
Appendix A

Biological Resources Assessment

Biological Resources Assessment

Truckee Regional Library Project

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
BRA	biological resources assessment
BSA	biological study area
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank

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1 Introduction

This biological resources assessment (BRA) describes the results of biological resource surveys and associated analysis conducted for the proposed Truckee Regional Library Project (project) located in the Town of Truckee in Nevada County, California. The purpose of this BRA is to identify and characterize existing biological resources within and immediately adjacent to the project site, evaluate the potential for special-status plant or wildlife species to occur, and determine if any sensitive natural communities or features are present.

This assessment provides baseline information regarding biological resources that are present, or potentially present, on or within the vicinity of the project site to support the project's future environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A detailed evaluation of potential biological resource impacts, as well as development of measures to avoid, minimize, and or mitigate for impacts of the proposed project will be conducted as part of the CEQA environmental review process for the project.

1.1 Site Location and Project Description

The project site is located in the Sierra Nevada in Northern California within the Town of Truckee in southeastern Nevada County (Figure 1, Project Vicinity). The project site is located approximately 0.45 miles southeast of Interstate 80 within the Truckee, California U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle.

The project has been sited on partially developed lands within the Truckee River Regional Park that are currently used for recreation. The land is owned and managed by the Truckee-Donner Recreation and Park District. The Truckee River Legacy Trail, a paved recreation trail, runs along the southern, western, and northern boundaries of the project site. There are scattered residences in the vicinity as well as commercial downtown Truckee located approximately 0.24 miles northwest of the project.

The proposed project consists of the development of a new regional library facility and associated support uses on the approximately 6-acre site.

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2 Methods

Dudek conducted a literature review and subsequent field surveys to determine the presence or potential presence of sensitive biological resources within the biological study area (BSA), which consists of the full, approximately 6-acre project site (Figure 2, Biological Study Area). The literature review and field survey methods are described below.

2.1 Database and Literature Review

Prior to conducting fieldwork, the following resources were reviewed to assess the potential for biological resources to occur within the BSA and the vicinity of the BSA (eight surrounding U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangles):

- The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) for special-status wildlife species, special-status plant species, and sensitive vegetation communities (CDFW 2024)
- A list of potentially occurring federally protected species generated from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation Trust Resources Report (USFWS 2024a)
- A list of potentially occurring special-status plants generated from the California Native Plant Society Rare Plant Inventory (CNPS 2024a)
- The Calflora database (Calflora 2024)
- The U.S. Geological Survey National Hydrography Dataset (USGS 2023)
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory (USFWS 2024b)
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey (USDA 2024a)

2.1.1 Special-Status Species and Sensitive Resources

Regulatory Context

Special-status species include those species that have been given special recognition by federal, state, or local agencies due to limited, declining, or threatened population sizes. For the purposes of this report, special-status species are defined as those that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Plants or animals listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act
- Plants or animals that are candidates for possible future listing as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act
- Plants or animals listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act
- Plants listed as rare under the California Native Plant Protection Act (California Fish and Game Code Section 1900 et seq.)
- Plants assigned to one of the following California Rare Plant Ranks (CRPR) by the California Native Plant Society and collaborators
 - 1A – Presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere
 - 1B – Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere

- 2A – Presumed extirpated in California, but more common elsewhere
- 2B – Rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
- Animal species, subspecies, or distinct populations designated as Species of Special Concern by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Sensitive habitats and natural communities include riparian corridors, wetlands, habitats for state and/or federally protected species and other special-status species, wildlife corridors and habitat linkages, areas of high biological diversity, areas providing important wildlife habitat, and unusual or regionally restricted habitat types. Sensitive habitats may also include vegetation communities that are unique or are of relatively limited distribution. Sensitive natural communities are evaluated by CDFW and are assigned global (G) and state (S) ranks based on rarity of, and threats to, these vegetation communities in California. Natural communities with ranks of S1–S3 are considered Sensitive Natural Communities to be addressed in the CEQA environmental review process.

2.2 Reconnaissance-Level Biological Field Survey

The reconnaissance-level field survey included an initial habitat assessment for special-status plant and wildlife species that are known to occur, or historically occur, in the project region to determine if such species could potentially occur within the BSA. Information regarding on-site vegetation communities, common plant and wildlife species, and aquatic resources potentially under the jurisdiction of state and/or federal resource agencies was also collected. No focused or protocol-level surveys were conducted as part of this analysis. The entire BSA was assessed via pedestrian survey on October 10, 2024. Weather conditions during these surveys were calm, clear, and with temperatures varying from 55 °F to 64 °F.

All plant species encountered during the field surveys were identified to species, subspecies, or variety, where possible. Scientific and common names for plant species with a CRPR follow the Rare Plant Inventory (CNPS 2024a). For plant species without a CRPR, scientific names follow the Jepson Online Interchange for California Floristics (Jepson Flora Project 2024), and common names follow the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service PLANTS Database (USDA 2024b).

3 Biological Setting

The BSA is in the northern high Sierra Nevada geographic subdivision of the California Floristic Province (Jepson Flora Project 2024). Elevations in the BSA range from 5,837 feet to 5,870 feet above mean sea level.

3.1 Climate

The region surrounding the study area receives approximately 30 inches of precipitation and 202 inches of snowfall annually. Average temperatures range from approximately 15 °F to 82 °F (WRCC 2024).

3.2 Soils

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA 2024a), three soil units are mapped within the BSA: Kyburz-Trojan complex, 9% to 30% slopes; Inville-Riverwash-Aquolls complex, 2% to 5% slopes; and Inville-Martis variant complex, 2% to 5% slopes (Table 1). Soil units mapped within the BSA are shown on Figure 3, Soils. Kyburz-Trojan complex, 9% to 30% slopes, is partially hydric (USDA 2024c).

Table 1. BSA Soils Summary

Soil Map Unit Name	Landform	Use	Drainage Class	Acres
Kyburz-Trojan complex, 9%–30% slopes	Gently sloping plateaus and moderately steep to steep mountain side slopes in volcanic rock	Used for commercial timber production, wildlife habitat, watershed, and recreation	moderately deep, well drained	4.13
Inville-Riverwash-Aquolls complex, 2%–5% slopes	Alluvial fans and glacial outwash terraces	Used mainly for urban development	well drained	1.87
Inville-Martis variant complex, 2%–5% slopes	Alluvial fans and glacial outwash terraces	Used mainly for urban development	well drained	0.35
Total				6.35

Source: USDA 2024a.
Note: BSA = biological study area.

3.3 Topography

The BSA is nearly level throughout, except for the north side, which gently slopes down toward the Truckee River. Elevations in the BSA range from approximately 5,837 to 5,870 feet above mean sea level.

3.4 Land Use

Land use in the BSA and surrounding areas consists of single-family residential, visitor accommodations (hotel/motel), public utilities, commercial uses, and recreation. The Truckee River Legacy Trail, a paved recreation trail, runs along the southern, western, and northern boundaries of the BSA.

3.5 Hydrologic Features

The BSA is located within the Trout Creek–Truckee River Subwatershed, which is located within the Prosser Creek–Truckee River Watershed (Figure 4, Hydrologic Setting). There are no aquatic resources located within the BSA, but the Truckee River is located approximately 190 feet northwest of the BSA, and there is an unnamed stream/river mapped by National Hydrography Dataset approximately 40 feet to the west of the western boundary of the BSA.

4 Results

This section discusses results of the literature review and biological survey conducted in 2024. Cumulative lists of plant and wildlife species observed during the field surveys are included in Appendix A, Species Compendium. Results of database searches are provided in Appendix B, Special-Status Plant Species Potential to Occur, and Appendix C, Special-Status Wildlife Species Potential to Occur. Photographic documentation collected during the field surveys is provided in Appendix D, Photo Log.

4.1 Vegetation Communities and Land Covers

Dudek conducted vegetation mapping to characterize baseline vegetation and land cover conditions within the BSA. Mapping of existing vegetation communities within the BSA was conducted consistent with the California Natural Community List (CDFW 2023) based on the Manual of California Vegetation, Online Edition (CNPS 2024b), which is the California expression of the National Vegetation Classification Standard, Version 2 (FGDC 2008). Three land cover types were identified and mapped within the BSA: Jeffrey pine forest/developed, sagebrush scrub/developed, and developed areas (Table 2; Figure 5, Vegetation Communities and Land Covers).

Table 2. Summary of Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

Physiognomic Category	General Habitat	Vegetation Community	State Rarity Ranking ¹	Acres
Partially Vegetated and Unvegetated Areas	Forestland	Jeffrey Pine Forest/Developed	No Rarity Ranking	3.83
Partially Vegetated and Unvegetated Areas	Forestland	Sagebrush Scrub/Developed	No Rarity Ranking	1.29
Unvegetated Area	N/A	Developed	No Rarity Ranking	1.24
Total				6.35

Notes: N/A = not applicable.

¹ The state rank is in accordance with California Department of Fish and Wildlife current rarity ranking (CDFW 2023). The state rank indicates the alliance’s rarity and threat in California.

4.1.1 Natural Vegetation Communities

4.1.1.1 Jeffrey Pine Forest/Developed

Jeffrey pine forest/developed vegetation communities tree canopy layer consists of Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) as co-dominant with species such as incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). Trees are generally less than 180 feet in height, and the canopy is open to continuous. The shrub layer is sparse to intermittent, while the herbaceous layer is sparse. Jeffrey pine forest/developed is the dominant vegetation community occupying 3.83 acres, or 60.3%, of the BSA.

The community supports scattered green leaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos patula*), antelope bush (*Purshia tridentata*), and serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*). The herbaceous layer in this community is variable, with some areas supporting a dominance of western thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*) and woolly mule-ears (*Wyethia mollis*).

Within the BSA, Jeffrey pine and white fir (*Abies concolor*) dominate the tree canopy, with a lesser abundance of lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) and western white pine (*Pinus monticola*).

This alliance occurs along the northern boundary of the BSA and within the southeastern portion of the BSA. It is relatively undisturbed, with the exception of a portion of the Truckee River Legacy Trail that runs along the northern, western, and southern boundaries of the BSA.

4.1.1.2 Sagebrush Scrub/Developed

Sagebrush scrub vegetation communities are typically dominated by big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) or co-dominant in the shrub canopy with species such as green leaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos patula*), mountain whitethorn (*Ceanothus cordulatus*), wax currant (*Ribes cereum*), mountain big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *vaseyana*), rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*). Emergent trees may be present at low cover, including Jeffrey pine. Sagebrush scrub/developed is the dominant vegetation community occupying 1.29 acres, or 20.2%, of the BSA.

This alliance occurs in the central and southwestern portion of the BSA. It is relatively undisturbed, although it is subject to human activities from the Truckee River Legacy Trail that runs along the eastern and southern boundaries of the BSA and the Truckee-Donner Recreation and Park District's Maintenance Yard that is located along the northeastern boundary. Trees are largely absent from this alliance.

4.1.2 Partially Vegetated and Unvegetated Areas

4.1.2.1 Developed Habitat

Developed land represents areas that have been physically altered to an extent that they have been completely altered by anthropogenic or human activities and contain little to no vegetation. The portions of the BSA characterized as developed consist of existing paved roads and the Truckee-Donner Recreation and Park District yard. Developed land occupies 1.29 acres, or approximately 20.2%, of the BSA.

4.1.3 Sensitive Vegetation Communities

Sensitive vegetation communities include wetland and riparian communities, as well as those communities that CDFW (2023) has identified as being high priority for inventory due to a rarity ranking of S1, S2, or S3. In addition, sensitive vegetation communities include areas of sensitive wildlife habitat and plant life (e.g., vernal pools, riparian habitats, flyways, and other waterfowl habitats). No sensitive vegetation communities are present in the BSA.

4.2 Plants

During the reconnaissance survey, a total of 44 plants species, 39 native (89%) and 5 non-native (11%), were recorded in the BSA. A list of all plant species observed during the field surveys is included in Appendix A.

4.2.1 Special-Status Plants

Based on the results of the CNDDb, California Native Plant Society, and Information for Planning and Consultation database searches, a total of 28 special-status plant species are known to occur within the BSA and the surrounding

U.S. Geological Survey quadrangles and were assessed for their potential to occur within the BSA (Appendix B). Of these, 26 species have a low potential to occur in the BSA or are not expected to occur due to the absence of suitable habitat determined during the October 2024 survey or because the BSA is outside the known geographic or elevation range of the species. Species with low or no potential to occur are not analyzed further and rationale for their exclusion is provided in Appendix C. The remaining two species have a moderate potential to occur in the BSA and are discussed further below.

Donner Pass buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *torreyanum*). Donner Pass buckwheat is a CRPR 1B.2 plant, meaning it is rare or endangered in California or elsewhere (CNPS 2024a). It is a perennial herb found in volcanic, rocky substrates within meadows and seeps and upper montane coniferous forest. This species generally blooms from July to September at elevations ranging from 560 to 7,860 feet above mean sea level. The coniferous forest in the BSA provides a suitable vegetation community habitat for this species; however, the soil is not volcanic or rocky. There is one documented occurrence of this species within 5 miles of the BSA, approximately 3 miles to the west (CDFW 2024). This species was not observed during the site survey; however, the survey was conducted outside the period when this species is considered evident and identifiable.

Subalpine aster (*Eurybia merita*). Subalpine aster is a CRPR 2B.3 plant, meaning it is rare or endangered in California, but common elsewhere (CNPS 2024a). Subalpine aster is a perennial herb found in upper montane cismontane woodland. It generally blooms between July and August at elevations ranging from 4,265 to 6,840 feet above mean sea level. The montane coniferous forest in the BSA provides suitable habitat for this species. There is one documented occurrence of this species within 5 miles of the BSA, approximately 4 miles to the west (CDFW 2024). This species was not observed during the site survey; however, the survey was conducted outside the period when this species is considered evident and identifiable.

4.3 Wildlife

Wildlife activity in the BSA was relatively low during the field survey. Refer to Appendix A for a list of wildlife species observed in the BSA. The potential for special-status wildlife species to occur within the BSA is discussed below.

4.3.1 Special-Status Wildlife

Based on the results of the CNDDb and Information for Planning and Consultation database searches, a total of 23 special-status wildlife species are known to occur in the general BSA project region (Appendix C) and were assessed for their potential to occur within the BSA. Of these, 12 are not expected to occur due to the absence of suitable habitats or because the BSA is outside of the known range of the species, and 9 are considered to have a low potential to occur due to there being marginally suitable habitat or a lack of documented occurrences within the vicinity of the BSA. Those species with low or no potential to occur within the BSA are not discussed further. The two species determined to have a moderate potential of occurrence within the BSA are discussed in more detail below.

Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus tahoensis*). Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare is a California Species of Special Concern. In the Sierra Nevada, this species is found only in boreal zones. Suitable habitat includes riparian communities with thickets of willows and alders, and conifer forests with abundant cover composed of shrubs or small trees. In the Tahoe Basin, snowshoe hares can be found in dense brush near the edges of meadows or riparian communities. In summer, they feed on grasses, forbs, sedges, and low shrubs; in winter, they feed on needles and bark of conifers and leaves and new growth of willow and alder. Snowshoe hare breed from mid-February to June or July, producing two to three litters per year (CDFW 2024). Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare has

moderate potential to occur. There is suitable conifer forest habitat present in the BSA. There is one occurrence within 5 miles of the BSA (Figure 6, CNDDDB Occurrences; CDFW 2024). No Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare or their sign were noted during the site survey.

Western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis*). Western bumble bee is a candidate species for listing as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. Western bumble bee requires adequate floral resources for foraging habitat and will forage on a variety of native and non-native plant species. Bumble bees including this species utilize pre-existing cavities in a variety of different substrates including thatched grasses, abandoned rodent burrows or bird nests, brush piles, rock piles, and fallen logs for nesting and wintering (CDFW 2023). Western bumble bee has moderate potential to occur. The BSA is within the species' geographic range and the Jeffery pine and sagebrush scrub habitat within the BSA provides adequate areas where bumble bees can forage. There are no occurrences within 5 miles of the study area (CDFW 2024). No Western bumble bee or their sign were noted during the site survey.

4.3.2 Wildlife Movement Corridors

Wildlife corridors are landscape features, usually linear in shape, that facilitate the movement of animals (or plants) over time between two or more patches of otherwise disjunct habitat. Corridors can be small and even human-made (e.g., highway underpasses, culverts, bridges), narrow linear habitat areas (e.g., riparian strips, hedgerows), or wider landscape-level extensions of habitat that ultimately connect even larger core habitat areas. Depending on the size and extent, wildlife corridors can be used during animal migration, foraging events, and for dispersal, and ultimately serve to facilitate genetic exchange between core populations, provide avenues for plant seed dispersal, enable increased biodiversity and maintenance of ecosystem integrity within habitat patches, and help offset the negative impacts of habitat fragmentation (Hilty et al. 2006).

Habitat linkages are small patches that join larger blocks of habitat and help reduce the adverse effects of habitat fragmentation; they may be continuous habitat or discrete habitat islands that function as stepping stones for wildlife dispersal. The BSA is not recognized as an important wildlife corridor by any regional or state agency or jurisdiction and is not considered critical to the ecological functioning of adjoining open space areas.

Because the BSA is a non-linear feature and the project alignment occurs primarily on previously developed land, the site has little value as a potential wildlife corridor; however, the area where the proposed project occurs has value as a potential habitat linkage between areas of adjacent scrub and forest habitats. Common wildlife species such as mule deer and raccoon are likely to move through the site on a regular basis, as the town is small and located within a larger otherwise forested area; however, temporary effects due to noise and increased human activity due to project activities would not interfere with these local movement patterns or affect the ability of these species to forage or reproduce.

4.4 Potentially Jurisdictional Aquatic Resources

There are no aquatic resources within the BSA.

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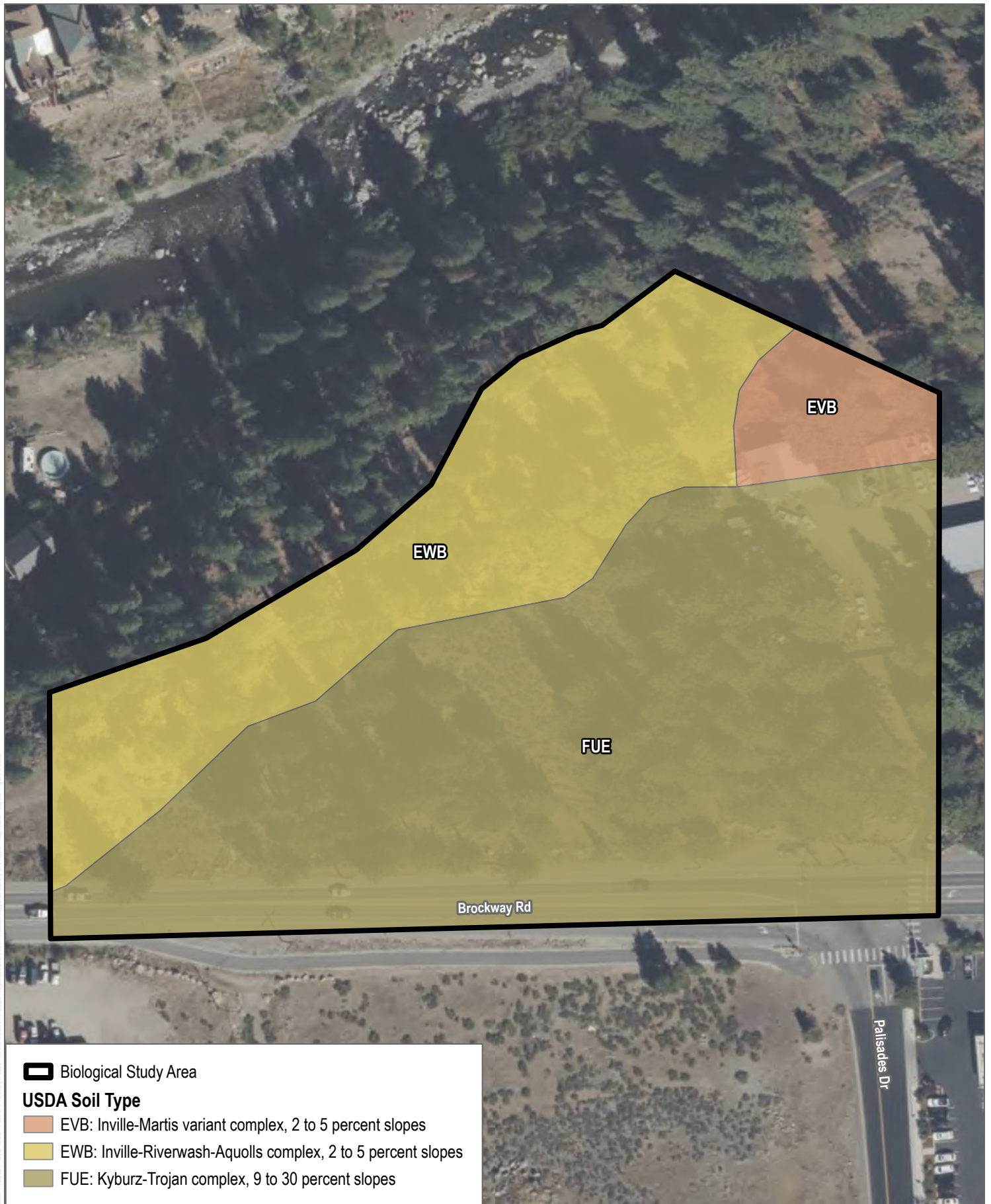
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SOURCE: Bing Aerial Imagery Accessed 2024

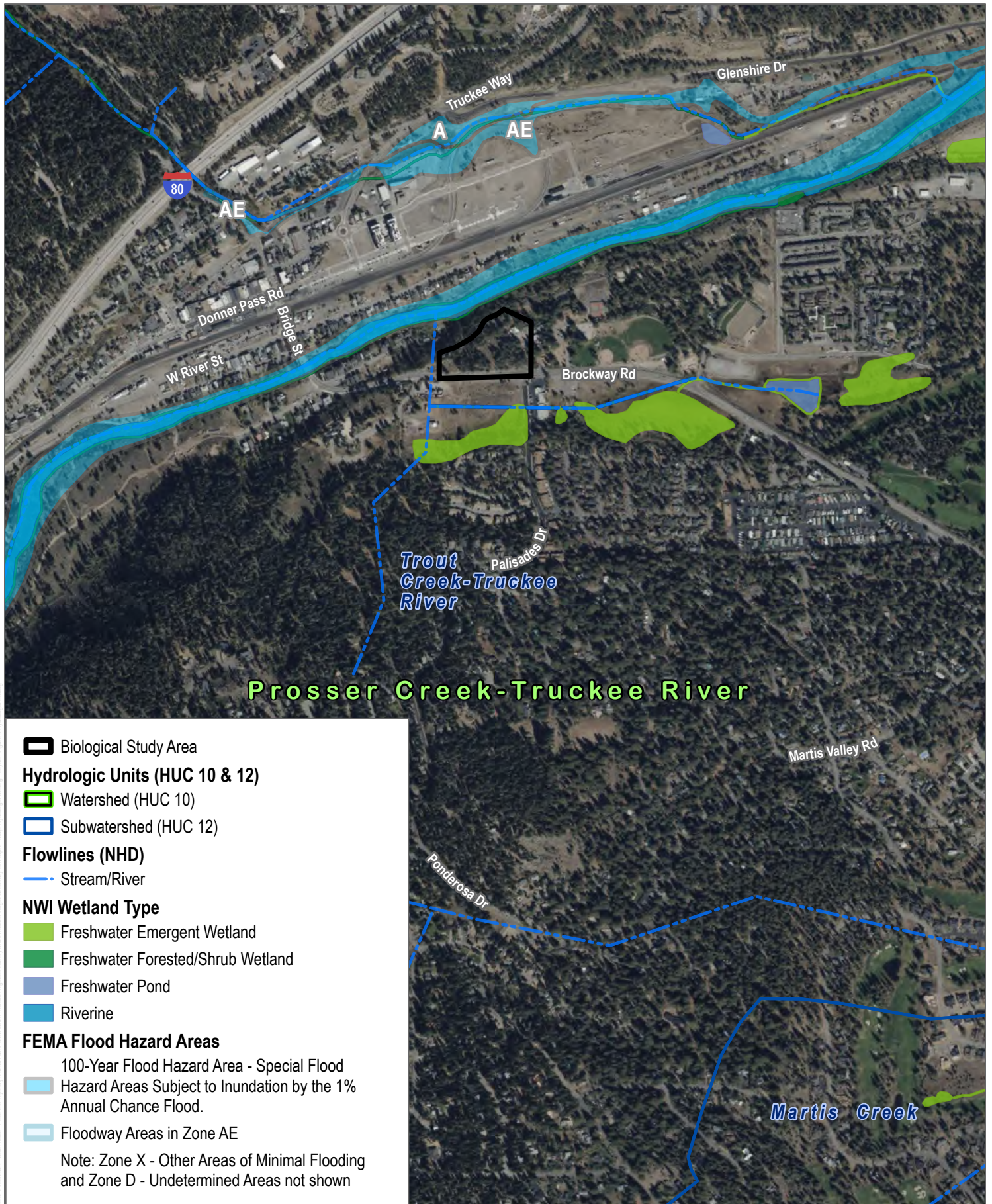
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SOURCE: Bing Maps Aerial Imagery Accessed 2024

FIGURE 3
Soils

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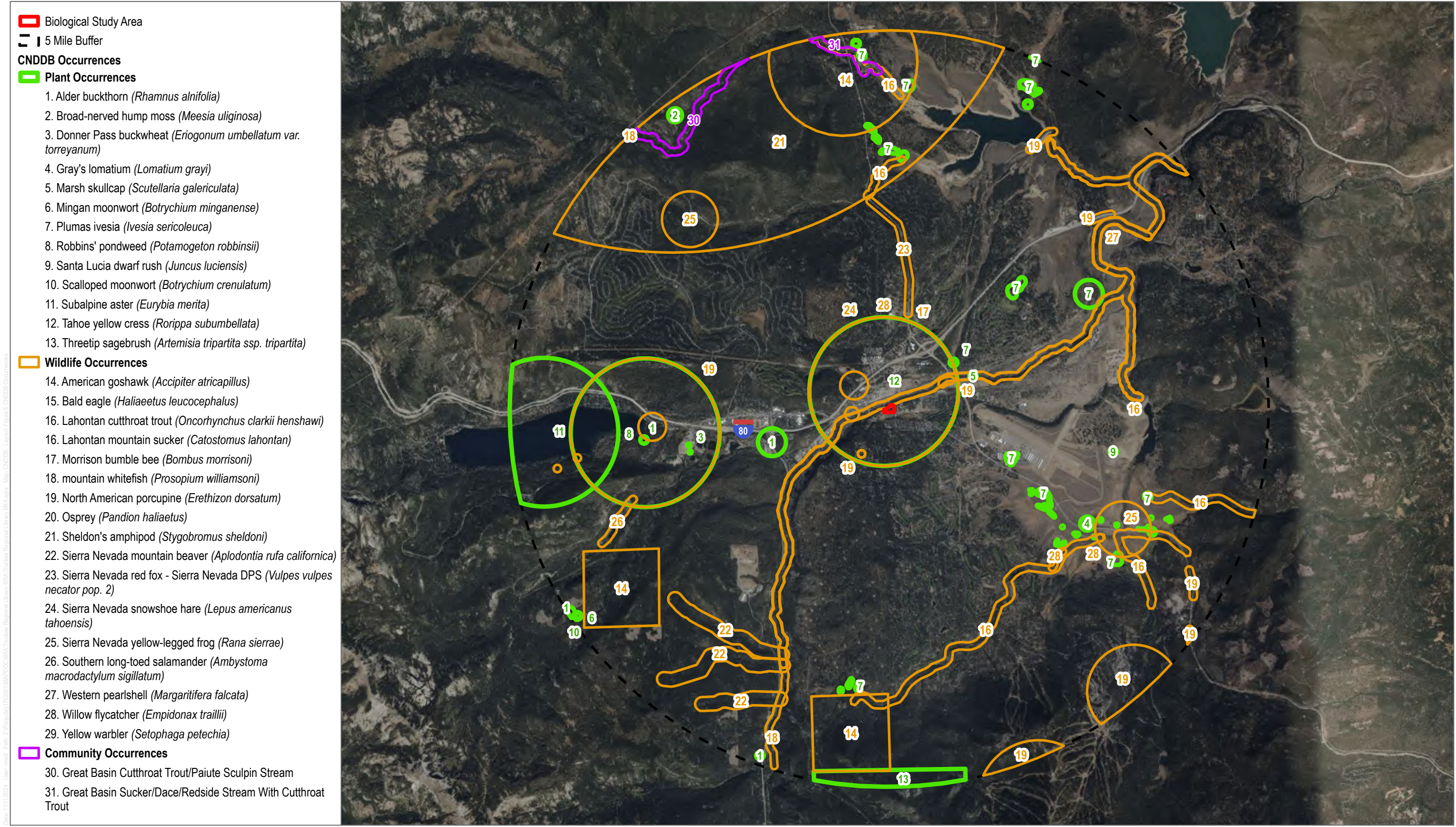


FIGURE 5

Vegetation Communities and Land Covers

Biological Resources Assessment for the Truckee Regional Library Project

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SOURCE: Bing Maps Aerial imagery Accessed 2024

FIGURE 6
CNDDDB Occurrences

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Appendix A

Species Observed

Plant Species

Eudicots

APOCYNACEAE – DOGBANE FAMILY

Apocynum androsaemifolium – spreading dogbane

ASTERACEAE – SUNFLOWER FAMILY

Achillea millefolium – common yarrow

Agoseris grandiflora – bigflower agoseris

Anaphalis margaritacea – western pearly everlasting

Artemisia tridentata – big sagebrush

Cirsium andersonii – rose thistle

Ericameria nauseosa – rubber rabbitbrush

Erigeron glacialis – subalpine fleabane

Erigeron inornatus – California rayless fleabane

Eucephalus breweri – Brewer's aster

Symphyotrichum spathulatum – western mountain aster

* *Tragopogon dubius* – yellow salsify

Wyethia mollis – woolly mule-ears

BORAGINACEAE – BORAGE FAMILY

Phacelia heterophylla – varileaf phacelia

BRASSICACEAE – MUSTARD FAMILY

* *Brassica nigra* – black mustard

* *Hirschfeldia incana* – short-pod mustard

Rorippa sinuata – spreading yellowcress

CAPRIFOLIACEAE – HONEYSUCKLE FAMILY

Symphoricarpos mollis – creeping snowberry

ERICACEAE – HEATH FAMILY

Arctostaphylos patula – green leaf manzanita

Pterospora andromedea – woodland pinedrops

Pyrola picta – whiteveined wintergreen

Sarcodes sanguinea – snowplant

FABACEAE – LEGUME FAMILY

Lupinus lepidus – Pacific lupine

* *Melilotus indicus* – annual yellow sweetclover

GROSSULARIACEAE – GOOSEBERRY FAMILY

Ribes cereum – wax currant

Ribes roezlii – Sierra gooseberry

POLYGONACEAE – BUCKWHEAT FAMILY

Eriogonum nudum – naked buckwheat

Eriogonum umbellatum var. *nevadense* – sulphur-flower buckwheat

Rumex triangulivalvis – Mexican dock

ROSACEAE – ROSE FAMILY

Amelanchier utahensis – Utah serviceberry

Purshia tridentata – bitter brush

Rosa woodsii – interior rose

Rubus parviflorus – thimbleberry

Gymnosperms and Gnetophytes

PINACEAE – PINE FAMILY

Abies concolor – white fir

Pinus contorta – lodgepole pine

Pinus jeffreyi – Jeffrey pine

Pinus ponderosa – Ponderosa pine

Monocots

ALLIACEAE – ONION FAMILY

Allium campanulatum – dusky onion

POACEAE – GRASS FAMILY

- * *Bromus tectorum* – cheatgrass
- Deschampsia cespitosa* – tufted hair grass
- Elymus elymoides* – squirreltail
- Elymus glaucus* – blue wildrye
- Elymus trachycaulus* – slender wheatgrass
- Festuca viridula* – greenleaf fescue

* signifies introduced (non-native) species

Wildlife Species – Vertebrates

Mammals

SCIURIDAE – CHIPMUNKS

Neotamias amoenus – yellow pine chipmunk

Reptiles

IGUANIDAE – IGUANID LIZARDS

Sceloporus occidentalis – western fence lizard

Birds

COLUMBIDAE – PIGEONS AND DOVES

Zenaida macroura – mourning dove

CORVIDAE – CROWS, JAYS AND MAGPIES

Cyanocitta stelleri – Steller's jay

FRINGILLIDAE – FINCHES

* *Carpodacus mexicanus* – house finch

PHASIANIDAE – PHEASANTS AND QUAILS

Callipepla californica – California quail

* signifies introduced (non-native) species

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Appendix B

Special-Status Plant Species Potential to Occur

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/CRPR)	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur
<i>Agrostis humilis</i>	mountain bent grass	None/None/2B.3	Alpine boulder and rock field, meadows and seeps, subalpine coniferous forest; sometimes carbonate./perennial herb/July–Sep/8,755–10,495	Not expected to occur. The site is outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Arabis rigidissima</i> var. <i>demota</i>	Galena Creek rockcress	None/None/1B.2	Broadleafed upland forest, upper montane coniferous forest; rocky/perennial herb/July–Aug/7,395–8,395	Not expected to occur. The site is outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Artemisia tripartita</i> ssp. <i>tripartita</i>	threetip sagebrush	None/None/2B.3	Upper montane coniferous forest (openings); rocky, volcanic/perennial shrub/Aug/7,215–8,530	Not expected to occur. The site is outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Botrychium ascendens</i>	upswept moonwort	None/None/2B.3	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps; mesic/perennial rhizomatous herb/(June)July–Aug/3,655–9,990	Low potential to occur. No meadow and seep habitat present and no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the project (CDFW 2024). Coniferous forest habitat present on study area.
<i>Botrychium crenulatum</i>	scalloped moonwort	None/None/2B.2	Bogs and fens, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps (freshwater), upper montane coniferous forest/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–Sep/4,160–10,760	Low potential to occur. No bogs, fens, meadows, seeps, marshes, or swamps present, and there is one documented occurrence approximately 5 miles southwest from the site (CDFW 2024). Coniferous forest habitat present on study area.
<i>Botrychium minganense</i>	Mingan moonwort	None/None/2B.2	Bogs and fens, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps (edges), upper montane coniferous forest; mesic/perennial rhizomatous herb/ July–Sep/4,770–7,150	Low potential to occur. No bogs, fens, meadows, or seeps present on site. Coniferous forest habitat present within study area. There is one documented occurrence approximately 5 miles southwest from the site (CDFW 2024).
<i>Botrychium neolunaria</i>	common moonwort	None/None/2B.3	Meadows and seeps, subalpine coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest/perennial rhizomatous herb/Aug/6,495–11,150	Not expected to occur. The site is outside of the species' known elevation range.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/CRPR)	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur
<i>Carex davyi</i>	Davy's sedge	None/None/1B.3	Subalpine coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest/perennial herb/May–Aug/4,920–10,495	Low potential to occur. Coniferous forest habitat is present on study area. There are no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the project (CDFW 2024).
<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>	woolly-fruited sedge	None/None/2B.3	Bogs and fens, marshes and swamps (freshwater, lake margins)/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–July/5,575–6,885	Not expected to occur. No bogs, fens, meadows, or seeps present on site. There are no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the project (CDFW 2024).
<i>Carex limosa</i>	mud sedge	None/None/2B.2	Bogs and fens, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, upper montane coniferous forest/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–Aug/3,935–8,855	Not expected to occur. No bogs, fens, meadows, or seeps present on site. There are no documented occurrences within 10 miles of the project (CDFW 2023).
<i>Drosera anglica</i>	English sundew	None/None/2B.3	Bogs and fens, meadows and seeps (mesic)/perennial herb (carnivorous)/June–Sep/4,265–7,395	Not expected to occur. No bogs, fens, meadows, or seeps present on site. There are no documented occurrences within 10 miles of the project (CDFW 2023).
<i>Erigeron miser</i>	starved daisy	None/None/1B.3	Perennial herb found in upper montane coniferous forest (rocky)/June–Oct/5,500–7,860 feet	Low potential to occur. Coniferous forest and rocky soils on area provide suitable habitat for this species. There are no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the project (CDFW 2024).
<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i> var. <i>torreyanum</i>	Donner Pass buckwheat	None/None/1B.2	Meadows and seeps, upper montane coniferous forest; volcanic, rocky/perennial herb/July–Sep/6,085–8,595	Moderate potential to occur. No meadows or seeps present on site. Coniferous forest habitat present on site. There is one documented occurrence within 5 miles of the project (CDFW 2024).
<i>Eurybia merita</i>	subalpine aster	None/None/2B.3	Upper montane coniferous forest/perennial herb/N.A./4,265–6,560	Moderate potential to occur. Coniferous forest habitat present on site. There are two documented occurrences within 5 miles of the project (CDFW 2024).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/CRPR)	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur
<i>Glyceria grandis</i>	American manna grass	None/None/2B.3	Bogs and fens, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps (streambanks and lake margins)/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–Aug/49–6,495	Not expected to occur. No suitable habitat within study area. No documented occurrences within 5 miles from the study area (CDFW 2024).
<i>Ivesia sericoleuca</i>	Plumas ivesia	None/None/1B.2	Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, vernal pools; vernal mesic, usually volcanic/perennial herb/May–Oct/4,295–7,215	Low potential to occur. No Great Basin scrub, meadows and seeps, and vernal pools present on site. There are multiple documented occurrences within 5 miles of the site (CDFW 2024).
<i>Juncus luciensis</i>	Santa Lucia dwarf rush	None/None/1B.2	Chaparral, Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, vernal pools/annual herb/Apr–July/984–6,690	Low potential to occur. No chaparral, Great Basin scrub, meadows and seep, or vernal pools present on site. Coniferous forest habitat present on study area. There is one documented occurrence within 5 miles of the project, approximately 3 miles southeast (CDFW 2024).
<i>Lomatium grayi</i>	Gray's lomatium	None/None/2B.3	Great Basin scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland/perennial herb/Apr–June/4,560–4,640	Not expected to occur. The site is outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Meesia uliginosa</i>	broad-nerved hump moss	None/None/2B.2	Bogs and fens, meadows and seeps, subalpine coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest; damp soil/moss/July,Oct/3,965–9,195	Not expected to occur. No bogs, fens, meadows, or seeps present on site. Coniferous forest habitat present on site. There is one documented occurrence within 5 miles of the project, approximately 5 miles northwest of the study area (CDFW 2024).
<i>Phacelia stebbinsii</i>	Stebbin's phacelia	None/None/1B.2	Annual herb found in cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps/May–July/1,800–6,000	Low potential to occur. Coniferous forest in project area provides suitable habitat for this species. There are no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the project (CDFW 2024).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/CRPR)	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur
<i>Potamogeton epihydrus</i>	Nuttall's ribbon-leaved pondweed	None/None/2B.2	Marshes and swamps (assorted shallow freshwater)/perennial rhizomatous herb (aquatic)/(June)July–Sep/1,210–7,125	Not expected to occur. No marshes and swamps present on site. There are no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the study area (CDFW 2024).
<i>Potamogeton robbinsii</i>	Robbins' pondweed	None/None/2B.3	Marshes and swamps (deep water, lakes)/perennial rhizomatous herb (aquatic)/July–Aug/5,015–10,825	Not expected to occur. No marshes or swamps present on site. There is one documented occurrence within 5 miles of the project (CDFW 2024).
<i>Rhamnus alnifolia</i>	alder buckthorn	None/None/2B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, riparian scrub, upper montane coniferous forest/perennial deciduous shrub/ May–July/4,490–6,985	Low potential to occur. No meadows, seeps, or riparian scrub present on site. Coniferous forest a present on study area. There are four documented occurrences within 5 miles of the project (CDFW 2024).
<i>Rorippa subumbellata</i>	Tahoe yellow cress	None/SE/1B.1	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps; decomposed granitic beaches/perennial rhizomatous herb/May–Sep/6,200–6,250	Low potential to occur. No meadows, seeps, or granitic beaches present on site. There is one documented occurrence approximately 2 miles northwest of the project (CDFW 2024).
<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>	marsh skullcap	None/None/2B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps (mesic), marshes and swamps/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–Sep/0–6,885	Low potential to occur. No meadows, seeps, marshes, or swamps present on site. Coniferous forest habitat present on site. There is one documented occurrence within 5 miles of the project (CDFW 2024).
<i>Sidalcea multifida</i>	cut-leaf checkerbloom	None/None/2B.3	Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, pinyon and juniper woodland/perennial herb/May–Sep/5,740–9,185	Low potential to occur. No Great Basin scrub, meadows, seeps, or pinyon and juniper woodland present on site. Coniferous forest habitat present on site. There are no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the project (CDFW 2024).
<i>Sphaeralcea munroana</i>	Munro's desert mallow	None/None/2B.2	Great Basin scrub/perennial herb/ May–June/6,560–6,560	Not expected to occur. The site is outside of the species' known elevation range.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/CRPR)	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur
<i>Stuckenia filiformis</i> ssp. alpina	slender-leaved pondweed	None/None/2B.2	Marshes and swamps (assorted shallow freshwater)/perennial rhizomatous herb (aquatic)/May–July/984–7,050	Not expected to occur. No marshes or swamps present on site. There are no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the project (CDFW 2024).

Notes:

Status Legend

CRPR: California Rare Plant Rank

1B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere

2B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere

Threat Rank

0.1 – Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat)

0.2 – Moderately threatened in California (20%–80% occurrences threatened/moderate degree and immediacy of threat)

0.3 – Not very threatened in California (less than 20% of occurrences threatened/low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

References

CDFW. 2024c. Rarefind 5: Commercial version. Online database. California Natural Diversity Database. Sacramento: CDFW, Biogeographic Data Branch. Accessed November 2024. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB/Maps-and-Data>.

Appendix C

Special-Status Wildlife Species Potential to Occur

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State)	Habitat	Potential to Occur
Amphibians				
<i>Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum</i>	southern long-toed salamander	None/SSC	High elevation along the northern Sierra Nevada south to Garner Meadows in alpine meadows and high mountain ponds and lakes	Not expected to occur. The study area is outside this species range. There is one documented occurrence within 5 miles of the study area (CDFW 2024).
<i>Lithobates pipiens</i> (native populations only)	northern leopard frog	None/SSC	Adjacent to permanent and semi-permanent water in a range of habitats	Not expected to occur. The study area is outside this species range. There are no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the project (CDFW 2024).
<i>Rana sierrae</i>	Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog	FE/ST, WL	Lakes, ponds, meadow streams, isolated pools, and open riverbanks	Not expected to occur. Although the study area is within this species range, the study area lacks suitable aquatic habitat. There is one documented occurrence within 5 miles of the study area (CDFW 2024).
Reptiles				
<i>Actinemys marmorata</i>	northwestern pond turtle	FPT/SSC	Slow-moving permanent or intermittent streams, ponds, small lakes, and reservoirs with emergent basking sites; adjacent uplands used for nesting and during winter	Low potential to occur. There is suitable upland habitat for this species within the project area; however, no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the project area (CDFW 2024).
Birds				
<i>Accipiter atricapillus</i> (nesting)	American goshawk	None/SSC	Nests primarily in middle- and higher-elevation dense conifer forests; winters at lower elevations along coast, foothills, and northern deserts in riparian and pinyon-juniper woodland; generally does not nest near areas of human habitation or paved roads	Low potential to occur. Although there are two occurrences within 5 miles of the study area (CDFW 2024), the study area itself lacks old-growth forest habitat preferred for nesting. In addition, the site and surrounding area are located in an area of regular human disturbance.
<i>Antigone canadensis tabida</i> (nesting and wintering)	greater sandhill crane	None/FP, ST	Winter foraging in cropland, grazed and mowed grassland, pasture, alfalfa fields, and shallow wetlands; roosting sites are flooded and support several inches of water	Not expected to occur. The study area is outside this species range. There are no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the project (CDFW 2024). The study area lacks nesting and wintering habitat.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State)	Habitat	Potential to Occur
<i>Empidonax traillii</i> (nesting)	willow flycatcher	None/SE	Nests in wet meadow and montane willow riparian	Not expected to occur. There are three documented occurrences within 5 miles of project (CDFW 2024). No suitable meadow or riparian habitat present.
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> (nesting and wintering)	bald eagle	FPD/FP, SE	Nests in forested areas adjacent to large bodies of water, including seacoasts, rivers, swamps, large lakes; winters near large bodies of water in lowlands and mountains	Low potential to occur. The study area is within this species range. The nearest documented nesting occurrence is approximately 8 miles from the project (CDFW 2023). Large bodies of water that this species requires are not present on the study area.
<i>Setophaga petechia</i> (nesting)	yellow warbler	None/SSC	Nests and forages in riparian and oak woodlands, montane chaparral, open ponderosa pine, and mixed-conifer habitats	Low potential to occur. The study area contains suitable conifer habitat. There are no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the study area (CDFW 2024).
<i>Strix occidentalis</i>	California spotted owl	None/SSC	Nests and forages in dense, old-growth, multi-layered mixed conifer, redwood, and Douglas-fir habitats	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the project area.
Fishes				
<i>Catostomus lahontan</i>	Lahontan mountain sucker	None/SSC	Found in shallow (less than 2 meters), 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 2,800 meters and at temperatures of 1°C–25°C.	Not expected to occur. The study area is within this species range, and there are multiple occurrences within 5 miles of project area (CDFW 2024). There are no drainages in the study area that could provide potential habitat.
<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi</i>	Lahontan cutthroat trout	FT/None	Variety of cold water habitats; large terminal alkaline lakes, alpine lakes, slow meandering rivers, mountain rivers, and small headwater tributary streams	Not expected to occur. The study area is within this species range, and there are multiple occurrences within 5 miles of project area (CDFW 2024). There are no drainages in the study area that could provide potential habitat.
<i>Prosopium williamsoni</i>	mountain whitefish	None/SSC	Tributaries east of the Sierra Nevada Mountains	Not expected to occur. The study area is within this species range, and there are two occurrences within 5 miles of project

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State)	Habitat	Potential to Occur
				area (CDFW 2024). There are no drainages in the study area that could provide potential habitat.
<i>Siphateles bicolor pectinifer</i>	Lahontan Lake tui chub	None/SSC	Inhabits large, deep lakes; tolerates a wide range of physiochemical water conditions	Not expected to occur. There are no occurrences within 5 miles of project area (CDFW 2024). There are no drainages in the study area that could provide potential habitat.
Mammals				
<i>Aplodontia rufa californica</i>	Sierra Nevada mountain beaver	None/SSC	Wooded, moist habitats with herbaceous plants along slopes of ridges and gullies; brushy successional stages of most coniferous communities	Low potential to occur. The study area is within this species range, but there is no suitable habitat for the species. There are three documented occurrences within 5 miles of project, approximately 3 miles south (CDFW 2024).
<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	North American porcupine	None/None	Forested habitats in the Sierra Nevada, Cascade, and Coast ranges, with scattered observations from forested areas in the Transverse Ranges.	Low potential to occur. The study area is within this species range and there are 5 occurrences within 5 miles of the study area (CDFW 2024). The study area provides marginal habitat for species due to the existing level of human disturbance in the surrounding area.
<i>Gulo gulo</i>	California wolverine	None/FP, ST	Douglas-fir, red fir, lodgepole, subalpine conifer, alpine dwarf shrub, mixed-conifer, and barren habitats	Low potential to occur. The study area is within this species range. There are no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the study area (CDFW 2024). The study area provides marginal habitat for species due to the existing level of human disturbance in the surrounding area.
<i>Lepus americanus tahoensis</i>	Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare	None/SSC	Riparian with thickets of deciduous trees such as alders and willows, dense thickets of conifers, and sometimes ceanothus and manzanita	Moderate potential to occur. The study area is within this species range. There is one occurrence within 5 miles of the study area (CDFW 2024). The study area provides potentially suitable habitat.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State)	Habitat	Potential to Occur
<i>Lepus townsendii townsendii</i>	western white-tailed jackrabbit	None/SSC	Open forests and sagebrush–grassland	Low potential to occur. There are no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the study area (CDFW 2024). The study area provides suitable habitat.
<i>Pekania pennanti</i>	fisher	None/SSC	Ranges widely in forested regions; uses heavy stands of mixed species of mature trees	Not expected to occur. This species' distribution in California is represented by two populations: the northwestern California and the southern Sierra Nevada populations. Fishers no longer inhabit the area between the Pit River in the northern Sierra Nevada/Cascades and the Merced River in the southern Sierra Nevada. There are no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the study area (CDFW 2024).
<i>Vulpes vulpes necator</i>	Sierra Nevada red fox - Sierra Nevada DPS	FE/ST	Barren, conifer, and shrub habitats at high elevations during summer and red fir, mixed-conifer, montane chaparral, and white fir forests during winter	Low potential to occur. The study area is outside this species range. There is one documented occurrence within 5 miles of study area, approximately 2 miles north (CDFW 2024). The study area provides marginal habitat due to the existing level of human disturbance in the surrounding area, and the species' rarity in the region likely precludes them from occurring on site.
Invertebrates				
<i>Bombus occidentalis</i>	western bumblebee	None/SCE	Meadows and grasslands with abundant nectar and pollen resources available through spring, summer, and fall, and suitable overwintering sites. Typically nest in underground cavities in open west-southwest facing slopes bordered by trees. Occasionally found in aboveground locations such as logs. Common host plant genera include <i>Cirsium</i> , <i>Erigeron</i> , <i>Solidago</i> , <i>Aster</i> , and <i>Ceanothus</i>	Moderate potential to occur. The Jeffery pine and sagebrush scrub habitat within the BSA provides adequate areas where bumble bees can forage. There are no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the study area (CDFW 2024).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State)	Habitat	Potential to Occur
<i>Danaus plexippus</i> pop. 1	monarch	FC/None	Wind-protected tree groves with nectar sources and nearby water sources	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within the project area. There are no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the study area (CDFW 2024).

Sources: CDFW 2024; Cornell Lab 2024; USFWS 2024.

Status Legend

None: No conservation status

Federal

FC: Federal Candidate

FE: Federally listed as endangered

FP: Fully Protected

FPD: Federally proposed for delisting

FPT: Federally proposed for listing as threatened

FT: Federally listed as threatened

State

FP: fully protected

SCE: State Candidate Endangered

SE: State listed as endangered

SSC: Species of Special Concern

ST: State listed as threatened

WL: Watch List

Potential for Occurrence Ranks

Known to Occur: The species has been documented in the project area.

High Potential to Occur: The species has not been documented in the project site but is known to occur in the vicinity, and species habitat is present.

Moderate Potential to Occur: The species has not been documented in the vicinity, but the project site is within the known range of the species, and habitat for the species is present.

Low Potential to Occur: The species has not been documented in the vicinity of the project, the project is within the known range of the species, but habitat for the species within the project site is of low quality.

Not Expected to Occur: The project site is outside the known range of the species, and habitat for the species is either absent or of low quality.

References

- CDFW. 2024. Rarefind 5: Commercial version. Online database. California Natural Diversity Database. Sacramento: CDFW, Biogeographic Data Branch. Accessed November 2024. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB/Maps-and-Data>.
- Cornell Lab. 2024. "All About Birds." Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Accessed November 2024. <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/>
- USFWS (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). 2024. "Information for Planning and Consultation." Accessed November 2024. <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>.

Appendix D

Photo Log

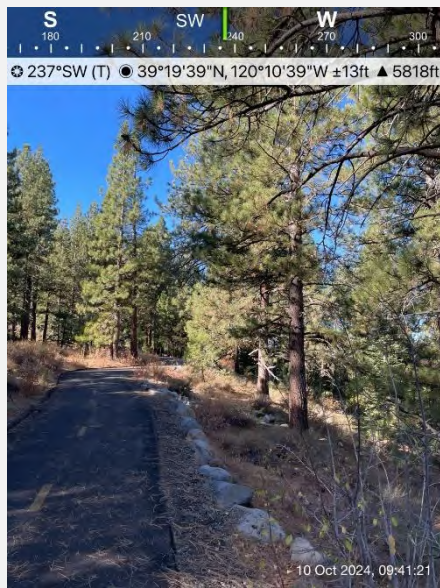


Photo 1. Project BSA looking southwest from northern boundary.

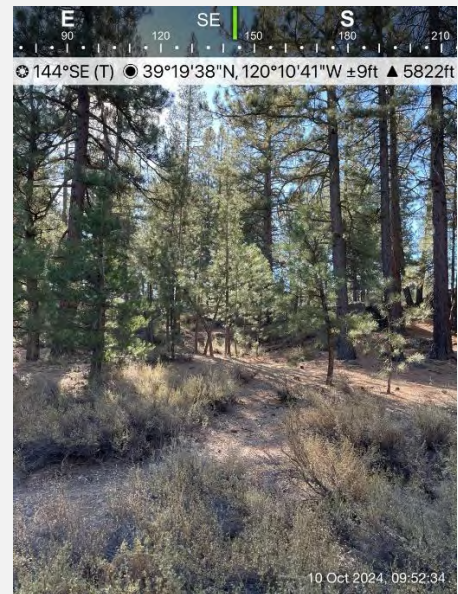


Photo 2. Project BSA looking southeast from northwestern boundary.

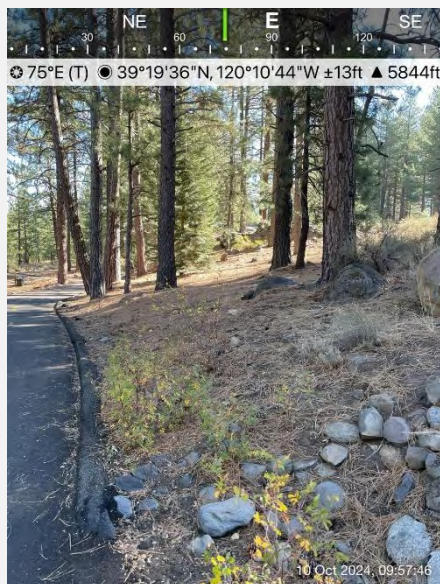


Photo 3. Project BSA looking east from southwestern boundary

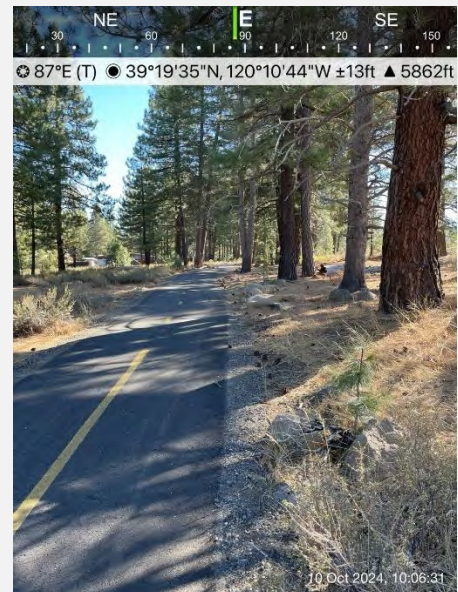


Photo 4. Project BSA looking east from southwestern region of BSA.



Photo 5. Project BSA looking west from the east-central region of BSA.



Photo 6. Project BSA looking west from the east-central region of BSA.