

2019078084

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
County Clerk
County of: Trinity

From: (Public Agency): Trinity County Resource
Conservation District, #30 Horseshoe Lane
Weaverville, CA. 96093
(Address)

Project Title: Weaverville portion of SWRCB Trinity River Watershed Roadside Fuel Reduction Project

Project Applicant: Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Project Location - Specific:

Lat/Long: 40.778094, -122.919925. Weaverville, CA.

Project Location - City: Weaverville Project Location - County: Trinity

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This is a fuels reduction project that will require selective mechanical thinning and chipping of vegetation. The purpose of the project is to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and the associated threat to life, property, and the environment. The beneficiaries of the project are the residents of the surrounding communities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
[X] Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304; Minor Alterations to Land
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project will not have a significant impact on any of the resource categories subject to CEQA review. Project implementation will not result in the take of rare, threatened, or endangered plant or animal species, nor will it result in sedimentation of surface waters. No exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a categorical exemption.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Charlie Holthaus Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-623-6004

If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: Kelly P. Date: 7/15/2019 Title: District Manager

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
Date Received for filing at OPR:

JUL 17 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Trinity County



Resource Conservation District

# Trinity County Resource Conservation District Environmental Review Report for an Exempt Project

**Note:** This report form is intended for use by Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) staff to document a limited environmental impact analysis supporting the filing of a Notice of Exemption (NOE) document for a proposed TCRCD project. Although the project appears to fit within the descriptions for allowable Categorical Exemptions, this report presents TCRCD's review for possible "Exceptions" that would preclude finding the project to be categorically exempt as discussed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. This report will be filed with the CEQA administrative record for this project to document the environmental impact analysis conducted by the District.

Author: Charlie Holthaus  
Title: Project Coordinator II  
Address: #30 Horseshoe Lane, Weaverville, CA. 96093  
Phone: 530-623-6004  
Email: cholthaus@tcrd.net

Project Name: Weaverville portion of SWRCB Trinity River Watershed Roadside Fuel Reduction Project  
Project Number: Grant Agreement: D1713103 (SWRCB)  
Program Type: Vegetation Management Program  
CAL FIRE Unit: Shasta-Trinity  
County: Trinity  
Acres: 20 Acres- D1713103  
Legal Location: T34N, R09W, Sections 19, 29, and 30, MDBM and

Name of USGS 7.5' Quad Map(s): Rush Creek Lakes  
 Project Vicinity Maps Attached  Project Location Maps Attached  Photos Attached

### Other Public Agency Review/Permit Required:

Would the project result in:

- Alterations to a watercourse (DFW - Lake and Stream Alteration Agreement)
- Conversion of timberland (CAL FIRE - Conversion Permit or Exemption)
- Demolition (Local Air District - Demolition Permit)
- Soil disturbance over 1 acre (RWQCB - SWPPP)
- Fill of possible wetlands (404 Permit - USACE)
- Other:

	YES	NO
Alterations to a watercourse (DFW - Lake and Stream Alteration Agreement)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conversion of timberland (CAL FIRE - Conversion Permit or Exemption)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Demolition (Local Air District - Demolition Permit)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Soil disturbance over 1 acre (RWQCB - SWPPP)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fill of possible wetlands (404 Permit - USACE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discuss any above-listed topic item checked Yes and consultation with agencies:

### Project Description and Environmental Setting (Describe the project activities, project site and its surroundings, its location, and the environmental setting):

Fuels reduction treatment on private property can only happen with landowner permission. Therefore, the project area as mapped is larger than the actual areas expected to receive treatment, as not all landowners are likely to provide permission. Additionally no treatments are proposed on any publically owned property in the Weaverville project area.

The Weaverville portion of the SWRCB Trinity River Watershed Roadside Fuel Reduction Project will be implemented adjacent to East Branch Road in Weaverville, in Trinity County, CA. This portion of the Roadside Fuel Reduction Project will only occur on privately owned parcels, no treatments are proposed on any publically owned property in the Weaverville project area. The intent of this project is to create a roadside fuel break along primary access routes to minimize the chances of fire starts, reduce the size and severity of fires started along the roadsides and provide for safer escape routes for residents in the event of catastrophic fire. Fuel treatments will occur from 50' up to 75' from the road edges on participating properties. We anticipate approximately 20 acres will be treated in the Weaverville portion of this project.

The proposed fuel reduction treatments involves the removal of ladder fuels and selectively thinning subdominant trees and brush to break the continuity of the fuels (vertical and horizontal continuity) to reduce rate of fire spread, duration, intensity, or crown fire. Additionally dead or dying tress that pose a threat to public health and safety will be removed as conditions warrant. The fuel reduction treatments will be accomplished with hand crews utilizing chainsaws and a tow-behind chipper that will be operated on existing roads. No heavy equipment operations are proposed and no soil disturbance is expected. All

cut material will be chipped on site. Tree boles that are too large to be chipped will be left on site for community firewood use or wildlife habitat. Burning will not be conducted as part of these projects. In the treatment areas most or all brush and smaller trees will be removed. Intermediate sized trees (up to 8" DBH) will be thinned to a spacing of 12-20 feet with the goal of retaining the healthiest trees with the largest crowns. Any larger trees proposed for removal (live or dead over 8" DBH) will be marked by an RPF. Limbs and branches will be removed from retained trees up to 8 feet from the ground. All hardwoods will be retained as long as they maintain a 20% or greater live crown ratio after the lower limbs are removed.

The Weaverville project area is located in the valley bottom adjacent to East Branch Road which generally follows the course of the East Branch of East Weaver Creek which flows in a southerly direction toward the community of Weaverville. The project area is approximately 1.5 miles long and consists of the areas within 50' to 75' of East Branch Road on participating landowners' private property. No treatments are proposed on publicly owned property in the Weaverville project area.

The environmental setting is characterized by a mixed conifer forest type. The dominant conifer species observed are Douglas-fir, Ponderosa pine and Incense cedar with lesser amounts of Sugar Pine, and Grey Pine observed. Hardwood species present include Live Oak, Madrone, White Oak, Black Oak, Big Leaf Maple and Cottonwood. Brush and shrub species observed include various species of Ceanothus, Manzanita, Redbud, Mountain mahogany, Willow and Poison Oak. The riparian areas adjacent to the East Branch of East Weaver Creek are primarily vegetated with alder, willow, Big Leaf Maple and other riparian species. The 50' no cut stream buffer applied to the East Branch of East Weaver Creek will generally include all of the riparian vegetation types within the project area.

### Environmental Impact Analysis

#### Aesthetics

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The project results will be visible from East Branch Road in Weaverville. Landowner privacy will be considered and maintained as directed by each participating landowner through pretreatment consultations. The project will have no significant impact on scenic vistas, scenic resources, or the existing visual character and quality of the areas. The project will not create a new source of light that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views.

#### Agriculture and Forest Resources

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 Yes  No Would any trees be felled? If yes, discuss protection of nesting birds and compliance with FPRs.  
 Yes  No Would the project convert any prime or unique farmland?  
 Yes  No Would the project result in the conversion of forest land or timberland to non-forest use?

- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project is non-commercial and therefore FPRs do not apply. No trees over 8" DBH will be felled without being marked by an RPF. Prior to ground operations, nesting bird surveys will be conducted within the project footprint in accordance with CDFW protocols; if active nests are discovered, a 100ft buffer will be established and no ground operations or vegetation modification will occur within the buffer. If a nest is discovered during ground operations, work will be temporarily suspended in the vicinity of the nest and the Project Coordinator will be notified. If an active raptor nest or other sensitive species nest is discovered, a 500ft buffer will be established and the Project Coordinator will be notified.

The project will not convert any prime or unique farmland. The project will not result in the conversion of forest land or timberland to non-forest use.

#### Air Quality

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 Yes  No The local Air Quality Management District guidelines for dust abatement and other air quality concerns were reviewed for this project.  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Project implementation may produce small amounts of particulates as a consequence of chipping cut vegetation. However,

operations will be limited to one or two vehicles and one chipper at a work site. The processed material will be broadcast away from roads and structures. Dust abatement is not a concern since all vehicles and equipment will be operating from existing roads and stationary during operating periods. No burning is proposed, hence no smoke impacts will occur. The project will not result in any significant impact to air quality.

**Biological Resources**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- Yes  No Will the project potentially effect biological resources?
- Yes  No Was a current CNDDDB review completed? Results discussed below:
- Yes  No Was a biological survey of the project area completed? Results discussed below:
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Mt. Hilton	Siligo Peak	Covington Mill
Dedrick	Rush Creek Lakes	Trinity Dam
Junction City	Weaverville	Lewiston

Species	Status	Potential Impact	Analysis
<i>Antennaria sawyeri</i> Sawyer's pussy-toes	CA. rare plant, 1B.2	Take	Preferred habitats include Serpentine, rocky or gravelly; usually north-facing slopes with late spring snowpack. Species can be found in Subalpine coniferous forest above 6,000 feet in elevation. Project location is between 2,640' and 3,040'. Species will not be affected.
<i>Arctostaphylos klamathensis</i> Klamath manzanita	CA. rare plant, 1B.2	Take	Preferred habitats include, rocky, serpentinite or gabbro. Species can be found in Chaparral (montane), Lower montane coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest, and Subalpine coniferous forest above 4,000 feet in elevation. Project location is between 2,640' and 3,040'. Species will not be affected.
<i>Botrychium minganense</i> Mingan moonwort	CA. rare plant, 2B.2	Take	Preferred habitats include Mesic bogs and fens. Species can be found in Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps (edges), and Upper montane coniferous forest, above 4,400 feet in elevation. Project location is between 2,640' and 3,040'. Species will not be affected.
<i>Brodiaea rosea</i> Indian Valley brodiaea	CA. Endangered CA. rare plant, 3.1	Take	This species grows in vernal moist gravelly serpentine clay in foothill pine forest or oak woodland which are not present in the project area. Species will not be affected.
<i>Campanula wilkinsiana</i> Wilkin's harebell	CA. rare plant, 1B.2	Take	This species occurs usually in wetlands, occasionally in non wetlands in Lodgepole Forest, Subalpine Forest, Red Fir Forest and wetland-riparian areas which are not present in the project area or are within the no cut riparian buffer areas. Species will not be affected.

<i>Campylopodia stenocarpa</i> flagella-like atractylocarpus	CA. rare plant, 2B.2	Take	Species grows on rotten logs, stumps, soil and bases of trees. No ground disturbance is expected and all rotten logs, stumps, and bases of trees will be maintained. Species will not be affected.
<i>Carex hystericina</i> porcupine sedge	CA. rare plant, 2B.3	Take	This species grows in Marshes swamps and streambanks which are not present in the project area or are within the no cut riparian buffer areas. Species will not be affected.
<i>Epilobium oreganum</i> , Oregon fireweed	CA. rare plant 1B.2	Take	Species grows only in boggy areas on serpentine soils; habitat that does not exist in project footprint. Species will not be affected.
<i>Epilobium siskiyouense</i> Siskiyou fireweed	CA. rare plant 1B.3	Take	Species grows in rocky, serpentinite. alpine boulder and rock fields at elevations above 5100'. Project location is between 2,640' and 3,040'. Species will not be affected.
<i>Eriogonum ursinum</i> var. <i>erubescens</i> blushing wild buckwheat	CA. rare plant 1B.3	Take	Species only occurs in rocky, scree, talus areas within Chaparral (montane) and Lower montane coniferous forest. No rocky talus areas were identified within the project area and species was not located during biological surveys. Species will not be affected.
<i>Erythronium citrinum</i> var. <i>roderickii</i> Scott Mountains fawn lily	CA. rare plant 1B.1	Take	Species only occurs in Serpentine soil (often rocky) areas within Lower montane coniferous forest. Serpentine areas were not identified within the project area and species was not located during biological surveys. Species will not be affected.
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> bald eagle	US-Delisted CA-Endangered	Take	Species requires large bodies of water, or free flowing rivers with abundant fish, and adjacent snags or other perches. Species perches high in large, stoutly limbed trees, on snags or broken-topped trees, or on rocks near water. Species nests in large, old-growth, or dominant live tree with open branch work, especially ponderosa pine. The project areas is not near a large body of water or free flowing river with abundant fish. Any tree over 8" in diameter will not be removed unless assessed and marked for removal by an RPF. No raptor nests were identified within the project area during biological surveys. Species will not be affected.
<i>Hemieva ranunculifolia</i> buttercup-leaf suksdorfia	CA. rare plant, 2B.2	Take	Species grows in mesic, rocky, granitic areas at elevations above 4,500'. Project location is between 2,640' and 3,040'. Species will not be affected.

<i>Iliamna bakeri</i> Baker's globe mallow	CA. rare plant, 4.2	Take	Species only occurs in volcanic, often in burned areas within Chaparral, Great Basin scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest (openings) and Pinyon and juniper woodland. No habitat for this species was identified within the project area and species was not located during biological surveys. Species will not be affected.
<i>Ivesia pickeringii</i> Pickering's ivesia	CA. rare plant 1B.2	Take	Species only occurs in mesic, clay, usually serpentinite seeps in Lower montane coniferous forest Meadows and seeps. No habitat for this species was identified within the project area and species was not located during biological surveys. Species will not be affected.
<i>Juncus dudleyi</i> , Dudley's rush	CA. rare plant 4.3	Take	Species requires wetland habitat. Project activities will not occur within wetland or riparian areas. Species will not be affected.
<i>Juncus regelii</i> Regel's rush	CA. rare plant 2B.3	Take	Species only occurs in mesic meadows and seeps in upper montane coniferous forest Meadows and seeps. No habitat for this species was identified within the project area and species was not located during biological surveys. Species will not be affected.
<i>Lewisia cotyledon</i> var. <i>heckneri</i> Heckner's lewisia	CA. rare plant 1B.2	Take	Species not detected in biological survey, will not be affected.
<i>Parnassia cirrata</i> var. <i>intermedia</i> Cascade grass-of-Parnassus	CA. rare plant 2B.2	Take	Species occurs in rocky serpentine soil and requires bogs, fens meadows and seeps, which were not identified in the project area and project activities will not occur within wetland or riparian areas. Species will not be affected.
<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> pop. 30 chinook salmon - upper Klamath and Trinity Rivers ESU	CA. Candidate Endangered	Take	Species requires cold water stream flows for survival. The no cut riparian stream buffer will maintain all shade trees adjacent to active watercourses within the project area. Species will not be affected.
<i>Pekania pennanti</i> , Pacific fisher	CA. threatened	Take	No cutting of large potential den trees are proposed for this project. Species will not be affected. If species is observed operations will cease within 1000' and CDFW biologist will be consulted.
<i>Penstemon filiformis</i> , thread-leaved beardtongue	CA. rare plant 1B.3	Take	This species grows in Rocky, often serpentinite soils and is found in association with Cismontane woodland and Lower montane coniferous forest. Species not detected in biological survey, will not be affected.

<i>Penstemon tracyi</i> Tracy's beardtongue	CA rare plant 1B.3	Take	Species grows in exposed rocky outcrops and barren talus in the high mountains. Fuel reduction treatments are not necessary or proposed in areas of exposed rocky outcrops and barren talus. Species will not be affected.
<i>Phacelia leonis</i> Siskiyou phacelia	CA rare plant 1B.3	Take	This species is often found growing in serpentinite and prefers meadows and seeps in upper montane coniferous forest openings above 3,600 feet in elevation. Project location is between 2,640' and 3,040' in elevation. Species will not be affected.
<i>Picea engelmannii</i> Engelmann spruce	CA rare plant 2B.2	Take	This species is found in upper montane coniferous forest habitat above 3,200' in elevation. Project location is between 2,640' and 3,040' in elevation. Species will not be affected.
<i>Raillardella pringlei</i> showy raillardella	CA rare plant 1B.2	Take	This species prefers to grow in mesic, serpentinite soils and is associated with bogs, fens meadows and seeps in upper montane coniferous forest above 3,600' in elevation. Project location is between 2,640' and 3,040' in elevation. Species will not be affected.
<i>Rana boylei</i> , yellow-legged frog	CA. candidate threatened	Take	This species is found in flowing streams and rivers with either rocky substrate or sunny banks. Project activities will not occur within wetland or riparian areas. Species will not be affected.
<i>Rana cascadae</i> Cascades frog	CA. Candidate Endangered	Take	This species can be found in water and surrounding vegetation in mountain lakes, small streams, and ponds in meadows up to timber line. It is closely restricted to water. Project activities will not occur within wetland or riparian areas. Species will not be affected.
<i>Rhynchospora alba</i> white beaked-rush	CA rare plant 2B.2	Take	This species is found in bogs, fens, meadows, seeps, marshes and swamps (freshwater). No fuel reduction treatments are proposed within bogs, fens, meadows, seeps, marshes and swamps. Species will not be affected.
<i>Schoenoplectus subterminalis</i> water bulrush	CA rare plant 2B.3	Take	Species found in bogs, fens, marshes and swamps (montane lake margins) which were not identified within the project area. Species will not be affected.
<i>Sedum obtusatum</i> ssp. <i>paradisum</i> , Canyon Creek stonecrop	CA. rare plant 1B.3	Take	Species prefers granite outcrops at elevations above 3250'. Project location is between 2,640' and 3,040' in elevation and no granite outcrops were identified within the project area. Species will not be affected.

<i>Silene salmonacea</i> , Klamath Mountain catchfly	CA. rare plant 1B.2	Take	Species prefers openings, usually serpentinite in lower montane coniferous forest. Fuel reduction treatments are not proposed in forest openings and no serpentinite soils were identified within the project area. Species will not be affected.
<i>Smilax jamesii</i> , English Peak greenbrier	CA. rare plant 4.2	Take	Species is found along streambanks and lake margins and sometimes mesic depressions in broad leaved upland forest, lower montane coniferous forest, marshes, swamps, North Coast coniferous forest, and upper montane coniferous forest. All stream banks, lake margins, marshes and swamps will be included in the no cut riparian buffer areas and no mesic depressions were identified within the project areas. Species will not be affected.
<i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i> , Northern Spotted Owl	US-Threatened CA-Threatened	Take	The CNDDDB Spotted Owl Database indicates there is one NSO activity center within 1.3 miles of the project area (TRI0469 is located approximately 1 mile north of the project area). TRI0150 is located approximately 1.5 miles east, and TRI0473 is located approximately 1.9 miles northwest of the project area. No habitat modification will result from the proposed fuel reduction treatments. To avoid noise disturbance during the nesting season, no operations will be conducted within areas of suitable habitat that are greater than 1,000 feet from a residence or access road between February 1 and August 1 annually. Species will not be affected.
<i>Tonestus lyallii</i> Lyall's tonestus	CA rare plant 2B.3	Take	Species grows in alpine boulder and rock fields at elevations above 7,500'. Project location is between 2,640' and 3,040' in elevation and no alpine boulder and rock fields were identified within the project area. Species will not be affected.

**Cultural Resources**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- Yes  No Was a current archaeological records check completed? Results discussed below:
- Yes  No Was a CAL FIRE Staff or Contract Archaeologist consulted? Results discussed below:
- Yes  No Was an archaeological survey of the project area completed? Results discussed below:
- Yes  No Will the project effect any historic buildings or archaeological site?
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

No burning or ground disturbing activities are proposed with this project. Therefore, no archaeological record check or cultural survey is required. The project will have no significant impact on cultural resources.

**Geology and Soils**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

A negligible amount of soil disturbance will result from hand crews dragging brush. No highly erosive soils or unstable slopes were observed in the project area. The project will have no significant impact on Geology and Soils.

**Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 Yes  No Would the project generate significant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?  
 Yes  No Would these GHG emissions result in a significant impact on the environment? Discuss below:  
 Yes  No Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? Discuss below:

A small amount of GHG emissions will result from vehicle traffic going to and from the project site, as well as the operation of a diesel chipper and gas chainsaws. However, the amount of GHGs released would be negligible in comparison to those released by a catastrophic wildfire. This project mitigates the risk of catastrophic wildfire and any associated GHG emissions. In addition, selective thinning of codominant and subdominant trees will release the remaining conifers and hardwoods, resulting in an increased rate of carbon sequestration over a longer temporal scale. Implementation of this project will likely result in a net reduction of GHG emissions and will not conflict with CA AB32.

**Hazards and Hazardous Materials**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project will require the use of unleaded gasoline, two cycle fuel and diesel fuel to operate equipment. A hazardous materials endorsement will not be required. Equipment will be refueled only on existing roads road and at least 100ft from water ways. Each vehicle at the project site will be equipped with an appropriate spill-kit.

**Hydrology and Water Quality**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 Yes  No Will the project potentially affect any watercourse or body of water?  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

All active watercourses or bodies of water will be afforded a minimum 50' no cut buffer. The project will have no significant impact on Hydrology or Water Quality.

**Land Use and Planning**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

**Mineral Resources**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

**Noise**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Vegetation treatment will require the use of chainsaws and a chipper, which will generate noise that may be audible to landowners within and near the project areas. However, work will occur during the business week and residents have been

informed of the nature of work and the associated noise. In addition, the project areas are surrounded by private properties, where chainsaws and other internal combustion engines are regularly operating. This project will not significantly increase adverse noise levels.

**Population and Housing**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

**Public Services**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

**Recreation**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

**Transportation/Traffic**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

**Utilities and Service Systems**

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Several power and utility lines run through the project footprint. No trees will be felled that could threaten the power and utility lines. The project will have no significant impact on utilities and service systems.

**Changes Made to Avoid Environmental Impacts:**

None.

**Mandatory Findings of Significance:**

	YES	NO
(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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(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 probably future projects)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Justification for Use of a Categorical Exemption (discuss why the project is exempt, cite exemption number(s), and describe how the project fits the class):**

This project fits the description for a Class 4, §15304 – Minor Alterations to Land Categorical Exemption to CEQA. Field review by Trinity County Resource Conservation District staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The project consists of minor treatments to land and vegetation in the form of brush removal, hand crews and chipping. The activities do not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species, or sedimentation to surface waters. Trinity County Resource Conservation District staff has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems

**Conclusion:**

After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the description for the various classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA, TCRCDD has determined that the project fits within one or more of the exemption classes and no exceptions exist at the project site which would preclude the use of this exemption. The Department considered the possibility of (a) sensitive location, (b) cumulative impact, (c) significant impact due to unusual circumstances, (d) impacts to scenic highways, (e) activities within a hazardous waste site, and (f) significant adverse change to the significance of a historical resource. A Notice of Exemption will be filed at the State Clearinghouse.

After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the description for the various classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA, TCRCDD has determined that the project does not fit within the description for the various exemption classes or has found that exceptions exist at the project site which precludes the use of a Categorical Exemption for this project. Additional environmental review will be conducted and the appropriate CEQA document used may be a Negative Declaration or a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUL 17 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

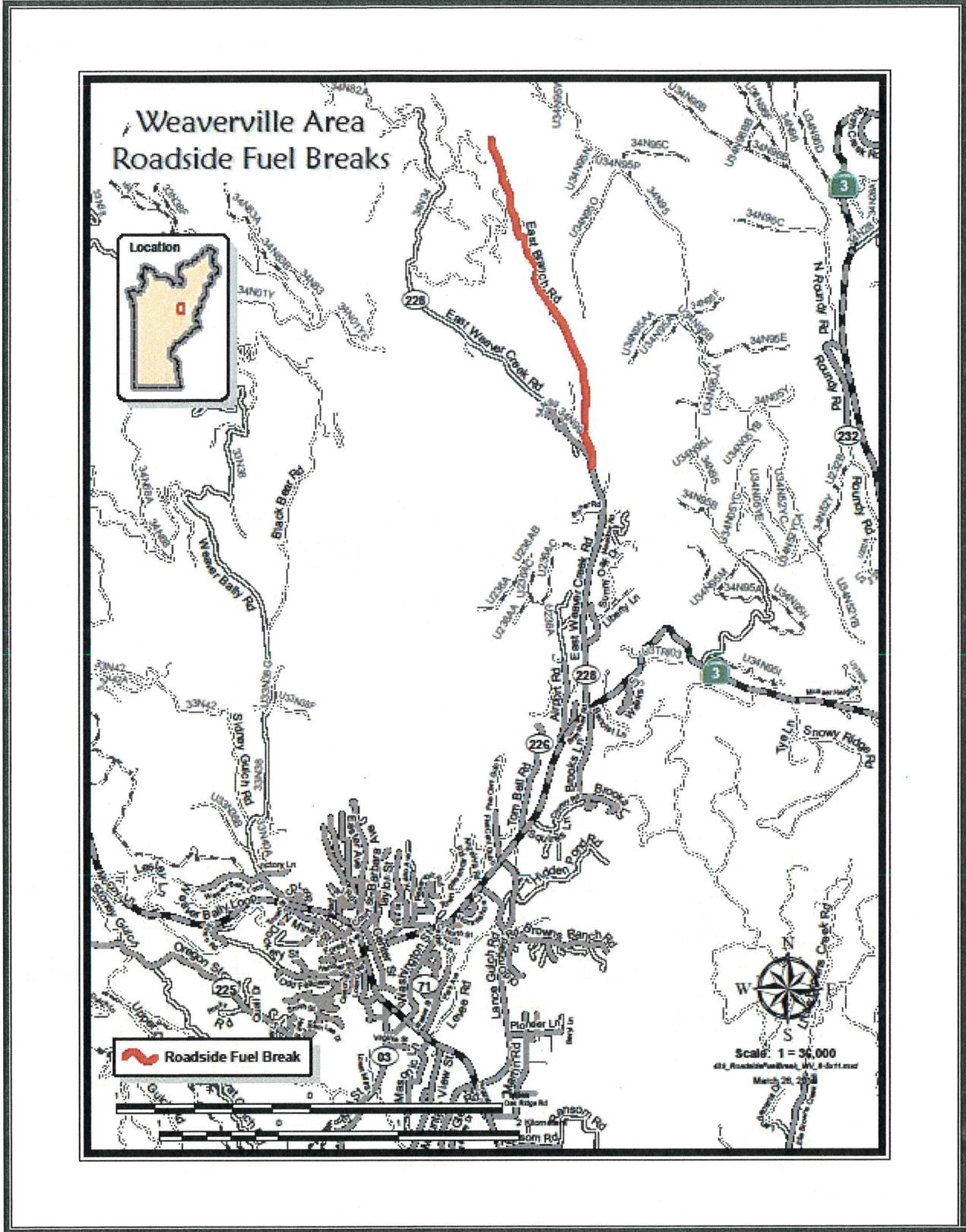


Figure 1. Weaverville SWRCB Roadside Fuelbreak Project Map.

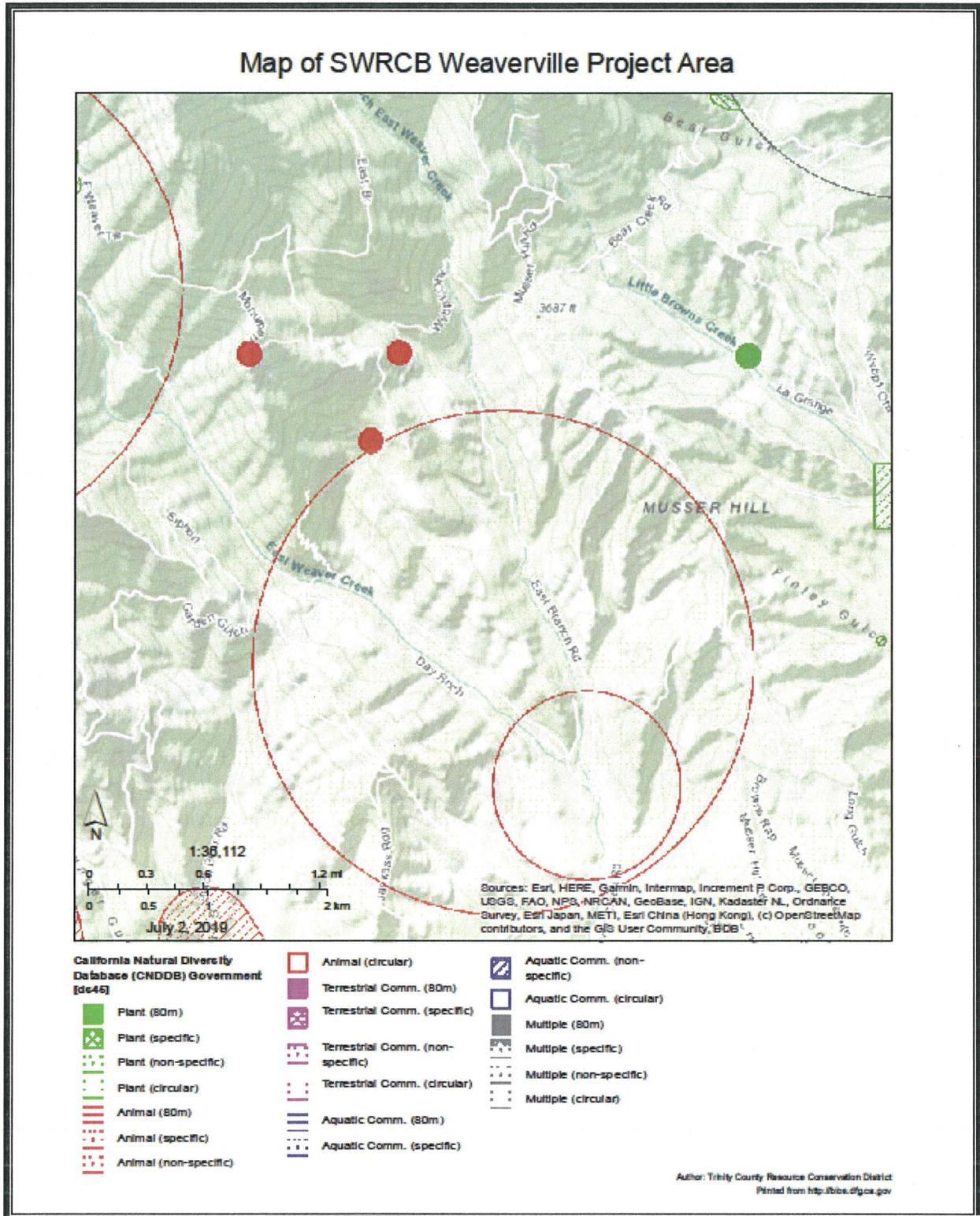


Figure 3. CNDDDB species map



Figure 4. Vegetation/Fuels adjacent to East Branch Road in the Weaverville project area.



Figure 5. Vegetation/Fuels adjacent to East Branch Road in the Weaverville project area.

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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