STATE OF CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY FISH AND GAME COMMISSION INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FOR

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO 2022-2023 KLAMATH RIVER BASIN SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

Prepared by:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Branch

MARCH 2022

This Report Has Been Prepared Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 State of California Natural Resources Agency Fish and Game Commission

INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

KLAMATH RIVER BASIN SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

The Project

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) proposes to amend Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations as set forth in Title 14, subsection 7.40(b)(50) of the California Code of Regulations for Klamath River fall-run Chinook Salmon (KRFC) based on federal fisheries management goals and to make additional changes for clarity (project). The current Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations allow sport fishing for KRFC in the Klamath River and Trinity River systems, subject to specific limitations. Each year the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) evaluates the potential need to update the Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations for KRFC to align with federal fisheries management goals and presents any proposed amendments to the Commission for consideration.

The Findings

The initial study and the Commission's review of the project showed that the project will not have any significant or potentially significant effects on the environment, and therefore no alternatives or mitigation measures are proposed to avoid or reduce any significant effects on the environment. The project will not have a significant effect on aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire.

Basis of the Findings

Based on the initial study, implementing the project will not have any significant or potentially significant effects on the environment. Therefore, the Commission is filing this negative declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code Section 21080, subdivision (c).

This proposed negative declaration consists of:

- Introduction Project Description and Background Information on the Proposed Amendments to Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations for KRFC
- Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form
- Explanation of the Response to the Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

TO

KLAMATH RIVER BASIN SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

Introduction

Each year the Department evaluates the potential need to update the Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations for KRFC to align with management goals and presents any proposed amendments to the Commission for consideration. This year, the Department is not proposing any new amendments aside from those adjustments for bag and possession limits and the adult quota based on Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) recommendations for federal fishery management goals, and to make additional changes for clarity. The Commission makes the final determination on what, if any, amendments to the regulations will be implemented and is the lead agency for the purposes of CEQA. Under Fish and Game Code Section 200, the Commission has the authority to regulate the taking or possession of fish for the purpose of sport fishing.

Project Goals and Objectives

The goal of this project is to amend the Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations in furtherance of the state's policy on conservation, maintenance, and utilization of California's aquatic resources stated in Fish and Game Code Section 1700; this Section includes the following objectives:

- 1. Maintain sufficient populations of all aquatic species to ensure their continued existence.
- 2. Maintain sufficient resources to support a reasonable sport use.
- 3. Management of fisheries using best available science and public input.

Background

The Klamath River Basin, which consists of the Klamath River and Trinity River systems is managed for fall-run Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) through a cooperative system of state, federal, and tribal management agencies. Salmonid regulations are designed to meet natural and hatchery escapement needs for salmonid stocks, while providing equitable harvest opportunities for ocean sport, ocean commercial, river sport, and tribal fisheries.

PFMC is responsible for adopting recommendations for the management of sport and commercial ocean salmon fisheries in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (three to 200 miles offshore) off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. When approved by the Secretary of Commerce, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) implements them as ocean salmon fishing regulations.

The Commission adopts regulations for the ocean salmon sport (inside three miles) and the Klamath River Basin (in-river) sport fisheries which are consistent with federal fishery management goals.

Tribal entities within the Klamath River Basin maintain fishing rights for ceremonial, subsistence, and commercial fisheries that are managed consistent with federal fishery management goals. Tribal fishing regulations are promulgated by the tribes.

The Klamath River Basin in-river sport salmon fishery is managed using adult quotas. A quota range of 0–67,600 adult KRFC in the Klamath River Basin is utilized for public notice purposes for the in-river sport fishery. This recommended range encompasses the historical range of the Klamath River Basin allocations and allows PFMC and the Commission to make adjustments during the 2022 regulatory cycle. The annual KRFC in-river harvest quota specified in subsection 7.40(b)(50)(D)1 is split between four geographic areas between the Klamath and Trinity rivers with a subquota for each area, expressed as a percentage of the total in-river quota. These geographic areas are based upon the historical distribution of angler effort to ensure equitable harvest of adult KRFC in the Klamath River and Trinity River.

The PFMC 2021 allocation for the Klamath River Basin sport harvest was 1,221 adult KRFC. The PFMC allocation for the Klamath River Basin sport harvest is normally a minimum of 15 percent of the non-tribal PFMC harvest allocation of KRFC. The 2022 basin allocation will be recommended by PFMC in April 2022. That allocation will inform the quota that the Department proposes to the Commission for adoption as a quota for the in-river sport harvest at the Commission's May 2022 teleconference meeting.

The Commission may adopt a KRFC in-river sport harvest quota that is different than the quota proposed by the Department or the PFMC 2022 allocation for that fishery. Commission modifications need to meet biological and fishery allocation goals specified in law or established in the FMP.

The proposed sport fishing regulations for the Klamath and Trinity rivers *may* increase or decrease the current salmon bag and possession limits; and the proposed salmon sport fishing regulations for the Klamath and Trinity rivers *will* set a Klamath River Basin quota between 0 and 67,600 adult KRFC and subquotas based on that quota.

Project Location

The sport fishing addressed by this environmental document occurs in the waters of the Klamath River Basin, which consists of the Klamath River and Trinity River systems. The Klamath River Basin is in the northern California counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Siskiyou, and Trinity.

Schedule

If adopted by the Commission and approved by the Office of Administrative Law, the proposed regulatory amendments described below will go into effect around August 15, 2022.

Current Regulations

At its May 11, 2021 teleconference meeting, the Commission adopted Klamath River Basin bag and possession limits and an adult quota for KRFC in alignment with federal regulations. These regulatory amendments went into effect on August 15, 2021, after

they were approved by the Office of Administrative Law. The following is a summary of those 2021 Klamath River Basin bag and possession limits and the KRFC adult quota:

- 1. A daily bag limit of 2 Chinook Salmon, of which no more than 1 Chinook Salmon over 23 inches total length may be retained when the take of salmon over 23 inches total length is allowed.
- 2. A possession limit of 6 Chinook Salmon, of which no more than 3 Chinook Salmon over 23 inches total length may be retained when the take of salmon over 23 inches total length is allowed.
- 3. A Klamath River Basin quota of 1,221 adult KRFC (greater than 23 inches total length).

The 2021 Klamath River Basin quota of 1,221 adult KRFC aligned with the 2021 federal regulations, which provided guidance on allocations between ocean sport and commercial fisheries, inland sport fisheries, and recognized tribal fisheries.

Sport fishing seasons for KRFC were not changed and remained as follows:

- 1. Klamath River August 15 through December 31
- 2. Trinity River September 1 through December 31

Proposed Changes

Key to Proposed Regulatory Changes:

Because the PFMC recommendations are not known at this time, ranges are shown in [brackets] in the proposed regulatory text below of the adult quota and bag and possession limits which encompass historical ranges. All are proposed for the 2022 KRFC fishery in the Klamath and Trinity rivers.

The final KRFC bag and possession limits will align with the final federal regulations to meet biological and fishery allocation goals specified in law, or established in the FMP.

KRFC ADULT STOCKS (SPORT FISHERY QUOTA MANAGEMENT):

Quota: The Department recommends the Commission consider a quota range of 0 - 67,600 adult KRFC in the Klamath River Basin for the in-river sport fishery. This recommended range encompasses the historical range of the Klamath River Basin allocations and allows PFMC and the Commission to make adjustments during the 2022 regulatory cycle.

Subquotas: The proposed subquotas for KRFC stocks are as follows and shown in Figure 1:

 Main stem Klamath River from 3,500 feet downstream of the Iron Gate Dam to the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec -- 17 percent of the total quota equates to [0-11,492];

- Main stem Klamath River from downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec to the mouth -- 50 percent of the total quota equates to [0-33,800];
- Trinity River downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the Highway 299
 West bridge at Cedar Flat -- 16.5 percent of the total quota equates to [0-11,154]; and
- Trinity River downstream from the Denny Road bridge at Hawkins Bar to the confluence with the Klamath River -- 16.5 percent of the total quota equates to [0-11,154].

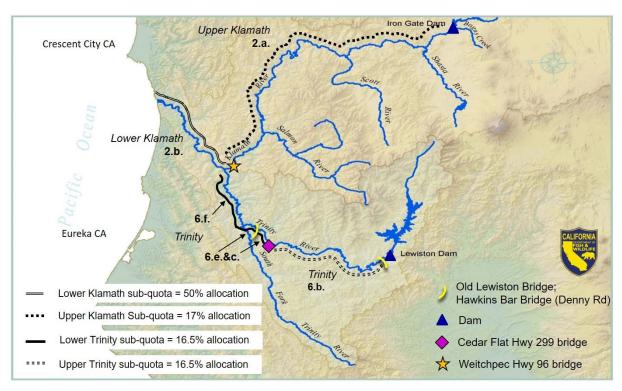


Figure 1. Map of the Klamath River Basin, showing the subquotas by reach of Trinity and Klamath rivers, and the associated subsections of 7.40(b)(50)(E).

Seasons: No changes are proposed for the Klamath River and Trinity River KRFC seasons:

- Klamath River August 15 to December 31
- Trinity River September 1 to December 31

Bag and Possession Limits: As in previous years, no retention of adult KRFC is proposed once the subquota has been met.

The range of proposed bag and possession limits for KRFC stocks are:

- Bag Limit [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 23 inches total length may be retained until the subquota is met, then 0 fish over 23 inches total length.
- Possession limit [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 23 inches total length may be retained when the take of salmon over 23 inches total length is allowed.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. Project Title:

Proposed 2022-2023 Amendments to Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations, Title 14, California Code of Regulations

2. Lead Agency Name and Address:

California Fish and Game Commission 715 P Street, 16th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814

3. Contact Person and Phone Number: Melissa Miller-Henson, (916) 653-4899

4. Project Location:

The Klamath River and Trinity River systems.

5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Branch 1010 Riverside Parkway West Sacramento, CA 95605

6. General Plan designation:

N/A (statewide)

7. Zoning:

N/A (statewide)

8. Description of Project:

Potentially amend the daily bag and possession limits and adult quota for Klamath River fall-run Chinook Salmon for the Klamath River Basin sport fishery based on PFMC recommendations to maintain consistency with the Department's mission to manage California's diverse fisheries resources for their ecological value, their use and for the public's enjoyment.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting:

N/A

10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required:

None.

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.31?

No.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages. Aesthetics Agriculture and Air Quality Forestry Biological Cultural Energy Resources Resources Geology/Soils Greenhouse Gas Hazards and **Emissions Hazardous Materials** Hydrology/Water Land Use/Planning Mineral Resources Quality Noise Population/ **Public Services** Housing Recreation Transportation Tribal Cultural Resources Utilities/Service Wildfire Mandatory Findings of **Systems** Significance This project will not have a "Potential Significant Impact" on any of the environmental factors listed above; therefore, no boxes are checked. **DETERMINATION:** On the basis of this initial evaluation: I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared. I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared. I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required. I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project.

| Melissa Miller-Henson Executive Director | |
|---|--|
| I find that although the proposed project could have a environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) hadequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuar NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigatic imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is requ | nave been analyzed I pursuant to applicable Int to that earlier EIR or I measures that are |
| earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIR REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects the | |

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

| | Potentially Significant Impact (PSI) | Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM) | Less Than Significant Impact (LTS) | No Impact (NI) |
|---|--|--|--|-------------------|
| II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project: | | | | |
| a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? | | | | NI |
| b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? | | | | NI |

| | Potentially Significant Impact (PSI) | Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM) | Less Than Significant Impact (LTS) | No Impact (NI) |
|---|--|--|--|-------------------|
| c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))? | | | | NI |
| d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? | | | | NI |
| e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the | | | | NI |
| applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project: | | | | |
| a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? | | | | NI |
| b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard? | | | | ZI |
| c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? | | | | N |
| d) Result in any other emissions (such as those leading to odors) affecting a substantial number of people? | | | | NI |

| IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would | Potentially Significant Impact (PSI) | Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM) | Less Than Significant Impact (LTS) | No Impact (NI) |
|--|--|--|--|-------------------|
| the project: | | | | |
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? | | | LTS | |
| b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? | | | | NI |
| c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? | | | | NI |
| d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? | | | | NI |
| e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? | | | | NI |
| f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? | | | | NI |

| | Potentially Significant Impact (PSI) | Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM) | Less Than Significant Impact (LTS) | No Impact (NI) |
|---|--|--|--|----------------|
| V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project: | | | | |
| a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5? | | | | NI |
| b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5? | | | | NI |
| c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries? | | | | NI |
| VI. ENERGY. Would the project: | | | | |
| a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operations? | | | | NI |
| b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency? | | | | NI |
| VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the | | | | |
| project: | ı | | | |
| a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: | | | | |
| i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42? | | | | NI |
| ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? | | | | NI |
| iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? | | | | NI |
| iv) Landslides? | | | | NI |
| b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? | | | | NI |

| | Potentially Significant Impact (PSI) | Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM) | Less Than Significant Impact (LTS) | No Impact (NI) |
|--|--|--|--|-------------------|
| c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? | | | | NI |
| d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property? | | | | NI |
| e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water? | | | | ΝI |
| f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? | | | | NI |
| VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project: | | | | |
| a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? | | | | NI |
| b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? | | | | NI |
| IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project: | | | | |
| a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? | | | | NI |
| b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? | | | | NI |

| | Potentially Significant Impact (PSI) | Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM) | Less Than Significant Impact (LTS) | No Impact (NI) |
|---|--|--|--|-------------------|
| c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? | | | | NI |
| d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? | | | | ZI |
| e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area? | | | | NI |
| f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | | | | NI |
| g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires? | | | | NI |
| X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project: | | | | |
| a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality? | | | | NI |
| b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin? | | | | NI |

| | Potentially Significant Impact (PSI) | Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM) | Less Than Significant Impact (LTS) | No Impact (NI) |
|--|--|--|--|----------------|
| c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would: | | | | NI |
| i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; | | | | NI |
| ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite; | | | | NI |
| iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of pollution runoff; or | | | | NI |
| iv) impede or redirect flood flows? | | | | NI |
| d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation? | | | | ΝI |
| e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan? | | | | NI |
| XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project: | | | | |
| a) Physically divide an established community? | | | | Z |
| b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? | | | | NI |
| XII. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project: | | | | |
| a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of | | | | NI |

| | Potentially Significant Impact (PSI) | Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM) | Less Than Significant Impact (LTS) | No Impact (NI) |
|---|--|--|--|-------------------|
| value to the region and the residents of the state? | | | | |
| b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? | | | | NI |
| XIII. NOISE. Would the project result in: | | | | |
| a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? | | | | NI |
| b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? | | | | NI |
| c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? | | | | NI |
| XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING. | | | | |
| Would the project: | | | | |
| a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? | | | | Z |
| b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | | | | ZI |

| XV. PUBLIC SERVICES. a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services: Fire protection? Police protection? NI Other public facilities? XVI. RECREATION. a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? XVII. TRANSPORTATION. Would the project: a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities? b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA | | | | | |
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| Police protection? | | | | | NII |
| Schools? | | | | | |
| Parks? | | | | | |
| Other public facilities? XVI. RECREATION. a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? XVII. TRANSPORTATION. Would the project: a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities? b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA | | | | | |
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| b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? XVII. TRANSPORTATION. Would the project: a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities? b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA | existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the | | | LTS | |
| a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities? b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA | b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on | | | | NI |
| or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities? b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA | | | | | |
| | or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and | | | | NI |
| (b)? | b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision | | | | NI |

| | Potentially Significant Impact (PSI) | Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM) | Less Than Significant Impact (LTS) | No Impact (NI) |
|--|--|--|--|-------------------|
| c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? | | | | NI |
| d) Result in inadequate emergency access? | | | | NI |
| XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is: | | | | NI |
| i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or | | | | NI |
| ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe. | | | | NI |
| XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project: | | | | |
| a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the | | | | NI |

| | Potentially Significant Impact (PSI) | Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM) | Less Than Significant Impact (LTS) | No Impact (NI) |
|--|--|--|--|-------------------|
| construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects? | | | | |
| b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years? | | | | NI |
| c) Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? | | | | NI |
| d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals? | | | | NI |
| e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste? | | | | NI |
| XX WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project: | | | | |
| a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | | | | NI |
| b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire? | | | | NI |
| c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. | | | | NI |

| | Potentially Significant Impact (PSI) | Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM) | Less Than Significant Impact (LTS) | No Impact (NI) |
|--|--|--|--|-------------------|
| d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes? | | | | NI |
| XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE. | | | | |
| a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | | | | NI |
| b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)? | | | | NI |
| c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | | | | NI |

EXPLANATION OF RESPONSES TO INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

I. AESTHETICS

- a) The project will not have an adverse effect on a scenic vista. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- b) The project will not damage scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- c) The project will not substantially degrade, in nonurbanized areas, the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- d) The project will not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

- a) The project will not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- c) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timber zoned Timberland Production. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- d) There will be no loss of forest land and the project will not result in the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- e) The project will not involve other changes in the existing environment, which due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.

III. AIR QUALITY

- a) The project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard. Such an impact will not occur because the project involves no ongoing sources of air pollution.
- c) The project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not increase pollutant concentrations.
- d) The project will not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

a) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) or U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The proposed sport fishing regulations for the Klamath and Trinity rivers *may*: increase or decrease the current salmon bag and possession limits. The proposed salmon sport fishing regulations for the Klamath and Trinity rivers *will* set a Klamath River Basin quota between 0 and 67,600 adult KRFC and subquotas based on that quota. Any changes to the Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations will be based on the 2022 PFMC recommendations for the management of sport and commercial ocean salmon fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (three to 200 miles offshore) off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California and 2022 NMFS ocean salmon fishing regulations and aligned with KRFC biological and fishery allocation goals. The PFMC recommendation process includes the consolidation and consideration of the best scientific information available from California, Oregon, and Washington on the status of various salmon stocks.

Coho Salmon, which is federally- and state-listed, and Spring Chinook Salmon, which is state-listed as a candidate species, co-occur in the project area. Existing regulations prohibit take of Coho Salmon; Spring Chinook Salmon are currently protected by regulations which have a reduced bag limit and season length. Spring Chinook Salmon will not incur significant impacts as a result of the proposed project because the proposed change is limited to KRFC and the overlap of the two ecotypes in run and spawn timing is minimal.

- b) The project will not have an adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies and regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the USFWS. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- c) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- d) The project will not substantially interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- e) The project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not result in any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- f) The project will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

- a) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5. There is no ground disturbing work or work permanently modifying any existing structure or resource and thus no potential to affect historical resources.
- b) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect archaeological resources.
- c) The project will not disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect human remains.

VI. ENERGY

a) The project would not result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project

- construction or operations. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not use energy resources.
- b) The project will not affect nor obstruct any state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- a i) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.
- a ii) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.
- a iii) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.
- a iv) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.
- b) The project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- c) The project will not be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable and potentially result in on- or off- site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- d) The project will not be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- e) The project will not create any sources of waste water requiring a septic system.
- f) The project will not indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

- a) The project will not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. The project will not involve construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHG. The project would result in the production of very low GHG emissions.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- a) The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. The project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- b) The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. The project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- c) The project will not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. The project will not involve the transport, use, or emission of any hazardous materials.
- d) The project will not be located on any site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.
- e) The project will not be located within an airport land use plan area.
- f) The project will not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- g) The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

- a) The project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, water use, or water discharge.
- b) The project will not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede

- sustainable groundwater management of the basin. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or groundwater use.
- c i) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- c ii) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- c iii) The project will not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm-water drainage systems, or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- c iv) The project will not impede or redirect flood flows because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, the project would not risk release of pollutants due to project inundation because the project would not involve any construction or land alteration.
- e) The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or groundwater use.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

- a) The project will not physically divide an established community. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

a) The project will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes. b) The project will not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XIII. NOISE

- a) The project will not result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land, and its implementation will not generate noise levels in excess of agency standards.
- b) The project will not result in generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land.
- c) The project will not be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

- a) The project will not induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not construct any new homes, businesses, roads, or other human infrastructure.
- b) The project will not displace any existing people or housing and will not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

a) The project will not have any significant environmental impacts associated with new or physically altered governmental facilities. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XVI. RECREATION

 a) The project will not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated. The proposed changes to the Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations for KRFC will have minimal to no impact on recreational facilities. Based on the PFMC process for the 2022 salmon fishing season, the Commission may adopt a quota for adult KRFC that is lower or higher than that quota for the 2021 season. Also, the Commission is not considering changing the length of the season for KRFC in the Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations.

b) The project does not require construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION

- a) The project will not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The project involves no land use or transportation system modifications.
- b) The project will not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b), which pertains to vehicle miles traveled. The amount and distance of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations.
- c) The project will not increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses with equipment. There will be no land use or transportation system modifications.
- d) The project will not result in inadequate emergency access. The project involves no land use or transportation system modifications.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

- a) The project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe. Further,
- a i) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k). There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect tribal cultural resources.
- a ii) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect tribal cultural resources.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

- a) The project will not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities. There will be no construction or land alteration.
- b) The project requires no new water supplies.
- c) The project will not produce wastewater.
- d) The project will not generate solid waste. Thus, the project will be in compliance with state and local standards for solid waste.
- e) The project will not create solid waste. Thus, the project will be in compliance with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

XX. WILDFIRE

- a) The project will not impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- The project will not exacerbate wildfire risks due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors.
- c) The project will not require the installation or maintenance of any infrastructure.
- d) The project will not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides as a result of runoff, post-fir slope instability, or drainage changes.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- a) The project does not have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. The project is consistent with the Department's mission to manage California's diverse fisheries resources for their ecological value, their use and for the public's enjoyment.
- b) The project does not have adverse impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. Cumulative adverse impacts will not occur because there are no potential adverse impacts due to project implementation.

| c) | The project does not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or the creation of new infrastructure. |
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