

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2024010405

Project Title: Pine Mountain Lake Fuel Reduction Project

Lead Agency: CAL FIRE

Contact Name: Len Nielson

Email: Len.Nielson@fire.ca.gov Phone Number: (559) 472-8063

Project Location: Groveland Tuolumne
City *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The Pine Mountain Lake Fuel Reduction (PMLFR) Project is located East of Groveland, CA adjacent to the community of Pine Mountain Lake in Tuolumne County. This Project will dramatically decrease the wildfire threat to the 2,834 parcels within Pine Mountain Lake Association (PMLA), and the approximately 1,250 other parcels within the Groveland Community Service District. This region of Tuolumne County has historically been impacted by large wildfires. This Project's intent is to develop a defensible fuel break on the eastern flank of Pine Mountain Lake and Groveland. The PMLFR Project is composed of two contiguous areas: Pine Mountain Lake 1 (PML 1) and Pine Mountain Lake 2 (PML 2). PML 1 is a 640 acre area just east of the PMLA. The first two phases described below have been completed in this area. This work was completed under SCH #2024010405. PML 2 is comprised of two different locations. The first is a 156 acre area east of PML 1 and the second is an approximately 22-acre area within the PML 1 boundary. It is funded under CAL FIRE Grant 5GG23222. No work has been done in PML 2. A variety of methods will be utilized to reduce fuel loading and remove ladder fuels on this highly dense, approximately 820 acre WUI area east of Pine Mountain Lake.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

Surveys for sensitive species (wildlife and botanical) that have the potential to exist in, or immediately adjacent to the project area, will be conducted prior to treatments each year of operations, during the appropriate survey period for each species. Based on potential habitat and/or known occurrences of species, mitigations measures, intended to achieve full avoidance, have been incorporated into the project, specifically for: foothill yellow-legged frog, western pond turtle, great gray owl, bald eagle, California spotted owl, Crotch bumble bee, and sensitive botanical species. No significant adverse impacts are anticipated to any species as a result of project treatment activities. Geologic mitigation measures have been included to ensure no significant adverse impacts will occur as a result of project treatment activities related to use of heavy equipment on steep slopes, excessively wet ground, or within established watercourse protection zones. Hazards and hazardous materials will be managed through equipment maintenance, spill prevention, and regulated herbicide application protocols, including preparation of a Spill Prevention and Response Plan (SPRP). Water quality and hydrology will be protected through the establishment of various watercourse classifications (defined in IS-MND) and associated specific operational restrictions, intended to avoid significant adverse impacts to on-site and downstream beneficial uses of water and aquatic habitat. Archaeological resources (cultural and tribal) have been documented in a confidential Archaeological Survey Report. Mitigation measures (avoidance measures) for any significant cultural or tribal resources have been documented and reviewed by a Professional Archaeologist, contracted through CAL FIRE. No significant adverse impacts are anticipated as a result of project treatment activities.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

There are no known areas of controversy known to the lead agency associated with the project. The Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District did receive comments and recommendations from both CDFW and USFWS regarding species-specific protection measures for the great gray owl, California spotted owl, and foothill yellow-legged frog. Recommendations have been incorporated into the MND for the project.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is trustee agency involving fish and wildlife resources of the state and designated rare or endangered plants.