintain adequate soil cover to prevent erosion. There are no steep slopes associated with this project that will have heavy equipment operations and there will be no excavation or significant soil disturbance associated with this project.

The proposed treatment will have no significant impacts to Geology or Soils.

**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:

Sustainable forestry practices can increase the ability of forests to sequester additional atmospheric carbon while enhancing other ecosystem services, such as improved soil and water quality. Planting trees, restoring forested ecosystems and improving forest health are some of the ways to increase forest carbon (USFS Carbon Sequestration 2008). The dynamics of forest growth under different silvicultural practices show that sustainably managed forest projects can sequester more carbon over time than unmanaged forests. Sustainable management keeps the forest growing at a higher rate over time, providing net sequestration benefits that are additional to that of an unmanaged forest. All forests, both managed and unmanaged will eventually stop sequestering as it reaches maturity, where sequestered carbon equals emitted carbon (Ruddell et al. 2007).

**EMISSION ASSESSMENT**

Research on western coniferous forests of North America has well described the potential storage of carbon in our forests (Malmsheimer et al. 2008). From 1990 to 2014, 787 million metric tons were sequestered by land use, land-use change and forestry activities (EPA 2019). Research has found that storage of carbon or sequestration of carbon in our conifer forests occurs in the tree biomass, mineral and organic soils, forest floor vegetation and coarse woody debris and roots. Total accumulation of carbon in a fully stocked stand will continue to rise until the stand reaches growth maturity (Hover et al. 2007). Some scientific studies suggest younger forests sequester carbon at greater rates than older forests (Hover et al. 2007, Law et al. 2003), while other scientific studies suggest old-growth forests store more carbon than younger forests (Fredeen et al. 2005, Stephenson et al. 2014, Christensen et al. 2018). These apparently conflicting results may both be correct. Yet, there is significant scientific debate over carbon sequestration rates and carbon storage rates in western conifer forests. Some research has claimed that even-aged clearcut management may result in a net release of carbon into the atmosphere (Harmon 2002) or may not store as much carbon as uneven-aged management (CDF Jackson State Forest EIR). Yet, some scientific studies suggest that intensively managed forests show substantial increases in carbon sequestration over other passive forms of management (James et al. 2007). While much scientific debate and study is still ongoing and proposed, it appears when forests are managed under sustained yield management over time, the amount of carbon removed by harvesting is balanced by the amount of carbon grown or sequestered (Eckert 2007).

The State of California Air Resources Board (2009) has stated that coniferous forests sequester carbon at the fastest rates between ages 10 years old and 80 years old, at somewhat slower rates 80 years and older and between 80 years old and 150 years old the forest reaches a balance between slow sequestration rates and decay, which releases carbon (CARB 2009). Accordingly, these research results have been recognized by the State of California that our forests are potentially the only sector of our environment that removes greenhouse gases from the environment and potentially stores it for long periods of time (CARB 2017). However, this sink is at risk of becoming a large emitter with catastrophic wildfire and high intensity bark beetle infestations if active management and restoration is not occurring on the landscape (CARB 2017). From 2001 to 2014 roughly 170 million metric tons of carbon was released from natural lands and the vast majority was released due to wildfire (CARB 2019). This output is estimated to continue to increase in the future. To combat this, the state has set goals to double the amount of forest management and restoration efforts (FCAT 2018). This project is in line with those goals by removing hazardous and unhealthy stand conditions while retaining ecological functions such as snags, habitat retention areas, protected species, and exclusion areas for water quality within the stand.

**Project Level Greenhouse Gas Assessment:** To complete the proposed project, some greenhouse gases may be released as part of road maintenance, equipment use, equipment transportation, commuting, and site preparation. While some models can estimate greenhouse gas or carbon emissions from these various activities (Cayan et al. 2007, Harmon and Marks 2002, OPR 2008), we believe these models should be viewed cautiously for California, as they have not been calibrated or verified for many forest management activities in California.

**Wood products, non-merchantable vegetation and Long Term Sustained Yield (LTSY)** Based on the specific variables of the acres of operation, amount of wood masticated, and protocols and standards cited in Table 1, the amount of carbon equivalent emission (CO<sub>2</sub>e) for Wood Products and Non-Merchantable wood was calculated.

For this project, the stated objective is to: improve forest health and resilience to severe wildfire, drought, disease, and pests, reduce wildfire risk for nearby communities and infrastructure, facilitate fire suppression operations, increase long-term carbon capture and storage to ensure treated and adjacent forested areas remain net sinks of carbon and continue to provide an abundance of ecosystem and societal benefits. CALFIRE has recognized that, in general, California forests remain below their potential growth productivity, and therefore management could increase forest growth thereby increasing sequestration of carbon (CDF 2005).

**Using tree biomass vegetation-based fuels to produce electricity or steam** may substitute the use of more non-renewal and energy intensive fuels. However, no biomass material will be removed from this amended project area.

**Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> fertilization on tree growth** from increased CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere may occur in the future. Due to this possible effect, some greenhouse gas models have included atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (Lenihan et al. 2006) and a recent meta-analysis describes tree productivity may respond to increases in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (Ainsworth and Long 2005). However, due to the current understanding and relatively mild increases, in summary, at this time atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> fertilization on tree growth would be considered a very small increase in sequestration of carbon.

**Potential climate change may reduce forest growth** and reduce sequestered carbon from managed forests. The estimated loss in forest growth from potential climate change was once estimated in a worst-case scenario at -25% (Battles 2006) but has been recently revised to a worse-case scenario at -5% by the end of the 21st century (Battles 2008). The authors have cautioned that "modeling specific impacts of future climate on California forests is a precarious undertaking" (Battles 2008). Due to this apparent large discrepancy in estimates, and authors' caution, while a reduction in growth and subsequent carbon sequestration maybe possible, the amount that is likely to occur by the end of the 21st century appears to be currently speculative in nature. However other effects that are occurring in conjunction with climate change are beginning to have a significant impact on forest sequestration rates. From 2011-2017 it is estimated that roughly 28 thousand acres are converted to non-forest uses per year. This is offset slightly by afforestation rates but overall, the net loss 16 thousand acres per year (Christensen et al. 2018). In summary, at this time, reductions in forest growth from potential climate change may result in a gradual reduction in sequestration of carbon.

**Drought and related insect and disease impacts** may increase forest decay resulting in emission of forest carbon. During this century fire has been the number one. Drought is a common occurrence in a Mediterranean climate. Improving forest management practices including improved growing stock, improved spacing of trees and reduction of competing vegetation will improve overall forest health, increase tree vigor and growth over unmanaged conditions. Improving forest health will also include rapid response to episodic insect and disease conditions through harvesting under Exemptions and Emergency Notices. Together these forest management measures should reduce episodic drought and related insect and disease impacts, currently and during long-term management of the forest.

**Drought and related catastrophic wildfire** can potentially release very large amounts of carbon into the atmosphere. In 2017 forest fires were the largest emitter of nitrous oxide and methane within the Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry sectors. This sector is relied upon as the largest carbon sink (EPA, 2019). Reducing fire frequency or their severity can reduce the amount of carbon

released by episodic catastrophic wildfires (Eckert 2007). Additionally, in California Sierra Pacific Industries managed forestlands experienced a 2.3% fire frequency per decade between 1987 and 2004, while all lands reviewed in the USFS Sierra Nevada Framework were 6% for Ponderosa pine types and 4% for mixed conifer types (Eckert 2007, Mader 2007). This project will improve general forest health, thus reducing fire frequency and the potential risk to release carbon through episodic catastrophic wildfire.

**In summary**, because this amended treatment will only affect small trees and brush, it will likely not have a significant impact, either positive or negative, on Greenhouse Gas emissions or sequestration.

The California Energy Commission and California Environmental Protection Agency (Cayan et al. 2007) claim increases in greenhouse gases from releases in sequestered carbon may lead to significant climate changes in California. Some have speculated that potential climate change may result in increased air temperatures and decrease in winter snow accumulation resulting in adverse environmental changes for some plants, trees, terrestrial wildlife and aquatic species (Cayan 2007). While others have claimed, after assessing eight different climate change scenarios, biological diversity may increase or decrease depending geographic location (Loarie et al. 2008). Within the Klamath Province, others have speculated that potential climate change may result in increased precipitation in our currently xeric climate which may result in beneficial environmental changes for some species including rare species that have behavioral and physiological adaptations from previous local climate changes (Brodrick 2006) or previous stochastic events (USFWS 2006).

### **Greenhouse Gas Emission Information Referenced**

Allsworth, E.A., Long, S.P. 2005. What have we learned from fifteen years of free-air CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment. A meta-analytic review of the responses of photosynthesis, canopy properties and plant production to rising CO<sub>2</sub>. *New Phytologist*. 165:351-372.

Battles, J.J. and T. Robards, A. Das, K. Waring, J. Gilles, G. Biging, F. Schurr. 2008. Climate change impacts on forest growth and tree mortality: a data driven modeling study in the mixed conifer forest of the Sierra Nevada, California. *California Climate Change Center, Supplement 87, 1, pg. 193-213.*

Battles, J.J. and T. Robards, A. Das, K. Waring, J. Gilles, J. LeBlanc, G. Biging, F. Schurr, C. Simon. 2006. *Climate Change Impact on Forest Resources, California Climate Change Center, CA*

Bridsey, R.A., and L.S. Heath. 1995 *Carbon Changes in U.S. Forests. GTR-RMRS-271. USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station.*

Brodrick, R. 2006. A Petition to the State of California Fish and Game Commission: Delisting of Siskiyou mountains salamander. *California Department of Fish and Game. pg. 47. September 2006.*

California Air Resources Board. 2009. State of California, Environmental Protection Agency, Air Resources Board. *AB32 Scoping Plan for the Forest Sector. 19 pages.*

California Air Resources Board. 2017. State of California, Environmental Protection Agency, Air Resources Board. *California's 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan. Pgs. 86-87*

California Air Resources Board. 2017. State of California, Environmental Protection Agency, Air Resources Board, Natural Resources Agency, Department of Food & Agriculture, Strategic Growth Council. *California 2030 Natural and Working Lands Climate Change Implementation Plan. Pgs. 10-*

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. 2005 Jackson State Forest. *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Draft Jackson State Forest Management Plan.*

Cayan, D.R. and E.P. Maurer, M.D. Dettinger, M. Tyree, K. Hayhoe. 2007 *Climate change scenarios for the California region. Climate Change. Vol 87 pg 521-542.*

Christensen et al. 2018. *AB 1504 California Forest Ecosystem and Harvested Wood Product Carbon Inventory: 2017 Reporting Period Final Report. U.S. Forest Service agreement no. 18-CO-11052021-214, 17-CO-11261979-086, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection agreement no. 8CA04056 and 8CA03714 and the University of Montana. Sacramento, CA: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. 539 p.*



Concillio, A. and Siyan, A., Soung-Ryoul, R. North, M. Chen, J. Soil respiration response to experimental disturbances over 3 years. *Forest Ecology and Management*. 228(2006) 82-90.

Eckert, J. P. 2007. Carbon sequestration in Sierra Pacific Industries Forests: A Watershed Example. Tetra Tech. Inc., Bothell, WA.

Environmental Protection Agency. 2019. Inventory of US Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks 1990-2017. 430-R-19-001. 6-3.

Freedeen, A. L. and C.H. Bois, D.T. Janzen, P.T. Sanborn. 2005. Comparison of coniferous forest carbon stocks between old-growth and young second-growth forests on two soil types in central British Columbia, Canada. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* 35:1411-1421.

Forest Climate Action Team. 2018. California Forest Carbon Plan: Managing Our Forest Landscapes in a Changing Climate. 178p.

Harmon, M.E. and B. Marks. 2002. Effects of silvicultural treatments on carbon stores in forest stands. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*. 32: 863-877.

Haswell, W.T. III. 2000. Techniques for estimating forest carbon. *Journal of Forestry*. 98(9): Focus 1-3.

Heath, L.S. and J.E. Smith. 2000. Soil carbon accounting and assumptions for forestry and forest-related land use change. GTR-RMRS-59 USDA Forest Service. Rocky Mountain Research Station. 134 p.

Hover, C. and S. Rebaun, L.S. Heath, J.E. Smith. 2007. The Kane Experimental Forest Carbon Inventory: A Case Study Introducing FVS Carbon. USDA Forest Service. Northern Research Station.

James, C. and B. Krumland, P.J. Eckert. Carbon Sequestration in California Forests: Two Case Studies in Managed Watersheds. Technical Report. December 2007. pg. 52.

Johnson, M.C. and D.L. Peterson, C.L. Raymond. 2007. Guide to fuel treatments in dry forests of the Western United States: assessing forest structure and fire hazard. PNW-GTR-686. Portland, OR: USDA Forest Service. PNW p322.

Law, B.E. and O.J. Sun, J. Campbell, S. Van Tuyl, P.E. Thornton. 2003. Changes in carbon storage and fluxes in a chronosequence of ponderosa pine. *Global Change Biology*. Vol 9:510-524.

Lenihan, J.M. and D. Bachelet, R. Drapek, R.P. Nelson. 2006. The response of vegetation distribution, ecosystem productivity, and fire in California to future climate scenarios simulated by the MC1 Dynamic Vegetation model. CEC-500-2005-199-F. California Climate Change Center. February 2006. pg 19.

Loarie, S.R. and B.E. Carter, K. Hayhoe, S. McMahon, R. Moe. Climate change and the future of California endemic flora. *Plus One* 3(6): 2502.

Mader, S. 2007. Climate Project: Carbon Sequestration and Storage by California Forests and Forest Products. CH2MHill Technical Report. August 2007. pg. 33

Malmsheimer, R.W. and P. Heffenan, S. Brink, D. Crandall, F. Deneke, C. Galik, E. Gee, J.A. Helms, N. McClure, M. Mortimer, S. Ruddell, M. Smith and J. Stewart. Forest management solutions for mitigating climate change in the United States. *Journal of Forestry*. Volume 106, Number 3. April/May 2008. 174 pages.

McIver, M.P. and J. Meek, M. Scudder, C. Sorenson, T. Morgan, and G. Christensen 2015. California's Forest Products Industry and Timber Harvest, 2012. USDA, Forest Service. Pacific Northwest Research Station. PNW-GTR-908

Office of Planning and Research 2009. Governor's Office of Planning and Research. State of California.

Powers, R.F. and D.A. Scott, F.G. Sanchez, R.A. Voldseth, D. Page-Dumroese, J.D. Eliofoff, D.M. Stone. The North American long-term soil productivity experiment: Findings from the first decade of research. *Forest Ecology and Management*. Volume 220. Issue 1-3. December 2005. Pg 31-50.

Sonne, C. 2005. Greenhouse gas emissions from Pacific Northwest forestry operations: Implications for forest management. University of Washington. Phd Dissertation. 171 pages.



Skog, K.E. and G.A. Nicholson. 2000. Carbon sequestration in wood and paper products. USDA Forest Service. GTR-RMRS-59. Chapter 5, p79-88.

Stephenson, N.L. and A.J. Das, S. Condit, P. Baker, N. Beckman, D. Coomes, E. Lines, W. Morris, N. Ruger, E. Alvarez, C. Blundo, S. Bunyavejchewin, G. Chuyong, S. Davoes, A. Duque, C. Ewango, O. Flores, J. Franklin, H. Grau, Z. Hao, M. Hammon, S. Hubbell, D. Kenfack, Y. Lin, J. Makana, A. Malizia, L. Malizia, R. Pabst, N. Pongpattananurak, S. Su, I. Sun, S. Tan, D. Thomas, P. van Mantgem, X. Wang, S. Wisser & M. Zavala. 2014. Rate of tree carbon accumulation increases continuously with tree size. DOI: 10.1038, Nature 12914.

Ximenes, F, Gardner, WD & Kathuria, A 2008, 'Proportion of above-ground biomass in commercial logs and residues following the harvest of five commercial forest species in Australia', Forest Ecology and Management, vol. 256, pp. 335-346

The proposed treatments will have no significant impacts to Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

#### 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:

The hazardous materials being utilized for this project include diesel fuel, gasoline, oil and other fluids associated with hand chainsaws and pickups. Equipment used on this project will not be serviced in locations which could allow oil or fuel to contaminate soil or pass into a watercourse. All containers shall be properly labeled and designed to prevent accidental spillage.

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:

The project area contains several headwaters of streams.

Intermittent streams that have side slopes less than 30% will have a 25-foot buffer, side slopes over 30% will have a 50-foot buffer. Perennial streams will have no vegetation disturbance within the first 15 feet from the stream bank. Side slopes less than 30% will have 35-foot buffer beyond that 15 foot no activity zone; Slopes 30-50% will have a 60-foot buffer and side slopes over 50% will have buffer of 85 feet beyond the 15 foot no activity zone. Within these buffers, vegetation disturbance shall be limited to hand chainsaw work and backing fire. No pile burning, equipment or herbicide will be used within the buffer.

The proposed project will not alter the drainage patterns or adversely impact hydrology and water quality.

#### 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 predominant land use in this area is commercial timberland. This project will not alter the existing land use for the project area. This proposed project will not result in significant adverse impacts to Land Use and Planning.

**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:

The proposed project area does not contain any mines or mineral processing areas. The proposed project will not result in significant adverse impacts to Mineral Resources.

**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:

The project area is remotely located and is not within close proximity to a business or residential areas. The proposed project will not result in significant adverse impacts to Noise.

**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:

The predominant land use in this area is growing and harvesting trees for commercial products

This proposed project will not result in significant adverse impacts to Population and Housing.

**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:

This proposed amended project will not result in significant adverse impacts to Public Services.

**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:

The primary recreational activities within the project area are hunting and hiking. All operations occur on private lands.

The project will not result in a significant negative impact to recreation.

**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:

These roads are part of a rural network frequently utilized for the transport of equipment, recreational vehicles, and forest products. The project will slightly increase the amount of traffic on the roads but not by a significant amount.

The project will not result in a significant negative impact to Traffic.

**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:

This amended project area does not occur in the vicinity of overhead powerlines or other utility services.

The proposed treatment will have no significant impacts to Utilities or Service Systems.

**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 was designed to reduce wildfire hazards and interrupt horizontal and vertical fuels in the case of a wildfire. Before this project could be implemented, the McKinney Fire ignited under high winds, low humidity, and drought, and burned through approximately 18% of the project area. There is still a large portion of the community at risk of similar wildfire damage, hence the need for this project to be completed before the next wildfire.

The site's setting amid mature trees, shrubs and forest understory provides a setting conducive to the ignition and spread of a wildland fire if appropriate measures are not taken during work. Chapter 26 of the California Fire Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 9) establishes provisions for safety and care during construction activities defined as hot work. In brief, the code requires that specific measures be taken during construction to minimize the potential ignition of a wildland fire in areas susceptible to such events, which include the project site and surrounding lands. Personnel carrying out the project activities during fire season will take all safety precautions necessary to avoid an escaped fire.

The proposed treatment will likely have a positive effect on 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.

CDFW will be contacted before implementation of treatment activities to determine whether gray wolves have been documented within or in the vicinity of a treatment area or if the treatment area is within the known home range of a documented gray wolf or gray wolf pack,

Plants of interest, if found within the amended project area, will be identified prior to implementation of the project. Identified populations will have a 25 foot buffer where vegetation disturbance shall be limited to hand chainsaw work, slash will not interfere with populations. No pile burning or heavy equipment will be used within the buffer.

Intermittent and perennial streams will have an appropriately sized buffer (see Hydrology and Water Quality for specifics) set around the watercourse prior to implantation of the project.

Equipment used on this project will not be serviced in locations which could allow oil or fuel to contaminate soil or pass into a watercourse. Operators will have spill kits and shovels present at the site. If a spill occurs and the situation is safe, the operators will contain the spill and prevent the spill from spreading or prevent the spill from expanding. Operators will shovel a dike or berm to contain or divert the spilled material. Bark, duff, other forest litter or absorbent pads (if available) should be used to absorb spilled material.

Personnel carrying out the project activities during fire season will take all safety precautions necessary to avoid an escaped fire.

Mandatory Findings of Significance:	YES	NO
(a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<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 proposed project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15304. Pursuant to Section 15304, Class 4 consists of minor alterations of vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

Treatments will focus only on the removal of young and/or suppressed advanced regeneration tree species less than 10-inch diameter at breast height, removing slash and jackpot accumulations, removing medium and large shrubs where they contribute to vertical and horizontal fuel continuity and removing lower branches from residual trees.

**Conclusion:**

After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the description for the various classes of categorical exemptions to CEQA, SVRCD has determined that the project fits within one or more of the exemption classes and no exceptions exist at the project site which would preclude the use of this exemption. SVRCD considered the possibility of (a) sensitive location, (b) cumulative impact, (c) significant impact due to unusual circumstances, (d) impacts to scenic highways, (e) activities within a hazardous waste site, and (f) significant adverse change to the significance of a historical resource. A notice of exemption will be filed at the State Clearinghouse.

After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the description for the various classes of categorical exemptions to CEQA, SVRCD has determined that the project does not fit within the description for the various exemption classes or has found that exceptions exist at the project site that precludes the use of a categorical exemption for this project. Additional environmental review will be conducted and the appropriate CEQA document used may be a negative declaration or a mitigated negative declaration.

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL FEE FORM**

On Feb 24, 2025, Shasta Valley RCD filed an application  
(Date) (Name)  
for development with the County of Siskiyou. Before the application  
(Name of City)  
is accepted as complete for processing, fees in the following amount(s) must be deposited with  
the County Clerk.

- Clerk Processing Fee \$50.00
- Negative Declaration \$2,968.75\*
- EIR \$4,123.50
- Categorically Exempt \$0.00
- Statutorily Exempt \$0.00
- Fee Exemption issued by the DFG \$0.00
- Other \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No project shall be operative, vested or final until the required fee is paid. *Public Resources Code §21089 (b)*

On 2/24/25, SVRCD deposited \$ 50.00,  
(Date) (Name)

with the Siskiyou County Clerk ENDORSED-D. BROOKS  
(Attest)

Application No. N/A Receipt # 20250039861  
(To be completed when application is received for processing) 47-0212412025-008

\* If it is determined by Siskiyou County that the fee required for a Negative Declaration does not apply to your project a refund will be granted.  
2025 Fee Form