

Tue, Oct 5, 2021 at 3:38 PM

Goose Hill RV Park Biological Assessment

2 messages

Diane Moore <moorebio@softcom.net> To: Krista Ruesel <kruesel@amadorgov.org>

Cc: Gina Waklee <gina@tomasurvey.com>, Matthew Toma <matt@tomasurvey.com>

Krista:

Attached please find the Biological Assessment for the Goose Hill RV Park project. It is pretty straightforward and we see no biological resources issues. We recommend preconstruction surveys for western pond turtle and nesting birds.

Please contact me with any questions.

Thanks,

Diane

Diane S. Moore, M.S.

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Krista Ruesel <kruesel@amadorgov.org> To: Diane Moore <moorebio@softcom.net> Cc: Gina Waklee <gina@tomasurvey.com>, Matthew Toma <matt@tomasurvey.com> Tue, Oct 5, 2021 at 3:51 PM

Received, thank you. I will add it to the project file.

Krista Ruesel

Planner|Amador County Planning Department (209)223-6803|kruesel@amadorgov.org

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MOORE BIOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS

October 7, 2021

Mr. Jerry Ninnis Goose Hill Rock 6080 Jackson Valley Road Ione, CA, CA 95640

Subject: "GOOSE HILL RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARK", AMADOR COUNTY, CALIFORNIA: BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Dear Jerry:

Thank you for asking Moore Biological Consultants to conduct a biological assessment of this 40+/- acre site near the town of Buena Vista, in Amador County, California (Figures 1 and 2 and Site Plan in Attachment A). The purpose of this assessment is to describe existing biological resources in the project site, identify potentially significant impacts to biological resources from the project, and provide recommendations for how to reduce those impacts to a less-thansignificant level. The work involved reviewing databases, aerial photographs, and documents, and conducting a field survey to document vegetation communities, potentially jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. and/or wetlands, and potentially suitable habitat for or presence of special-status species. This report details the methodology and results of our investigation.

Methods

Prior to the field survey, we conducted a search of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB, 2021). The CNDDB search included the USGS 7.5-minute Ione and Jackson topographic quadrangles, encompassing approximately 120+/- square miles surrounding the site (Attachment B). The United States Fish and Wildlife Service





(USFWS) IPaC Trust Resource Report of Federally Threatened and Endangered species that may occur in or be affected by projects in the project vicinity was also reviewed (Attachment B). This information was used to identify special-status wildlife and plant species that have been previously documented in the vicinity or have the potential to occur based on suitable habitat and geographical distribution. The USFWS on-line-maps of designated critical habitat in the area were also downloaded.

A field survey of the site was conducted on June 18, 2021. The survey consisted of walking throughout the site making observations of habitat conditions and noting surrounding land uses, habitat types, and plant and wildlife species. The fieldwork included characterization of vegetation communities, habitats, and plant and wildlife species in the site, as well as a search for special-status species and suitable habitat for special-status species (e.g., vernal pools, blue elderberry shrubs, cliffs, caves, areas with unique soils). Additionally, trees in and near the site were assessed for the potential use by nesting raptors and other birds.

Results

The 40+/- acre site is near Buena Vista, in Amador County, California (Figure 1). The site is within Sections 8 & 17 within Township 5 North, Range 10 East of the USGS 7.5-minute lone topographic quadrangle (Figure 2). The site is at elevations of approximately 275 to 300 feet above mean sea level. The site is a mosaic of annual grassland and woodland habitats that have been highly disturbed by historical, recent, and ongoing mining; there is a large mine wash waster pond in the southeast part of the site (Figure 3).

Land uses in this part of Amador County are primarily open space consisting of a mixture of open woodland and annual grassland. The site is within the overall Goose Hill Mine facility and contains mine tailings, mine-related rubble and equipment, and work trailers (Figure 3 and photographs in Attachment C).

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VEGETATION: The site was historically mined for gold and consisted of mine tailings and scattered trees prior to more recent mining operations by Goose Hill Mine. The piles of tailings were mined and the site now consists of a mosaic of annual grassland vegetation interspersed with areas of bare soil and scattered trees. The "California annual grassland series" and "Freemont cottonwood series" (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf, 1995) best describe the dominant vegetation and habitat types in the site (see photographs in Attachment C).

The foothill annual grasslands contain a mixture of native and non-native grasses and weeds. Due to historical and current mining operations at the site, the grassland vegetation within the site is best described as ruderal and highly disturbed. Oats (*Avena fatua*), soft chess brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), and perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) are dominant grasses in the site. Other grassland species such as Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), hairy vetch (*Vicia villosa*), rose clover (*Trifolium hirtum*), and filaree (*Erodium botrys*) are intermixed with the grasses. Plant species observed in the site are listed in Table 1.

Foothill pine (*Pinus sabiniana*), Fremont's cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), California black walnut (Juglans californica) and willows (*Salix exigua, S. goodingii*) are dominant tree species in the project site. There are also some tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). Coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis*), California wild grape (*Vitis californica*), and California wild rose (*Rosa californica*) are scattered in the understory of the tree canopies. No blue elderberry shrubs (*Sambucus nigra ssp. cerulea*) were observed in the site.

Jackson Creek falls is just outside the site boundary and will not be impacted by the proposed project. Dominant vegetation in Jackson Creek and along the creek bank includes water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), cattails (*Typha sp.*), Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*), willow seedlings and saplings (*Salix spp.*), and pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium*).

TABLE 1 PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED IN THE SITE

Acmispon americanus Ailanthus altissima Amsinckia menziesii Avena sp. Baccharis pilularis Brassica nigra Briza minor Bromus diandrus Bromus hordeaceus Bromus madritensis Carduus pyconocephalus Centaurea solstitialis Centaurium muehlenbergii Cichorium intybus Cirsium vulgare Convolvulus arvenis Cynodon dactylon Cyperus eragrostis Dittrichia graveolens Eichhornia crassipes Epilobium brachycarpum Erodium botrys Foeniculum vulgare Heterotheca grandiflora Hordeum murinum Juglans californica Lactuca serriola Leontodon saxatilis

bird's-foot trefoil tree-of-heaven rancher's fireweed wild oat coyote bush black mustard lesser quaking grass ripgut brome soft chess brome compact brome Italian thistle yellow star-thistle Muhlenberg's centaury chicory bull thistle morning glory Bermuda grass tall flat sedge stinkwort water hyacinth annual fireweed filaree fennel telegraphweed wall barley California black walnut prickly lettuce long-beaked hawkbit

TABLE 1 (Continued) PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED IN THE SITE

Lolium perenne	perennial ryegrass
Mentha pulegium	pennyroyal
Paspalum dilatatum	golden crown grass
Pinus sabiniana	foothill pine
Plantago elongate	slender plantain
Plantago lanceolata	English plantain
Polypogon monspeliensis	annual rabbit's-foot grass
Populus fremontii	Fremont's cottonwood
Raphanus sativus	wild radish
Rosa californica	California rose
Rubus armeniacus	Himalayan blackberry
Rumex pulcher	fiddle dock
Salix exigua	narrow-leaved willow
Salix goodingii	Gooding's black willow
Senecio vulgaris	common groundsel
Sonchus asper	spiny-leaf sowthistle
Sonchus oleraceus	common sowthistle
Taeniatherum caput-medusae	Medusa-head grass
Trifolium hirtum	rose clover
Typha sp.	cattail
Verbena lasiostachys	common verbena
Vicia villosa	hairy vetch
Vitis californica	California wild grape
Xanthium strumarium	rough cocklebur

WILDLIFE: A variety of wildlife species are found within foothill-riparian habitats throughout Amador County. Several birds were observed in the site during the field survey. Representative species include mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*),

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turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), acorn woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorous*), California scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), and oak titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*). Wildlife species observed in the site are listed in Table 2.

Given the presence of large trees throughout the site, it is considered likely that one or more pairs of raptors, plus a variety of songbirds, nest in trees and shrubs in the site each year. Careful inspection of the trees in the site did not reveal any active raptor nests, which are large and fairly visible at the time of the year when the survey was conducted. A variety of other protected migratory birds (mostly songbirds) likely nest in the on-site shrubs and grasslands during most years; several tree cavities were observed in the site and provide suitable nesting habitat for cavity-nesting birds.

Mule (black-tail) deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) was the only mammal observed in the site during the survey. Tracks of raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) and skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*) were also observed. Other common mammals such as western gray squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*), black-tailed hare (*Lepus californicus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), and California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*) are expected to occur in the area on occasion. Mountain lions (*Felis concolor*) and bobcats (*Felis rufus*) are known to exist in the Sierra Nevada foothills and may occur in the area; however, no evidence of either of these species was observed in the site. A number of species of small rodents including mice (*Mus musculus, Reithrodontomys megalotis,* and *Peromyscus maniculatus*) and voles (*Microtus californicus*) also likely occur. Some of the larger trees in the site and general project vicinity provide suitable foraging and/or roosting habitat for bats.

Based on habitat types present, only a few species of amphibians and reptiles are expected to occur on-site. American bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) was the only amphibian observed in the site and no reptiles were seen. The site is within

TABLE 2 WILDLIFE SPECIES OBSERVED IN THE STUDY AREA

<u>Birds</u>

Great blue heron	Ardea herodias
Canada goose	Branta canadensis
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos
Turkey vulture	Cathartes aura
Red-shouldered hawk	Buteo lineatus
Red-tailed hawk	Buteo jamaicensis
California quail	Callipepla californica
Mourning dove	Zenaida macroura
Acorn woodpecker	Melanerpes formicivorus
Black phoebe	Sayornis nigricans
Western kingbird	Tyrannus verticalis
Tree swallow	Tachycineta bicolor
California scrub jay	Aphelocoma californica
Oak titmouse	Baeolophus inornatus
Western bluebird	Sialia mexicana
Northern mockingbird	Mimus polyglottos
California towhee	Melozone crissalis
Red-winged blackbird	Agelaius phoeniceus
House finch	Carpodacus mexicanus

<u>Mammals</u>

Raccoon	Procyon lotor
Skunk	Mephitis mephitis
Mule deer	Odocoileus hemionus

Reptiles and Amphibians

Bullfrog

Rana catesbeiana

the range of northern alligator lizard (*Gerrhonotus coeruleus*), western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), common king snake (*Lampropeltis getulus*), western rattlesnake (*Crotalis viridis*), and common garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*); these and other common amphibian and reptile species may also occur on-site.

WATERS OF THE U.S. AND WETLANDS: Waters of the U.S., including wetlands, are broadly defined under 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 328 to include navigable waterways, their tributaries, and adjacent wetlands. State and federal agencies regulate these habitats and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires that a permit be secured prior to the discharge of dredged or fill materials into any waters of the U.S., including wetlands. Some jurisdictional waters of the U.S. also fall under the jurisdiction of CDFW and/or the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

"Waters of the U.S.", as defined in 33 CFR 328.4, encompasses Territorial Seas, Tidal Waters, and Non-Tidal Waters; Non-Tidal Waters includes interstate and intrastate rivers and streams, as well as their intermittent tributaries. The limit of federal jurisdiction of Non-Tidal Waters of the U.S. extends to the "ordinary high water mark". The ordinary high water mark is established by physical characteristics such as a natural water line impressed on the bank, presence of shelves, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, or the presence of litter and debris.

Jurisdictional wetlands are vegetated areas that meet specific vegetation, soil, and hydrologic criteria defined by the ACOE *Wetlands Delineation Manual* and Regional Supplement (ACOE, 1987; 2008). Jurisdictional wetlands are usually adjacent to or hydrologically associated with Waters of the U.S. Isolated wetlands are outside federal jurisdiction, but may be regulated by RWQCB under the State Wetlands Program. Jurisdictional wetlands and Waters of the U.S. include, but are not limited to, perennial and intermittent creeks and drainages, lakes, seeps, and springs; emergent marshes; riparian wetlands; and seasonal wetlands. Wetlands and Waters of the U.S. provide critical habitat components, such as nest sites and a reliable source of water, for a wide variety of wildlife species.

No potentially jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. or wetlands were observed in the site. Jackson Creek, which is adjacent to the site is a jurisdictional Water of the U.S. (Figure 4). Jackson Creek is a "blue-line" feature on the USGS map (Figure 2) and is depicted as a "Riverine" feature in the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) (Attachment D). Jackson Creek is a tributary to Dry Creek, which is a tributary to the Mokelumne River, a navigable Water of the U.S. This tributary relationship with Mokelumne River forms the basis for Jackson Creek being a jurisdictional Water of the U.S. Jackson Creek will not be impacted by the proposed project.

There is a constructed ditch and associated quarry pond just north of Jackson Creek (Figure 4) that was created for mining operations and still being utilized. Water was flowing through the ditch and in to the pond, where sediments settle and the water evaporates over time. Immediately southwest of the existing pond is an area of sediments from the pond that have been reclaimed in a generally flat terrace; this area appears white in Figure 4. This constructed ditch and associated quarry pond were constructed in uplands to provide wash-water for the on-site mining operations and intended to be reclaimed in uplands upon the cessation of mining. Due to constructed ditch and quarry pond being constructed in uplands as part of a mining operation, they do not meet the technical or regulatory definition of jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. or wetlands.

SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES: Special-status species are plants and animals that are legally protected under the state and/or federal Endangered Species Act or other regulations. The Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) of 1973 declares that all federal departments and agencies shall utilize their authority to conserve



endangered and threatened plant and animal species. The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) of 1984 parallels the policies of FESA and pertains to native California species.

Special-status species also include other species that are considered rare enough by the scientific community and trustee agencies to warrant special consideration, particularly with regard to protection of isolated populations, nesting or denning locations, communal roosts, and other essential habitat. The presence of species with legal protection under the Endangered Species Act often represents a constraint to development, particularly when the species are wide-ranging or highly sensitive to habitat disturbance and where proposed development would result in a take of these species.

Special-status plants are those which are designated rare, threatened, or endangered and candidate species for listing by the USFWS. Special-status plants also include species considered rare or endangered under the conditions of Section 15380 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, such as those plant species identified on Lists 1A, 1B and 2 in the Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (CNPS, 2021). Finally, special-status plants may include other species that are considered sensitive or of special concern due to limited distribution or lack of adequate information to permit listing or rejection for state or federal status, such as those included on CNPS List 3.

The likelihood of occurrence of listed, candidate, and other special-status species in the site is generally low. Table 3 provides a summary of the listing status and habitat requirements of special-status species that have been documented in the greater project vicinity or for which there is potentially suitable habitat in the greater project vicinity. This table also includes an assessment of the likelihood of occurrence of each of these species in the site. The evaluation of the potential for occurrence of each species is based on the distribution of regional occurrences (if any), habitat suitability, and field observations.

		Federal	State	CNPS		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Status ¹	Status ¹	List ²	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in the Project Site
PLANTS						
lone manzanita	Arctostaphylos myrtifolia	Т	None	1B	Chaparral and cismontane woodland.	Unlikely: the site does not provide suitable chaparral or cismontane woodland habitat for lone manzanita; no lone chaparral habitats or lone formation soils were observed. There are a couple patches of lone manzanita in the CNDDB (2021) search area within a mile northwest of the project site.
Big-scale balsamroot	Balsamorhiza macrolepis	None	None	1B	Chaparral, valley and foothill grassland and cismontane woodland; sometimes serpentine soils.	Unlikely: habitats in the project site have been heavily disturbed by both historical and current mining activities and do not provide suitable habitat for big-scale balsamroot. The nearest occurrence of this species in the CNDDB (2021) search area is approximately 6.5 miles northeast of the site.
Bisbee Peak rush-rose	Crocanthemum suffrutescens	None	None	3	Chaparral, often on serpentine, gabbroic or lone formation soils.	Unlikely: there is no chaparral habitat in the site and no areas of serpentine, gabbroic, or lone formation soils were observed. The nearest occurrence of Bisbee Peak rush-rose in the CNDDB (2021) search area is within a mile northwest of the site.
lone buckwheat	Eriogonum apricum var. apricum	E	E	1B	Chaparral in gravelly openings on lone formation soils.	Unlikely: habitats in the project site have been heavily disturbed. There is no chaparral habitat in the site and no areas of lone formation soils were observed. The nearest occurrence of this species in the CNDDB (2021) search area is approximately 1 mile north of the site.

		Federal Sta	e CNPS		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Status ¹ Statu	ls ¹ List ²	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in the Project Site
Tuolumne button- celery	Eryngium pinnatisectum	None Non	e 1B	Vernal pools in cismontane woodlands and lower montane coniferous forests.	Unlikely: there are no vernal pools in the project site to support this species. The nearest occurrence of Tuolumne button-celery in the CNDDB (2021) search area is approximately 4 miles northwest of the project site.
Stanislaus monkeyflower	Erythranthe marmorata	None Non	e 1B	Cismontane woodland or lower montane coniferous forest.	Unlikely: the site does not provide suitable cismontane woodland or lower montane coniferous forest habitat habitat for Stanislaus monkeyflower and is also at the very low end of the elevation range of this species (CNPS, 2021). The nearest occurrence of Stanislaus monkeyflower in the CNDDB (2021) search area is approximately 4.5 miles northwest of the project site.
Parry's horkelia	Horkelia parryi	None Non	e 1B	Chaparral and cismontane woodland.	Unlikely: the site does not provide suitable chaparral or cismontane woodland habitat for Parry's horkelia. The nearest occurrence of this species in the CNDDB (2021) search area is approximately 1 mile northeast of the project site.
Pincushion navarretia	Navarretia myersii ssp. myersii	None Non	e 1B	Vernal pools.	Unlikely: there are no vernal pools in the site to support pincushion navarretia. The nearest occurrence of this species in the CNDDB (2021) search area is approximately 6.5 miles northwest of the project site.

		Federal State	CNPS		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Status ¹ Status ¹	List ²	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in the Project Site
Prairie wedge grass	Sphenopholis obtusata	None None	2	Open, moist sites in cismontane woodland, meadows and seeps.	Unlikely: the site does not provide suitable habitat for prairie wedge grass and is also well below the elevation range of this species (CNPS, 2021). The nearest occurrence of prairie wedge grass in the CNDDB (2021) search area is approximately 8.5 miles northeast of the project site.
WILDLIFE					
Tricolored blackbird	Agelaius tricolor	None T	N/A	Requires open water and protected nesting substrate, usually cattails and riparian scrub with surrounding foraging habitat.	Low: there is emergent wetland vegetation suitable for nesting tricolored blackbirds in Jackson Creek adjacent to the site and within the quarry pond in the site. However, this species is primarily found in the Central valley and delta and is unlikely to nest in the project site. The nearest occurrence of this species in the CNDDB (2021) is approximately 2.5 miles northwest of the site.
Reptiles and A	mphibians				
California tiger salamander	Ambystoma californiense	ТТ	N/A	Seasonal water bodies without fish (i.e., vernal pools and stock ponds) and grassland/ woodland habitats with summer refugia (i.e., burrows).	Unlikely: there is no suitable aquatic habitat in the site to support California tiger salamander. The nearest occurrence of this species in the CNDDB (2021) search area is approximately 3 miles southwest of the project site. The site is not within designated critical habitat for California tiger salamander (USFWS, 2005a).

		Federal	State	CNPS		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Status ¹ S	Status ¹	List ²	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in the Project Site
California red- legged frog	Rana aurora draytonii	т	SC	N/A	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of water with vegetation.	Unlikely: there is no suitable aquatic habitat in or near the site to support this species. There are no occurrences of this species in the CNDDB (2021) search area. The site is not in designated critical habitat for California red- legged frog (USFWS, 2006).
Foothill yellow- legged frog	Rana boylii	None	SC	N/A	Perennial water bodies (i.e., streams and ponds) with abundant riparian vegetation; not found on Central Valley floor.	Unlikely: there is no suitable aquatic habitat in or near the site to support foothill yellow-legged frog. The nearest occurrence of foothill yellow- legged frog in the CNDDB (2021) search area is approximately 8.5 miles northeast of the project site.
Western pond turtle	Emys marmorata	None	SC	N/A	Ponds, marshes, streams, and ditches with emergent aquatic vegetation and basking areas.	Low: Jackson Creek could potentially support western pond turtle and this species may nest within sandy areas in the site. The nearest occurrence of this species in the CNDDB (2021) search area is approximately 6.5 miles northwest of the site.
⊢ısh Delta smelt	Hypomesus transpacificus	т	Т	N/A	Shallow lower delta waterways with submersed aquatic plants and other suitable refugia.	None: there is no suitable aquatic habitat for this species in the site; delta smelt occur in the lower delta. There are no occurrences of delta smelt recorded in the CNDDB (2021) search area. The site is not in designated critical habitat for delta smelt (USFWS, 1994).

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT AND WILDLIFE SPECIES DOCUMENTED IN THE GREATER PROJECT VICINITY

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status ¹	State Status ¹	CNPS List ²	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in the Project Site
Invertebrates Vernal pool fairy shrimp	Branchinecta Iynchi	Т	None	N/A	Vernal pools and seasonal wetlands.	Unlikely: there are no vernal pools or seasonal wetlands in the site to support vernal pool fairy shrimp. There are no occurrences of this species in the CNDDB (2021) search area. The site is not within designated critical habitat for vernal pool fairy shrimp (USFWS 2005b).
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle	Desmocerus californicus dimorphus	Т	None	N/A	Elderberry shrubs in the Central Valley and surrounding foothills.	Unlikely: there are no blue elderberry shrubs in or adjacent to the site. There are no occurrences of valley elderberry longhorn beetle in the CNDDB (2021) search area.

1 T= Threatened; E= Endangered; SC = Species of Concern to California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

2 CNPS List 1B includes species that are rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; List 2 includes plants that are rare, threatened or endangered in California but are more common elsewhere; List 3 includes plants about which more information is needed.

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS: Special-status plants recorded in the CNDDB (2021) within the search area (i.e., the USGS 7.5-minute lone and Jackson topographic quadrangles) includes lone manzanita (*Arctostaphylos myrtifolia*), big-scale balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza macrolepis*), Bisbee Peak rush-rose (*Crocanthemum suffrutescens*), lone buckwheat (*Eriogonum apricum var. apricum*), Tuolumne button celery (*Eryngium pinnatisectum*), Stanislaus monkeyflower (*Erythranthe marmorata*), Parry's horkelia (*Horkelia parryi*), pincushion navarretia (*Navarretia myersii ssp. myersii*), and prairie wedge grass (*Sphenopholis obtusata*). The USFWS IPaC Trust Report does not include any special-status plants.

Special-status plants found in the Sierra Nevada foothills generally occur in relatively undisturbed areas within unique vegetation communities such as chaparral, seeps and springs, marshes and swamps, and areas with unique soils (i.e., serpentine, gabbroic). Areas of relatively natural grasslands in other parts of Amador County could potentially support a few of the special-status plants identified in Table 3 that occur in foothill grasslands, but the grasslands in the project site have been highly disturbed by mining activities have very diminished grassland suitability in the site for special-status plants. There are no areas of chaparral habitat in the site, substantially reducing the potential occurrence of several of the species listed in Table 3 that are associated with chaparral habitats (i.e., Ione manzanita, big-scale balsamroot, Bisbee Peak rush-rose, Ione buckwheat, and Parry's horkelia). Tuolumne button celery, pincushion navarretia, and prairie wedge grass occur within either vernal pools or meadows and seeps; there is no suitable habitat in the site to support these special-status plants. The potential for occurrence of special-status plants to occur in the site is extremely low because the site consists of disturbed annual grassland and no unique habitat types or highly suitable habitat for special-status plants were observed in the site.

SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE: Special-status wildlife species recorded in the CNDDB (2021) search area include tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), foothill yellow-

legged frog (*Rana boylii*), California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*), and valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*). The USFWS IPaC Trust Report includes California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*), delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), and vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*).

Of the species identified in the CNDDB (2021) search area and the USFWS IPaC Trust Report, western pond turtle and tricolored blackbird have potential to occur in the site on more than an occasional or transitory basis. These species are discussed further below. Most of the other species in Table 3 have no potential to occur in the site due to a lack of suitable habitat and/or location of the site outside the species' range.

WESTERN POND TURTLE: The western pond turtle is a state species of concern, but is not a listed species at the state or federal level. Western pond turtles are associated with permanent or nearly permanent bodies of water with adequate basking sites such as logs, rocks or open mud banks. Pond turtles construct nests in sandy banks along slow-moving streams and ponds in the spring and the young usually hatch in 2 to 3 months. The nearest occurrence of western pond turtle in the CNDDB (2021) search area is approximately 6.5 miles northwest of the site.

Jackson Creek provides suitable permanent aquatic habitat to support western pond turtle; turtles could swim within the creek and bask along logs or other woody debris along the banks of Jackson Creek. Although a majority of the habitats adjacent to Jackson Creek are highly disturbed, western pond turtle could potentially find a sandy spot in the site to nest. No western pond turtles were observed in the site during the field survey.

TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD: The tricolored blackbird is a State of California Species threatened species and is also protected by the federal MBTA and Fish and

Game Code of California. Tricolored blackbirds are colonial nesters requiring very dense stands of emergent wetland vegetation and/or dense thickets of wild rose or blackberries for nesting. Preferred nesting substrates are expansive stands of cattails and tules adjacent to open water. Tricolored blackbirds forage in annual grasslands and cropland. The nearest record of tricolored blackbird in the CNDDB (2021) search area is approximately 2.5 miles northwest of the site.

Although limited and fragmented, emergent wetland vegetation, willows, wild rose, blackberry brambles, and other suitable patches of vegetation along the edges Jackson Creek and in the quarry pond in the site provide potentially suitable nesting habitat for this species. The grassland in and adjacent to the site may provide marginal foraging habitat for this species. Despite potentially suitable habitat being present, tricolored blackbird is primarily found in the Central valley and delta and is unlikely to nest in the project site.

OTHER SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE: The potential for intensive use of habitats within the site by special-status wildlife species is very low. There is no suitable aquatic habitat in the project site to support California red-legged frog, foothill yellowlegged frog, California tiger salamander or delta smelt. There are no blue elderberry shrubs in the site to support valley elderberry longhorn beetle.

CRITICAL HABITAT: The site is not within designated critical habitat for Delta smelt (USFWS, 1994), California red-legged frog (USFWS, 2006), California tiger salamander (USFWS, 2005a), vernal pool shrimp or plant species (USFWS, 2005b), or other federally listed species (Attachment E).

WILDLIFE MOVEMENT CORRIDORS AND NURSERY AREA: The Jackson Creek riparian corridor is likely utilized as a movement corridor for species such as mule (black-tail) deer, coyote, red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), and bobcat, as well as a variety of amphibians, reptiles, and fish. Expansive freshwater marshes in the greater project vicinity may provide nursery sites for breeding resident and migratory

birds. Due to the location of the site north of Jackson Creek and extensive open space south of the creek, the project is not expected to result in potentially significant impacts to the movement of native wildlife species or wildlife movement corridors. The project is not expected to impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites in the project vicinity.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- The site is a mosaic of annual grassland and woodland habitats that have been highly disturbed by historical, recent, and ongoing mining.
- Due to the lack of suitable habitat, it is unlikely special-status plants occur in the site.
- No potentially jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. or wetland observed in the project site. The ditch and quarry pond were constructed in uplands as part of a mining operation and do not meet the technical or regulatory definition of jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. or wetlands.
- Jackson Creek, which is adjacent to the site, is a jurisdictional Water of the U.S. Jackson Creek will not be impacted by the proposed project.
- Tricolored blackbird and western pond turtle have potential to occur in the site on more than an occasional or transitory basis. No other species are expected to occur in the site due to a lack of suitable habitat and/or location of the site outside the species' range.
- On-site trees, shrubs, grasslands, and other vegetation may be used by nesting birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Fish and Game Code of California. In order to avoid take of protected raptors and migratory birds, any vegetation removal should be scheduled for between

September 1 and January 31, if possible. If vegetation removal occurs between February 1 and August 31, a pre-construction nesting bird survey should be conducted by a qualified biologist. If active nests are found within the survey area, vegetation removal should be delayed until the biologist determines nesting is complete.

- Pre-construction surveys for western pond turtle and their nests should be conducted by a qualified biologist within 48 hours prior to onset of staging and construction activities. This will involve a search for nests in grasslands within 300 feet of Jackson Creek. If nest sites are located, the nest should be staked and work should be delayed until hatching is complete and the young have left the nest site.
- The project is not expected to result in potentially significant impacts to the movement of native wildlife species or wildlife movement corridors.
- The project is not expected to impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites in the project vicinity.
- The project site is not within areas that are designated as critical habitat for federally listed species.

Thank you again for asking Moore Biological Consultants to assist with this project. Please call me at (209) 745-1159 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Diane S. Moore, M.S. Principal Biologist

References and Literature Consulted

ACOE (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). 1987. Technical Report Y87-1. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, MI.

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Sawyer, J.O. and T. Keeler-Wolf. 1995. A Manual of California Vegetation. California Native Plant Society, Sacramento. California.

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USFWS. 2006. Part II, Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. 50 CFR Part 17: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for California Red-Legged Frog, and Special Rule Exemption Associated with Final Listing for Existing Routine Ranching Activities, Final Rule. Federal Register Vol. 71, No. 71, April 13.

USFWS. 2017. Framework for Assessing Impacts to the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Sacramento, California. 28pp.

Attachment A

Site Plan



Attachment B

CNDDB Summary Report and Exhibits

& USFWS IPaC Trust Report





Query Criteria: Quad IS (lone (3812038) OR Jackson (3812037))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Agelaius tricolor	ABPBXB0020	None	Threatened	G1G2	S1S2	SSC
tricolored blackbird						
Ambystoma californiense pop. 1	AAAAA01181	Threatened	Threatened	G2G3	S2S3	WL
California tiger salamander - central California DPS						
Arctostaphylos myrtifolia	PDERI04240	Threatened	None	G1	S1	1B.2
lone manzanita						
Balsamorhiza macrolepis	PDAST11061	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
big-scale balsamroot						
Banksula rudolphi	ILARA14080	None	None	G1	S1	
Rudolph's cave harvestman						
Crocanthemum suffrutescens	PDCIS020F0	None	None	G2?Q	S2?	3.2
Bisbee Peak rush-rose						
Desmocerus californicus dimorphus	IICOL48011	Threatened	None	G3T2	S3	
valley elderberry longhorn beetle						
Emys marmorata	ARAAD02030	None	None	G3G4	S3	SSC
western pond turtle						
Erethizon dorsatum	AMAFJ01010	None	None	G5	S3	
North American porcupine						
Eriogonum apricum var. apricum	PDPGN080F1	Endangered	Endangered	G2T1	S1	1B.1
lone buckwheat						
Eryngium pinnatisectum	PDAPI0Z0P0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
Tuolumne button-celery						
Erythranthe marmorata	PDPHR01130	None	None	G2?	S2?	1B.1
Stanislaus monkeyflower						
Horkelia parryi	PDROS0W0C0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
Parry's horkelia						
lone Chaparral	CTT37D00CA	None	None	G1	S1.1	
Ione Chaparral						
Navarretia myersii ssp. myersii	PDPLM0C0X1	None	None	G2T2	S2	1B.1
pincushion navarretia						
Rana boylii	AAABH01050	None	Endangered	G3	S3	SSC
foothill yellow-legged frog						
Sphenopholis obtusata	PMPOA5T030	None	None	G5	S2	2B.2
prairie wedge grass						

Record Count: 17





Graham's Cave amphipod Grady's Cave amphipod Graham's Cave amphipod PINE GROVE Grady's Cave amphipod

Grady's Cave amphipod

North American porcupine western pond turtle

Gulch

Line

western pond turtle western pond turtle western pond turtle

ackson

Ohi Hill

ackso

foothill yellow-legged frog

MOKELUMNE HILL

Leech's skyline diving beetle

Crotch bumble bee

California tiger salamander - central California DPS

Paloma



California red-legged frog

IPaC

IPaC resource list

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

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

Location

Amador County, California



Local office

Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office

└ (916) 414-6600**i** (916) 414-6713

Federal Building 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605 Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

Endangered species

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

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

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

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

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

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

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact <u>NOAA Fisheries</u> for <u>species under their jurisdiction</u>.

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

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



California Red-legged Frog Rana draytonii Wherever found There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2891</u>	Threatened
California Tiger Salamander Ambystoma californiense There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2076</u>	Threatened
Fishes	
NAME	STATUS
Delta Smelt Hypomesus transpacificus Wherever found There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/321</u>	Threatened
Insects	
NAME	STATUS
Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Desmocerus californicus	Threatened
dimorphus Wherever found There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7850</u>	
dimorphus Wherever found There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7850</u> Crustaceans	
dimorphus Wherever found There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7850</u> Crustaceans NAME	STATUS

Flowering Plants

NAME

STATUS

Ione (incl. Irish Hill) Buckwheat Eriogonum apricum (incl. var. prostratum) Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8301

Ione Manzanita Arctostaphylos myrtifolia Wherever found Threatened

3017

Endangered

erever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1806</u>

Critical habitats

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

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS AT THIS LOCATION.

Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act¹ and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described <u>below</u>.

- 1. The <u>Migratory Birds Treaty Act</u> of 1918.
- 2. The <u>Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act</u> of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern <u>http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/</u> <u>birds-of-conservation-concern.php</u>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <u>http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/</u> <u>conservation-measures.php</u>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <u>http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/nationwidestandardconservationmeasures.pdf</u>

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the <u>USFWS Birds of</u> <u>Conservation Concern</u> (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ <u>below</u>. This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have

IPaC: Explore Location resources

sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the <u>E-bird data mapping tool</u> (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found <u>below</u>.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME

BREEDING SEASON (IF A BREEDING SEASON IS INDICATED FOR A BIRD ON YOUR LIST, THE BIRD MAY BREED IN YOUR PROJECT AREA SOMETIME WITHIN THE TIMEFRAME SPECIFIED, WHICH IS A VERY LIBERAL ESTIMATE OF THE DATES INSIDE WHICH THE BIRD BREEDS ACROSS ITS ENTIRE RANGE. "BREEDS ELSEWHERE" INDICATES THAT THE BIRD DOES NOT LIKELY BREED IN YOUR PROJECT AREA.)

Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31

Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626

California Thrasher Toxostoma redivivum
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
Clark's Grebe Aechmophorus clarkii
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
Breeds Jan 1 to Dec 31
Breeds Jan 1 to Dec 31
Breeds Jan 1 to Dec 31
Breeds Jan 2 to Dec 31
Breeds Jan 2 to Dec 31

Golden Eagle Aquila chrysaetos This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680</u>	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31
Lawrence's Goldfinch Carduelis lawrencei This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9464</u>	Breeds Mar 20 to Sep 20
Lewis's Woodpecker Melanerpes lewis This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9408</u>	Breeds Apr 20 to Sep 30
Nuttall's Woodpecker Picoides nuttallii This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9410</u>	Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 20
Oak Titmouse Baeolophus inornatus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9656</u>	Breeds Mar 15 to Jul 15
Rufous Hummingbird selasphorus rufus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8002</u>	Breeds elsewhere
Song Sparrow Melospiza melodia This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds Feb 20 to Sep 5
Spotted Towhee Pipilo maculatus clementae This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4243</u>	Breeds Apr 15 to Jul 20
Tricolored Blackbird Agelaius tricolor This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3910</u>	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 10

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

Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 31

Yellow-billed Magpie Pica nuttalli This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9726</u>

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (

Wrentit Chamaea fasciata

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

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

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

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

Breeding Season (=)

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

Survey Effort ()

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

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

No Data (–)

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

Survey Timeframe

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

				■ proba	ability of	fpresend	ce <mark>b</mark> re	eeding s	eason	survey	effort	– no data
SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Bald Eagle Non-BCC Vulnerable (This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.)		-++1	+ I + I	C	,0	2	3	****	∎++ < P	21		**++
California Thrasher BCC Rangewide (CON) (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.)	+ + - 4		* + +	++1+	+ + + +		++	++				
Clark's Grebe BCC Rangewide (CON) (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.)	+1+1	-111	++++	++11	+ + <mark>1</mark> +		+	++ 1	1 - + +	-1	+1+1	1 1 1

Common Yellowthroat BCC - BCR (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA)	++++	11++	+++1	++++	1+ <mark>+</mark> +	++	++•+	++ 1 .		I ++ I	+ + + +
Golden Eagle Non-BCC Vulnerable (This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.)	+++		+ 1 + +	+++	+ + + +			(Å	()	* I ++	++
Lawrence's Goldfinch BCC Rangewide (CON) (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.)	++++	-1++	+++++ }P	+++++ C		¥ 1	+ + - +	****	-+	++ 1 + ·	+ + + +
Lewis's Woodpecker BCC Rangewide (CON) (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.)	+ ++	+++	++++	++ <mark>+</mark> +	++++	1 1	+ + - +	• • • • • •		+++	ı →+++

Nuttall's Woodpecker BCC - BCR (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA)	11+1		111		111		11.1	1+1	+ 1 +		111	111
Oak Titmouse BCC Rangewide (CON) (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.)	1111	111	1111	111+	111		+ 1 • •	+ 1 - 1	1-11	11-1	••••••	4
Rufous Hummingbird BCC Rangewide (CON) (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.)	++++	-+++		+++ I	,0	1	3	•••• •			++++	**++
Song Sparrow BCC - BCR (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA)	+1+1		M	*+++	+11+		+ 1 1	1+++	+++		+111	+ • + •
Spotted Towhee BCC - BCR (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA)	111		1111	1111	1111		11	++-1	+ 	-111	++11	+
SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

Tricolored Blackbird BCC Rangewide (CON) (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.)	++++	-+++	++++	++11	++1+		++	+ + - +	+++	-+	+++	+ + <mark>1</mark> +
Wrentit BCC Rangewide (CON) (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.)	+ +	-11	1 1 + 1	111	1111		1+	+ + Ⅰ	- -+	-+11	+ III +	+
Yellow-billed Magpie BCC Rangewide (CON) (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.)	++++	-+++	+	C	,0	14	3	••••••	+++		+ +	++++

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

Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. <u>Additional measures</u> or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

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

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the <u>AKN Phenology Tool</u>.

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

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

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

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, migrating or present year-round in my project area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or yearround), you may refer to the following resources: <u>The Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds Bird Guide</u>, or (if you are unsuccessful in locating the bird of interest there), the <u>Cornell Lab of Ornithology Neotropical Birds guide</u>. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

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

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

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

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

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the <u>Diving Bird Study</u> and the <u>nanotag studies</u> or contact <u>Caleb Spiegel</u> or <u>Pam Loring</u>.

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

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

Facilities

NSUL National Wildlife Refuge lands

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

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS AT THIS LOCATION.

Fish hatcheries

THERE ARE NO FISH HATCHERIES AT THIS LOCATION.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory

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

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

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

This location overlaps the following wetlands:

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

PEM1Fx PEM1Cx PEM1A PEM1C PEM1Fh
RESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND
PSSCx
PSSC
PSSCh
PFOA
RESHWATER POND
PUBHh
PUBHx
PUBFh
PUSAx
PUBFx
PUSCh
AKE
L1UBHh
VERINE
<u>R4SBC</u>
<u>R4SBA</u>
<u>R5UBF</u>

A full description for each wetland code can be found at the National Wetlands Inventory website

Data limitations

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

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

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

Data exclusions

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

Data precautions

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

FORCONSUL

Attachment C

Photographs



Gravel entrance in to the site, looking northwest from the north part of the site; 06/18/21.



Ruderal grassland along the west edge of the site, looking southwest; 06/18/21.



Mining road in the east part of the site, looking southwest from the east edge of the site and just south of the constructed wash-water ditch; 06/18/21.



Disturbed grassland in the northeast part of the site, looking southwest from the northeast corner of the site; 06/18/21.



Mining equipment and debris in the east part of the site, looking southwest from the east edge of the site; 06/18/21.



Concrete rubble in the north part of the site, looking southwest from the north part of the site; 06/18/21.



Constructed wash-water ditch in the east part of the site, looking southwest; 06/18/21. This ditch carries wash water from the mine in to the quarry pond.



Constructed ditch just downstream of the previous picture, looking southwest from the east part of the site; 06/18/21. This ditch was constructed in uplands for mining operations.



Reclaimed quarry pond in the southwest part of the site, looking southwest; 06/18/21.



Mining road adjacent to Jackson Creek in the south part of the site, looking south; 06/18/21.



Quarry pond in the south part of the site, looking southwest; 06/18/21.



Sediment piles at the west end of the quarry pond, looking northwest; 06/18/21.



Disturbed grassland and trees in the west part of the site, looking northwest; 06/18/21.



Cottonwoods and willows in an area that had been piles of mine tailings prior to being mined, looking southwest; 06/18/21.



Jackson Creek, looking southwest from the southeast corner of the site; 06/18/21. Jackson Creek will not be disturbed as part of the project.



Jackson Creek a little further downstream of the previous photo, looking south from the southeast part of the site; 06/18/21.

Attachment D

National Wetland Inventory Map



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory

Goose Hill RV Park



August 10, 2021

Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Wetland

Estuarine and Marine Deepwater

Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland Freshwater Pond

Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Lake Other Riverine This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

Attachment E

Designated Critical Habitat

