2019100090

Print Form

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
P. O. Box 1215
Weaverville,CA 9609

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

Project Title: Trinity County Resource Conservation District 2019 Downriver Fuel Reduction Project

Project Applicant: Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Project Location - Specific:

Lat/Long: 40.859015, -123.504169. Hawkins Bar, CA.

Project Location - City: Burnt Ranch to Salyer 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));
- ☒ 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 D. S Date: 10/1/2019 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.

Date Received for filing at OPR:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

OCT 03 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

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@tcrcd.net

Project Name:	Trinity County Resource Conservation District 2019 Downriver Fuel Reduction Project
Project Number:	Grant Agreement: TCRCD 2019-01, 2019 Trinity County Fuel Reduction Project (PG&E)
Project Number:	Grant Agreement: 18 SFA 111371, Salyer portion of the Trinity County CWPP Implementation Phase III (CFSC)
Program Type:	Vegetation Management Program
County:	Trinity
Acres:	695 Acres Burnt Ranch (PG&E TCRCD 2019-01) 265 Acres Hawkins Bar (PG&E TCRCD 2019-01) 480 Acres Salyer (PG&E TCRCD 2019-01) 301 Acres Salyer Loop- (CFSC 18 SFA 111371)
Legal Location:	T5N, R6E, Sections 10, 14, and 15, HBM (Burnt Ranch) T6N, R6E, Sections 20, 21, 28, and 29, HBM (Hawkins Bar) T6N, R5E, Sections 13, HBM (Salyer) T6N, R5E, Sections 11, and 14, HBM (Salyer Loop)
Name of USGS 7.5' Quad Map(s):	-Ironsides Mountain -Hennessy Peak, and -Salyer

☒Project Vicinity Maps Attached
☒Project Location Maps Attached
☒Photos Attached

Other Public Agency Review/Permit Required:

Would the project result in:	YES	NO
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:	☐	☒

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):

The TCRCD 2019-01, 2019 Trinity County Fuel Reduction Project is funded by PG&E and the grant has 3 project areas (Burnt Ranch, Hawkins Bar and Salyer) which are all included in this environmental review document. The 18 SFA 111371, Trinity County CWPP Implementation Phase III project is funded by the California Fire Safe Council and the grant has 3

project areas of which only the Salyer Loop project area is included in this environmental review document. TCRCD intends to combine the project areas from both of the aforementioned grant projects into a single environmental review document called the TCRDC 2019 Downriver Fuel Reduction Project. The TCRCD 2019-01, 2019 Trinity County Fuel Reduction Project, funded by PG&E, has an implementation deadline of November 30, 2019 and TCRCD intends to complete implementation the entire 2019 Downriver Fuel Reduction Project before December 31, 2019.

Fuels reduction treatments on private property can only happen with landowner permission. Therefore, the project areas as mapped and proposed are much 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's (Federal or State owned lands), treatments may on municipal services properties such as properties designated for school districts and/or water districts.

Project Site Description

The 2019 Downriver Fuel Reduction Project is proposed on privately owned parcels within portions of the communities of Burnt Ranch, Hawkins Bar, and Salyer, in Trinity County, California. No treatments are proposed on publicly owned property.

These communities are within the Highway 299 corridor adjacent to the Trinity River. The project areas are generally located in the valley bottom with portions extending up the canyon walls onto mid slope benches. The topography of the area is very mountainous with steep canyon walls present on both sides of the river valley.

The Burnt Ranch project area is located on an elevated mid-slope bench area on the west side of the Trinity River, with a significant distance of steep canyon walls present between the community and the river. The Hawkins Bar project area is located on an alluvial terrace adjacent to the eastern bank of the Trinity River with the eastern portions of the community extending up onto the base of the eastern canyon wall. The Salyer project area is located on both sides of the Trinity River on alluvial terraces with the Salyer loop neighborhood located on an elevated mid slope bench on the eastern side of the Trinity River. These communities are somewhat spread out and separated with Salyer being the furthest downstream and Burnt Ranch being the highest in elevation and the furthest upstream community.

The environmental setting is characterized by a mixed hardwood forest type. The dominant tree species are Tanoak, Madrone, Live Oak, Douglas-fir, Ponderosa pine and Incense cedar with lesser amounts of White Oak, Black Oak, Big Leaf Maple, and Grey Pine. Hardwood Brush and shrub species observed include various species of Ceanothus, Manzanita, Redbud, Mountain mahogany, salal, Huckleberry, Willow and Poison Oak. The riparian areas within the project areas are primarily vegetated with alder, willow, Big Leaf Maple, Himalaya Blackberry and other riparian species. A 50' no cut stream buffer will be applied to all active watercourses and will generally include the riparian vegetation types within the project areas.

Treatment Description

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 where feasible. Cut material that is not feasible to be chipped may be loped and scattered to CAL FIRE standards, with the exception of blackberries and poison oak the lop and scatter treatment will not be utilized within 100 feet of structures, roads, or other critical infrastructure. 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 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 designated for removal 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.

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 within the communities of Burnt Ranch, Hawkins Bar and Salyer. 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 CNDDB 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:

Hoopa	Tish Tang Point	Trinity Mtn.
Willow Creek	Salyer	Denny
Jim Jam Ridge	Grouse Mtn.	Hennessy Peak
Ironside Mtn.	Del Loma	Board Camp Mtn.
Sims Mountain	Hyampom Mtn.	Big Bar

Species	Status	Potential Impact	Analysis
Astragalus umbraticus Bald Mountain milk-vetch	CA. rare plant, 2B.3	Take	Bald Mountain milk-vetch is a perennial herb native to western Oregon and northwestern California. Habitats include Cismontane woodland and Lower montane coniferous forest. Prefers Dry open oak and pine woodlands; sometimes on roadsides. 680'-4000'. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species may be present in the project area but implementation is scheduled for the fall months, outside of the vegetative and flowering season for this plant and above ground portions of the plants are expected to be dry and desiccated at the time of treatment. No operations will be allowed during the vegetative and flowering season without first conducting surveys for presence. Species will not be affected.
Bensoniella oregona bensoniella	CA. rare plant, 1B.1	Take	Bensoniella is a monotypic genus of plants in the saxifrage family containing the single species Bensoniella oregona, This plant is endemic to the Klamath Mountains of northern California and southern Oregon This is a plant of the wet forest understory and meadows above 3000 feet in elevation. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species will not be affected.
Bombus occidentalis western bumble bee	US-None CA-Candidate Endangered	Take	The western bumble bee was once very common in the western United States and western Canada. These bees can still be found in the northern and eastern parts of their historic range, but the once common populations from southern British Columbia to central California have nearly disappeared. As generalist foragers, they do not depend on any one flower type. The major threats to bumble bees include: spread of pests and diseases by the commercial bumble bee industry, other pests and diseases, habitat destruction or alteration, pesticides, invasive species, natural pest or predator population cycles, and climate change. Bumble bees are threatened by many kinds of habitat alterations which may destroy, alter, fragment, degrade or reduce their food

			supply (flowers that produce the nectar and pollen they require), nest sites (e.g. abandoned rodent burrows and bird nests), and hibernation sites for over-wintering queens. Implementation is scheduled for the fall months, outside of the vegetative and flowering season for most flowering plants and the above ground portions of annual and perennial plants are expected to be dry and desiccated at the time of treatment. The proposed fuel reduction treatments will allow more light into the forest floor which will increase the amount of flowering herbs and forbs. If a bumble bee nest or hibernation site is discovered during operations all operations within 100' of the next/hibernation site will stop and CDFW will be consulted. Species will not be affected.
Botrypus virginianus rattlesnake fern	CA. rare plant, 2B.2	Take	Rattlesnake fern is a species of perennial fern in the adders-tongue family. It is called the rattlesnake fern in some parts of North America, due to its habit of growing in places where rattlesnakes are also found. Rattlesnake fern prefers to grow in rich, moist woods in dense shade and will not tolerate direct sunlight. Habitats include bogs & fens, meadows & seeps in riparian forests, upper montane coniferous forest, lower montane coniferous forest, and wetlands. This species prefers to grow in well-rotted logs, peaty soil and humus at elevations between 2100'and 6600' in elevation. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Additionally, implementation is scheduled for the fall months, outside of the vegetative and flowering season for this plant and above ground portions of the plants are expected to be dry and desiccated at the time of treatment. Species will not be affected.
Buxbaumia viridis buxbaumia moss	CA. rare plant, 2B.2	Take	Species is ephemeral in nature, preferring to grow in disturbed habitats where competition is minimal. This species often times disappears after competing vegetation becomes established. Species grows at elevations between 2,925'-6,600' in elevation.

			Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species will not be affected
Campylopodiella stenocarpa 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.
Carex arcta northern clustered sedge	CA. rare plant, 2B.2	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.
Carex praticola northern meadow sedge	CA. rare plant, 2B.2	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.
Cornus Canadensis bunchberry	CA. rare plant, 2B.2	Take	Bunchberry is a mesophytic species that needs cool, moist soils. It inhabits montane and boreal coniferous forests, where it is found growing along the margins of moist woods, on old tree stumps, in mossy areas, and among other open and moist habitats at elevations between 225 and 5,800 feet above sea level. This specie is a slow-growing herbaceous perennial growing 10–20 cm (4"-8") tall, generally forming a carpet-like mat. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. This species may be present in the project area but due to the plant size (up to 8") this species would not be targeted for treatment during fuels reduction treatments. Additionally, implementation is scheduled for the fall months, outside of the vegetative and flowering season for this plant and the above ground portions of the plants are expected to be dry and desiccated at the time of treatment. No operations will be allowed during the vegetative and flowering season without first conducting surveys for presence. Species will not be affected.
Epilobium oreganum, Oregon fireweed	CA. rare plant 1B.2	Take	Species grows only in boggy areas on serpentine soils. This species grows in boggy areas which are not present in the project area or are within the no cut riparian buffer areas. Species will not be

			affected.
Eriastrum tracyi Tracy's eriastrum	CA. rare plant 3.2	Take	Species only occurs at elevations above 2,690'. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species will not be affected.
Erigeron maniopotamicus Mad River fleabane daisy	CA. rare plant 1B.2	Take	Mad River fleabane daisy is a perennial herb that prefers to grow in dry, barren meadows and openings in mixed-conifer woodlands in elevations between 3,900'and 4500'in elevation. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species will not be affected.
Erythranthe trinitiensis pink-margined monkeyflower	CA. rare plant 1B.3	Take	pink-margined monkeyflower is an annual plant that prefers moist, generally clay soils in full sun that grows at Elevations between 3,900'and 6,000' above sea level. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species will not be affected.
Erythronium oregonum giant fawn lily	CA. rare plant 2B.2	Take	Giant fawn lily is an herbaceous perennial that blooms from early to late spring. This species prefers full sun to full shade, moist, well-drained soil with high organic content and grows at elevations between 900'-4,300' above sea level. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species may be present in the project area but implementation is scheduled for the fall months, outside of the vegetative and flowering season for this plant and above ground portions of the plants are expected to be dry and desiccated at the time of treatment. No operations will be allowed during the vegetative and flowering season without first conducting surveys for presence. Species will not be affected.
Erythronium revolutum coast fawn lily	CA. rare plant 2B.2	Take	Coast fawn lily is an herbaceous perennial that blooms from early to late spring. This species prefers full sun to full shade, moist, well-drained soil with high organic content and grows at elevations between 180'-

			4,200' above sea level. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species may be present in the project area but implementation is scheduled for the fall months, outside of the vegetative and flowering season for this plant and above ground portions of the plants are expected to be dry and desiccated at the time of treatment. No operations will be allowed during the vegetative and flowering season without first conducting surveys for presence. Species will not be affected.
Eucephalus vialis wayside aster	CA. rare plant 1B.2	Take	Wayside aster is a perennial herb that occurs in Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, and Linn Counties in Oregon and Del Norte and Humboldt Counties in California. It grows mainly on dry sites in temperate coniferous forest habitat at elevations between 1,785 and 4,500' above sea level. A study has found that experimental thinning of the forest improved the condition of the species by allowing more light to penetrate to the plants Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species may be present in the project area but implementation is scheduled for the fall months, outside of the vegetative and flowering season for this plant and above ground portions of the plants are expected to be dry and desiccated at the time of treatment. No operations will be allowed during the vegetative and flowering season without first conducting surveys for presence. Forest thinning as part of the prescribed fuel reduction treatments is expected to have a beneficial effect on the species. Species will not be affected.
Gentiana plurisetosa Klamath gentian	CA. rare plant 1B.3	Take	Klamath gentian is a perennial herb native to southern Oregon and northern California, where it is an uncommon resident of wet mountain meadows at elevations between 3,600 and 5,700' above sea level. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species will not be affected.

Gilia capitata ssp. Pacifica Pacific gilia	CA. rare plant 1B.2	Take	Pacific gilia is an annual herb that grows on steep slopes, ravines, open flats, or Coastal bluff scrub, chaparral, coastal prairie, valley and foothill grassland and dunes habitats at elevations between 6' and 2,800' above sea level. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species may be present in the project area but implementation is scheduled for the fall months, outside of the vegetative and flowering season for this plant which is expected to be dry and desiccated at the time of treatment. No operations will be allowed during the vegetative and flowering season without first conducting surveys for presence. Species will not be affected.
Gulo gulo California wolverine	US- Proposed Threatened CA- Threatened	Take	California wolverine can be found in the north coast mountains and the Sierra Nevada occupying a wide variety of high elevation habitats. The Species needs water source and uses caves, logs, and burrows for cover and den areas. Species hunts in more open areas and can travel long distances. Since the proposed treatments are generally in residential areas and along roadsides between 700' and 2100' in elevation, it is unlikely that California wolverine nests or dens are present within the project areas. If species is observed operations will cease within 1000' and CDFW biologist will be consulted. Species will not be affected.
Haliaeetus leucocephalus 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 are located near or adjacent to the Trinity River which is a free flowing river with abundant fish. No trees (live or dead) over 8" in diameter will be removed unless assessed for potential species use and marked for removal by an RPF. No raptor nests were identified within the project area during project area inspections. Species will not be affected.

Hemieva ranunculifolia buttercup-leaf suksdorfia	CA. rare plant, 2B.2	Take	Buttercup-leaf suksdorfia grows in mesic, rocky, granitic areas at elevations above 4,500'. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species will not be affected.
Hosackia yollabolliensis Yolla Bolly Mtns. bird's-foot trefoil	CA. rare plant 1B.2	Take	Yolla Bolly Mtns. bird's-foot trefoil is a perennial herb that is native to California which prefers dry barren exposed slopes (often gravelly), meadows and seeps in upper montane coniferous forest openings. Species is found at elevations between 5,100' and 6,300' above sea level. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species will not be affected.
Iliamna latibracteata California globe mallow	CA. rare plant 1B.2	Take	California globe mallow is a perennial herb that is native to California and Oregon. That prefers to grow in seepage areas and streambanks with silty clay loam at elevations between 1,500' and 6,000' above sea level. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species may be present in the project area; however, any suitable habitat areas will be within the no cut riparian buffer areas. Additionally, implementation is scheduled for the fall months, outside of the vegetative and flowering season for this plant and above ground portions of the plants are expected to be dry and desiccated at the time of treatment. Species will not be affected.
Juncus regelii Regel's rush	CA. rare plant 2B.3	Take	Regel's rush is a perennial herb that only occurs in mesic meadows and seeps in upper montane coniferous forest Meadows and seeps at elevations between 2,400' and 5,700' above sea level. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species will not be affected.
Kopsiopsis hookeri small groundcone	CA. rare plant 2B.3	Take	Small groundcone is a perennial rhizomatous herb (parasitic plant) in the broomrape family known by the common names Vancouver groundcone and small groundcone. It is native to western North America

			from British Columbia to northern California, where it grows in open wooded areas and shrubby places at elevations between 360'and 4,300' above sea level. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species may be present in the project area but implementation is scheduled for the fall months, outside of the vegetative and flowering season for this plant and above ground portions of the plants are expected to be dry and desiccated at the time of treatment. No operations will be allowed during the vegetative and flowering season without first conducting surveys for presence. Species will not be affected.
Lewisia cotyledon var. heckneri Heckner's lewisia	CA. rare plant 1B.2	Take	Heckner's lewisia is a perennial herb that is native to California, and prefers to grow in rocky places in north coast coniferous forest at elevations between 650' and 6,300' above sea level. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species may be present in the project area but implementation is scheduled for the fall months, outside of the vegetative and flowering season for this plant and above ground portions of the plants are expected to be dry and desiccated at the time of treatment. No operations will be allowed during the vegetative and flowering season without first conducting surveys for presence. Species will not be affected.
Lupinus elmeri South Fork Mountain lupine	CA. rare plant 1B.2	Take	South Fork Mountain lupine is an erect perennial herb known only from a few scattered occurrences in the northernmost slopes of the North Coast Ranges. This Species grows in open areas in conifer forests at elevations between 4,020 and 6,000' above sea level. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species will not be affected.
Martes caurina humboldtensis Humboldt marten	US- None CA- Endangered	Take	Humboldt marten favors large, contiguous patches of old-growth, conifer-dominated forests. No old-growth forests are present in the project areas. Fallen logs and

			hollow standing snags will be maintained. If species is observed operations will cease within 1000' and CDFW or CAL FIRE biologist will be consulted. Species will not be affected.
Monadenia infumata setosa Trinity bristle snail	US- None CA- Threatened	Take	Trinity bristle snail is found in northwestern Trinity County, along the Trinity River, up some of its tributaries and into the Corral Bottom area. It has a healthy population within its territory. The species appears dependent on riparian habitats, and especially likes big leaf maples. Species may be present in the project area; however, any suitable habitat areas will be within the no cut riparian buffer areas. Species will not be affected.
Montia howellii Howell's montia	CA. rare plant 2B.2	Take	Howell's montia is an annual herb that is native to California where it grows in moist to wet habitat, including vernal pools and meadows at elevations between 30' and 3,645'above sea level. It sometimes grows in shallow standing water such as puddles and on compacted soils. It is a small, low, mat-forming annual herb growing up to about 9 centimeters in maximum height. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. This species may be present in the project area, however; habitat for this plans would only be located within the no cut riparian buffer zones. Due to the plant size (up to 9 cm) this species would not be targeted for treatment during fuels reduction treatments. Additionally, implementation is scheduled for the fall months, outside of the vegetative and flowering season for this plant which are expected to be dry and desiccated at the time of treatment. Species will not be affected.
Oenothera wolfii Wolf's evening-primrose	CA. rare plant 1B.1	Take	Wolf's evening-primrose is biennial herb native to the coastline of southern Oregon and northern California, where it grows in coastal prairie, dunes, coastal forest and woodland habitats at elevations between 0' and 400'above sea level. Project location is inland from the coastline and is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil

			disturbance is expected. Species will not be affected.
Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 36 summer-run steelhead trout	US- None 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.
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha pop. 30 chinook salmon - upper Klamath and Trinity Rivers ESU	US- None 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.
Pekania pennanti, Pacific fisher	US- None 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.
Piperia candida white-flowered rein orchid	CA. rare plant 1B.2	Take	white-flowered rein orchid is a perennial herb that is native to California that prefers open to shady sites in conifer and mixed-evergreen forests at elevations up to 4,800' above sea level. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species may be present in the project area but implementation is scheduled for the fall months, outside of the vegetative and flowering season for this plant and above ground portions of the plants are expected to be dry and desiccated at the time of treatment. No operations will be allowed during the vegetative and flowering season without first conducting surveys for presence. Species will not be affected.
Ramalina thrausta angel's hair lichen	CA rare plant 2B.1	Take	Angel's hair lichen grows on dead twigs and other lichens in the north coast coniferous forest at elevations between 225' and 1,290'above sea level. This species has been documented in Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino counties but has not been documented in Trinity County. Species will not be affected.
Rana boylii, foothill yellow-legged frog	US- None 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.

Rosa gymnocarpa var. serpentine Gasquet rose	CA. rare plant 1B.3	Take	Gasquet rose is a perennial rhizomatous shrub known only from areas of serpentine soils in the Siskiyou Mtns. Of CA and OR. This species is often found on roadsides and sometimes ridges, streambanks, and openings in chaparral and cismontane woodland. Occurrences were reported in Del Norte, Humboldt, Siskiyou, and Tehama Counties but no occurrences were reported from Trinity County. Species will not be affected.
Sedum divergens Cascade stonecrop	CA rare plant 2B.3	Take	Cascade stonecrop is a low growing perennial herb that is native to California and grows on rocky alpine slopes, ridges talus slopes, and cool cliffs in elevations between 4,575' and 7,000' above sea level. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species will not be affected.
Sidalcea malviflora ssp. Patula Siskiyou checkerbloom	CA rare plant 1B.2	Take	Siskiyou checkerbloom is a perennial herb (rhizomatous) that is native to California and grows in open coastal forest, road cuts, coastal bluff scrub, coastal prairie, north coast coniferous forest at elevations between 15' and -3,765' above sea level. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species may be present in the project area but implementation is scheduled for the fall months, outside of the vegetative and flowering season for this plant and above ground portions of the plants are expected to be dry and desiccated at the time of treatment. No operations will be allowed during the vegetative and flowering season without first conducting surveys for presence. Species will not be affected.
Sidalcea oregana ssp. Eximia coast checkerbloom	CA. rare plant 1B.2	Take	Coast checkerbloom is a perennial herb (rhizomatous) that is native to California and grows in a number of moist habitat types, such as marshes, meadows and seeps in north coast coniferous forest and lower montane coniferous forest at elevations between 15' and -5,400' above sea level Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species may

			be present in the project area but implementation is scheduled for the fall months, outside of the vegetative and flowering season for this plant and above ground portions of the plants are expected to be dry and desiccated at the time of treatment. No operations will be allowed during the vegetative and flowering season without first conducting surveys for presence. Species will not be affected.
Streptanthus oblanceolatus Trinity River jewelflower	CA. rare plant 1B.2	Take	Trinity River jewel flower is a perennial herb that is native to California that grows on cliffs and canyon walls in conifer forest and Cismontane woodlands at elevations between 60' and 1,300' above sea level. The only occurrences reported are from the area between Burnt Ranch and Hawkins bar. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species is likely to be present in the project area but implementation is scheduled for the fall months, outside of the vegetative and flowering season for this plant and above ground portions of the plants are expected to be dry and desiccated at the time of treatment. No operations will be allowed during the vegetative and flowering season without first conducting surveys for presence. Species will not be affected.
Vaccinium scoparium little-leaved huckleberry	CA. rare plant 2B.2	Take	Little-leaved huckleberry is a species of huckleberry native to western North America, primarily in the Rockies, Cascades, and Black Hills from British Columbia and Alberta south to far northern California that grows in mountain habitat such as forests, meadows, and talus, occurring in subalpine and alpine climates at elevations of 2,300' to 10,000' above sea level. Project location is between 700' and 2100' in elevation and no soil disturbance is expected. Species will not be affected.
Strix occidentalis caurina, Northern Spotted Owl	US-Threatened CA-Threatened	Take	The CNDDB Spotted Owl Database indicates there are 12 NSO activity center within 1.3 miles of the project areas as follows; -TRI0379 is located approximately 0.57 mile southwest of the Salyer project area.

			-HUM0542 is located approximately 1.3 mile southwest of the Salyer Loop project area. -TRI0280 is located approximately 1.2 mile north of the Salyer Loop project area. -TRI0385 is located approximately 0.7 mile southeast of the Salyer project area and 1.1 miles west of the Hawkins Bar project Area. -TRI0056 is located approximately 1.2 mile south of the Salyer project area and 1.4 miles southwest of the Hawkins Bar project Area. -TRI0246 is located approximately 0.45 mile southwest of the Hawkins Bar project area. -TRI0016 is located approximately 1.2 mile northeast of the Hawkins Bar project area. -TRI0245 is located approximately 1.1 mile southwest of the Hawkins Bar project area. -TRI0174 is located approximately 0.38 mile northwest of the Burnt Ranch project area. -TRI0057 is located approximately 1.1 mile west of the Burnt Ranch project area. -TRI0113 is located approximately 1.3 mile northwest of the Burnt Ranch project area. -TRI0118 is located approximately 1.2 south of the Burnt Ranch 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.

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 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. Highly erosive soils or unstable slopes were not 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 day on week days 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. PG&E offers assistance programs and will supply crews to cut any vegetation that is within 10' of overhead 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?	☐	☒
(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)	☐	☒
(c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☒

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, TCRCD 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, TCRCD 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.

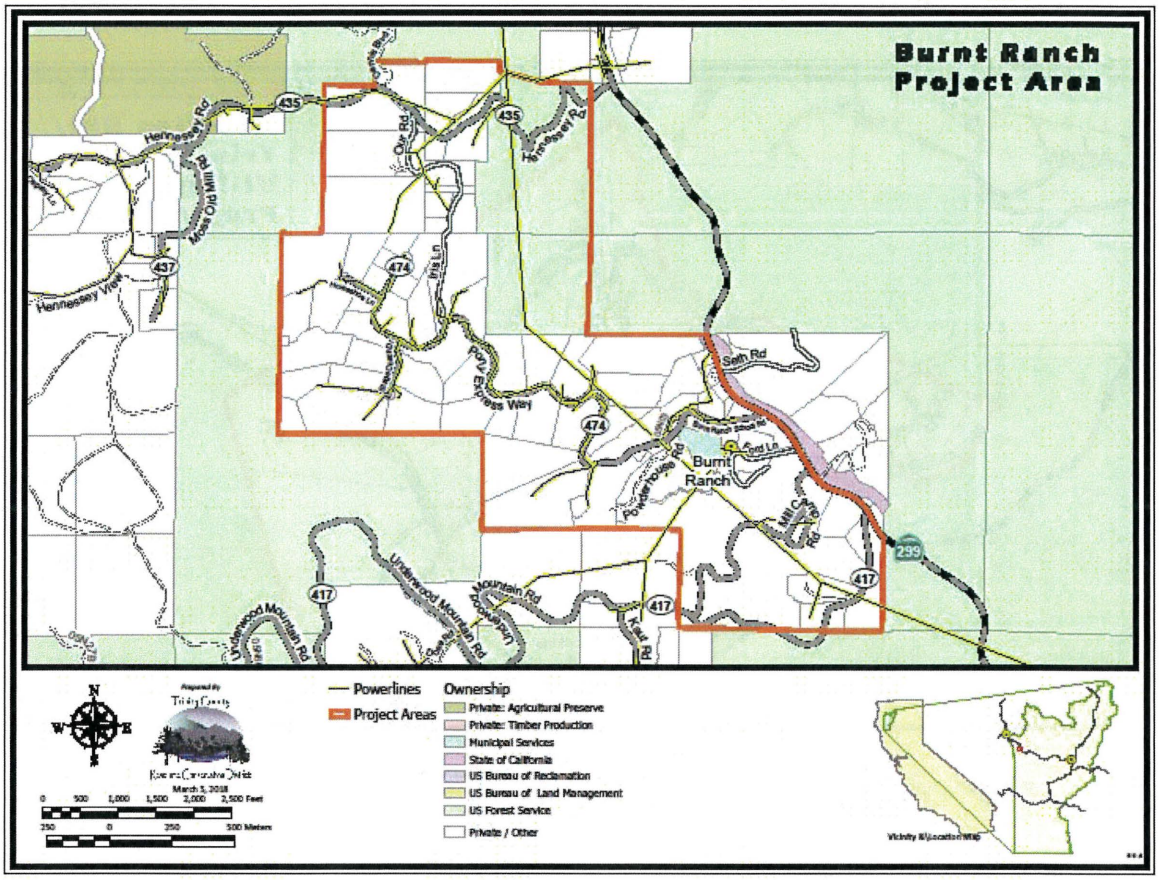

Figure 1. Burnt Ranch (PG&E TCRCD 2019-01) Project Map.

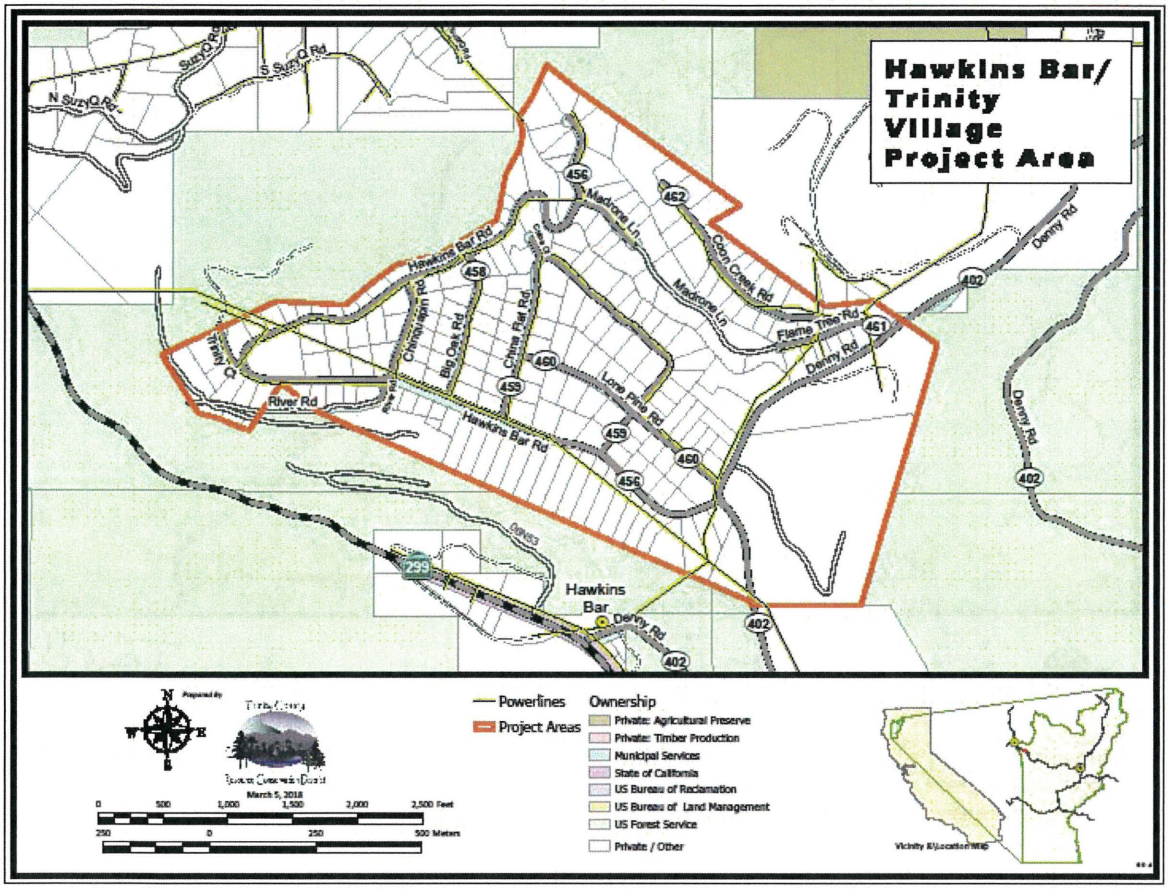

Figure 2. Hawkins Bar (PG&E TCRCD 2019-01) Project Map.

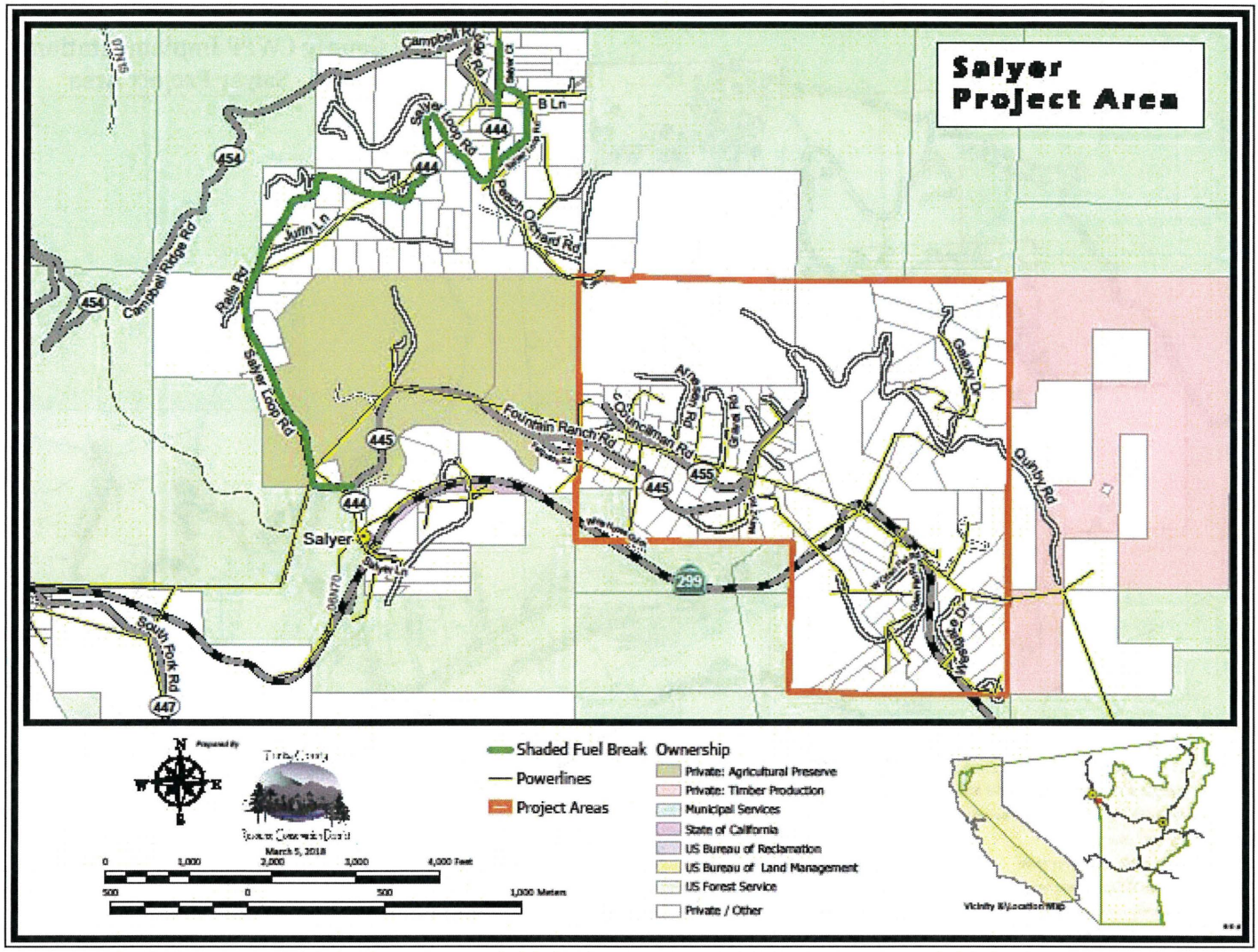

Figure 3. Salyer (PG&E TCRCD 2019-01) Project Map.

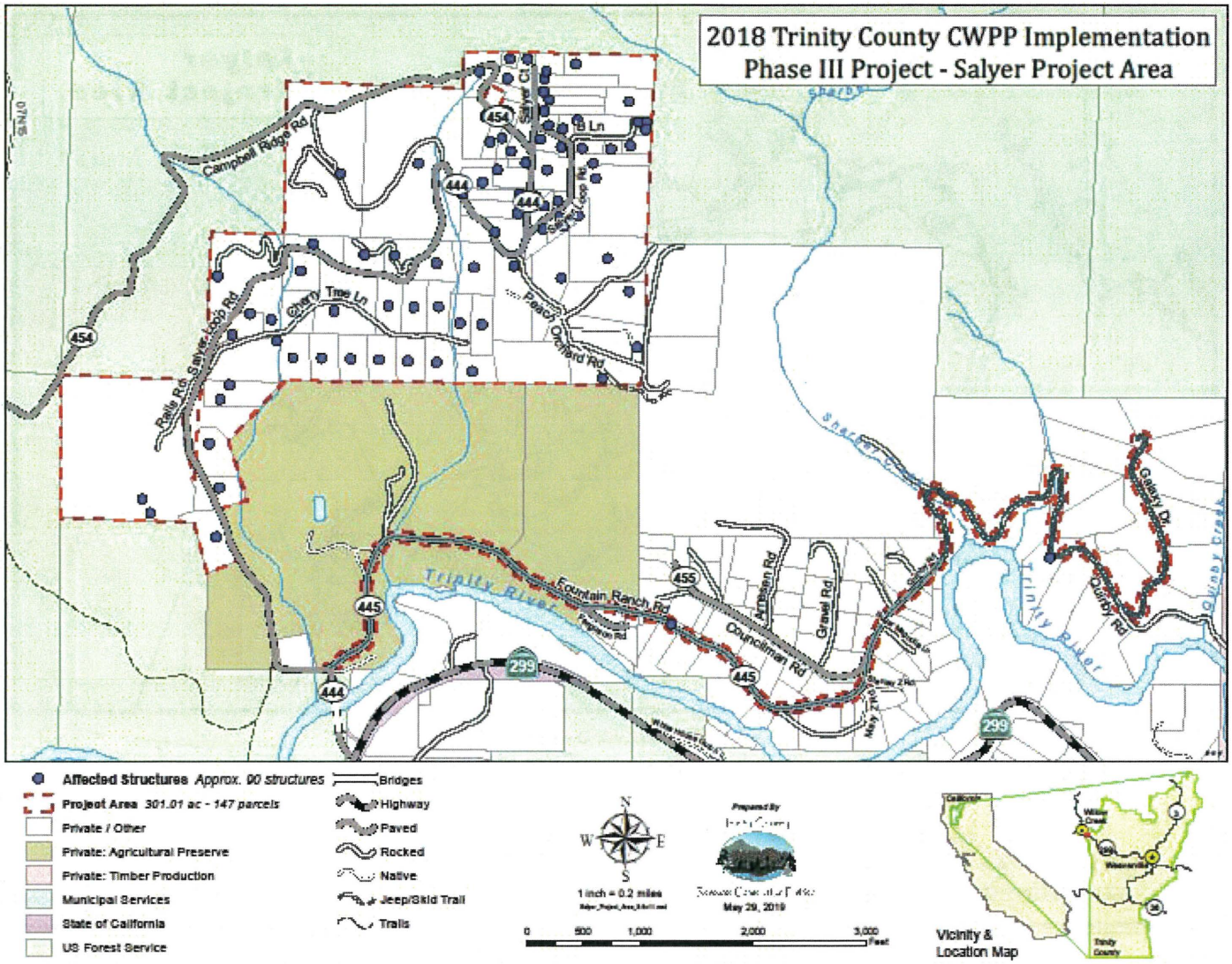

Figure 4. Salyer Loop (CFSC 18 SFA 111371) Project Map.

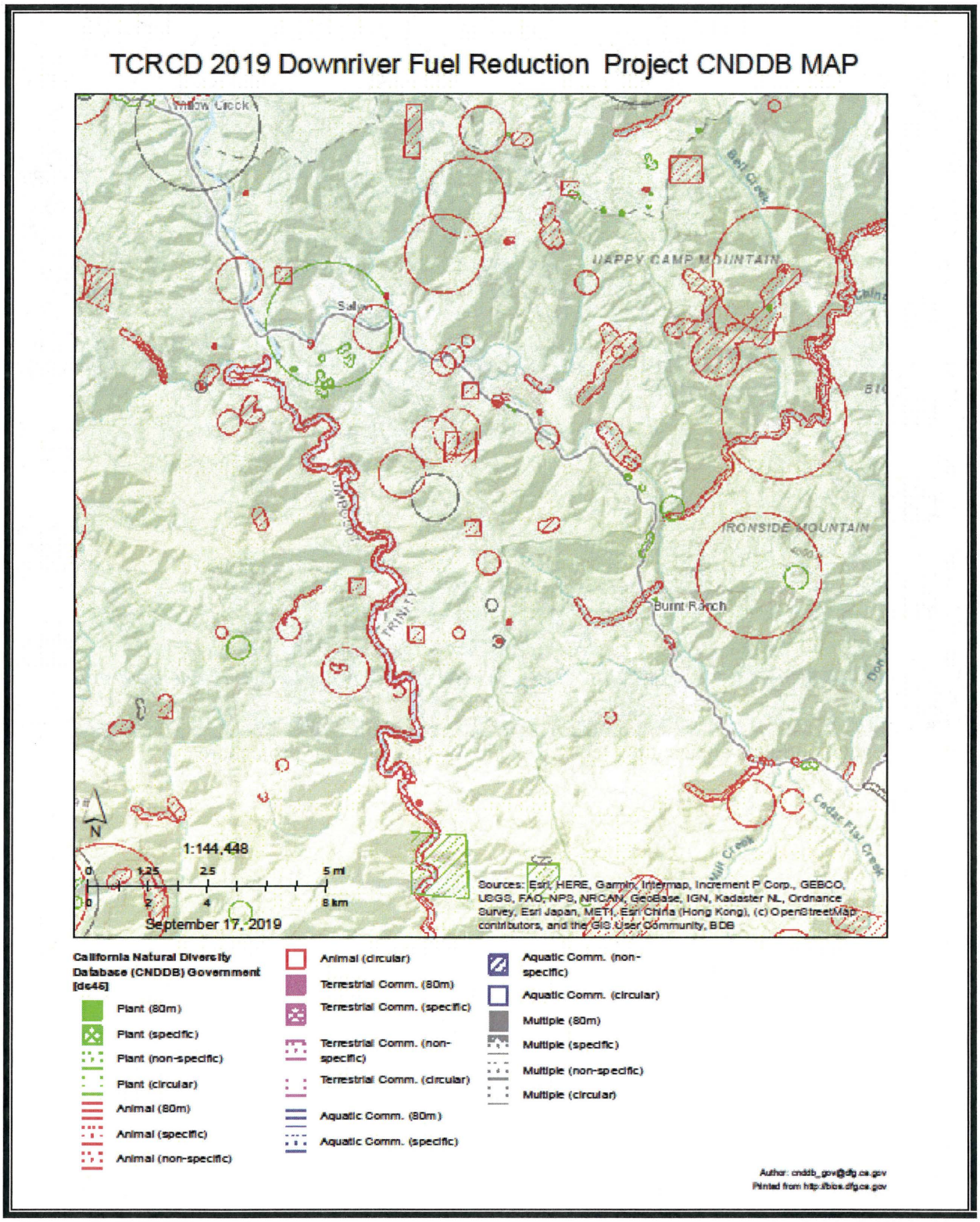

Figure 5. CNDDB species map

Figure 6. Vegetation/Fuels adjacent to Denny Road in the Hawkins Bar project area.

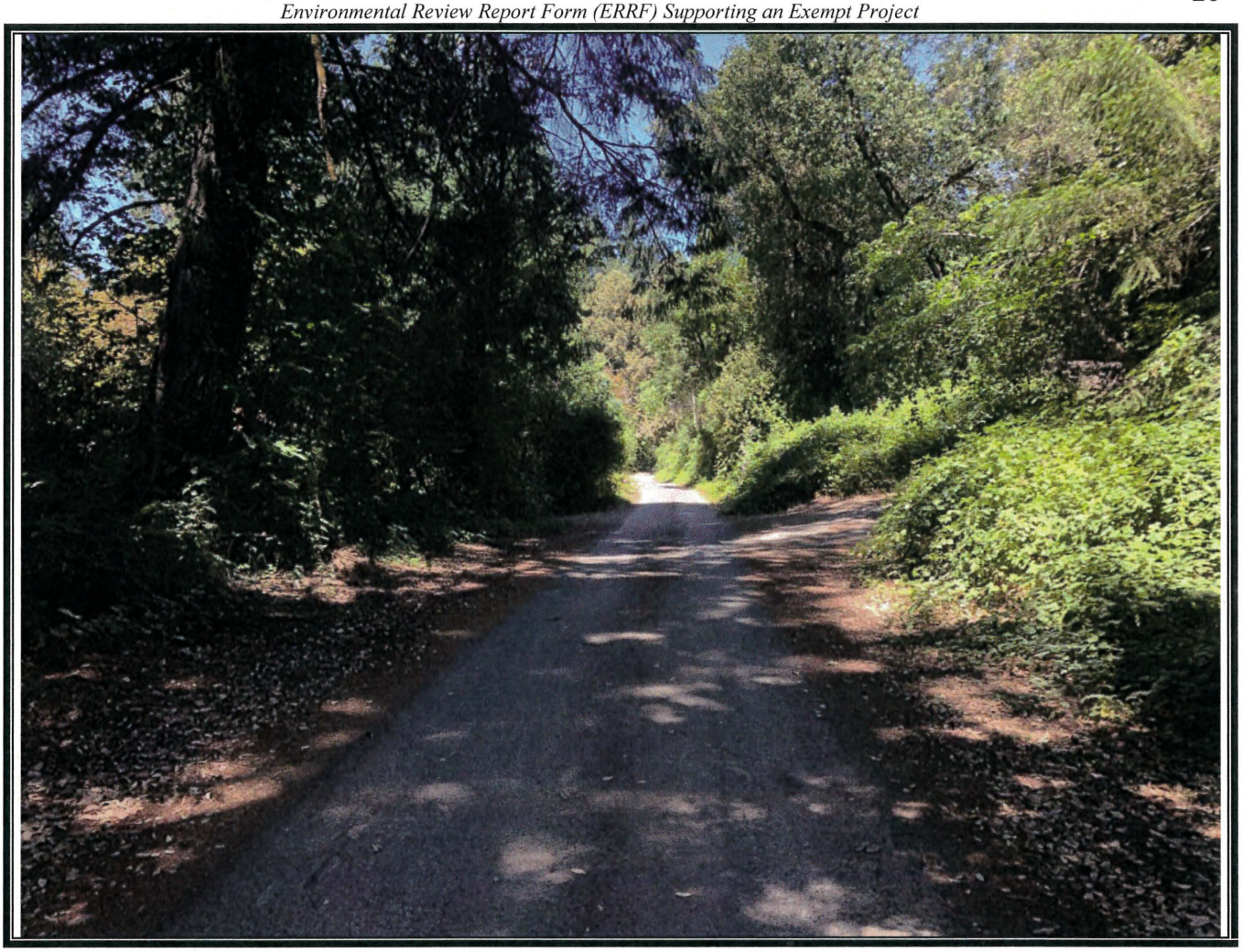

Figure 7. Vegetation/Fuels adjacent to Councilman Road in the Salyer project area.

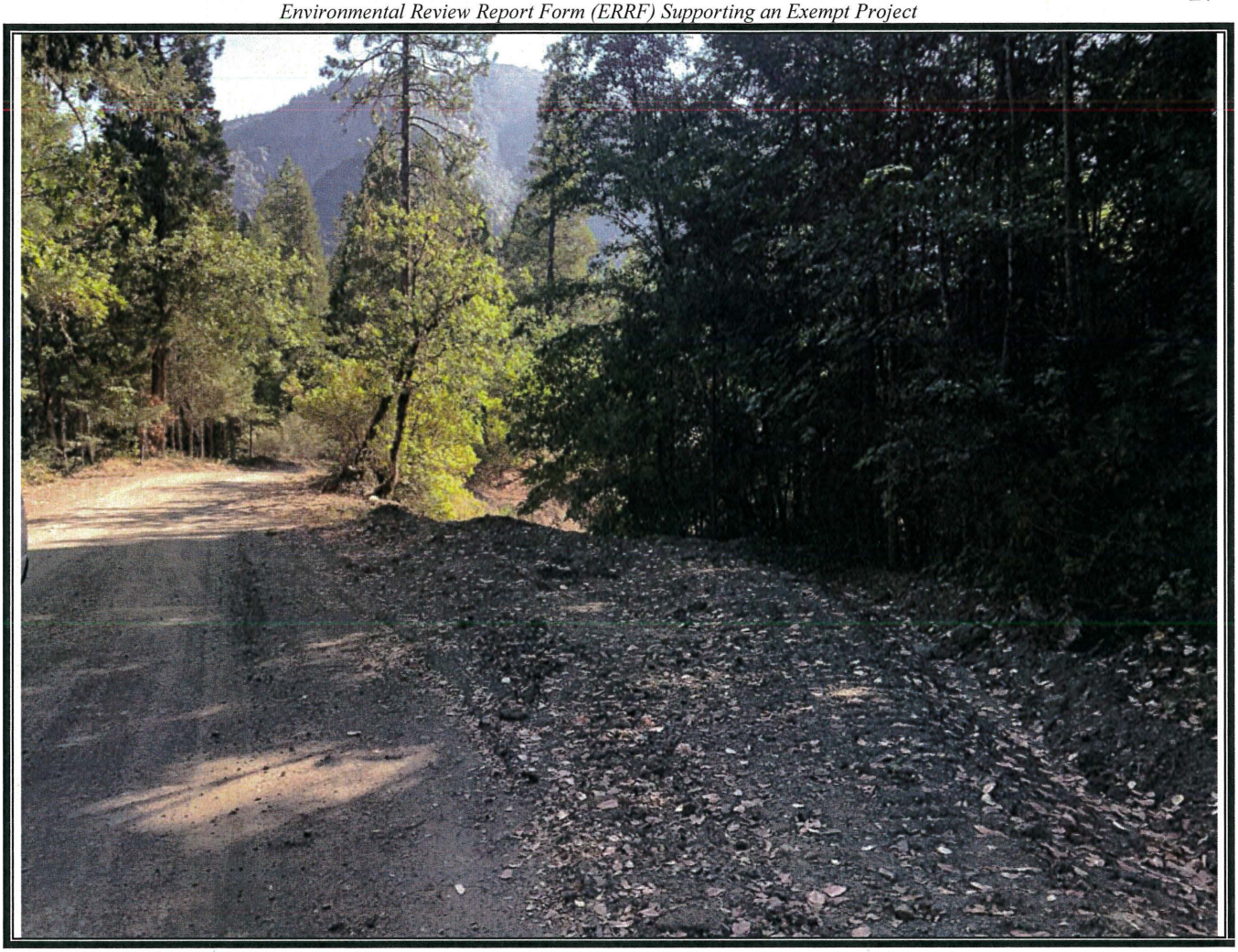

Figure 8. Vegetation/Fuels adjacent to Powderhouse Road in the Burnt Ranch project area.