

Environmental Review Report for an Exempt Project

Note: This report form is intended for use to document a limited environmental impact analysis supporting the filing of a notice of exemption document for a proposed project. Although the project appears to fit within the descriptions for allowable categorical exemptions, this report presents the project proponent's review for possible exceptions that would preclude finding the project to be categorically exempt as discussed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. This report will be filed with the CEQA administrative record for this project to document the environmental impact analysis conducted by the project proponent.

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Project Name: Thornburg/Shokouh Fuels Reduction Project
Number: N/A
Program Type: Fuels Reduction
County: Alpine
Acres: 80
Legal Location: T10N, R20E, S294 MDBM
Name of USGS 7.5' Quad Map(s): Woodfords

☒ Project Vicinity Map Attached ☒ Project Location Map Attached ☒ Photos Attached

Other Public Agency Review or Permit Required:

Would the project result in:

Alterations to a watercourse (DFW - Lake and Stream Alteration Agreement)
Conversion of timberland (CAL FIRE - Conversion Permit or Exemption)
Demolition (Local Air District - Demolition Permit)
Soil disturbance over 1 acre (RWQCB - SWPPP)
Fill of possible wetlands (404 Permit - USACE)
Other:

YES

NO

☐ ☒
☐ ☒
☐ ☒
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Discuss any above-listed topic item checked Yes and consultation with agencies: A Lahontan Timber Waiver of the appropriate category will be received prior to project implementation. Under the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) equipment exemptions for forestry work, the chipper used for this project does not require permitting.

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

The project is located within the community of Markleeville, California. The project area is comprised of an 80 acre treatment area consisting of two private landowner parcels, each ~ 40 acres in Markleevillage of eastern Alpine County. The Thornburg property is located at 79 Sawmill Road, and the Shokouh property is located at 235 Pinion Road. The project areas are dominated by native sagebrush habitat of California Wildlife Habitat Relationship (CWHR) size class varies, and fire damaged conifers that range from 4-14" DBH. The proposed project will reduce the continuity of sagebrush and hazard trees in an effort to reduce hazardous fuel loading and arrangement such that the flame length, intensity, rate of spread, and duration of potential wildfire is reduced.

The proposed project will 1) Utilize mechanical mastication to reduce the extent of sagebrush on site, targeting 70% of the sage for mastication, 2) leave remaining sagebrush in a discontinuous, mosaic fashion 30% for habitat which will not contribute to horizontal or vertical fuels, 3) off-haul and/or chip/mulch debris in the masticated zones to retain soil moisture and aid in fire resilience. lop and scatter of nominal dead and dying conifers through hand operations with assistance from machinery, and 4) deck/remove hand felled or mechanical logging of 4" to 14" DBH conifers present within the project area and limb remaining trees to a minimum height of 10 feet as measured from the lowest live green limb to the top of the surface fuels.

Any riparian species on the Shokouh property will be retained and left unaltered. Conifer Snags 16"+ DBH and over 20 feet tall shall be retained at a minimum rate of 2 per acre where they exist in the preharvest stand provided they do not pose a safety risk during and following operations. The desired, post treatment stand conditions will not contribute to initiating or

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sustaining a crown fire and will have projected flame lengths of less than 2-4 feet in the surface fuels, with increased resilience to wildfire. The resulting stand would appear well thinned with the primary carrier of the fire being leaves and/or grasses. The proposed action will effectively reduce hazardous fuels within the project area.

Environmental Impact Analysis

Aesthetics

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

As the proposed project is designed to reduce hazardous fuels, shrub habitats within the project area will appear “thinned” and of reduced shrub density. However, the live native conifers will be retained and are scheduled for pruning only, enhancing the general forested appearance within the project area. Thus, the proposed action will not degrade the existing visual character of the sites or their surroundings. The Caltrans California State Scenic Highway System Map identifies Hot Springs Road as a scenic route, however, is not officially classified as a scenic highway. Native brush species and live trees will be retained in a mosaic arrangement such that aesthetic quality of the vegetation type will not be adversely affected, and the scenic route consideration will be maintained. The proposed project does not contain any scenic vistas, nor is the project area visible from an established scenic vista. No significant impact to aesthetics is expected from project implementation.

Agriculture and Forest Resources

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☒ Yes ☐ No Would any trees be felled? If yes, discuss protection of nesting birds, if necessary.
☐ Yes ☒ No Would the project convert any prime or unique farmland?
☐ Yes ☒ No Would the project result in the conversion of forest land or timberland to non-forest use?
☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Select dead or dying conifer trees will be machine logged or hand felled and decked prior to off-haul to Turtle Rock Park. Conifer snags 16”+ DBH and over 20 feet tall shall be retained at a minimum rate of 2 per acre where they exist in the preharvest stand provided they do not pose a safety risk during and following operations. Trees ranging from 6 inches to 22 inches DBH will be pruned during project implementation as described in the project description. If operations are scheduled to occur during the nesting period of March 1 to August 31 annually, all project areas will be surveyed by a qualified biologist for nests prior to operations. Identified nest trees will be retained. A discussion of potential impacts to each bird species identified during scoping can be found below in the “Biological Resources” section. No significant impact to agriculture or forest resources is expected from fall project implementation.

Air Quality

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☒ Yes ☐ No The local Air Quality Management District guidelines for dust abatement and other air quality concerns were reviewed for this project.
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Consultations with an Air Quality Specialist with the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District occurred for a similar, nearby 2023 fuels reduction project occurred. The specialist indicated that operation of a masticator for these types of projects would not trigger dust Air District permitting. The contractor shall utilize water tenders to reduce or eliminate air pollution during fuels reduction work. Exhaust from the equipment will be assessed and monitored per permit regulations. Any equipment used for this project would be subject to Great Basin Unified Air Quality District Rule 401 for Fugitive Dust. If the equipment is portable (operates in one place but can be moved) and has its own diesel engine with a maximum rated horsepower of 50 or greater, it needs either a District permit or a certification in the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Portable Equipment Registration Program (PERP).

The appropriate Air District permitting for this project will depend on who is hired to implement the project. The project contractor will be required to be compliant with the aforementioned District and/or CARB permit prior to the commencement of operations. All activities associated with the project will be consistent with the parameters of the subject permit. No significant impact to air quality is expected from project implementation.

Biological Resources

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☒ Yes ☐ No Will the project potentially effect biological resources?
- ☒ Yes ☐ No Was a current California Natural Diversity Database review completed? Results discussed below:
- ☒ Yes ☐ No Was a biological survey of the project area completed? Results discussed below:
- ☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

A scoping process was conducted to identify species of plants, animals, and habitats that could potentially be impacted by the proposed project. Sources used include the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) (January 2024, Woodfords & Markleeville 7.5' USGS Quad), and California Native Plant Society (CNPS, February 2024) search of rare plants "Nine Quad Search" for the Woodfords 7.5' Quad.

Results of the scoping process indicated that the project area may present suitable habitat for one plant species of status, general species endemic to the area and five wildlife species. Plant species of status include Rothrock's sagebrush and could include Davy's sedge, Carson Valley monkeyflower, and golden violet. Wildlife species include the Gray Wolf (USFWS endangered), North American Wolverine (USFWS threatened), California Spotted Owl (USFWS proposed threatened), Northwestern Pond Turtle (USFWS proposed threatened), Monarch butterfly (USFWS proposed threatened), western white-tailed jackrabbit (CDFW Species of Special Concern), American bumble bee, Morrison bumble bee, and the North American Porcupine. Four species of bumblebee, including Crotch bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*), Franklin's bumble bee (*Bombus franklini*), Suckley cuckoo bumble bee (*Bombus suckleyi*), and western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis occidentalis*) were included in the scoping process and the CNDDB search yielded no detections of any of these four candidate species. Table 1, attached, provides floristic scoping results and supporting general information found that may be present on this project site. The proposed project will not adversely affect the habitat for the aforementioned species as operations will retain native vegetation in a mosaic fashion, maintaining the same vegetation type post-treatment.

If operations are scheduled to occur during the nesting period of March 1 to August 31 annually, all project areas will be surveyed by a qualified biologist for nests prior to operations. No significant impact to biological resources is expected from project implementation.

(A) If any listed plant species is located during active CEQA operations, the CR specialist will establish a 50-foot Equipment Exclusion Zone around the identified population(s). No CEQA operations are to occur within the 50-foot buffer. The identified area(s) will be excluded from operations. Operations may occur/continue in areas that are not expected to contain suitable habitat.

(B) The location of the plant species will be amended into the Environmental Review Report as a minor amendment.

Cultural Resources/Tribal Cultural Resources

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☒ Yes ☐ No Was a current archaeological records check completed? Results discussed below:
- ☐ Yes ☒ No Was a CAL FIRE staff or contract archaeologist consulted? Results discussed below:
- ☒ Yes ☐ No Was an archaeological survey of the project area completed? Results discussed below:
- ☐ Yes ☒ No Will the project effect any historic, archaeological or tribal cultural resources?
- ☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Modified mitigation measures for Approved Projects, provides that no substantially significant impacts as previously defined by the IS/MND occur, and therefor comply with CEQA guidelines as defined above. Proposed mitigation measure: Prior to initiation of fuels management treatment activities, project locations will include a delineated avoidance radius (buffer zone) surrounding known cultural resource sites and flagged or visually monitored by a qualified Cultural Resource (CR) Specialist/Archaeologist and designated as an environmentally sensitive area (ESA). Project locations requiring an adjustment to the 100-foot ESA avoidance buffer zone to accommodate site access, shall be flagged or visually monitored by a CR specialist prior to the initiation of fuels management activities. The adjusted ESA avoidance buffer zone shall be mapped and provided to Alpine County. The project proponent and contractor shall document activities in adjusted ESA avoidance buffer zones that have been delineated by the CR specialist. The CR Specialist shall ensure that alteration to the 100-foot radius, where required, avoids all impacts to the eligible registered cultural site. Vegetation treatments outside the ESA related to the adjusted ESA boundary shall be prescribed by the proponent. Mechanical thinning, access roads, skid trails, and staging shall not be permitted within the ESA. All vehicle access shall avoid the ESA, and only foot traffic shall be allowed within the delineated ESA avoidance buffer zone. Pile burning shall not be conducted within the flagged ESA. Treatment activities within the CR designated avoidance buffer zones shall be limited to hand thinning. Before Activity: Flag an ESA around all cultural resource sites within the PTA During Activity: Limit activities within the flagged ESA as appropriate. After Activity: Remove flags

If a cultural resource is discovered within a project area after the project has been approved, the following procedures apply:

1. If a new discovery is located operations will cease within a buffered boundary as defined by qualified cultural resource (CR) specialist/archaeologist.
2. The appropriate CR shall be immediately notified and requested to evaluate the new discovery.
3. The CR shall review if cultural resources should have been identified earlier within the tier I project in the IS/MND; CalVTP.
4. The CR shall ensure that the newly discovered site is recorded and its discovery and protection measures are documented in the project files.
5. If the newly discovered site is a Native American Archaeological or Cultural Site (defined in the Forest Practice Rules), the CR via lead agency shall notify the appropriate Native American tribal group and the NAHC, if appropriate.

Project implementation is not expected to adversely affect any historic, archaeological, or tribal cultural resource.

Energy

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

Adverse impacts to energy are not anticipated as a result of implementation of the proposed project.

Geology and Soils

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

Soils within the project area were analyzed for determination of the Erosion Hazard Rating, which was determined to be "moderate". During analysis, soils within the project boundaries were found to be conducive to the proposed fuel reduction activities and related equipment use. Minor soil disturbance associated with equipment use may occur. No equipment will be operating on slopes exceeding 20%, the greatest slope within the area of operations. Furthermore, no new road construction or reconstruction will occur, and no equipment operations shall occur if saturated soils exist. Saturated soil conditions means that soil and /or surface material pore spaces are filled with water to such extent that runoff is likely to occur. Indicators of saturated soil conditions include but are not limited to: 1) areas of ponded water, 2) pumping of fines from the soil or road surface material during operations, 3) loss of bearing strength resulting in the deflection of soil or road surfaces under a load, such as the creation of wheel ruts, or 4) spinning or churning of wheels or tracks that produce a wet slurry. The aforementioned restrictions will prevent adverse soil impacts such as soil erosion and/or the loss of topsoil. There are no known unstable features, such as past landslides, within or adjacent to the project area. The project is not located on a geologic stratum known to be unstable, or upon expansive soils. No significant impact to geology and soils is expected from project implementation.

A full itemization of soil types present within the project area is provided in Table 2, below.

Table 2. Soil Type Present within Sierra Pines Fuel Reduction Project Area

Soil Type	Parent Material	EHR	Texture/Depth/Drainage	% Of Project Area
Joecut-Heenlake association	Colluvial over residuum derived from andesite or tuff breccia	Moderate	Very gravelly peaty loam; very gravelly clay loam; very cobbly clay loam	100%

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☐ Yes ☒ No Would the project generate significant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?
- ☐ Yes ☒ No Would these GHG emissions result in a significant impact on the environment? Discuss below:
- ☐ Yes ☒ No Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? Discuss below:

In 2006, Assembly Bill 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, was enacted. This law specifically established a statewide Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions cap for 2020, based upon the 1990 emissions levels, and required state agencies to develop California's first strategy to identify and prepare for the expected impacts of a changing climate. Hence, projects that may potentially produce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions needed to be analyzed.

Currently, California's 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan: The Strategy for Achieving California's 2030 Greenhouse Gas Target (Plan) is guided by the objective to reduce emissions by 40 percent below 1990 levels by year 2030. The Plan states that successful implementation of existing programs has put California on track to achieve the 2020 target. Additionally, the California Forest Carbon Plan – 2018, also describes goals and related specific actions to improve overall forest health, enhance carbon storage resilience, increase sequestration, and reduce GHG emissions, and provides principles and policies to guide and support those actions. A key finding of this plan states "Fuel reduction in forests, whether through mechanical thinning, use of ecologically beneficial fire, or sustainable commercial timber harvest to achieve forest health goals, involves some immediate loss of forest carbon, but these treatments can increase the stability of the remaining and future stored carbon." The proposed project is consistent with these Plans.

Regarding temporary impacts to carbon sequestration, the calculated 0.9 years for carbon to be recouped within the project area is a minor and temporary setback in regard to an overall increase in carbon sequestration through time. This temporary impact is mitigated through the benefits to forest health in the form of increased growth rates, increased stand health and vigor, reduction of intertree competition, encouragement of natural regeneration, and reduced risk of catastrophic wildfire. This project, as proposed, will not have a significant impact on the annual release of greenhouse gases. No adverse impacts to Greenhouse Gas Emissions is anticipated with this project.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

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

Hazards could result from the use of chainsaws and operating mastication equipment. All necessary precautions will be implemented to ensure personnel safety including the proper use of personal protective equipment and appropriate training associated with the proper use of chainsaws. Crews will not be allowed to use equipment or conduct work beyond their level of training. All project work that entails the pruning will be completed using hand tools. Hazardous materials to be used in connection with project work include fuel for transportation and equipment, and gasoline and lubricants for chain saws. Crew trucks will travel along State Route 89, Hot Springs Rd, and within the bounds of the Markleevillage.. Each road is rated for truck traffic. There is a chance that a spill could occur if equipment overturned or during chainsaw fueling and maintenance operations. This is unlikely however and the risk would not be significant. Fuel and lubricant spillage will be minimized by conducting these operations in flat areas and by having fuel containment equipment at the refueling sites. Fuel containment equipment (absorbent sheets and waddles) will be available at all refueling sites.

Hydrology and Water Quality

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☐ Yes ☒ No Will the project potentially affect any watercourse or body of water?
- ☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The project contains ephemeral Class III watercourses fall within the Shokouh property. Project design will protect water quality by maintaining existing drainage patterns, and minimizing surface erosion around watercourses by implementing the following protection measures:

Class III watercourses, an Equipment Limitation Zone will be established at a minimum width of 25 feet each side of the watercourse. Any and all debris that is introduced into a watercourse via mastication operations shall immediately be removed by hand.

Equipment shall not operate during saturated soil conditions, which means that soil and /or surface material pore spaces are filled with water to such extent that runoff is likely to occur. Indicators of saturated soil conditions include, but are not limited to: 1) areas of ponded water, 2) pumping of fines from the soil or road surface material during operations, 3) loss of bearing strength resulting in the deflection of soil or road surfaces under a load, such as the creation of wheel ruts, or 4) spinning or churning of wheels or tracks that produce a wet slurry.

Equipment Exclusion Zones and Equipment Limitation Zones are designed to protect water temperature, filter strip properties, upslope stability, and fish and wildlife values. The residual overstory conifer canopy and understory vegetation shall remain undisturbed by operations. Compliance with these restrictions during project implementation will prevent significant adverse effects to water resources during treatment activities. The project entails treatment of native shrubs and brush and will have no effect on groundwater supplies. Through the establishment of the EEZs and ELZs, existing drainage patterns will be protected. The project will not alter the course of any stream or river.

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) was consulted 2023 regarding an adjacent 2025 fuels reduction project (Bacon) with many parallels to the Thornburg/Shokouh Fuel Reduction project. LRWQCB stated that the project is eligible under Lahontan Timber Waiver Category 2, a non-notifying and non-reporting exemption. No significant impact to hydrology and water quality is expected as a result of project implementation.

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Land Use and Planning

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

The project does not involve restructuring of established communities. The project is in conformance with the Alpine County General Plan, local zoning ordinances, and Alpine County Community Wildfire Prevention Plan. Habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans do not exist for the project area or vicinity. As such, adverse impacts to land use planning as a result of project implementation are not expected.

Mineral Resources

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

The project does not involve the use of known mineral resources and does not occur in an area of locally important mineral resource recovery program as indicated in any local, specific, or other land use plan. Hence, adverse impacts to mineral resources as a result of the proposed project are not expected.

Noise

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

The proposed project will entail the use of some heavy equipment for mastication of sagebrush. Equipment operations associated with fuel reduction activities will be within the allowable limits established by the County of Alpine. During the actual fuel reduction activities, there could be an increase in normal noise levels due to activity associated with the operation of heavy equipment. However, equipment operations shall be limited to the hours of 7am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Normal noise levels will return once fuels reduction treatment is completed. The project is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport. The project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. Adverse impacts to ambient noise levels are not anticipated as a result of project implementation.

Population and Housing

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

This project will reduce hazardous fuels through hand and mechanical methods. The project is located adjacent to a residential area and will not have an impact on local population levels, distribution, or placement. The project will not displace any existing housing. Adverse impacts to population/housing are not anticipated as a result of project implementation.

Public Services

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

This project involves hazardous fuels reduction near residential areas with no impact upon public services. Involvement of fire and police protection, schools, parks, and other public services are not required for project implementation. As such adverse impacts to public services as a result of project implementation is not expected.

Recreation

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

The project area contains privately owned properties. There are no known recreational activities provided for or sponsored for the public within or adjacent to the project areas. There are no neighborhood or regional recreational facilities within or adjacent to project boundaries. No recreational facility construction is planned for this project. As such, adverse impacts to recreational resources as a result of implementation of the proposed project are not expected.

Transportation and Traffic

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

This project involves hazardous fuels reduction near residential areas. Vegetation targeted for treatment will be masticated, being essentially ground in place and will remain on site. Wood product will be removed from the project site and hauled to the Turtle Rock Park. Temporary traffic along access routes could occur as a result of project implementation as the contractor, equipment operators, and/or crewmembers will be accessing project units. This increase in traffic will be minor and insignificant. As such, the project as proposed will not cause significant changes in current transportation traffic patterns and frequencies.

Utilities and Service Systems

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

The project is a hazardous fuel reduction project and does not involve the creation or treatment of wastewater or, wastewater treatment facilities, does not place any demand on local water supplies, and does not produce any solid waste. As such, impacts to utilities/service systems are not anticipated as a result of implementation of the proposed project.

Wildfire

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

The proposed project is designed to reduce hazardous fuels within the community of Woodfords. Fuel reduction activities associated with this project will not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, but rather enhance and support emergency response and ingress/egress in the event of wildfire. The project will not expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors. The project does not include prescribed fire. Areas of reduced fuel loading resulting from project implementation will reduce fire risk to the residents of Markleevillage by reducing the potential flame length, rate of spread, intensity and duration of wildfire within the subdivision. Thus, the project does not exacerbate fire risk or result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. The post-treatment stand will be a well-thinned forested landscape where the largest most fire-resilient trees have been retained, people and/or structures will not be exposed to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes. No significant adverse impact to wildfire is expected as a result of project implementation.

Changes Made to Avoid Environmental Impacts:

Adverse environmental impacts have been avoided through careful review of site conditions prior to treatment method determination. Site soils, slope, habitat, cultural resources, and water resources were thoroughly examined during project design and layout. All water features have been afforded protection from equipment operations through the establishment of EEZs and ELZs. Trees scheduled for retention include the largest, most fire resilient trees available in the preharvest project area. This condition will also allow for the retention of the habitat and preferred canopy closure of avian species identified during the biological scoping process. Sensitive plants have been identified during the scoping process and surveyed for, and protocol established should any such plant be located during project activities. Mastication of all project slash will prevent the need to use burning for slash abatement, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Mandatory Findings of Significance:

YES	NO
☐	☒

(a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

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(b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? “Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probably future projects. ☐ ☒

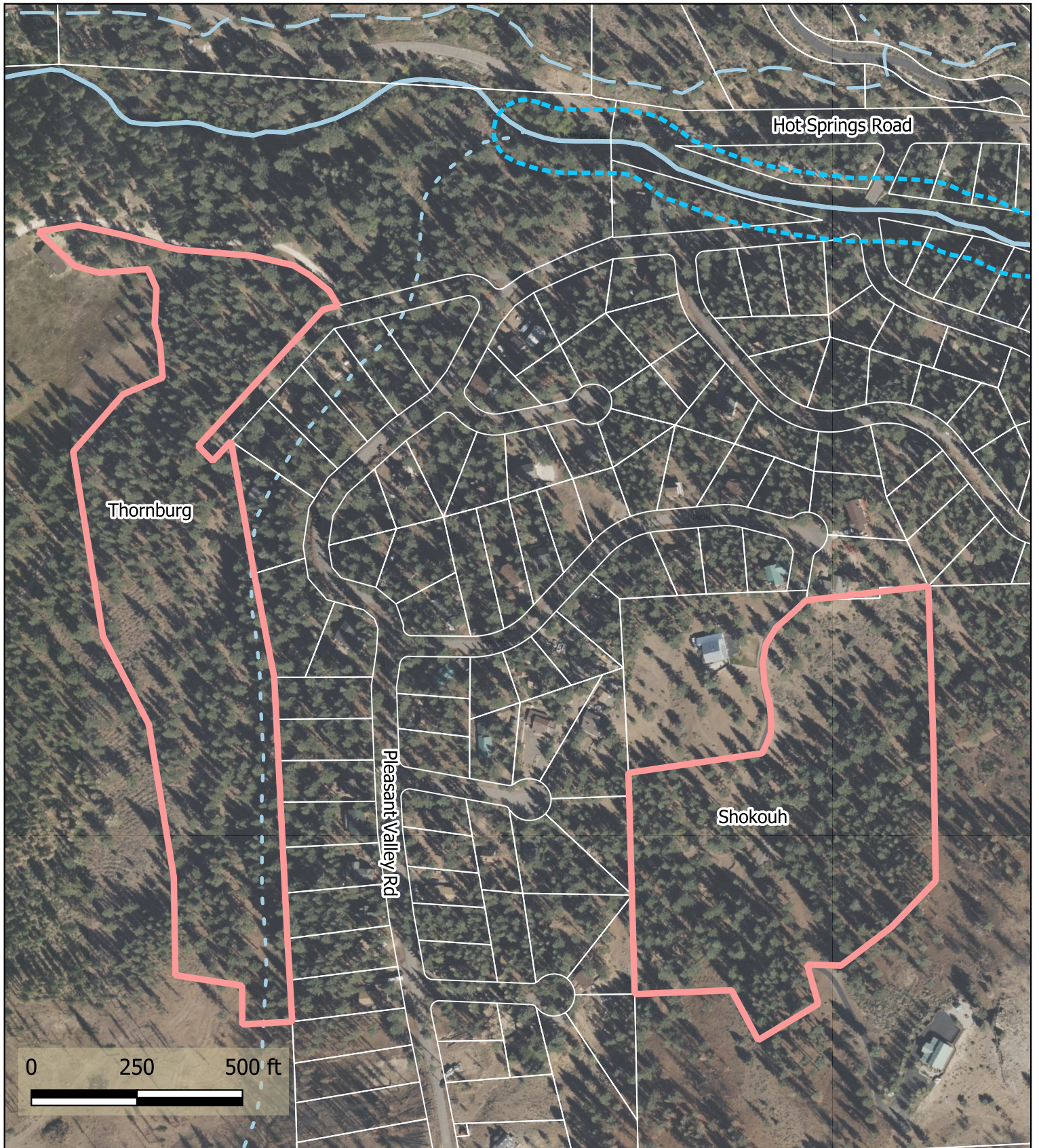
(c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? ☐ ☒

Justification for Use of a Categorical Exemption (discuss why the project is exempt, cite exemption number(s), and describe how the project fits the class):

This project fits under the following class of Categorical Exemption: Class 4 15304 Minor Alterations to Land allows minor alteration of vegetation including fuel management activities to reduce volume of flammable vegetation, provided the activities do not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant/animal species or cause significant erosion and sedimentation of waters. Brush targeted for mastication, lop and scatter of dead conifers, and pruning of residual trees will be restricted to those that reduce the vertical and horizontal continuity of fuels. The proposed project has been designed to protect hydrology and water and soil resources to prevent significant erosion or sedimentation of waters. The project, as designed, is consistent with the use of a Categorical Exemption. Field review confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. The LTO has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland or timberland, air quality, biological resources, energy, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation or traffic, wildfire, or to utilities and service systems. USDA FSA EFRP site visits and review were conducted on these lands post Tamarack Fire in 2021/2022 and confirm that fuels reduction is accepted as part of Alpine County Restoration efforts and supports the continued forest health improvements to return the landscapes to pre-fire and long-term health conditions.

Conclusion:

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



Project CRS: NAD83 / UTM zone 10N

Map Source: Google Satellite



February 2025

-  WBBZ
-  Creek Class 1
-  Creek Class 3
-  Thornburg & Shokouh Project Areas



Thornburg Shokouh

Project: **Thornburg & Shokouh Project**
Markleeville, California

Client: **Alpine Fire Safe Council**

Soil Map—Coleville-Bridgeport Area, Parts of Alpine and Mono Counties, California; and Toiyabe National Forest Area, California
(Thornburg/Shokouh)

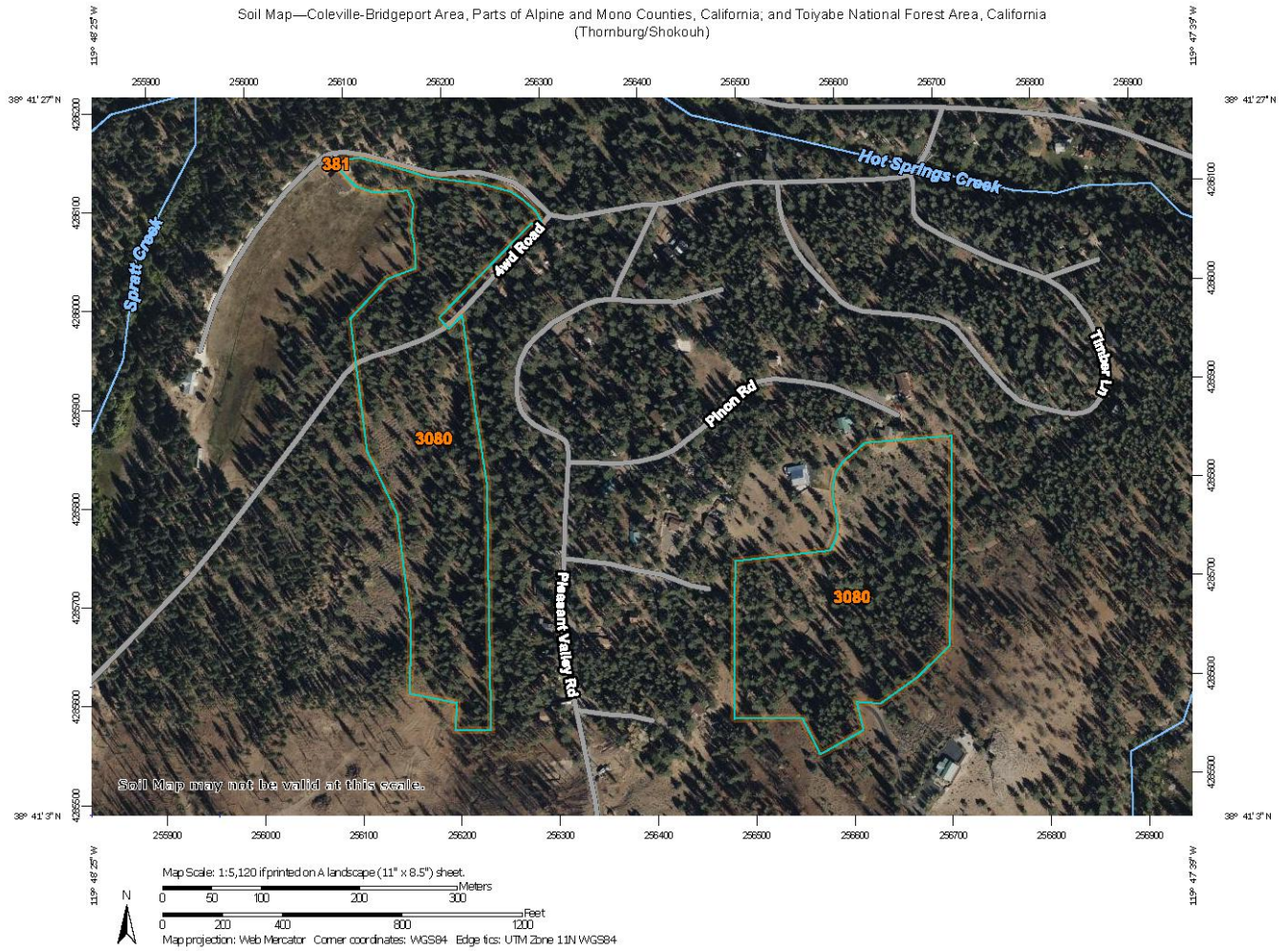


Table 1. Alpine Fire Safe Council- Hawkside CEQA: CNPS Floristic Scoping

ScientificName	Common Name	Lifeform	CRPR	CESA	FESA	Blooming Period	Habitat	Elevation Low_ft	Elevation High_ft	Potential For Occurrence
Agrostis humilis	mountain bent grass	perennial herb	2B.3	None	None	Jul-Sep	Alpine boulder and rock field, Meadows and seeps, Subalpine coniferous forest	8760	10500	Low; the project area is below the preferred elevational range of the species
Arabis rigidissima var. demota	Galena Creek rockcress	perennial herb	1B.2	None	None	Jul-Aug	Broadleafed upland forest, Upper montane coniferous forest	7400	8400	Low; the project area is below the preferred elevational range of the species
Astragalus austinae	Austin's astragalus	perennial herb	1B.3	None	None	(May) Jul-Sep	Alpine boulder and rock field, Subalpine coniferous forest	8005	9745	Low; the project area is below the preferred elevational range of the species
Boechera microphylla	small-leaved rockcress	perennial herb	3	None	None	Jul	Pinyon and juniper woodland	5580	10710	Low; project area does not contain suitable habitat.
Botrychium ascendens	upswept moonwort	perennial rhizomatous herb	2B.3	None	None	(Jun) Jul-Aug	Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps	3660	9990	Low; project area does not contain suitable habitat.
Botrychium crenulatum	scalloped moonwort	perennial rhizomatous herb	2B.2	None	None	Jun-Sep	Bogs and fens, Lower montane coniferous forest, Marshes and swamps, Meadows and seeps, Upper montane coniferous forest	4160	10760	Low; project area does not contain suitable habitat.
Botrychium minganense	Mingan moonwort	perennial rhizomatous herb	2B.2	None	None	Jul-Sep	Bogs and fens, Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps, Upper montane coniferous forest	4775	7155	Low; project area does not contain suitable habitat.
Carex davyi	Davy's sedge	perennial herb	1B.3	None	None	May-Aug	Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest	4920	10500	Moderate; Not detected within the project area during summer 2023 floristic surveys
Carex hystericina	porcupine sedge	perennial rhizomatous herb	2B.1	None	None	May-Jun	Marshes and swamps	2000	7875	Low; project area does not contain suitable habitat.
Carex limosa	mud sedge	perennial rhizomatous herb	2B.2	None	None	Jun-Aug	Bogs and fens, Lower montane coniferous forest, Marshes and swamps, Meadows and seeps, Upper montane coniferous forest	3935	8860	Low; project area does not contain suitable habitat.
Carex petasata	Liddon's sedge	perennial herb	2B.3	None	None	May-Jul	Broadleafed upland forest, Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps, Pinyon and juniper woodland	1970	10895	Low; project area does not contain suitable habitat.
Carex vallicola	western valley sedge	perennial rhizomatous herb	2B.3	None	None	Jul-Aug	Great Basin scrub, Meadows and seeps	5005	9205	Low; project area does not contain suitable habitat.
Chaenactis douglasii var. alpina	alpine dusty maidens	perennial herb	2B.3	None	None	Jul-Sep	Alpine boulder and rock field	9400	11155	Low; the project area is below the preferred elevational range of the species
Claytonia megarhiza	fell-fields claytonia	perennial herb	2B.3	None	None	Jul-Sep	Alpine boulder and rock field, Subalpine coniferous forest	8530	11590	Low; the project area is below the preferred elevational range of the species
Claytonia umbellata	Great Basin claytonia	perennial herb	2B.1	None	None	May-Aug	Subalpine coniferous forest	5595	11485	Low; project area does not contain suitable habitat.
Crepis runcinata	fiddleleaf hawksbeard	perennial herb	2B.2	None	None	May-Aug	Mojavean desert scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland	4100	6480	Low; project area does not contain suitable habitat.

Draba asterophora var. asterophora	Tahoe draba	perennial herb	1B.2	None	None	Jul-Aug (Sep)	Alpine boulder and rock field, Subalpine coniferous forest	8205	11500	Low; the project area is below the preferred elevational range of the species
Draba praealta	tall draba	perennial herb	2B.3	None	None	Jul-Aug	Meadows and seeps	8205	11205	Low; the project area is below the preferred elevational range of the species
Elodium blandowii	Blandow's bog moss	moss	2B.2	None	None		Meadows and seeps, Subalpine coniferous forest	6110	8860	Low; project area does not contain suitable habitat.
Elymus scribneri	Scribner's wheat grass	perennial herb	2B.3	None	None	Jul-Aug	Alpine boulder and rock field	9515	13780	Low; the project area is below the preferred elevational range of the species
Epilobium palustre	marsh willowherb	perennial rhizomatous herb	2B.3	None	None	Jul-Sep	Bogs and fens, Meadows and seeps	4215	7695	Low; the project area does not contain suitable habitat
Eriogonum luteolum var. saltuarium	Jack's wild buckwheat	annual herb	1B.2	None	None	Jul-Sep	Great Basin scrub, Upper montane coniferous forest	5580	7875	Moderate; Not detected within the project area during summer 2023 floristic surveys
Erythranthe carsonensis	Carson Valley monkeyflower	annual herb	1B.1	None	None	Apr-Jun	Great Basin scrub	4855	4855	Moderate; Not detected within the project area during summer 2023 floristic surveys
Meesia uliginosa	broad-nerved hump moss	moss	2B.2	None	None	Jul-Oct	Bogs and fens, Meadows and seeps, Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest	3970	9200	Low; project area does not contain suitable habitat.
Oreocarya crymophila	subalpine cryptantha	perennial herb	1B.3	None	None	Jul-Aug	Subalpine coniferous forest	8530	10500	Low; the project area is below the preferred elevational range of the species
Potamogeton robbinsii	Robbins' pondweed	perennial rhizomatous herb (aquatic)	2B.3	None	None	Jul-Aug	Marshes and swamps	5020	10825	Low; project area does not contain suitable habitat.
Rorippa subumbellata	Tahoe yellow cress	perennial rhizomatous herb	1B.1	CE	None	May-Sep	Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps	6200	6250	Low; project area does not contain suitable habitat.
Schoenoplectus subterminalis	water bulrush	perennial rhizomatous herb (aquatic)	2B.3	None	None	Jun-Aug (Sep)	Bogs and fens, Marshes and swamps	2460	7380	Low; project area does not contain suitable habitat.
Utricularia ochroleuca	cream-flowered bladderwort		CBR	None	None	Jun-Jul (Aug)				Low; project area does not contain suitable habitat.
Viola purpurea ssp. aurea	golden violet	perennial herb	2B.2	None	None	Apr-Jun	Great Basin scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland	3280	8205	Moderate; Focused pre- operational surveys within 30 days of project start up for the species will be conducted during the flowering period. Any specimens detected will be protected with a 50' Equipment Exclusion Zone.

Table 2. Alpine Fire Safe Council- Hawkside CEQA Project: CNDDDB Results

SciName	ComName	FedList	CalList	OthrStatus	Habitats	MicroHab	Potential for Occurrence
Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum	southern long-toed salamander	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	HIGH ELEVATION MEADOWS AND LAKES IN THE SIERRA NEVADA, CASCADE, AND KLAMATH MOUNTAINS.	Aquatic larvae occur in ponds and lakes. Outside of breeding season adults are terrestrial and associated with underground burrows of mammals and moist areas under logs and rocks.	None; The project area does not contain aquatic habitat suitable for this species. All watercourses will be protected with an Equipment Exclusion Zone.
Bombus pensylvanicus	American bumble bee	None	None		COASTAL PRAIRIE GREAT BASIN GRASSLAND VALLEY & FOOTHILL GRASSLAND	Long-tongued; forages on a wide variety of flowers including vetches (Vicia), clovers (Trifolium), thistles (Cirsium), sunflowers (Helianthus), etc. Nests above ground under long grass or underground. Queens overwinter in rotten wood or underground.	Moderate; Project area contains suitable habitat. Pre-operational surveys will be conducted within 30 days of planned start up of operations to determine if species is present within the project area. Should the species be detected CDFW will be consulted prior to commencement of operations.
Bombus morrisoni	Morrison bumble bee	None	None		FROM THE SIERRA-CASCADE RANGES EASTWARD ACROSS THE INTERMOUNTAIN WEST	Food plant genera include Cirsium, Cleome, Helianthus, Lupinus, Chrysothamnus, and Melilotus.	Moderate; Project area contains suitable habitat. Pre-operational surveys will be conducted within 30 days of planned start up of operations to determine if species is present within the project area. Should the species be detected CDFW will be consulted
Catostomus lahontan	Lahontan mountain sucker	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	OCCUR IN THE WALKER, CARSON, TRUCKEE AND SUSAN RIVER DRAINAGES OF THE LAHONTAN BASIN IN THE EASTERN SIERRA NEVADA, BUT NOT IN THE EAGLE LAKE BASIN. ALSO FOUND IN THE NORTH FORK FEATHER RIVER DRAINAGE, MAINLY IN RED CLOVER	FOUND IN SHALLOW (< 2 M), CLEAR, LOW-GRADIENT STREAMS; ASSOCIATED WITH DIVERSE SUBSTRATES, FROM SAND TO BOULDERS, IN AREAS WITH DENSE COVER. HAVE BEEN FOUND IN STREAMS AT ELEVATIONS UP TO	None; The project area does not contain aquatic habitat suitable for this species. All watercourses will be protected with an Equipment Exclusion Zone.
Cypseloides niger	black swift	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	COASTAL BELT OF SANTA CRUZ AND MONTEREY COUNTIES; CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SIERRA NEVADA; SAN BERNARDINO AND SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS.	BREEDS IN SMALL COLONIES ON CLIFFS BEHIND OR ADJACENT TO WATERFALLS IN DEEP CANYONS AND SEA-BLUFFS ABOVE THE SURF; FORAGES WIDELY.	Low; project area does not contain suitable habitat.
Erethizon dorsatum	North American porcupine	None	None		Broadleaved upland forest Cismontane woodland Closed-cone coniferous forest Lower montane coniferous forest North coast coniferous forest Upper montane coniferous forest	Wide variety of coniferous and mixed woodland habitat.	Moderate; Project area contains suitable habitat. Pre-operational surveys will be conducted within 30 days of planned start up of operations to determine if species is present within the project area. Should the species be detected CDFW will be consulted prior to commencement of operations.
Euphydryas editha monoensis	Mono checkerspot butterfly	None	None				Low; project area does not contain suitable habitat.

Lasionycteris noctivagans	silver-haired bat	None	None		PRIMARILY A COASTAL AND MONTANE FOREST DWELLER, FEEDING OVER STREAMS, PONDS AND OPEN BRUSHY AREAS.	ROOSTS IN HOLLOW TREES, BENEATH EXFOLIATING BARK, ABANDONED WOODPECKER HOLES, AND RARELY UNDER ROCKS. NEEDS DRINKING WATER.	Low; project area does not contain suitable habitat.
Lepus townsendii townsendii	western white-tailed jackrabbit	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	SAGEBRUSH, SUBALPINE CONIFER, JUNIPER, ALPINE DWARF SHRUB AND PERENNIAL GRASSLAND.	OPEN AREAS WITH SCATTERED SHRUBS AND EXPOSED FLAT-TOPPED HILLS WITH OPEN STANDS OF TREES, BRUSH AND HERBACEOUS UNDERSTORY.	Moderate; Project area contains suitable habitat. Pre-operational surveys will be conducted within 30 days of planned start up of operations to determine if species is present within the project area. Should the species be detected CDFW will be consulted prior to commencement of operations.
Ochotona princeps schisticeps	gray-headed pika	None	None		MOUNTAINOUS AREAS, GENERALLY AT HIGHER ELEVATIONS, OFTEN ABOVE THE TREELINE UP TO THE LIMIT OF VEGETATION. AT LOWER ELEVATIONS FOUND IN ROCKY AREAS WITHIN	TALUS SLOPES, OCCASIONALLY ON MINE TAILINGS. PREFERS TALUS-MEADOW INTERFACE.	None; The project area does not contain habitat suitable for this species.
Prosopium williamsoni	mountain whitefish	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	Aquatic		None; The project area does not contain aquatic habitat suitable for this species. All watercourses will be protected with an Equipment Exclusion Zone.
Rana sierrae	Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog	Endangered	Threatened	CDFW_WL-Watch List	ALWAYS ENCOUNTERED WITHIN A FEW FEET OF WATER. TADPOLES MAY REQUIRE 2 - 4 YRS TO COMPLETE THEIR AQUATIC DEVELOPMENT.		Low; Project area does not contain suitable habitat as aquatic environments and riparian areas were excluded from treatment.
Speyeria nokomis carsonensis	Carson Valley silverspot	None	None		WET MEADOWS ALONG THE EASTERN BASE OF THE CARSON RANGE FROM SOUTHERN WASHOE CO., NEVADA TO NORTHERN ALPINE CO., CALIFORNIA.	OCCURS AS ISOLATED COLONIES.	Moderate; Not located within the project area during summer 2019 floristic surveys
Strix nebulosa	great gray owl	None	Endangered	CDF_S-Sensitive	RESIDENT OF MIXED CONIFER OR RED FIR FOREST HABITAT, IN OR ON EDGE OF MEADOWS.	REQUIRES LARGE DIAMETER SNAGS IN A FOREST WITH HIGH CANOPY CLOSURE, WHICH PROVIDE A COOL SUB-CANOPY MICROCLIMATE.	Low; project area does not contain suitable habitat.

Table 3. Sierra Pines CEQA CNDDB Results January 2024

SciName	ComName	TaxonGroup	ElmCode	Total Occs	FedList	CalList	GRank	SRank	RPlant Rank	OthrStatus	Habitats	GenHab	MicroHab	Return Occs
Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum	southern long-toed salamander	Amphibians	AAAAA01085	611	None	None	G5T4	S2		CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern		High elevation meadows and lakes in the Sierra Nevada, Cascade, and Klamath mountains.	Aquatic larvae occur in ponds and lakes. Outside of breeding season adults are terrestrial and associated with underground burrows of mammals and moist areas under logs and rocks.	2
Bombus morrisoni	Morrison bumble bee	Insects	IIHYM24460	86	None	None	G3	S1S2		IUCN_VU-Vulnerable		From the Sierra-Cascade ranges eastward across the intermountain west.	Food plant genera include Cirsium, Cleome, Helianthus, Lupinus, Chrysothamnus, and Melilotus.	1
Bombus pensylvanicus	American bumble bee	Insects	IIHYM24260	304	None	None	G3G4	S2		IUCN_VU-Vulnerable	Coastal prairie Great Basin grassland Valley & foothill grassland		Long-tongued; forages on a wide variety of flowers including vetches (Vicia), clovers (Trifolium), thistles (Cirsium), sunflowers (Helianthus), etc. Nests above ground under long grass or underground. Queens overwinter in rotten wood or underground.	1
Catostomus lahontan	Lahontan mountain sucker	Fish	AFCJC02330	22	None	None	GNR	S2		CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	Aquatic Great Basin flowing waters Sacramento/San Joaquin flowing waters	Occur in the Walker, Carson, Truckee and Susan river drainages of the Lahontan basin in the eastern Sierra Nevada, but not in the Eagle Lake basin. Also found in the North Fork Feather River drainage, mainly in Red Clover Creek.	Found in shallow (< 2 m), clear, low-gradient streams; associated with diverse substrates, from sand to boulders, in areas with dense cover. Have been found in streams at elevations up to 2800 m and at temperatures of 1-25C.	2
Crepis runcinata	fiddleleaf hawksbeard	Dicots	PDAST2R0K0	32	None	None	G5	S3	2B.2		Mojavean desert scrub Pinon & juniper woodlands	Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland.	Moist, alkaline valley bottoms. 380-3110 m.	1
Cypseloides niger	black swift	Birds	ABNUA01010	46	None	None	G4	S3		CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern IUCN_VU-Vulnerable USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern		Coastal belt of Santa Cruz and Monterey counties; central and southern Sierra Nevada; San Bernardino and San Jacinto mountains.	Breeds in small colonies on cliffs behind or adjacent to waterfalls in deep canyons and sea-bluffs above the surf; forages widely.	1
Draba asterophora var. asterophora	Tahoe draba	Dicots	PDBRA110D1	11	None	None	G2T2?	S2?	1B.2	USFS_S-Sensitive	Alpine Alpine boulder & rock field Subalpine coniferous forest	Alpine boulder and rock field, subalpine coniferous forest.	On open talus slopes, rock outcrops, and crevices. On decomposed granite. 2770-3505 m.	1
Erethizon dorsatum	North American porcupine	Mammals	AMAFJ01010	523	None	None	G5	S3		IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Broadleaved upland forest Cismontane woodland Closed-cone coniferous forest Lower montane coniferous forest North coast coniferous forest Upper montane coniferous forest	Forested habitats in the Sierra Nevada, Cascade, and Coast ranges, with scattered observations from forested areas in the Transverse Ranges.	Wide variety of coniferous and mixed woodland habitat.	1
Erythranthe carsonensis	Carson Valley monkeyflower	Dicots	PDPHR01020	1	None	None	G2	S1	1B.1	SB_CalBG/RSABG-California/Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden	Great Basin scrub	Great Basin scrub.	Granitic openings. 1480 m.	1

Euphydryas editha monoensis	Mono checkerspot butterfly	Insects	IILEPK40 5G	1	None	None	G4G5T2	S1S2		USFS_S-Sensitive				1
Lasionycteris noctivagans	silver-haired bat	Mammals	AMACC0 2010	139	None	None	G3G4	S3S4		IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Lower montane coniferous forest Oldgrowth Riparian forest	Primarily a coastal and montane forest dweller, feeding over streams, ponds and open brushy areas.	Roosts in hollow trees, beneath exfoliating bark, abandoned woodpecker holes, and rarely under rocks. Needs drinking water.	1
Lepus townsendii townsendii	western white-tailed jackrabbit	Mammals	AMAEB0 3041	24	None	None	G5T5	S3?		CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	Alpine dwarf scrub Great Basin grassland Great Basin scrub Pinon & juniper woodlands Subalpine coniferous forest	Sagebrush, subalpine conifer, juniper, alpine dwarf shrub and perennial grassland.	Open areas with scattered shrubs and exposed flat-topped hills with open stands of trees, brush and herbaceous understory.	1
Ochotona princeps schisticeps	gray-headed pika	Mammals	AMAEA0 102L	332	None	None	G5T4	S2S4			Alpine talus & scree slope Talus slope	Mountainous areas, generally at higher elevations, often above the treeline up to the limit of vegetation. At lower elevations found in rocky areas within forests or near lakes.	Talus slopes, occasionally on mine tailings. Prefers talus-meadow interface.	1
Prosopium williamsoni	mountain whitefish	Fish	AFCHA0 3060	23	None	None	G5	S3		CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern				1
Rana sierrae	Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog	Amphibians	AAABH0 1340	659	Endangered	Threatened	G1	S2		CDFW_WL-Watch List IUCN_EN-Endangered USFS_S-Sensitive	Aquatic	Always encountered within a few feet of water. Tadpoles may require 2 - 4 yrs to complete their aquatic development.		1
Speyeria nokomis carsonensis	Carson Valley silverspot	Insects	IILEPJ605 6	18	None	None	G3T1T2	S1			Meadow & seep	Wet meadows along the eastern base of the Carson Range from southern Washoe Co., Nevada to northern Alpine Co., California.	Occurs as isolated colonies.	6
Strix nebulosa	great gray owl	Birds	ABNSB12 040	79	None	Endangered	G5	S1		CDF_S-Sensitive IUCN_LC-Least Concern USFS_S-Sensitive	Lower montane coniferous forest Oldgrowth Subalpine coniferous forest Upper montane coniferous forest	Resident of mixed conifer or red fir forest habitat, in or on edge of meadows.	Requires large diameter snags in a forest with high canopy closure, which provide a cool sub-canopy microclimate.	1
Viola purpurea ssp. aurea	golden violet	Dicots	PDVIO04 420	29	None	None	G5T2	S2	2B.2		Great Basin scrub Pinon & juniper woodlands	Great Basin scrub, pinyon-juniper woodland.	Dry, sandy slopes. 1000-2500 m.	2

IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

Location

Alpine County, California



Local office

Reno Fish And Wildlife Office

☎ (775) 861-6300

📅 (775) 861-6301

1340 Financial Boulevard, Suite 234

Reno, NV 89502-7147

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species¹ and their critical habitats are managed by the [Ecological Services Program](#) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries²).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact [NOAA Fisheries](#) for [species under their jurisdiction](#).

1. Species listed under the Endangered Species Act are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the [listing status page](#) for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).
2. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Gray Wolf <i>Canis lupus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4488	Endangered
North American Wolverine <i>Gulo gulo luscus</i> Wherever found This species only needs to be considered if the following condition applies: • Species may be present based on transient occurrence as it moves through or too suitable habitat. Effects should be considered to species and projects should consult with the Service, however, depending on the project, consultation may not be necessary. No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5123	Threatened

Birds

NAME	STATUS
California Spotted Owl <i>Strix occidentalis occidentalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7266	Proposed Threatened

Reptiles

NAME	STATUS
Northwestern Pond Turtle <i>Actinemys marmorata</i> Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1111	Proposed Threatened

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> Wherever found There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Proposed Threatened

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There are no critical habitats at this location.

You are still required to determine if your project(s) may have effects on all above listed species.

Bald & Golden Eagles

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act ² and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, as described in

the various links on this page.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

There are Bald Eagles and/or Golden Eagles in your [project](#) area.

Measures for Proactively Minimizing Eagle Impacts

For information on how to best avoid and minimize disturbance to nesting bald eagles, please review the [National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines](#). You may employ the timing and activity-specific distance recommendations in this document when designing your project/activity to avoid and minimize eagle impacts. For bald eagle information specific to Alaska, please refer to [Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity](#).

The FWS does not currently have guidelines for avoiding and minimizing disturbance to nesting Golden Eagles. For site-specific recommendations regarding nesting Golden Eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

If disturbance or take of eagles cannot be avoided, an [incidental take permit](#) may be available to authorize any take that results from, but is not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity. For assistance making this determination for Bald Eagles, visit the [Do I Need A Permit Tool](#). For assistance making this determination for golden eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

Ensure Your Eagle List is Accurate and Complete

If your project area is in a poorly surveyed area in IPaC, your list may not be complete and you may need to rely on other resources to determine what species may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys). Please review the [Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#), to help you properly interpret the report for your specified location, including determining if there is sufficient data to ensure your list is accurate.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to bald or golden eagles on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these bald or golden eagles are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

Review the FAQs

The FAQs below provide important additional information and resources.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is $0.25/0.25 = 1$; at week 20 it is $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

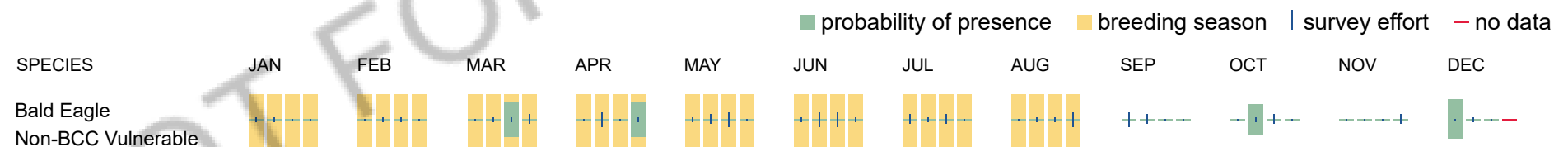
To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

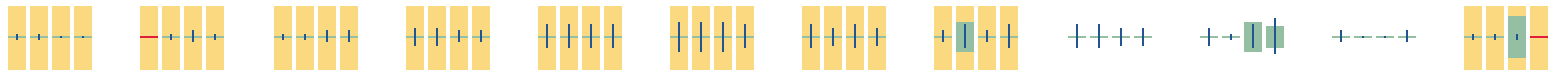
No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.





Bald & Golden Eagles FAQs

What does IPaC use to generate the potential presence of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The potential for eagle presence is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are an eagle ([Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) requirements may apply).

Proper interpretation and use of your eagle report

On the graphs provided, please look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical line) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal line). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort line or no data line (red horizontal) means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list and associated information help you know what to look for to confirm presence and helps guide you in knowing when to implement avoidance and minimization measures to eliminate or reduce potential impacts from your project activities or get the appropriate permits should presence be confirmed.

How do I know if eagles are breeding, wintering, or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating, or resident), you may query your location using the [RAIL Tool](#) and view the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If an eagle on your IPaC migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it (indicated by yellow vertical bars on the phenology graph in your "IPaC PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY" at the top of your results list), there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.

To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is $0.25/0.25 = 1$; at week 20 it is $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$.

The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

Breeding Season ()

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort ()

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data ()

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

Migratory birds

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹ prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>

- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

Measures for Proactively Minimizing Migratory Bird Impacts

Your IPaC Migratory Bird list showcases [birds of concern](#), including [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#), in your project location. This is not a comprehensive list of all birds found in your project area. However, you can help proactively minimize significant impacts to all birds at your project location by implementing the measures in the [Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds](#) document, and any other project-specific avoidance and minimization measures suggested at the link [Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds](#) for the birds of concern on your list below.

Ensure Your Migratory Bird List is Accurate and Complete

If your project area is in a poorly surveyed area, your list may not be complete and you may need to rely on other resources to determine what species may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys). Please review the [Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles document](#), to help you properly interpret the report for your specified location, including determining if there is sufficient data to ensure your list is accurate.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

Review the FAQs

The FAQs below provide important additional information and resources.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
American Dipper <i>Cinclus mexicanus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds Mar 21 to Aug 21
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31

Black Swift *Cypseloides niger*

Breeds Jun 15 to Sep 10

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8878>

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Setophaga nigrescens*

Breeds May 1 to Jul 20

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA

Calliope Hummingbird *Selasphorus calliope*

Breeds May 1 to Aug 15

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9526>

Cassin's Finch *Haemorhous cassinii*

Breeds May 15 to Jul 15

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9462>

Evening Grosbeak *Coccothraustes vespertinus*

Breeds May 15 to Aug 10

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Flammulated Owl *Psilosops flammeolus*

Breeds May 10 to Aug 15

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7728>

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680>

Hermit Warbler *Setophaga occidentalis*

Breeds May 5 to Jul 15

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA

Lewis's Woodpecker *Melanerpes lewis*

Breeds Apr 20 to Sep 30

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9408>

Long-eared Owl *asio otus*

Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 15

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3631>

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi*

Breeds May 20 to Aug 31

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3914>

Pinyon Jay *Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*

Breeds Feb 15 to Jul 15

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9420>

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#), specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is $0.25/0.25 = 1$; at week 20 it is $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

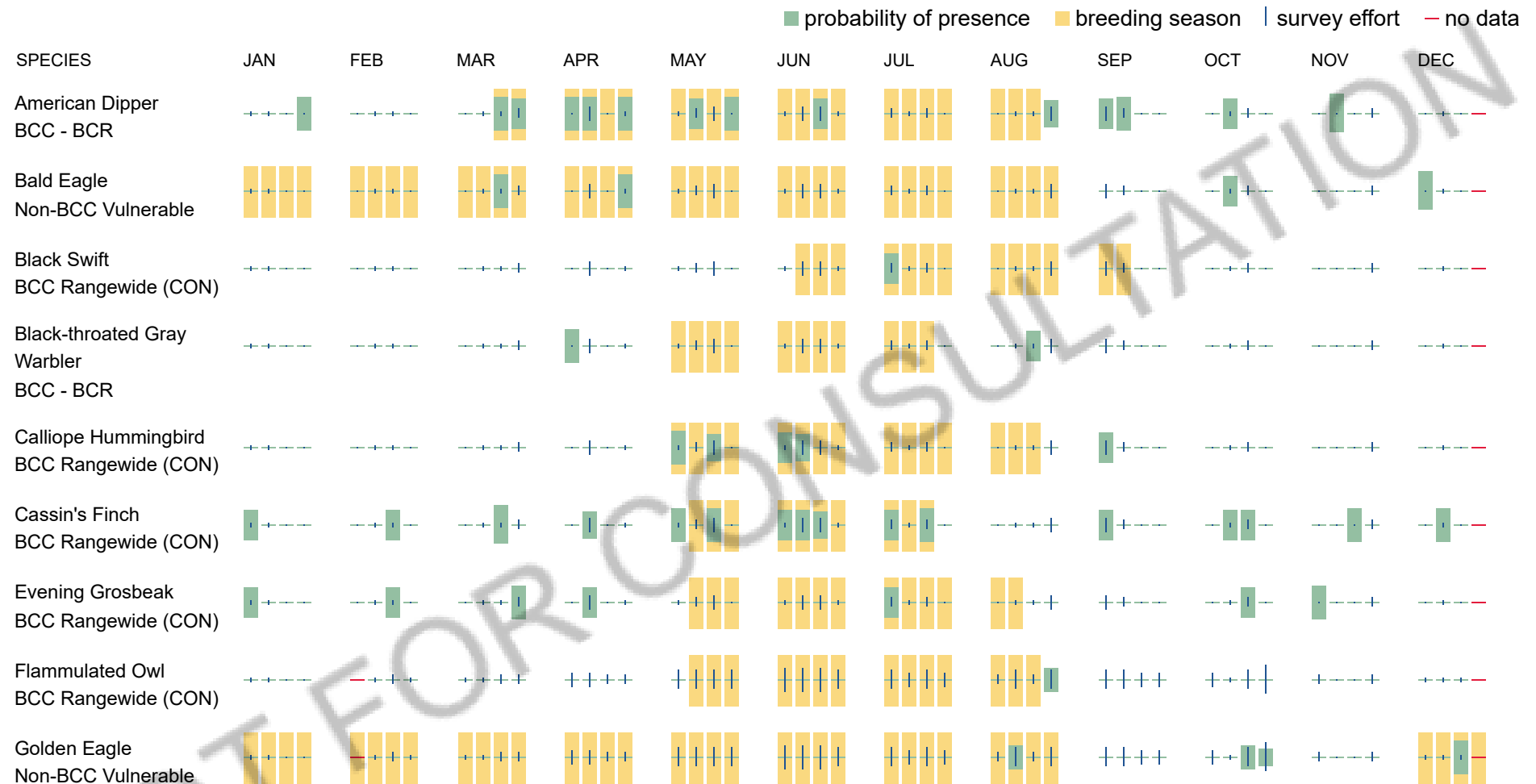
To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

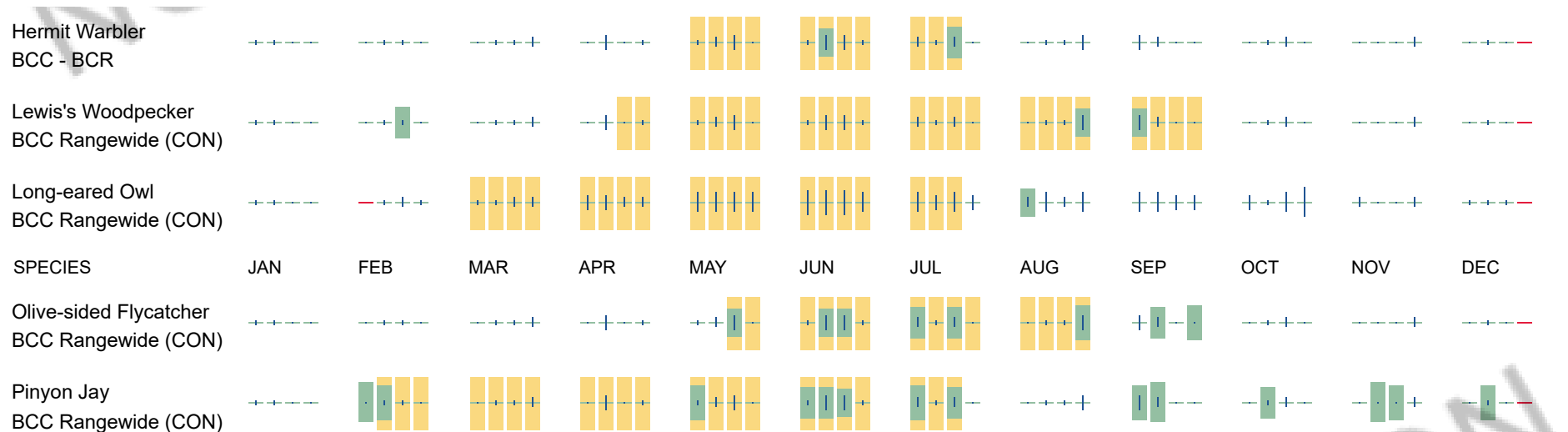
No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.





Migratory Bird FAQs

Tell me more about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

[Nationwide Avoidance & Minimization Measures for Birds](#) describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year-round. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is one of the most effective ways to minimize impacts. To see when birds are most likely to occur and breed in your project area, view the [Probability of Presence Summary](#). [Additional measures](#) or [permits](#) may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location, such as those listed under the Endangered Species Act or the [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) and those species marked as "Vulnerable". See the FAQ "What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?" for more information on the levels of concern covered in the IPaC migratory bird species list.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) with which your project intersects. These species have been identified as warranting special attention because they are BCC species in that area, an eagle ([Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, and to verify survey effort when no results present, please visit the [Rapid Avian Information Locator \(RAIL\) Tool](#).

Why are subspecies showing up on my list?

Subspecies profiles are included on the list of species present in your project area because observations in the AKN for **the species** are being detected. If the species are present, that means that the subspecies may also be present. If a subspecies shows up on your list, you may need to rely on other resources to determine if that subspecies may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys).

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). This data is derived from a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#).

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go to the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating, or resident), you may query your location using the [RAIL Tool](#) and view the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your IPaC migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it (indicated by yellow vertical bars on the phenology graph in your "IPaC PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY" at the top of your results list), there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are [Birds of Conservation Concern](#) (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially BCC species. For more information on avoidance and minimization measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts, please see the FAQ "Tell me more about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds".

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the [Northeast Ocean Data Portal](#). The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the [NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf](#) project webpage.

Proper interpretation and use of your migratory bird report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical line) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal line). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list does not represent all birds present in your project area. It is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list and associated information help you know what to look for to confirm presence and helps guide implementation of avoidance and minimization measures to eliminate or reduce potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about avoidance and minimization measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds".

Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.

To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is $0.25/0.25 = 1$; at week 20 it is $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$.

The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

Breeding Season ()

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort ()

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data ()

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

There are no refuge lands at this location.

Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

This location overlaps the following wetlands:

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

[PEM1C](#)

RIVERINE

[R4SBC](#)

A full description for each wetland code can be found at the [National Wetlands Inventory website](#)

NOTE: This initial screening does **not** replace an on-site delineation to determine whether wetlands occur. Additional information on the NWI data is provided below.

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the

wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tubercid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.