BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT
FOR THE

±3-ACRE TAHOE DONNER DOWNHILL LODGE PROJECT

TOWN OF TRUCKEE, NEVADA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



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NOVEMBER 2022

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Biological Resources Assessment
for the
±3-Acre Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge Project

INTRODUCTION

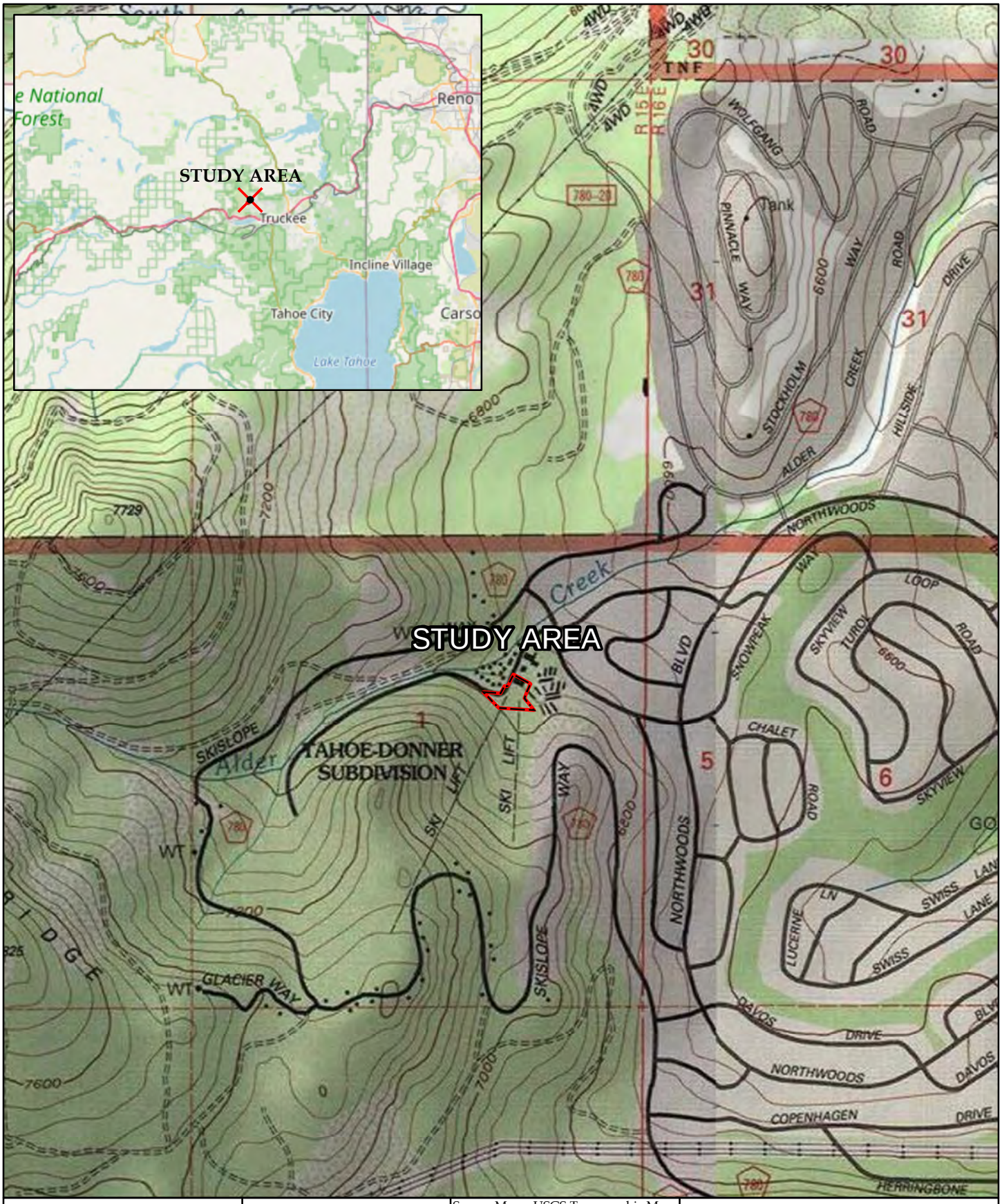
Location and Setting

Salix Consulting, Inc. (Salix) conducted a Biological Resources Assessment for the ±3-acre Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge located in the town of Truckee, Nevada County (study area). The parcel is situated in Section 01, Township 17 North and Range 5 East on the Truckee, California 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle. The location of the study area is near Snowpeak Way and Slalom Way, 39˚21'15.06"N, 120º15'31.73"W, and is shown on Figure 1.

The study area is located within the Town of Truckee in Nevada County. It ranges in elevation from approximately 6,795' in the western area to approximately 6,760' in the northeastern area (Figure 2).

Objectives of Biological Resources Assessment

- Identify and describe the biological setting present in the Study Area
- Record plant and animal species observed in the Study Area
- Evaluate and identify sensitive resources and potentially occurring special-status plant and animal species that could be affected by project activities
- Provide recommendations for follow-up analysis



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N

0 1,000 2,000

Feet

Source Maps: USGS Topographic Map
Norden Quad 1:24,000
S01 T17N R5E

Figure 1

SITE AND VICINITY MAP

Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge

Truckee, Nevada County, CA



Salix consulting, inc.

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Feet

Study Area
(±2.8 acres)

Imagery: 9-30-22 Salix Consulting, Inc.

Figure 2

AERIAL MAP

Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge

Truckee, Nevada County, CA

METHODS

Literature Review

Salix biologists reviewed recent and historic aerial photographs, USGS maps, preliminary engineering exhibits, and site maps for the study area. Standard publications were reviewed to provide information on life history, habitat requirements, and distribution of regionally occurring animal species. They include published books, peer-reviewed articles, field guides, and the California Wildlife Habitats Relationships Program. Publications utilized in this assessment are included in the References section of this document.

Special-Status Species Reports

Salix biologists queried the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB 2022) for location records for special-status species known to occur in the 4-quadrangle region surrounding the Study Area. Quadrangles included in the query were, Independence Lak, Hobart Mill, Norden and Truckee. Salix biologists also reviewed the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) database (USFWS 2022) for occurrences of special-status fish, wildlife, and plant species in the region surrounding the study area, and the California Native Plant Society Inventory (CNPS 2022) was queried for special-status plants occurring in the 4-quad area.

For the purposes of this report, special-status species are those that fall into one or more of the following categories, including those:

- listed as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (including candidates and species proposed for listing),
- listed as endangered or threatened under the California Endangered Species Act (including candidates and species proposed for listing),
- designated as rare, protected, or fully protected pursuant to California Fish and Game Code,
- designated a Species of Concern by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW),
- defined as rare or endangered under Section 15380 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), or
- Designated as Ranks 1, 2, or 3 on lists maintained by the California Native Plant Society.

Field Surveys

Field surveys were conducted on September 30 and October 6, 2022 by Jeff Glazner. The site was observed and aerial photography flown during the September 30 visit and a more thorough field examination was made on October 6. Landcover types were mapped and inventoried and the site was evaluated for the potential to support special

status species. Appendix A is a list of plants observed. Plant names are according to the *Jepson Flora Project* (Jepson eFlora). Wildlife observed onsite are listed in the *Wildlife Occurrence and Use* section below; standard manuals were used as needed to identify wildlife species observed.

SURVEY AND LITERATURE SEARCH RESULTS

Soils

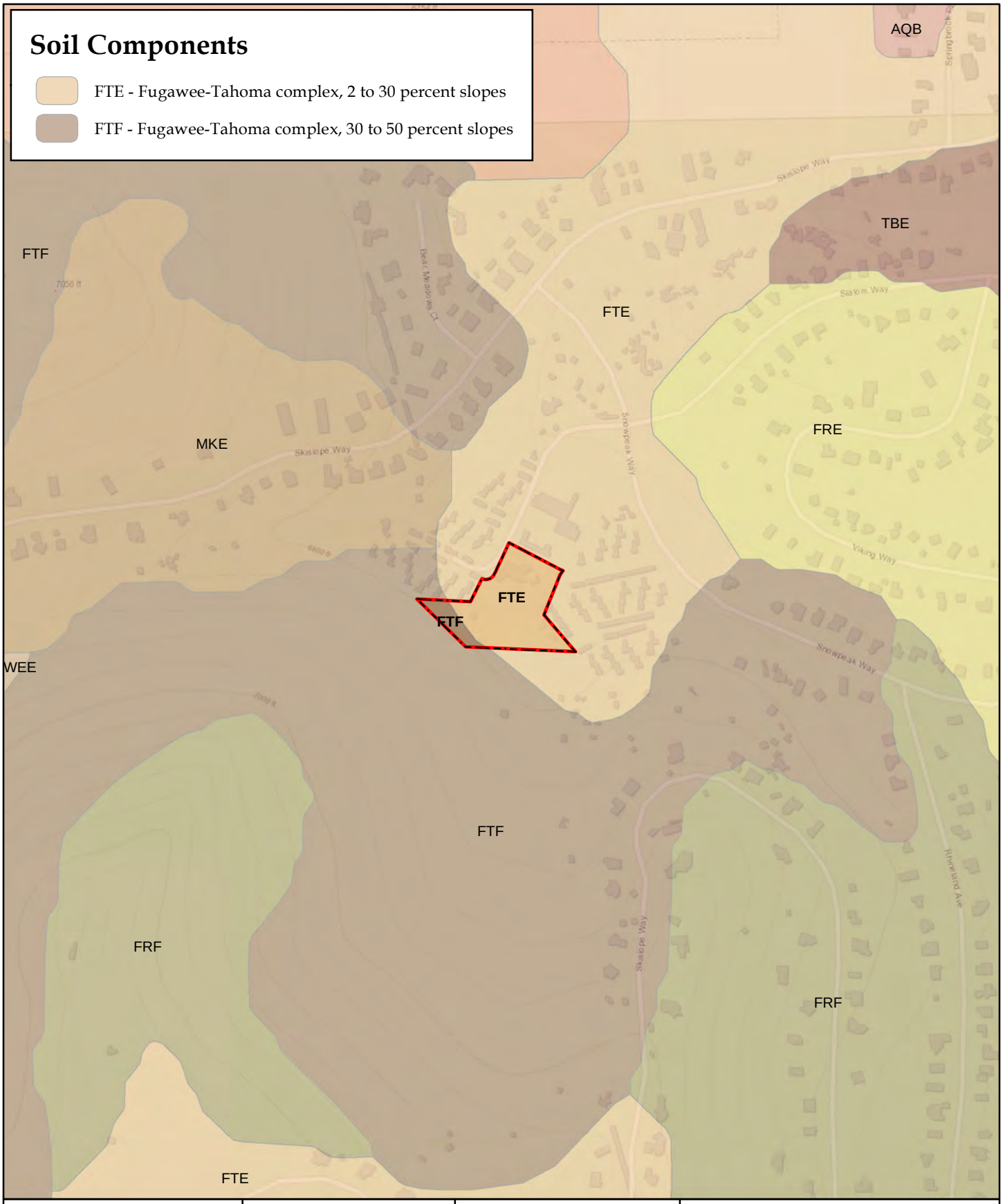
Two soil units have been mapped within the study area, Fugawee-Tahoma complex, 2 to 30 percent slopes and 30 to 50 percent slopes (FTE) (Figure 3) (NRCS 2017), described below.

Fugawee component

The Fugawee component makes up 50 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 2 to 30 percent. This component is on mountains, mountain slopes. The parent material consists of residuum weathered from igneous rock. Depth to a root restrictive layer, bedrock, paralithic, is 35 to 39 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is moderate. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 6 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 6e. This soil does not meet hydric criteria.

Tahoma component

The Tahoma component makes up 40 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 2 to 30 percent. This component is on mountains, mountain slopes. The parent material consists of residuum weathered from basic tuff. Depth to a root restrictive layer, bedrock, lithic, is 41 to 45 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is moderate. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 6 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 6e. This soil does not meet hydric criteria.



Salix consulting, inc.

N

0 250 500

Feet

Study Area (±2.8 acres)

Imagery: 9-30-22 Salix Consulting, Inc.

Figure 3

SOILS MAP

Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge

Truckee, Nevada County, CA

Hydrology

The site occurs in the Prosser Creek HUC12 (160501020206) watershed which is part of the greater Truckee HUC8 (16050102) watershed. Surface water trends northerly into two drainages and routed into a channel flowing north past the lodge area eventually flowing into Alder Creek approximately 800′ to the north of the project site. Alder Creek flows northwesterly for approximately 7.5 miles before entering Prosser Creek Reservoir. The reservoir spills into Prosser Creek flowing for 2 miles before entering the Truckee River and eventually terminating at Pyramid Lake in Nevada.

Biological Communities

The study area is a high-use/developed area and the native vegetation condition is compromised. Approximately 20% of the footprint is paved or has structures and the remainder has been manipulated to some degree for the installation of the facilities. Landcover components include the existing ski lodge, a ski lift, outbuildings, pavement and dirt roads, a turf lawn, open scrub habitat, and two drainages lined with riparian scrub habitat. If not for the development, the study area would be montane coniferous forest, which is the predominant habitat type in the region.

Scrub vegetation occurs in the southwest area on the lower ski slope. Species include rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), tobacco brush (*Ceanothus velutinus*), bitter cherry (*Prunus emarginata*), mountain pink current (*Ribes nevedense*), and mountain mule's ears (*Wyethia mollis*). The ruderal areas have sparse vegetation and include mostly annual weeds including Spanish clover (*Acmispon americanus*), common knotweed (*Polygonum aviculare*), bull thistle (*Circium vulgare*), slender wheatgrass (*Elymus trachycaulus*), diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*), and smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*). The turf area is a well-manicured and well-watered lawn. The riparian scrub corridors are lined with pacific willow (*Salix lasiandra*), lemmon's willow (*Salix lemmonii*) and mountain alder (*Alnus incana*).

Aquatic Resources

Several drainages flow through the study area, all of which are in constructed features that carry water from the ski slopes down through the condominium development below. Two of the drainages qualify as waters of the U.S. and waters of the State. The drainages are considered wetlands swales because they are vegetated with hydrophytes and carry only low flows. The two wetland swales merge and flow to the north and offsite.

The western wetland swale is located adjacent to the irrigated turf and receives substantial overspray which keeps it wet during the warm season. Minimal flows pass through the feature based on the upslope culvert, which is partially clogged and passes only low flows. The swale was not flowing during the September site visit but the swale bottom was nearly saturated from the adjacent landscape watering.

The eastern wetland swale carries flows from a larger watershed and is densely covered with willow and mountain alder. There is very little herbaceous species in the swale bottom. The swale was trickling during the September site visit.

There are other surface drainages on the property but all of them appear to have been constructed to control high runoff but none of them have a bed and bank that carries regular scouring flows and are therefore not regulated waters.

An Aquatic Resources Delineation has been prepared under separate cover for this project.



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N

0 50 100

Feet

Study Area (±2.8 acres)

Imagery: 9-30-22 Salix Consulting, Inc.

Figure 4

HABITAT MAP

Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge

Truckee, Nevada County, CA



Existing Tahoe Donner ski lodge. *Photo date 10-6-22*



Tahoe Donner ski lodge deck looking over turf and riparian drainage. *Photo date 10-6-22*

Salix consulting, inc.

Figure 5a

SITE PHOTOS

Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge

Truckee, Nevada County, CA



Turf area and riparian swale adjacent to existing Tahoe Donner ski lodge. *Photo date 10-6-22*



Looking southwest over Tahoe Donner ski lodge and turf area. *Photo date 10-6-22*

Salix consulting, inc.

Figure 5b

SITE PHOTOS

Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge

Truckee, Nevada County, CA

Wildlife Occurrence and Use

The site is situated in a high human influenced area. Native habitat has mostly been developed or converted to a ruderal surface except for the drainages along the eastern part of the study area. Animal species observed include golden mantled ground squirrel, golden crowned sparrow, stellar's jay, American robin, common raven, mountain chickadee, dark-eyed junco, white-breasted nuthatch, anna's hummingbird, mountain chickadee, and evening grosbeak. The riparian scrub habitat provides quality nesting habitat for birds and cover for birds and other wildlife. The remainder of the study area provides very poor bird nesting potential or wildlife habitat.

Special-Status Species

To determine potentially-occurring special-status species, the standard databases from the CDFW (CNDDB 2022), CNPS (2022), and USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (2022) were queried and reviewed as described above. These searches provided a list of regionally-occurring special-status plant and animal species and were used to determine which species had at least some potential to occur within or near the study area. Appendix B lists potentially-occurring special-status plants and their likelihood to occur, and Appendix C lists special-status animals compiled from these queries. The field survey and the best professional judgment of Salix biologists were used to further refine the tables in Appendices B and C. CNPS Rank 4 plant species are not considered further in the document.

Figure 6a shows approximate locations of reported occurrences of special-status plants within a 5-mile radius of the study area, and Figure 6b shows approximate locations of reported occurrences of special-status animals within a 5-mile radius of the study area.

Special-Status Plants

Of the 22 potentially-occurring plant species listed in Appendix B, fifteen (15) species were identified as occurring within the surrounding region (generally within a 5-mile radius of the study area) (Figure 6a).

The 19 plant species listed below were determined to have no potential to occur within study area due to lack of suitable habitats, microhabitats, or substrates as described in Appendix B.

- Gray's lomatium *(Lomatium grayi)*
- Three-tip sagebrush (*Artemisia tripartita ssp. tripartita)*
- Sagebrush bluebells (*Mertensia oblongifolia oblongifolia)*
- Stebbins' phacelia (*Phacelia stebbinsii)*
- Tahoe yellow cress (*Rorippa subumbellata)*
- Mud sedge (*Carex limosa)*
- Narrow-leaved sundew (*Drosera anglica)*

- Austin's locoweed (*Astragalus austiniae)*
- Santa Lucia dwarf rush *(Juncus luciensis)*
- Marsh skullcap (*Scutellaria galericulata)*
- Fell-fields claytonia (*Claytonia megarhiza)*
- Long-petaled lewisia *(Lewisia longipetala)*
- Upswept moonwort (*Botrychium ascendens)*
- Scalloped moonwort *(Botrychium crenulatum)*
- Common moonwort (*Botrychium lunaria)*
- Mingan moonwort *(Botrychium minganense)*
- Robbins' pondweed (*Potamogeton robbinsii)*
- Alder buckthorn *(Rhamnus alnifolia)*
- Plumas ivesia *(Ivesia sericoleuca)*

Three (3) plant species were determined to have some potential to occur within the study area and are presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1.
Special-Status Plant Species Determined to Have Some Potential to Occur within the Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge Study Area

Species	Status* Federal	State	CNPS	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence Within Study Area**
Starved daisy *Erigeron miser*			1B.3	Upper montane coniferous forest. (rocky, usually granite). 1840-2620 m.	Unlikely. Potential to occur in area but site is highly disturbed and lacking suitability.
Davy's sedge *Carex davyi*	-	-	1B.3	Subalpine coniferous forest; upper montane coniferous forest.	Unlikely. Species occurs in dry open sparse meadow areas. Very marginal habitat present.
Donner Pass buckwheat *Eriogonum umbellatum var. torreyanum*	-	-	1B.2	Meadows; upper montane coniferous forest; [volcanic, rocky].	Unlikely. Marginal habitat present.

*Status Codes:

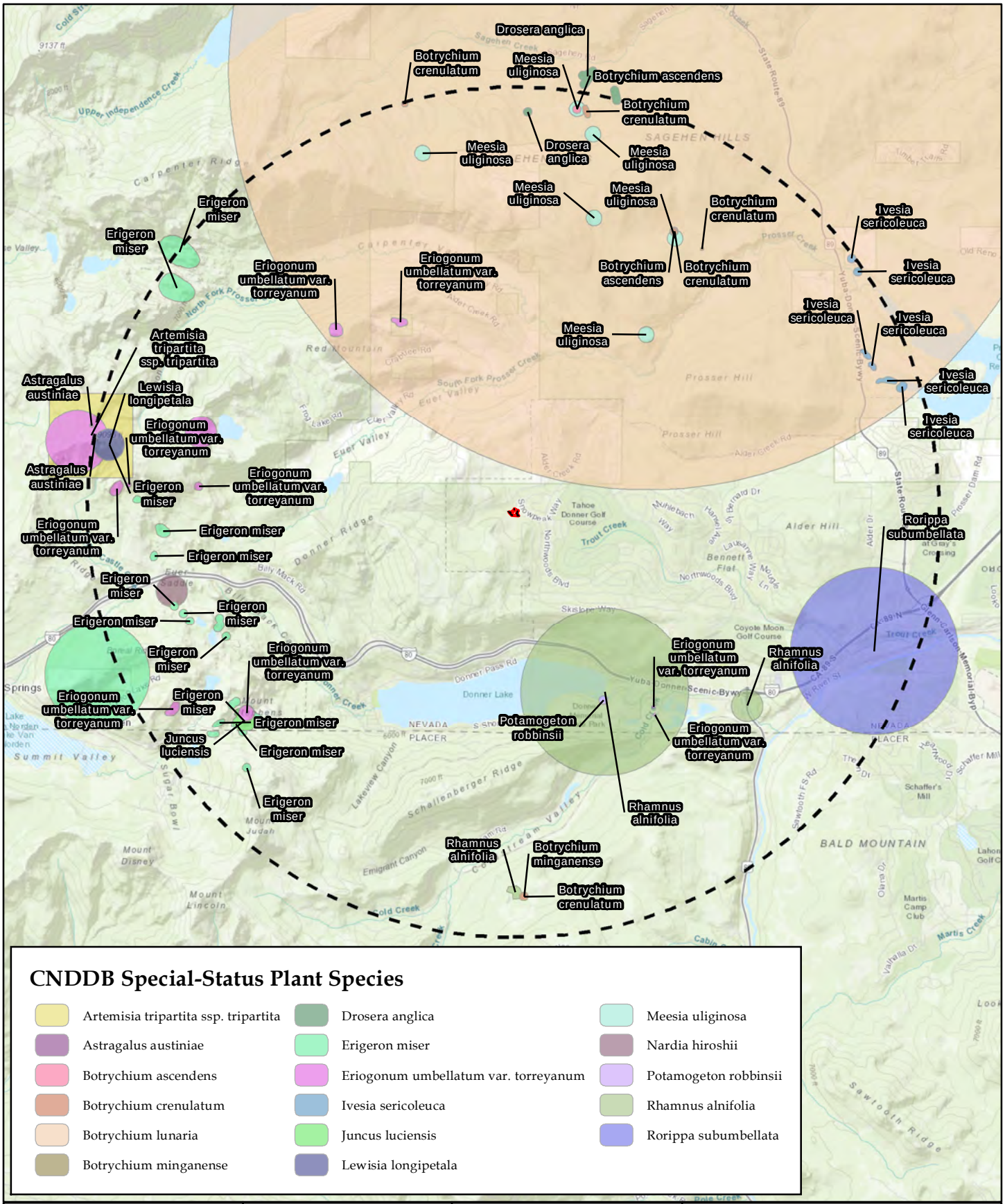
CNPS
Rank 1B Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California
Rank 2 R, T, or E in California, more common elsewhere
1- Seriously threatened in California
2- Fairly threatened in California

**Definitions for the Potential to Occur:
None. No suitable habitat (or nesting habitat) present within the study area.
Unlikely: Minimal or marginal quality habitat in the study area. Disturbance or other activities may restrict or eliminate possibility of species occurring.
Possible. Suitable habitat occurs within the study area. Study area within range of species.
Likely. Study area provides desirable habitat for species and there is a very high probability for its occurrence. Species documented to occur nearby in similar habitat.
Observed: Species was observed within the study area.

Starved daisy (*Erigeron miser*). No state or federal status. CNPS Rank 1B.3. Starved daisy is a perennial herb of the Asteraceae family that is native (but not endemic) to California. It is found at elevations ranging from 1840 to 2620 feet, primarily in drier, open areas, generally at subalpine levels in mountains, though in more northern areas it is more common at lower elevations. It blooms in June-October.

Davy's sedge (*Carex davyi).* No state or federal status. CNPS Rank 1B.3. Davy's sedge, a monocot, is a perennial herb that is native to California and is endemic (limited) to California alone. A member of the Cyperaceae family, its habitats include subalpine coniferous forest and upper montane coniferous forest. It blooms from May to August. The nearest reported occurrence of *Carex davyi* is 7.5 miles north of the study area, at the UC Sagehen Field Station (CNDDB 2022).

Donner Pass buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum var. torreyanum*). No state or federal status. CNPS Rank 1B.2. Donner Pass buckwheat is a perennial member of the Polygonaceae family. It differs from other similar members of the genus by its bright yellow flowers, compound inflorescence, and glabrous leaf surfaces. Donner Pass buckwheat grows in rocky volcanic soil in montane forest openings in the northern Sierra Nevada. It blooms from July to September.



Salix consulting, inc.

Figure 6a

CNDDB OCCURRENCES MAP

Tahoe Donner Ski Area

Truckee, Nevada County, CA

Special-Status Animal

Of the 14 potentially-occurring animal species listed in Appendix C, 13 species were identified as occurring within the surrounding region (generally within a 5-mile radius of the study area) (Figure 6b). Ten (10) were determined to have no potential to occur within the study area due to lack of suitable habitats or microhabitats. These species are:

- Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki henshawi)*
- Mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*)
- Mountain sucker (*Catostomus platyrhynchus*)
- Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae)*
- Southern long-toed salamander (*Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum)*
- Osprey *(Pandion haliaetus)*
- Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
- Willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*)
- Sierra Nevada red fox (*Vulpes vulpes necator)**
- California wolverine (*Gulo gulo)*

Four (4) animal species were determined to have some potential to occur within the study area. These are listed in Table 2 and discussed below.

Table 2.
Special Status Animal Species Determined to Have Some Potential to Occur Within or adjacent to the Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge Study Area

Species	Status* Federal	Status* State	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence Within Study Area**
Birds				
Northern goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*	-	SSC	Dense, mature coniferous forests, most typically dense fir stands in the Sierra Nevada mountains.	Unlikely. May nest in nearby areas but trees on site are not suitable nesting trees.
Yellow warbler ***Setophaga petechia***		SSC	Breeds in riparian vegetation throughout California; populations. Common eastern Sierran riparian habitats below 8,000 ft.	Possible. May nest in riparian scrub habitat

Table 2.
Special Status Animal Species Determined to Have Some Potential to Occur Within or adjacent to the Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge Study Area

Species	Status* Federal	Status* State	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence Within Study Area**
Mammals				
Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus tahoenis*)		SSC	Montane riparian hábitats with thickets of alders and willows and stands of young confiers interdispersed with chaparall. Early seral stages of mixed conifer, subalpine conifer, red fir Jeffrey pine, lodgepole pine, and aspen, usually along edges.	Unlikely. May occur in area but highly unlikely to be present in study area due to human activity
Sierra Nevada mountain Beaver *(Aplodontia rufa califórnica)*		SSC	Dense decidious tree and shrubs in riparian habitat with an abundant source of water.	Unlikely. Occurs in riparian areas with abundant water. Habitat in study area is marginal to support this species.

*Status Codes:
State
SSC California Species of Special Concern

**Definitions for the Potential to Occur:
Unlikely: Minimal or marginal quality habitat in the study area.
Possible. Suitable habitat occurs within the study area.
Likely. Study area provides desirable habitat for species and there is a very high probability for its occurrence.
Observed: Species was observed within the study area.

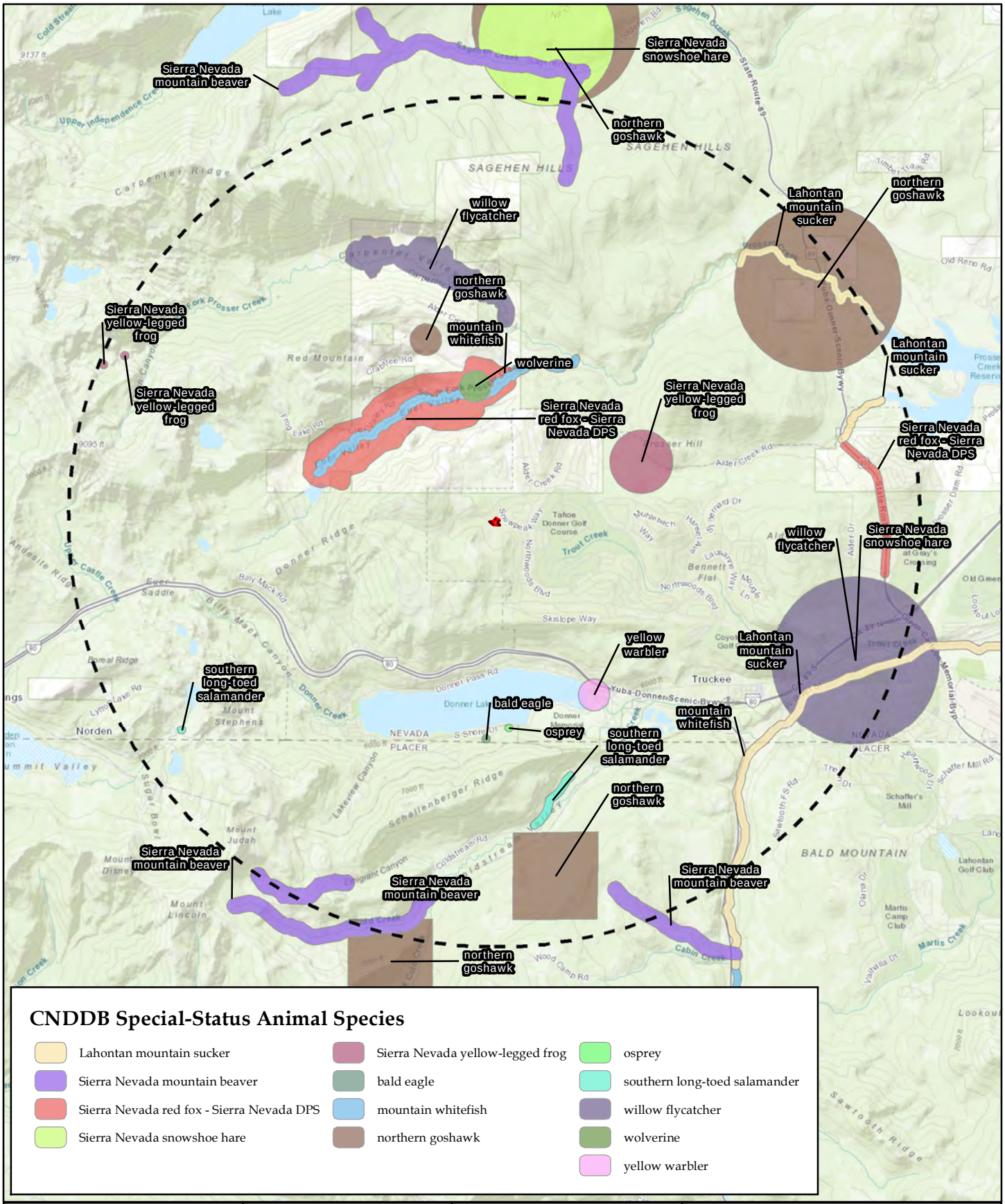
Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) occurs in dense, mature conifer and deciduous forest habitats interspersed with meadows or other openings. It typically breeds in mature old-growth stands of conifer and deciduous habitats, at mid to high elevations. Nesting habitat generally includes north-facing slopes located near water. Nests are usually located in the fork of a large, horizontal limb close to the trunk, generally 19-82 feet above the ground. This species often uses old nests and will maintain alternate sites. Breeding generally begins in mid-June, with eggs being incubated approximately 36 to 41 days. Young usually fledge at about 45 days following hatching and are typically independent by 70 days.

Yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia)* is an uncommon to common, summer resident in the northern Sierra Nevada. It primarily breeds in riparian woodlands up to 8000 feet, but is also known to breed in montane chaparral, open ponderosa pine and mixed conifer habitats with substantial amounts of shrub cover. During migration, this species is found in a variety of forest and woodland habitats. Nests consist of an open cup placed approximately 2 to 16 feet above the ground in a deciduous tree or shrub.

Breeding generally takes place from mid-April to early-August with peak activity occurring in June. Incubation is approximately 11 days. Young fledge at about 9 to 12 days following hatching. Young yellow warblers breed the following year after hatching.

Sierra Nevada Snowshoe hare *(Lepus americanus tahoensis)* is an uncommon resident at upper elevations of the Sierra Nevada. This subspecies of snowshoe hare is primarily found in montane riparian habitats with thickets of alders and willows, and in stands of young conifers mixed with chaparral. It prefers the younger stages of a variety of coniferous forests habitats, primarily occurring along the edges, adjacent to meadows. Individuals seek cover in dense tree or shrub thickets, where they create a shallow bowl-like depression. Breeding takes place from mid-February to June or July, with a gestation period of 35 to 37 days. Two to three litters are generally produced.

Sierra Nevada Mountain Beaver (*Aplodontia rufa californica*) occurs throughout the Sierra Nevada in montane riparian habitats, consisting of dense riparian-deciduous vegetation. This mostly nocturnal species also frequents forested areas with a dense understory near water. Cool, moist microclimates are required, along with deep, friable soils for burrowing. Burrows are excavated in deep soils in dense thickets, near streams or springs. Breeding takes place from December through March, with peak activity in February. Young are born from February through June, with one litter being produced each year. Young are weaned at about 60 days.



CNDDB Special-Status Animal Species

- Lahontan mountain sucker
- Sierra Nevada mountain beaver
- Sierra Nevada red fox - Sierra Nevada DPS
- Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare
- Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog
- bald eagle
- mountain whitefish
- northern goshawk
- osprey
- southern long-toed salamander
- willow flycatcher
- wolverine
- yellow warbler

Salix consulting, inc.

N

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Feet

5-Mile Radius

Figure 6b

CNDDB OCCURRENCES MAP

Tahoe Donner Ski Area

Truckee, Nevada County, CA

RECOMMENDATIONS

Aquatic Resources

The study area contains two drainages that may be regulated as waters of the U.S. and waters of the State. These features are mapped as wetland swales because they are vegetated and do not carry high velocity flows. Impacts to aquatic resources should be avoided if possible. If impacts cannot be avoided, permits may be required from the Corps of Engineers, and would be required from the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Streams, Pond, and Riparian Habitat

The drainages flowing through the site may be considered streambed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), because of the riparian habitat they support. If impacts to the riparian scrub corridors is proposed, CDFW should be consulted to determine if these features are within their jurisdiction and whether or not a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement would be needed.

Special-Status Plants

The likelihood of the site supporting rare plants is extremely low, particularly where the new building footprint will be situated. No further surveys for special-status plants are recommended.

Special-Status Animal

Fourteen (14) special-status animals were identified through the database search as potentially-occurring within the broader region surrounding the Study Area, and of those, four (4) were determined to have at least some potential to occur.

The study area presents suitable, but marginal, nesting habitat for a variety of common bird species that are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

If ground disturbance activities take place during the breeding/nesting season (March through August), disturbance of nesting activities could occur. Thus, a pre-construction survey is recommended and should be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 15 days prior to initiation of proposed activities. If active nests are found on or immediately adjacent to the site, a nest avoidance plan shall be implemented with approval from the Town of Truckee and if the Town requests, CDFW. The avoidance plan shall include appropriate buffers to the nest(s), and a qualified biologist should monitor the nest(s) and project activities to ensure no harm or agitation affects the nestlings. Once the birds have fledged, there is no longer a need for the buffer, and project activities could then proceed. If no nesting is found to occur, necessary tree and shrub removal could then proceed

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Appendix A.
Plant Species Observed Within the Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge Study Area

Appendix A

Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge - Plants Observed - October 6, 2022

Gymnosperms

Pinaceae - Pine Family

Abies concolor	White fir
Pinus jeffreyi	Jeffrey pine

Angiosperms - Dicots

Asteraceae (Compositae) - Sunflower Family

Achillea millefolium	Common yarrow
Agoseris retrorsa	Spear-leaf agoseris
Artemisia tridentata	Big sagebrush
**Centaurea diffusa*	Diffuse knapweed
**Centaurea stroebe subsp. micranthos*	Spotted knapweed
Cirsium andersonii	Rose thistle
**Cirsium vulgare*	Bull thistle
Ericameria nauseosa	Rubber rabbitbrush
Gnaphalium palustre	Western marsh cudweed
Madia glomerata	Mountain tarweed
Wyethia mollis	Mountain mule's-ears

Betulaceae - Birch Family

Alnus incana subsp. tenuifolia	Mountain alder

Brassicaceae (Cruciferae) - Mustard Family

Boechera pinetorum	Woodland rockcress
**Lepidium campestre*	Field pepperweed

Fabaceae (Leguminosae) - Legume Family

Acmispon americanus var. americanus	Spanish-clover

Grossulariaceae - Gooseberry Family

Ribes nevadense	Mountain pink currant
Ribes roezlii var. roezlii	Sierra gooseberry

Lamiaceae (Labiatae) - Mint Family

Agastache urticifolia	Nettleleaf horsemint
Monardella odoratissima subsp. pallida	Pale mountain monardella

Montiaceae - Miner's Lettuce Family

Calyptridium monospermum	One-seeded pussypaws

Onagraceae - Evening Primrose Family

Epilobium brachycarpum	Summer cottonweed
Epilobium ciliatum	Hairy willow-herb

Plantaginaceae - Plantain Family

**Plantago lanceolata*	English plantain

Polemoniaceae - Phlox Family

Collomia grandiflora	Large-flowered collomia

* Indicates a non-native species

Polygonaceae - Buckwheat Family

Eriogonum nudum	Naked wild buckwheat
**Polygonum aviculare*	Common knotweed
Rumex salicifolius	Willow dock

Rhamnaceae - Buckthorn Family

Ceanothus velutinus	Tobacco brush

Rosaceae - Rose Family

Poteridium annuum	Western burnet
Prunus emarginata	Bitter cherry
Purshia tridentata	Antelope bitterbrush

Salicaceae - Willow Family

Populus tremuloides	Quaking aspen
Salix lasiandra var. lasiandra	Pacific willow
Salix lemmonii	Lemmon's willow

Scrophulariaceae - Figwort Family

**Verbascum thapsus*	Woolly mullein

Angiosperms -Monocots

Cyperaceae - Sedge Family

Carex rossii	Ross's sedge
Carex spp.	Sedges

Juncaceae - Rush Family

Juncus balticus	Baltic rush

Poaceae (Gramineae) - Grass Family

**Agropyron cristatum subsp. pectinatum*	Crested wheatgrass
**Bromus inermis*	Smooth brome
**Bromus tectorum*	Cheat grass
Calamagrostis canadensis	Bluejoint reedgrass
**Dactylis glomerata*	Orchard grass
Elymus elymoides	Squirreltail
Elymus trachycaulus subsp. trachycaulus	Slender wheatgrass
Glyceria elata	Tall mannagrass
**Poa pratensis*	Kentucky bluegrass

Appendix B
Potentially-Occurring Special-Status Plants in the Region of the Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge Study Area

Appendix B

Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge - Potentially-occurring Special-status Plants

Family Taxon Common Name	Status*	Flowering Period	Habitat	Probability on Project Site
Apiaceae (Umbelliferae)				
Lomatium grayi Gray's lomatium	Fed: - State: - CNPS: Rank 2B.3	April-June	Great basin scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland. Elev 4560' to 4645'	None. Site lacks suitable habitat and is our of range.
Asteraceae (Compositae)				
Artemisia tripartita tripartita Threetip sagebrush	Fed: - State: - CNPS: Rank 2B.3	August-September	Upper montane coniferous forest (rocky, volcanic openings).	None. Site lacks suitable habitat.
Erigeron miser Starved daisy	Fed: FSS State: - CNPS: Rank 1B.3	June-October	Upper montane coniferous forest (rocky, usually granite). 1840-2620 m.	Unlikely. Potential to occur in area but site is highly disturbed and lacking suitability.
Boraginaceae				
Mertensia oblongifolia oblongifolia Sagebrush bluebells	Fed: - State: - CNPS: Rank 2B.2	April-July	Great Basin scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps, Subalpine coniferous forest; usually mesic.	None. Site lacks suitable habitat.
Phacelia stebbinsii Stebbins' phacelia	Fed: FSS State: - CNPS: Rank 1B.2	May-July	Cismontane woodland; lower montane coniferous forest; meadows and seeps. (primarily rock outcrops and rubble piles).	None. Site lacks suitable habitat due to disturbance.
Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)				
Rorippa subumbellata Tahoe yellow cress	Fed: FC State: CE CNPS: Rank 1B.1	May-September	Found only on the shoreline of Lake Tahoe. It lives only on the sandy beaches and dunes at the ever-changing margin of the lake.	None. Only occurs at shore of Lake Tahoe.

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Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge - Potentially-occurring Special-status Plants

Family Taxon Common Name	Status*	Flowering Period	Habitat	Probability on Project Site
Cyperaceae				
Carex davyi Davy's sedge	Fed: FSW State: - CNPS: Rank 1B.3	May-June	Subalpine coniferous forest; upper montane coniferous forest.	Unlikely. Site is highly disturbed and suitable areas are lacking.
Carex limosa Mud sedge	Fed: FSW State: - CNPS: Rank 2B.2	June-August	Bogs and fens [lower montane coniferous forest; upper montane coniferous forest].	None., Site lacks suitable habitat.
Droseraceae				
Drosera anglica Narrow-leaved sundew	Fed: FSW State: - CNPS: Rank 2B.3	June-August	Bogs and fens; meadows.	None., Site lacks suitable habitat.
Fabaceae (Leguminosae)				
Astragalus austiniae Austin's locoweed	Fed: - State: - CNPS: Rank 1B.3	July-September	Alpine boulder and rock field, subalpine coniferous forest (rocky)	None. Site lacks suitable habitat.
Juncaceae				
Juncus luciensis Santa Lucia dwarf rush	Fed: FSS State: - CNPS: Rank 1B.2	April-July	Chaparral; Great Basin Scrub; lower montane coniferous forest; meadows and seeps; vernal pools [mesic locations].	None. Site lacks suitable habitat.
Lamiaceae (Labiatae)				
Scutellaria galericulata Marsh skullcap	Fed: FSW State: - CNPS: Rank 2B.2	June-September	Lower montane coniferous forest; meadows (mesic); marshes and swamps.	None. Site lacks suitable habitat.

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Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge - Potentially-occurring Special-status Plants

Family Taxon Common Name	Status*	Flowering Period	Habitat	Probability on Project Site
Montiaceae				
Claytonia megarhiza Fell-fields claytonia	Fed: FSW State: - CNPS: Rank 2B.3	July-August	Alpine boulder or rock; subalpine coniferous forest (rocky).	None. Site lacks suitable habitat.
Lewisia longipetala Long-petaled lewisia	Fed: FSS State: - CNPS: Rank 1B.3	July-September	Alpine boulder or rock; subalpine coniferous forest (mesic, rocky/granitic).	None. Site lacks suitable habitat.
Ophioglossaceae				
Botrychium ascendens Upswept moonwort	Fed: FSS State: - CNPS: Rank 2B.3	July-August	Lower montane coniferous forest [mesic]; meadows and seeps.	None. Site lacks suitable habitat.
Botrychium crenulatum Scalloped moonwort	Fed: FSS State: - CNPS: Rank 2B.2	June-July	Lower montane coniferous forest; bogs and fens; meadows; marshes and swamps (freshwater).	None. Site lacks suitable habitat.
Botrychium lunaria Common moonwort	Fed: FSS State: - CNPS: Rank 2B.3	August-August	Meadows; subalpine coniferous forest; upper montane coniferous forest.	None. Site lacks suitable habitat.
Botrychium minganense Mingan moonwort	Fed: FSS State: - CNPS: Rank 2B.2	July-September	Upper and lower montane coniferous forest (mesic); bogs and fens.	None. Site lacks suitable habitat.

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Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge - Potentially-occurring Special-status Plants

Family Taxon Common Name	Status*	Flowering Period	Habitat	Probability on Project Site
Polygonaceae				
Eriogonum umbellatum torreyanum Donner Pass buckwheat	Fed: - State: - CNPS: Rank 1B.2	July-September	Meadows; upper montane coniferous forest; [volcanic, rocky].	Unlikely. Marginal habitat present.
Potamogetonaceae				
Potamogeton robbinsii Robbins' pondweed	Fed: - State: - CNPS: Rank 2B.3	July-August	Marshes and swamps (deep water, lakes).	None. Site lacks suitable habitat.
Rhamnaceae				
Rhamnus alnifolia Alder buckthorn	Fed: FSW State: - CNPS: Rank 2B.2	May-July	Upper and lower montane coniferous forests; meadows and seeps; riparian scrub. 1370-2130 meters.	None. Site lacks suitable habitat.
Rosaceae				
Ivesia sericoleuca Plumas ivesia	Fed: FSS State: - CNPS: Rank 1B.2	May-September	Great Basin scrub; lower montane coniferous forest; meadows and seeps; vernal pools; [vernally mesic, usually volcanic].	None. Site lacks suitable habitat.

Appendix B

Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge - Potentially-occurring Special-status Plants

Family Taxon Common Name	Status*	Flowering Period	Habitat	Probability on Project Site

***Status**

Federal:
FE - Federal Endangered
FT - Federal Threatened
FPE - Federal Proposed Endangered
FPT - Federal Proposed Threatened
FC - Federal Candidate
FSS - Forest Service Sensitive
FSW - Forest Service Watchlist

State:
CE - California Endangered
CT - California Threatened
CR - California Rare
CSC - California Species of Special Concern

CNPS (California Native Plant Society - List.RED Code):
Rank 1A - Extinct
Rank 1B - Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
Rank 2A- Plants extinct in California, but more common elsewhere
Rank 2B - Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, more common elsewhere
Rank 3 - Plants about which more information is needed, a review list
Rank 4 - Plants of limited distribution, a watch list
RED Code
1 - Seriously endangered (>80% of occurrences threatened)
2 - Fairly endangered (20 to 80% of occurrences threatened)
3 - Not very endangered (<20% of occurrences threatened)

Appendix C.
Potentially-Occurring Special-Status Animals in the Region of the Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge Study Area

Appendix C

Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge - Potentially-occurring Special-status Animals

	Status*	Habitat	Probability on Project Site
Fish			
Lahontan cutthroat trout *Oncorhynchus clarki henshawi*	Fed: FT State: - Other: -	Historically found in all cold waters of the Lahontan Basin, including Independence Lake.	None. Site lacks stream habitat.
Mountain whitefish *Prosopium williamsoni*	Fed: - State: SSC Other:	One of the most widely distributed salmonid fish of western North America, favoring clear cold water and large deep pools of at least a meter's depth. Lake Tahoe population lives just above the bottom in deeper water. Bottom feeders.	None. Site lacks stream habitat.
Mountain sucker *Catostomus platyrhynchus*	Fed: - State: - Other: SSC	Tends to favor clear water streams with a moderate gradient and rocky or gravelly bottoms. Although not exclusive to high elevations, they often live in cool mountain streams in waters just above freezing temperatures.	None. Site lacks stream habitat.
Amphibians			
Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog *Rana sierrae*	Fed: FE State: CT Other: WL	Associated with streams, lakes, and ponds in montane riparian, lodgepole pine, subalpine conifer and wet meadow habitats. Occurs in the northern and central portions of the Sierra Nevada at elevations above 4,500 feet. Always near water.	None. Site lacks suitable wetland or stream habitat.
Southern long-toed salamander *Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum*	Fed: - State: - Other: SSC	Inhabits alpine meadows, high mountain ponds and lakes.	None. Site lacks suitable wetland or stream habitat.
Birds			
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*	Fed: - State: - Other: *	Found near large, fish-bearing waters, usually in ponderosa pine and mixed conifer habitats. Nests in large platform of sticks at the top of large snags, dead-topped trees, on cliffs, or on human-made structures.	None. Site lacks nestin habitat and large nearby body of water.
Bald eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	Fed: - State: CE Other: CFP	Occurs along shorelines, lake margins, and rivers. Nests in large, old-growth or dominant trees with open branches.	None. Site lacks nestin habitat and large nearby body of water.

Appendix C

Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge - Potentially-occurring Special-status Animals

	Status*	Habitat	Probability on Project Site
Northern goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*	Fed: - State: SSC Other: *	Dense, mature coniferous forests, most typically dense fir stands in the Sierra Nevada mountains.	Unlikely. May nest in neaby areas but trees on site are not suitable nesting trees.
Willow flycatcher *Empidonax traillii*	Fed: - State: CE Other: *	Uncommon summer resident in upper elevation montane riparian and wet meadow areas, usually with a thick growth of shrubby willow.	None. Site lacks meadow habitat.
Yellow warbler *Setophaga petechia*	Fed: - State: SSC Other: *	Breeds in riparian vegetation throughout California; populations in Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys are declining. Common in eastern Sierran riparian habitats below 8,000 feet.	Possible. May nest in riparian scrub habitat.
Mammals			
Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare *Lepus americanus tahoensis*	Fed: - State: SSC Other: -	Montane riparian habitats with thickets of alders and willows and in stands of young conifers interdispersed with chaparral. Early seral stages of mixed conifer, subalpine conifer, red fir, Jeffrey pine, lodgepole pine, and aspen, usually along edges.	Unlikely. May occur in area but highly unlikely to be present in study area due to human activity.
Sierra Nevada mountain beaver *Aplodontia rufa californica*	Fed: - State: SSC Other: -	Dense decidious trees and shrubs in riparian habitat with an abundant source of water.	Unlikely. Occurs in riparian areas with abundant water. Habitat in study area is marginal to support this species.
Sierra Nevada red fox *Vulpes vulpes necator*	Fed: FPE State: CT Other: *	Occurs in conifer forests and rugged alpine landscape of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade ranges between 4,000 feet and 12,000 feet, most often above 7,000 feet.	None. Site does not present any denning potential.
Wolverine *Gulo gulo*	Fed: - State: CT Other:	Habitat generally consists of open terrain above the timberline but has been observed at 1500 feet. Prefer areas with low human disturbance. Use caves, hollows in cliffs, logs, rock outcrops, and burrows for cover, generally in denser forest stages	None. Site does not present any denning potential.

Appendix C

Tahoe Donner Downhill Lodge - Potentially-occurring Special-status Animals

	Status*	Habitat	Probability on Project Site

***Status**

Federal:	State:	Other:
FE - Federal Endangered	CE - California Endangered	Some species have protection under the other designations, such as the California Department of Forestry Sensitive Species, Bureau of Land Management Sensitive Species, U.S.D.A. Forest Service Sensitive Species, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Raptors and their nests are protected by provisions of the California Fish and Game Code. Certain areas, such as wintering areas of the monarch butterfly, may be protected by policies of the California Department of Fish and Game.
FT - Federal Threatened	CT - California Threatened	
FPE - Federal Proposed Endangered	CR - California Rare	
FPT - Federal Proposed Threatened	CC - California Candidate	
FC - Federal Candidate	CFP - California Fully Protected	
FPD - Federal Proposed for Delisting	CSC - California Species of Special Concern	WL - CDFG Watch List