# **Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration**

# **Simpco Minor Subdivision**

**Big Flat Road** 

July 2019



Prepared By
Del Norte County
Community Development Department
Planning Division
981 H Street, Suite 110
Crescent City, California 95531

www.co.del-norte.ca.us

## **Project Information Summary**

1. Project Title: Simpco Minor Subdivision, Big Flat Road

MS1905

2. Lead Agency Name and Address: Del Norte County

Community Development Department, Planning Division

981 H Street, Suite 110 Crescent City, CA 95531

3. Contact Person and Phone Number: Taylor Carsley

(707) 464-7254

4. Project Location and APN: Big Flat Road, Del Norte County

126-290-007

5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address: Dave Powell

P.O. Box 263

Crescent City, CA 95567

6. County General Plan Land Use: Timberland

7. County Zoning: Public Ownership (PO)

8. Description of Project:

The project is a minor subdivision of a 61.5-acre property off Big Flat Road in the community of Big Flat near the South Fork Smith River. The subdivision would create three parcels approximately 20 acres in area. The General Plan land use designation of the property is Timberland and the property has historically been used for timber harvest activities. The subdivision would be considered a resource subdivision on resource lands. No land use designation or zoning change is occurring as part of this action. No residential development is proposed. Much of the project area is steep hillside suitable only for timber management as designated in the General Plan.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Settings: Rural residential, and public lands

10. Required Approvals: Del Norte County Planning Commission

11. Other Approval (Public Agencies): Del Norte County Community Development Department

12. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, has consultation begun?

Native American tribes, traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area have been notified of the project application completion and the beginning of the AB 52 consultation period pursuant to PRC §21080.3.1.

# **Environmental Factors Potentially Affected**

	The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.							
	Aesthetics		Agriculture and Forestry Resources		Air Quality			
	Biological Resources		Cultural Resources		Energy			
	Geology/Soils	Г	Greenhouse Gas Emissions		Hazards & Hazardous Materials			
	Hydrology / Water Quality		Land Use / Planning		Mineral Resources			
	Noise		Population / Housing		Public Services			
	Recreation		Transportation		Tribal Cultural Resources			
	Utilities / Service Systems		Wildfire		Mandatory Findings of Significance			
	Determination							
On	the basis of this initial evaluat	ion:						
×	DECLARATION will be prepar	ed.	OULD NOT have a significant effect on	······································				
	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a							

· 🛛	I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE
23	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 project
	proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
	I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL
ш	IMPACT REPORT is required.
	I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless
	mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier
	document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the
	earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must
	analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially
	significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to
	applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE
	DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing
	further is required.

Taylor Carsley, Planner Date

# **Table of Contents**

Project Information Summary	2
Environmental Factors Potentially Affected	3
Determination	3
1. Aesthetics	5
2. Agriculture and Forest Resources	5
3. Air Quality	6
4. Biological Resources	6
5. Cultural Resources	7
6. Energy	7
7. Geology and Soils	
8. Greenhouse Gas Emissions	9
9. Hazards and Hazardous Materials	9
10. Hydrology and Water Quality	10
11. Land Use and Planning	10
12. Mineral Resources	11
13. Noise	11
14. Population and Housing	12
15. Public Services	12
16. Recreation	12
17. Transportation	13
18. Tribal Cultural Resources	13
19. Utilities and Service Systems	
20. Wildfire	14
21. Mandatory Findings of Significance	

## 1. Aesthetics

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	0			×
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publically accessible vantage points). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?			0	⊠
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				×

### **Discussion of Impacts**

- a. This project would have no foreseeable impact on scenic vistas.
- b. This project would have no foreseeable impact on scenic resources.
- c. The project would not degrade the existing visual character or public views of the site and its surroundings.
- d. The project does not propose any development which would create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect views.

# 2. Agriculture and Forest Resources

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				⊠
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?			П	×
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				×
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?		О		×
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?		0		Ø

- a. No farmland exists on-site.
- b. No agricultural zoning exists on-site or adjacent to the property
- c. No Timber Production zones exist on-site or adjacent to the property
- d. The project would not result in the loss of forestland. No forestland exists on-site.
- e. The project does not involve any other changes in the existing environment that could adversely affect farmland or timberlands.

# 3. Air Quality

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

#### **Discussion of Impacts**

- a. This project would have no foreseeable impacts on the implementation of an air quality plan.
- b. This project would have no foreseeable impacts on increasing criteria pollutants in the region.
- c. This project would not expose receptors to pollutant concentrations.
- d. This project would have no foreseeable impacts in increasing any emissions.

## 4. Biological Resources

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				×
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?		a	a	⊠

Would the project:	Potentially	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than			
5. Cultural Resources						
Discussion of Impacts  a-f. No sensitive biological resources are known to exist on the project site. This is a resource subdivision that is designated under the General Plan for timber harvesting activities, subject to biological review under the California Forest Practices Act by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. No impacts to biological resources would result from this minor subdivision.						
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan?				×		
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				×		
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?						
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?		0		×		

outside of dedicated cemeteries?

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance

of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?

c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred

of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?

a-c. No cultural resources are known to exist on-site. Notice was provided to tribes traditionally culturally affiliated with the project area and no comment was given with regard to cultural resources. Additionally, a Native American representative is a voting member of the County Environmental Review Committee which reviews projects and makes CEQA recommendations. No potential impacts are known to exist

Incorporated

 $\boxtimes$ 

 $\boxtimes$ 

## 6. Energy

Γ			Less Than		
	Would the project:	Potentially	Significant Impact	Less Than	No
	Trouble and projects	Significant Impact	with Mitigation	Significant Impact	Impact
			Incorporated		

a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?		
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	П	×

- a. The project would have no foreseeable impacts on increasing wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary energy use since no development is proposed as part of this application.
- b. This project does not conflict with nor obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

# 7. Geology and Soils

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	·			
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				Ø
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?				×
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				
iv) Landslides?				
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				×
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				×
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	D		0	×
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?			0	×
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				×

#### **Discussion of Impacts**

a-f. No impacts related to geology and/or soils as a result of this project are expected to occur. This project subdivides property designated for timber harvest and does not proposed any development. No analysis for residential development has been completed as a result of the General Plan land use designation. Steep slopes exist on the majority of the parcel, making development infeasible on most of the property. Should development be proposed in the future, further geotechnical studies would be necessary to comply with the County Hillside Development Criteria.

### 8. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

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

### **Discussion of Impacts**

- a. The project would not create significant impacts to the environment from GHG emissions. No GHG emissions would be created as a result of this subdivision.
- b. The proposed project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose or reducing GHG emissions.

## 9. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	Ó			×
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?		0		×
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?				×
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	П			⊠
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	О			

#### **Discussion of Impacts**

a-g. The project would not create impacts related to hazards or hazardous materials. This subdivision would not facilitate the transport of hazardous materials, the release of hazardous materials, nor would it create additional exposure to wildland fires.

## 10. Hydrology and Water Quality

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?				⊠
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?			. 🗆	×.
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on-or off-site?				
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	0		⊠ .	
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional source of polluted runoff; or				×
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?				
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?		О		×
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable ground water management plan?				×

#### **Discussion of Impacts**

a-e. This project would have no impact on hydrology or water quality. The subdivision does not affect water quality in any way, nor does it require improvements that alters drainage systems, involves grading, or approve additional development that can increase runoff potential. This is a resource subdivision of timberlands. Future development proposals would necessitate additional permitting and analysis. No development is proposed that would impact hydrology and water quality.

## 11. Land Use and Planning

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?				$\boxtimes$

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

a-b. This project does not divide an established community nor does it cause a conflict with any land use plan in the County.

### 12. Mineral Resources

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

### **Discussion of Impacts**

a-b. No mineral resources are known to exist on site.

### 13. Noise

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?				⊠
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			П	$\boxtimes$
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?		0		×

### **Discussion of Impacts**

a-b. This project would have no impacts through noise generation itself. The subdivision is occurring on timberlands with no lands zoned for sensitive development types located nearby.

Del Norte County Negative Declaration—Simpco Minor Subdivision, Big Flat Road — MS1905

# 14. Population and Housing

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

#### **Discussion of Impacts**

- a. The project would not create the ability to allow for substantial population growth in the area. The subdivision would not create residential parcels.
- b. The project would not displace any number of existing people or housing.

### 15. Public Services

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, 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:				
Fire protection?				
Police protection?				×
Schools?				
Parks?				
Other public facilities?				×

### **Discussion of Impacts**

a. The project would not result in substantial adverse impacts associated with the need for new or altered governmental facilities and/or public services. The project would not increase the density in this rural project area as it is a resource subdivision of timberlands.

### 16. Recreation

	Potentially	Less Than	Less Than	
Would the project:	Significant	Significant Impact	Significant	No Impact
	Impact	with Mitigation	Impact	

	⊠
О	×

a-b. The project does not impact existing recreational areas nor does it increase the need for additional recreational facilities.

# 17. Transportation

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

#### **Discussion of Impacts**

a-d. The project does not impact transportation in any way. The subdivision does not conflict with any County transportation plan or policy, does not increase Vehicle Miles Traveled, increase transportation hazards, nor does it result in inadequate emergency access.

### 18. Tribal Cultural Resources

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a triba site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically define cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or				×
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth		0		×

		~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	y	PARTY PARTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY AND ADDRE
in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the		-		
lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a	Library Control of the Control of th			
California Native American tribe.		***************************************		

The project would have no foreseeable impacts on tribal cultural resources. A member of the Environmental Review Committee is a Native American representative and has not issued notice of any concern of resources on-site. Further, an AB 52 tribal consultation has been sent to local tribes associated with the project area and no requests for consultations have been received by the Lead Agency.

# 19. Utilities and Service Systems

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?				⊠ ·
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	П			X
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the providers existing commitments?		<b>a</b>		
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?				×
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	О			×

#### **Discussion of Impacts**

a-e. The project would not have any impact on utilities and service systems. No utilities systems are proposed as these are not residential or commercially-designated parcels. The project area is designated timberland and this resource subdivision would not generate demands or adverse impacts to utilities and service systems.

### 20. Wildfire

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	П			×
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to			О	×

pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?		
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?		×
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?		×

a-d. The project site is located in a State Responsibility Area for fire management and is in High and Very High Fire Hazard Areas. The project would not be expected to be growth inducing as it is a resource subdivision in designated timberlands. This project does not impair any adopted emergency response plan, nor does it require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure that may exacerbate fire risks. Should future development be proposed, the County Fire Safe Regulations would be implemented in coordination with CAL FIRE staff as appropriate.

# 21. Mandatory Findings of Significance

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially 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, substantially 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?		0		⊠
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?				⊠

#### THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL MAP FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY





