

POTENTIAL RESOURCE ISSUE:

Protection of special-status wildlife species and their habitats.

PROJECT NEXUS:

Project operations and maintenance activities and potential Project betterments could disturb or result in loss of habitat for special-status wildlife species.

POTENTIAL LICENSE CONDITION:

- Vegetation and Integrated Pest Management Plan
- Special-status wildlife protection measures

STUDY OBJECTIVE:

- Document the location of U.S. Department of Agriculture-Forest Service (USDA-FS) land allocations and known occurrences of special-status wildlife species at Project facilities, roads, trails, and recreation facilities, and bypass and peaking reaches.
- Document the location of USDA-FS land allocations and known occurrences of special-status wildlife species at potential Project betterment construction, staging, and disposal sites and new inundation areas. Identify special-status wildlife species potentially occurring in California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR) habitats documented as part of the Vegetation Communities and Wildlife Habitats Technical Study Plan.
- Determine whether Project communication and power lines are consistent with Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) Guidelines.

EXTENT OF STUDY AREA:

The study area is ¼ mile around Project facilities, roads, trails, recreation facilities, bypass and peaking reaches to document the known occurrences of special-status wildlife species and USDA-FS land allocations. Refer to the Existing Project Facilities, Roads, Trails, and Recreation Facilities Table.

The study area will be expanded to include ¼ mile around potential Project betterment construction, staging and disposal sites Refer to the Potential Project Betterment Facilities Table (to be available at a later date).

Species-specific survey areas are identified below.

STUDY APPROACH:

A special-status wildlife species is defined as any species that is granted status by a federal, state, or local agency. Federally listed species granted status by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) include threatened (FT), endangered (FE), proposed threatened or endangered (FPT, FPE), candidate (FC), or listed species proposed for delisting (FPD). USDA-FS maintains lists of Forest Service Sensitive (FSS) wildlife species, and National Forest

Management Indicator Species (MIS) for each forest. State of California listed wildlife species, which are granted status by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), include threatened (ST), endangered (SE), California Fully Protected species (CFP), and California Species of Special Concern (CSC).

The study approach for special-status wildlife species and their habitats is provided below.

Special-status Wildlife Species

- Identify and map known occurrences of special-status wildlife species within ¼ mile of Project facilities, roads, trails, recreation facilities, bypass and peaking reaches, and potential Project betterments, based on agency consultation and a review of existing information. Preliminary information is presented in the *Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2079) Draft Existing Resource Information Report, First Series* (PCWA 2006).
- Identify special-status wildlife species potentially occurring within CWHR designations based on *A Guide to Wildlife Habitats of California* (Meyer and Laudenslayer 1988). Preliminary information is presented in the *Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2079) Draft Existing Resource Information Report, First Series* (PCWA 2006).
- Identify and map the location of Project communication and power lines and determine if they are consistent with APLIC Guidelines.
- Osprey
 - Conduct osprey nest surveys along Project reservoirs, the Middle Fork American River and the Rubicon River in conjunction with bald eagle surveys. Document osprey detections during the nesting survey. Refer to the Bald Eagle Technical Study for the survey methodology.
 - Develop a Geographic Information System (GIS) map of osprey occurrences and nests and overlay information on Project facilities, roads, trails, recreation facilities, bypass and peaking reaches.
 - Overlay osprey GIS information and potential Project betterment construction, staging and disposal sites, and new inundation areas.
- Northern Goshawk
 - Obtain USDA-FS GIS data layers of northern goshawk land allocations (i.e., protected activity centers (PACs)) and detections in the study area.
 - Determine if Project operations and maintenance activities are consistent with USDA-FS land allocation desired conditions.
 - Develop a GIS map of northern goshawk land allocations and known occurrences and overlay information on Project facilities, roads, trails, recreation facilities.
 - Overlay northern goshawk GIS information on potential Project betterment construction, staging and disposal sites, and new inundation areas.

- California Spotted Owl
 - Obtain USDA-FS GIS data layers of California spotted owl land allocations (i.e., PACs and Home Range Core Areas (HRCAs)) and detections in the study area.
 - Determine if Project operations and maintenance activities are consistent with USDA-FS land allocation desired conditions.
 - Develop a GIS map of California spotted owl land allocations and known occurrences and overlay information on Project facilities, roads, trails, and recreation facilities.
 - Overlay California spotted owl GIS information on potential Project betterment construction, staging and disposal sites, and new inundation areas.
- Willow Flycatcher
 - Obtain USDA-FS data layers documenting potential willow flycatcher nesting habitat, including riparian habitats and wet meadows in the study area.
 - Develop a GIS map of potential willow flycatcher nesting habitat and overlay information on Project facilities, roads, trails, recreation facilities, bypass and peaking reaches.
 - Overlay willow flycatcher GIS information on potential Project betterment construction, staging and disposal sites, and new inundation areas.
- Mesocarnivores
 - Obtain a GIS map of USDA-FS land allocations (forest carnivore den sites) and detections of American marten and Pacific fisher in the study area.
 - Develop GIS map of USDA-FS mesocarnivore land allocations and known occurrences and overlay information on Project facilities, roads, trails, recreation facilities
 - Overlay mesocarnivore GIS information on potential Project betterment construction, staging, and disposal sites, and new inundation areas.

SCHEDULE:

To be developed in early 2007.

REFERENCES:

Mayer, K.E. and W.F. Laudenslayer. 1988. A Guide to Wildlife Habitats of California. State of California, Department of Fish and Game. Sacramento, CA.

Placer County Water Agency (PCWA). 2006. Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2079) Draft Existing Resource Information Report, First Series. June 2006.