Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Butte County Resource Conservation Distric
150 Chuck Yeager Way, Ste A
Oroville, CA 95965
Oroville, CA 95965-3411

County Clerk / County of Butte
155 Nelson Ave

Project Title: **Mooretown Tribal Landscape Cultural Fire Project**

Project Applicant: Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California

Project Location – Specific: The project's 38 subunits across 4 units (at time of this writing) comprise a total of ~352 acres. The project appears on the Forbestown USGS 7.5" quadrangle and in T20N, R06E; sections 16-21 & 28. (See map).

Project Location - City: Unincorporated; near Oroville (95965) & Feather Falls (95966) **Project Location - County:** Butte

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The project area experienced 90-100% mortality during the 2020 North Complex Fire emergency, resulting in a vegetation community characterized by wide-scale even-aged resprouting brush. To meet ecological and cultural objectives, the Tribe desires to reburn this landscape in smaller sections, ranging from (approximately) 3 to 106 acres. This would promote an uneven-aged mosaic of vegetation, benefiting oak woodlands, culturally important shrubs and geophytes, and wildlife habitat. To this end, 38 subunits have been delineated (see map). This project would 1) create fire control features between these beneficial fire subunits (where control features don't already exist) and then 2) apply beneficial fire under prescription to one or more subunits at a time. To create the new fire control features, crews would use manual means (e.g. metal-bladed weed whips, loppers) and non-ground-disturbing mechanical means (e.g. mowers) to remove vegetation along fireline corridors 3 feet wide. Next, these corridors would be scraped down to bare mineral soil. Firelines would be designed to be maintained as permanent features, since these units will be re-burned over and over every few years as the core of a Tribal land management strategy. A total of about 3.2 miles of new fireline would be cleared. At a 3-foot width, this amounts to a total disturbance acreage of 1.16 acres. BMPs built into the project minimize water quality impacts. Subunits would be broadcast-burned in fall. Some burning of piles/invasive weeds could take place in spring, after visual bird checks. Work to be done on Federal lands would require separate NEPA clearance. Work to be done on adjacent private non-Tribal lands, if any, would require signed access/work agreements with those landowner(s). Broadcast burning would occur outside of nesting season (i.e. work would be conducted Aug 16-Jan 31) ***or*** pre-implementation nesting bird surveys would be done 1-3 days prior.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Butte County Resource Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Butte County Resource Conservation District

Exempt Status:

☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)); _____
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☒ Categorical Exemption (Sec. 20184;15300-15322); Minor alterations to land (§15304)
☐ Statutory exemption: 14 CCR 15269 (emergency projects)

Why project is exempt: Butte County RCD finds the project to be exempt from CEQA because it consists of minor alterations to vegetation. The project involves shallow ground disturbance during fireline establishment and incorporates adequate cultural resource protection measures. Disturbance to riparian and wetland zones would be minimal. Work will occur outside of nesting season (Feb 1-August 15), or pre-implementation surveys would be completed. Fall burning causes a less than significant impact to sensitive native plants in this region. Project implementation, as designed, would have less than significant impact in each resource area, and an exemption pursuant to § 15304 is indicated.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Thad Walker, District Manager Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 693-3173

If filed by applicant:
1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature: David G. Fuller	Date: 10/16/25	Title: Chairman, Board of Directors

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Butte County Resource Conservation District

Project Title: Mooretown Tribal Landscape Cultural Fire Project

Author:	Wolfy Rougle
Title:	Planning and Watershed Program Manager
Address:	641 Entler Ave, Ste 47, Chico, CA 95928
Phone:	(530) 693-3173
Email:	wolfy@bcrcd.org

Project Name: Mooretown Tribal Landscape Cultural Fire Project

County: Butte

Acres: 352 +/-

Legal Location: T20N, R06E, sections 16-21; 28.

Name of USGS 7.5' Quad Map(s): Forbestown

Elevation: 1,600' – approximately 3,050'

Attachments:

1. Project Location Map
2. Project Area Map
3. Wildlife and Plants: Reconnaissance-Level Survey Report

Other Public Agency Review/Permit Required:

Would the project result in:

☐Alterations to a watercourse (DFG - Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement)
☐Conversion of timberland (Cal Fire - Conversion Permit or Exemption)
☐Demolition (Local Air District - Demolition Permit)
☐Soil disturbance over 1 acre (RWQCB SWPPP) **Note:** Combined soil distruance of all new firelines would be over 1 acre, but due to project design RWQCB has stated there is no concern or need for a SWPPP with this project.
☐Fill of possible wetlands (404 Permit - USACE)
☒Other: Prescribed fire: BCAQMD Permit needed. CAL FIRE permit needed as required.
☐None/Not applicable

Project Description and Environmental Setting:

The federally recognized Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California has been reacquiring lands around Kanaka Peak. The Tribe refers to this area as their "Mooretown Tribal Cultural Landscape" (MTL). These lands are held in fee title, not in trust. The Tribe, which has significant capacity in forestry and fire, including its own fire department, has secured multiple State grants for planning and implementing prescribed fire. Additionally, the Tribe has signed co-stewardship agreements with both the Redding field office of the Bureau of Land Management, and the Feather River Ranger District of the Plumas National Forest, both of which control lands adjacent to the MTL.

The area experiences a Mediterranean climate with a wet winter season when up to 61" of rain can fall (some of it as snow) and a hot-dry summer season when no rain usually falls for at least four months. Accordingly, the area is subject to wildfires during the dry season. The project area was catastrophically burned during the 2020 North Complex, with most trees top-killed. The majority of the resultant heavy

woody debris, such as dead trees and brush, are still present on the land four years later. Meanwhile, the landscape was converted in many places from forest to brush, including several invasive species (e.g., French and Scotch brooms).

Without intervention (i.e., under a no-project alternative), the post-fire heavy woody debris could cause the next fire to burn hot enough to sterilize the soil and cause long-term impacts to soil and water quality. However, this outcome would be much less likely if the heavy woody debris could be burned under cooler conditions outside of wildfire season. The project would manage this heavy fuel loading, as well as invasive brush regrowth, in order to reduce invasive species, restore oak woodlands, and, especially, to promote horizontal and vertical discontinuity of fuels. This would have benefits for many wildlife species (e.g. deer, woodpeckers, most native forbs and grasses) and for the Tribe's ability to gather many culturally significant resources (e.g. basketry materials).

To prepare for the reintroduction of fire, firelines separating the subunits would be scraped to bare mineral soil. In many cases, subunits can be burned with no pre-treatment. However, in some units, to facilitate desired fire behavior, brush could be pre-crushed, selectively plucked out of the ground with a grapple, and/or partially pre-masticated, especially in the first 10 feet from the unit boundary. Debris could be piled for jackpot burning and crews may clear debris from the bases of keeper trees. In all, the project may use masticator(s), tracked chipper(s), excavators with a grapple head, and skid steers, to reduce standing snags, hazardous trees, thick brush and non-native vegetation and prepare the land for reintroduction of fire. Some areas would be off-limits to machines and would be treated by hand crews and/or fire, alone.

Equipment would be allowed on slopes up to 50% within the safe limits of operation. However, equipment may reach into areas of over 50% as long as the boom arm reaches. A small tracked masticator and tracked chipper would be preferred. The tracked chipper, if available, is fed by people on the ground. Equipment would not be allowed on saturated soils nor within watercourse buffers.

A resource checklist and short-form environmental analysis follows.

Environmental Impacts 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:

☐Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate for this project*
☐No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Agriculture and Forest 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:

Most of the MTL parcels are zoned Timber Mountain or Timber Production Zone. However, the landscape and its timber is heavily burned as of the 2020 North Complex. No commercially viable timber will be removed from the landscape.

☐Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate for this project*

☒No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Air Quality

☐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:

Burning will generate smoke and will be accomplished with appropriate permits from Butte County Air Quality Management District, as well as permits from CAL FIRE when required.

☐Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate for this project*

☒No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Biological 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:

BCRCD conducted a nine-quad search of CNDDB resources to develop a list of all sensitive plant, animal, and fungal species with the potential to occur in the project area. For animal and plant species, BCRCD conducted a desktop exercise in August 2025 to confirm no special-status animal species could be harmed by the project, due to the project's seasonality, the species' habitat needs and life history, and/or the following integrated design features.

In stream/wetland buffers, piles would not be left for later burning; any piles constructed would either be burned immediately, or left as habitat piles (at a rate of 2-3 habitat piles per acre[1]). No piles would be placed in the streambed directly. If more material is cut within a wetland/riparian zone than can safely be piled and left for habitat, then the extra material would be either a) scattered so as to not pile it or b) pulled out of the zone to be burned.

Crews would leave at least 6 snags/acre, concentrated away from subunit boundaries, where they exist and are not hazards, preferring hardwood snags for habitat.

Broadcast burning would take place in the fall, and pre-burn preparatory work would take place outside of nesting season (Feb 1- Aug 15th), unless unless pre-implementation nesting bird surveys were completed 1-3 days before work. Pile burning and the burning of small patches or piles of invasives could take place any time of year conditions allow. If piles or invasive weeds are burned during nesting season, piles should be visually inspected first to make sure they don't contain nesting birds. Piles containing nesting wildlife would not be ignited.

BCRCD finds that the proposed project will adequately avoid any significant impacts on rare or common wildlife and that the project is likely to be beneficial, on the whole, to native plant communities.

☐Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate for this project*

☒No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

[1] For maximum wildlife benefit/diversity, a good habitat pile size is about 15 feet by 15 feet, by 10 feet high.

Cultural 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:

Prior to ground disturbance, archaeological surveys are being conducted by a qualified professional archaeologist, with Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California cultural resources specialists present and participating in the surveys. Cultural resources/sites would be GPSed and recorded. Activities with the potential to harm a given cultural resource/site would be excluded from a zone surrounding that cultural resource. The size of the exclusion zone would be on a resource-by-resource, site-by-site basis and would be made by a professional archaeologist and the Mooretown Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

☐Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate for this project*

☒No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

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:

☐Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate for this project*

☐No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

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:

The area is steep and dominated by decomposing granitic soils. Fireline construction and burning on slopes could result in temporarily destabilized soil and cause the risk of minor, localized soil erosion or small slumps. These risks of minor slumps and short-distance debris flows from underburning are endemic to the fire-adapted landscape. By burning small areas a subunit at a time, the project would reduce fuels continuity for future wildfires, reducing future risks of erosion at a landscape scale as was experienced in the wake of the 2020 North Complex fires. Mechanical treatments are limited to 50% slope and where there's no watercourse present. Machines with boom arms may reach into areas beyond the 50% slope. Fireline will be constructed to last permanently, with waterbars installed to hydrologically disconnect the route from watercourses.

☐Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate for this project*

☒No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions:

☒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 greenhouse gas emissions from hazardous fuels reduction activities, including prescribed/cultural fire, are negligible and likely to be offset over time by the reduced risk of future wildfire emissions.

☐Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate for this project*

☐No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

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:

BCRCD conducted a search of the DTSC's Envirostor Database to look for any hazardous facilities meeting the definition of California Government Code section 65962.5. No hazardous material or hazardous waste sites tracked by these resources are in or near the project area. All the properties burned in the North Complex, potentially generating hazardous waste if structures or vehicles were on-site at the time; however, most or all properties have already been subject to a comprehensive, state- or privately funded hazardous waste removal. Any minor on-site hazards (e.g. scrap piles, old cars) would be GPSed by survey crews so they can be avoided, removed prior to activities, or otherwise handled appropriately.

The project as designed will not expose people to additional hazards or hazardous materials. Debris, soil, silt, sand, rubbish, project waste, cement or concrete or washings thereof, asphalt, paint, oil or other petroleum products or any other substances which could be hazardous to aquatic life, or other organic or earthen material from project activities will not be stored where it may pass into waters of the state the stream bed, bank, or channel (including but not limited to dry, ponded, flowing, or wetland areas), drainages, lakes, other sensitive habitat. Staging and storage areas for equipment, materials, fuels, fire accelerants, lubricants and solvents, will be located more than 150 feet from the waters of the state, the stream bed, bank, or channel (including but not limited to dry, ponded, flowing, or wetland areas), drainages, lakes, or other sensitive habitat. Proper spill cleanup materials (absorbent pads, sealed containers, booms, etc.) would be located on site ready to contain the movement of any spilled substances. All debris shall be disposed of properly and typical BMPs will be employed to accomplish these requirements.

☐Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate for this project*

☒No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Hydrology and Water Quality:

☐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 minimizes ground-disturbing activities by carefully re-using existing roads, trails and ridgelines whenever possible. However, some new firelines would need to be scraped down to bare mineral soil in order to burn the subunits safely while meeting ecological and cultural objectives. At a 3-foot width, the project's 3.2 miles of new fireline construction would amount to 1.16 acres of exposed mineral soil. Most firelines are ridge-aligned, but one segment crosses an intermittent creek. No material would be placed in the crossing, and fuel break construction within the watercourse and its associated riparian habitat would be designed to avoid impacts to riparian and aquatic function. The watercourses in question no longer involve anadromous salmonid habitat and none are listed (impaired) for temperature nor sediment.

Removal of vegetation within intermittent stream buffers and associated riparian habitat would be limited to situations where it is necessary to create and maintain fuel break function and effectiveness. An authorized cultural fire practitioner would determine the need for removal of vegetation from within a watercourse and associated riparian habitat and practices to reduce impacts to biological resources.

Firelines would be designed to be permanent, not temporary, and would never be revegetated. This is because the landscape in question will need the repeated re-application of beneficial fire every few years forever. Therefore, the firelines would be constructed (and maintained) to stay hydrologically non-connected, using techniques such as outsloping and (especially) rock waterbars.

As needed, during project operations, the Tribe or its agents or partners (e.g., BCRCD) would consult with representative staff from the appropriate RWQCB to ensure effective implementation of the integrated design features outlined in this document.

Reasonable access to the property shall be provided when requested by the Water Board for the purpose of performing inspections and conducting monitoring, including sample collection, measuring, and photographing, videotaping, and recording to determine proper implementation of management practices as described in this document. Agency staff may make recommendations regarding feasible BMPs and other measures during such inspections. The Tribe would incorporate recommendations into the project unless it presented a similarly protective alternative approved by the Water Board.

Work would be performed or supervised by an authorized cultural burner and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

Protection of water quality during pre-fire fuels reduction work:

Ephemeral streams (or wetlands) would be buffered 50' from the streambank (or, for a wetland, from the outer edge of wetland obligate vegetation). Within the buffer, no heavy equipment would enter, but may reach into the buffer as long as the boom arm reaches. If a dense infestation of invasive plants exists within the buffered area, chipping of invasives is acceptable provided chips are broadcast outside the buffered area. Equipment may establish a single perpendicular crossing (if none exists) for each ephemeral stream, and continue to use it for the life of the project. Accelerants would not be used inside stream buffers.

Intermittent or perennial streams (or wetlands) would be buffered 100' from the streambank (or, for a perennial wetland, from the outer edge of wetland obligate vegetation). Within the buffer, no heavy equipment would enter, but may reach into the buffer as long as the boom arm reaches. Machines and vehicles can use existing roads/driveways, landings and crossings within the stream buffer, but would not create new ones.

Within stream/wetland buffers, hand work is acceptable to the saturated soil line, and hand crews may reach to the waterline with pole saws or loppers if they are able. Nothing would be skidded out of buffer areas, but material may be chucked or hand-carried out to meet fuel loading objectives. Light brush may be pulled out with ropes and winches. and fire in riparian areas would be backing fire only (or in alignment with the riparian community's natural fire regime, as determined by an authorized cultural fire practitioner). Hand crews would construct the short segments of fireline that are inside stream buffers, as described above.

Wet weather rules:

Equipment would cease operations after any rainfall of more than 1/4", and would not resume until a drying period of at least 24 hrs has passed, or as much additional time as it takes after 24 hours for the soil to no longer be saturated, or at the discretion of the lands manager. A hand crew can work regardless of weather as long as conditions are safe for them.

General:

No bank armoring or herbicides will be used in the riparian buffer. No check dams, straw bales or other materials will be added to streams. No water drafting from streams is necessary because all the project's water will come from existing onsite wells and tanks.

Although fire itself always has the potential to temporarily expose soil, the project's objectives and integrated design features make it likely that soils, slopes, and water quality will be adequately protected. BCRCD finds the project's integrated design features are sufficient to protect watercourses from significant impacts as defined under CEQA.

☐Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate for this project*

☒No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

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:

☐Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate for this project*

☐No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

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:

☐Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate for this project*

☐No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

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:

Use of fuel-powered equipment (e.g. chain saws, weed whips) would be part of the project. In most cases, noise-generating work would take place during standard working hours. The area is a high to extreme wildfire risk zone, where equipment operation carries some risk of unintentional ignition. Therefore, in some cases, it may be safest to operate equipment early in the morning, when relative humidities are highest; this is a not uncommon feature of fuels reduction work in Butte County. Due to the sparsely settled rural nature of the fire-affected project area, few residents are present to be disturbed by early-hours noise. No sensitive receptors (e.g. hospitals, schools, daycares) are within ¼ mile for this project.

☐Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate for this project*

☒No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

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:

☐Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate for this project*

☐No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

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:

☐Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate for this project*
☐No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

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:

☐Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate for this project*
☐No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Transportation/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:

☐Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate for this project*
☐No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Tribal Cultural 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:

Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California are full participants in the surveys with the archaeological surveyors and will co-design the avoidance measures for any cultural resource sites identified. Mooretown Rancheria is among the tribes of record for this project area and is in close communication/collaboration with the other Tribes of record, particularly Berry Creek Rancheria.

☐Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate for this project*
☒No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

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:

☐Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate for this project*
☐No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

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 project will include fire as a method of fuels reduction, ecological renewal, and nutrient cycling. The use of fire as a restoration and management tool always carries some risk, but the risk is balanced

by the benefits, which include the significant reduction of future wildfire risk. Burning will be in compliance with all applicable State and local laws, regulations and permits. Regulations reduce the very small risk of prescribed fire escape to below the threshold of significance. The project could include the use of some gasoline- or battery-powered equipment that could generate a spark, such as chainsaws. The use of gasoline- or battery-powered equipment always carries some risk, but the risk is balanced by the benefits, which include the significant reduction of future wildfire risk. The project's compliance with all applicable State and local laws and permits reduces the very small risk of inadvertent fire ignition to below the threshold of significance.

☐Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate for this project*

☒No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Mandatory Findings of Significance:

☐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:

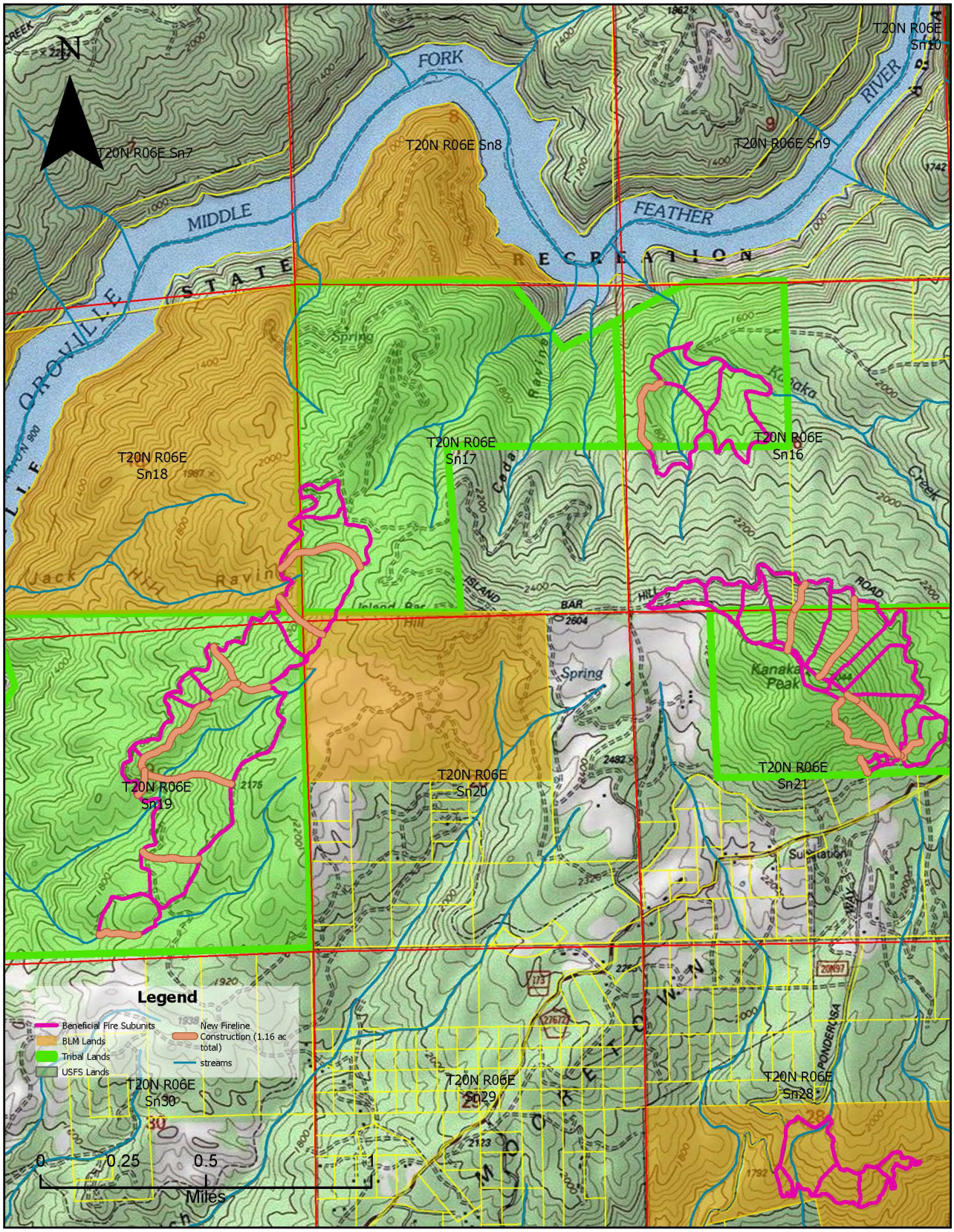
The project does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. The project does not have impacts that are cumulatively considerable (i.e., incremental effects that become considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects). The project does not have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

☐Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate for this project*

☐No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA

Attachment 1: Project Location Map




T20N R06E Sn7
T20N R06E Sn8
T20N R06E Sn9
T20N R06E Sn10
T20N R06E Sn16
T20N R06E Sn17
T20N R06E Sn18
T20N R06E Sn19
T20N R06E Sn20
T20N R06E Sn21
T20N R06E Sn28
T20N R06E Sn29
T20N R06E Sn30
MIDDLE FORK FEATHER RIVER
OROVILLE STATE RECREATION
Spring
Jack Hill
Ravine
Island Bar
Hill
Kanaka Peak
Creek
ROAD
Legend
Beneficial Fire Subunits
BLM Lands
Tribal Lands
USFS Lands
New Fireline Construction (1.16 ac total)
streams
0
0.25
0.5
1
Miles

Amphibians and Reptiles		
Species	Status	Reason No Effect
foothill yellow-legged frog: Feather River and North Sierra DPS	threatened (Feather River); State threatened (North Sierra)	Stays close to water. Project work will not occur during breeding season.
California red-legged frog	Fed threatened; CDFW SSC	Stays close to water; no critical habitat in project area. Project work will not occur during breeding season.
Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog	Fed endangered; State threatened; CDFW WL	Stays close to water. Project work will not occur during breeding season.
western spadefoot	Fed proposed threatened; CDFW SSC	Suitable habitat is unlikely to exist within the project area; in any case, project work will not occur during breeding season. Project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved.
northwestern pond turtle	Fed proposed threatened; CDFW SSC	Stays very close to water; if present, would be protected by EEZ.
coast horned lizard	CDFW SSC	Nests in burrows in friable soil, maternity April-Aug. Project won't adversely affect habitat. Individuals could be incidentally harmed by project. Project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved.
Birds		
Species	Status	Reason No Effect
American goshawk	CDFW SSC	No mature stands of forest are present within project area due to moderate to high severity wildfires. Suitable habitat does not exist. If a nest is incidentally observed the tree containing the nest will be marked as a leave tree and ringed to afford some fire protection. Project work will not occur during nesting season.

Species	Status	Reason No Effect
golden eagle	CDFW FP / WL	If a nest is incidentally observed the tree containing the nest will be marked to leave. Project work will not occur during nesting season.
Swainsons hawk	State threatened	Ground-nester. Project work will not occur during nesting season.
bald eagle	State endangered; CDFW FP	Nesting typically occurs near lakes or watercourses. Suitable habitat could exist within project area. If a nest is incidentally observed the tree containing the nest will be marked as a leave tree and ringed to afford some fire protection. Project work will not occur during nesting season.
black swift	CDFW SSC	Nesting typically occurs on cliff ledges near water. Project work will not affect this habitat. Project work will not occur during nesting season.
prairie falcon	CDFW WL	Nesting typically occurs on ledges or sheer rocky cliffs. Project work will not impact this habitat. Project work will not occur during nesting season.
American peregrine falcon	NA	Nesting typically occurs on ledges or sheer rocky cliffs. Project work will not impact this habitat. Project work will not occur during nesting season.
yellow-breasted chat	SSC	Work will not occur during nesting season.
purple martin	CDFW SCC	Nesting typically occurs on large snags. 6 snags per acre will be retained favoring the largest present. If a nest is incidentally observed the tree containing the nest will be marked as a leave tree and ringed to afford some fire protection. Project work will not occur during nesting season.
osprey	CDFW WL	Nesting typically occurs near lakes or watercourses. If a nest is incidentally observed the tree containing the nest will be marked as a leave tree and ringed to afford some fire protection. Project work will not occur during nesting season.

Species	Status	Reason No Effect
California black rail	State threatened; CDFW FP	Typically stays close to wet areas with dense-reedy cover. If any such areas are present in the project area, there would be no reason to impact or burn them. Species would be protected by EEZ. Project work will not occur during nesting season.
burrowing owl	CDFW SSC	Nesting typically occurs in grasslands. Habitat will not be impacted by project work. If individuals are present during project, individuals could be incidentally harmed by project. Project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved.
great gray owl	State endangered	No mature stands of forest surrounding high meadows are present within project area due to high severity wildfires. Suitable habitat does not exist.
greater sandhill crane	Threatened/FP	Work will not occur during nesting season. Migrant birds could be using the project area during migration, but would be able to quickly leave the area as fire and smoke appeared.
lesser sandhill crane	SSC	Work will not occur during nesting season. Migrant birds could be using the project area during migration, but would be able to quickly leave the area as fire and smoke appeared.
olive-sided flycatcher	SSC	Work will not occur during nesting season.
California Spotted Owl	Fed proposed endangered; CDFW SSC	No mature stands of forest are present within project area due to moderate to high severity wildfires. Suitable habitat does not exist. If a nest is incidentally observed the tree containing the nest will be marked as a leave tree and ringed to afford some fire protection. Project work will not occur during nesting season.
Fish		
Species	Status	Reason No Effect

Species	Status	Reason No Effect
riffle sculpin	CDFW SSC	Aquatic species; if present, would be protected by EEZ
hardhead	CDFW SSC	Aquatic species; if present, would be protected by EEZ
steelhead - Central Valley DPS	Fed threatened; CDFW SSC	No suitable habitat in project area
Insects		
Species	Status	Reason No Effect
western bumble bee	State candidate endangered	Nests underground in rodent burrows. Impacts to floral resources from fall burning will be patchy and transient. Bees will be able to avoid disturbances by flying to other nearby areas.
Wawona riffle beetle	NA	Typically occur in shallow, swift flowing streams. Habitat will not be impacted by project work.
Mammals		
Species	Status	Reason No Effect
Sierra Nevada mountain beaver	CDFW SSC	If a den or nursery site of this animal is discovered, CDFW protocol will be followed to buffer and avoid the site appropriately.
North American porcupine	NA	If a den or nursery site of this animal is discovered, CDFW protocol will be followed to buffer and avoid the site appropriately.
Fisher	NA	If a den or nursery site of this animal is discovered, CDFW protocol will be followed to buffer and avoid the site appropriately.
northern California ringtail	CDFW FP	If a den or nursery site of this animal is discovered, CDFW protocol will be followed to buffer and avoid the site appropriately. However, generally project activities will not occur during maternity season.

Species	Status	Reason No Effect
pallid bat	CDFW SSC	This species roosts singly to gregariously in a variety of structures including dead trees (e.g. under sloughing bark) year-round; maternity season is April-Aug. If a bat maternity site is discovered, CDFW protocol will be followed to buffer and avoid the site appropriately.However, generally project activities will not occur during maternity season.
Townsends big-eared bat	CDFW SSC	Cave and mine roosting species; does not roost in trees so will not be affected by project.
silver-haired bat	NA	Females form small maternity colonies of up too 70 individuals, almost exclusively in trees - inside natural hollows or under loose bark of large diameter snags at least 45 ft above ground. Maternity is April through Aug. Species needs large snag-patches left on the landscape. The nature of the 2020 North Complex makes it likely that large snag patches will be left standing adjacent to the project site, probably indefinitely until the snags eventually fall of their own accord. If a bat maternity site is discovered, CDDFW protocol will be followed to buffer and avoid the site appropriately. However, generally project activities will not occur during maternity season.
western red bat	CDFW SSC	Roosts singly in live trees in edge habitats where intact, leafy trees border open fields; especially associated with intact riparian habitats such as sycamore-willow; roosts in leaf litter e.g. thick oak litter in winter. Due to the 2020 fire, which top-killed 90-100% of oaks and hardwoods, neither roosting habitat is currently present in the project area.
western small-footed myotis	NA	Does not roost in trees; therefore, will not be affected by project.

Species	Status	Reason No Effect
fringed myotis	NA	Roosts in crevices in large, decadent trees/snags; maternity is April through July. If a bat maternity site is discovered, CDFW protocol will be followed to buffer and avoid the site appropriately. However, generally project activities will not occur during maternity season.
Yuma myotis	NA	Associated with permanent sources of water; trees are not as important for roosting as rocks/buildings/ets although they do use trees. Primarily feeds on aquatic emergent insects. If a bat maternity site is discovered, CDFW protocol will be followed to buffer and avoid the site appropriately. However, generally project activities will not occur during maternity season.
Plants		
Species	Status (CRPR ranking)	Reason no effect
Fissidens pauperculus (minute pocket moss)	1B.2	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would not harm this saxicolous species nor its habitat.
Scytinium siskiyouense (Siskiyou jellyskin lichen)	1B.1	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire.This tree-dwelling jelly lichen species, if it occurred in the project area prior to 2020, was likely extirpated by the North Complex fire. Projecct activities will not reduce its ability to re-establish itself in the cool river/canyon corridors with mature hardwood trees it needs, compared to the no-project alternative.
Peltigera gowardii (western waterfan lichen)	4.2	Aquatic

Species	Status	Reason No Effect
Eriogonum umbellatum var. ahartii (Aharts buckwheat)	1B.2	Ultramafic habitat required by this sp. is not present within the project area
Perideridia bacigalupii (Bacigalupis yampah)	4.2	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Balsamorhiza macrolepis (big-scale balsamroot)	1B.2	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Clarkia biloba ssp. brandegeeae (Brandegees clarkia)	4.2	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Rhynchospora capitellata (brownish beaked-rush)	2B.2	Aquatic
Calycadenia oppositifolia (Butte County calycadenia)	4.2	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.

Species	Status	Reason No Effect
Fritillaria eastwoodiae (Butte County fritillary)	3.2	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Cypripedium californicum (California ladys-slipper)	4.2	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Lewisia cantelovii (Cantelows lewisia)	1B.2	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Carex xerophila (chaparral sedge)	1B.2	Ultramafic habitat required by this sp. is not present within the project area
Eremogone cliftonii (Cliftons eremogone)	1B.3	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.

Species	Status	Reason No Effect
Cypripedium fasciculatum (clustered ladys-slipper)	4.2	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Piperia colemanii (Colemans rein orchid)	4.3	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Cardamine pachystigma var. dissectifolia (dissected-leaved toothwort)	1B.2	Ultramafic habitat required by this sp. is not present within the project area
Viola tomentosa (felt-leaved violet)	4.2	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Erythranthe filicifolia (fern-leaved monkeyflower)	1B.2	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Sidalcea gigantea (giant checkerbloom)	4.3	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.

Species	Status	Reason No Effect
Clarkia mildrediae ssp. lutescens (golden-anthered clarkia)	4.2	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Agrostis hendersonii (Hendersons bent grass)	3.2	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Lilium humboldtii ssp. humboldtii (Humboldt lily)	4.2	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Allium jepsonii (Jepsons onion)	1B.2	Ultramafic habitat required by this sp. is not present within the project area
Packera layneae (Laynes ragwort)	1B.2	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Packera eurycephala var. lewisrosei (Lewis Roses ragwort)	1B.2	Ultramafic habitat required by this sp. is not present within the project area
Streptanthus longisiliquus (long-fruit jewelflower)	4.3	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.

Species	Status	Reason No Effect
Clarkia mildrediae ssp. mildrediae (Mildreds clarkia)	1B.3	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Botrychium minganense (Mingan moonwort)	4.2	No habitat in project area
Clarkia mosquinii (Mosquins clarkia)	1B.1	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Erigeron petrophilus var. sierrensis (northern Sierra daisy)	4.3	Ultramafic habitat required by this sp. is not present within the project area
Engellaria obtusa (obtuse starwort)	4.3	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Fremontodendron decumbens (Pine Hill flannelbush)	1B.2	Ultramafic habitat required by this sp. is not present within the project area
Lupinus dalesiae (Quincy lupine)	4.2	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.

Species	Status	Reason No Effect
Schoenoplectiella saximontana (Rocky Mountain bulrush)	2B.1	Aquatic
Allium sanbornii var. sanbornii (Sanborns onion)	4.2	Ultramafic habitat required by this sp. is not present within the project area
Sagittaria sanfordii (Sanfords arrowhead)	1B.2	Aquatic
Erythranthe glaucescens (shield-bracted monkeyflower)	4.3	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Carex cyrtostachya (Sierra arching sedge)	1B.2	No habitat in project area
Poa sierrae (Sierra blue grass)	1B.3	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Brodiaea sierrae (Sierra foothills brodiaea)	4.3	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.

Species	Status	Reason No Effect
Erythranthe inconspicua (small-flowered monkeyflower)	4.3	row
Claytonia parviflora ssp. grandiflora (streambank spring beauty)	4.2	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Microseris sylvatica (sylvan microseris)	4.2	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Bulbostylis capillaris (thread-leaved beakseed)	4.2	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Sanicula tracyi (Tracys sanicle)	4.2	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.

Species	Status	Reason No Effect
Arctostaphylos mewukka ssp. truei (Trues manzanita)	4.2	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.
Botrychium ascendens (upswept moonwort)	2B.2	No habitat in project area
Clarkia gracilis ssp. albicaulis (white-stemmed clarkia)	1B.2	The project's fire seasonality, interval and intensity will be within natural range of variation for fire regime under which the species evolved, so there is no potential for negative impact from fire. Non-fire activities would occur outside of flowering and seed-set, as these overlap with nesting bird season.

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