

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: Placer

From: (Public Agency): SWRCB

1001 I Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

(Address)

Project Title: Truckee River Tributaries Sediment Reduction Project (D1713602)

Project Applicant: Truckee River Watershed Council

Project Location - Specific:

Existing roads, trails, and legacy erosion sites on USFS lands in Jackass, Cabin, Deep, Pole, Silver, and Bear Creek areas along Hwy 89.

Project Location - City: Truckee

Project Location - County: Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This Project is for the purpose of improving dirt roads and legacy erosion sites on USFS lands in key tributaries of the main stem of the Truckee River and conducting public outreach to landowners and members of the public to support the Truckee River TMDL.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: State Water Resources Control Board

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Truckee River Watershed Council

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: 15301 & 15333
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Project has 2 elements: (1) CatEx 15301-Improving road drainage on up to 35 miles of existing USFS roads and trails; and (2) CatEx 15333-Improve terrestrial habitat by regrading, restoring and revegetating legacy erosion sites in Cabin Creek and former Deer Park Ski Resort. Each site is under 5 acres in upland areas, no waters of US or waters of the state. See USFS Decision Memo for Truckee River 2016 Tributaries Project dated 3/10/2017.

Lead Agency: Jeanie Mascia

Contact Person: _____ Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 916-323-2871

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: [Signature] Date: 10/23/2020 Title: Assistant Deputy Director

☒ 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 30 2020

STATE CLERK HOUSE

Decision Memo

For

Truckee River 2016 Tributaries Project

USDA Forest Service

Tahoe National Forest

Truckee Ranger District

Placer and Sierra Counties, California

The Truckee River 2016 Tributaries Project (TRT Project) originates from sediment assessment surveys conducted in partnership with the Truckee River Watershed Council. The Middle Truckee River Sediment Source Assessment Project Report and associated documents (included in the project record and available upon request) describes Subwatershed Characteristics, Sediment Sources, and Preliminary Recommendations of the project area.

The inventory, completed between 2014-2016, focused on identification of sediment sources on National Forest lands for selected tributaries to the Truckee River. The assessment focused on the tributaries to the Truckee River not controlled by dams. This includes Cabin Creek, Deep Creek, Pole Creek, Silver Creek, Deer Creek, Bear Creek, undefined areas along the main stem of the Truckee River (cumulatively called the Hwy 89 south corridor), and Prosser Creek below Prosser Reservoir Dam. Within the Highway 89 south corridor there are approximately 25,582 acres with the forest service lands covering approximately 17,228 acres (67%) of the area. The inventory addresses approximately 4% of the entire Middle Truckee watershed. The project addresses sediment contribution for 8 of the 27 sub-basins in the watershed. These lands contain dirt roads, recreational trails and sites, unauthorized user impacts, legacy timber harvest and ski area development sites that contribute sediment to these tributaries of the Truckee River.

The actions identified within the sediment source inventory also identifies a need for additional NEPA documentation that is beyond the scope of this document so that future decisions can be made for identified forest roads and areas. The project record includes a number of actions that may be considered in future NEPA decisions (referred to as 'Phase II' in various locations throughout these documents). Phase II Actions may be refined and analyzed in the future, but will not be decided by this project.

In general, funding for and maintenance of roads and routes is an ongoing need. The ability of the route design and drainage functionality to be sustained over time is affected by road use levels, use during wet and dry periods, road location and road design. Past logging activities have resulted in areas where access routes (logging skid trails and roads) concentrate flow rather than promote overland dispersed and less concentrated flows. The wear from traffic reduces effectiveness of design road surface causing increased erosion and sediment transport.

This document addresses processes as identified in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) agreements with the Lahontan Water Quality Control Board and provides the means to prioritize problem areas, create inventory and tracking and promote implementation to be

accomplished as funding and opportunity allows. Actions that do nothing more than maintain road surfaces and the existing road template do not require NEPA and are considered "administrative maintenance". Some improvements, depending on the extent of change to the existing road design could be interpreted to require a decision memo. This document is created primarily to track these proposed improvements and allow for changes to road design where minor changes to the existing road template may be needed to achieve objectives.

I. Decision and Rationale

As the Truckee District Ranger it is my decision to approve the Proposed Action as presented in Section III: Proposed Action.

My decision is based on a review of the record that shows a thorough review of relevant scientific information, a consideration of responsible opposing views, and the acknowledgment of incomplete or unavailable information, scientific uncertainty, and risk.

In summary, it is my decision to implement the Truckee River 2016 Tributaries Project for the following reasons:

- The Proposed Actions are the product of extensive fieldwork and professional recommendations that were developed from sediment assessment surveys conducted in partnership with the Truckee River Watershed Council. The Middle Truckee River Sediment Source Assessment Project Report and associated documents (included in the project record and available upon request) describes Sub-watershed Characteristics, Sediment Sources, and Preliminary Recommendations of the project area.
- Our interdisciplinary team worked collaboratively to design effective actions. In some cases resource specialists required restrictions or limitations to recommended restorative actions. My intent is to authorize the actions identified as appropriate for this Decision Memo, and continue to plan, analyze and authorize additional actions (referred to as 'Phase II Actions' in the Project File) for implementation as possible in future projects. For the 'Phase I' Actions I am authorizing, Resource Protection Measures have been identified by resource specialists that will be implemented in conjunction with the project.
- This project, including the 'Phase I' actions I am authorizing, addresses processes as identified in the TMDL agreements with the Lahontan Water Quality Control Board. This project provides the means to prioritize problem areas, create inventory and tracking and promote implementation to be accomplished as funding and opportunity allows.
- Some actions within suitable habitat for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, *Rana sierrae* (RASI) and designated Critical Habitat will be implemented. Although short-term, minor disruptions to their habitat during project implementation may occur, it

is anticipated that in the long term, the Proposed Action will reduce sediment to streams because it is improving drainages, modifying road surfaces, and restoring access routes that are interrupting overland flows. These will result in long-term habitat improvement for RASI.

II. Project Need and Purpose

Need

The *Truckee River 2016 Tributaries Project* (TR Tributaries Project) is needed to reduce negative effects from access routes/trails/logging systems and legacy sites to water and soil quality, and to sensitive resources including wildlife, plants, and cultural resources.

1. There is a need to improve water quality and meet TMDL requirements for forest lands.

The Forest Service is required to identify, implement, maintain, and monitor best management practices (BMPs) to protect water quality, and to meet beneficial uses as defined by The Water Quality Control Plan for the California Water Quality Control Board Lahontan Region (LRWQCB). One strategy to meet these requirements is to identify problem areas related to sedimentation and erosion originating from Tahoe National Forest lands and to track and report progress on targets for dirt road maintenance and legacy site restoration over the next 20 year period.

The routes identified by this project have the potential to adversely affect the water quality of this area by creating soil erosion and sediment transport and deposition. The initiation of rills and rutting from these unmanaged, unauthorized routes can create larger problem areas including road/stream capture and increased soil loss, sediment production and delivery to waterways. A project targeting reduction of sediment from the source through improved drainage, modification of road surfaces (out sloping road surfaces, the addition of drainage control structures road base etc.) and restoration of access routes interrupting overland flows will aid in attaining the TMDL requirements described above.

2. There is a need to make decisions on unauthorized routes on forest lands. Unauthorized routes can be decommissioned based on the needs of the forest.

Purpose

A goal of the Tahoe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) (USDA 1990), as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Record of Decision (SNFPA ROD) (USDA 2004), provides direction for maintaining water quality and quantity and protection of streams, lakes, wetlands, and special aquatic features. It guides projects to maintain and restore the hydrologic connectivity of streams meadows, wetlands and other special aquatic features by implementing corrective actions with roads and trails that intercept, divert, or disrupt natural surface and subsurface water flow paths (Standard and Guide (S&G) 101) or those that degrade water quality or habitat for aquatic and riparian-dependent species (S&G 116). S&G 49 guides districts to take action to prevent the introduction and establishment of noxious weed infestation and to control existing infestations. S&G 69 prohibits wheeled vehicle travel off of designated routes, trails, and limited off-highway vehicle (OHV) use areas.

III. Proposed Action

U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest, Truckee Ranger District proposes to implement actions as described below, and as displayed on Maps 1, 2 and 3, and detailed in Appendices 1, 2 and 3. Implementation would be expected to occur in the dry season from 2017 through 2019.

The Truckee River 2016 Tributaries Project (referred to as the TRT Project) areas are located in the Truckee Ranger District of the Tahoe National Forest in certain watersheds that empty into the Truckee River between Tahoe City and the Truckee, California. The legal description for the projects is contained in portions of section 33, T16N, R16E and section 4, T15N, R16E in Bear Creek watershed, sections 29, 32, 33 in T17N, R16E in Cabin Creek watershed, sections 17, 18 and 20, T16N, R16E, in Pole Creek watershed, Section 33 in T16N, R16E in the Highway 89 corridor, from the Mount Diablo Base Meridian. The Prosser Creek proposed restoration sites occur in sections 30, 31 and 32 of T18N, R17E, from the Mount Diablo Meridian. See the attached maps.

The following Appendices are incorporated by reference, and provide detail regarding the Proposed Action:

- **Appendix 1:** Sub-watershed focus area action table - provides an overview about the actions proposed for each watershed and focus area
- **Appendix 2:** FS System Route maintenance actions table
- **Appendix 3:** Treatment prescriptions and methods
- **Appendix 4:** Maps Include Map 1: Truckee River Tributaries Project Proposed Action, Map 2: Prosser Area, Map 3: Deer Park Subwatershed Focus Map
- **Appendix 5:** Erosion Control Plan

The following sections describe the four components of the Proposed Action.

A. Watershed remediation actions: Focus areas have been identified within sub-watersheds of the Truckee River to geographically emphasize places that would benefit from targeted actions. Focus areas are detailed below (Section A), and are shown on Map 1 and on sub-watershed maps that are available in the project record.

B. Prosser Area route obliteration actions: Eight route-specific obliteration actions have been identified in the Prosser Area. These actions are detailed below (Section B) and shown on Map 2: the Prosser Area Map.

C. Forest Service system route drainage improvements: This Proposed Action would implement road drainage improvements in existing Forest System routes within the Tributaries Assessment area (see Map 1). Route details are included in Appendix 2.

D. Resource Protection Measures: A suite of site-specific resource protection measures and best management practices been identified by our resource specialists that must be implemented in conjunction with the watershed actions.

A. Watershed remediation actions

- Focus areas have been identified within sub-watersheds to geographically emphasize places that would benefit from targeted actions. Focus areas are detailed below, are summarized in Appendix 1: sub-watershed action table, and are shown on Map 1 and on sub-watershed maps that are available in the project record.

SUB-WATERSHED: BEAR CREEK - Deer Park Focus Area (Map 3: Deer Park Subwatershed Focus Map)

- **Concerns that initiate action:** The Deer Park Area is included under the Bear Creek Area to address the abandoned ski area legacy impacts. The preferred action is to re-contour the ski slope features and return the area to near natural slope patterns.

Watershed actions:

- Restore infiltration through reincorporating rock and roughness to the ski slope surface areas
- Restore natural flow patterns through re-grading to approximate original slope where feasible and effective
- Restore natural vegetation types to increase rainfall interception, reduce raindrop splash and increase infiltration rates.
- Provide water control measures (waterbars-to support re-graded site conditions).
- Bust up, bury, and or remove cement lift infrastructure and other infrastructure as identified.

These actions are intended to increase infiltration and allow slope hydrologic properties to be re-established while decreasing the length of concentrated flow patterns. Flow paths for water should return to patterns similar to those present prior natural gradient flows. The disturbed approximate 5 acres from the development of this ski area will be returned to near natural conditions, and approximately 3 acres downslope of disturbed features would be positively affected. This action would result in a long-term reduction in erosion and sediment production but may have some equivalent erosion over the first years following restoration until it attains vegetative stabilization.

Because complete restoration of this site is expensive to restore a degree of the natural slopes an alternative includes the reinforcement of existing erosion control structures and installation of more structures in areas that are lacking. This would have short term reduced impacts and require longer-term monitoring and maintenance.

- The decision would be to approve both options and as either the existing condition deteriorates to significant levels or, funding for restoration becomes available either action could be initiated.

SUB-WATERSHED: BEAR CREEK - Bear Creek Focus Area 2 (shown in Map 1)

- **Concerns that initiate action:** Logging practices have heavily affected drainage. Roads and trails capture channel.
- **Watershed actions:** The Bear Creek Area Consists of Providing Road Drainage Improvements and maintenance over Forest Service roads and trails. In particular the area above the Alpine community along the Alpine Craggs Road captures runoff from discharge from glacial till and associated drainages. Approximately 1.7 miles of road will be improved in this area with another 0.34 miles of the adjacent Bear Creek trail being improved.
- **Area-specific resource protection measures:** Actions may only occur within the road prism. Archeological surveys must be completed before work can be planned beyond the existing prism.

SUB-WATERSHED: UPPER BEAR CREEK - Alpine Special Use Areas Focus Area (Alpine Meadows SUP Mountain Roads) 2 (shown in Map 1)

An opportunity has been identified to coordinate with Alpine Meadows Ski Resort Special Use Permit (SUP) permittee to improve conditions on Forest System Route 5001-005 (also known as the Ward Peak route) and on the Scott Peak road (which provides access to the Scott Lift Tower). Both of these routes are under the responsibility of the authorized permit holder, and require coordination with the permittee to control sediment source areas. Agreed upon actions can be incorporated into the SUP operating plans. Note: FS roads/trails with intended long term use are covered by prescriptions in Map 1.

The presence of private in-holdings and Special Use permitted lands will require added coordination before moving forward. However, appropriations of funds are available this area, and could be included for improvements with the cooperators support. This area is included within this proposed action should timing, coordination and opportunities open within the effective period of this Decision Memo. An additional 3.9 miles of road drainage improvements could be attained.

SUB-WATERSHED: 89 CORRIDOR - Focus Area 1 2 (shown in Map 1)

This area has a legacy abandoned bench cut that runs water and sediment downslope. Additional drainage improvements and narrowing of the road will be conducted if the segment is intended to be retained for horse trail use. This trail/road is currently undesignated, but does

receive incidental use from the Alpine Meadows Horse Stable SUP. A determination on the stable routes is to be decided soon. Coordination between SUP trail designations will allow either narrowing and trail design on this route or complete elimination of the route. Either method will provide reduced sediment transport and delivery.

SUB-WATERSHED FOCUS AREA DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Drainage Improvement and road maintenance opportunities have been identified for areas the following focus areas in the sub-watersheds. Details regarding actions are available in Appendix 1, Map 1 and in the Focus Area maps developed for each area (in the Project Record and available upon request).

- **Pole Creek Focus Area 2:** Improve road drainage. Fix road width by excavating cut into up-gradient slope above failure.
- **Pole Creek Focus Area 3:** Properly drain existing road and re-orient present drainage structures.
- **Deep Creek Focus Area 4:** Areas Identified as producing sediment can be reduced with improved drainage structures.
- **Unnamed Watershed Routes Focus Area:** Areas Identified as producing sediment can be reduced with improved drainage structures.
- **Cabin Creek Focus Area 1:** Obliterate road and skid trails. Reduce impacts at the junction of the 01-08 roads. Implement road design and drainage improvements.
- **Cabin Creek Focus Area 2:** Obliterate unauthorized road segment and add proper drainage structures to existing routes. Implement road design and drainage improvements.
- **Cabin Creek Focus Area 4:** Areas Identified as producing sediment can be reduced with improved drainage structures.

B. Prosser Area Route Obliteration Actions

Within the Prosser Creek watershed area, unauthorized routes have been identified for obliteration or closure. The Map 2: Prosser Area map details the location of these unauthorized routes and the labeled routes and associated lengths are detailed in the table below. A total of 1.2 miles of existing unauthorized routes in Prosser Area East will be decommissioned/closed. Routes to be treated for maintenance in the Prosser Area East include 2.6 miles of existing routes as presented in the map and in Appendix 2: FS System Route maintenance actions table. Maintenance would include prescriptions A and D. These prescriptions would be implemented using methods detailed in Appendix 3.

There is an extensive infestation of noxious weeds throughout the Prosser Area. The Resource Protection Measures section below details requirements to survey the entire area for musk thistle and other noxious weeds because of the high likelihood of them being present.

Table 1: Prosser Unauthorized Route Closure/Obliteration

Route ID	Miles	Feet	Prescription*
R-1	0.01	76.38	B & C
R-2	0.08	435.17	B & C
R-4	0.09	469.00	B & C
R-6	0.08	400.00	B & C
R-7	0.07	368.86	B & C
R-8	0.35	1850.23	B & C
R-9	0.38	2019.04	B & C
R-10	0.15	817.45	B & C
Grand Total	1.21	21226.4 4	B & C

**Prescription information is available in Appendix 3: Treatment prescriptions and methods*

C. Forest System Route Drainage Improvements

Road drainage improvements identified throughout the project area would generally involve work within the existing road right-of-way. Each route identified for maintenance activities is identified in Appendix 2: FS System Route maintenance actions table. The maintenance activities are summarized in Tables 2 and 3: Road and Route Improvement summary below. Routes targeted for improvements are shown on Map 1. Routes would be treated with prescriptions and methods described in Appendix 3: Treatment prescriptions and methods.

Roads are included for drainage improvements within these watershed areas and includes a total of 69.7 miles.

Table 2: Road and Route Improvement Summary East of the Truckee River

East of the Truckee River Road and Route Segments	Miles System Roads	Miles Other Features	Total Miles
Bear Creek	1.7	0.3	2.0
Bear Creek: Alpine Meadows Ski Area	2.4	1.5	3.9
89 Corridor Area 1	0	0.3	0.3
Pole Creek to Upper Deep Creek	15.2	0.4	15.6
Pole Creek to Silver Creek	3.2	1.1	4.3
Deep Creek	3.8	0	3.8

Cabin Creek to Jackass	12.9	2.4	15.3
Unnamed	1.7	0	1.7
Total	40.9	6	46.9

Table 3: Road and Route Improvement Summary West of the Truckee River

West of the Truckee River Road and Route Segments	Miles System Roads	Miles Other Features	Total Miles
06 Sawtooth Area/Deer Creek	21.5	1.1	22.8

Roads and Trails (for the following Watersheds: Cabin Creek, Landfill, Jack Ass, and sub-drainages). Roads are included for drainage improvements within these watershed areas and includes a total of 46.9 miles.

Roads and Trails (for the 06 Sawtooth Area and Deer Creek). Roads are included for drainage improvements within these watershed areas and includes a total of 22.8 miles.

D. Resource Protection Measures (RPMs) and Management Requirements

1) Watershed and soils protection measures.

- An erosion control plan that details Best Management Practices and required protection measures is included as Appendix 5 to this document.

2) Nonnative Invasive Plant Management Resource Protection Measures:

- *Survey entire Prosser Route area for musk thistle and other noxious weeds because of the high likelihood of them being present.*

Protection Measures that will be implemented to prevent and control the spread of noxious weeds (specifically "A" and "B" rated noxious weeds, such as musk thistle) in the project area include:

- C6.35# – Cleaning of Equipment:** Contractor shall ensure that all equipment that has operated off roads in areas infested with noxious / invasive-exotic weeds, that is being moved onto National Forest Land is free of soil, weeds, seeds, vegetative matter or other debris that could hold or contain seeds.
- Any equipment that was operated off roads in the Prosser area, need to be cleaned before it is moved to any other sites because of the high likelihood that it may be carrying musk thistle seeds, since there is a high amount of musk thistle in the area.
- Revegetate highly impacted areas with locally collected native seed or seedlings. A contractor may need to be hired to collect enough seed. Recommendations include

planting with the same species which are found to be present in adjacent areas. Dry sites in the Prosser area can be seeded or planted with Bitterbrush, mountain sagebrush, bottlebrush squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides*), or Nevada blue grass (*Poa secunda*). The more moist sites in the Highway 89 corridor may be planted with blue wild rye (*Elymus glaucous*) in moist areas or *Bromus emarginata* in drier areas. See the "Seeding Guidelines for the Tahoe National Forest" for a list of those plants that should be avoided. In addition avoid planting any type of Canary reed grass (*Phalaris* spp.).

- D. Avoid contributing to the spread of non-native invasive plant species. Musk thistle is known to exist in the Prosser Routes and Trails obliteration area, on adjacent private and National Forest system lands. All sites planned for restoration shall be surveyed for noxious weeds and noxious weeds found to be present should be identified, mapped and removed before construction activities begin. Mapped occurrences should be reported to the Forest Service and revisited and removed every year until 3 years after site is found to be clear of "A" or "B" rated noxious weeds. Any disturbed ground would make fertile bed for stray weed seeds that are typically distributed by wind and those that are spread along the roadway.

- E. Plan overall worksite management to limit the introduction and spread of invasive plants. Integrate cleaning BMPs. Designate cleaning areas for tools, equipment, and vehicles. This involves working the areas known to be infested last or wash when moving from infested areas to un-infested sites. Educate all worksite users about preventing invasive plant spread.

- F. Use a weed-free sources for imported project materials. Gravel pits used to provide gravel and rocks should be inspected annually, so that materials can be certified as free from noxious weed seeds and parts. Use native plant seed that was collected locally in relatively weed free areas. Use locally produced chips to cover landing, and bare ground that is going to be challenging to revegetate. Avoid using straw unless it can be weed free certified and local chip sources are unavailable.

- G. Prevent invasive plant contamination of project materials during transport by checking the travel routes.

- H. Prevent invasive plant contamination of stockpiled project materials. If materials need to be stockpiled and stored, make sure that piles are covered during storage periods to prevent them from becoming a contaminated source.

- I. All known noxious weed sites shall be controlled by either hand pulling or other approved method. All known weed sites should be mapped and monitored for recurring outbreaks until seed source has been clear for at least five years. Report all weed site mapping to the Forest Service for long term tracking.

3) Heritage and Cultural Resource Protection Measures:

A. Access is limited to the current road prism in all road maintenance action areas. Post-project monitoring to ensure protection measures were met

B. There are three historic properties that represent "areas of concern." The project proponent must consult with the archeologist about each of these sites prior to implementation. A map is available in the project record.

- Area bisected by Prosser focus area road R-8, an unauthorized route. Closing the road through this site will benefit site protection from continued unauthorized vehicle use. An on-the-ground review will be completed prior to any activities occurring within the site to determine the exact proposal at the location that best meets the needs to protect the site and close the road.
- Two sites in the Deer Creek area (actually south of Deer Creek) appear to be located outside of the road prism but should be remapped with GPS. Per the GIS transportation layer in GIS, the northern route is 16E10/Western States Trail. The southern route is road ID 0006-028-04-02, the "cinder cone" road. The 16E10/Western States Trail shares a section of this road [0006-028-04-02]. The GIS and Lidar show these site areas near the road. One site is in a meadow complex that is clearly visible on the NAIP imagery. Another site is located between 2 drainages that are clearly visible on Lidar.

4) Plant, aquatic and Terrestrial Wildlife Protection Measures:

- **TES species:** If any TES species (Federally threatened, endangered, proposed, or Forest Service sensitive species) previously unknown in the project area are detected or found nesting within 0.25 miles of project activities, appropriate mitigation measures would be implemented based on input from the aquatics biologist, botanist, and/or wildlife biologist. Measures can include, but are not limited to, flagging and avoiding a plant site, implementing a species-specific protection measure, or designating a protected activity center.
- **Survey for Ivesia webberi** (threatened plant species) and other TNF sensitive plant species in Prosser Areas affected by route obliteration actions R-4, R-6, and R-7.
- The Botanist will flag known occurrences of species in areas that could be disturbed by project activities. Efforts will be made to prevent effects to these flagged areas.
- **To protect Northern goshawks:** Monitoring conducted prior to project implementation (in the same year) to verify use of the PAC. If northern goshawks are not present or are nesting greater than ¼ mile from the project areas, project implementation may commence, if goshawks are nesting within ¼ mile of the project areas, a restriction (such as a Limited Operating Period) would be implemented.
- **To protect California spotted owls:** Monitoring conducted prior to project implementation (in the same year) to verify use of these PACS. If California spotted owls are not present or are nesting greater than ¼ mile from the project areas, project implementation may

commence, if spotted owls are nesting within ¼ mile of the project areas, a restriction (such as a Limited Operating Period) would be implemented.

- Any detections of Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive (TES) species prior to or during project implementation will be reported to the District Wildlife Biologist for development of a recommendation regarding appropriate management and protection, in accordance with management direction for the Tahoe National Forest.
- Any detections of Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive (TES) species prior to or during project implementation will be reported to the District Wildlife Biologist for development of a recommendation regarding appropriate management and protection, in accordance with management direction for the Tahoe National Forest.

Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, *Rana sierrae* (RASl) and aquatic resources

Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA) standards and guides (S&Gs) and best management practices (BMPs) are incorporated in the TRT project to reduce the potential effects of road/ trail maintenance. Implementation of these BMPs and S&Gs would reduce the potential for effects to RASl since they reduce the potential for the species to be exposed to contaminants, sedimentation, and ensure passage for aquatic species.

BMP 2.5: This sets forth specific criteria for location of drafting sites, procedures to be followed during drafting operations, as well as approaches and drafting pads to protect hydrologic values and individual creatures.

- **BMP 2.8:** Will minimize water, aquatic, and riparian resource disturbances (that may affect individual frogs) and related sediment production when constructing, reconstructing, or maintaining temporary and permanent water crossings.
- **BMP 2.1.1:** Threats to skin-respiring amphibians from equipment refueling and servicing can be controlled by preventing fuels, lubricants, cleaners, and other harmful materials from discharging into nearby surface waters or infiltrating through soils to contaminate groundwater resources. Sixteen criteria for how to prevent these effects to amphibians and other resources are included.
- **S&G 101:** Culverts and stream crossings will not create barriers for aquatic species.
- **S&G 99:** Fuels and other toxic materials will be stored outside of RCAs to limit the exposure of RASl to some of the toxic materials.

Road and trail maintenance potentially may affect the aquatic habitats used by RASl. The TRT Project is proposed to address existing hydrologic issues that are currently affecting water quality and improper drainage. To reduce the potential effects to habitat, the following S&Gs are incorporated into the TRT project:

- **S&G 92:** ensures that appropriate design criteria are developed for the project to minimize impacts to aquatic habitats including hydrologic changes.
- **S&G 100:** Corrective actions are implemented when needed to restore hydrologic connectivity of aquatic systems that are disrupted by roads.

- S&G 101: Stream flows, stream pools, meadows, and other special aquatic habitats of the species will benefit by culvert and water drafting management actions that maintain and restore the timing, variability, and duration of floodplain inundation and water table elevation.
- S&G 118: protects the hydrologic processes in bogs and fens, which particularly benefits the species where they occur in these habitats.

To reduce sedimentation and the potential effects to habitat, the following BMPs and S&Gs are incorporated into the TRT project:

- BMP 2.3: Road reconstruction will be designed to minimize erosion and sediment delivery from roads during these actions.
- BMP 2.13 mandates development of a project-specific erosion control plan. This plan is designed to effectively limit and mitigate erosion and sedimentation from any ground-disturbing activities, through planning prior to commencement of project activity, and through project management and administration during project implementation
- S&G 92: Within Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs), specifies that measures are implemented to minimize the risk of activity-related sediment entering aquatic habitats.
- BMP 4.7.3: Within RCAs, is to prevent or minimize the discharge of sediment into water bodies when locating, designing, constructing, reconstructing, and maintaining watercourse crossings
- BMP 4.7.4: Within RCAs, Prevents or minimizes the discharge of sediment into water bodies during construction, reconstruction, and realignment of OHV trails.
- BMP 4.7.8: Within RCAs, Prevents or minimizes the discharge of sediment into watercourses and water bodies by permanently restoring OHV-damaged areas, watercourse crossings, and OHV trails no longer designated for use.

IV. Scoping and Public Involvement

The project was published in the Tahoe National Forest's quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) starting in January 2017. The Proposed Action was internally scoped by the Truckee Ranger District hydrologist/soil scientist, fisheries biologist, botanist, archeologist, wildlife biologist, and roads engineer. Because this is a collaborative project with the Truckee River Watershed Council, the information about the Proposed Action has been circulated among many local agencies and environmental groups.

V. Reasons for Categorically Excluding This Action

An environmental analysis was conducted for this proposed action. As a result of that analysis, a determination has been made that the proposal is in categories of actions that are excluded from further documentation in an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement. These categories of exclusion, which require preparation of a project or case file and decision memo, is established in 36 CFR 220.6(e). Their applicability to Truckee River 2016 Tributaries Project are as follows:

(18) Restoring wetlands, streams, riparian areas or other water bodies by removing, replacing, or modifying water control structures such as, but not limited to, dams, levees, dikes, ditches, culverts, pipes, drainage tiles, valves, gates, and fencing, to allow waters to flow into natural channels and floodplains and restore natural flow regimes to the extent practicable where valid existing rights or special use authorizations are not unilaterally altered or canceled. Examples include but are not limited to:

(i) Repairing an existing water control structure that is no longer functioning properly with minimal dredging, excavation, or placement of fill, and does not involve releasing hazardous substances;

(ii) Installing a newly-designed structure that replaces an existing culvert to improve aquatic organism passage and prevent resource and property damage where the road or trail maintenance level does not change;

(iii) Removing a culvert and installing a bridge to improve aquatic and/or terrestrial organism passage or prevent resource or property damage where the road or trail maintenance level does not change; and.

(iv) Removing a small earthen and rock fill dam with a low hazard potential classification that is no longer needed.

Cite this category as 36 CFR 220.6(e)(18)

Extraordinary Circumstances Evaluation

The interdisciplinary team which developed and analyzed this project included resource specialists from the Tahoe National Forest. That team consisted of a botanist, archaeologist, soil specialist/hydrologist, aquatic biologist, wildlife biologist, and transportation, and fuels specialists. These resource specialists did not identify any significant issues during project review, and all concerns were addressed by inclusion as part of the project proposal. Their reports are available in the project record located in the Truckee District office and available upon request.

It was also determined through the environmental analysis that there were no extraordinary circumstances or conditions, as listed in 36 CFR 220.6(b), related to this proposal that might cause the action to have significant effects. Specifically, this determination is based upon the absence, among others, of adverse effects on the following:

1) Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species.

Biological Evaluations/Biological Assessments were prepared for terrestrial and aquatic animal species, and for plant species, and are incorporated by reference and available upon request. Sections below summarize the conclusions of the sensitive terrestrial and aquatic resources, and sensitive plant and fungi analyses.

Terrestrial Wildlife

The Terrestrial Wildlife BE determined that the TRTP project will not affect the Pacific marten, bald eagle, willow flycatcher, western bumblebee, greater sandhill crane, California wolverine, Great gray owl, Pallid bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, or fringed myotis. The Proposed Action will not alter suitable habitat, or there are no known occurrences of these species in the project area.

The Terrestrial Wildlife BE determined that the TRTP project may affect individuals, but is not likely to result in a trend toward Federal listing or loss of viability for the California spotted owl and northern goshawk. The Proposed Action may affect these sensitive wildlife species or their habitats, but not significantly. Overall, anticipated direct and indirect effects range from slightly negative and short term (potential avoidance by individual wildlife during implementation) to moderately positive and long term (e.g. reduced erosion and sedimentation). Given the anticipated type, direction, intensity, and duration of effects no extraordinary circumstances exist for wildlife resources.

Aquatics Species

The Aquatics BE/BA found that the Truckee River Tributaries Project will not affect the California red-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, Great Basin ram's-horn snail, California floater mussel, Black Jug, Lahontan Lake tui chub, Hardhead, Lahontan cutthroat trout, or Northwestern pond turtle. The TRTP project will not affect these species since the project area is either outside of the species historic range, there is no suitable habitat present, and/or the species is not present. Because the Lahontan cutthroat trout is designated as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, more information about this determination is included below. The Aquatics BE/BA found that the TRTP may have short-term, minor effects to the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog; background and determination information is below.

Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) background and determination

Within the proposed action area for the TRTP, the Pole Creek sub-watershed is the only stream where LCT occur. In 1975, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) introduced a population of LCT into the Pole Creek above a natural barrier to aid in recovery efforts. There are no other known populations of LCT within the planning area. CDFW monitors this population regularly and it appears to be stable.

There are two focus areas within the Pole Creek sub-watershed (Areas 2 and 3, see Map 1 of TRTP Proposed Action). Within Focus Area 2, the existing road lacks drainage structures and erosion of the road bed width has occurred. The erosion has decreased the width of the road to a point where it no longer meets minimum road width standards. Soil that is lost is currently dumping directly into Pole Creek. The TRTP would improve this situation by widening the road on the upslope side, and place drainage features along the segment of the road to prevent further erosion.

Existing roads within Focus Area 3 currently have poor drainage that has resulted in erosion within the meadow. Channels are being cut through the meadow, altering natural drainage

patterns. The TRTP would address this by correcting drainage issues on the road and re-orienting culverts to match natural drainage features.

LCT Determination: The aquatic biologist field reviewed these areas, determined that all actions would be an improvement to existing conditions. Currently, sediment is entering stream channels. The results from this project would reduce degradation to LCT habitat. The proposed activities would have no direct or indirect effects to LCT or its habitat. Therefore, the Aquatics BE/BA determined that the TRTP project will not affect Lahontan cutthroat trout, *Oncorhynchus clarki henshawi*. No Critical habitat has been designated for the species; therefore, none will be destroyed or modified.

Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog: background and determination

Overview: The Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog is a USFS Region 5 Sensitive species and is a USFWS listed Endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. On April 29, 2014, the USFWS published a final rule in the Federal Register to list the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog as endangered with extinction. The rule went into effect on June 30, 2014. On August 26, 2016 the USFWS published the final rule in the Federal Register to designate Critical Habitat for the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog. The USFWS issued the Programmatic Biological Opinion (BO) on Nine Forest Programs on Nine National Forests in the Sierra Nevada of California for the Endangered Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog, Endangered Northern Distinct Population Segment of the Mountain Yellow-legged Frog, and Threatened Yosemite Toad on December 19, 2014 (USDI 2014).

The USFWS rendered the opinion that the projects considered in the appended BA and subsequent BO, as proposed, are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the SNYLF. The determination was based on the conditions of: (1) the implementation of the conservation measures exactly as described in the BA and the BO; and (2) the USFWS-approved scientific and statistically robust monitoring plan to measure and evaluate the success of the conservation measures that will be developed and implemented by the Forest Service. The Truckee River Tributaries Project was appended to the Programmatic Biological Assessment (BA) (USDA 2014) and included with the submitted batches. Because this Project was appended to the BO, it must adhere to the conservation measures as outlined in the BO for the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog. Required conservation measures are included in the Resource Protection Measures at the end of the Proposed Action of this document.

Project effects: Project activities would occur within approximately 67 acres of riparian conservation areas, 12 acres within designated RASI Critical Habitat, and approximately 6 acres of suitable habitat for RASI. Surveys for RASI have not been conducted within the project analysis area, so utilization of available habitat is unknown. A review of known occupancy and/or historical records show that the species has occurred in three of the subwatersheds.

Given that maintenance activities are limited to existing roads and trails and are of short duration, the scope and magnitude of effects from road and trail maintenance are likely low. There are also beneficial effects to ensuring that roads and trails are maintained. Although RASI move among different sites during the summer and will travel overland, they are highly aquatic

and thus, at relatively low risk of direct mortality from road and trail associated activities. The restorative actions proposed would be beneficial to the species and its habitat since it will reduce or eliminate current sediment entry issues, and return the stream channels to a more natural hydrologic function. The project would be implemented during the dry season. This would be outside of the timing for typical migrational movement patterns and eliminate the potential for egg masses to be disturbed. If frogs are detected, procedures as outlined in the Programmatic BO would be followed.

The Aquatic Resources BE/BA determined that effects to the species and habitat will have a low likelihood, would be of minimum scope and intensity, and would be of short duration. These effects do not pose extraordinary circumstances. Since surveys have not been conducted within the analysis area, there is a chance that their distribution extends further than known.

Therefore, to be consistent with guidance from the Programmatic Biological Opinion for the Endangered Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, the Aquatics Resources BE/BA determined that this project is likely to adversely affect the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog. A portion of the TRT Project is within the Designated 5 Lakes Critical Habitat. The aquatic biologist reviewed the activities proposed to occur with the approximate 12 acres, and determined that the activities would not modify or destroy Critical Habitat. Upon completion of the project, the BE/BA predicts that the species and its habitat would benefit. Benefits include a reduction of sediment input, and improved riparian and stream conditions. Required conservation measures are included in the Resource Protection Measures at the end of the Proposed Action of this document.

Sensitive plants and fungi

The Botanical Biological Evaluation (incorporated by reference and available upon request) made determinations as summarized in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Biological Evaluation Summary of Determinations to sensitive plant species for the Proposed Action

SPECIES	HABITAT AND OR DETECTIONS NEAR PROJECT	Impacts of Action Alternative to sensitive plants
Federally Listed		
<i>Packera layfiae</i>	No habitat is present on the east side of the Tahoe NF.	No Effect
<i>Ivesia webberi</i>	Slight chance that this species could be found in the Prosser area. Surveys should be conducted in spring of 2017, when a quick supplement can be prepared.	No Effect
Forest Service Sensitive Plants		
<i>Astragalus lemmonii</i> , <i>Astragalus pulchellus</i> var. <i>coronensis</i> , <i>Astragalus webberi</i> , <i>Cypripedium fasciculatum</i> , <i>Cypripedium montanum</i> ,	No habitat is present in project area	No Effect

SPECIES	HABITAT AND OR DETECTIONS NEAR PROJECT	Impacts of Action Alternative to sensitive plants
<i>Erigeron miser</i> , <i>Fritillaria eastwoodiae</i> , <i>Lewisia cantelovii</i> , <i>Lewisia kelloggii</i> spp. <i>Hutchisonii</i> , <i>Lewisia kelloggii</i> spp. <i>Kelloggii</i> , <i>Lewisia longipetala</i> , <i>Lewisia serrata</i> , <i>Monardella follettii</i> , <i>Penstemon personatus</i> , <i>Phacelia stebbinsii</i> , <i>Pinus albicaulis</i> , <i>Poa sierrae</i> , <i>Pyrrocoma lucida</i> , <i>Tauschia howellii</i>		
<i>Boechera rigidissima</i> var. <i>demota</i> , <i>Botrychium ascendens</i> , <i>Botrychium crenulatum</i> , <i>Botrychium lunaria</i> , <i>Botrychium minganense</i> , <i>Botrychium montanum</i> , <i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i> var. <i>torreyanum</i> , <i>Ivesia aperta</i> var. <i>aperta</i> , <i>Ivesia aperta</i> var. <i>canina</i> , <i>Juncus luciensis</i>	Marginal potential habitat is present in the project area. GIS review results have not identified any previously known occurrences in or near the proposed implementation project areas	Low risk of causing direct effects to this species or its distribution.
<i>Ivesia sericoleuca</i>	Potential habitat is present in the project area near Prosser Creek. GIS review results have identified known occurrences around Prosser Reservoir near that portion of the proposed implementation areas. Sites in the Prosser area should be surveyed in the spring of 2017 after which a short supplement to the BE/BA can be prepared	Still a low risk of causing direct effects to this species or its distribution.
<i>Mahonia sonnei</i>	Removed from list (USDI 2003)	No Effect
Non Vascular Plants		
<i>Bruchia bolanderi</i> , <i>Helodium blandowii</i>	Marginal potential habitat is present in the project area. GIS review results have not identified any previously known occurrences in or near the proposed implementation project areas	Low risk of causing direct effects to this species or its distribution.
<i>Peltigera gowardii</i> , <i>Meesia uliginosa</i>	GIS review results have not identified any previously known occurrences in or near the proposed implementation project areas	Low risk of causing direct effects to this species or its distribution.
<i>Mielichhoferia elongata</i>	No habitat is present in project area	No Effect

2) Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds.

The TRT Project Soil and Water Resources Report found that the routes and areas identified by this project currently adversely affect the water quality of this area by creating soil erosion and sediment transport and deposition. The Proposed Action is designed to reduce road-water interaction and to improve hillslope connectivity with natural drainage patterns. It is designed to improve soil retention by providing mulch and cover over previously bare soil areas to prevent raindrop splash. Assuming the road maintenance on functional routes reduces sediment production to some degree, it is estimated that implementation of this proposed action would reduce annual average sediment production from routes west of the Truckee River by approximately 20% assuming other conditions remain relatively the same as under the survey time frame. Under the same assumptions, it is estimated that the proposed action would reduce annual average sediment production from routes East of the Truckee River (06 Sawtooth Area) by approximately 10%.

During project implementation, the TRT Project Soil and Water Resources Report found that minor, short term disturbance to soil (drainage improvement installation, re-contouring and de-compacting) could result in short-term soil erosion and resulting sedimentation. The Report determined that the Resource Protection Measures, Standard Management Requirements, BMPs, and other protection measures included in the design of the project will protect stream buffer zones, riparian areas, and water quality, including those associated with flood plains, wetlands, and municipal watersheds, and will reduce the potential for sediment increases above the existing levels over the mid-term to the long-term.

3) Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas.

This project is not within a wilderness or wilderness study area. There are no National Recreation Areas on the Tahoe National Forest.

4) Inventoried roadless areas.

This project is not within any inventoried roadless area.

5) Research natural areas.

This project is not within a Research Natural Area.

6) American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites & 7) Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas.

The project was classified as a Screened Undertaking (Class B) according to the provisions of the Regional PA 2013 as documented in Report # R2017051700040 (incorporated by reference and available upon request). The project may be implemented without further review or consultation. Heritage resources will be managed consistent with the provisions of the Programmatic Agreement between the Forest Service, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and thereby will comply

with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800, and the Tahoe National Forest Plan. Surveys were conducted and completed. The Proposed Action was modified for several routes to prevent and avoid effects to heritage resources.

Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations

National Forest Management Act

All management practices and activities of the proposed action are consistent with management direction, including standards and guidelines, in the Tahoe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (June 14, 1990), as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Record of Decision (LRMP; January 2004), which were developed in accordance with the National Forest Management Act of 1976, 16 USC 1604(i) and 36 CFR 219.10(e).

This Decision Memo (DM), its appendices and documents incorporated by reference and available upon request consider the best available science to insure the scientific integrity of the discussions and analyses. Specifically, this DM and its associated documents identify methods used, reference scientific sources relied on, discuss responsible opposing views, and disclose incomplete or unavailable information per 40 CFR, 1502.9 (b), 1502.22, 1502.24.

Riparian Conservation Objectives (RCO)

The Soil and Watershed Report found that the proposed action incorporates road restoration to improve existing conditions and meet Riparian Conservation Objectives #1: protects beneficial use, #2: restores hydrologic connectivity stream flow patterns and sediment regime, and #6 identifies and implements restoration actions (SNFPA, ROD pg. 32-34).

Soils

The LRMP provides direction for maintaining long-term soil productivity through standards and guidelines for three soil characteristics: soil porosity, soil cover (erosion control), and soil organic matter (LRMP, pages V-36 through V-38). The TRT Soils and Watershed Report found consistency with this direction as summarized below.

Re-contouring and de-compacting soils can result in short-term erosion susceptibility over the first two to five years as the site stabilizes. Ground cover provided to control erosion will be implemented as required in the Erosion Control Plan (Appendix 5). Follow up monitoring will identify areas where actions may be needed to improve cover in order to control erosion on the disturbed areas. The forest standards for groundcover and productivity measured as compaction will be met for these areas.

Improved roads decrease sediment and transport delivery. Sediment and erosion on up-gradient and downgradient slopes, and in drainages is reduced. Final configuration of the site with drainage improvements and re-vegetation on cut slopes and below roads (where road wash occurs) reduce existing erosion levels to maintain adjacent area soils productivity.

Management Indicator Species (MIS)

Providing the wildlife habitat and other ecological conditions necessary to maintain well-distributed viable populations of Management Indicator Species (MIS) in the project area and bioregional scale, and maintain diversity of plants and animals (Tahoe National Forest LRMP as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forests Management Indicator Species Amendment (SNF MIS Amendment) Record of Decision (USDA December 2007)).

The Management Indicator Species Reports (incorporated by reference and available upon request) considered effects to habitat of the management indicator species. None of the species used as MIS will be discussed further because their respective MIS habitats or ecosystem components do not exist in the project area or will not be affected by the project. The type of work to be conducted would be limited in scope (e.g. very limited construction and decommissioning of trails equal to a little over 3 acres over 9 miles of trails) and no overall habitat would be lost or gained. Narrow trails would be constructed to replace other narrow trails; although the net trail system would increase, the effects to this small, linear portion of habitat is negligible.

Non-native invasive weeds

The risk of introducing and spreading noxious weeds within Truckee River 2016 Tributaries Project area was determined to be rather low in the Highway 89 south area, but rather high in the Prosser area. There are some highly infested areas with "A" rated noxious weeds in close proximity to the proposed routes and trails to be obliterated. The implementation of resource protection measures listed in the Proposed Action would reduce the risk of introducing or spreading noxious weeds to low. As long as all Resource Protection Measures are followed and the weed surveys and weed control efforts are continued for at least five years after weeds have been controlled.

The Weed Report described that the "A" rated noxious weed musk thistle has been known to occur in area, especially near the southern and eastern sides of Boca Reservoir where the highest concentration on the Forest are known to occur. The Forest Service botany crew has been monitoring and pulling musk thistle in the area for several years. While it is likely that most of the immediate problem has been taken care of, there is still the possibility that dormant seeds may be uncovered and stimulated to germinate by disturbances such as the decompaction of the soils within the road prism.

The Weed Report described that there is a low probability that additional non-native invasive plant species would become established due to project actions because of the required Implementation Best Management Practices (BMPs). The highest concern is that weeds could be introduced when heavy equipment arrives on site and that noxious weeds could be transported from areas of known high concentrations to areas with fewer weeds. BMPs which require cleaning of heavy equipment before it arrives on National Forest system lands would help to minimize the risks of weed introduction into the project area. While "C" rated weeds are already present in many areas, cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and woolly mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*) were the only reported to occur in several areas where most of the pre-

project disturbances occurred. These weeds could increase in cover after project implementation and may decrease overtime as native vegetation cover increases over time.

Partners In Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan

Under the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), the Forest Service is directed to, "provide for diversity of plant and animal communities based on the suitability and capability of the specific land area in order to meet overall multiple-use objectives." (P.L. 94-588, Sec 6 (g) (3) (B)). The January 2000 USDA Forest Service (FS) Landbird Conservation Strategic Plan, followed by Executive Order 13186 in 2001, in addition to the Partners In Flight (PIF) specific habitat Conservation Plans for birds and the January 2004 PIF North American Landbird Conservation Plan all reference goals and objectives for integrating bird conservation into forest management and planning.

Opportunities to promote conservation of migratory birds and their habitats in the project area were considered during development and design of the TRT Project, and the wildlife biologist completed a Migratory Landbird Conservation Report to assess the effects of the Project on migratory birds. This report is incorporated by reference and available upon request.

Clean Water Act (1972)

This project complies with the Clean Water Act through use of "Best Management Practices" designed to minimize or prevent the discharge of both point and non-point source pollutants from Forest roads, developments and activities.

There would be no irreversible or irretrievable water quality impacts from the proposed treatments, and the existing conditions leading to uncontrolled erosion and sediment delivery to streams will be improved over roads, routes and trails. The requirements for the maintenance of water quality as established by the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) and the Federal Clean Water Act would be met. Water quality will not be adversely affected with implementation of resource protection and mitigation measures.

In addition, this project also is consistent with the TMDL Management Agency Agreement (MAA) between the State Water Board and Forest Service (USFS) where the USFS identifies, implements, maintains, and monitors best management practices (BMPs) to protect water quality. This project sets forth a means to implement the strategy, it identifies problem areas (related to sedimentation and erosion) on the Tahoe National Forest (TNF) lands for dirt roads and legacy site restoration and is supplemental to the areas previously prioritized for implementation to control sediment delivery from NFS lands for non-point sources.

Clean Air Act (1977)

Implementation of this decision will not cause any air pollutants to be added to the atmosphere beyond the threshold of concern for any specific pollutant such as particulate matter or nitrogen oxide, the precursor to, and indicator for ozone.

Documents Incorporated by Reference and Available Upon Request

1. Aquatic Resources BE/BA
2. Biological Evaluation/Assessment Terrestrial Wildlife
3. Biological Evaluation for Sensitive Plants
4. Weed Risk Assessment
5. Truckee River Tributary Project Watershed and Soils Effects Analysis and Erosion Control Plan
6. Cultural/Heritage Report # R2017051700040

VI. Appendices and Documents Incorporated by Reference and Available Upon Request

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Sub-watershed focus area action table - provides an overview about the actions proposed for each watershed and focus area
- Appendix 2: FS System Route maintenance actions table
- Appendix 3: Treatment prescriptions and methods
- Appendix 4: Project Maps
- Appendix 5: Erosion Control Plan

VII. Administrative Review and Implementation Date

This assessment of the proposal falls within a category of actions listed in the Forest Service NEPA Handbook (FSH) that are excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and there are no extraordinary circumstances that would preclude use of the category (FSH 1909.15, Chapter 31). This category of exclusion, which requires preparation of a project or case file and decision memo, is established in 36 CFR 220.6(e) (20).

Implementation: This decision is not subject to administrative appeal, review or stay, and may be implemented immediately upon approval by the District Ranger.

Forest Service Contact: To obtain additional information concerning this decision, please contact Karie Wiltshire at the Truckee District Office (phone: 530-587-3558; e-mail: kwiltshire@fs.fed.us).

Signature and Date



JOANNE ROUBIQUE
District Ranger

3-10-17

Date

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Appendix 1: Sub-watershed focus area action table

Table 1: Watershed Focus Areas have more complex road and route drainage issues. Implementation will be conducted to improve Focus Areas. Note that areas are cross referenced where appropriate in the Roads table Appendix 2.

Watershed	Focus Area or Site ID	Concerns that Initiate Action	Watershed Action Recommendations
Bear Creek	Deer Park	Abandoned Graded Ski Slopes generate sediment. Long-term potential impacts.	Re-contour ski area slopes and remove infrastructure. Shown on map 3.
Bear Creek	2	Logging practices and infrastructure have heavily affected drainage. Roads and trails capture channel.	Improve road drainage (5001-02, 5001-02-02, and Bear Creek Trail 16E-06). Retain appropriate design for segments of designated trails. Per arch info only actions in the roadbed can occur - survey needed for more extensive actions. Consider future plans for Phase II issues when implementing road drainage improvements.
Bear Creek	Routes at Alpine	Special Use Ares and FS road with Intended long term use have areas producing sediment.	Areas identified as producing sediment can be reduced with improved drainage structures and coordination between users for sediment source areas.
Pole Creek	2	Road bed failure; does not meet minimum road width from lack of drainage structures. Site dumps sediment directly into Pole Creek.	Improve road drainage. Fix road width by excavating cut into up-gradient slope above failure. Non-Fs system route/closed. In future document road is needed to be added to FS system as Administrative use closed.
Pole Creek	3	Unused road drains meadow. Channel formation through meadow. Used road diverts drainage.	Properly drain existing road and re-orient present drainage structures to natural drainage features. FS system 08 road.
Deep Creek	Area 4	FS road has areas producing sediment.	Areas identified as producing sediment can be reduced with improved drainage structures in upper meadow. FS 89-15 road.

Appendix 1: Sub-watershed focus area action table

Watershed	Focus Area or Site ID	Concerns that Initiate Action	Watershed Action Recommendations
Cabin Creek	1	Skid trails and road channelized flow are causing erosion.	Obliterate road and skid trails. Reduce impacts at the junction of the 01-08 roads.
Cabin Creek	2	Sediment delivery to stream from unauthorized route(skid/road)	Obliterate unauthorized road segment and add proper drainage structures to existing routes.
Cabin Creek	4	Skid trails and road channelized flow are causing erosion.	Areas identified as producing sediment can be reduced with improved drainage structures. FS 01-06 road.
89 Corridor	1	Obliterate or narrow route width with drainage improvements	Obliterate or narrow route width and improve drainage.
Prosser Area	Area Map	Multiple unauthorized routes exist creating unnecessary potential sediment sources.	Obliterate routes identified. Improve road drainage on retained road segments. Shown on Map 2.
All other Routes	Routes Appendix 2	FS road/routes/trails with intended long term use have areas producing sediment.	Areas identified as producing sediment can be reduced with improved drainage structures. Focus is in areas with impaired or at-risk ratings (shown on Map 1).

Appendix 2: FS System Route Maintenance Action Table: Truckee River Tributaries Assessment Phase I

The following tables include a subset of some lengths of road as they are reported in the engineering table. Some of the segments omitted were due to roads outside or beyond the survey area. Some are due to source of information (GIS length verses survey miles) also, segments are shortened where the forest service does not have primary responsibility for road maintenance.

Bear Creek Routes

FS Road/Trail/Route	Focus Area	Miles
5001-02	Bear Creek 2	1.25
5001-02-02	Bear Creek 2	0.44
Bear Creek 16E 06	Bear Creek 2 and 3	0.34
Total Miles		2.03

Upper Bear Creek

FS Road/Trail/Route	Focus Area	Miles
5001-005*	Alpine Ski Area	2.62
Scott Tower*	SUP	1.24
Total Miles		3.68

*Opportunities for the Permittee may be gained. Work would only proceed with permittee involvement.

Unnamed to Silver Creek Routes

Subset A- Pole Creek to Upper Deep Creek

FS Road/Trail/Route	Focus Area	Miles
08	Pole Creek Area 3 (incl. Trail/Rd MVUM)	7
08-06	Pole Creek Area 3	0.84
08-04		3.36
08-04-01		2.3
08-04-02		0.8
08-04-01-02		0.62
Unauthorized	Pole Creek Area 2	0.36 (closed) propose 0.1(decom)
Total Miles		15.4

Subset B-Pole Creek to Silver Creek

FS Road/Trail/Route	Focus Area	Miles
08-002	Pole Creek Area 1	1.74
08-002-02	Pole Creek Area 1	0.44
08-01	N/A	0.22
08-02-02-01	Pole Creek Area 1	0.12
Un_08-01 A&B		0.83 (closed)/(propose 0.1(decom) with 0.73 closed)
Total Miles		3.33

Appendix 2: FS System Route Maintenance Action Table: Truckee River Tributaries Assessment Phase I

Subset C-Deep Creek

FS Road/Trail/Route	Focus Area	Miles
89-15	Deep Creek Area 4	3.84

Subset D-Unnamed

FS Road/Trail/Route	Focus Area	Miles
01-08-02	N/A	0.69
01-06		0.84
01-06-12		0.23
Total Miles		1.74

Cabin Creek, Landfill, Jackass Area to Unnamed Creek

FS Road/Trail/Route	Focus Area	Miles
01	Cabin Creek Area 4 Cabin Creek Area 1; Area 2; Cabin Creek Area 1	2.95
01-002		0.4
01-002-02		0.32
01-03		0.68
01-06-02		1.3
01-06		3.35
01-08		2.59
01-08-02		1.26
Un_Auth	Cabin Creek Area 1; Area 2;	2.41 (closed) propose 0.1(decom)
Total Miles		15.3

06-Sawtooth and Deer Creek

FS Road/Trail/Route	Focus Area	Miles
06	N/A	7.16
06-02		0.26
06-03		0.02
06-04		0.9
06-06		1
06-08		1.02
06-08-02		1.25
06-10		0.05
06-11		0.03
06-12		0.2
06-14		0.2
06-16		1.4
06-18		0.13
06-22		2.66
06-24		0.6

Appendix 2: FS System Route Maintenance Action Table: Truckee River Tributaries Assessment Phase I

06-26		0.72
06-28-01		0.41
06-28-04		1.5
06-28-04-01		0.4
06-06		0.4
06-28-04-02-01		0.5
06-28-04-03		0.4
06-28-04-04		0.4
Non-system routes		1.2
Total Miles		22.8

Note: 89 Corridor Area 1 is not associated with a system road or routes.

Prosser Area

FS Road/Trail/Route	Focus Area	Miles
0787-010	Prosser Area East	1.59
0787-010-20		0.69
0787-010-20-05		0.38
U18173003	Prosser Area East	0.82 (propose to add to system)
Total Miles		3.48

Appendix 3: Summary of prescriptions and Methods used for the Truckee River Tributaries Assessment Project

Prescription Category	Prescription description
A	Provide drainage (culverts, drivable dips, waterbars and lead-outs, turnpike, French drain or subdrains) Improve or maintain existing drainage (replace culverts with drivable dips), out-slope road bed, Import rock for outlet protection as needed, and as prescribed in road logs developed prior to implementation.
B	Restore landscape regrading areas to promote overland flow and to decrease concentrated flows and to return area to the appropriate drainage pattern. Revegetate seed and mulch.
C	Re-contour selected areas. Break up compaction, provide drainage transplant vegetation, seed, and mulch as needed. Block with boulders or a barrier system.
D	Import road base from approved gravel pit sources, inspected for weed infestations. Use to re-enforce areas with soft road base or to stabilize instable segments. Where cost share road agreement includes chip seal replace chip seal after road base is stabilized.
E	Revegetate/re-enforce slope with geotechnical methods as needed.
F	Restore channel drainage using riffles/step-pools/log fill and other stabilizing methods.
G	Cut into embankment to provide fill for road surface that meets minimum road design widths.
H	Routes with a designated trail use, will incorporate the minimum design standards according to trail use while incorporating drainage and topographic remediation's that reduce sediment and reconnect drainage and dispersed flows. Surface stabilizing features will be incorporated as needed.

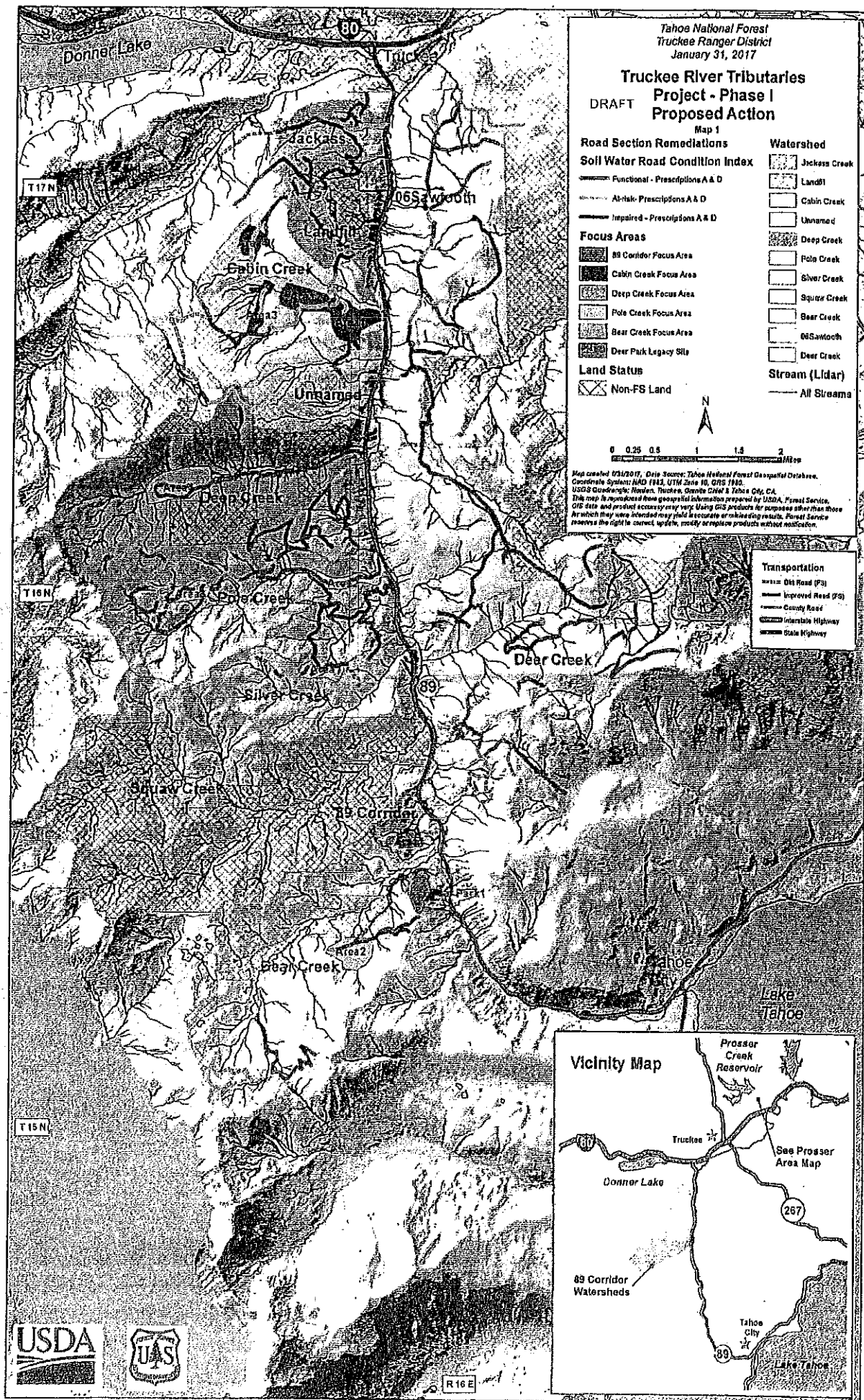
Each prescription category (A-H) is composed of the following detailed types of actions:

- **Boulders or a barrier system:** The Proposed Action would install boulders or some form of a barrier system to block the entrance to restored unauthorized route/skid trail areas. Installation of 8"x8" pressure treated post barricades would require the use of a bobcat

Appendix 3: Summary of prescriptions and Methods used for the Truckee River Tributaries Assessment Project

with auger or similar equipment. Boulder and post locations would range from 6-8 feet wide up to 75-100 feet wide. Boulders would be acquired from the local area where not restricted by natural resources protection measures, or would be acquired from a weed-free certified source.

- **Route decompaction:** Unauthorized routes would be de-compacted using a dozer/backhoe, excavator or similar equipment. The entire length of the route would be decompacted, unless resource protection measures are identified by resource specialists to protect sensitive resources along the route.
 1. During route decompaction, action could be taken to remove unstable fills and pull back road shoulders. Means of de-compacting the soil would be applied on the contour perpendicular to the slope or would adequately disrupt furrows so that water does not flow along continuous routes along the reclaimed road. For instance furrows can be disrupted by staggering tines, placing water bars intermittently along the length.
- **Restore Landscape:** Remove legacy fills and berms. Pull back road shoulders and cut and fill embankment. Ensure overland flow is reconnected across the hillslopes. Reconnect drainage to natural drainage features. Re-establish cut areas with fill to allow for long term function of reconnected drainage ways.
- **Drainage improvements** would be implemented to prevent the capture of water in the restored area. Where necessary, culverts and structures for roads would be removed or replaced as needed. Rocked drivable dips will be placed where needed to control erosion on low level use roads. Actions include the installation of drivable dips and water bars to reestablish drainage-ways. In some cases re-contouring to out-slope the road prism would be necessary.
- **Erosion control and planting:** After remediation activities, the treated areas would be covered with weed-free certified mulch, slash and debris to prevent erosion and to cover the former route. Logs and limbs could be scattered along routes, and locally created wood chip mulch would be preferred, or weed-free certified straw would be applied no deeper than 4-inches of volume as a last resort. Seeding native, weed-free seed or transplanting existing vegetation to the re-contoured sites would also occur in select locations. Locally collected native seed, suitable to site (same species as growing in adjacent areas) will be incorporated, if possible.
- **Geotechnical Methods:** After remediation activities, areas needing additional slope stability requirements will be provided with other geotechnical methods to stabilize the slopes. These could include erosion control fabric, waddles, rock re-enforcement and other methods to stabilize the slope to promote successful revegetation.



Tahoe National Forest
Truckee Ranger District
January 31, 2016

**Truckee River Tributaries
Project - Phase I
Prosser Area Proposed Action
Map 2**

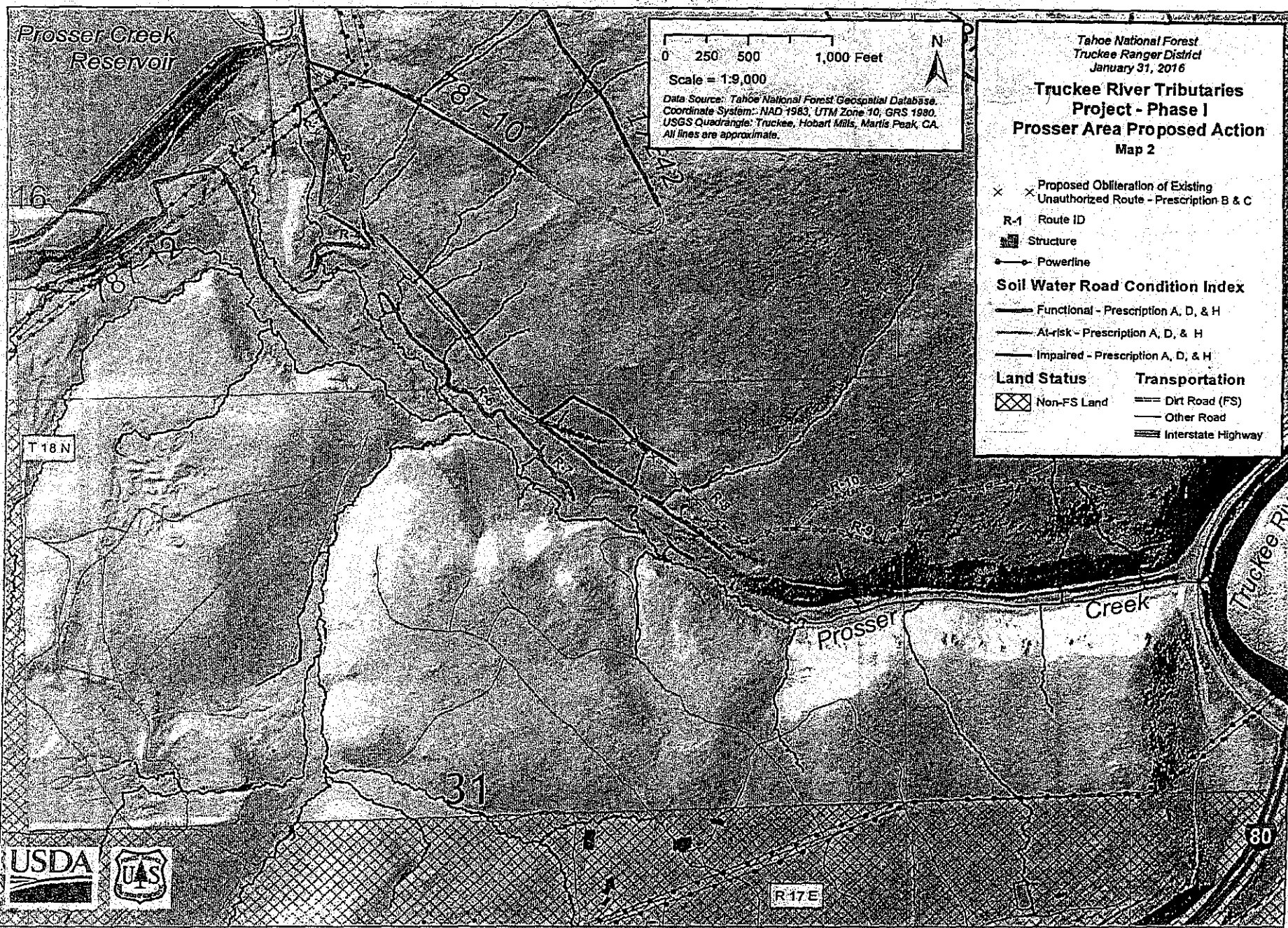
- × × Proposed Obliteration of Existing Unauthorized Route - Prescription B & C
- R-1 Route ID
- Structure
- Powerline
- Soil Water Road Condition Index**
 - Functional - Prescription A, D, & H
 - At-risk - Prescription A, D, & H
 - Impaired - Prescription A, D, & H
- Land Status**
 - Non-FS Land
- Transportation**
 - Dirt Road (FS)
 - Other Road
 - Interstate Highway

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

Scale = 1:9,000

Data Source: Tahoe National Forest Geospatial Database.
Coordinate System: NAD 1983, UTM Zone 10, GRS 1980.
USGS Quadrangle: Truckee, Hobart Mills, Martis Peak, CA.
All lines are approximate.

N



R16E

33



Tahoe National Forest
Truckee Ranger District

Deer Park Area
Truckee River Tributaries Project
Phase I: Map 3

Proposed Action

Prescription
A, C, E

Prescriptions
A, C, E

Prescription
A, B, E

Prescription
F, E

Prescription B, E

Other

Positively Affected

Non-FS Lands

Water Lines

Sewer



0 0.05 0.1 0.15 0.2 Miles

T16N

T15N

3

Appendix 5: Erosion Control Plan

Truckee River Tributaries Project Phase I

Potential Pollutant Sources

Potential sources that are likely to add pollutants to storm water discharges from the project site include areas of raw or un-vegetated soil resulting from equipment access, re-contoured slopes from removal of road grades and areas with restored topography. These areas are more susceptible to erosion and sediment production. The highest potential for erosion from these areas is where an active channel crosses disturbed soil, such as where a channel crossing areas disturbed for re. BMPs described below will be implemented to minimize the potential risk to waters of the United States from all of these sources.

Non-Storm Water Discharges

No non-storm water discharges are not expected to be part of this project.

Standard Requirements: Erosion Control Plan BMPs 12.12-1: Hydrology/Soils HS-1 through HS-15

Pre-Construction BMPs (Fac-2, AqEC-2, Plan-2, Plan-3)

HS-1: Obtain necessary permits, prior to project implementation, obtain necessary state, federal and county permits and follow applicable laws. Implement all requirements as stated in the permits. Develop and implement an erosion control and sediment plan that covers all disturbed areas, including borrow, stockpile, fueling, and staging areas used during construction activities.

Construction BMPs (FAC-2.)

HS-2: Limit timing of activities. Proposed action activities will occur between June 15 and October 15 each year to avoid the period of highest rainfall, streamflows, and erosion potential. If a low water year allows for earlier implementation (meets dryness criterion) the starting day may precede the June 15 date to take advantage of favorable soil conditions. During periods of inclement weather, operations will be halted until soil and WBZ conditions are sufficiently dry and stable to allow for activities to continue without the threat of substantial soil compaction, erosion, sedimentation, or offsite sediment transport.

HS-3: Minimize ground and vegetation disturbance. Ground and vegetation disturbance will be minimized during implementation of the proposed action. Activities are in most instances confined to designated marked access routes and previously disturbed areas. The contractor will be instructed on the importance of avoiding disturbance of anything not necessary to meet project goals. Planned access routes will consist of existing roads, road pullouts and previously disturbed areas.

Appendix 5: Erosion Control Plan

HS-4: Control operations. Stop operations during periods of inclement weather and implement temporary erosion control measures as needed until the site is dry and operable and that there is no potential for off site sediment transport. Work with contractor to develop implementation plan to minimize disturbance.

HS-5: Site specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) to retain sediment on-site and prevent sediment from reaching waterways. BMPs to be used during construction (temporary) and incorporated into the final project (permanent) are discussed throughout this document.

Temporary construction BMPs likely to be used include mulching bare soil with native materials where available, silt fences, hay bales, and straw wattles at any disturbed site where runoff could potentially reach stream channels or reservoir. These erosion control devices will be employed around ground disturbance resulting from construction activities, access roads, construction spoils, or other places where appropriate.

Permanent BMPs include minimizing vegetation disturbance, re-vegetating with native plants where necessary, no restoration activities will be conducted within the stream channel or lake high-water mark.

HS-6: Implement erosion and sediment control BMPs on temporarily delayed project elements. Appropriate erosion and sediment control BMPs will be applied to all disturbed ground during temporary construction delays caused by inclement weather or other circumstances. Measures applied will vary with conditions, but are likely to include (i) the placement of readily available mulch materials (e.g., pine needles, branches, coarse woody debris) and/or imported mulch materials (e.g., certified weed-free rice straw) to protect disturbed surfaces from raindrop impact, reduce runoff velocity, and reduce erosion, and (ii) the installation of straw wattles, silt fences, and/or hay bales to reduce runoff velocity and intercept sediment.

HS-7: Construction spoils. No excess spoil is expected to be generated during construction. Materials will be moved and placed in as one activity. Some rock could be temporarily stockpiled but these materials would be free of soils upon delivery. Erosion control practices will be installed to prevent sediment movement from any piles that threaten water quality that could produce sediment.

HS-8: Avoid loss of topsoil during excavation. All bare areas will be mulched and/or seeded as appropriate. Where nearby duff is available scatter across restoration site.

HS-9: Mulch and revegetate disturbed areas. Soils lacking adequate ground cover because of exposure or other disturbances caused by the proposed action will be mulched with available forest materials such as pine needles, tree bark, and branches; or with imported mulch such as certified weed-free straw. In addition, areas identified for re-vegetation be actively re-vegetated with appropriate native plant species, using plant materials (i.e., seed, container stock, transplant plugs, pole cuttings) collected from local sources or approved by our botanist. Slash and logs from the site may also be distributed over the disturbed area to provide additional soil

Appendix 5: Erosion Control Plan

cover, retain sediment, provide a microclimate to speed up the soil development and revegetation process, and discourage motorized use. See BMP 1.14 below.

HS-10: Control concentrated runoff from modified access road surfaces to reduce erosion. Methods to reduce erosion and disperse drainage from off-site will include properly spaced water bars, cross drains, outslowing (10–12%), tilling the road prism to break up the impervious surface and enable water infiltration and revegetation. Mulch bare areas. Runoff from off-site will be controlled where needed through areas disturbed during restoration to control erosion and protect the waters of the U.S.

HS-11: Control concentrated runoff from work sites. Contour all work sites to allow for natural sheet flow and infiltration into the soil. Do not concentrate flow. Mulch and revegetate all bare soil. Break up compacted soil areas except where excluded as a resource protection measure.

HS-12: Decommission abandoned staging areas. Equipment staging areas used during construction and abandoned as a result of the proposed work will be restored to near natural conditions by loosening or scarifying the soil, seeding or planting with native species, and mulching with native and/or weed-free material unless these areas are part of the existing road and pullout network. Expanded areas will be reduced to their prior extent using these procedures.

HS-13: Rehabilitate all access routes. Loosen compacted soil, and install proper drainage structures as needed. Mulch and/or re-vegetate as needed.

HS-14: Monitor for Predicted Precipitation Events. Where runoff producing weather predictions exceed 35% have materials available and a plan to control erosion on site for the existing operational conditions.

HS-15: Other Requirements. Follow the requirements identified below under: 1) Mitigation Measures to protect Water Quality from Hazardous Materials WQP-1 through WQP-6.

Waterbody Buffer Zone (WBZ) Requirements HS-16 through HS-17

HS-16: Control sediment and re-vegetate within WBZs. Ground disturbance will be minimized and confined to the existing disturbed areas to the extent possible. All disturbed areas will be mulched with native material or weed-free straw (e.g., rice straw) and seeded with native species. Where needed, sites will have perimeter containment installed around the site's lower perimeter to contain any eroded material. Native vegetation would be transplanted where possible and with a potential for success. All disturbed areas will be revegetated with approved native vegetation.

HS-17: Restoration within WBZ. Restoration adjacent to and within WBZ will follow requirements set forth by the Lahontan CRWQCB.

- Use specific applicable zone widths for Class I, III and IV and V as described in Attachment B of Board Order No. RT-2009-0029 adopted May 14, 2009

Appendix 5: Erosion Control Plan

and as amended in R6T-2014-0030. The project will adhere to any subsequent approved incorporated amendments by the CRWQCB.

- Other operability requirements such as dry operable conditions identified by the CRWQCB will be followed.
- There will be a project manager or representative on site at all times during work around the WBZs.
- Do not create new disturbance for staging areas within the WBZ. Choose existing staging areas that are located outside of WBZs when possible.

Mitigation Measures to protect Water Quality from Hazardous Materials WQP-1 through WQP-5 (BMP 7.4 and 2.11).

WQP-1: Specific plans for all products and chemicals used on the project sites. The only chemical that will be used in any of the operation phases will be diesel fuel and related equipment lubricants. Fueling will take place either offsite in places away from riparian, wetland, or stream channels. Any diesel stored on-site will be in appropriate containers and stored well away from any aquatic habitat. Further details about precautions are included in the sections below.

Spill Notification procedure. In the unlikely event of a diesel spill, the following parties will be notified:

1. Call FS Dispatch (530.477.5203) then:
Notify CO, COR contact.
2. Call 911:
 - For spills that involve injury requiring medical treatment
 - For spills that involve fire or explosion hazards
 - For spills that are potentially life threatening
 - For spills that occur after work hours
3. Call Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board at: (530) 542-5400
 - Immediately for a major spill
 - Within 24 hours for a minor spill

WQP-2: Control fueling sites. Equipment will not be refueled within areas that can drain directly waters of the US. Specify fueling and fuel storage areas in a safe location. Require emergency spill plan. Have an emergency spill remediation kit available at the site. Staging of materials and equipment will be limited to existing disturbed areas outside of WBZs (where soils are already compacted and vegetation has been cleared). The equipment will be inspected daily for leaks.

WQP-3: Contain spills. Strict onsite handling rules will be implemented to minimize spills and keep potentially contaminated materials out of the drainage waterways.

WQP-4: Properly dispose of wastes and petroleum products. Wastes and petroleum products used during construction will be collected and removed from the project site in accordance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

Appendix 5: Erosion Control Plan

regulations and federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards.

WQP-5: Remediate contaminated soil. If contaminated soil and/or groundwater are encountered, or if suspected contamination is encountered during project construction, work will be halted in the area, and the type and extent of the contamination shall be identified. A qualified professional, in consultation with the appropriate federal, state, and/or local regulatory agencies, will then develop an appropriate method to remediate the contamination.

Monitoring

Implementation Monitoring

M-1: Schedule of BMP inspections. All construction BMPs will be inspected daily to ensure that they are working properly.

M-2: Monitor project effectiveness regularly in order to identify and provide an **implementation plan for problem areas when effectiveness can be improved.**

Appendix 5: Erosion Control Plan

Additional BMP Requirements

RHCA boundaries extend beyond the WBZ boundaries for most cases.

BMP-1.14

Ground Cover Requirements within the RHCA

Mulching will occur over bare ground created by management activities within the RHCA with particular attention paid near the hydrologic feature. Upland areas of the RHCA will meet the General Ground Cover requirements within the RHCA. Decommissioned temporary roads in RHCA will be mulched to control erosion, but mulch will not be placed in the 100 year floodplain.

- On soils with low to moderate erosion hazard ratings (0-25% slope), maintain 60% ground cover.
- On soils with very high erosion hazard ratings (greater than 25% slope), maintain 70% ground cover. (Tahoe NF Land & Resource Management Plan S&G's)
- In near stream zones for perennial streams and intermittent streams or seasonally wet areas with riparian and meadow features, approximately 70% ground cover will be required. Large patches of bare ground will be mulched.
- Within Water Body Buffer Zones, ground cover should meet an average of 2 inches in depth and a maximum of 4 inches.

General Ground Cover Requirements Outside of RHCA

- On soils with low to moderate erosion hazard ratings (0-25% slope), maintain 45% ground cover.
- On soils with high erosion hazard ratings (25-50% slope), maintain 55% ground cover.
- On soils with very high hazard ratings (greater than 50% slopes), maintain 70% ground cover.

Table 1: Forest Service SNFPA ROD (USDA 2004) RCA widths compared to LRWQCB WBZ widths.

LRWQCB WBZ Water Resource Type	WBZ Buffer Requirement	RCA Water Resource Type and Management Zone	Width of the Riparian Conservation Area (RCA)	Comments
Class I- Perennial Fish Bearing Streams and Springs (up to 100 feet downstream of activity)	Slope < 30%, 75 feet Slope 30 -50%, 100 feet Slope > 50%, 150 feet	Perennial Streams and Springs (up to 100 feet downstream) Seasonal within 100 feet of fish bearing.	Perennial Streams and Springs 300 feet measured from riparian vegetation or bank full edge.	Most treatment areas are < 30% slope in the larger project area and few are within the 30 to 35% range.

**Appendix 5:
Erosion Control Plan**

LRWQCB WBZ Water Resource Type	WBZ Buffer Requirement	RCA Water Resource Type and Management Zone	Width of the Riparian Conservation Area (RCA)	Comments
Class II - Fish Bearing within 1,000 feet downstream of activity	Slope < 30%, 50 feet Slope 30 - 50%, 75 feet Slope > 50%, 100 feet	Seasonal flow regime (Intermittent and Ephemeral non-fish bearing)	150 feet measured from riparian vegetation or bank full edge.	
Class III- waterbody capable of sediment transport to Class I or II.	Slope < 30%, 25 feet Slope \geq 30%, 50 feet	Seasonal flow regime (Intermittent and Ephemeral non-fish bearing > 1,000 feet from fish bearing Class I and II)	150 feet measured from riparian vegetation or bank full edge.	
Class IV - Man made water bodies	Slope < 30%, 25 feet Slope \geq 30%, 50 feet	The same as described by type lakes/		
Unclassified- no transport of sediment to higher order waterbody	Exclude activities from channel zone	SMR (4) "Do not track up and down drainage pathways and minimize all equipment movement through swales"		Uncommon, may include smaller springs and fens that dry-up downstream from feature.

BMP 2.4

Traffic Control During Wet Periods

Restoration operations over all natural surfaced roads would be restricted to the dry season when roads are stable. Operable conditions would be determined by the soil scientist/hydrologist and CO/COR.

BMPs 1.19, 2.4, 2.5

Water source

- *Use an approved water source for obtaining water. Water drafting sites in the project area will be established on permanently flowing streams that have sufficient flow to avoid depletion of pool habitat.*

Appendix 5: Erosion Control Plan

- *Where streams are the sole water source, drafting would be allowed until stream flows reach 2 cfs. Below 2cfs, drafting would only be allowed in previously developed off-site water impoundments and according to guidelines as outlined in the Tahoe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (TNFLRMP).*
- *Install screens on water intake lines to prevent entrainment of biota.*
- *To avoid impacts to MYLF, identify all drafting sites to be used for the proposed action, and report these to a fisheries biologist to allow the implementation of the mitigation measures listed in SMR 31.*
- *Do not overfill tanks when collecting water as this can lead to increased sedimentation to the stream channel.*
- *Do not back water trucks beyond the established access developed to access the water source.*
- *If use of water source creates sediment movement on access route. Apply clean crushed gravel or other means to control sediment, and maintain water quality.*