

## NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
1521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

Subject: **FILING OF NOTICE OF DETERMINATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 21108 OR 21152 OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE**

Project Title: Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground Restoration (SNC 322)

State Clearinghouse No.: SCH# 2004102011

Project Location: Sly Park Recreation Area, 4771 Sly Park Road in Pollock Pines. Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground are located in the northeast portion of the park along Lake Drive Road.

County: El Dorado County

Project Description: The El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) has requested \$153,466 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Grants Program to fund restoration design and apply for permits for Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground. The restoration will include stabilizing Hazel Creek banks, removing non-native vegetation, recreating a riparian buffer zone along the creek, protecting the re-vegetated areas and creek with a 50-foot setback buffer zone and natural barriers, and constructing an all-weather safety access bridge over the creek. To accomplish the restoration of Hazel Creek, seven campsites and the associated access road will be removed, along with reconfiguring the remaining campsites according to Sly Park Recreation Area (SPRA) Master Plan standards. Two campsites will be replaced with ADA-accessible cabins. Native vegetation in the campground will be re-established by installing barriers, providing access controls, and installing interpretive signage to protect native habitats and provide education opportunities and safety information. A new bridge over Hazel Creek will be added to provide emergency access to the back of Sly Park and to provide a dedicated access for bicycles and horses to cross the creek without causing impacts to Hazel Creek and the water quality of Jenkinson Lake. The combined restoration of Hazel Creek and the Hazel Creek Campground areas consists of approximately 3.5 acres and will implement a part of the SPRA Master Plan, which has been adopted by the EID Board of Directors and permitted by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors.

As  Lead Agency  a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has approved the above described project on March 3, 2011, and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project  will  will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A  Negative Declaration  Mitigated Negative Declaration  Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR) followed by an Initial Study (CEQA Guidelines Section 15177) was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures  were  were not made a condition of project approval.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan  was  was not adopted for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations  was  was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings  were  were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the project is consistent with the Sly Park Master Plan and the Sly Park MEIR. The MEIR, the Subsequent Initial Study, and record of project approval are available to the General Public at the following location:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

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Jim Branham

Executive Officer

(530) 823-4670  
Phone #

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received For Filing and Posting at OPR:

**RESPONSIBLE AGENCY  
ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION**

PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Title:  
Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground Restoration (SNC 322)
2. Responsible Agency Name and Address:  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603
3. Contact Person and Phone Number:  
Marji Feliz, Program Coordinator (530) 823-4679
4. Project Location:  
Sly Park Recreation Area, 4771 Sly Park Road in Pollock Pines. Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground are located in the northeast portion of the park along Lake Drive Road, in El Dorado County, California.
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:  
El Dorado Irrigation District  
2890 Mosquito Road  
Placerville, CA 95667
6. General Plan Designation:  
Natural Resource
7. Zoning:  
Recreational Facilities
8. Description of Project:  
The El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) has requested \$153,466 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Grants Program to fund restoration design and file permits for Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground. The restoration will include stabilizing Hazel Creek banks, removing non-native vegetation, recreating a riparian buffer zone along the creek, protecting re-vegetated areas and the creek with a 50-foot setback buffer zone and natural barriers, and constructing an all-weather safety access bridge over the creek. To accomplish the restoration of Hazel Creek, seven campsites and the associated access road will be removed, along with reconfiguring the remaining campsites according to Sly Park Recreation Area (SPRA) Master Plan standards. Two campsites will be replaced with ADA-accessible cabins. Native vegetation in the campground will be re-established by installing barriers, providing access controls, and installing interpretive signage to protect native habitats and provide education opportunities and safety information. A new bridge over Hazel Creek will be added to provide emergency access to the back of Sly Park and to provide a dedicated access for bicycles and horses to cross the creek without causing impacts to Hazel Creek and the water quality of Jenkinson Lake. The combined restoration of Hazel Creek and the Hazel Creek Campground areas consist of approximately 3.5 acres and will implement a part of the SPRA Master Plan, which

has been adopted by the EID Board of Directors and permitted by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

Land uses at and surrounding Sly Park Recreation Area include public utility, business park, and residential development.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
California Department of Fish and Game  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
El Dorado County Development Services Department

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Sly Park Recreation Area (SPRA), owned and operated by the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID), is a significant regional recreation resource serving El Dorado County, the greater Sacramento region and beyond. As the SPRA centerpiece, Jenkinson Lake is one of the closest and most accessible mountain lakes in this large service area. The SPRA provides a diverse range of recreational opportunities, including camping, hiking, biking, swimming, fishing, horseback riding, boating and related water sports, and access to historical sites.

The popularity and heavy use of the park over time has resulted in degradation of the very resources that attract recreationists, including trampling of vegetation, soil compaction, and erosion. These adverse impacts are problematic not only because they reduce the scenic quality of the park and ecosystem conductivity, but they have the potential to threaten the high quality of water in Jenkinson Lake if left unmanaged. Jenkinson Lake is an important source of drinking water for many El Dorado County residents, and its recreational use must be consistent with the preservation of the lake's excellent water quality and natural resources. Because of past degradation and the importance of Jenkinson Lake as a public water supply, several components of the SPRA Master Plan involve campground renovation, restoration of vegetation, and reduction of erosion in addition to the enhancement of the recreational experience. One such project component is the Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground Restoration Project (proposed project).

Hazel Creek Campground is currently a 19-unit family campground adjacent to Hazel Creek just upstream of its mouth at Jenkinson Lake. The campground has been severely impacted by over 50 years of use. The campsites are undefined and campers and their equipment have had unrestricted access outside the formal campsites, leaving essentially no vegetation between the campsites. This has resulted in compacted soils, a high erosion potential, and lack of any wildlife habitat. Further, the camping experience itself has been impacted by preventing any sense of personal space or privacy within the campsites.

In 2007, the EID Board of Directors approved the Sly Park Recreation Area Master Plan (SPRA Master Plan) to guide improvements, management, and operation of SPRA over the next 20 years. On April 9, 2007, the EID Board of Directors certified a Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR), which, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code 211000 et seq.), analyzed the potential effects of implementing the SPRA Master Plan, including the Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground Restoration Project. A

Subsequent Initial Study was prepared on November 14, 2008, in accordance with the requirements of CEQA to provide subsequent evaluation for the Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground Restoration project identified and discussed in the MEIR. The Subsequent Initial Study confirmed that the proposed project would have no new significant environmental impacts that were not already addressed in the MEIR.

## **PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

### **Sly Park Recreation Area Master Plan Environmental Impact Report**

Foothill Associates, *Draft Master Environmental Impact Report for the Sly Park Recreation Area*. SCH No. 2004102011. January 2007.

Foothill Associates, *Final Master Environmental Impact Report for the Sly Park Recreation Area*. SCH No. 2004102011. March 2007.

### **Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground Restoration Project Subsequent Initial Study**

El Dorado Irrigation District, *Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground Restoration Project Subsequent Initial Study*. SCH No. 2004102011. November 14, 2008.

### **Basic Features of the Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground Restoration Project**

The goal of the proposed project is to protect the water quality of Hazel Creek (thereby protecting Jenkinson Lake), restore the native wildlife habitat of Hazel Creek and the Hazel Creek Campground, and enhance public recreation. This is necessary due to the over 50 years of overuse and lack of access control within the campground and along Hazel Creek. What native habitat of Hazel Creek remains adjacent to the Hazel Creek Campground has been impacted by the presence of campsites in its corridor and by the activities of campers and day visitors. Hazel Creek is also being impacted by horse and mountain bike crossings over the banks and into the stream bed. The lack of an appropriate stream crossing for emergency vehicles inhibits controlled burning on the south side of the lake and could prevent emergency access in case of wildfire. Specifically, the proposed project includes the following:

#### **Reconfigured Traditional Campsites**

As determined in the SPRA Master Plan, a 50-foot setback buffer is being established for Hazel Creek. Seven campsites and a spur road that serves five of them will be removed because they are located in the buffer zone. With continued degradation, these campsites and activities associated with them can adversely impact the water quality and terrestrial and/or aquatic habitat of Hazel Creek and Jenkinson Lake. The remaining 12 campsites will be reconfigured to conform to campsite standards and proper circulation as identified in the Master Plan. Native vegetation will be re-established between the campsites, reducing erosion, providing habitat, and adding privacy. To help increase the diversity of recreational opportunities and clientele at the campsite and further minimize water quality impacts near the creek, two units are proposed be handicapped accessible cabins.

#### **Widen Campground Loop Road**

The existing Hazel Creek Campground road is too narrow in many places, restricting proper circulation. The road will be regraded, surfaced as needed, and widened to a uniform 12-foot width where feasible to improve circulation in the campground.

## **Hazel Creek Campground Restoration and Reconfiguration**

Ecological restoration is a deliberate activity that initiates and/or accelerates the recovery of an ecosystem with respect to its health, integrity, and sustainability. Restoration represents a perpetual commitment to protecting the land and resources. With reconfiguration of the campground, the campground and the former spur road will be revegetated with a combination of native herbaceous species, shrubs and trees, and hydroseeding. All areas outside formal campsites, roads, and trails will be revegetated according to the specific native habitat type (e.g., forest or riparian). These improvements will provide defined access and use areas that will be protected with barriers, as described below.

### **Hazel Creek Restoration**

Campsites will be removed from close proximity to Hazel Creek (see following paragraph), and creek banks will be stabilized. Non-native plants in the area surrounding the creek will be removed and the area supplemented with native riparian vegetation as described above. A new bridge will be constructed for the trail crossing over Hazel Creek between the campground and Hazel Meadow to allow horses and vehicles to cross Hazel Creek without impact.

### **50-foot Creek Setback Buffer**

A 50-foot setback buffer will be established for Hazel Creek through the project area. Any structures, including eight campsites, within the 50-foot setback will be removed and the setback then becomes a buffer between the campground and the creek.

### **Access Barriers to Protect New Vegetation**

A barrier consistent with the Master Plan design guidelines (e.g. split-rail fence, boulder) will be installed at the perimeter of all rehabilitated areas within the campground to prevent unauthorized access.

### **Hazel Creek Access Control**

Signage informing the public of the 50-foot setback and restricting access thereto, along with an access barrier consistent with the Master Plan design guidelines, will protect the rehabilitated creek from new impacts. Signage would provide information about safety and explain technical environmental restoration aspects of the site. Interpretive themes may include water quality and natural resource topics such as erosion control, soil compaction, vegetative filtration, stormwater management, biological diversity, and native flora and fauna.

## **Impacts Identified Relevant to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Request**

The action before the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is providing \$153,466 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Grants Program to the El Dorado Irrigation District to fund design and permits for activities to restore and enhance approximately 3.5 acres of Hazel Creek and the Hazel Creek Campground areas. The proposed project's Subsequent Initial Study identifies potential resource impacts related to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, and noise. Specifically, the proposed project may result in visual impacts; temporary increases in dust and exhaust odor due to equipment use during construction activities; the disturbance of special-status plant species or amphibian species; the potential to inadvertently disturb human remains during ground-disturbing activities; soil erosion or the loss of topsoil; the release of hazardous materials into the environment; water quality/drainage impacts; and/or construction noise impacts. Based on the proposed project's Subsequent Initial Study, the project would not cause any additional significant effects on the environment not previously examined in the SPRA Master Plan MEIR. The project proponent will implement measures identified in the

MEIR and proposed project's Subsequent Initial Study to lessen potential impacts to aesthetics, air quality, biological and cultural resources, geology/soils, hazardous/hazardous materials, and hydrology and water quality, and noise.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact."

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards / Hazardous Materials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation / Traffic   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems              | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance   |   |

**DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Responsible Agency)**

On the basis of this evaluation:

The SNC Board determined that the proposed project is a subsequent project within the scope of the Sly Park Master Plan Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR) and that the proposed project would not cause any additional significant effects on the environment not previously examined in the MEIR. The **SUBSEQUENT INITIAL STUDY**, prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15177, adequately analyzed the action for which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy will provide grant funding, and notes which mitigation measures from the MEIR will be implemented to avoid significant impacts. The SNC Board adopted findings pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15096(h) and 15091. The El Dorado Irrigation District as the lead agency also adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program that identifies the timing of mitigation measures and which parties will be responsible for implementing them; the SNC is not responsible for implementing any of these measures and is not proposing any additional mitigation measures.

Signature

Date

Jim Branham

Executive Officer

Printed Name

Title

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Responsible Agency

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT  
RESPONSIBLE AGENCY  
STATEMENT OF FINDINGS**

**Project Title:** Creek and Hazel Creek Campground Restoration (SNC 322)

**State Clearinghouse Number:** SCH# 2004102011

**Project Location:** Sly Park Recreation Area, 4771 Sly Park Road in Pollock Pines. Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground are located in the northeast portion of the park along Lake Drive Road, in El Dorado County, California.

**Description of Project:** The El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) has requested \$153,466 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Grants Program to fund restoration design and file permits for Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground. The restoration will include stabilizing Hazel Creek banks, removing non-native vegetation, recreating a riparian buffer zone along the creek, protecting the re-vegetated areas and creek with a 50-foot setback buffer zone and natural barriers, and constructing an all-weather safety access bridge over the creek. To accomplish the restoration of Hazel Creek, seven campsites and the associated access road will be removed, along with reconfiguring the remaining campsites according to Sly Park Recreation Area (SPRA) Master Plan standards. Two campsites will be replaced with ADA accessible cabins. Native vegetation in the campground will be re-established by installing barriers, providing access controls, and installing interpretive signage to protect native habitats and provide education opportunities and safety information. A new bridge over Hazel Creek will be added to provide emergency access to the back of Sly Park and to provide a dedicated access for bicycles and horses to cross the creek without causing impacts to Hazel Creek and the water quality of Jenkinson Lake. The combined restoration of Hazel Creek and the Hazel Creek Campground areas consists of approximately 3.5 acres and will implement a part of the SPRA Master Plan, which has been adopted by the EID Board of Directors and permitted by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors.

**Findings:** Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21002.1(d) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15096(g) and (h), the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), as a Responsible Agency, has reviewed and considered the following documents prepared by the Lead Agency (CEQA):

El Dorado Irrigation District, *Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground Restoration Project Subsequent Initial Study*. November 14, 2008.

Using its independent judgment, the SNC makes the following finding:

The above listed document: a) adequately address the potential impacts of the project, and b) is adequate for use by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) for assessing the potential impacts of funding the grant request now before the SNC for approval.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy hereby makes the following findings regarding the significant effects of the proposed project, pursuant to Public Resources Code 21081 and Section 15091 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

## 1. AESTHETICS

The proposed project may impact the visual qualities of the surrounding area; impacts are considered potentially significant. The Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR) for the SPRA Master Plan covers aesthetic impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

**Finding:** Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

**Facts in Support of the Finding:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

**AES-2** Avoid removal of existing trees. Adjust locations of facilities as practicable to minimize impacts to existing vegetation. Use retaining walls where feasible to protect existing trees from cut/fill within the drip-line. Where removal of trees is necessary, replant with fast growing, native species suitable to site conditions. Develop a Mitigation Monitoring Plan to ensure survival of plantings.

**AES-4** Site facilities to minimize the need for extensive site grading. Avoid steep cut and fill banks that will have difficulty revegetating. Plant cut-and-fill banks to aid in revegetation. Use retaining walls where necessary to retain soil and minimize cut/fill banks. Consider the use of planting pockets or stepped walls with vegetation planted between tiers for retaining walls that cannot easily be screened by planting at the base of the wall.

**AES-5** Where feasible, conduct construction at times when it will not have significant impacts on SPRA visitors: off-season is preferable to peak-season, and weekdays are preferable to weekends.

**AES-7** Maintain plantings around parking areas to reduce glare and light impacts.

**AES-8** Minimize soil and vegetation disturbance during construction. Replant disturbed areas as soon after construction is completed as feasible.

## 2. AIR QUALITY

The proposed project may have short-term construction-related air quality impacts, including the potential for short-term odors from construction equipment. Impacts are considered potentially significant. The MEIR for the SPRA Master Plan covers air quality impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

**Finding:** Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

**Facts in Support of the Finding:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

- AQ-1** Construction activities will limit the amount of actively disturbed ground areas to no more than 6 acres on any single day.
- AQ-2** The construction contractor(s) shall maintain equipment in tune per manufacturer specifications. The construction contractor(s) shall use catalytic converters on gasoline-powered equipment. The construction contractor(s) shall not leave inactive construction equipment idling for prolonged periods (i.e., more than 5 minutes).

### 3. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The proposed project may cause indirect impacts to Hazel Creek, in addition to impacts on special-status amphibian species (California red-legged frog and foothill yellow-legged frog). Bridge construction within suitable mixed conifer habitat also has the potential to affect special-status plant species. Impacts are considered potentially significant. The MEIR for the SPRA Master Plan covers biological impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

**Finding:** Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

**Facts in Support of the Finding:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

- BIO-1** This mitigation measure was deleted during in the Final Master EIR for the SPRA Master Plan.
- BIO-2** The Hazel Creek restoration project will require a Corps permit as the restoration activities will be occurring within below the ordinary high water mark. This work would be covered under Nationwide Permit (NWP) 27, Stream and Wetland Restoration Activities. A pre-construction notification is required for the restoration of Hazel Creek and must be submitted to the Corps before work occurring within the creek corridor. Any permit conditions required by the Corps will be followed for the duration of the restoration work.

The stabilization of the bank along Lake Drive will require a Corps permit as it is occurring below the ordinary high water mark. This work would be covered under Nationwide Permit 13, Bank Stabilization; therefore NWP 13 shall be acquired before bank stabilization work occurring along Lake Drive. If the bank stabilization activity is less than 500 feet in length and the activity will not disturb more than one cubic yard per running foot, a post-notification to the Corps will be required to ensure compliance with this nationwide permit. If the length of bank stabilization is greater than 500 feet, a pre-construction notification package must be submitted to the Corps to ensure compliance with the permit. If a pre-construction package is required for the bank stabilization along Lake Drive, any permit conditions required by the Corps will be followed for the duration of the work.

- BIO-5** Construction of SPRA Master Plan elements may indirectly affect unnamed tributaries, creeks, or Jenkinson Lake from runoff during construction. If indirect

impacts have the potential to occur during construction activities, additional measures may be required to maintain water quality standards of the waterways. If a 404 permit is required for the SPRA Master Plan, water quality concerns during construction shall be addressed in a required Section 401 water quality certification by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be required for the entire SPRA Master Plan project. SWPPPs are required in issuance of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) construction discharge permit by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) during construction is standard in most SWPPPs and water quality certifications. Examples of BMPs include stockpiling of debris away from regulated wetlands and waterways; immediate removal of debris piles from the site during the rainy season; use of silt fencing and construction fencing around regulated waterways; and use of drip pans under work vehicles and containment of fuel waste throughout the site during construction.

**BIO-6** A Streambed Alteration Agreement shall be obtained from CDFG, pursuant to Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code, for each stream crossing and any other activities affecting the bed, bank or associated riparian vegetation of any stream within SPRA, specifically work that is occurring near Carpenter and Hazel creeks. Appropriate mitigation measures shall be developed in coordination with CDFG in the issued 1602 agreement.

**BIO-7** A pre-construction survey for California red-legged frog and foothill yellow-legged frog should be performed within any areas proposed for a bridge crossing or where work will be occurring within a riparian corridor. Generally, this includes work being performed in proximity to Hazel and Carpenter creeks. Aquatic and upland habitat will be surveyed by a qualified biologist for the presence of California red-legged frog or foothill yellow-legged frog.

Because foothill yellow-legged frogs have been identified within Sly Park Creek within the SPRA, a clearance survey should be performed prior to construction to ensure no impacts will occur to this species that is known to occur within the SPRA. If this species is identified during the pre-construction clearance survey, any individuals should be safely re-located by a qualified professional out of the construction zone to an equivalent habitat located within the SPRA.

The qualified biologist performing the survey should possess a valid California Department of Fish and Game Scientific Collecting Permit. Although California red-legged frogs have not been identified within the SPRA before, if this species is identified during a pre-construction survey, the USFWS should be contacted immediately for subsequent measures. No California redlegged frogs shall be moved or re-located as part of the pre-construction survey.

**BIO-8** As discussed in Table 4.7.3 of the Master EIR, several Master Plan components shall require a Corps permit and/or Section 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement. If either the Corps or California Department of Fish and Game require specific California red-legged frog or foothill yellow-legged frog impact avoidance measures, the applicant shall adhere to the conditions of the permit. These conditions are expected to include construction impact avoidance measures such as the presence of a biological monitor during creek restoration activities, a

seasonal time restriction on work occurring within the creek bed, or a pre-construction survey.

- BIO-9** Avoidance measures for reducing impacts to potential habitat for western pond turtle have been incorporated into the SPRA Master Plan as a design guideline to the maximum extent feasible. Also, the 50- and 100-foot setbacks as required under the El Dorado County General Plan will aid in the protection of western pond turtle and potential marsh habitat during construction activities. However, impacts may still occur during removal of existing campsites within the 50-foot buffer, construction of span bridges, and other project elements that are expected to occur within the 50-and 100-foot creek buffer.

A pre-construction clearance survey for western pond turtle is recommended before construction activities occurring within potential pond turtle habitat. Potential habitat for western pond turtle occurs along Sly Park and Hazel creeks and potentially other perennial, slow-moving drainages. The clearance survey shall be performed during April or May when western pond turtle are most active and identifiable. It is assumed construction is not going to take place during the rainy season, a period when western pond turtle would be less identifiable. Open water areas with emergent vegetation with open rocks for basking shall be adequately surveyed to determine the presence or absence of western pond turtle within the creek corridors. The areas to be subject to clearance surveys shall be based upon final grading plans for each project element, specifically the two span bridges and campground reconfigurations. If western pond turtle are not observed, construction activities shall proceed as scheduled. If western pond turtle are observed, shall be consulted on subsequent impact avoidance measures.

- BIO-10** Signs shall be posted to discourage collecting and handling of aquatic wildlife by recreational users. Interpretive trail signage and kiosks proposed for specific campgrounds shall serve to inform the public of the sensitivity and the ecological importance for preserving of riparian habitat and creek corridors. Interpretive signs and kiosks shall also define Park rules and prohibit collecting aquatic wildlife (other than fishing). Also, design measures such as creek access controls (boulders and cable fencing) at Pine Cone, Rainbow, and Kamloop camps have been incorporated into the SPRA Master Plan project where applicable. The re-configuration of campsites away from Hazel Creek at Hazel Creek, Kamloop, and Rainbow campgrounds would widen the buffer to Hazel Creek to enhance riparian habitat value; the increased distance of campsites to Hazel Creek shall further discourage foot traffic along Hazel Creek and reduce the likelihood of aquatic wildlife collection.

- BIO-14** Construction activities are not expected to occur during the rainy season; however, nesting territories of other raptor species could be established during winter months that could be disturbed by construction activities during that time. Specifically, resident owl species are known to initiate nest building and breeding during early winter months. For this reason, pre-construction nesting raptor surveys shall be performed within SPRA. Based on the final grading plans for specific SPRA Master Plan components, any trees that are planned for removal shall be surveyed for the presence of active raptor nests. A pre-construction raptor survey is recommended to determine the activity status of any identified raptor nests within SPRA including a 500-foot buffer from construction activities, if construction

of any new facilities is expected to occur during the typical nesting season (February-September). The survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 30 days before the start of construction activities. If more than 30 days lapse between the survey and the start of construction, an additional survey shall be performed. If the nests are found and considered to be active, construction activities shall not occur within 500 feet of the nests until the young have fledged and the appropriate resource agencies (USFS, USFWS, or CDFG) shall be consulted. If construction activities are proposed to occur during the non-breeding season (October-January), a survey is not required and no further studies are necessary. As discussed in BIO-11 through BIO-13, in order to avoid impacts to northern goshawk, bald eagle, California spotted owl, and other nesting raptors during their typical breeding seasons, construction activities should not occur from February through September.

Avoidance measures for reducing impacts to nesting raptor species and potential nest trees have been incorporated into the SPRA Master Plan as a design guideline to the maximum extent feasible. For example, during campground re-configuration construction activities, no trees with a DBH of 6 inches or greater shall be removed; raptors are not likely to nest within trees less than 6 inches DBH. Ongoing recreational activities are not expected to have a significant affect on nesting raptors, as any raptors nesting in areas of recreational use will have become habituated to human activity.

- BIO-15** Avoidance measures for reducing impacts to federally sensitive invertebrate species have been incorporated into the SPRA Master Plan as a design guideline to the maximum extent feasible. Additionally, the 50- and 100-foot setbacks as required under the El Dorado County General Plan policies would aid in protecting federally sensitive invertebrate species. Also, the re-configuration of campgrounds shall not allow construction within 50 feet from the ordinary high-water mark of any creeks.

Before construction occurring within the creek corridors for the two proposed span bridges, these potential habitat areas shall be surveyed to determine the presence or absence of Button's Sierra sideband, Gold rush hanging scorpionfly, South Forks ground beetle, and spiny rhyacophilan caddisfly. A qualified entomologist or invertebrate zoologist shall be retained that is familiar with the biology, habitat requirements, and identification of these species. An adequate number of surveys shall be performed over a period when the invertebrate species are identifiable. These species are assumed to be active and identifiable year-round. If any of these federally sensitive invertebrate species are identified within the SPRA area, any individuals should be safely re-located by a qualified entomologist out of the construction zone to an equivalent habitat located within the SPRA. If these species are not identified, bridge construction shall proceed as scheduled and no further mitigation should be necessary.

- BIO-16** Before the removal of any trees or structures within SPRA, a clearance survey shall be performed to determine the presence of bat roosts. The final grading plans for each individual project shall determine the trees and structures to be removed which shall be subject to the pre-construction survey. The pre-construction survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist familiar with the identification of bat species and roosting sign. If special-status roosting bats are found during the pre-

construction survey, CDFG or the USFWS should be consulted regarding measures to minimize impacts to roosting bats during construction. No trees or Park facility structures shall be removed that is used as by roosting bats. If special-status bats are not found during the pre-construction survey, no mitigation measures should be necessary for special-status bats.

**BIO-18** The following measures are designed to protect existing trees and minimize impacts during construction activities.

To protect the root zone, drift fencing (or similar protective barrier approved by El Dorado County) a minimum of 4 feet tall, shall be installed at least two feet outside the drip line of each protected tree. A circle with a radius measurement from the trunk of the tree to the tip of its longest limb shall constitute the drip line protection area for preserved trees and shall establish the Critical Root Zone (CRZ) of the tree. The drift fencing shall not be moved once installed.

Removal of tree branches and/or roots shall be minimized to the extent practical and shall be in compliance with the 2001 “American National Standard for Tree Care Operations – Tree, Shrub, and Other Woody Plant Maintenance-Standard Practices (Pruning)” (A300, Part 1) and with the 1995 International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) companion publication of “Tree Pruning Guidelines.” The removal or severing of any roots on trees to be retained shall only be done at the discretion of an onsite arborist and shall not cause permanent damage to the tree. Roots shall be cut cleanly as close to the excavation as possible. Roots with cut faces of more than 1.5 inches shall be coated with emulsified asphalt or other approved coating formulated for use on damaged plant tissues. Any tree impacted by activity within its CRZ, including cuts to branches and/or roots shall be considered impacted and subject to the same mitigation as a removed tree.

In the event that a stand of trees will be preserved, the entire stand may be fenced, as a group, per the above stated guidelines. Fencing shall be shown on construction plans and shall be installed before the onset of grading activities. Signs shall be attached to the fencing describing the trees as protected.

No grading, vehicular traffic, dumping of excavated debris, materials storage, or disposal of chemicals or contaminated water shall be allowed within the CRZ of the trees to be retained as shown on final site plans. This includes but is not limited to washing concrete from tools or trucks; paint materials; sheetrock, mud, or stucco materials; or other chemicals such as solvents and herbicides. Nails, ties, screws, or other fasteners shall not be use to attach signs, braces, etc. to any tree trunks or branches.

Drainage patterns on the site shall not be modified so that water accumulates in, or is diverted across, the CRZ of any preserved tree.

Construction crews shall be informed of the above measures and shall be required to comply with the guidelines of this mitigation plan. They will also be provided a copy of the map illustrating areas to be fenced and avoided. Before construction, all construction personnel shall be required to sign a document acknowledging receipt and understanding of all tree protection and preservation requirements.

A certified arborist shall monitor the protected trees periodically during construction to ensure the above-mentioned measures are carried out and to monitor the health and structure of the trees.

If construction activities intercept major roots outside of the CRZ, a certified arborist shall be consulted to advise construction crews on how best to minimize damage to roots.

Whenever feasible, utility trenches shall be established outside of the CRZ. If utilities must be located within this area, they should be placed in a conduit that is bored through the soil. Immediately backfill and water to the point of saturation all areas where soil cuts and trenches enter the CRZ of any existing tree.

**BIO-19** To mitigate for the loss of trees, the following tree replacement measures shall be implemented for individual trees removed as part of the SPRA Master Plan:

Based on final grading plans, each SPRA Master Plan project that would require tree removal shall be subject to an arborist survey and report. All trees that occur within the construction footprint will be inventoried by an ISA Certified Arborist. The survey will include numbering each qualifying tree (per El Dorado County guidelines) and recording required data such as species, size, health, and structural condition. Following the inventory of all trees proposed for removal, an arborist report will be completed and submitted to the Manager of Environmental Review Division.

Replacement shall be required for all healthy native trees equal to or greater than 6 inch diameter at breast height (DBH) that will be removed. A healthy tree is defined as a tree with an average to be below-average amount of deadwood with respect to the tree's size and growing environment and little evidence of stress. A healthy tree shall also exhibit a low risk for failure as a public hazard in that it has minimal evidence of wounds, cavities, decay, or indication of hollowness within the root crown, trunk, or primary limbs, as well as lack of co-dominant stems or included bark in major trunk or branch attachments.

For all trees, at least one (1) one-gallon seedling shall be replanted for every two inches of impact for a mitigation ratio of 1:2, thus a 12 inch DBH tree would require six (6) one-gallon replacement seedlings. Replacement seedlings shall be of the same genus and species removed.

For oak (*Quercus* spp.) trees removed, replacement trees may be up to but in no case larger than 15-gallon size or to be consistent with General Plan Policy 7.4.5.2, the replacement requirement shall be calculated on an inch for inch basis, whichever measure is more stringent on tree replacement. The ratio of a 5-gallon oak replacement seedling to inches removed shall be at a minimum 1:3; the ratio of a 15-gallon oak replacement seedling to inches removed shall be at a minimum of 1:6.

Tree re-planting may take place anywhere in SPRA in a location that provides conditions suitable to the growth requirements of the species including areas identified for reforestation in the Forest Management Plan.

Replacement stock seedlings shall be purchased from a source in the SPRA region where feasible.

A complete tree monitoring plan shall be required for the replacement trees.

Monitoring shall be designed to ensure compliance with the established performance standard and to discover and remediate conditions that are detrimental or potentially detrimental to the plantings to ensure the continued success of the plantings. A minimum of eighty percent (80%) of the total plantings will survive annually (exhibiting fair health characteristics or higher) for a period of 3 years from the date of planting. If the plantings fail to meet the performance standard, they shall be replaced annually on an inch-for-inch basis, under the guidelines of this management plan to meet the 80% survival goal.

Monitoring of the plantings will occur annually for three years, from the date of installation, conducted by a certified arborist or qualified biologist. Monitoring will consist of a site assessment to evaluate the health of each planting. Annual monitoring reports shall be submitted to the Manager of Environmental Review Division.

The project proponent, or its successor, is the responsible party for monitoring plantings within SPRA. Any maintenance or remediation required to achieve the performance standard is the responsibility of the project proponent.

#### 4. CULTURAL RESOURCES

A total of 24 cultural resources have been identified in SPRA. Twelve of these are considered eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources, and the remaining twelve are not eligible. Although cultural resources identified in the park are not found within the proposed project site, ground disturbance has the potential to disturb previously unknown cultural resources or human remains. Impacts are considered potentially significant. The MEIR for the SPRA Master Plan covers cultural resources impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

**Finding:** Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

**Facts in Support of the Finding:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measure will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

**CR-12** Train Staff to Recognize Cultural Deposits and Stop Work in the event of an Unanticipated Discovery.

**CR-13** Stop Work if Human Remains are Unearthed and Contact the El Dorado County Coroner.

#### 5. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The proposed project may result in substantial soil erosion; therefore, impacts are considered potentially significant. The MEIR for the SPRA Master Plan covers geology and soils impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

**Finding:** Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

**Facts in Support of the Finding:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

**GEO-1** The applicant shall hire a California-registered geotechnical engineer experienced and knowledgeable in the practice of soils engineering to perform site-specific geotechnical studies. The study shall identify any areas of unstable geology or soils, as well as map and characterize the extent of slope instability or potential for landsliding. The report shall provide recommendations for project design alterations, considerations or other features which could reduce the potential hazards to an acceptable level. All feasible recommendations from the study(s) shall be required as part of the project approval and may include the designation of building envelopes, where appropriate. Areas of landsliding identified within the studies shall be repaired or avoided by development to the extent that they would pose no risk to life or property.

**GEO-2** Final grading plans shall be submitted to a licensed professional geotechnical engineer for review and recommendation. All recommendations shall be incorporated into project design.

## 6. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Although not anticipated, previously unidentified hazardous materials may be encountered during site preparation and construction activities; therefore, impacts are considered potentially significant. The MEIR for the SPRA Master Plan covers hazards and hazardous material impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

**Finding:** Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

**Facts in Support of the Finding:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

**HAZ-2** During site preparation and construction activities, if evidence of previously unidentified hazardous materials contamination is observed or suspected (i.e., stained or odorous soil, or oily or discolored water) construction activities shall cease and a Registered Environmental Professional II shall assess the situation. If necessary, the environmental professional shall prepare a sampling plan to collect soil and/or groundwater samples to determine whether or not the suspected location has been adversely affected by past activities. The samples shall be analyzed for the contaminants determined to be a potential health concern by the

environmental professional. Depending on the nature of the contamination (if any), the Hazardous Materials Division of the El Dorado County Department of Environmental Management shall be contacted for further direction, which could include further investigation or remediation to all applicable federal, State, and local standards.

## 7. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

During construction, there would be short-term soil disturbances within the project site; therefore, impacts are considered potentially significant. The MEIR for the SPRA Master Plan covers hydrology and water quality impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

**Finding:** Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

**Facts in Support of the Finding:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

**HWQ-1** Proper timing of construction and maintenance activities throughout the year such that potential impacts to water quality are minimized or avoided.

**HWQ-2** Storm water runoff from developed impervious areas shall be pre-treated using applicable measures identified in the Storm Water General Permit, especially first flush, from roads and parking lots before discharging into existing waterways.

## 8. NOISE

The proposed project may expose persons to or generation of noise levels during construction; therefore, impacts are considered potentially significant. The MEIR for the SPRA Master Plan covers noise impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

**Finding:** Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

**Facts in Support of the Finding:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

**Noise-1** Construction of potentially significant Master Plan components shall occur only during the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekends, and between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on federally recognized holidays.

The SNC Board has considered the environmental documentation prepared for the project, adopts the findings listed in this document, and approves the project. A Notice of Determination (NOD) indicating the results of these findings will be filed with the State Clearinghouse of the

Governor's Office of Planning and Research pursuant to Section 15096(i) of the State CEQA Guidelines. The Executive Officer of the SNC is authorized to file the NOD.

Certification:

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above present the data and information used to support the findings made herein pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15091 or 15096(h), and the facts, statements, and information presented herein, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name Jim Branham

Title Executive Officer

# **MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM**

## **1.1 MITIGATION AND MONITORING PROGRAM CONTENTS**

This document is the Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP) for the proposed Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground Restoration Project (SNC 322) (State Clearinghouse No. 2004102011), located in the Sly Park Recreation Area at 4771 Sly Park Road in Pollock Pines, El Dorado County, California. Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground are located in the northeast portion of the park along Lake Drive Road. The MMP includes a brief discussion of the legal basis for and the purpose of the program, discussion, and direction regarding complaints about noncompliance, a key to understanding the monitoring matrix, and the monitoring matrix itself.

## **1.2 LEGAL BASIS OF AND PURPOSE FOR THE MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM**

California Public Resources Code §21081.6 requires public agencies to adopt mitigation monitoring or reporting programs whenever certifying an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). This requirement facilitates implementation of all mitigation measures adopted through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.

The MMP contained herein is intended to satisfy the requirements of CEQA as they relate to the Subsequent Initial Study prepared for the Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground Restoration Project. It is intended to be used by El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) staff, participating agencies, the developer, project contractors, and mitigation monitoring personnel during implementation of the proposed project. The SNC is not responsible for implementing any of these measures and is not proposing any additional mitigation measures for this project.

Mitigation is defined by *CEQA Guidelines* §15370 as a measure that does any of the following:

- Avoids impacts altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
- Minimizes impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.
- Rectifies impacts by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impacted environment.
- Reduces or eliminates impacts over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the project.
- Compensates for impacts by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

## **1.3 BRIEF PROJECT BACKGROUND**

In 2007, the EID Board of Directors approved the Sly Park Recreation Area (SPRA) Master Plan to guide improvements, management, and operation of SPRA over the next 20 years. Prior to approving the SPRA Master Plan, the EID Board of Directors certified the Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR), which, as required by

CEQA (Public Resources Code 211000 et seq.), analyzed the potential effects of implementing the SPRA Master Plan. The proposed Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground Restoration Project is identified and discussed in the SPRA MEIR.

In accordance with the requirements of CEQA, a Subsequent Initial Study was prepared in November 2008 to provide further evaluation for the Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground Restoration Project. The purpose of the Subsequent Initial Study was to confirm whether there would be any new significant environmental impacts not addressed in the SPRA MEIR. The Subsequent Initial Study identified no new significant environmental impacts, and the specific mitigation measures previously identified in the SPRA MEIR that would apply to the proposed Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground Restoration Project are identified in the Mitigation Monitoring Table on the following pages.

#### 1.4 MITIGATION MONITORING TABLE

The Mitigation Monitoring Table identifies the mitigation measures proposed for the Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground Restoration Project. These mitigation measures are reproduced from the Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR) for the Sly Park Recreation Area (SPRA) Master Plan, and conditions of approval for the project. The table has the following columns:

**Mitigation Measure/Summary:** Lists the mitigation measures identified within the MEIR for a specific impact, along with the number for each measure enumerated in the MEIR.

**Implementation Phase:** Identifies at what point in time, review process, or phase the mitigation measures will be completed.

**Monitoring Phase:** Identifies at what point in time, review process, or phase the mitigation measures will be monitored.

**Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party:** References the EID department or any other public agency with which coordination is required to satisfy the identified mitigation measure.

**Verification of Compliance:** Spaces to be initialed and dated by the individual designated to verify adherence to a specific mitigation measure.

#### 1.5 NONCOMPLIANCE COMPLAINTS

Any person or agency may file a complaint asserting noncompliance with the mitigation measures associated with the proposed project. The complaint shall be directed to the EID in written form, providing specific information on the asserted violation. The EID shall conduct an investigation and determine the validity of the complaint. If noncompliance with a mitigation measure has occurred, the EID shall take appropriate action to remedy any violation. The complainant shall receive written confirmation indicating the results of the investigation or the final action corresponding to the particular noncompliance issue.

**TABLE 1-1: HAZEL CREEK AND HAZEL CREEK CAMPGROUND RESTORATION PROJECT**

**MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
<b>AESTHETICS</b>							
AES-2	Avoid removal of existing trees. Adjust locations of facilities as practicable to minimize impacts to existing vegetation. Use retaining walls where feasible to protect existing trees from cut/fill within the drip-line. Where removal of trees is necessary, replant with fast growing, native species suitable to site conditions. Develop a Mitigation Monitoring Plan to ensure survival of plantings.	Prior to approval of final plans and specifications.	Pre-construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division.			
AES-4	Site facilities to minimize the need for extensive site grading. Avoid steep cut and fill banks that will have difficulty revegetating. Plant cut-and-fill banks to aid in revegetation. Use retaining walls where necessary to retain soil and minimize cut/fill banks. Consider the use of planting pockets or stepped walls with vegetation planted between tiers for retaining walls that cannot easily be screened by planting at the base of the wall.	During project planning and prior to the approval of final plans and specifications.	Pre-construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division.			
AES-5	Where feasible, conduct construction at times when it will not have significant impacts on SPRA visitors: off-season is preferable to peak-season, and weekdays are preferable to weekends.	During the construction phase.	During construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division.			
AES-7	Maintain plantings around parking areas to reduce glare and light impacts.	Following construction during normal park operations.	During construction.	Park Maintenance and Manager, EID Environmental Review Division.			
AES-8	Minimize soil and vegetation disturbance during construction. Replant disturbed areas as soon after construction is completed as feasible.	Throughout construction.	Throughout construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division.			
<b>AIR QUALITY</b>							
AQ-1	Construction activities will limit the amount of actively disturbed ground areas to no more than 6 acres on any single day.	During construction.	During construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division.			
AQ-2	The construction contractor(s) shall maintain equipment in tune per manufacturer specifications. The construction contractor(s) shall use catalytic converters on gasoline-powered equipment. The construction contractor(s) shall not leave inactive construction equipment idling for prolonged periods (i.e., more than 5 minutes).	During construction.	During construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division.			

**TABLE 1-1: HAZEL CREEK AND HAZEL CREEK CAMPGROUND RESTORATION PROJECT**

**MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
<b>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b>							
BIO-1	This mitigation measure was deleted in the Final Master EIR for the SPRA Master Plan.	--	--	--	--	--	--
BIO-2	<p>The Hazel Creek restoration project will require a Corps permit as the restoration activities will be occurring within below the ordinary high water mark. This work would be covered under Nationwide Permit (NWP) 27, Stream and Wetland Restoration Activities. A pre-construction notification is required for the restoration of Hazel Creek and must be submitted to the Corps before work occurring within the creek corridor. Any permit conditions required by the Corps in the issuance of the permit will be followed for the duration of the restoration work.</p> <p>The stabilization of the bank along Lake Drive will require a Corps permit as it is occurring below the ordinary high water mark. This work would be covered under Nationwide Permit 13, Bank Stabilization; therefore NWP 13 shall be acquired before bank stabilization work occurring along Lake Drive. If the bank stabilization activity is less than 500 feet in length and the activity will not disturb more than one cubic yard per running foot, a post-notification to the Corps will be required to ensure compliance with this nationwide permit. If the length of bank stabilization is greater than 500 feet, a pre-construction notification package must be submitted to the Corps to ensure compliance with the permit. If a pre-construction package is required for the bank stabilization along Lake Drive, any permit conditions required by the Corps will be followed for the duration of the work.</p>	Prior to the implementation of creek restoration and bank stabilization efforts.	Pre-construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division.			
BIO-5	Construction of SPRA Master Plan elements may indirectly affect unnamed tributaries, creeks, or Jenkinson Lake from runoff during construction. If indirect impacts have the potential to occur during construction activities, additional measures may be required to maintain water quality standards of the waterways. If a 404 permit is required for the SPRA Master Plan, water quality concerns during construction shall be addressed in a required Section 401 water quality certification by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be required for	Prior to the approval of final plans and specifications and during construction.	Pre-construction / During construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division.			

**TABLE 1-1: HAZEL CREEK AND HAZEL CREEK CAMPGROUND RESTORATION PROJECT**

**MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
	the entire SPRA Master Plan project. SWPPPs are required in issuance of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) construction discharge permit by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) during construction is standard in most SWPPPs and water quality certifications. Examples of BMPs include stockpiling of debris away from regulated wetlands and waterways; immediate removal of debris piles from the site during the rainy season; use of silt fencing and construction fencing around regulated waterways; and use of drip pans under work vehicles and containment of fuel waste throughout the site during construction.						
BIO-6	Streambed Alteration Agreement shall be obtained from CDFG, pursuant to Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code, for each stream crossing and any other activities affecting the bed, bank or associated riparian vegetation of any stream within SPRA, specifically work that is occurring near Carpenter and Hazel Creeks. Appropriate mitigation measures shall be developed in coordination with CDFG in the issued 1602 agreement.	Prior to approval of final plans and specifications and during construction.	Pre-construction / During construction.	EID Project Manager, EID Environmental Review Division, and Construction Contractor.			
BIO-7	A pre-construction survey for California red-legged frog and foothill yellow-legged frog should be performed within any areas proposed for a bridge crossing or where work will be occurring within a riparian corridor. Generally, this includes work being performed in proximity to Hazel and Carpenter Creeks. Aquatic and upland habitat will be surveyed by a qualified biologist for the presence of California red-legged frog or foothill yellow-legged frog.  Because foothill yellow-legged frogs have been identified within Sly Park Creek within the SPRA, a clearance survey should be performed prior to construction to ensure no impacts will occur to this species that is known to occur within the SPRA. If this species is identified during the pre-construction clearance survey, any individuals should be safely re-located by a qualified professional out of the construction zone to an equivalent habitat located within the SPRA.	Prior to construction.	Pre-construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division.			

**TABLE 1-1: HAZEL CREEK AND HAZEL CREEK CAMPGROUND RESTORATION PROJECT**

**MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
	The qualified biologist performing the survey should possess a valid California Department of Fish and Game Scientific Collecting Permit. Although California red-legged frogs have not been identified within the SPRA before, if this species is identified during a pre-construction survey, the USFWS should be contacted immediately for subsequent measures. No California red-legged frogs shall be moved or re-located as part of the pre-construction survey.						
BIO-8	As discussed in Table 4.7.3 of the Master EIR, several Master Plan components shall require a Corps permit and/or Section 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement. If either the Corps or California Department of Fish and Game require specific California red-legged frog or foothill yellow-legged frog impact avoidance measures, the applicant shall adhere to the conditions of the permit. These conditions are expected to include construction impact avoidance measures such as the presence of a biological monitor during creek restoration activities, a seasonal time restriction on work occurring within the creek bed, or a pre-construction survey.	Prior to and during construction.	Pre-construction / During construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division.			
BIO-9	Avoidance measures for reducing impacts to potential habitat for western pond turtle have been incorporated into the SPRA Master Plan as a design guideline to the maximum extent feasible. Also, the 50- and 100-foot setbacks as required under the El Dorado County General Plan will aid in the protection of western pond turtle and potential marsh habitat during construction activities. However, impacts may still occur during removal of existing campsites within the 50-foot buffer, construction of span bridges, and other project elements that are expected to occur within the 50-and 100-foot creek buffer.  A pre-construction clearance survey for western pond turtle is recommended before construction activities occurring within potential pond turtle habitat. Potential habitat for western pond turtle occurs along Sly Park and Hazel Creeks and potentially other perennial, slow-moving drainages. The clearance survey shall be performed during April or May when western pond turtle are most active and identifiable. It is assumed	Prior to and during construction.	Pre-construction / During construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division.			

**TABLE 1-1: HAZEL CREEK AND HAZEL CREEK CAMPGROUND RESTORATION PROJECT**

**MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
	construction is not going to take place during the rainy season, a period when western pond turtle would be less identifiable. Open water areas with emergent vegetation with open rocks for basking shall be adequately surveyed to determine the presence or absence of western pond turtle within the creek corridors. The areas to be subject to clearance surveys shall be based upon final grading plans for each project element, specifically the two span bridges and campground reconfigurations. If western pond turtle are not observed, construction activities shall proceed as scheduled. If western pond turtle are observed, shall be consulted on subsequent impact avoidance measures.						
BIO-10	Signs shall be posted to discourage collecting and handling of aquatic wildlife by recreational users. Interpretive trail signage and kiosks proposed for specific campgrounds shall serve to inform the public of the sensitivity and the ecological importance for preserving of riparian habitat and creek corridors. Interpretive signs and kiosks shall also define Park rules and prohibit collecting aquatic wildlife (other than fishing). Also, design measures such as creek access controls (boulders and cable fencing) at Pine Cone, Rainbow, and Kamloop camps have been incorporated into the SPRA Master Plan project where applicable. The re-configuration of campsites away from Hazel Creek at Hazel Creek, Kamloop, and Rainbow campgrounds would widen the buffer to Hazel Creek to enhance riparian habitat value; the increased distance of campsites to Hazel Creek shall further discourage foot traffic along Hazel Creek and reduce the likelihood of aquatic wildlife collection.	During project planning and prior to approval of final plans and specifications.	Pre-construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division, and Park Management.			
BIO-14	Construction activities are not expected to occur during the rainy season; however, nesting territories of other raptor species could be established during winter months that could be disturbed by construction activities during that time. Specifically, resident owl species are known to initiate nest building and breeding during early winter months. For this reason, pre-construction nesting raptor surveys shall be performed within SPRA. Based on the final grading plans for specific SPRA Master Plan components, any trees that are planned for removal shall be surveyed for the presence of active raptor nests. A	During project planning and prior to and during construction.	Pre-construction / During construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division, and Park Management.			

**TABLE 1-1: HAZEL CREEK AND HAZEL CREEK CAMPGROUND RESTORATION PROJECT**

**MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance			
					Initials	Date	Remarks	
	<p>pre-construction raptor survey is recommended to determine the activity status of any identified raptor nests within SPRA including a 500-foot buffer from construction activities, if construction of any new facilities is expected to occur during the typical nesting season (February-September). The survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 30 days before the start of construction activities. If more than 30 days lapse between the survey and the start of construction, an additional survey shall be performed. If the nests are found and considered to be active, construction activities shall not occur within 500 feet of the nests until the young have fledged and the appropriate resource agencies (USFS, USFWS, or CDFG) shall be consulted. If construction activities are proposed to occur during the non-breeding season (October-January), a survey is not required and no further studies are necessary. As discussed in BIO-11 through BIO-13, in order to avoid impacts to northern goshawk, bald eagle, California spotted owl, and other nesting raptors during their typical breeding seasons, construction activities should not occur from February through September.</p> <p>Avoidance measures for reducing impacts to nesting raptor species and potential nest trees have been incorporated into the SPRA Master Plan as a design guideline to the maximum extent feasible. For example, during campground re-configuration construction activities, no trees with a DBH of 6 inches or greater shall be removed; raptors are not likely to nest within trees less than 6 inches DBH. Ongoing recreational activities are not expected to have a significant affect on nesting raptors, as any raptors nesting in areas of recreational use will have become habituated to human activity.</p>							
BIO-15	<p>Avoidance measures for reducing impacts to federally sensitive invertebrate species have been incorporated into the SPRA Master Plan as a design guideline to the maximum extent feasible. Additionally, the 50- and 100-foot setbacks as required under the El Dorado County General Plan policies would aid in protecting federally sensitive invertebrate species. Also, the -configuration of</p>	Prior to construction.	Pre-construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division.				

**TABLE 1-1: HAZEL CREEK AND HAZEL CREEK CAMPGROUND RESTORATION PROJECT**

**MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
	<p>campgrounds shall not allow construction within 50 feet from the ordinary high-water mark of any creeks.</p> <p>Before construction occurring within the creek corridors for the two proposed span bridges, these potential habitat areas shall be surveyed to determine the presence or absence of Button's Sierra sideband, Gold rush hanging scorpionfly, South Forks ground beetle, and spiny rhyacophilan caddisfly. A qualified entomologist or invertebrate zoologist shall be retained that is familiar with the biology, habitat requirements, and identification of these species. An adequate number of surveys shall be performed over a period when the invertebrate species are identifiable. These species are assumed to be active and identifiable year-round. If any of these federally sensitive invertebrate species are identified within the SPRA area, any individuals should be safely re-located by a qualified entomologist out of the construction zone to an equivalent habitat located within the SPRA. If these species are not identified, bridge construction shall proceed as scheduled and no further mitigation should be necessary.</p>						
BIO-16	<p>Before the removal of any trees or structures within SPRA, a clearance survey shall be performed to determine the presence of bat roosts. The final grading plans for each individual project shall determine the trees and structures to be removed which shall be subject to the pre-construction survey. The pre-construction survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist familiar with the identification of bat species and roosting sign. If special-status roosting bats are found during the pre-construction survey, CDFG or the USFWS should be consulted regarding measures to minimize impacts to roosting bats during construction. No trees or Park facility structures shall be removed that is used as by roosting bats. If special-status bats are not found during the pre-construction survey, no mitigation measures should be necessary for special-status bats.</p>	Prior to construction.	Pre-construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division.			
BIO-18	<p>The following measures are designed to protect existing trees and minimize impacts during construction activities.</p>	Prior to approval of final plans and specifications and	Pre-construction / During construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division.			

**TABLE 1-1: HAZEL CREEK AND HAZEL CREEK CAMPGROUND RESTORATION PROJECT**

**MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

Mitigation Measure	Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
				Initials	Date	Remarks
<p>To protect the root zone, drift fencing (or similar protective barrier approved by El Dorado County) a minimum of 4 feet tall, shall be installed at least two feet outside the drip line of each protected tree. A circle with a radius measurement from the trunk of the tree to the tip of its longest limb shall constitute the drip line protection area for preserved trees and shall establish the Critical Root Zone (CRZ) of the tree. The drift fencing shall not be moved once installed.</p> <p>Removal of tree branches and/or roots shall be minimized to the extent practical and shall be in compliance with the 2001 "American National Standard for Tree Care Operations – Tree, Shrub, and Other Woody Plant Maintenance-Standard Practices (Pruning)" (A300, Part 1) and with the 1995 International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) companion publication of "Tree Pruning Guidelines." The removal or severing of any roots on trees to be retained shall only be done at the discretion of an onsite arborist and shall not cause permanent damage to the tree. Roots shall be cut cleanly as close to the excavation as possible. Roots with cut faces of more than 1.5 inches shall be coated with emulsified asphalt or other approved coating formulated for use on damaged plant tissues. Any tree impacted by activity within its CRZ, including cuts to branches and/or roots shall be considered impacted and subject to the same mitigation as a removed tree.</p> <p>In the event that a stand of trees will be preserved, the entire stand may be fenced, as a group, per the above stated guidelines. Fencing shall be shown on construction plans and shall be installed before the onset of grading activities. Signs shall be attached to the fencing describing the trees as protected.</p> <p>No grading, vehicular traffic, dumping of excavated debris, materials storage, or disposal of chemicals or contaminated water shall be allowed within the CRZ of the trees to be retained as shown on final site plans. This includes but is not limited to washing concrete from tools or trucks; paint materials; sheetrock, mud, or stucco materials; or other chemicals such as solvents and</p>	during construction.					

**TABLE 1-1: HAZEL CREEK AND HAZEL CREEK CAMPGROUND RESTORATION PROJECT**

**MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
	<p>herbicides. Nails, ties, screws, or other fasteners shall not be use to attach signs, braces, etc. to any tree trunks or branches.</p> <p>Drainage patterns on the site shall not be modified so that water accumulates in, or is diverted across, the CRZ of any preserved tree.</p> <p>Construction crews shall be informed of the above measures and shall be required to comply with the guidelines of this mitigation plan. They will also be provided a copy of the map illustrating areas to be fenced and avoided. Before construction, all construction personnel shall be required to sign a document acknowledging receipt and understanding of all tree protection and preservation requirements.</p> <p>A certified arborist shall monitor the protected trees periodically during construction to ensure the above-mentioned measures are carried out and to monitor the health and structure of the trees.</p> <p>If construction activities intercept major roots outside of the CRZ, a certified arborist shall be consulted to advise construction crews on how best to minimize damage to roots.</p> <p>Whenever feasible, utility trenches shall be established outside of the CRZ. If utilities must be located within this area, they should be placed in a conduit that is bored through the soil. Immediately backfill and water to the point of saturation all areas where soil cuts and trenches enter the CRZ of any existing tree.</p>						
BIO-19	<p>To mitigate for the loss of trees, the following tree replacement measures shall be implemented for individual trees removed as part of the SPRA Master Plan:</p> <p>Based on final grading plans, each SPRA Master Plan project that would require tree removal shall be subject to an arborist survey and report. All trees that occur within the construction footprint will be inventoried by an ISA</p>	Prior to approval of final plans and specifications, and prior to and during construction.	Pre-construction / During construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division.			

**TABLE 1-1: HAZEL CREEK AND HAZEL CREEK CAMPGROUND RESTORATION PROJECT**

**MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

Mitigation Measure	Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
				Initials	Date	Remarks
<p>Certified Arborist. The survey will include numbering each qualifying tree (per El Dorado County guidelines) and recording required data such as species, size, health, and structural condition. Following the inventory of all trees proposed for removal, an arborist report will be completed and submitted to the Manager of Environmental Review Division.</p> <p>Replacement shall be required for all healthy native trees equal to or greater than 6 inch diameter at breast height (DBH) that will be removed. A healthy tree is defined as a tree with an average to be below-average amount of deadwood with respect to the tree's size and growing environment and little evidence of stress. A healthy tree shall also exhibit a low risk for failure as a public hazard in that it has minimal evidence of wounds, cavities, decay, or indication of hollowness within the root crown, trunk, or primary limbs, as well as lack of co-dominant stems or included bark in major trunk or branch attachments.</p> <p>For all trees, at least one (1) one-gallon seedling shall be replanted for every two inches of impact for a mitigation ratio of 1:2, thus a 12 inch DBH tree would require six (6) one-gallon replacement seedlings. Replacement seedlings shall be of the same genus and species removed.</p> <p>For oak (<i>Quercus</i> spp.) trees removed, replacement trees may be up to but in no case larger than 15-gallon size or to be consistent with General Plan Policy 7.4.5.2, the replacement requirement shall be calculated on an inch for inch basis, whichever measure is more stringent on tree replacement. The ratio of a 5-gallon oak replacement seedling to inches removed shall be at a minimum 1:3; the ratio of a 15-gallon oak replacement seedling to inches removed shall be at a minimum of 1:6.</p> <p>Tree re-planting may take place anywhere in SPRA in a location that provides conditions suitable to the growth requirements of the species including areas identified for reforestation in the Forest Management Plan.</p> <p>Replacement stock seedlings shall be purchased from a</p>						

**TABLE 1-1: HAZEL CREEK AND HAZEL CREEK CAMPGROUND RESTORATION PROJECT**

**MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
	<p>source in the SPRA region where feasible. A complete tree monitoring plan shall be required for the replacement trees.</p> <p>Monitoring shall be designed to ensure compliance with the established performance standard and to discover and remediate conditions that are detrimental or potentially detrimental to the plantings to ensure the continued success of the plantings. A minimum of eighty percent (80%) of the total plantings will survive annually (exhibiting fair health characteristics or higher) for a period of 3 years from the date of planting. If the plantings fail to meet the performance standard, they shall be replaced annually on an inch-for-inch basis, under the guidelines of this management plan to meet the 80% survival goal.</p> <p>Monitoring of the plantings will occur annually for three years, from the date of installation, conducted by a certified arborist or qualified biologist. Monitoring will consist of a site assessment to evaluate the health of each planting. Annual monitoring reports shall be submitted to the Manager of Environmental Review Division.</p> <p>The project proponent, or its successor, is the responsible party for monitoring plantings within SPRA. Any maintenance or remediation required to achieve the performance standard is the responsibility of the project proponent.</p>						
<b>CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>							
CR-12	Train staff to recognize cultural deposits and stop work in the event of an unanticipated discovery.	Prior to and during construction.	Pre-construction / During construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division and Park Management.			
CR-13	Stop work if human remains are unearthed and contact the El Dorado County Coroner.	During construction.	During construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division, and Park Management.			

**TABLE 1-1: HAZEL CREEK AND HAZEL CREEK CAMPGROUND RESTORATION PROJECT**

**MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

Mitigation Measure	Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
				Initials	Date	Remarks

**GEOLOGY/SOILS**

GEO-1	The applicant shall hire a California-registered geotechnical engineer experienced and knowledgeable in the practice of soils engineering to perform site-specific geotechnical studies. The study shall identify any areas of unstable geology or soils, as well as map and characterize the extent of slope instability or potential for landsliding. The report shall provide recommendations for project design alterations, considerations or other features which could reduce the potential hazards to an acceptable level. All feasible recommendations from the study(s) shall be required as part of the project approval and may include the designation of building envelopes, where appropriate. Areas of landsliding identified within the studies shall be repaired or avoided by development to the extent that they would pose no risk to life or property.	During project planning and prior to approval of final plans and specifications.	Pre-construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division.			
GEO-2	Final grading plans shall be submitted to a licensed professional geotechnical engineer for review and recommendation. All recommendations shall be incorporated into project design.	During project planning and prior to approval of final plans and specifications.	Pre-construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division.			

**HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

HAZ-2	During site preparation and construction activities, if evidence of previously unidentified hazardous materials contamination is observed or suspected (i.e., stained or odorous soil, or oily or discolored water) construction activities shall cease and a Registered Environmental Professional II shall assess the situation. If necessary, the environmental professional shall prepare a sampling plan to collect soil and/or groundwater samples to determine whether or not the suspected location has been adversely affected by past activities. The samples shall be analyzed for the contaminants determined to be a potential health concern by the environmental professional. Depending on the nature of the contamination (if any), the Hazardous Materials Division of the El Dorado County Department of	During construction.	During construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division, and Park Management.			
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**TABLE 1-1: HAZEL CREEK AND HAZEL CREEK CAMPGROUND RESTORATION PROJECT**

**MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
	Environmental Management shall be contacted for further direction, which could include further investigation or remediation to all applicable federal, State, and local standards.						
<b>HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY</b>							
HWQ-1	Proper timing of construction and maintenance activities throughout the year such that potential impacts to water quality are minimized or avoided.	During project planning and prior to and during project construction and maintenance activities.	Pre-construction / During construction.	EID Project Manager, Manager, EID Environmental Review Division, and Park Management.			
HWQ-2	Storm water runoff from developed impervious areas shall be pre-treated using applicable measures identified in the Storm Water General Permit, especially first flush, from roads and parking lots before discharging into existing waterways.	During construction.	During construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division, and Park Management.			
<b>NOISE</b>							
NOISE-1	Construction of potentially significant Master Plan components shall occur only during the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekends, and between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on federally recognized holidays.	During construction.	During construction.	Manager, EID Environmental Review Division.			

## **LEAD AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

If you would like to view the supporting environmental documentation prepared for this project by the lead agency, click on the following links:

[\*\*Sly Park Master Plan Draft Master Environmental Impact Report\*\*](#)

[\*\*Sly Park Master Plan Final Master Environmental Impact Report\*\*](#)

[\*\*Sly Park Master Plan Record of Approval\*\*](#)

Note: these are large PDF files that may take a while to load. For best performance, right-click and choose "Save Target as"; the PDF file will download to your computer, and then you can open the local copy of the PDF document.

## NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
1521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

Subject: **FILING OF NOTICE OF DETERMINATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 21108 OR 21152 OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE**

Project Title: Lower Ash Creek Wildlife Area Restoration Project (SNC 419)

State Clearinghouse No.: SCH# 2010062071

Project Location: Lower Ash Creek, one mile north of State Highway 299 between the towns of Bieber and Adin

County: Lassen and Modoc Counties

Project Description: Pit Resource Conservation District (RCD) has requested \$1,000,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Grants Program to fund the restoration of approximately 2,415 acres of degraded meadow, riparian, and aquatic conditions along the lower portion of Ash Creek. The purpose of this project is to restore the historic wet meadow and associated stream channel that have been degraded by a variety of past management practices. A proven restoration method known as "pond-and-plug" will be used to block an eroding channel that has down-cut through a meadow, and redirect the stream to historic remnant channels. This will be accomplished by partially filling the incised channel. Portions of the channel will be excavated and enlarged to create ponds, and newly excavated material will be used to fill areas in between the ponds that are referred to as "plugs." The redirected flow in the remnant channels will raise the water table and rehydrate the site, gradually reestablishing the wet meadow conditions. Topsoil and vegetation from the excavated areas, including sod and willows, will be salvaged and used to revegetate the "plugs."

As  Lead Agency  a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has approved the above described project on March 3, 2011, and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project  will  will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A  Negative Declaration  Mitigated Negative Declaration  Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures  were  were not made a condition of project approval.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan  was  was not adopted for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations  was  was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings  were  were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Mitigated Negative Declaration is available to the General Public at the following location:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

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Jim Branham

Executive Officer

(530) 823-4670  
Phone #

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received For Filing and Posting at OPR:

**RESPONSIBLE AGENCY  
ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION**

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

1. Project Title:  
Lower Ash Creek Wildlife Restoration Project (SNC 419)
2. Responsible Agency Name and Address:  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603
3. Contact Person and Phone Number:  
Marji Feliz, Program Coordinator (530) 823-4679
4. Project Location:  
Lower Ash Creek; one mile north of State Highway 299 between the towns of Bieber and Adin in Lassen and Modoc Counties
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:  
Pit Resource Conservation District  
P.O. Box 301  
Bieber, CA 96009
6. General Plan Designation:  
Agriculture General
7. Zoning:  
Agricultural Preserve / Agriculture Exclusive
8. Description of Project:  
Pit Resource Conservation District (RCD) has requested \$1,000,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Grants Program to fund the restoration of approximately 2,415 acres of degraded meadow, riparian, and aquatic conditions along the lower portion of Ash Creek. The purpose of this project is to restore the historic wet meadow and associated stream channel that have been degraded by a variety of past management practices. A proven restoration method known as "pond-and-plug" will be used to block an eroding channel that has down-cut through a meadow, and redirect the stream to historic remnant channels. This will be accomplished by partially filling the incised channel. Portions of the channel will be excavated and enlarged to create ponds, and newly excavated material will be used to fill areas in between the ponds that are referred to as "plugs." The redirected flow in the remnant channels will raise the water table and rehydrate the site, gradually reestablishing the wet meadow conditions. Topsoil and vegetation from the excavated areas, including sod and willows, will be salvaged and used to revegetate the "plugs."
9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:  
The surrounding lands are primarily used for agriculture and rangeland. Most of the surrounding landscape is farmland, grassland, or sagebrush scrub.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required:  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Pit Resource Conservation District (RCD) proposes an implementation project to address degraded meadow, riparian, and aquatic conditions along the lower portion of Ash Creek. The total project restoration area is approximately 2,415 acres and consists of roughly 137,000 linear feet of stream channels. The project will also protect an additional 1,085 acres of meadow that is at risk from the degraded 2,415 acre area. This restoration project is consistent with the Upper Pit River Watershed Management Strategy, a recently completed, large-scale collaborative planning effort. Once concluded, the Lower Ash Creek Wildlife Area Restoration Project will be the largest meadow restoration project in the Sierra Region.

The dominant feature of the project site is a degraded stream and meadow along Ash Creek. Although the landform evolved for thousands of years without significant degradation, nonsustainable management practices including channelization, improper bridge and culvert placement and design, and historic over-grazing have caused severe degradation in the past century. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) purchased the area in 1988, but despite efforts to improve habitat conditions for wildlife, the historic disconnect between the stream channels and their floodplain has allowed meadow degradation to continue. This project proposes to restore the physical connection of Ash Creek's many stream channels to their floodplain by implementing the "pond and plug" restoration technique. The technique is also consistent with CDFG's goal to improve waterfowl conditions, as ponds would be used by thousands of migratory and resident waterfowl that concentrate in the Wildlife Area.

Overall, the project will attenuate flood flows, increase shallow ground water storage, improve water quality conditions, improve aquatic resources, improve water management infrastructure, and improve meadow and riparian productivity and health. Threatened species that thrive in broad meadow systems, including the greater sandhill crane, will also benefit from the restoration. Nesting success of this species in particular has declined in degraded meadow systems due to the meadows' dry nature and resulting lack of predatory protection. In addition to improved aquatic and riparian habitat for fish and terrestrial species, the meadow productivity will also benefit livestock. The State currently leases portions of the Wildlife Area for haying livestock grazing during the summer, and revenue from these leases is used by the State and Pit RCD to fund other projects. The final component of the restoration project is the re-design of an existing water delivery system maintained and operated by the Wildlife Area. The current system delivers water downstream for seasonal wetland management, but does so inefficiently. The re-design of this system has been integrated into the restoration design, which not only sustains the stream and meadow, but also increases efficiency of water management and use. The overall result is a project that stimulates the economy while restoring, protecting, and sustaining a working landscape.

## PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Ash Creek Wildlife Area Restoration Project Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration

California Department of Fish and Game, *Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, Ash Creek Wildlife Area Restoration Project*, SCH No. 2010062071. May 2010.

### Proposed Project Goals

The proposed project has six goals which are described below:

*Goal 1 – Restore the natural form and function of the stream and floodplain:* Redesign or restoration of the channel will immediately reconnect the stream channel to its historic floodplain. This will allow for frequent, low-intensity floods: a feature that is characteristic of functioning meadows. Reconnecting the stream channel to its floodplain will directly affect the length (approximately 120,000 - 137,000 linear feet) of streambank restored, the amount of ground water held within the meadow system, the amount of land (approximately 2,000 - 2,415 acres) restored within the stream channel and floodplain, and the stream flow during the rainy and dry seasons. The restoration and subsequent flooding of the meadow surface will provide a mechanism for trapping sediment, as discussed in Goal 2.

*Goal 2 – Stop soil erosion at the site:* Elimination of existing gullies and entrenched channels will reduce the delivery of sediment to lower reaches of the Ash Creek watershed, bringing the amount of downstream sediment delivery near, if not equal, to pre-settlement levels. Instead of serving as a sediment contributor and conduit to downstream reaches, the meadow will once again serve as a sediment trap.

*Goal 3 – Raise the local water table:* Restoration of stream channel and floodplain functions will soon raise the shallow ground water table. The primary benefits of this effect include:

- a. Flood attenuation: the meadows will once again store water for slow release instead of rapidly releasing runoff in concentrated flows. Released water will be cleaner, cooler and more consistent in flow throughout the year.
- b. Riparian health: the higher water table will allow wetland/wet meadow vegetation to become re-established, and will improve conditions for riparian corridors along the primary stream and secondary stream channels.

By accomplishing Goals 1-3, the restored channel and meadow will replicate the historic stream and floodplain processes, and natural channel migration across the floodplain will occur on a geologic time scale. These historic processes include the natural release of flow energies, which reduces erosive effects of high flow events, and the slow, manageable movement of sediment through the watershed. Finally, restoration of the stream and floodplain will enable the system to “evolve” with global climatic changes, thereby reducing the necessity of management actions in maintaining the functionality of the stream meadow system.

*Goal 4 – Improve habitat values for the site:* The restored channel will be designed with habitat features to accommodate a wide range of aquatic and riparian organisms. These features are largely absent in the existing gullied channel. The project will also incrementally improve conditions for native fish within Ash Creek. Of particular interest will be improved habitats for the greater sandhill crane, waterfowl, shorebird, and neo-tropical songbird. Various game species will also benefit, including mule deer and valley quail, as will an innumerable amount of non-game species. Livestock forage values will also increase, and will provide for continued agricultural outputs of this once productive rangeland.

*Goal 5 – Improve agricultural productivity:* Experience with similar projects in the region indicates that forage outputs can actually increase while meeting other project watershed and habitat goals. Modern grazing management is drastically different from historic practices, and the State will conduct their grazing program to meet multiple management objectives while sustaining the resource. As conditions exist today, even complete elimination of grazing would not result in significant improvements to watershed function during any human time scale. Improved grazing management will ensure that, after an initial rest period, livestock utilization will not adversely affect meadow productivity for ecological or forage outputs.

*Goal 6 – Document the Performance Measures (No. 1-4, 6, 12, and 13) identified in the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Category 1 Grant Program.* The four mandatory Performance Measures identified within the Category 1 Grant Program will be documented throughout the life of the project. Documentation will include estimating the number of people who read newspaper and newsletter articles, recording the number of people who attend meetings where the project is discussed or presented, recording the dollar value of resources leveraged, documenting the number and types of jobs created, and quantifying the number of new, improved, or preserved economic activities. The number of acres of land and stream channel restored will also be quantified, as well as the changes in shallow ground water and stream flow. The benefits resulting from project completion are expected to last indefinitely with minimal active maintenance. Ensuring vegetative health by utilizing proper grazing management techniques will be the key to long-term success.

Finally, the proposed project will improve connectivity between past projects conducted in the Wildlife Area (e.g. Big Swamp Enhancement Project, Pilot Butte 3/Elkins 1C Wetland Enhancement Project) and key District projects identified in the *Pit RCD Watershed Management Strategy* (Rose Canyon Creek Restoration Project, Lower Rose Creek Restoration Project, Shaw Ranch Streambank Protection and Enhancement Project, and Mason/Monchamp/Balcom Streambank Stabilization and Floodplain Enhancement Project). The proposed project is also consistent with treatment of conditions identified in the *Pit River Watershed Assessment* as contributing to stressors of water quality in the Upper Pit River, and will address seven of the nine goals created by the *Upper Pit River Watershed Management Strategy*.

#### Impacts Identified Relevant to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Request

The action before the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is providing \$1,000,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Grants Program to the Pit RCD to restore approximately 2,415 acres of degraded meadow, riparian, and aquatic conditions along the lower portion of Ash Creek. The Ash Creek Wildlife Area Restoration Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration identifies potential resource impacts related to biological resources, cultural resources, and hazards/hazardous materials. Specifically, potential biological resources impacts may include the disturbance of nesting greater sandhill cranes and/or Swainson’s hawk, the disturbance of special-status plant species, short-term disturbance of Waters of the United States and Other Wetlands, and temporary disturbance of common wildlife and fish species. Cultural resources impacts may include potential adverse changes in the significance of historical and/or archeological resources, the potential to inadvertently disturb human remains during ground-disturbing activities, and the potential for damage to buried archaeological sites. Potential impacts on terrestrial and aquatic resources from hazards/hazardous materials also exist. Based on the proposed project’s Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, the above-mentioned potential impacts are considered significant, but mitigable. The project proponent will implement measures identified in the proposed project’s Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration to lessen potential impacts to biological resources, cultural resources, and hazardous/hazardous materials.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact."

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources              | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources      | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards / Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality          | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation / Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems              | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |   |

**DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Responsible Agency)**

On the basis of this evaluation:

The SNC Board determined that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by, or agreed to by, the project proponent. An **INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** was prepared that adequately analyzed the action for which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy will provide grant funding, mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project, and the SNC Board has adopted findings pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15096(h) and 15091. The Department of Fish and Game as the lead agency also adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program that identifies the timing of mitigation measures and which parties will be responsible for implementing them; the SNC is not responsible for implementing any of these measures and is not proposing any additional mitigation measures.

Signature

Date

Jim Branham

Executive Officer

Printed Name

Title

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Responsible Agency

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT  
RESPONSIBLE AGENCY  
STATEMENT OF FINDINGS**

**Project Title:** Lower Ash Creek Wildlife Area Restoration Project (SNC 419)

**State Clearinghouse Number:** SCH# 2010062071

**Project Location:** Lower Ash Creek, one mile north of State Highway 299 between the towns of Bieber and Adin

**Description of Project:** Pit Resource Conservation District (RCD) has requested \$1,000,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Grants Program to fund the restoration of approximately 2,415 acres of degraded meadow, riparian, and aquatic conditions along the lower portion of Ash Creek. The purpose of this project is to restore the historic wet meadow and associated stream channel that have been degraded by a variety of past management practices. A proven restoration method known as the "pond-and-plug" will be used to block an eroding channel that has down-cut through a meadow, and redirect the stream to historic remnant channels. This will be accomplished by partially filling the incised channel. Portions of the channel will be excavated and enlarged to create ponds, and newly excavated material will be used to fill areas in between the ponds that are referred to as "plugs." The redirected flow in the remnant channels will raise the water table and rehydrate the site, gradually reestablishing the wet meadow conditions. Topsoil and vegetation from the excavated areas, including sod and willows, will be salvaged and used to revegetate the "plugs".

**Findings:** Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21002.1(d) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15096(g) and (h), the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), as a Responsible Agency, has reviewed and considered the following documents prepared by the Lead Agency (CEQA):

California Department of Fish and Game, *Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, Ash Creek Wildlife Area Restoration Project*, SCH No. 2010062071. May 2010.

Using its independent judgment, the SNC makes the following finding:

The above listed document: a) adequately addresses the potential impacts of the project, and b) is adequate for use by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) for assessing the potential impacts of funding the grant request now before the SNC for approval.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy hereby makes the following findings regarding the significant effects of the proposed project, pursuant to Public Resources Code 21081 and Section 15091 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

## **1. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

The Ash Creek Wildlife Area Restoration Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration identifies potential impacts related to biological resources. Specifically, potential biological resource impacts may include the disturbance of nesting greater sandhill cranes and/or Swainson's hawk, the disturbance of special-status plant species, short-term disturbance of Waters of the United States and Other Wetlands, and temporary disturbance of common wildlife and fish species.

**Potential Impact on Nesting Greater Sandhill Cranes and Swainson's Hawk.** The project could potentially cause the loss of greater sandhill crane and Swainson's hawk nest(s) if the species are found nesting near or within the project area. These impacts could occur from disturbance by construction activities between April 1 through August 15 which could cause the destruction of eggs/young or abandonment of active nest(s). DFG Code 3503.5 prohibits the destruction of raptor nests, and any loss of eggs or individuals would be considered a significant impact. Additionally, impacts on these two species would be considered "take" under the California Endangered Species Act. Impacts are considered potentially significant.

**Finding:** Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

**Facts in Support of the Finding:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

**Mitigation Measure W-1. Conduct pre-construction surveys for greater sandhill crane if construction activities will occur before August 1.** Greater sandhill cranes typically begin nesting on ACWA in early April, and most young fledge by July 15. However, some individual nests have been found after July 15, likely representing pairs that lost a nest during their first attempt, and the second attempt therefore extends longer into the nesting season. Because of the short construction window (estimated at 90 days), activities will need to start in the summer as soon as cranes have completed nesting (i.e. late July). A qualified wildlife biologist will monitor the proposed construction areas during the later part of the nesting season (July) to determine if any cranes are still nesting. Once the biologist determines that cranes are no longer nesting within the project area, construction activities may begin, and no further mitigation measures would be required.

**Mitigation Measure W-2. Conduct pre-construction surveys for Swainson's Hawk if construction activities will occur before August 1.** Swainson's hawk typically begins nesting in the Big Valley area in early May, and most young fledge by mid-August. However, some individual nests may be active after August 15, likely representing pairs that lost a nest during the first nest attempt; consequently the second attempt extends longer into the nesting season. Successful pairs that have successfully fledged young but are still in the post-fledging dependency period could also still be "attached" to the nest site. Because of the short construction window (estimated at 90 days), activities will need to start in the summer as soon as possible (i.e. late July). A qualified wildlife biologist will monitor the proposed construction areas during the latter part of the nesting season (July) to determine if Swainson's hawks are nesting. If the biologist determines that no Swainson's hawks are nesting within .5 miles of the construction areas, no further mitigation is required.

**Potential Impacts on Special-Status Plants (including Lemmon's milk-vetch, Castlegar hawthorne, Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop, and Howell's thelypodium).** The project could potentially cause the loss of individuals and/or colonies of the above special-status plant species. These impacts could occur from direct disturbance during construction activities or from changes in the groundwater hydrology and resulting vegetative responses as a result of restoration of the project site. The loss of individuals and/or colonies of these species could be considered a significant impact if a substantial portion of the local population is affected. Impacts are considered potentially significant.

**Finding:** Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

**Facts in Support of the Finding:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measure will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

**Mitigation Measure W-3. Conduct pre-construction surveys for special-status plant species in ground disturbance areas prior to construction.** Prior to construction in ground disturbing areas, wet meadow edge habitat, and large vernal pools/seasonally managed wetlands, a qualified botanist familiar with the identification of special-status plant species will conduct presence/absence surveys for Lemmon's milk-vetch, Castlegar hawthorne, Boggs Lake hedgehyssop, and Howell's thelypodium. If any of these species are found in ground-disturbance areas, construction will avoid or minimize impacts if feasible. If construction activities cannot avoid Lemmon's milk-vetch colonies or minimize impacts on them, the upper 1 to 4 inches of soil will be stockpiled and replaced as the top soil layer after construction to replace fragmented plant parts and seeds potentially present in the soil profile. Populations of Sheldon's sedge that cannot be avoided will be excavated for propagation and/or direct planting in "new" moist sites, such as banks of the design channels or margins of newly created wetland areas. Individual Castlegar hawthorne shrubs will be avoided if possible. If avoidance is not feasible, individual shrubs will be relocated, or fruits/seeds and/or cuttings will be used for planting in suitable habitat within the project area. If Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop is found, construction activities will avoid direct impacts on this species. If it is found and cannot be avoided, DFG will be consulted for appropriate actions. If none of the above special-status plant species are found during surveys, no further mitigation is required.

**Short-Term Disturbance of Waters of the United States from Construction Activities.** The project will have a short-term effect on federally protected wetlands (including other waters of the United States). Ash Creek, a perennial drainage, is located within the construction area and would be considered "other waters" of the United States subject to jurisdiction under section 404 of the CWA. In addition, DFG regulates activities that would interfere with the natural flow of, or substantially alter the channel, bed, or bank of, a lake, river, or stream. These activities are regulated under CDFG Code Section 1601 for public agencies and Section 1603 for private individuals. Requirements to protect the integrity of biological resources and water quality are often conditions of streambed alteration agreements. Conditions that may be required by DFG include avoidance or minimization of vegetation removal, use of standard erosion-control measures, limitations on the use of heavy equipment, limitations on work periods to avoid impacts on fisheries and wildlife resources, and requirements to restore degraded sites or compensate for permanent habitat losses. Impacts are considered potentially significant.

**Finding:** Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

**Facts in Support of the Finding:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

**Mitigation Measure V-1: Comply with state and federal permit conditions.** The Pit RCD will coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to confirm that the work is authorized under a Nationwide Permit (NWP). The Pit RCD will also coordinate with DFG to

consult with the Corps; the project will qualify for a NWP 27. Under the NWP 27, the Corps authorizes the restoration of pool and riffle patterns and restoration of riparian areas. The Pit RCD will incorporate all state and federal permit conditions into the final project design and site restoration plans.

**Mitigation Measure V-2: Restore drainage topography to naturally functioning conditions.** The Pit RCD will require contractors to follow the supervision of the restoration design consultant responsible for implementing the restoration design plan in order to ensure that naturally functioning drainage topography occurs following construction. Most of the “new” channels that will transport flow within the project area are remnant stream channels within the meadow that are well vegetated and occurred prior to gully incisement. These channels will function to restore the stream and floodplain to natural conditions. A small portion of design channel will be constructed in order to redirect the stream to these natural channels. Detailed analysis of the design channel was calculated and presented in the restoration design plan.

**Temporary Disturbance of Common Wildlife and Fish Species and Interference with Migratory Corridors.** The proposed project will disturb the movements of native resident wildlife and fish species on the project site. This disturbance will result from construction activities. In addition, the proposed project will temporarily affect the natural flow of water in Ash Creek when the flow is redirected to the remnant channels at the start of the construction period. However, water will continue to flow downstream to provide habitat for downstream resident fish and wildlife species in the remnant channel(s). The remnant channels will allow the stream to function properly to transport bedload and suspended sediment, provide natural gravel for fish, and eliminate downstream scour from heavy flood flows. The gully channel will no longer be receiving flow and will slowly dry as water seeps into the ground. Because of this, some resident fish may become stranded as pools dry and become isolated. These fish may then be potentially impacted from desiccation, predation, or direct impacts from construction activities. Significant impacts could occur if construction activities affected a substantial portion of the local populations.

**Finding:** Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

**Facts in Support of the Finding:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measure will reduce the project’s environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

**Mitigation Measure W-4. Conduct rescue surveys for fish and western pond turtle stranded in aquatic habitat within the incised gully channel and relocate them to undisturbed areas.** Rescue surveys will be conducted for fish and northwestern pond turtle that become stranded within the incised gully channel once flow has been redirected to the remnant channels on the meadow floodplain. It is assumed that most fish and turtles will move to other areas when aquatic conditions become dry. However, in case they do not or cannot move, a qualified wildlife biologist familiar with the biology of these species will conduct surveys at appropriate times to detect and capture them. The biologist will also obtain and/or hold the necessary permits to capture and move the fish and turtles to suitable habitat. If no fish or turtles are found within the aquatic habitat, no further mitigation would be required. No further mitigation measures are required once surveys have been conducted and fish and turtles have been relocated.

## 2. CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Ash Creek Wildlife Area Restoration Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration identifies potential impacts related to cultural resources. Specifically, cultural resource impacts may include potential adverse changes in the significance of historical and/or archeological resources, the potential to inadvertently disturb human remains during ground-disturbing activities, and/or the potential for damage to buried archaeological sites.

**Potential Adverse Change in the Significance of a Historical and/or Archeological Resource.** Restoration and construction activities could potentially cause an adverse change in the significance of a historical and/or archeological resource. These adverse changes could result from ground-disturbing activities or changes in vegetation communities. Impacts are considered potentially significant.

**Finding:** Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

**Facts in Support of the Finding:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measure will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

**Mitigation Measure CR-1: Review archeological records, conduct preconstruction archeological surveys, and prepare an archeological resource management report.**

Prior to construction activities, a qualified archeologist will review the archeological records compiled by the Northeast Information Center, Chico, and the DFG, and conduct a complete heritage-resource inventory of the area of potential effects (APE). The APE includes the active work zone and access routes as well as meadow areas to be affected by restored groundwater elevations. The APE will be flagged prior to initiation of survey work in order to facilitate the survey. A complete inventory entails a systematic pedestrian examination of the surface of all identified portions of the project area. It may also require resurveying previously inventoried properties or "spot-checking" to ensure the adequacy of previous coverage. Beyond the exposure of the ground surface for assistance in ground visibility, no subsurface excavation is authorized. The archeologist will also record sites utilizing "Historic Property Recording Specification" format. All newly discovered prehistoric, ethnographic, and historical heritage resources encountered within and directly adjacent to the project areas(s) will be recorded. Boundaries of all heritage resources will be identified using red- and black-striped flagging and/or other appropriate means as agreed to with the F/D HPM, e.g. Area Controlled Signs. Heritage resource sites will be recorded using State Historic Preservation Office (DPR – 523) site forms. Site boundaries will be recorded using a resource-grade Global Positioning System (GPS). The archeologist will also obtain California State Trinomial numbers for sites in the project area for inclusion in the final report. In-Situ Artifact Recording procedures will be followed during both inventory and site-recording activities. No collection of artifacts is authorized.

A draft report will be submitted to and reviewed by DFG and the Pit RCD prior to construction. The inventory report will conform to guidelines in the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation "Archaeological Resource Management Reports: Recommended Contents and Format" or Secretary of Interior's "Standards & Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation: Reporting Identification Results." This includes preparing a Heritage Resources Inventory Report (HRIR) with site records attached for each separate undertaking. The report shall describe the results of the prefield literature search

and sensitivity assessment, methodology, and results of inventory efforts. At minimum, the report will include vicinity, project location, inventory coverage, previous coverage, site location, and isolated data figures.

**Potential to Inadvertently Disturb Human Remains During Ground-Disturbing Activities.**

Although not expected, ground-disturbing activities have the potential to disturb human remains. Although this potential is considered low because most construction is located in a habitat type (wet meadow) that was not regularly used for burying humans due to its wet nature and difficulty of digging, the impact is considered potentially significant.

**Finding:** Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

**Facts in Support of the Finding:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measure will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

**Mitigation Measure CR-2: State compliance.** Whenever human remains of Native American origin are discovered, close compliance with state requirements will be followed. This includes immediate cessation of work and notification of the appropriate authorities.

**Potential for Damage to Buried Archaeological Sites.** Although not expected, ground-disturbing activities have the potential to damage buried archaeological sites. Although this potential is considered low because the habitat type (wet meadow) was not regularly used to bury human remains due to its wet nature and difficulty of digging, the impact is considered potentially significant.

**Finding:** Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

**Facts in Support of the Finding:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measure will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

**Mitigation Measure CR-3: Work stoppage.** Immediately upon discovery of any cultural resources, work will be stopped in the immediate area. Work will only be started again upon notification of the appropriate authorities and approval for restart.

### **3. HAZARDS/HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

The Ash Creek Wildlife Area Restoration Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration identifies potential resource impacts related to hazards/hazardous materials. Potential impacts on terrestrial and aquatic resources from hazards/hazardous materials may occur.

**Potential Impacts on Terrestrial and Aquatic Resources from Hazardous Materials.**

Impacts on aquatic and terrestrial resources could potentially result from the accidental release of hazardous materials into creeks or ground surfaces. Impacts are considered potentially significant.

**Finding:** Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

**Facts in Support of the Finding:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measure will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

**Mitigation Measure HM-1: Fueling and Maintenance outside of riparian and aquatic areas.** Refueling and equipment maintenance will be conducted in designated areas outside of the riparian and aquatic zones. The designated area will be located in an upland area on "flat" ground.

The SNC Board has considered the environmental documentation prepared for the project, adopts the findings listed in this document, and approves the project. A Notice of Determination (NOD) indicating the results of these findings will be filed with the State Clearinghouse of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research pursuant to Section 15096(i) of the State CEQA Guidelines. The Executive Officer of the SNC is authorized to file the NOD.

Certification:

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above present the data and information used to support the findings made herein pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15091 or 15096(h), and the facts, statements, and information presented herein, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name Jim Branham

Title Executive Officer

**MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**  
**FOR THE**  
**ASH CREEK WILDLIFE AREA RESTORATION PROJECT**

State of California – Dept. of Fish and Game  
Northern Region  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, California 96001  
Contact: Steve Burton  
(530) 459-1129

**JULY 2010**

## **SECTION 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires public agencies to adopt a mitigation reporting or monitoring program for all projects for which an environmental impact report has been prepared (Public Resources Code, Section 21081.6; State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15091). This is intended to ensure the implementation of all mitigation measures adopted through the CEQA process. Specifically, Section 21081.6(a) (1) of the Public Resources Code requires a lead or responsible agency to "... adopt a reporting or monitoring program for changes made to the project or conditions of project approval, adopted to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment."

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) proposes the construction of the Ash Creek Wildlife Area Restoration Project.

DFG is the lead agency for this project under CEQA. A notice of determination for the project was filed on August 17, 2010 by the Northern Region Habitat Conservation Program Manager.

This mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP) includes all mitigation measures adopted in the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

## **SECTION 2**

### **PROGRAM MANAGEMENT**

The MMRP for the Ash Creek Wildlife Area Restoration Project will be in place through all phases of the project including design, construction, and operation. As lead agency under CEQA, DFG is responsible for the overall implementation and management of the MMRP, including the project design and construction phases of work, and the long-term operation and maintenance of the project.

DFG is responsible for ensuring that the following procedures and measures are implemented. Where noted, DFG shall include appropriate mitigation measures or conditions in third-party contracts entered into by the agency.

1. An implementation plan has been prepared for each mitigation measure that identifies the responsible party for implementation; the timing of compliance, including the applicable project phase(s) and monitoring frequency; and specific details about compliance verification. The Mitigation Measure Implementation Plan is attached as Appendix A of the MMRP.
2. A qualified specialist(s) will perform or monitor mitigation activities requiring particular expertise or professional licenses and certifications.
3. Mitigation measures will be included as appropriate in applicable design-build bid packages.
4. The Mitigation Measure Implementation Plan and MMRP Reporting Forms will be distributed to appropriate parties so that specific actions can be developed to carry out

the necessary mitigation.

5. Appropriate individuals at the job site, based on the nature of the mitigation measure, shall initial and date the Mitigation Measure Implementation Plan to note the implementation and completion of mitigation measures.
6. The DFG Director or an assignee will approve by signature and date the completion of each item identified on the MMRP Reporting Form.
7. All MMRP Reporting Forms for an impact issue requiring no further monitoring will be signed off as completed by the DFG Director or an assignee, at the bottom of the MMRP Reporting Form.
8. Unanticipated circumstances requiring the modification or addition of mitigation measures may arise. The DFG Director will be responsible for approving any such modifications or additions. A MMRP Reporting Form will be completed for any such modifications. The completed form will be provided to the appropriate design, construction, or operations personnel for implementation. Any approved modifications or additions shall also be reflected in the Mitigation Measure Implementation Plan.
9. The DFG Director has the authority to stop the work of contractors if compliance with any aspects of the MMRP is not occurring after appropriate notifications have been issued.

The Mitigation Measure Implementation Plan and all active and completed MMRP Reporting Forms will be kept on file at the DFG headquarters. Forms will be available upon request at the following address:

Department of Fish and Game  
Northern Region  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, California 96001  
Contact: Steve Burton

## **SECTION 3**

### **PROGRAM PHASES**

The MMRP described herein is intended to provide focused yet flexible guidelines for monitoring the implementation of the mitigation measures discussed in the Mitigated Negative Declaration and adopted by DFG. The Mitigation Measure Implementation Plan provided in Appendix A lists, by number, each mitigation measure adopted for the project. Table 1, provided below, correlates each measure by its assigned number to the specific phase of the project (i.e., design, construction, and/or operation) to which the measure applies. A MMRP Reporting Form (Appendix B) will be filled out by the DFGS Director or an assignee for each mitigation measure identified in Appendix A.

#### **3.1 DESIGN PHASE**

The design phase includes preparation of construction designs (e.g. drawings by project design

consultants). Bid packages are also compiled for release to prospective construction contractors. Prior to initiation of design phase activities, the measure(s) applicable to each design phase activity are identified by the DFG Director or assignee and reviewed with the design consultant and/or other responsible parties. If the DFG Director or assignee determines that there is noncompliance with any of the mitigation measures to be implemented during the design phase, corrective actions are required and a follow-up review is conducted after the design documents are modified in response to the DFG Director's comments. Reporting Forms are completed after each activity is performed.

During the design phase, any subsequent environmental permits and clearances (such as those related to water quality) will be identified by the DFG Director or assignee. The DFG Director or assignee will serve as the liaison with regulatory agencies and coordinate the preparation of permit applications and technical information for providing conditions permit requirement information . Depending on the permit, the permit applicant may be the DFG Director or assignee (i.e. Pit Resource Conservation District) or the construction contractor through the DFG Director.

### **3.2 CONSTRUCTION PHASE**

A pre-construction meeting will be held with each contractor prior to the initiation of any construction activity for which a mitigation measure is required. The DFG Director or assignee will attend the meeting to explain the MMR-P, roles and responsibilities, and implementation requirements. Construction activities will be monitored as conditions dictate to ensure that required mitigation measures are implemented. Applicable measures will be discussed with construction contractors periodically as needed to facilitate their implementation.

### **3.3 OPERATIONAL PHASE**

After project construction, the operational aspects of the MMRP will be the sole responsibility of the DFG Director. The DFG Director or assignee will review the MMRP annually to ensure compliance of the project operation with mitigation measures.

**Table 1  
Applicable Project Phases for Implementation of Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation Measure	Applicable Phase			
	Design	Construction		Operation
		Before	During	
1. Biological Resources – Preconstruction Surveys				
1.1 Preconstruction Survey: Greater sandhill crane		X		
1.2 Preconstruction Survey: Swainson's hawk		X		
1.3 Preconstruction Survey: Special-status plants		X		
1.4 Comply with State and Federal Permits (e.g. 401, 404)			X	
1.5 Restore drainage topography to naturally functioning conditions		X	X	
1.6 Conduct rescue surveys for fish and northwestern pond turtles		X		
2. Cultural Resources				
2.1 Review records, conduct pre-construction surveys, prepare report		X		
2.2 Work stoppage (e.g. discovery of human remains)			X	
3. Hazards and Hazardous Materials				
3.1 Fuel and Maintain Equipment outside of Riparian areas			X	



**LOWER ASH CREEK WILDLIFE AREA RESTORATION PROJECT  
MITIGATION MEASURE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Mitigation Measure No.	Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party for Implementation	Verification of Implementation (Responsible Party)		Timing of Compliance				Verification of Compliance				Comments
			Initials	Date	Design <sup>1</sup>	During Construction	Operation	Frequency	Name and Affiliation	Method of Compliance Verification	Signature	Date	
1	<p><b>Biological Resources:</b> The following mitigation measures will be incorporated into the proposed project:</p> <p><b>1.1</b> Greater sandhill cranes typically begin nesting on ACWA in early April, and most young fledge by July 15. However, some individual nests have been found after July 15, likely representing pairs that lost a nest during their first attempt, and their second attempt therefore extends longer into the nesting season. Because of the short construction window (estimated at 90 days), activities will need to start in the summer as soon as cranes have completed nesting (i.e. late July). A qualified wildlife biologist will monitor the proposed construction areas during the later part of the nesting season (July) to determine if any cranes are still nesting. Once the biologist determines that cranes are no longer nesting within the project area, construction activities may begin, and no further mitigation measures would be required.</p>	CDFG				X Before construction							
	<p><b>1.2</b> Swainson's hawk typically begins nesting in the Big Valley area in early May, and most young fledge by mid-August. However, some individual nests may be active after August 15, likely representing pairs that lost a nest during the first nest attempt, consequently the second attempt extends longer into the nesting season; or successful pairs that have successfully fledged young but are still in the post-fledging dependency period and</p>	CDFG				X Before construction							

Mitigation Measure No.	Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party for Implementation	Verification of Implementation (Responsible Party)		Timing of Compliance				Verification of Compliance				Comments
			Initials	Date	Design <sup>1</sup>	During Construction	Operation	Frequency	Name and Affiliation	Method of Compliance Verification	Signature	Date	
	<p>“attached” to the nest site. Because of the short construction window (estimated at 90 days), activities will need to start in the summer as soon as possible (i.e. late July). A qualified wildlife biologist will monitor the proposed construction areas during the latter part of the nesting season (July) to determine if Swainson’s hawks are nesting. If the biologist determines that no Swainson’s hawks are nesting within .5 miles of the construction areas, no further mitigation is required.</p>												
	<p><b>1.3</b> Prior to construction in ground-disturbing areas, wet meadow edge habitat, and large vernal pools/seasonally managed wetlands, a qualified botanist familiar with the identification of special-status plant species will conduct presence/absence surveys for Lemmon’s milk-vetch, Castlegar hawthorne, Boggs lake hedge-hyssop, and Howell’s thelypodium. If any of these species are found in ground-disturbance areas, construction will avoid or minimize impacts if feasible. If construction activities cannot avoid Lemmon’s milk-vetch colonies or minimize impacts on them, the upper 1 to 4 inches of soil will be stockpiled and replaced as the top soil layer after construction to replace fragmented plant parts and seeds potentially present in the soil profile. Populations of Sheldon’s sedge that cannot be avoided will be excavated for propagation and/or direct planting in “new” moist sites, such as banks of the design channels or margins of newly created wetland areas. Individual Castlegar hawthorne shrubs will be avoided if possible. If avoidance is not feasible, individual shrubs will be</p>	CDFG				X Before construction							

Mitigation Measure No.	Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party for Implementation	Verification of Implementation (Responsible Party)		Timing of Compliance				Verification of Compliance				Comments
			Initials	Date	Design <sup>1</sup>	During Construction	Operation	Frequency	Name and Affiliation	Method of Compliance Verification	Signature	Date	
	relocated, or fruits/seeds and/or cuttings will be used for planting in suitable habitat within the project area. If Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop is found, construction activities will avoid direct impacts on this species. If it is found and cannot be avoided, DFG will be consulted for appropriate actions. If none of the above special-status plant species are found during surveys, no further mitigation is required.												
	<p><b>1.4</b> The Pit RCD will coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to confirm that the work is authorized under a Nationwide Permit (NWP). The Pit RCD will also coordinate with DFG to obtain the required streambed alteration agreements if needed. Based on past similar projects and consultation with the Corps, the project will qualify for a NWP 27.</p> <p>Under the NWP 27, the Corps authorizes the restoration of pool and riffle patterns and restoration of riparian areas. The Pit RCD will incorporate all state and federal permit conditions into the final project design and site restoration plans.</p>	Pit RCD				X Before construction							
	<p><b>1.5</b> The Pit RCD will require contractors to follow the supervision of the restoration design consultant responsible for implementing the restoration design plan in order to ensure that naturally functioning drainage topography occurs following construction. Most of the "new" channels that will transport flow within the project area are remnant stream channels within the meadow that are well vegetated and occurred prior to gully incisement. These channels</p>	Design/Build Contractor					X During and at the end of construction						

Mitigation Measure No.	Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party for Implementation	Verification of Implementation (Responsible Party)		Timing of Compliance				Verification of Compliance				Comments
			Initials	Date	Design <sup>1</sup>	During Construction	Operation	Frequency	Name and Affiliation	Method of Compliance Verification	Signature	Date	
	will function to restore the stream and floodplain to natural conditions. A small portion of design channel will be constructed in order to redirect the stream to these natural channels. Detailed analysis of the design channel was calculated and presented in the restoration design plan.												
	<b>1.6</b> Rescue surveys will be conducted for fish and northwestern pond turtle that become stranded within the incised gully channel once flow has been redirected to the remnant channels on the meadow floodplain. It is assumed that most fish and turtles will move to other areas when aquatic conditions become dry. However, in case they do not or cannot move, a qualified wildlife biologist familiar with the biology of these species will conduct surveys at appropriate times to detect and capture them. The biologist will also obtain and/or hold the necessary permits to capture and move the fish and turtles to suitable habitat. If no fish or turtles are found within the aquatic habitat, no further mitigation would be required. No further mitigation measures are required once surveys have been conducted and fish and turtles have been relocated.	CDFG					X During and at the end of construction						
<b>2</b>	<b>Cultural Resources:</b> The following measures will be incorporated into the proposed project:  <b>2.1</b> Prior to construction activities, a qualified archeologist will review the archeological records compiled by the Northeast Information Center, Chico, and the DFG and conduct	CDFG/ Contractor				X Before construction							

Mitigation Measure No.	Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party for Implementation	Verification of Implementation (Responsible Party)		Timing of Compliance				Verification of Compliance				Comments
			Initials	Date	Design <sup>1</sup>	During Construction	Operation	Frequency	Name and Affiliation	Method of Compliance Verification	Signature	Date	
	<p>a complete heritage-resource inventory of the area of potential effects (APE). The APE includes the active work zone and access routes as well as meadow areas to be affected by restored groundwater elevations. The APE will be flagged prior to initiation of survey work with flagging to facilitate survey. A complete inventory entails a systematic pedestrian examination of the surface of all identified portions of the project area. It may also require resurveying previously inventoried properties or "spot-checking" to ensure the adequacy of previous coverage. Beyond the exposure of the ground surface for assistance in ground visibility, no subsurface excavation is authorized.</p> <p>The archeologist will also record sites utilizing "Historic Property Recording Specification" format. All newly discovered prehistoric, ethnographic, and historical heritage resources encountered within and directly adjacent to the project areas(s) will be recorded. Boundaries of all heritage resources will be identified using red- and black-striped flagging and/or other appropriate means as agreed to with the F/D HPM, e.g. Area Controlled Signs. Heritage resource sites will be recorded using State Historic Preservation Office (DPR – 523) site forms. Site boundaries will be recorded using a resource-grade Global Positioning System (GPS). The archeologist will also obtain California State Trinomial numbers for sites in the project area for inclusion in the final report. In-Situ Artifact Recording procedures will be followed during</p>												

Mitigation Measure No.	Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party for Implementation	Verification of Implementation (Responsible Party)		Timing of Compliance				Verification of Compliance				Comments
			Initials	Date	Design <sup>1</sup>	During Construction	Operation	Frequency	Name and Affiliation	Method of Compliance Verification	Signature	Date	
	<p>both inventory and site-recording activities. No collection of artifacts is authorized.</p> <p>A draft report will be submitted to and reviewed by DFG and the Pit RCD prior to construction. The inventory report will conform to guidelines in the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation "Archaeological Resource Management Reports: Recommended Contents and Format" or Secretary of Interior's "Standards &amp; Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation: Reporting Identification Results." This includes preparing a Heritage Resources Inventory Report (HRIR) with site records attached for each separate undertaking. The report shall describe the results of the prefield literature search and sensitivity assessment, methodology, and results of inventory efforts. At minimum, the report will include vicinity, project location, inventory coverage, previous coverage, site location, and isolated data figures.</p> <p><b>2.2</b> Whenever human remains of Native American origin are discovered, close compliance with state requirements will be followed. This includes immediate cessation of work and notification of the appropriate authorities.</p>												
3	<p><b>Hazardous and Hazardous Materials:</b> The following measures will be incorporated into the proposed project:</p> <p><b>3.1</b> Refueling and equipment maintenance will be conducted in designated areas outside of the</p>	Design/Build Contractor				X							

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	riparian and aquatic zones. The designated area will be located in an upland area on "flat" ground.												

## **LEAD AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

If you would like to view the supporting environmental documentation prepared for this project by the lead agency, click on the following link:

[Lower Ash Creek Wildlife Restoration Project](#)

Note: this is a large PDF file that may take a while to load. For best performance, right-click and choose "Save Target as"; the PDF file will download to your computer, and then you can open the local copy of the PDF document.