Forest-wide Restoration on the Eldorado National Forest

Initial Study/Negative Declaration

2019039126

March 2019

State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation,
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

Forest-wide Restoration on the Eldorado National Forest Initial Study/Negative Declaration

March 2019

Prepared for:

State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

1725 23rd Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 324-4442
www.ohv.parks.ca.gov

Prepared by:

MIG | TRA
2635 N. First Street, Suite 149
San Jose, CA 95134
(650) 327-0429
(650) 327-4024 Fax
www.migcom.com

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project: Forest-wide Restoration on the Eldorado National Forest

Project Sponsor: Eldorado National Forest

Lead Agency: California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division

Availability of Documents: The Initial Study for this Negative Declaration is available for review at:

Eldorado National Forest
100 Forni Road
Placerville, CA 95667-5310
Contact: Michelle Zuro-Kreimer, Project Coordinator
Phone: (530) 622-5061

Contact: Matt Whamond
CDPR, OHMVR Division
1725 23rd Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 322-2651
matt.whamond@parks.ca.gov

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The OHMVR Division proposes to award grant funds to the Eldorado National Forest for the Forest-wide Restoration Project. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Eldorado National Forest plans to restore approximately 23.5 acres (6.35 miles) of non-system trails and other areas disturbed by OHV use in four ranger districts (Amador, Georgetown, Pacific, and Placerville) in El Dorado County, California. The restoration work would take place in five different locations in the four ranger districts. Activities proposed include obliterating and restoring abandoned trail corridors, installing gates and/or barrier rocks, mulching, planting, and monitoring.

PROPOSED FINDING

The OHMVR Division has reviewed the Initial Study and determined there is no substantial evidence that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. No changes to the project plans or mitigation measures are required. Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines sections 15064(f)(3) and 15070(a), a Negative Declaration has been prepared for consideration as the appropriate CEQA document for the project.

BASIS OF FINDING

Based on the environmental evaluation presented in the attached Initial Study, the project would not cause significant adverse effects related to aesthetics, agriculture and forestry, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology/soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities/service systems, and wildfire. The project does not have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment or substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal. The project would neither affect any important examples of the major periods of California prehistory or history, nor would it have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. In addition, substantial adverse effects on humans, either direct or indirect, would not occur.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS AND CUSTODIAN OF DOCUMENTS

The record, upon which all findings and determinations related to the approval of the project are based, includes the following:

1. The Negative Declaration and all documents referenced in or relied upon by the Negative Declaration.
2. All information (including written evidence and testimony) provided by OHMVR Division staff to the decision maker(s) relating to the Negative Declaration, the approvals, and the project.
3. All information (including written evidence and testimony) presented to the OHMVR Division by the environmental consultant who prepared the Negative Declaration or incorporated into reports presented to the OHMVR Division.
4. All information (including written evidence and testimony) presented to the OHMVR Division from other public agencies and members of the public related to the project or the Negative Declaration.
5. All applications, letters, testimony, and presentations relating to the project.
6. All other documents composing the record pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21167.6(e).

The OHMVR Division is the custodian of the documents and other materials that constitute the record of the proceedings upon which the OHMVR Division's decisions are based. The contact for this material is:

Matt Whamond
CDPR, OHMVR Division
1725 23rd Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 322-2651
matt.whamond@parks.ca.gov

Pursuant to section 21082.1 of CEQA, the OHMVR Division has independently reviewed and analyzed the IS/ND for the proposed project and finds these documents reflect the independent judgment of the OHMVR Division.

Forest-wide Restoration in the Eldorado National Forest
Initial Study/Negative Declaration

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLES

FIGURES

APPENDICES

Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

The California Department of Parks and Recreation, Off-highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division proposes to award grant funds to the Eldorado National Forest for restoration projects in four ranger districts (Amador, Georgetown, Pacific, and Placerville). The OHMVR Division proposes funding the G17 Forest-wide Restoration Project using off-highway vehicle (OHV) grant funds via the Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program. This project is considered a project subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Public Resources Code [PRC] § 21000 et seq.).

The Eldorado National Forest completed five NEPA documents that address the restoration projects in the four ranger districts. These are identified in Tables 1 to 5 below (note there are two restoration projects in the Placerville Ranger District). The NEPA documents evaluate the potential for environmental impacts on federally significant biological resources, cultural resources, soils and water, and cumulative impacts. A summary of the NEPA analysis for these issues is also contained in Tables 1 to 5. The NEPA documents all conclude that the projects are consistent with governing federal regulations, and with implementation of design criteria and best management practices (BMPs), the projects would not result in significant impacts on the environment.

In addition to the NEPA documents, the Eldorado National Forest provided supplemental information regarding potential impacts to California special-status species, state designated scenic highways, and whether the sites contain any hazardous material sites that are listed by the California Department of Toxic Substance Control. Implementation of restoration activities at the five project sites would not affect state scenic highways, and none contain hazardous material sites. Some projects have the potential to impact California species of special concern; however, use of Design Criteria and BMPs incorporated into the projects would reduce impacts on both federal sensitive species and California special-status species to less than significant. The analysis of these issues is provided in the Initial Study Checklist below to complete the CEQA documentation.

CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR §15000 et seq.) establish the OHMVR Division as the lead agency. The lead agency is defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15367 as "the public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project." The lead agency decides whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Negative Declaration is required for the project and is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental review document.

According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a public agency shall prepare a proposed Negative Declaration or a Mitigated Negative Declaration when:

1. The Initial Study shows that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, or
2. The Initial Study identifies potentially significant effects, but:

   – Revisions in the project plans made before a proposed Negative Declaration and Initial Study are released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, and

   – There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.

Pursuant to Section 15070, the OHMVR Division has determined a Negative Declaration is the appropriate environmental review document for the Eldorado NF Forest-wide Restoration projects.

1.2 LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

The OHMVR Division is providing funding for the project and is the CEQA lead agency. Questions or comments regarding this IS/ND or the project should be submitted to the contact person for the lead agency:

Contact: Mr. Matt Whamond
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
1725 23rd Street, Suite 200, Sacramento CA 95816
(916) 322-2651
matt.whamond@parks.ca.gov

1.3 REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS

The restoration projects all take place on national forest land and all have been approved by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). No other permits or approvals are required for this project.

Chapter 2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROJECT LOCATION AND SITE DESCRIPTION

The USFS, Eldorado National Forest plans to restore approximately 23.5 acres (6.35 miles) of non-system trails and other areas disturbed by OHV use in four ranger districts (Amador, Georgetown, Pacific, and Placerville) in El Dorado County and Alpine County, California (Figures 1 and 2). The restoration work would take place in five different locations in the four ranger districts. Activities proposed include obliterating and restoring abandoned trail corridors, installing gates and/or barrier rocks, mulching, planting, and monitoring.

2.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the restoration project are to respond to resource impacts from OHV use of illegal trails and other areas disturbed by OHV use being too close to sensitive areas, and to reduce the proliferation of non-system trails within the Eldorado National Forest.

2.3 PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

As stated above there are five separate restoration areas in four Ranger Districts that comprise the overall project. Each of the restoration areas involve restoring one to several specific sites. Due to this complexity, the descriptions for each of the five project areas are summarized in Tables 1 to 5. The construction schedules, timing, and equipment used for each project are described below in Section 1.7, and the Design Criteria Incorporated into the Restoration Projects are discussed in Section 4 and contained in Appendix A. Representative Photos of the Restoration Projects are in Appendix B.

2.4 CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE AND EQUIPMENT

The Eldorado National Forest plans to begin implementation of the five restoration projects (weather/soil conditions permitting) in spring 2019 and complete by end of fall 2019. The work period, timing, and equipment needed for each project are listed below. Note that the hours listed for each piece of equipment for each project is the total for all work needed to complete the specific project.

Amador Ranger District
Work period: April 2019 – September 2019
Timing: Monday – Friday 8:00 – 17:30
Equipment Used:
SWECO – 100 hours
Trucks – 500 hours
Power Carrier- 100 hours
Motorcycles – 200 hours
ATVs – 200 hours

Georgetown

Work period: April 2019 - October 2019
Timing: Monday – Friday 8:00 – 17:30
Equipment used:
Dump trucks: 10 hours
Backhoe: 15 hours
Medium size Excavator - 15 hours
Sutter 500 Trail Tractor - 16 hours
Trucks - 20 hours
Chainsaws - 6 hours

Pacific Ranger District – John Don't
Work period: June 15 to July 15, 2019

Timing: Monday – Friday 8:00 – 17:30
Equipment Used: Excavator with transport - 80 hours
Utility bed truck - 80 Hours
Dump truck - 24 hours
Stake bed 1-ton truck - 40 hours

Placerville Ranger District – Cody Meadow
Work period: April 2019 – October 2019
Timing: Monday – Friday 8:00 – 17:30
Equipment Used: Excavator with transport - 115 hours
Utility bed truck - 120 Hours
Dump truck - 32 hours
Stakeside 1-ton truck - 40 hours

Placerville Ranger District – Elkins Flat
Work period: April 2019 – October 2019
Timing: Monday – Friday 8:00 – 17:30
Equipment Used: Excavator with transport - 110 hours
Utility bed truck - 120 Hours
Dump truck - 32 hours
Stakeside 1-ton truck - 40 hours

2.5 USFS DESIGN CRITERIA INCORPORATED INTO ALL PROJECTS

The USFS requires the incorporation of design criteria for all projects, as applicable. Use of these measures help reduce and/or avoid potential impacts on watershed resources (soils and hydrology), cultural resources, vegetation, wildlife, and scenic resources. The list of design criteria for each of the five specific restoration areas are contained in Appendix A.

Table 1. Amador Ranger District – Restoration Activities				
Project Area	**Restoration Activities**	**Acres**	**Miles**	**NEPA Coverage**
Near 19E01	Obliterate and restore abandoned trail corridor, plant native vegetation, and apply mulch to the project area. Additionally, design, purchase materials, and install 2 Deer Valley/Meadow Lakes interpretive trailhead signs describing the restoration activities and informing OHV users of the sensitivity of the area.			**EA for Deer Valley 4WD Trail Meadow Restoration:** Biological Resources. Direct effects (disturbance, injury, and mortality) to Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged frog (SNYLF) and Yosemite toad could occur during project implementation. To reduce the risk of disturbing or crushing any Yosemite toad or SNYLF, qualified USFS personnel will survey the area just prior to starting the work and remain on-site during implementation of the restorative and maintenance actions. No other threatened or endangered wildlife species would be affected. Surveys completed by USFS found no populations of sensitive plants in the project area. The project would provide long-term benefits to wetland habitat both in, and downstream of, the project area. The project would have minimal risk of negative effects to aquatic habitats due to the application of USFS standards and guidelines and BMPs. Soil. The project would repair eroded soils through planting vegetation and/or sod plugs in disturbed areas. Hydrology. The project is intended to improve hydrological conditions along Blue Lakes/Meadow Lake Road by repairing damaged areas thus preventing the drying out of meadows and promoting growth of vegetation that is typical of wet meadows. Any Cultural Resources found in the project area will be avoided during project implementation.
	Total	1.2	**NA**	

Table 2. Georgetown Ranger District - Restoration Activities				
Project Area	**Restoration Activities**	**Acres**	**Miles**	**NEPA Coverage**
23	Install gate with barrier rocks on 12N07 at the 12N70 junction (main access point for Route 23 and 24); sign.	0.31	NA	**Georgetown Decision Memo on Categorical Exclusion:** Biological Resources. This project would not impact wetlands. It would have no effect on federally threatened, endangered, or

Table 2. Georgetown Ranger District - Restoration Activities				
Project Area	**Restoration Activities**	**Acres**	**Miles**	**NEPA Coverage**
24	Install gate with barrier rocks	NA		proposed species or California Special Status Species. No effect on candidate species. This project supports habitat for threatened and endangered species (California red-legged frog). Biological Evaluation/Biological Assessments for aquatic species considered the effects to the species and determined there would be no effect on the California red-legged frog or its critical habitat. A 300-foot buffer from suitable breeding and non-breeding aquatic habitat for threatened and endangered species amphibian species will exclude ground disturbing activities and stream channel alterations which will protect the species and habitat. Soils and Hydrology. Some project activities may take place in areas of erodible soils and/or steep slopes. Any ground disturbance occurring within these areas would be for restoring these areas to a more sustainable condition. Water diversion features would be constructed, where necessary, to reduce erosion and sedimentation. Bare soil would be covered with leaf litter and woody debris or weed-free straw to reduce erosion. Ground disturbance would not occur in areas too steep to stabilize the soil using those methods. Cultural Resources A Cultural Resources Management Report was completed for the project. This project will not impact cultural resources. If any cultural resources are found, all work would cease until activities are approved by the District Archeologist. According to the CEQA supplement There are no state scenic highways in the project area, so none will be affected. There are no known hazardous materials sites in the project area. There are no cumulative or indirect impacts associated with the restoration project.
32	Install gate with barrier rocks on 12NY24 at the 11E43 junction (main access point for Route 32 and 33), sign.	0.37	0.2	
33	Install gate with barrier rocks	NA		
59	Recontour, fix ruts, water bar, cover with jute netting or leaf litter/woody debris, and replant on the section from 11E49 to 12N60. Install barrier rocks to block all motorized traffic on the decommissioned 11E49 trail segment at the 12N60 junction and at the 12N60 junction to block motorized vehicle >50" in width, sign.	1.18	0.7	
60	Install gate with barrier rocks on 12N60H at the ELD-60 junction (main access point for Route 60), sign.	NA		
105	Recontour, fix ruts, rip soil, cover with jute or natural materials, block both sides with fence or slash, sign.	0.49	0.3	
BH-10	Block with slash.	0.05	NA	
BH-11	Rip, block and disguise with brush.	0.15	0.1	
BH-12	Rip, block with barrier rock.	0.03	NA	
NSR1280-B	Expand existing fence by 10 ft.	0.34	0.2	
NSR1280-D	Install barrier rocks, leave turnout.	1.36	0.8	
NST1	Fix ruts, recontour, block with fence on both sides of 12N81,	1.02	0.6	

Table 2. Georgetown Ranger District - Restoration Activities				
Project Area	**Restoration Activities**	**Acres**	**Miles**	**NEPA Coverage**
	sign, patrol.			
	Total	5.3	2.9	

Table 3. Pacific Ranger District – Restoration Activities				
Project Area	**Restoration Activities**	**Acres**	**Miles**	**NEPA Coverage**
11NY27	Decommission and restore approximately 0.3 miles of route 11NY27 where it intersects a meadow using heavy equipment and hand tools	0.5	0.3	**Decision Memo on John Don't Unauthorized Route Restoration Categorical Exclusion:** Biological Resources*. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive botanical species are known to occur in the project area. The only animal species that has potential to occur in the project area is the SNYLF. However, surveys for the species did not detect any SNYLF. Therefore, with adherence to design criteria and the confinement of all work to the existing road prism, the potential for impacts are less than significant. Soils. All mechanical disturbed soil would have soil cover and erosion control methods applied as necessary. Hydrology. No floodplains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds would be adversely impacted by the project and project activities are designed to restore watershed function. Cross-drains and outlet features would be installed on any restoration site that requires it. A cultural resources report was prepared for the project (R2013-0503-50005) and the protection measures described within the report would prevent impacts to cultural resources. There are no American Indian religious or cultural sites within the project area. *Note the biological resource assessment included a search of the California Natural Diversity Data Base, which resulted in the inclusion of California species of special concern listed in the impact analysis.
11NY27A	Decommission and restore approximately 0.2 miles of USFS Road 11NY27A where it intersects a meadow.	0.44	0.2	
11N37	Install boulders where the 11N37 road crosses Silver Creek in section 33, T12N R15E to prevent vehicle travel from leaving the Forest System Road.	.01	NA	
12N25	Decommission and restore approximately 0.2 miles of route 12N25. The unauthorized OHV route leading from the terminus of 12N25 Road to Lower Silver Creek would also be restored and barricades installed.	0.21	0.2	
Non-System Route Near 12N25B	Restore and barricade approximately 0.2 miles of a non-system route near USFS Road 12N25B impacting a wetland to prevent future	0.35	0.2	

Table 3. Pacific Ranger District – Restoration Activities				
Project Area	**Restoration Activities**	**Acres**	**Miles**	**NEPA Coverage**
	incursions.			
Non-System Route Near 12N25B-02	Restore and barricade approximately 0.2 miles of a non-system route at USFS Road 12N25B to prevent OHV impacts to sensitive granitic soil and Silver Creek.	0.34	0.2	
Non-System Route Near 12N99C	Restore and barricade approximately 0.15 miles of a non-system route near USFS Road 12N99C to prevent further OHV related resource damage and impacts to Silver Creek.	0.30	0.15	
13N24A	Decommission and restore approximately 0.2 miles of 13N24A to prevent further OHV related resource damage.	0.48	0.2	
14N34E	Parking for dispersed recreation sites in section 11, T13N R14E and in section 34 T14N R13E off the 14N34 road would be defined with boulders and /or trees to prevent Off Highway Vehicle travel into wetlands and other sensitive areas adjacent to the dispersed use site.	0.34	NA	
	Total	2.97	1.25	

Table 4. Placerville Ranger District – Cody Meadow Restoration Activities			
Project	**Restoration Activities**	**Acres**	**NEPA Coverage**

Area			
Off of 10N04	Remove and/or rehabilitate a total of approximately 2.6 miles of non-system routes and trails surrounding Cody Meadow. Removal of non-system routes and trails would include removal of one culvert, re-contouring the road/trail surface and the ground adjacent to the road/trail to blend in with the surrounding terrain, ripping selected compacted areas, and planting vegetation. Rehabilitation of routes and trails is similar to removal but would not include re-contouring. This would be used where most appropriate to minimize ground disturbance.		**Cody Meadow Restoration Project EA:** Biological Resources. In the short-term, some meadow vegetation would be destroyed or damaged from ground-disturbing activities. However, re-vegetation of destroyed or damaged meadow vegetation would occur where feasible by using top soil, root wads, and other vegetative material that can be salvaged. In the long-term, the abundance and aerial extent of meadow vegetation are expected to increase as a result of a water table that will be available through the summer growing season. There will be no effect to the only known sensitive plant occurrence in the project area, *Lewisia kelloggii* (LEKE #19). The primary reason is that the areas where the plant occurs or may occur would be marked for avoidance before the implementation of the project. The Biological Evaluation for Terrestrial Wildlife (Yasuda 2015) determined that the project would have no effect on the federally listed proposed, threatened, endangered, or Region 5 sensitive species. Soils. Short-term effects to soils would occur. These effects include removal of soil cover, which in turn increases the risk of erosion. BMPs would be implemented to stabilize the soil during and shortly after restoration activities. In the long-term, soil quality would improve on approximately 26 acres. Hydrology. The Cody Meadow Restoration Project would result in a number of temporary effects to Cody Meadow and Cody Creek, which include: □ Ground disturbance within a 16.2-acre area in and adjacent to the southern portion of the meadow. □ An increase in the amount of sediment delivered to the segment of Cody Creek in Cody Meadow, which would result in increases in the turbidity of the segment of Cody Creek in Cody Meadow. □ A reduction in the amount of wetland/riparian vegetation in the southern portion of the meadow.

			In the long-term, the condition of the southern portion of Cody Meadow is expected to improve to the point of being hydrologically functional such that it would be rated as in Proper Functioning Condition. This means that the southern portion of the meadow should become wetter and stay wetter for a longer period of time in the summer and early fall. This in turn should result in an increase in the abundance of riparian/wetland vegetation. In addition, active erosional features will no longer exist. Cultural Resources. There are three cultural resources within the area of potential effect (APE) and immediate vicinity of the project. Of these, one is prehistoric and two are historic. There are two at risk resources within the APE - one is prehistoric and one is historic. These resources are at risk from project activities including: rehabilitation/obliteration of road surfaces; the excavation of material from borrow ponds for the construction of plugs; and the alteration of drainage/erosion patterns within the meadow. These resources would be protected from adverse effect through application of Standard Resource Protection Measures during all phases of this project (Klemic, R2013050360017).
	Total	5.21 Acres	

Table 5. Placerville Ranger District – Elkins Flat Restoration Activities

Project Area	Restoration Activities	Acres	Miles	NEPA Coverage
1	• Install barrier rock and large woody material at the entrance of the 9N55A spur road (non-designated route) • Decompact soil with a small bulldozer blade or ripping shanks	3.74		**Elkins Flat Environmental Assessment**: Biological Resources* There are no anticipated adverse impacts to habitat or disturbance to nesting, denning or roosting species; there would be no indirect or direct effects from the Elkins Flat Project to USFS sensitive wildlife species. Project activities would remove some potential habitat for Pleasant Valley mariposa lily and yellow

Table 5. Placerville Ranger District – Elkins Flat Restoration Activities

Project Area	Restoration Activities	Acres	Miles	NEPA Coverage
	• Scatter native material and weed free straw on top of scarified soil • Place straw wattles adjacent to 9N55A spur road • Plant with upland native species of forbs, grasses, trees, and shrubs			bur navarretia, but potential habitat is currently marginal due to the high levels of disturbance from currently unmanaged OHV activity. The only California Special Status Species not addressed in the federal biological impact analysis was the felt-leaved violet (*Viola tomentosa*). With the implementation of USFS standard management requirements, impacts on the violet would be less than significant. Soils. There would be less than significant impacts on soils because decompaction and erosion control BMPs will be implemented as directed by watershed staff who will be on the project site at the time of implementation. Hydrology. Restoration activities are expected to reduce the amount of runoff from the project area into Middle Dry Creek and the ephemeral stream. The restoration activities include the scarification and re-vegetation areas of denuded and compacted areas that are producing the accelerated runoff. No cultural or historic properties would be affected by implementation of this project as there are no historic properties located within the project area. *A supplemental CEQA analysis was conducted as part of this EA (see Appendix C of the EA).
2	• Install additional barrier rocks adjacent to those that already exist at the southern end of the area • Decompact soil with a small bulldozer blade or ripping shanks • Scatter native material and weed free straw on top of scarified soil • Place straw wattles within the 9N55A spur road decompacted roadbed • Recontour 9N55A spur road with a small dozer or excavator • Install rolling dips along the length of the 9N55A spur road north of the intersection with Middle Dry Creek • Plant with upland native species of forbs, grasses, trees, and shrubs	1.70		
3	• Install barrier rock and fence along Trail 14E25 and the 9N55 Road • Decompact soil with a small bulldozer blade or ripping shanks	2.74		

Table 5. Placerville Ranger District – Elkins Flat Restoration Activities				
Project Area	**Restoration Activities**	**Acres**	**Miles**	**NEPA Coverage**
	• Scatter native material and weed free straw on top of scarified soil • Install straw wattles north of the Polygon 3 • Plant with upland native species of forbs, grasses, trees, and shrubs. Native riparian species will also be planted within 50 meters of the ephemeral stream to the east of polygon 3.			
4	• Chip and scatter existing brush pile within polygon • Plant with upland native species of forbs, grasses, trees, and shrubs	0.10		
5	• Install barrier rock along Trail 14E25 and the 9N55 Road • Scatter native material and weed free straw on top of scarified soil • Install interpretive signage describing the restoration project	0.60		
	Total	8.88	NA	

Figure 1. Project Site in the Placerville, Pacific, and Amador Ranger Districts

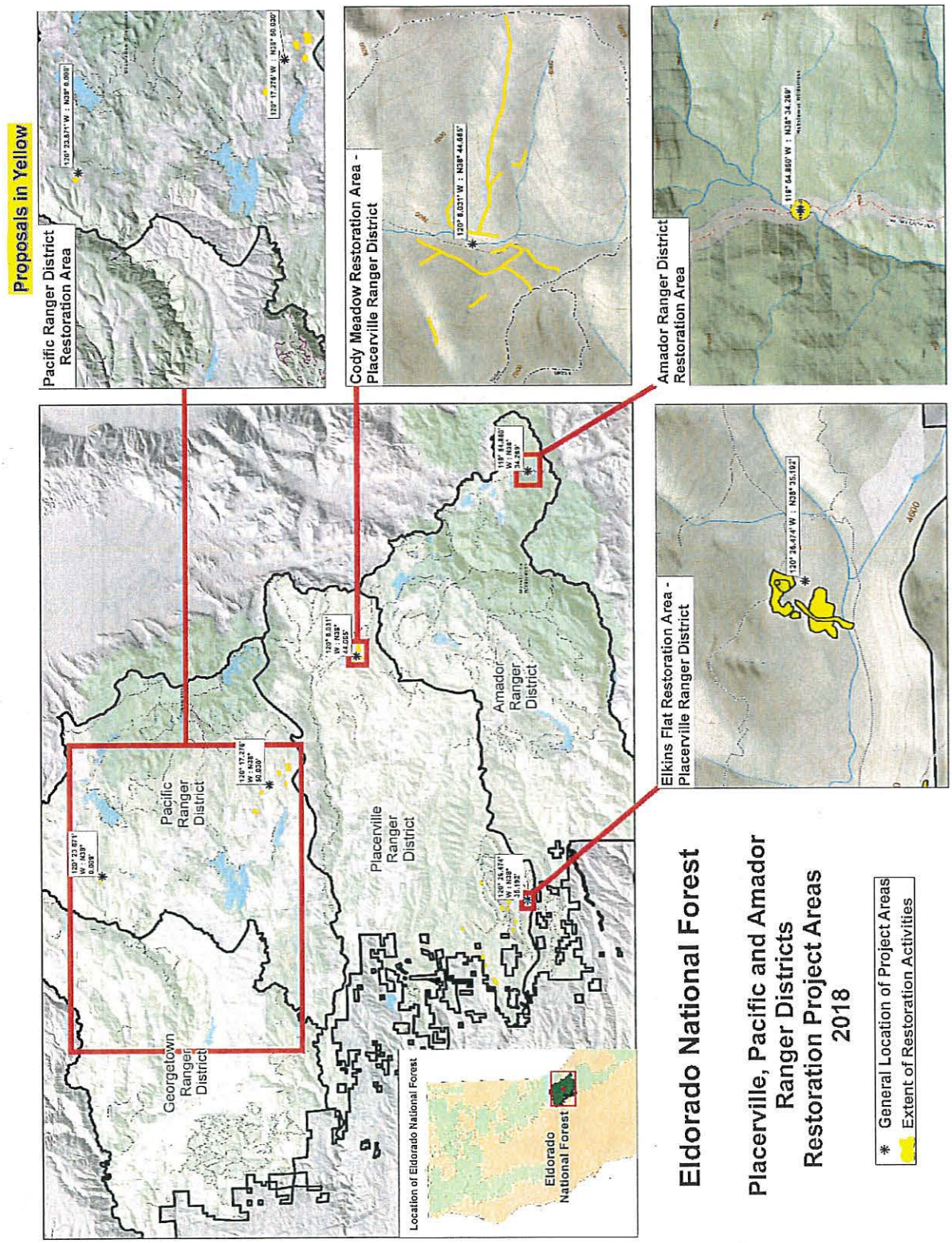
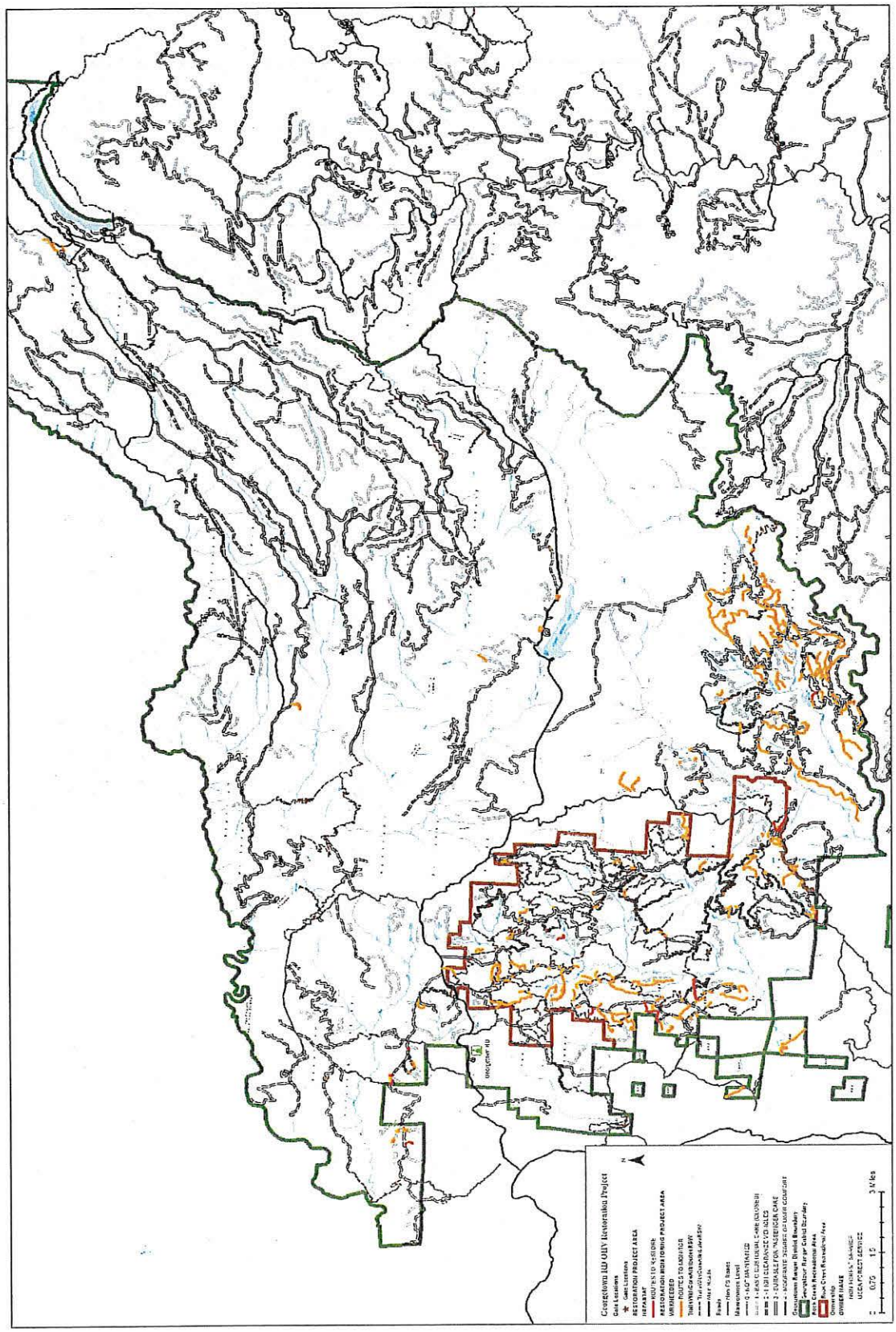


Figure 2. Project Sites in the Georgetown Ranger District



Chapter 3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND RESPONSES

PROJECT INFORMATION

1. **Project Title:** Forest-wide Restoration, Eldorado National Forest
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** CDPR, OHMVR Division
   1725 23rd Street, Suite 200
   Sacramento, CA 95816
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Matt Whamond, Grant Administrator
   Matt.Whamond@parks.ca.gov 916-322-2651
4. **Project Location:** El Dorado National Forest, Eldorado County
   Placer County
5. **Project Assessor's Parcel Number:** NA
6. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** Michelle Zuro-Kreimer, Project Coordinator
   Eldorado National Forest
   100 Forni Road
   Placerville, CA 95667-5310
7. **General Plan Designation:** As a National Forest, the property is owned by the federal government; therefore, any general plan designations assigned by the local land use authority do not apply.
8. **Zoning:** NA
9. **Description of the Project:** See Chapter 2 Project Description
10. **Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:** The project would take place in a National Forest, which comprises forested vegetation with a system of access and recreational roadways throughout the forest.
11. **Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, has consultation begun?** OHMVR Division Associate State Archeologist Jay Baker sent a consultation notification letter to the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria, which was the only tribe in the area that has requested to be notified for consultation. No response was received, and the consultation was determined to be complete (J. Baker, pers. comm.).
12. **Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required:** None

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐	Aesthetics	☐	Hazards and Hazardous Materials	☐	Transportation
☐	Agriculture and Forestry Resources	☐	Hydrology/Water Quality	☐	Tribal Cultural Resources
☐	Air Quality	☐	Land Use/Planning	☐	Utilities/Service Systems
☐	Biological Resources	☐	Mineral Resources	☐	Wildfire
☐	Cultural Resources	☐	Noise	☐	Mandatory Findings of Significance
☐	Energy	☐	Population/Housing	☒	None
☐	Geology/Soils	☐	Public Services		
☐	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐	Recreation		

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there would not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division — Date: 3-19-19

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in 5. below, may be cross-referenced).
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration (Section 15063(c)(3)(D)). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
   a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
   b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
   c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. Supporting Information Sources. A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. Explanation(s) of each issue should identify:
   a) The criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate the significance of the impact addressed by each question; and
   b) The mitigation measures, if any, prescribed to reduce the impact below the level of significance

3.1 AESTHETICS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.1.1 Environmental Setting

The vegetation of the Eldorado National Forest is consistent with that of the lower montane forest habitat zone. It is dominated by montane hardwood, montane hardwood-conifer, Douglas fir, and ponderosa pine trees. Habitat in the immediate project area consists of intact forest habitat and disturbed roadbeds.

3.1.2 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

No Impact. No project related work would result in damage to scenic vistas. The project involves restoring illegal trails and other areas damaged by past OHV use, and all work would take place within existing OHV road and trail networks.

b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

No Impact. There are no scenic highways near the project sites. Therefore, there would be no impact on scenic resources, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings within the viewshed of a scenic highway (Caltrans 2018).

c. In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings?

No Impact. The visual character of the project areas would not significantly change due to implementation of the restoration projects. Restoration of damaged land would improve the visual character at each project site. The forested character of the area would not change.

d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

No Impact. The restoration projects would not create new sources of substantial light or glare affecting day or nighttime views in the area as no exterior lighting, reflective surfaces, or nighttime construction is proposed.

3.2 AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:*				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g)).	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
*In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.				

3.2.1 Environmental Setting

All restoration sites are located in the Eldorado National Forest on forested land. No farmland occurs in the area.

3.2.2 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. **Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?**

b. **Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?**

c. **Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public**

Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. (Responses a – e) The individual restoration projects are all located on USFS land in mountainous areas of the Eldorado National Forest and within an established OHV trail network. There is no farmland within or near the project areas. The project areas do not contain any farmland, any lands under Williamson Act contracts, or any Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as defined by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.

Although the project sites are in forested areas, no commercial timberland would be affected by the work. The projects would not cause the rezoning of forest or timberland. There would be no conversion of forest land to a non-forest use due to implementation of the projects. No commercial trees (timber resources) would be removed.

3.3 AIR QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

3.3.1 Environmental and Regulatory Setting

Air quality is a function of pollutant emissions, and topographic and meteorological influences. The physical features and atmospheric conditions of a landscape interact to affect the movement and dispersion of pollutants and determine its air quality.

Federal, state, and local governments control air quality through the implementation of laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards. The federal and state governments have established ambient air quality standards for "criteria" pollutants considered harmful to the environment and public health. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) have been established for carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), ozone (O_3), fine particulate matter (particles 2.5 microns in diameter and smaller, or $PM_{2.5}$), inhalable coarse particulate matter (particles 10 microns in diameter and smaller, or PM_{10}), and sulfur dioxide (SO_2). California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) are more stringent than the national standards for the pollutants listed above and include the following additional pollutants: hydrogen sulfide (H_2S), sulfates (SO_X), and vinyl chloride. In addition to these criteria pollutants, the federal and state governments have classified certain pollutants as hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) or toxic air contaminants (TACs), such as asbestos and diesel particulate matter (DPM). The California Air Resources Board (CARB) divides the state into air basins that share similar meteorological and topographical features. Activities proposed in the Pacific Ranger District, Georgetown Ranger District, and Placerville Ranger District are all located within the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB), and activities in the Amador Ranger District are in the Great Basin Valleys Air Basin (GBVAB).

The MCAB lies along the northern Sierra Nevada mountain range close to or contiguous with the Nevada border and covers roughly 11,000 square miles. Elevations range from a few hundred feet at the Sacramento County boundary to more than 10,000 feet above sea level at the Sierra Crest. CARB officially recognizes the MCAB as an area impacted by ozone transport from upwind air basins (17 CCR §70500). The GBVAB, which encompasses Alpine, Mono, and Inyo Counties, is located along California's eastern boundary and is generally bounded on the west by the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. Although the GBVAB generally has good air quality, small pollutant increments have a greater impact due to the airshed's configuration, which has limited dispersive capacity. Similar to the MCAB, the GBVAB has been designated by

CARB as an area impacted by pollutant transport from the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (17 CCR §70500). The El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (EDCAQMD) has jurisdiction over air quality in the portion of the MCAB where project activities would be occurring, and the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD) has jurisdiction over air quality where project activities would be occurring in the GBVAB. Both the MCAB and GBVAB are designated as areas of non-attainment for O_3 and PM10.

The EDCAQMD and GBUAPCD are special districts created by state law to enforce local, state, and federal air pollution regulations. Currently, the EDCAQMD has nine regulations containing approximately 100 rules, and the GBUAPCD has 13 regulations containing approximately 120 rules. These regulations and rules are designed to control and limit emissions from sources of air pollutants and administer state and federal air pollution control requirements.

EDCAQMD Regulation 2 - Prohibitions, Rule 223-1, *Fugitive Dust—Construction, Bulk Material Handling, Blasting, Other Earthmoving Activities and Carryout and Trackout Prevention,* limits visible emissions, vehicle speeds, and activities under sustained winds that result in visible dust emissions. The rule also requires owner/operators to submit a Fugitive Dust Control Plan to the EDCAQMD Air Pollution Control Officer prior to the start of construction activities requiring a grading permit. The proposed project does not require a grading permit and is also not expected to result in track-out onto a public road.

3.3.2 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

No Impact. The proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the regional ozone or particulate matter attainment plans. These plans include ozone and PM_{10} emissions from area-wide sources, such as roads and construction activities. They also include mobile sources, such as off-road equipment and aircraft, in emission inventories and plans for achieving attainment of air quality standards. The project would not result in new land uses, increase urban growth, or introduce new stationary sources of air pollutants into the EDCAQMD or GBUAPCD and would therefore not conflict with or obstruct an applicable air quality plan.

b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project would generate less than significant short-term construction and long-term operational emissions.

Project construction activities would consist of forestland restoration activities in the Georgetown, Placerville, Pacific, and Amador Ranger Districts. Varying pieces of off-road construction equipment (e.g., backhoes, dump trucks, excavators, etc.) would be required at the five project sites (identified in Section 2.4) to complete the necessary work.

In 2002, the EDCAQMD adopted a fuel consumption-based screening threshold for Reactive Organic Compounds (ROG) and NO_x emissions where projects with equipment (1996 engine year or newer) that, on average, consume less than 402 gallons of fuel per day are considered to have a less than significant impact.[1,2] The GBUAPCD has not developed numerical thresholds that define a "substantial increase in air pollution emissions." Thus, for the purposes of this project, the significance criteria recommended for use by the EDCAQMD, a neighboring

[1] ROG and NO_x emissions are both precursors to O_3 and are therefore regulated based on their ability to lead to the formation of O_3.

[2] Consistent with EDCAQMD guidance: "Where construction takes place over two complete quarters or more, the quarter with the highest average daily emissions must be used" (EDCAQMD 2002, Chapter 4, page 2).

air district with similar ambient air quality conditions, shall be used to determine the significance of estimated emissions in the GBUAPCD's jurisdiction. Table 6. and Table 7 summarize the equipment, runtime, and estimated fuel that would be needed to complete the restoration activities in the EDCAQMD and GBUAPCD's jurisdictions, respectively.

As shown in Table 6. and Table 7, restoration activities would require approximately 24,267 gallons of fuel in the EDCAQMD's jurisdiction and 19,410 gallons in the GBUAPCD's jurisdiction. However, the EDCAQMD threshold used for determining the significance of ROG and NO_x emissions is not based on total fuel consumption; rather, it is based on the highest average amount of fuel consumed per day. Restoration activities at the five locations would generally take place between April 2019 and October 2019, with some locations anticipating shorter times to complete the work (e.g., one month in the Pacific Ranger District - John Don't area).

Table 8 summarizes the average daily fuel consumption in the two air districts, identifies a potential worst-case quarterly consumption scenario, and compares the potential worst-case consumption rate against the EDCAQMD fuel threshold of 402 gallons per day. As shown in Table 8, fuel consumption in the EDCAQMD's and GBUAPCD's jurisdiction would be approximately 232 and 177 gallons per day, respectively; both of which are below the EDCAPCD's 402 gallon per day screening threshold.

The EDCAQMD does not require fugitive dust emissions to be quantified and permits lead agencies to assume fugitive dust emissions are less than significant if a project includes measures to prevent visible dust beyond project property lines. Given the remote location of the project sites and distance from USFS property lines, project construction activities would not result in visible dust emissions outside of the Eldorado National Forest, and therefore the construction dust emissions would not create a significant impact.

The proposed project's fuel consumption would be below the ECAQMD threshold, and fugitive dust emissions would be less than significant based on the remote regions in which restoration activities would occur. As such, emissions generated by the proposed project would be less than significant. Detailed air quality modelling data is contained in Appendix C.

Restoration activities would not result in construction or operational emissions that exceed EDCAQMD thresholds of significance. In developing its CEQA significance thresholds, the EDCAQMD considered the emission levels at which a project's individual emissions would be cumulatively considerable. The EDCAQMD considers projects that produce emissions exceeding its CEQA significance thresholds to result in individual impacts that are cumulatively considerable and significant. Since the proposed project would not individually exceed any EDCAQMD CEQA significance thresholds, the proposed project would result in less than significant cumulative air quality impacts.

Table 6. Total Fuel Consumption in EDCAQMD's Jurisdiction

Location / Equipment	Horsepower	Total Runtime (Hours)	Estimated Fuel Consumption (Gallons)[A]
Georgetown			
Dump trucks	400	10	381
Backhoe	98	15	140
Medium Excavator	163	15	233
Sutter 500 Trail Tractor	83	16	126
Trucks	325	20	619

Table 6. Total Fuel Consumption in EDCAQMD's Jurisdiction

Location / Equipment	Horsepower	Total Runtime (Hours)	Estimated Fuel Consumption (Gallons)[A]
Chainsaws	25	6	14
Gallons Subtotal			*1,513.6*
Pacific Ranger District – John Don't			
Excavator with Transport	163	80	1,242
Utility Bed Truck	350	80	2,667
Dump Truck	400	24	914
Stake Bed 1 Ton Truck	350	40	1,333
Gallons Subtotal			*6,156.2*
Placerville Ranger District – Elkins Flat			
Excavator with Transport	163	110	1,708
Utility Bed Truck	350	120	4,000
Dump Truck	400	32	1,219
Stake Bed 1 Ton Truck	350	40	1,333
Gallons Subtotal			*8,260.0*
Placerville Ranger District – Cody Meadow			
Excavator with Transport	163	115	1,785
Utility Bed Truck	350	120	4,000
Dump Truck	400	32	1,219
Stake Bed 1 Ton Truck	350	40	1,333
Gallons Subtotal			8,337.6
Gallons Total			**24,267.4**

Source: Sjostrom 2018, EDCAQMD 2002.

(A) Gallons estimated using EDCAQMD metric for fuel consumption (10.5 gallons per horsepower-hour). This metric is based on a maximum engine load at all time, which likely results in a conservative, overestimation of fuel consumption.

Table 7. Total Fuel Consumption in GBUAPCD Jurisdiction			
Location / Equipment	**Horsepower**	**Runtime**	**Estimated Fuel Consumption(A)**
Amador Ranger District			
SWECO	83	100	790.5
Trucks	350	500	16,666.7
Power Carrier	5	100	47.6
Motorcycles	50	200	952.4
ATVs	50	200	952.4
Gallons Total			***19,409.5***

Source: Sjostrom 2018, EDCAQMD 2002.
(A) Gallons estimated using EDCAQMD metric for fuel consumption (10.5 gallons per horsepower-hour).

Table 8. Average Daily Fuel Consumption in EDCAQMD and GBUAPCD Jurisdictions				
Location / Equipment	**Total Gallons(A)**	**Time Required to Complete Restoration (Months)**	**Avg Daily Fuel Consumption (Gallons)(B)**	**Worst Case Daily Fuel Consumption (Quarterly)(C)**
EDCAQMD				
Georgetown	1,513.6	11	6.3	12.5
John Don't	6,156.2	1	279.8	93.3
Elkins Flat	8,260.0	11	31.3	62.6
Cody Meadow	8,337.6	11	31.6	63.2
Total	--	--	--	*231.5*
EDCAQMD Screening Threshold	--	--	--	*402.0*
Exceeds Screening Threshold?	--	--	--	*No*
GBUAPCD				
Amador	19,409.5	10	88.2	176.5
Total	--	--	--	*176.5*
EDCAQMD Screening Threshold	--	--	--	*402.0*
Exceeds Screening Threshold?	--	--	--	*No*

Source: Sjostrom 2018, EDCAQMD 2002.
(A) Obtained from Table 6. and Table 7.
(B) Estimation assumes there would be 22 active work days per month.

(C) Worst-case daily duel consumption for a quarter reflects a doubling in average daily fuel consumption for all project areas except John Don't. Restoration activities at John Don't would only take place for one month. Therefore, the fuel consumption at John Don't has been averaged over the quarter (i.e., three months).

c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Less than Significant Impact. A sensitive receptor is generically defined as a location where human populations, especially children, seniors, and sick persons, are located where there is reasonable expectation of continuous human exposure to air pollutants. These typically include residences, hospitals, and schools. There are no sensitive receptors located at or near the project sites. The project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

No Impact. While the project will produce odors associated with construction, such as diesel fuel, motor oil, and exhaust, the odors would be temporary and intermittent and would not affect a substantial number of people due to the remoteness of the proposed work areas.

3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.4.1 Regulatory Setting

Species of Special Concern and Fish and Game Code Fully Protected Species

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) maintains lists of animal Species of Special Concern (CSSC) that serve as "watch lists." A CSSC is not subject to the take prohibitions of the California Endangered Species Act. The CSSC are species that are declining at a rate that could result in listing under the federal or state Endangered Species Acts and/or have historically occurred in low numbers and known threats to their persistence currently exist. This designation is intended to result in special consideration for these animals and to focus attention on the species to help avert the need for costly listing under federal and state endangered species laws. This designation also is intended to stimulate collection of additional information on the biology, distribution, and status of poorly known at-risk species, and focus research and management attention on them.

Four sections of the Fish and Game Code list 37 fully protected species (Fish and Game Code §§ 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515). Fully protected species may generally not be taken or possessed except for scientific research. Incidental take of species that are designated as fully protected may be authorized via development of a natural community conservation plan (NCCP; Fish and Game Code § 2800 et seq.).

California Native Plant Protection Act

The California Native Plant Protection Act (CNPPA) of 1977 preserves, protects, and enhances endangered and rare plants in California by specifically prohibiting the importation, take, possession, or sale of any native plant designated by the California Fish and Game Commission as rare or endangered, except under specific circumstances identified in the Act. Various activities are exempt from the CNPPA, although take as a result of these activities may require other authorization from CDFW under the California Fish and Game Code.

3.4.2 Environmental Setting

Would the proposed project:

a. **Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**

Less Than Significant Impact. Each NEPA document for the five projects is supported by botanical reviews and biological evaluations/biological assessments that address federal special-status wildlife or plant species, including aquatic and riparian habitat within the project areas. Some of the federal species addressed in the NEPA documents are also California special-status species. In anticipation of applying for OHMVR funds, staff at the Eldorado National Forest had each of the project sites analyzed for presence of and impact to species that are solely state special status species. A summary of the NEPA analyses is provided below for each project area. Refer to the specific NEPA evaluation for the full analysis.

Amador Ranger District: Direct effects (disturbance, injury, and mortality) to Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (SNYLF; *Rana sierrae*) and Yosemite toad (Anaxyrus canorus) could occur during project implementation. To reduce the risk of disturbing or crushing any Yosemite toad or SNYLF, qualified USFS personnel would survey the area just prior to starting the work and remain on-site during implementation of the restorative and maintenance actions. No other threatened or endangered wildlife species would be affected. Surveys completed by the USFS found no populations of sensitive plants in the project area. The project would provide long-term benefits to wetland habitat both in, and downstream of, the project area. The project would have minimal risk of negative effects to aquatic habitats due to the application of USFS standards and guidelines and BMPs.

Georgetown Ranger District: This project would not impact wetlands. It would have no effect on federally threatened, endangered, or proposed species or California special-status species, as well as candidate species. This project supports habitat for threatened and endangered species (California red-legged frog). Biological Evaluation/Biological Assessments for aquatic species considered the effects to the species and determined there would be no effect on the California red-legged frog or its critical habitat. A 300-foot buffer from suitable breeding and non-breeding aquatic habitat for TES amphibian species will exclude ground disturbing activities and stream channel alterations which will protect the species and habitat.

Pacific Ranger District: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive botanical species are known to occur in the project area. The only animal species that has potential to occur in the project area is the SNYLF. However, surveys for the species did not detect any SNYLF. Therefore, with adherence to design criteria and the confinement of all work to the existing road prism, the potential for impacts is less than significant.

Placerville Ranger District - Elkins Flat Restoration Activities: There are no anticipated adverse impacts to habitat or disturbance to nesting, denning, or roosting species. There would be no indirect or direct effects from the Elkins Flat Project to USFS sensitive wildlife species. Project activities would remove some potential habitat for Pleasant Valley mariposa lily (*Calochortus clavatus* var. *avius*) and yellow bur navarretia (*Navarretia prolifera*), but potential habitat is currently marginal due to the high levels of disturbance from currently unmanaged OHV activity. The only California special-status species not addressed in the federal biological impact analysis was the felt-leaved violet (*Viola tomentosa*). With the implementation of USFS standard management requirements, impacts on the violet would be less than significant.

Placerville Ranger District - Cody Meadow Restoration Activities: The Biological Evaluation for Terrestrial Wildlife (Yasuda 2015) determined the project would have no effect on federally listed proposed, threatened, endangered, or Region 5 sensitive species. Additionally, no California Species of Special Concern would be affected. The degree to which the proposed actions may adversely affect the SNYLF would be minor and small in scale. While Cody Meadow is considered to be occupied habitat, the likelihood of any individual SNYLF being injured or killed during construction is low due to lack of any SNYLF sightings since 2005 and the requirement for ongoing surveys to be conducted by an on-site qualified biologist prior to the commencement of work in any area. Additionally, proposed activities would employ standard practices (BMPs) and design criteria (including applicable conservation measures in the 2014 USFWS Biological Opinion). In the long-term (two years and beyond), the habitat for all aquatic species in Cody Meadow is expected to improve.

With implementation of design criteria (see Appendix A), none of the projects would impact California Species of Special Concern.

b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?

c. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Less Than Significant Impact. All five projects have been planned to avoid or minimize effects upon riparian areas and other sensitive natural communities. The project areas do not contain peatlands or fens. Riparian/wetland plant communities associated with streams, seeps, and springs, if they exist, would be protected during project implementation. Restoration activities are unlikely to result in major impacts to riparian areas, and in areas that contain riparian habitat, the restoration work would improve conditions at each of the sites.

d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

Less Than Significant Impact. The projects would not interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, nor would they interfere with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. All restoration work done would be temporary and would not add features that would obstruct wildlife movement.

e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

No Impact. The projects do not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

No Impact. There are no adopted habitat conservation plans, natural community conservation plans, or other approved local habitat related plans in effect in the project areas.

3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.5.1 Background

As discussed in Chapter 2 (Project Description), the Eldorado National Forest has already prepared a NEPA document for all five project areas. A summary of the NEPA analyses is provided below for each project area. Refer to the specific NEPA evaluation for the full analysis.

Amador Ranger District: The Cultural resources along the Deer Valley 4wd Trail and Blue Lakes/Meadow Lake Road would be avoided during project implementation. The project complies with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in accordance with provisions of the Programmatic Agreement among the USFS, Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5), the California State Historic Preservation Officer, the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding Processes for Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for Management of Historic Properties by the National Forest of the Pacific Southwest Region (Regional PA 2013). No adverse effects to historic property are expected from the project since standard management requirements would be used to protect, manage, or maintain historic properties in a manner that avoids adverse effects.

Georgetown Ranger District: A Cultural Resources Management Report was completed for the project. This project will not impact cultural resources. If any cultural resources are found, all work would cease until activities are approved by the District Archeologist.

Pacific Ranger District: A cultural resources report was prepared for the project (R2013-0503-50005) and the protection measures described within the report would prevent impacts to cultural resources. There are no American Indian religious or cultural sites within the project area.

Placerville Ranger District - Elkins Flat Restoration Activities: No cultural or historic properties would be affected by implementation of this project as there are no cultural resources historic properties located within the project area.

Placerville Ranger District - Cody Meadow Restoration Activities: There are three cultural resources within the area of potential effect (APE) and immediate vicinity of the project. Of these, one is prehistoric and two are historic. These resources would be protected from adverse effect through application of Standard Resource Protection Measures during all phases of this project (Klemic, R2013050360017).

3.5.2 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. **Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?**

b. **Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?**

No Impact. (Responses a – b) As indicated above, most project sites have no documented historic or archaeological resources. In areas where there are known sites, such sites would be avoided. Further, if any undiscovered resources are found during project activities, all work would cease until the resource is evaluated by a USFS archaeologist.

c. **Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?**

No Impact. Although not expected, if human remains were inadvertently discovered, the Eldorado National Forest would follow the procedures as outlined in California Health and Safety Code section 7050.5. All project activities at the find site must come to a complete stop, and no further excavation or disturbance of the area or vicinity would occur. The county coroner must be contacted immediately, and if the coroner determines or has reason to believe that the remains are Native American, the coroner would contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours of making this determination. Whenever the NAHC receives notification of a discovery of Native American human remains from a county coroner, the NAHC follows the procedures as outlined in Public Resources Code section 5097.98.

The CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR §15064.5(e)) reference the appropriate state law (PRC §5097.98) that applies when human remains are accidentally discovered. This language states:

> In the event that human remains are accidently discovered, the project must come to a complete stop and no further excavation or disturbance of the area or vicinity will occur. The county coroner is to be called immediately to determine that the remains are of Native American ancestry. If the coroner confirms that the remains are Native American, within 24 hours of the discovery the coroner is to contact the [NAHC]. The NAHC will identify the person(s) believed to be the Most Likely Descendent (MLD), and the MLD will decide, along with the property owner, to appropriate treatment or disposal of the human remains and associated grave goods as provided in PRC §5097.98. If the NAHC cannot identify the MLD, the MLD fails to make a recommendation, or the property owner rejects the MLD's recommendations, the property owner can rebury the remains and associated burial goods in an area not subject to ground disturbance (14 CCR §15064.5).

Existing state Public Resources Code and Health and Safety Code ensures that the NAHC would be notified upon discovery of Native American human remains and that proper treatment measures will be implemented. This process is consistent with the USFS cultural resources Management Requirements. Therefore, with these protective state laws and USFS management requirements in place, the potential project impact on human remains is less than significant.

3.6 ENERGY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.6.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

No Impact. The USFS would use only as much equipment as necessary to complete each restoration project. Each type of equipment would operate only when needed. Once each restoration project has been completed, the equipment would be removed from the project site. Ultimately, by restoring lands, the project provides a net benefit to natural resources.

b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

No Impact. As the project is taking place on federal land, the restoration project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

3.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42).	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.7.1 Background

The potential impacts to the environment from the proposed restoration projects were analyzed and the determinations documented in the NEPA documents (Tables 1 to 5). The analyses determined there would be no significant impacts to soil resources. Additionally, all projects include specific design criteria to minimize impacts (Appendix A) that would minimize impacts from implementation of the restoration projects on geological and soil resources.

3.7.2 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

1. **Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?**
2. **Strong seismic ground shaking?**
3. **Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?**
4. **Landslides?**

No Impact. (Responses a1 – a4) The project sites are not located in an area subject to strong seismic shaking. The restoration work would not create or exacerbate any seismic-related hazards to nearby trail users if there was seismic related ground shaking.

b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less than Significant Impact. The following summarizes potential soil and erosion-related impacts associated with each restoration project.

Amador Ranger District: The purpose of the project is to repair existing disturbed ground, including areas with eroded soils. This would be achieved through planting vegetation and/or inserting sod plugs in the disturbed areas.

Georgetown Ranger District: Some project activities may take place in areas of erodible soils and/or steep slopes. Any ground disturbance occurring within these areas would be for restoring these areas to a more sustainable condition. Water diversion features would be constructed, where necessary, to reduce erosion and sedimentation. Bare soil would be covered with leaf litter and woody debris or weed-free straw to reduce erosion. Ground disturbance would not occur in areas too steep to stabilize the soil using those methods.

Pacific Ranger District: All mechanical disturbed soil would have soil cover and erosion control methods applied as necessary.

Placerville Ranger District - Elkins Flat Restoration Activities: There would be less than significant impacts on soils because decompaction and erosion control BMPs would be implemented as directed by watershed staff, who would be on the project site at the time of implementation.

Placerville Ranger District - Cody Meadow Restoration Activities: Short-term effects to soils would occur from implementing the project. These effects include removal of soil cover, which in turn increases the risk of erosion. BMPs will be implemented to stabilize the soil during and shortly after restoration activities. In the long-term, soil conditions in the project area would be improved.

These analyses determined there would be no significant adverse impacts to the soil resources. The projects are all designed to reduce existing erosion and incorporate design criteria, and BMPs will ensure all restoration activities reduce erosion potential. Additionally, as a state grant funded project, the USFS is required to follow the State's 2008 Soil Conservation Standard and Guidelines in all aspects of project implementation.

c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

No Impact. All projects are being undertaken to either close and restore illegal OHV trails or otherwise restore land damaged by OHV use. Any activities that take place on unstable geologic units or soils would be for the purpose of stabilizing the areas.

d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

No Impact. Expansive soils are not a consideration in the project areas, and none of the projects involve the construction of any habitable structures.

e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

No Impact. None of the projects propose installation of new septic tanks, nor would they create the need for a system for disposal of additional wastewater.

f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

No Impact. No project work involves excavating below just a few inches of soil to restore land damaged by past OHV use. Thus, in the event the sites have potential to support unique paleontological resources or unique geologic features, impact upon such resources would be unlikely. Other than surface restoration, the overall geologic structure of the restoration sites would not be affected.

3.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.8.1 Regulatory and Environmental Setting

Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere and affect regulation of the earth's temperature are known as "greenhouse" gases (GHG). Many chemical compounds found in the earth's atmosphere exhibit the GHG property. GHG allow sunlight to enter the atmosphere freely. When sunlight strikes the earth's surface, some of it is reflected back towards space as infrared radiation (heat). GHG absorb this infrared radiation and trap the heat in the earth's atmosphere. The six common GHG are carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and perfluorocarbons (PFCs).

GHG that contribute to climate regulation are a different type of pollutant than hazardous air pollutants because climate regulation is global in scale, both in terms of causes and effects. Some GHG are emitted to the atmosphere naturally by biological and geological processes, but GHG emissions from human activities contribute significantly to overall GHG concentrations in the atmosphere. Also, climate scientists have become increasingly concerned about the effects of these emissions on global climate change. Human (anthropogenic) production of GHGs has increased steadily since pre-industrial times, and atmospheric CO_2 concentrations have increased from a pre-industrial value of approximately 280 ppm to a global monthly mean of 407 ppm in August 2018 (NOAA 2018). The effects of increased GHG concentrations in the atmosphere include climate change (increasing temperature and shifts in precipitation patterns and amounts), reduced ice and snow cover, sea level rise, and acidification of oceans. These effects in turn impact food and water supplies, infrastructure, ecosystems, and overall public health and welfare.

GHGs can remain in the atmosphere long after they are emitted. The potential for a GHG to absorb and trap heat in the atmosphere is considered its global warming potential (GWP). The reference gas for measuring GWP is CO_2, which has a GWP of one. By comparison, CH_4 has a GWP of 28, which means that one molecule of CH_4 has 28 times the effect on global warming as one molecule of CO_2. Multiplying the estimated emissions for non-CO_2 GHGs by their GWP determines their carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e), which enables a project's combined global warming potential to be expressed in terms of mass CO_2 emissions

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is the lead agency for implementing Assembly Bill (AB) 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act adopted by the Legislature in 2006. AB 32 requires CARB to prepare a Scoping Plan containing the main strategies that will be used to achieve reductions in GHG emissions in California. In 2007, CARB approved a statewide 1990 emissions level and corresponding 2020 GHG emissions limit of 427 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents ($MTCO_2e$; CARB 2007). In 2008, CARB adopted its *Climate Change Scoping Plan*, which projects, absent regulation or under a "business as usual" (BAU) scenario, 2020 statewide GHG emissions levels of 596 million $MTCO_2e$ and identifies the numerous measures (i.e., mandatory rules and regulations and voluntary measures) that will achieve at

least 174 million $MTCO_2e$ of reductions and reduce statewide GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 (CARB 2009). In 2011, CARB released a supplement to the 2008 *Scoping Plan Functional Equivalent Document* (FED) that included an updated 2020 BAU statewide GHG emissions level projection of 507 million $MTCO_2e$ (CARB 2011), and in 2014 CARB adopted its First Update to the Climate Change Scoping Plan (CARB 2014).

Executive Order B-30-15, 2030 Carbon Target and Adaptation, issued by Governor Brown in April 2015, sets a target of reducing GHG emissions by 40 percent below 1990 levels in 2030. By directing state agencies to take measures consistent with their existing authority to reduce GHG emissions, this order establishes coherence between the 2020 and 2050 GHG reduction goals set by AB 32 and seeks to align California with the scientifically established GHG emissions levels needed to limit global warming below two degrees Celsius.

To reinforce the goals established through Executive Order B-30-15, Governor Brown went on to sign SB-32 and AB-197 on September 8, 2016. SB-32 made the GHG reduction target to reduce GHG emissions by 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 a requirement as opposed to a goal. AB-197 gives the Legislature additional authority over CARB to ensure the most successful strategies for lowering emissions are implemented and requires CARB to "protect the state's most impacted and disadvantaged communities ...[and] consider the social costs of the emissions of greenhouse gases."

On December 14, 2017, CARB adopted the second update to the Scoping Plan, the *2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan Update* (*2017 Scoping Plan Update*). The primary objective of the *2017 Scoping Plan Update* is to identify the measures needed to achieve the mid-term GHG reduction target for 2030 (i.e., reduce emissions by 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030), as established under Executive Order B-30-15 and SB 32. The *2017 Scoping Plan Update* identifies an increasing need for coordination among state, regional, and local governments to achieve the GHG emissions reductions that can be gained from local land use planning and decisions. It notes emission reduction targets set by more than one hundred local jurisdictions in the state could result in emissions reductions of up to 45 $MMTCO_2e$ and 83 $MMTCO_2e$ by 2020 and 2050, respectively. To achieve these goals, the *2017 Scoping Plan Update* includes a recommended plan-level efficiency threshold of six metric tons or less per capita by 2030 and no more than two metric tons by 2050.

3.8.2 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Less than Significant Impact. The United States Environmental Protection Agency's *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Guidance: Direct Emissions from Mobile Combustion Sources* was utilized to estimate the project's GHG emissions from fuel combustion (see Section 3.3.2 for fuel consumption derivation). The proposed project's estimated greenhouse gas emissions are shown in Table 9. Detailed air quality modelling data is contained in Appendix C.

Table 9. Project Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Jurisdiction	Gallons	Emissions (kg)			MTCO2e[D]
		CO2[A]	CH4[B]	N2O[C]	
EDCAQMD	24,267.4	247,770.5	141.2	0.04	251.7

GBUAPCD	19,409.5	198,171.2	113.0	0.03	201.3
Total	***43,677.0***	***445,941.7***	***254.2***	***0.1***	***453.1***

Source: U.S. EPA 2016

(A) 10.21 kg CO2/gal of Diesel

(B) 0.00057 kg CH4/gal of Diesel

(C) 0.00026 kg N2O/gal of Diesel

(D) Reflects IPCC 5th Assessment Report GWPs (i.e., 28 for CH4 and 265 for N2O).

Neither the EDCAQMD nor the GBUAPCD maintain numeric significance thresholds for GHG emissions; however, as a point of reference, the Bay Area AQMD considers land use projects that result in more than 1,100 $MTCO_2e$ of operational GHG emissions per year to have a significant GHG impact. The proposed project is anticipated to generate approximately 453 MTCO2e during construction activities, and there is no anticipated change to operational emissions. As such, this impact would be less than significant.

b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

No Impact. The project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for reducing GHG emissions. GHG emissions from fuel combustion in mobile sources including off-road construction equipment are identified and planned for in CARB's GHG emissions inventory and Scoping Plan, which contains measures designed to achieve the state's GHG reduction goals outlined in AB32. Moreover, the project would not contain any stationary sources that are subject to state or federal GHG permitting or reporting regulations. No impact would occur.

3.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.9.1 Environmental and Regulatory Setting

A material is considered hazardous if it appears on a list of hazardous materials prepared by a federal, state, or local agency, or if it has characteristics defined as hazardous by such an agency. Chemical and physical properties, such as toxicity, ignitability, corrosivity, and reactivity, cause a substance to be considered hazardous. These properties are defined in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Sections 66261.20-66261.24. A "hazardous waste" is any hazardous material that is discarded, abandoned, or to be recycled." The criteria that render a material hazardous also make a waste product hazardous (California Health and Safety Code § 25117). According to this definition, fuels, motor oil, and lubricants in use at a typical construction site and airborne lead built up along roadways could be considered hazardous.

According to the Eldorado National Forest's grant application, the project areas are not included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (USFS ENF 2018).

3.9.2 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. **Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?**

b. **Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?**

No Impact. (Responses a-b) The projects would not introduce new hazardous materials to the site or involve handling of hazardous wastes. The projects would not result in any new potential for upset or accident conditions creating a risk of release of hazardous materials into the environment.

c. **Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or hazardous waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?**

No Impact. The project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or hazardous waste. There are no existing or proposed schools within one-quarter mile of the project area.

d. **Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?**

No Impact. No hazardous material sites are known to occur on or near the project sites. None of the sites are on the Department of Toxic Substance Control's Hazardous Waste and Substance Site List and therefore would not pose an impact related to hazardous materials.

e. **For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?**

No Impact. None of the project sites are located within an airport land use plan area nor are any airports within two miles of the project area.

f. **Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?**

No Impact. Implementation of the restoration projects would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with the existing emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, only illegal routes would be restored.

g. **Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?**

No Impact. The project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. None of the project sites are within the urban/wildland interface; they are fully contained in a national forest. Project activities do not pose a wildland fire risk that could affect on- or offsite conditions.

3.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner that would:	☐	☐	☒	☐
i) Result in substantial on- or offsite erosion or siltation;	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or offsite;	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii) Create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.10.1 Environmental and Regulatory Setting

Most of the NEPA documents are supported by Soil and Hydrology Specialist Reports, which address impacts to soils and surface waters as a result of implementing the restoration activities. The NEPA documents include design criteria and/or BMPs designed to reduce or prevent undesirable effects. Such measures would decrease the potential for accelerated erosion and sediment entering stream channels or other waters. The NEPA documents provide the following hydrology setting information for each of the five project areas.

Amador Ranger District: The project is intended to improve hydrological conditions along Blue Lakes/Meadow Lake Road by repairing damaged areas, thus preventing the drying out of meadows and promoting growth of vegetation that is typical of wet meadows.

Georgetown Ranger District: Some project activities may take place in areas of erodible soils and/or steep slopes. Any ground disturbance occurring within these areas would be for restoring

these areas to a more sustainable condition. Water diversion features would be constructed, where necessary, to reduce erosion and sedimentation. Bare soil would be covered with leaf litter and woody debris or weed-free straw to reduce erosion. Ground disturbance would not occur in areas too steep to stabilize the soil using those methods.

Pacific Ranger District: No floodplains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds would be adversely impacted by the project, and project activities are designed to restore watershed function. Cross-drains and outlet features will be installed on any restoration site that requires it.

Placerville Ranger District - Elkins Flat Restoration Activities: Restoration activities are expected to reduce the amount of runoff from the project area into Middle Dry Creek and the ephemeral stream. The restoration activities include the scarification and re-vegetation areas of denuded and compacted areas that are producing the accelerated runoff.

Placerville Ranger District - Cody Meadow Restoration Activities: The condition of the southern portion of Cody Meadow is expected to improve to the point of being hydrologically functional such that it would be rated as in Proper Functioning Condition. This is expected to result in a number of benefits to aquatic habitat and life

3.10.2 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. **Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?**

No Impact. All restoration projects have been designed to meet the USFS standards and guidelines through the use of project management requirements, including BMPs for protecting water quality, which would protect water quality during project implementation. The projects would not create discharges or new sources of runoff. The projects would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

b. **Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?**

No Impact. None of the five restoration projects would increase water use, create a demand on groundwater supply, or otherwise interfere with groundwater volumes or recharge rates. Groundwater supplies would be unaffected by the projects.

c. **Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:**

i) Result in substantial on- or offsite erosion or siltation;

ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;

iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or

iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?

Less Than Significant Impact. The projects would not contribute runoff that would exceed storm water drainage systems or create additional sources of polluted runoff. Due to the requirement that all projects follow USFS design guidelines, all restoration projects would be designed to promote natural runoff. Therefore, the projects would not contribute runoff that

would exceed storm water drainage systems. The projects would not create additional sources of polluted runoff or otherwise degrade water quality.

d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

No Impact. None of the projects are located in an area that is subject to seiches, tsunamis, or mudflows.

e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

No Impact. None of the projects would obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or groundwater management plan because none are in effect in the project areas. All restoration projects have been designed to meet the USFS standards and guidelines through the use of project management requirements, including BMPs for Protecting Water Quality, which would protect water quality during project implementation.

3.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.11.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Physically divide an established community?

No Impact. None of the five restoration projects include components that would divide an established community. All project related activities would take place on national forest land.

b. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

No Impact. The NEPA documents found that all restoration projects are consistent with the management direction, including standards and guidelines, in the final Land and Resources Management Plan for the Eldorado National Forest. None of the proposed restoration work would change the nature of any land use within the area. The projects do not conflict with land use policy:

3.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local -general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.12.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. **Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?**

b. **Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?**

No Impact. (Responses a – b) No important mineral resources would be removed from any of the project areas, nor would the availability of any mineral resources be affected by restoration work.

3.13 NOISE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.13.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or in applicable standards of other agencies?

Less than Significant Impact. Noise levels would increase while restoration work is taking place due to the use of heavy equipment. However, for each project site, noise from heavy equipment would be generally limited to the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at any given specific restoration site for up to approximately 11 months (at most). Furthermore, there are no sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the project sites that would be affected by heavy equipment noise.

Implementation of the restoration projects would temporarily increase ambient noise levels in specific areas where work is being done. None of the project activities however, would create a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels. Furthermore, upon project completion, ambient noise would be similar, if not the same, as pre-project conditions. The project, therefore, would not result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels.

b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

No Impact. Localized ground vibrations may occur during implementation of some of the restoration projects due to the use of heavy equipment. However, ground vibrations from heavy equipment would be limited to the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at any given specific restoration site for up to approximately 11 months (at most). Furthermore, there are no sensitive receptors near project sites that would be affected by heavy equipment vibration.

c. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No Impact. None of the project areas are within two miles of a public airport or private airport or airstrip.

3.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.14.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. **Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?**

No Impact. The projects would not induce population growth because they would not generate any permanent population or housing. The projects comprise restoring unauthorized trails and other areas disturbed by OHV use and would not affect population.

b. **Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?**

No Impact. The restoration projects would not displace any housing or people as they do not involve the removal of existing housing.

3.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
i) Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
v) Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.15.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. **Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:**

1. **Fire protection?**
2. **Police protection?**
3. **Schools?**
4. **Parks?**
5. **Other public facilities?**

No Impact. i) The projects would not increase the need for fire protection services or create an adverse impact on fire protection services.

ii) The projects would not increase the need for police protection services or create an adverse impact on police protection services.

iii) The projects would not affect the number of students served by local schools, nor bring in new residents requiring the construction of additional schools.

iv) The projects would not result in an increased number of residents or visitors in the area using community parks. The project is not expected to increase visitor use within the national forest.

v) No other public facilities would be affected by the projects.

3.16 RECREATION

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.16.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. **Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?**

No Impact. The projects would not increase visitor use at the national forest such that new recreational facilities would be needed, nor would the projects cause motorized recreationists to intensify uses on other facilities. No neighborhood or regional parks are located in the vicinity of specific work sites.

b. **Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?**

No Impact. The projects would not include, nor would they facilitate any new recreational facilities or activities. The projects would not cause an expansion of OHV use within the national forest.

3.17 TRANSPORTATION

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.17.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?

b. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

No Impact. (Responses a – b) The projects involve the restoration of non-system trails and other areas damaged for OHV use in the Eldorado National Forest. There would not be an increase in vehicle trips to project areas due to implementation of the restoration projects. The projects would not alter existing circulation systems, introduce road hazards, or conflict with any circulation or congestion management plans. None of the restoration projects would conflict with adopted alternative transportation policies and would not prevent pedestrians, cyclists, or equestrians from using existing transportation corridors on which they are allowed.

c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

No Impact. Project related work would not increase hazards due to a design feature or establishment of incompatible uses.

d. Result in inadequate emergency access?

No Impact. Project related work would not affect existing traffic patterns or emergency access routes.

3.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Has a California Native American Tribe requested consultation in accordance with Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(b)?	☒ Yes		☐ No	
Would the project:				
Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resources, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe.	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.18.1 Environmental and Regulatory Setting

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 created a formal CEQA role for California Native American tribes by creating a formal consultation process and establishing that a substantial adverse change to a tribal cultural resource has a significant effect on the environment. Tribal cultural resources are defined as:

1) Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:
   A) Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR
   B) Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC section 5020.1(k)
2) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in PRC section 5024.1 (c). In applying the criteria set forth in PRC section 5024.1 (c) the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

A cultural landscape that meets the criteria above is also a tribal cultural resource to the extent that the landscape is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape. In

addition, a historical resource described in PRC section 21084.1, a unique archaeological resource as defined in PRC section 21083.2(g), or a "non-unique archaeological resource" as defined in PRC section 21083.2(h) may also be a tribal cultural resource if it conforms with above criteria.

AB 52 requires a lead agency, prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report for a project, to begin consultation with a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project if: (1) the California Native American tribe requested to the lead agency, in writing, to be informed by the lead agency through formal notification of proposed projects in the geographic area that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribe, and (2) the California Native American tribe responds, in writing, within 30 days of receipt of the formal notification, and requests the consultation. AB 52 states: "To expedite the requirements of this section, the Native American Heritage Commission shall assist the lead agency in identifying the California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area."

3.18.2 Discussion:

Would the proposed project:

Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resources, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

a) **Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?**

b) **A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe.**

No Impact. (Responses a – b) The projects comprise restoration of illegal trails and or other areas disturbed by OHV use and would not change the overall characteristics of the specific project areas. Eldorado National Forest Archaeologists prepared cultural resource reports for each project. The following summarizes the results of USFS tribal consultation for each of the five projects.

Cody Meadows Restoration Project: Cultural Report by Klemic (#R2013050360017). Report concluded there were no tribal resources present in project area.

Dear Valley 4WD Trail Meadow Restoration: Cultural Resource Management Report, Deer Valley 4wd Trail Meadow Restoration and Blue Lakes Road Maintenance Project (Miranda Gavalis, Eldorado National Forest, May 8, 2015). Report concluded there were no tribal resources present in project area.

Elkins Flat: Heritage (Cultural) Resource Report (#R2103-05-03-60002). USFS consulted with Shingle Springs Rancheria, Washoe Tribe of NV and CA, UAIC, Sierra Native American Council. Consultation concluded there would be no impacts to tribal cultural resources.

Georgetown: Cultural Resource Management Report (#R2015-05-03-30002 and R2011-0503-30006). No tribal consultation was needed since there would be no effect to cultural resources.

John Don't: Cultural Resource Management Report, Serin, 2017 (#R2013-0503-50005). Eight