

State of California

The Resources Agency

M e m o r a n d u m

To : Andrea E. Tuttle, Director
Department of Forestry
and Fire Protection

Date : September 11, 2003

R 46

Telephone : (916) 657-0300

FAX : (916) 653-8957

From : Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Subject : 5300 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Attached is a CEQA Notice of Determination for the following project:

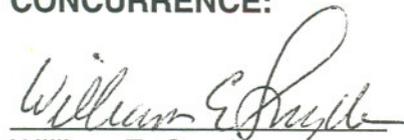
- Caspar Creek, Weir Pond Cleanout and Flume Replacement

This project, located at Jackson Demonstration State Forest, involves the draining of the Caspar Creek weir ponds, their cleanout, replacement of flumes and restoration of the creeks to their original channels. These activities, carried out in cooperation with the USFS-PSW Station, requires a incidental take permit from NMFS and a 1601 permit from DFG. Mitigations recommended by NMFS have reduced potentially significant impacts to listed fish to a less than significant level. Your original signature on this Notice of Determination is requested and, upon filing at the State Clearinhouse, conclude the environmental review for this project.



Allen S. Robertson
Deputy Chief,
Environmental Protection

Attachment

CONCURRENCE:

William E. Snyder
Deputy Director for
Resource Management

Notice of Determination

To: Office of Planning and Research
 1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
 Sacramento, Ca 95814

From: California Department of Forestry
 and Fire Protection
 P.O. Box 944246
 Sacramento, CA 944246-2460

County Clerk
 County of _____

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

Caspar Creek Weir Pond Cleanout and Flume Replacement
Project Title

<u>2003082035</u>	<u>William Baxter</u>	<u>(707) 964-5674</u>
<i>State Clearinghouse Number</i>	<i>Lead Agency</i>	<i>Telephone</i>
<i>(If submitted to Clearinghouse)</i>	<i>Contact Person</i>	

Jackson Demonstration State Forest in Mendocino County
Project Location (include county)

Project Description: Jackson Demonstration State Forest maintains sediment debris/stilling ponds as part of the long term Caspar Watershed Study. Periodically, usually within five years, these ponds require cleaning out to retain their sediment trapping efficiency and stream gauging accuracy. The weir ponds are nearing storage capacity and need to be cleaned out. This entails removing and relocating any fish in the pond, bypassing the creek flow around the pond, draining the pond, removing the sediment from the pond bottom, transporting and dumping the sediment, then restoring the creek flow to the pond site. Additionally, the flumes on the weir have been deteriorating and have been replaced as needed. This project would include replacement of the remaining flumes.

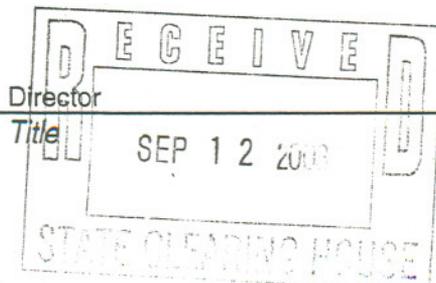
This is to advise that the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has approved the above described project on

9/11/03 Lead Agency Responsible Agency
 (Date) and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project (will will not) have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures (were were not) made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A statement of Overriding Considerations (was was not) adopted for this project.
5. Findings (were were not) made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the General Public at:

Andrea E. Tuttle 9/11/03
 Director Date



Date received for filing and posting at OPR:

State of California

The Resources Agency

M e m o r a n d u m

To : Andrea E. Tuttle, Director
Department of Forestry
and Fire Protection

Date : August 7, 2003

R 46

Telephone : (916) 657-0300

FAX : (916) 653-8957

From : Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Subject : 5300 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Attached is a CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration for the following project:

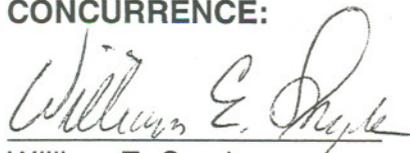
- Caspar Creek, Weir Pond Cleanout and Flume Replacement

This project, located at Jackson Demonstration State Forest, involves the draining of the Caspar Creek weir ponds, their cleanout, replacement of flumes and restoration of the creeks to their original channels. These activities, carried out in cooperation with the USFS-PSW Station, requires a incidental take permit from NMFS and a 1601 permit from DFG. Mitigations recommended by NMFS have reduced potentially significant impacts to listed fish to a less than significant level. Your original signature on this Mitigated Negative Declaration is requested and, upon filing at the State Clearinhouse, will initiate a 30 day comment period.



Allen S. Robertson
Deputy Chief,
Environmental Protection

Attachment

CONCURRENCE:

William E. Snyder
Deputy Director for
Resource Management

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

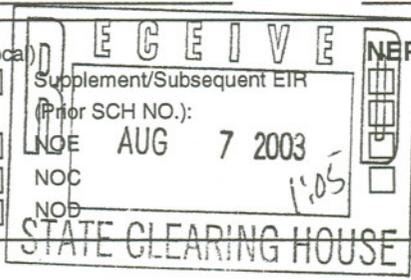
Mail to: State Clearinghouse, 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 445-0613

SCH#

Project Title: Caspar Creek, Weir Pond Cleanout and Flume Replacem
Lead Agency: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection **Contact Person:** William Baxter
Street Address: 802 North Main Street **Phone:** (707)964-5674
City: Fort Bragg, CA **Zip Code:** 95437 **County:** Mendocino

Project Location: Jackson Demonstration State Forest
County: Mendocino **City/Nearest Community:** Fort Bragg, CA
Cross streets: _____ **Zip Code:** 95437 **Total Acres:** _____
Assessor's Parcel No.: _____ **Section:** 5, 15, 16 **Twp:** 17N **Range:** 17W **Base:** MDB&M
Within 2 miles: **State Hwy #:** _____ **Waterways:** North and South Forks Caspar Creek
Airports: _____ **Railways:** _____ **Schools:** _____

Document Type: **CEQA** (state/local) **NEPA** (federal) **Other:** _____
 NOP Supplement/Subsequent EIR NOI
 Early Consultation (Prior SCH NO.): _____ EA
 Initial Study/Neg Dec NOE AUG 7 2003 Draft EIS
 Draft EIR NOC FONSI
 Mitigated Neg Dec NOB



Local Action Type:
 General Plan Update Specific Plan Rezone Annexation
 General Plan Amendment Master Plan Prezone Redevelopment
 General Plan Element Planned Unit Development Use Permit Coastal Permit
 Community Plan Site Plan Land Division Other: _____

Development Type:
 Residential: Units: _____ Acres: _____ Water Facilities: Type: _____
 Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres: _____ Empl: _____ Transportation: Type: _____
 Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres: _____ Empl: _____ Mining: Mineral: _____ Watts _____
 Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres: _____ Empl: _____ Power: Type: _____
 Educational: _____ Waste Treatment: Type: _____
 Recreational: _____ Hazardous Waste: Type: _____
 Other: _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:
 Aesthetic/Visual Flood Plain/Flooding Schools/ Universities Water Quality
 Agricultural Land Forest Land/Fire Hazard Septic Systems Water Supply
 Air Quality Geologic/Seismic Sewer Capacity Wetland/Riparian
 Archaeological/Historical Minerals Soil Erosion/Grading Wildlife
 Coastal Zone Noise Solid Waste Growth Inducing
 Drainage/Absorption Pop./Employment/Housing Toxic/Hazardous Land use
 Economic/Jobs Public Services/Facilities Traffic/Circulation Cumulative Effects
 Fiscal Recreation/Parks Vegetation
 Other: _____

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Use

Multi-Use Demonstration Forest with Timber Production Zoning (TPZ)

Project Description

Caspar Creek weir pond is nearing storage capacity and needs to be cleaned out. This entails removing and relocating any fish in the pond, bypassing the creek flow around the pond, draining the pond, removing the sediment from the pond bottom, transporting and dumping the sediment, then restoring the creek flow to the pond site. Flumes on the weir are deteriorating. This project will include replacement of remaining flumes.



State of California
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PROJECT TITLE **Caspar Creek, Weir Pond Cleanout and Flume Replacement**

State Clearinghouse Number

FILING DATE

LOCATION **Jackson Demonstration State Forest
802 North Main Street, Fort Bragg, CA 95437**

SPONSOR California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

CONTACT **William Baxter (707) 964-5674**

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, and the following guidelines and instructions of the Secretary of Resources, an analysis of the environmental effect of the proposed action has been made. The PROJECT (Section 15378) will have no significant effect (Section 15064) on the environment; the following information is given in support of the finding.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This document provides a summary of the project description and an explanation of mitigation measures which will prevent any significant adverse impacts to all known environmental and cultural resources in the project site and vicinity. This document has been completed as provided under CEQA Title 14. CCR Section 15070 which states:

A public agency shall prepare or have prepared a proposed negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration for a project subject to CEQA when

(b) the initial study identifies potentially significant effects, but:

- (1) Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by, or agreed to by the applicant before a proposed mitigated 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
- (2) 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.

Jackson Demonstration State Forest is the largest of 8 demonstration forests owned by the California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF). This 50,000 acre forest on the Mendocino Coast is the site of the internationally famous, long-term intensive Caspar Creek Watershed Study, ongoing since 1962 by the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSW). In order to measure stream sediment flow, the forest maintains debris/stilling (weir) ponds in the 424-ha South Fork and 473-ha North Fork of Caspar Creek. Periodically (usually every 5 years), these ponds require cleaning to retain their sediment-trapping efficiency and stream gauging accuracy.

At this time both North and South Fork ponds are nearing sediment storage capacity and need cleaning. The best time to start this type of project is the late summer months, when stream flows are lowest. A biologist from the Dept of Fish and Game will first seine and remove any resident fish. CDF and PSW will then drain the stilling ponds, re-route creek flow around the pond, and mechanically and manually remove sediment from the pond bottoms. The spoils will be dumped on a closed pre-existing logging spur to dry out, before being graded and spread. The flow will be restored to normal within 2-3 weeks of project initiation.

In addition to cleaning the weirs, four deteriorating wooden flumes will be replaced within the North Fork Caspar Creek Watershed. Flumes help quantify streamflow for the Watershed Study, and were constructed in the early 1980's. Between 1999 and 2002, three of these structures were replaced, three dismantled, and 11 were replaced with pre-fabricated fiberglass flumes, anchored to a concrete foundation. The last 9 flume replacements were permitted under DFG Stream Alteration Permit, number



State of California
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

976-99. The deteriorating flumes are in danger of washing out during large storm flows, potentially impacting downstream habitat. The wooden flumes will be replaced with pre-fabricated fiberglass flumes, and wing and cutoff walls will be attached to capture surface flow in the stream channel.

Additional mitigation measures were incorporated into the project plan pursuant to the recommendations of the National Marine Fisheries Service, which reviewed the proposed project plan earlier this year. These measures are discussed under the heading "**BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – AQUATIC**".

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project ponds are within and surrounded by the Jackson Demonstration State Forest lands. The State Forest is approximately 50,000 acres of forest (redwood and Douglas-fir tree type), managed for multiple use recreation, demonstration, research, and timber production.

FINDINGS

AESTHETICS

This project will not result in significant adverse impacts to aesthetics in the pond area or the sludge dumpsite. The roads to the ponds are closed to vehicular traffic, and although the ponds are accessible by foot, they are not a destination for recreation. The proposed sediment dumpsite is located on a closed logging spur road. Vehicular traffic is not permitted nor is the area designated wild and scenic.

These ponds will be drained one at a time by diverting the water, removing the sediment on the bottom of the pond, transporting the sediment to an agreed upon location, and then dumping it into pile to dry out before the piles will be graded flat over existing roads and open landing areas. There will be a temporary visual reduction of the aesthetic quality of the pond area when the water is diverted and when the mud is transported to dry. Each pond project will take less than a month and be completed only in the driest months of summer.

There will be a temporary insignificant reduction in aesthetics for the occasional hiker, bicyclist, or equestrian from localized noise of equipment and increased truck traffic on the adjacent roads. All recreation will be permitted as usual as long as it is safe.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - AQUATIC

Potential impacts from this project are harassment and unintentional mortality to endangered fish steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) which are present in the South Fork of Caspar Creek. This harassment will result from the catching, holding, and relocation of the fish in the pond and the temporary increase of turbidity in the watercourse. The potential unintentional mortality would result from the draining the pond with the possibility of missed fish being present.

The **National Marine Fisheries Service** (NMFS), in their opinion, dated May 6, 2003, lists three "reasonable and Prudent Measures" and a list of "Terms and Conditions" to implement the prudent measures, as required for an Incidental Take Permit. **[The complete text of their opinion can be found online at <http://swr.ucsd.edu/FINAL-USFS-NFC-SFC.pdf>]** The following procedures and measures extracted from the NMFS letter will be followed to mitigate the potential adverse effects on anadromous fishery.

1. **Measures shall be taken to reduce injury or harm to coho salmon and steelhead.**
2. **Measures shall be taken to assure that effects to water quality are minimized.**
3. **Measures shall be taken to ensure that the fish ladders are adequately designed and evaluated in order to ensure that salmonid passage is not impeded.**

The following terms and conditions implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure 1, which states that measures shall be taken to reduce injury or harm to coho salmon and steelhead.

1. **The USFS must notify the NOAA Fisheries Santa Rosa Office, by letter stating the**



State of California
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

- project commencement date, at least fourteen days prior to implementation.*
2. *Work within the creek channel may only occur from June 15 to October 15.*
 3. *A qualified biologist will be present to conduct fish relocation activities. The fishery biologist shall ensure the capture and relocation of any salmonids in the area to be dewatered. Captured salmonids will be relocated as soon as possible to a suitable instream location upstream or downstream of the work area. Water temperature in the stream and in containers holding captured fish should not exceed 18EC at any time during the relocation effort.*
 4. *In order to limit death and injury to fish, electrofishing will only be used once seining has been proven ineffective. A minimum of three passes through the entire area to be dewatered will be made with a seine. Electrofishing will then be used in areas where instream cover exists in order to remove fish that may not have been captured by the seine.*
 5. *Electrofishing efforts shall start with voltage, pulse width, and pulse rate set at the minimum values needed to capture fish. Settings shall gradually be increased only to the point where fish are immobilized for capture. Individuals that are netting immobilized fish should remove fish immediately from the water, and not allow the fish to remain in the electrical field for an extended period of time.*
 6. *In order to decrease lethal take, the mortality rate associated with fish relocation activities should be reduced from five percent to at least three percent. NOAA Fisheries has found that experienced electrofishers can reduce mortality rates to three percent and below. NOAA Fisheries Guidelines for Electrofishing Waters Containing Salmonids Listed Under the Endangered Species Act are enclosed with this biological opinion. In order to decrease mortality, the USFS and their designee(s) shall compare their electrofishing procedures with these guidelines and make every reasonable effort to achieve the level of skill demonstrated by others.*
 7. *In order to monitor the impact of incidental take, USFS must notify the NOAA Fisheries Santa Rosa Office by letter within 90 days after project completion detailing any incidental take that occurred during the project. This shall include the species taken, date taken, type of take (capture and relocate, injury, mortality), number taken, and fork length of any mortalities.*

The following terms and conditions implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure 2, which states that measures shall be taken to assure that effects to water quality are minimized.

1. *Water that comes in contact with wet concrete and has a pH greater than 9.0 must not be allowed to enter the ground or stream but may be pumped to a separate, lined basin constructed in the gravel bar, and then pumped to a truck or upland for disposal or treatment (not within the bank to bank of any waterway). Another option is that the water can be retested later, and if the pH is less than 9.0, these waters may be discharged to the sediment-stilling basin. Alternatively, the material may be pumped directly to a truck for disposal at a site that is not within the top of bank to top of bank of any waterway.*

The following terms and conditions implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure 3, which states that measures shall be taken to ensure that the fish ladders are adequately designed and evaluated in order to ensure that salmonid passage is not impeded.

1. *USFS shall submit the final fish ladder design to NOAA Fisheries for evaluation and approval prior to implementation.*
2. *USFS and/or their designee(s) shall conduct hydraulic and biological evaluation of the fish ladders (validation of design/project goals) as prescribed by NOAA Fisheries upon completion of ladder construction.*

NOAA Fisheries determined that this level of anticipated take is not likely to result in jeopardy to the



State of California
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

species or destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. All work will be in accordance with a Section 10(A) Incidental Take Permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and a 1601 Permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG).

Specifically:

- Work within the creek channel will only occur between June 15 to October 15.
- Qualified local fisheries biologists from the DFG have agreed to properly remove as many fish as possible from the pond prior to the pond being drained.
- The fish will be properly held and transported to a target relocation site on the same creek upstream of the project site. The estimated number of fish to be captured, stored and relocated is approximately 200 steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and 100 coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*). Estimated unintentional mortality of fish at the pond site will be approximately 0 to 10 fish. [These numbers are estimates based on previous pond cleanout projects.]

To reduce sediment turbidity in the South Fork Caspar Creek near the project site the following measures will be used:

- Water will be siphoned from the top of the pond as much as possible to reduce sediment on the bottom of the pond from washing downstream.
- Stilling areas or pools will be prepared downstream of the weir pond with clean washed gravel to allow sediment to settle out.
- To prevent the creek from being de-watered below the weir when the pond is refilling, approximately one half of the creek flow will be maintained through the bypass pipeline and allowed to go through the weir dam drain valve. This amount will be adjusted as needed to refill the pond and maintain some water flowing to the creek below the weir.

To assess the fisheries impacts of this project, a new monitoring project has been implemented:

- Measure change in fish density in response to pond clean-out (before and after pond clean-out)
- Quantify emigration
- Measure change in fish survival, growth, and feeding efficiency
- Measure change in invertebrate drift before and after pond clean-out

Other Turbidity and Erosion: Road 601 is approximately one quarter of a mile in length and is the access road to the pond site for equipment and dump trucks. Road 601 is a potential source of sediment to Caspar Creek. The channel under the bridge on this road (approximately 200 feet upstream from Caspar Creek), will be slightly deepened to protect the bridge abutments from further erosion. Additional rock will be placed on the surface to improve traction and a temporary berm will be constructed on the outside of the road to prevent sediment from entering the creek below. Straw mulch will be placed below Road 601 to catch any sediment that may come off the road during the hauling operations.

Other species of aquatic animals:

The protected species, **Northwestern Pond Turtle, *Clemmys marmorata marmorata***, has not been observed at the Caspar Creek pond site, but care will be taken to survey and remove all animals still present on the pond site after the water has been diverted and before the vehicles drive across the mud.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – PLANTS

This project will not have a significant negative impact on plants. Listed species of plants were surveyed for their presence, but it is not anticipated that any vegetation will be harmed or destroyed as a result of this project.

The sediment dump site was surveyed on March 9, 2001, by a qualified biologist for the presence of sensitive plant species and habitat types. The sediment dump site is located on closed logging spur road



State of California
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

approximately one quarter of a mile in length. The topography of the area is generally flat.

The survey method used was to walk the entire roadway on which the pond sediment may be dumped, looking for sensitive listed plant species or other out of the ordinary plants or plant habitat features. The road and landing surfaces had undergone routine road maintenance grading earlier in the year. No sensitive plant species were observed on or near the roadway surface in which the pond sediment may be dumped. The proposed project location was evaluated for potential habitat for sensitive plants and found that it was unlikely that there would be any due to the recent road maintenance and general location of the project site.

Some of the plants of concern may not have been in bloom at this time or would be hard to recognize. As a additional safeguard there was another survey completed in May and June of 2003 with no new results. If any plants of special concern are observed in the project area DFG will be contacted and mitigation measures will be taken to protect the plants. These measures may include relocating the plants, protecting the plants from disturbance, or relocating the sediment dump to another location.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

This project will not have an adverse impact on cultural resources. The pond sediment will be dumped on a closed logging spur road approximately one quarter of a mile in length. Archeological site records for Jackson Demonstration State Forest were checked and no recorded historical or prehistorical sites are in the proposed work areas. References used were titled "The Current Status of Prehistoric Resources On Jackson Demonstration State Forest, Mendocino County, California", by John Betts, CDF Archeological Reports No. 24, March 1999. Also referenced was "An Inventory of Historical Resources within Jackson Demonstration State Forest, Mendocino County, California", CDF Archeological Reports, No. 14, May 1993.

The proposed dump area was surveyed for historical and prehistorical sites on March 9, 2001 by a resource professional trained in archaeological reconnaissance. The survey method involved walking the closed logging road spur looking on the surface for artifacts and looking at the surrounding roadsides for any notable features. There were no signs of historic or prehistoric sites along the closed logging spur road. If any historic or pre-historic artifacts are discovered during the pond cleanout project, work will stop until a qualified archaeologist determines what measures are needed to protect the site.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Because the equipment used to remove the sediment will need to be refueled near the project site, there will be the possibility of fuel spills into the environment. The possibility of this occurring will be reduced and mitigated by operators following proper and safe fueling and servicing procedures. All equipment will be refueled and serviced up the road at a flat area, where an accidental spill could be contained and cleaned up before it entered a waterway. There will be no on-site storage of fuel or chemicals.

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

The creek will be temporarily bypassed around the pond for the clean out operation. An 8-inch smooth walled pipe will channel the stream around the pond. The pipe will end just before the drain culvert in the weir dam. This opening allows the water in the pond to drain out the weir dam. It is estimated that the stream bypass work will take approximately ten days. This bypassing is not expected to significantly impact hydrology or water quality due to the short duration, the timing of the operations, and the proposed mitigation measures incorporated into the project plan.

The pond clean out may cause a temporary increase in turbidity in the South Fork of Caspar Creek. Turbidity will be limited as much as possible by first draining the majority of the pond water by siphoning the pond water from above and over the weir. Second there will be two small settling pools temporarily created downstream of the dam to allow sediment to settle. These settling pools will be created using clean washed gravel and be removed after the project is finished and before the winter flows. However there will still be a temporary increase in fine sediment into the downstream sites. These fine sediments



State of California
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

will be flushed out in the initial winter flows and will not significantly increase background levels of turbidity and sediment that are normal for those periods.

The channel 200 feet upstream under the bridge at Road 601 will be slightly deepened to protect the bridge abutments from further erosion. This is a stream improvement to minimize turbidity from channel erosion.

NOISE

Trucks and heavy equipment is commonly used in the forest for management activities. Although there is a historic use of this type of equipment, still there will be a temporary increase in noise due to heavy equipment working to remove the sediment and the dump trucks transporting the sediment to the dump sites. This increase is not expected to be significant as there will be two pieces of equipment operating and two dump trucks. The project site is in a low point and surrounded by trees which will buffer the noise generated. The sediment removal and transport phase of the project is only expected to last five to seven days.

RECREATION

The roads to the ponds are occasionally used by hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. Potential negative recreational impacts will include loss of aesthetics due to noise and traffic from the project equipment trucks. These potential impacts are not considered significant because it's a short duration project; only two trucks will be used; the area normally receives little recreational use; the noise will be very localized and buffered by trees; and all recreation will be allowed continue in the area (as traffic safety permits).

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea E. Tuttle".

Andrea E. Tuttle, Director



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

(CEQA Guidelines Appendix G)

1. Project Title: Caspar Weir Pond Cleanout and Flume Replacement
2. Lead Agency Name and Address:
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Jackson Demonstration State Forest
802 North Main Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
3. Contact Person and Phone Number: William Baxter (707) 964-5674
4. Project Location: Jackson Demonstration State Forest, Mendocino County
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
802 North Main Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
6. General Plan Designation: _____
7. Zoning: Timber Production Zone (TPZ)
8. Description of Project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)
Jackson Demonstration State Forest maintains sediment debris/stilling ponds as part of the long term Caspar Watershed Study. Periodically, usually within five years, these ponds require cleaning out to retain their sediment trapping efficiency and stream gauging accuracy. The Caspar Creek weir ponds are nearing storage capacity and need to be cleaned out. This entails removing and relocating any fish in the pond, draining the pond, bypassing the creek flow around the pond, removing the sediment from the pond bottom, transporting and dumping the sediment, then restoring the creek flow to the pond site. In addition, the wooden flumes are deteriorating and have been systematically replaced as needed. Replacements are planned for the remaining flumes.
9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: Briefly describe the project's surroundings:
The proposed project sites are inside the State Forest and surrounded by State Forest lands managed for multiple use and timber production.
10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)
California Department of Fish and Game (Streambed Alteration Permit, and cooperation on fish relocation), National Marine Fisheries Service (analysis of impact and Take permit)

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below may be potentially affected by this project as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing |

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation / Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | |

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 will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the applicant. 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 an earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

 NAME, Title
 Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

 Date

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 Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," 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) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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I. AESTHETICS

Would the project:

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion: *This project proposes to temporarily drain existing ponds, remove the sediment on the bottom of the pond, transport the sediment to an agreed upon location and there dump it into pile for it to drain and dry out before the piles will be graded flat over existing roads and open landing areas. There may be a temporary reduction of the aesthetic quality of the pond area do to it being drained and the visibility of wet mud. Also the site where the sediment is dumped may experience a short term reduction in aesthetic qualities that exist prior to the project. The pond site is not visited much by the general public as road access is restricted by locked gates. Each proposed cleaning project is expected to take approximately two to three weeks. The proposed sediment dump site is located on a closed logging spur road. This road is approximately one quarter of a mile in length and is not used for vehicular traffic or located in any sort of scenic area. The sediment will sit in piles and drain. The sediment will be graded over the existing roadway and landing areas within one year from the completion of dumping operations. Because of the low visibility and public exposure of the two areas, and the short duration of the effects from this project, it is determined that this proposed project will have less than significant effects on aesthetics.*

II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

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 Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) to non-agricultural use? (the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Department of Conservation maintains detailed maps of categories of farmland) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could individually or cumulatively result in loss of Farmland, to non- | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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agricultural use?

Discussion: *This project will have no impact on agricultural resources.*

III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations: Would the project:

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plans? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) 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 (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion: *There will only be two to four pieces of motorized equipment being operated intermittently over a two week period. The area of operation is in a forest. The ground where equipment is working will be damp with no dust from traffic. There are no impacts on air quality expected from this project.*

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

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|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Have a substantial adverse impact, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as endangered, rare, or threatened, as listed in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (sections 670.2 or 670.5) or in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (sections 17.11 or 17.12)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Have a substantial adverse impact, 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Have a substantial adverse impact on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Have a substantial adverse impact on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: *This project proposes to temporarily bypass the weir pond, remove and relocate any fish in the pond, drain the pond, remove the sediment on the bottom of the pond, transport the sediment to an agreed upon location(s) and there dump it into pile for it to drain and dry out before the piles will be graded flat over existing roads and open landing areas. Potential impacts from this project are harassment and unintentional mortality to endangered fish which are present in Caspar Creek from the catching, holding, and relocation of the fish in the pond, and the draining the pond with the possibility of missed fish being present, and the temporary increase of turbidity in the water course. Also there are possible impacts to plants on the sediment dump site.*

*Mitigation measures to reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant impacts are as follows. To protect the fisheries in Caspar Creek all work will be done during low flows and after fish have had the opportunity to migrate downstream. This time is limited to between June to October. All work will be in accordance with a Section 10(A) Incidental Take Permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service(NMFS) and a 1600 Permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG). Qualified fisheries biologists from the DFG will properly remove as many fish as possible from the pond prior to the pond being drained. The fish will be properly held and transported to a target relocation site on the same creek upstream of the project site. Estimated number of fish to be captured, stored and relocated is approximately 200 steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and 100 coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*). Estimated unintentional mortality of fish at the pond site will be approximately 0 to 10 fish. These numbers are estimates based on previous pond cleanout projects. A fish monitoring project has been implemented to determine the impact to the fishery for use in designing other projects.*

To reduce sediment turbidity from work in Caspar Creek, water will be siphoned from the top of the pond as much as possible to reduce sediment on the bottom of the pond from washing downstream. Stilling areas or pools will be prepared downstream of the weir pond with clean washed gravel to allow sediment to settle out.

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Another potential source of sediment is Road 601. This road is approximately one quarter of a mile in length and will be used as the access road to the pond site for the equipment and dump trucks. This road will have additional rock placed on the surface to improve traction and a temporary berm will be constructed on the outside of the road to prevent sediment from entering the creek below. Mulch in the form of hay will be placed on the area below the Road 601 as an additional measure to catch any sediment that may come off the road during the hauling operations. The channel below the bridge on this road will be deepened slightly to reduce the erosion of the bridge abutments and decrease potential sedimentation.

To prevent the creek from being de-watered below the weir when the pond is refilling, approximately one half of the creek flow will be maintained thru the bypass pipeline and allowed to go through the weir dam drain valve. This amount will be adjusted as needed to refill the pond and maintain some water flowing to the creek below the weir.

The sediment dump site has been surveyed for the presence of sensitive plant species and habitat types. The proposed sediment dump site is located on closed logging spur road approximately one quarter of a mile in length. The topography of the area is generally flat. The site was surveyed in 2001 and again in 2003 by a qualified biologist. The road and landing surfaces had undergone routine road maintenance grading earlier in the year. No sensitive plant species were observed on or near the roadway surface in which the pond sediment may be dumped.

The proposed project location was evaluated for potential habitat for sensitive plants and found that it was unlikely that there would be any due to the recent road maintenance and general location of the project site. As a additional safegaurd there will be another survey done before the start of operations and if any plants of special concern are observed in the project area mitigation measures will be taken to protect the plants. These measures may include relocating the plants, protecting the plants from disturbance, or relocating the sediment dump to another location.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource which is either listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historic Resources, or a local register or listing of historic resources. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource (i.e., an artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions, has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest or best available example of its type, or is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: *The areas where the sediment is to be dumped is on a closed logging spur road approximately one quarter of a mile in length. Archeological site records for Jackson Demonstration State Forest have been checked and no recorded historical or prehistorical sites are in the proposed work areas. References used were titled "The Current Status of Prehistoric Resources On Jackson Demonstration State Forest, Mendocino County, California", by John Betts, CDF Archeological Reports No. 24, March 1999. Also referenced was "An Inventory of Historical Resources within Jackson Demonstration State Forest, Mendocino County, California", CDF Archeological Reports, No. 14, May 1993. The proposed dumping area was surveyed for historical and prehistorical sites in 2001 by a trained archaeological resource professional. The survey method involved walking the closed logging road spur looking on the surface for artifacts and looking at the surrounding roadsides for any notable features. There were no signs of historic or prehistoric sites along the closed logging spur road. However work will stop if any historic or pre-historic artifacts are discovered, and they will be assessed by a staff archaeologist before project work can proceed.*

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Inundation by seiche, tsunamis, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
v) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
vi) Flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
vii) Wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas and where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or strata or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on-site or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, creating substantial risks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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to life or property? (Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994) defines expansive soil)

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion: *This project will not impact geology or soils.*

VII. HAZARDS and HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the likely release of hazardous materials into the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Reasonably be anticipated to emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Expose people or structures to the risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion: *Because the equipment used to remove the sediment will need to be refueled near the project site there will be the possibility of fuel spills into the environment. The possibility of this occurring will be*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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reduced and mitigated by operators following proper and safe fueling and servicing procedures. All equipment will be required to be refueled and serviced up the road at a flat area where a accidental spill could be contained and cleaned up before it entered a waterway. There will be no on-site storage of fuel or chemicals.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on-site or off-site? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on-site or off-site? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Place housing within a 100-year floodplain as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| i) Expose people or structures to significant risks from flooding as a result of levee or dam failure? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| j) Expose people or structures to significant risks from seiche, tsunami, or mudflow? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Discussion: *There will be a temporary increase in turbidity in the creek. Also the creek will be temporarily bypassed around the pond for the clean out operation.*

Turbidity will be limited as much as possible by first draining the majority of the pond water by siphoning the pond water from above and over the weir. Second there will be two small settling pools temporarily created downstream of the dam to allow sediment to settle. These settling pools will be created using clean washed gravel and be removed after the project is finished and before the winter flows. However there will still be a temporary increase in fine sediment into the downstream sites. These fine sediments will be flushed out in the initial winter flows and will not significantly increase background levels of turbidity and sediment that are normal for those periods.

It is estimated that the stream will bypass each pond site for approximately ten days, using an 8 inch smooth walled pipe. The pipe will end just before the drain culvert in the weir dam. This opening allows the water in the pond to drain out the weir dam.

To prevent the creek from being de-watered below the weir when the pond is refilling, approximately one half of the creek flow will be maintained thru the bypass pipeline and allowed to go thru the weir dam drain valve. This amount will be adjusted as needed to refill the pond and maintain some water flowing to the creek below the weir.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Physically divide an established community? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to general plans, specific plans, local coastal programs, or zoning ordinances)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion: *This project will not have an impact on land use and planning.*

X. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion: *This project is not expected to have a impact on mineral resources.*

XI. NOISE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Would the project result in:

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion: *Trucks and heavy equipment are common in forest. Although there is a historic use of this type of equipment, still there will be a temporary increase in site-specific noise due to heavy equipment working to remove the sediment and the dump trucks transporting the sediment to the dump sites. This increase is not expected to be significant as there will be only two pieces of equipment operating and two dump trucks. The project site is in a low point and surrounded by trees which will buffer the noise generated. The sediment removal and transport phase of the project is only expected to last five to seven days.*

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Induce substantial 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)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion: *This project will not impact population or housing.*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, 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: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Fire protection? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Police protection? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Schools? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Parks? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other public facilities? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion: *This project will not have a impact on public services.*

XIV. RECREATION

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Would the project 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion: *Possible impacts to recreation would be from the truck traffic along the forest roads which is occasionally used by hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. Also the sediment dumped on the logging spur road may temporarily impact the occasional recreational use of that road until the sediment piles are graded. These potential impacts are not considered significant because of the short duration of the project, the amount of recreational use that is affected is not very great, and the project does not prevent the recreational activities from continuing concurrently with operations. The major impact of this project to recreation will be to temporarily reduce the enjoyment of these activities. The impact could be from a few minutes that it takes for a dump truck to go by, to a few months until the sediment piles are graded out over the roadway.*

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?				
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the appropriate local, regional, or state agency, or county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: *This project will not significantly impact transportation and/or traffic in the area. Vehicular traffic is prohibited to the public. The amount of traffic posed by this project will not significantly increase normal traffic in the area, with only two dump trucks in operation for five to seven days. They will be driven on forest roads that are designed and maintained for this purpose. However, safety to bicyclists, pedestrians, and equestrians will be an important message to drivers. Traffic warning signs will be placed in strategic areas to alert recreationalists.*

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in an adverse impact to the capacity of the wastewater treatment plant which serves or may serve the project (i.e., does the wastewater treatment provider	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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- which serves or may serve the project have adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments)?
- f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?
- g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Discussion: *This project will not impact utilities or service systems.*

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.

- a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?
- b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)
- c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?