# APPENDIX B: BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

# CUSTOM CRUSHING INDUSTRIES, INC. RECYCLING FACILITY



Prepared for

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#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Biological Resources Assessment report describes the biological resources present within the project area for the proposed operation of a recycling facility associated with existing industrial operations. The facility would operate on the southern 20 acres of Assessor's Parcel No. (APN) 013-120-330. The facility would receive construction waste. Site layout is included as Appendix A.

## 1.1 Project Description

The property owner proposes to operate a construction waste recycling facility. The facility would be located on the southern 20 acres of APN 13-120-330. Hours of operation will be 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with eight (8) hours of operation expected per day. The facility will operate Monday through Friday with no night, weekend, or holiday operations. Construction waste will be recycled into aggregate bases, landscape products, and soil amendments. The proposed project will generate a maximum of 40 truck and 10 employee trips per day. By providing a local recycling facility, the project will likely result in reduced emissions from transportation of construction waste.

Inbound materials will arrive by truck with up to 40 loads (totaling 1,000 tons) anticipated per day. Materials will be mixed, crushed, and screened onsite. No additives, amendments, or bulking agents will be added to the materials during processing. Unloading, processing, storage, and loading will take place onsite. Processing equipment onsite will include dump trucks, trailers, forklifts, loaders, crushing, screening and mixing equipment, and other similar diesel-powered heavy machinery.

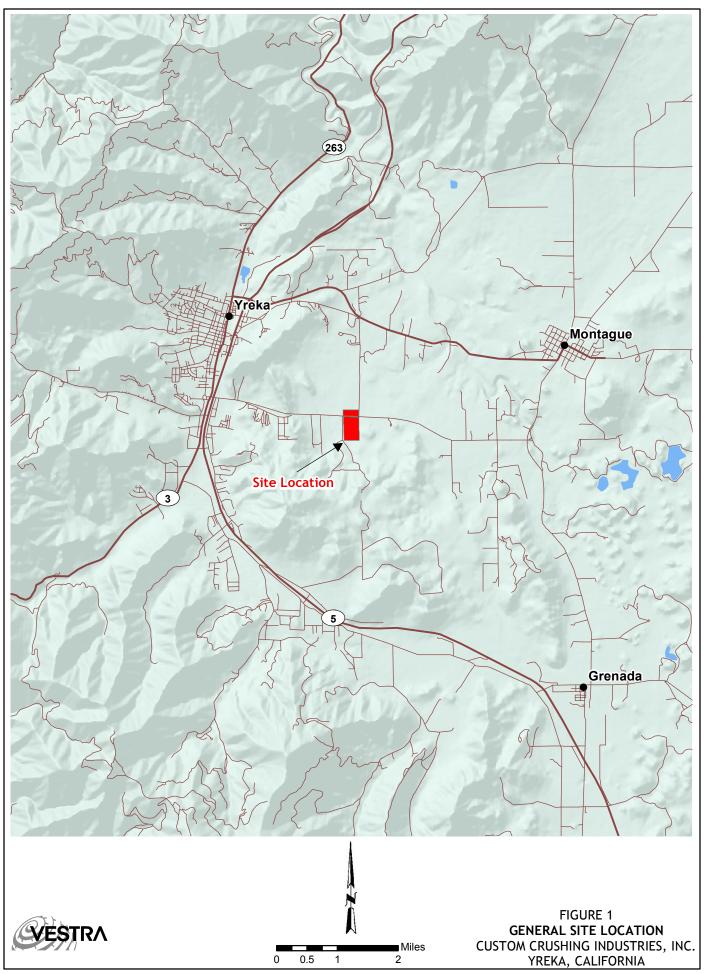
## 1.2 Site Description

The site is identified as APN 013-120-330 in Siskiyou County, California. The project site is located approximately 2.3 miles east of the City of Yreka along Oberlin Road. The project area is outside of city limits but is within the City of Yreka General Plan "Sphere of Influence." Access to the site would be from Oberlin Road and hence Sanitary Landfill Road and onto the subject property via the Siskiyou County Road Department encroachment at the south end of the property. The general site location is shown on Figure 1.

#### 2.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

## 2.1 General Setting

The project is located approximately 2.3 miles east of the City of Yreka, California. The area is occupied by several industrial and commercial facilities; the Siskiyou County Yreka Solid Waste Transfer Station is located to the south of the property, and to the west, parcels are developed as equipment yards, commercial animal kennels, and industrial areas. The property to the east is undeveloped land.



The project area occurs on two parcels. One parcel is located north of Oberlin Road and the other, larger parcel is located south of Oberlin Road. Existing industrial operations and equipment staging currently occurs at the northern parcel. The proposed recycling facility would be concentrated on existing rocked pad on the southern parcel.

#### 2.2 Soils

The soil unit map is included as Appendix B.

#### 2.3 Vegetation Communities

Vegetation communities in the study area were classified based on descriptions provided in A Guide to Wildlife Habitats of California (CDFW 2014) and the online edition of California Native Plant Society's "A Manual of California Vegetation" (Sawyer et al. 2009). No VegCAMP data is available for the project site or surrounding area. The dominant plant species that were observed within each distinct vegetation community were input to the Online Manual of California Vegetation database to determine "vegetation alliances," that occur within these areas. The assessment found that Annual Grasses and Forbs, Western Juniper Woodland, and Urban communities occur within the project parcel.

The existing vegetation types on the property are described below and shown on Figure 2. Photographs of each community are included as Figures 3 through 7.

#### 2.3.1 Annual Grasses and Forbs

Urbanized portions of the properties are surrounded by fields of annual grasses and annual and perennial forbs that are characteristic of disturbed sites and fallowed fields. Based on the dominant species, the plant community in these areas meets the classification of Annual Grasses and Forbs. These areas will not be disturbed by proposed activities.

In the northern parcel, dominant plant species includes yellow-star thistle (*Centaureus soltitialis*) and medusahead (*Elymus caput-medusae*). Also present are bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgaris*), common fiddleneck (*Amsinckia intermedia*), and nemophila (*Nemophila* sp.), wild oats (*Avena* sp.), and wild mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*). One juniper tree (*Juniperus occidentalis*) was observed. Two ephemeral swales and two ephemeral wetland features were observed in this area; vegetation within these features includes obligate and facultative wetland plant species including dock (*Rumex* sp.), and annual grasses that were emerging at the time of the survey.

In the southern parcel, Annual Grasses and Forb community is present on the western portion of the property. Aerial imagery shows signatures of ephemeral wetland features; however, this area has been tilled repeatedly and grazed by horses in past decades. The terrain has been modified by heavy equipment that has resulted in terraces across the landscape. The plant community throughout this area homogenous and is dominated by yellow-star thistle (*Centaureus soltitialis*), medusahead (*Elymus caput-medusae*), and wild mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*).

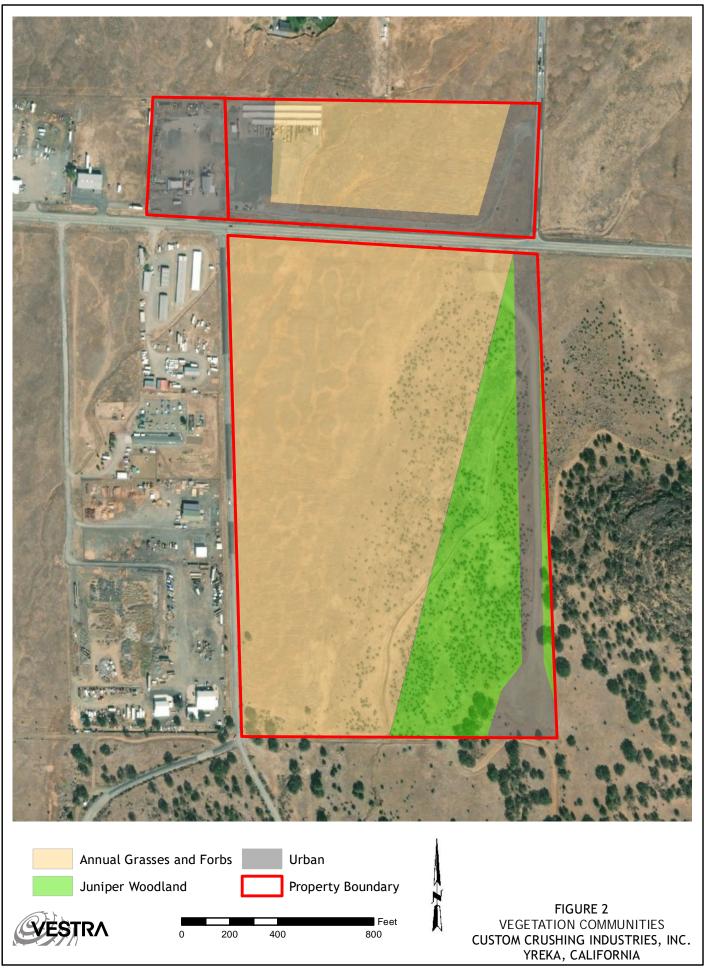




Figure 3. Annual Grasses and Forb Community at Northern Parcel



Figure 4. Annual Grasses and Forb Community at Southern Parcel

#### 2.3.2 Western Juniper Woodland

Juniper woodland was observed onsite, with components in the southeastern portion of the property heavily dominated by western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) trees, and the component to the southeast of the property co-dominated with Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*).

The area dominated by juniper supports trees that range from ten to fifteen feet in height. Trees are widely spaced. This habitat has sparse shrub understory solely comprised of deciduous rabbitbrush (*Ericameria* sp.), likely *E. nauseosa*. Annual grasses and annual and perennial forbs comprise the ground cover, including tall buckwheat (*Eriogonum elatum*), yellow-star thistle

(Centaureus soltitialis), and wild mustard (Hirschfeldia incana). This component surrounds the western and southern edges of the existing rock pad that will be the site of the recycling facility.

The component that is co-dominated by juniper and Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*) exists along the southern and eastern boundary of the existing rock pad that will be the site of the recycling facility and extends beyond the eastern property boundary. The understory is comprised of deciduous currant (*Ribes* sp.). The ground cover consists of annual and perennial grasses.



Figure 5. Juniper Woodland Community, Juniper Dominant



Figure 6. Juniper Woodland Community, Juniper and Oregon White Oak Dominant



Figure 7. Access Road in between Juniper and Oregon White Oak Dominant Areas

#### 2.3.3 Urban

Developed portions of the project area exist on both parcels. A graded pad is located at the southern end of the parcel that occurs to the south of Oberlin Road. An operations/equipment storage yard is located on the western half of the parcel that is located to the north of Oberlin Road. These areas consist of dirt and gravel and are void of any vegetation. Additionally, human presence is frequent in these areas.

## 2.4 Special-Status Species

#### 2.4.1 Special-Status Plants

Special-status plant species include plants that are (1) designated as rare by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or are listed as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) or ESA; (2) proposed for designation as rare or listing as threatened or endangered; (3) designated as state or federal candidate species for listing as threatened or endangered; and/or (4) ranked as California Rare Plant Rank (RPR) 1A, 1B, 2A, or 2B. A list of regionally occurring special-status plant species was compiled based on a review of pertinent literature, the results of the field surveys, and a review of the USFWS species list and California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and a nine-quad search of California Native Plant Society (CNPS) database records.

Recommendations from CDFW for this Tentative Parcel Map included a botanical survey targeting two special-status plant species: single flowered mariposa lily (*Calochortus monanthus*) and Siskiyou clover (*Trifolium siskiyouense*). The results of this survey as well as assessments of other potentially occurring rare plant species are discussed in Section 5.0.

For each special-status plant species, habitat and other ecological requirements were evaluated and compared to the habitats in the study area and immediate vicinity to assess the presence of potential habitat. The habitat assessment is provided in Table 1 (see Section 5.1).

#### 2.4.2 Special-Status Animals

Special-status animal species include species that are (1) listed as threatened or endangered under the CESA or the ESA; (2) proposed for federal listing as threatened or endangered; (3) identified as state or federal candidates for listing as threatened or endangered; and/or (4) identified by the CDFW as Species of Special Concern or California Fully Protected Species.

A list of regionally occurring special-status wildlife species was compiled based on a review of pertinent literature and consultations with the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (iPAC) database and CNDDB records and a query of the California Wildlife Habitats Relationship (CWHR) system.

For each special-status wildlife species, habitat and other ecological requirements were evaluated and compared to the habitats in the study area and immediate vicinity to assess the presence of potential habitat. The habitat assessment is provided in Table 1 (see Section 5.1).

#### 2.4.3 Sensitive Natural Communities

Natural communities have been defined across California according to associations between two or more species that repeat in certain distinctive assemblages that present a characteristic appearance based on size, shape, and spacing of the plants. The CNDDB rarity ranking for each alliance uses the NatureServe's Heritage Program methodology; the "S" indicates the alliance's rarity and threat in California, with "S1", "S2", and "S3" considered as "sensitive natural communities" that are subject to review under CEQA.

A query for sensitive natural communities was completed using the online edition of the CNPS "A Manual of Vegetation" (Sawyer et al. 2009). The query was completed by searching for Alliances that include the dominant plant species that were observed within each distinctive community onsite. None of the communities observed onsite are listed as Sensitive Natural Communities.

#### 3.0 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

This section describes the federal and state regulation of special-status species, Waters of the United States, and other sensitive biological resources.

#### 3.1 Federal Regulations

#### 3.1.1 Federal Endangered Species Act

Section 9 of the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) prohibits acts that result in the "take" of threatened or endangered species. As defined by the federal ESA, "endangered" refers to any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its current range. The term "threatened" is applied to any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its current range. "Take" is defined as "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage

in any such conduct." Sections 7 and 10 of the federal ESA provide methods for permitting otherwise lawful actions that may result in "incidental take" of a federally listed species. Incidental take refers to take of a listed species that is incidental to, but not the primary purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity. Incidental take is permitted under Section 7 for projects on federal land or involving a federal action; Section 10 provides a process for non-federal actions. The act is administered by the USFWS for terrestrial species.

#### 3.1.2 Clean Water Act

The objective of the Clean Water Act (1977, as amended) is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. Discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including jurisdictional wetlands, is regulated by the Corps under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1251-1376) under a permitting process. Applicants for Section 404 permits are also required to obtain water quality certification or waiver through the local Regional Water Quality Control Board under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341).

Corps regulations implementing Section 404 define waters of the United States to include intrastate waters, including lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and natural ponds, the use, degradation, or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce. Wetlands are defined for regulatory purposes as "areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions" (33 CFR 328.3; 40 CFR 230.3). To comply with the Corps policy of no net loss of wetlands, discharge into wetlands must be avoided and minimized to the extent practicable. For unavoidable impacts, compensatory mitigation is typically required to replace the loss of wetland functions in the watershed.

#### 3.1.3 Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Migratory birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (16 USC 703-711). The MBTA makes it unlawful to take, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird listed in 50 CFR Part 10, including feathers or other parts, nests, eggs, or products, except as allowed by implementing regulations (50 CFR 21). Mitigation measures can be identified to avoid or minimize adverse effects on migratory birds.

#### 3.2 State Regulatory Requirements

#### 3.2.1 California Endangered Species Act

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) lists species of plants and animals as threatened or endangered. Projects that may have adverse effects on state-listed species require formal consultation with CDFW. "Take" of protected species incidental to otherwise lawful activities may be authorized under Section 2081 of the California Fish and Game Code. Authorization from the CDFW is in the form of an Incidental Take Permit, and measures can be identified to minimize take. CDFW Species of Special Concern are considered under the California Endangered Species Act.

#### 3.2.2 Birds of Prey

Under Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code, it is unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the orders of Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds of prey) or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird, except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto.

#### 3.2.3 Migratory Birds

The California Fish and Game Code Section 3513 states that it is unlawful to take or possess any migratory nongame bird as designated in the MBTA or any part of such migratory nongame bird except as provided by rules and regulations adopted by the Secretary of the Interior under provisions of the MBTA.

#### 3.2.4 Fully Protected Species

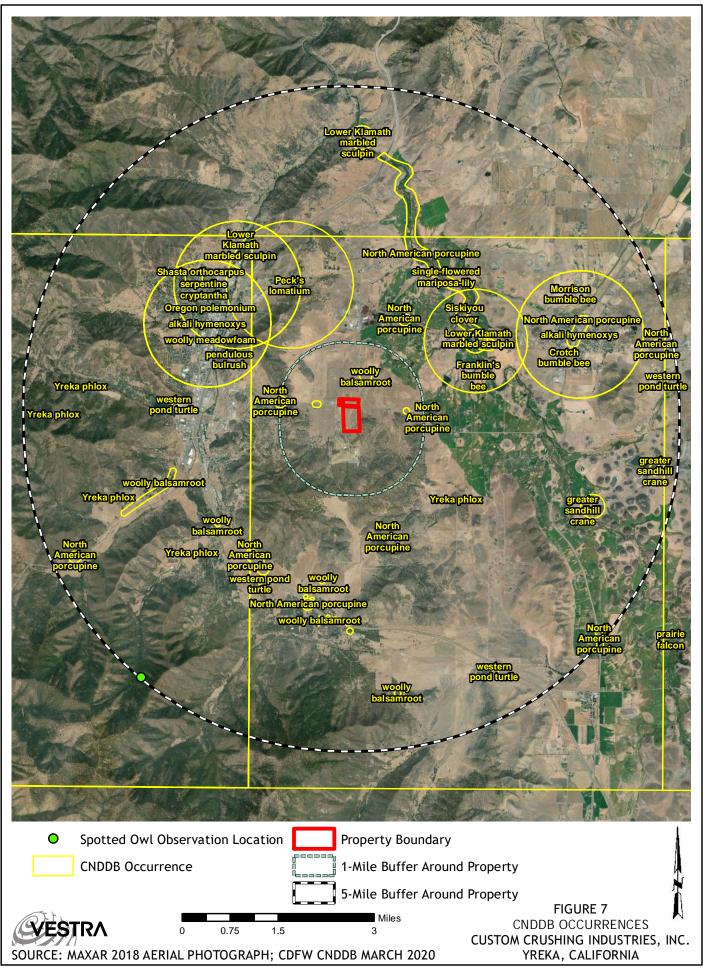
California statutes also accord "fully protected" status to a number of specifically identified birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. These species cannot be "taken," even with an incidental take permit (California Fish and Game Code, Sections 3505, 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515).

#### 4.0 BIOLOGICAL SITE SURVEY

#### 4.1 Pre-Survey Review

Special-status plant and animal species and sensitive habitats that have the potential to occur within the project area were determined, in part, by reviewing agency databases, literature, and other relevant sources. The following information sources were reviewed to aid this determination:

- Montague, California, USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle;
- Aerial photography of the project area and vicinity;
- The USFWS official list of endangered and threatened species that may occur, or be affected by projects, as provided by the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office (Consultation Code 08EYRE00-2021-SLI-0102), included as Appendix C;
- The CDFW California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2022a) records for the Montague, California USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle and the eight surrounding quadrangles, included as Figure 8;
- The CNPS online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (California Native Plant Society 2015) records for the Montague, California, USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle and the eight surrounding quadrangles;
- California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR) System (California Department of Fish and Game 2022).



- GIS shapefiles of designated critical habitat from the USFWS Critical Habitat Portal website;
- CDFW publications including State and Federally Listed Endangered, Threatened and Rare Plants of California (CDFW 2022b); State and Federally Listed and Threatened Animals of California (CDFW 2022c); and Special Animals List (CDFW 2022d); and
- Pertinent biological literature including Bird Species of Special Concern in California (Shuford and Gardali 2008).

#### 4.2 Survey Methods

A pedestrian survey was conducted on January 18, 2022, between the hours of 1000 and 1430. The survey covered the two project parcels as well as adjacent areas where development could impact resources onsite. A Trimble Geo XT Explorer 6000, Nikon P530 camera, and binoculars were used during the survey to observe and document site characteristics and species presence.

#### 4.3 Survey Results

Weather was sunny, cloud cover was minimal, and no precipitation occurred. The ambient temperature was 60 degrees Fahrenheit (F) during the survey.

Flora and fauna observed during the survey were documented. Survey findings are summarized below.

No special-status wildlife species were observed during the survey. The following wildlife species were identified as occurring within the project area:

- Common raven (*Corvus corax*)
- Northwestern fence lizard (Sceloperus occidentalis occidentalis)
- California ground squirrel (Otospermophilus beecheyi)
- Mule deer or black-tailed deer (Odocoileus hemionus)
- Turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

No special-status plant species were observed during the survey. Plants observed onsite were identified to the lowest taxonomic level possible at the time of the survey. The following plant species were observed within the project area:

- Yellow-star thistle (Centaureus soltitialis)
- Medusahead (*Elymus caput-medusae*)
- Desert gooseberry (*Ribes velutinum*)
- Tall buckwheat (*Eriogonum elatum*)
- Bottlebrush squirreltail (Elymus elymoides)
- Western juniper (Juniperus occidentalis)
- Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*)
- Red brome (*Bromus rubens*)
- Red-stemmed filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*)

- Common fiddleneck (Amsinckia intermedia)
- Rabbitbrush (Ericameria nauseosa)
- Nemophila (Nemophila sp.)

#### 5.0 POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

## 5.1 Special-Status Species

The regionally occurring species identified during the pre-survey consultation were assessed based on the potential for their habitat to occur within the project area. The habitat of each species and determination of whether the species is likely to occur in the project area is summarized in Table 1. Species that were determined to not have the potential to occur in the project area will not be discussed further because their habitat does not occur within the project impact area. Species that are determined to potentially occur in the project area were included in the scope of the biological resources survey. Potential project-related impacts to these species are discussed below.

Table 1 POTENTIALLY OCCURRING SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES					
Common/ Scientific Names	Status Fed/State	Distribution	Preferred Habitats	Known & Potential Occurrence in Project Area	
Mammals					
Gray wolf Canis lupus	FE/CE	Whaleback Pack closest known population of gray wolf with a 480 square mile home range in eastern Siskiyou County	Variable	Low potential to occur.	
Birds					
Prairie falcon Falco mexicanus	/CDFW Watch List	Western North America. In California from southeastern deserts northwest throughout Central Valley and along inner Coast Ranges and Sierra Nevada.	Grasslands, savannahs, rangeland, desert scrubs, and some agricultural areas. Nests on cliffs or bluffs.	Potential for occurrence of foraging birds.	
Northern spotted owl Strix occidentalis caurina	FT/ST	British Columbia through the Cascade Range, coastal ranges, and intervening forested lands in Washington, Oregon, and California as far south as Marin County.	Requires large, old- growth trees or snags in remote, mixed stands	No potential to occur.	
Greater sandhill crane Grus Canadensis tabida	/СТ	Winters in southern U.S. states and Mexico, breeds mostly in Canada, with some pockets of breeding in western and northern U.S.	Marshes, swamps, meadows, seeps, and wetlands.	No potential to occur due to lack of suitable wetland habitat.	
Invertebrates					
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp <i>Lepidurus</i> packardi	FE	Northern hardpan vernal pools	Vernal pools with sufficient depth and duration to support life cycle	No potential to occur, no vernal pool habitat onsite	

Table 1 POTENTIALLY OCCURRING SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES					
Common/ Scientific Names	Status Fed/State	Distribution	Preferred Habitats	Known & Potential Occurrence in Project Area	
Vernal pool fairy shrimp Branchinecta lynchi	FT	California's Central Valley, central coast and southern California, and in Jackson County in southern Oregon		No potential to occur, no vernal pool habitat onsite	
Conservancy fairy shrimp Branchinecta conservatio	FE	California Central Valley (Tehama, Butte, Solano, Glenn, Merced and Ventura Counties)		No potential to occur, outside of species range and no vernal pool habitat onsite	
Monarch butterfly Danaus plexippus	FC	Widespread and migratory across Western US	Riparian and prairie areas containing milkweeds	Low potential for occurrence to due previous land disturbances within potential habitat.	
Crotch bumble bee (Bombus crotchii)	/CSC	This species occurs primarily in California, including the Mediterranean region, Pacific Coast, Western Desert, Great Valley, and adjacent foothills through most of southwestern California	Inhabits grassland and scrub habitats. Nesting occurs underground in abandoned burrows.	Potential for occurrence in grassland, but unlikely to occur as these species are possibly extinct in the area (IUCN, 2015).	
Morrison bumble bee <i>Bombus morrisoni</i>	IUCN Vulnerable	This species occurs throughout the Mountain West from California east of the Sierra-Cascade Ranges to southern British Columbia and east to New Mexico	Inhabits open dry scrub. Nests underground or in structures and grass hummocks (IUCN, 2014).	Potential for occurrence in grassland, but unlikely to occur as these species are possibly extinct in the area (IUCN, 2014).	
Franklin's bumble bee Bombus franklini	FE/IUCN Critically Endangered	Occurs only from southern Oregon to northern California between the Coast and Cascade Ranges.	Open areas with abundant floral resources and abandoned rodent burrows.	Potential for occurrence in grassland; low quality habitat due to many forbs displaced by annual grasses.	
Reptiles					
Western pond turtle Emys marmorata	/CSC	Native to west coast from Baja California, Mexico north through Klickitat County, Washington (Nachman, 2008).	Inhabits rivers, lakes, ponds, wetlands, creeks. Nests in nearby terrestrial habitat. Prefers areas with cover and basking sites (Nachman, 2008).	No potential to occur due to lack of suitable water and cover available within drainages onsite.	

**Key:** Federally Endangered (FE), Threatened (FT); California Endangered (CE); California Threatened (CT); California Fully Protected (CFP); California Species of Special Concern by CDFW (CSC)

Table 2 POTENTIALLY OCCURRING SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT SPECIES				
Common/ Scientific Names	Status Fed/State/CNPS	Distribution	Preferred Habitats	Known & Potential Occurrence in Project Area
Peck's lomatium Lomatium peckianum	//2B.2	Oregon and California	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodland.	Potential for occurrence in juniper woodland
Woolly balsamroot Balsamorhiza lanata	//1B.2	Oregon and California	Volcanic substrates in cismontane woodland.	Potential for occurrence in juniper woodland
Oregon polemonium Polemonium carneum	//2B.2	California, Washington, and Oregon	Coastal prairie, coastal scrub, and lower montane coniferous forest.	No potential to occur due to lack of suitable habitat
Shasta orthocarpus Orthocarpus pachystachyus	//1B.1	Endemic to California	Great Basin scrub, meadow and seep, and valley and foothill grassland.	Low potential for occurrence to due previous land disturbances within potential habitat; presumed extirpated in the project area (Calflora, 2017).
Yreka phlox Phlox hirsute	FE/CE/1B.2	Endemic to California	Serpentine gravel in montane coniferous forests.	No potential for occurrence due to lack of serpentine gravel.
Alkali hymenoxys Hymenoxys lemmonii	//2B.2	Western U.S.	Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, and subalkaline soils in meadows and seeps.	Low potential for occurrence to due previous land disturbances in potential habitat.
Single-flowered mariposa lily Calochortus monanthus	//1A	Endemic to California	Riparian meadow; presumed extirpated – known only from one historic locality on banks of the Shasta River.	No potential for occurrence due to lack of suitable habitat
Gentner's fritillary Fritillaria gentneri	FE/1B.1	Northern California and Southern Oregon	Grassland and chaparral habitats in open, mixed-species woodlands at elevations below 1544 m (5064 feet)	Low potential for occurrence to due previous land disturbances in potential habitat
Woolly meadowfoam Limnanthese floccose ssp. floccose	//4.2	Oregon and California	Meadows, wetlands.	
Pendulous bulrush Scirpus pendulus	//2B.2	Throughout western U.S. Oregon and California	Marshes, swamps, meadows and seeps, and wetlands.	No potential to occur due to lack of suitable aquatic habitat.
Siskiyou clover Trifolium siskiyouense	//1B.1		Meadows and seeps, sometimes streambanks.	ed or endangered in California and

Key: 1B.2: "moderately" rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; 1B.3: "not very" rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; 2B.1: "seriously" rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere; 2B.2: "moderately" rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere.

The potential impacts that may result from the proposed project activities were assessed for species determined to have potentially occurring habitat onsite. The direct and indirect potential project impacts to the following species are discussed below:

- Gray wolf (Canis lupus)
- Prairie falcon (Falco mexicanus)
- Crotch bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*)
- Morrison bumble bee (Bombus morrisoni)
- Franklin's bumble bee (Bombus franklini)
- Monarch butterfly (Danaus plexippus)
- Peck's lomatium (Lomatium peckianum)
- Gentner's fritillary (Fritillaria gentneri)
- Woolly balsamroot (Balsamorhiza lanata)
- Shasta orthocarpus (Orthocarpus pachystachyus)
- Alkali hymenoxys (Hymenoxys lemmonii)

The following is a summary of each special-status species identified as potentially occurring within a five-mile radius of the project site. Species with no potential for occurrence at this site are not discussed further.

## Gray wolf (Canis lupus)

Federally Endangered; California Endangered

The gray wolf was listed as endangered on March 9, 1978 (USDI FWS 1978). Gray wolves are habitat generalists and can potentially occur in a wide range of habitats including temperate forest, mountains, tundra, taiga, and grasslands, so long as there is suitable prey. Prey species primarily include ungulates, such as moose, caribou, deer, and elk, but they will also take smaller prey, such as beaver and small mammals, and will readily scavenge.

This species is highly territorial and defends territories in packs. Territory size is a function of prey density and can range from 25 to 1,500 square miles. Both male and female wolves disperse at equal rate and equal distances, sometimes more than 600 miles. Gray wolves once ranged throughout the northern hemisphere, but widespread trapping and extermination efforts severely reduced their distribution and caused dramatic population declines. Current threats to the gray wolf include continued conflict with humans, primarily resulting from livestock depredation, and habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation due to land development.

The nearest known wolves to the project area are known as the Whaleback Pack. The Whaleback Pack consists of the male wolf OR-85 and an uncollared female. They occupy a 480 square mile home range in eastern Siskiyou County. OR-85 was collared by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in February 2020 and was likely born in 2019. The male wolf dispersed from the Mount Emily Pack near La Grande, Oregon, and entered California in November 2020. Genetic analysis indicates the female is closely related to southwestern Oregon's Rogue Pack. In 2021, the pair produced seven pups. The current range of this pack is shown in Appendix D.

Due to the small project footprint relative to the large home range size of the gray wolf, the proposed project will not alter an amount of habitat significant enough to have any impact on the species. Further, gray wolves are highly mobile and capable of avoiding project-related disturbance. There will be **no impact** to the gray wolf.

#### Prairie falcon (Falco mexicanus)

California Species of Special Concern

Prairie falcons occur in western North America. Habitat includes open hills, plains, prairies, and deserts as well as open country above tree line in high mountains. In winter, they are often found in farmland around lakes and reservoirs and may regularly winter in some western cities. Nest sites are typically on a ledge of a cliff, in a recessed site, protected by an overhang of rock (Audubon, 2017). There are no suitable nesting sites for prairie falcons in the project vicinity. The grassland adjacent to the project site could provide foraging habitat. There is a low potential for occurrence of this species at the project site within the annual grasses and forbs community. No project activities would occur in this grassland area. The grassland is surrounded by existing industrial operations on adjacent parcels to the project area. Therefore, increases in human presence and noise would have a **less-than-significant impact** on prairie falcons.

#### Bumble bees (*Bombus* spp.)

Species of bumble bee that warrant consideration under environmental review include Crotch bumble bee (Bombus crotchii), Morrison bumble bee (Bombus morrisoni), and Franklin's bumble bee (Bombus franklini). Bumble bees are generalist foragers and have been reported visiting a wide variety of flowering plants. Most species of bumble bees are primitively eusocial insects that live in colonies made up of one queen, female workers, and, near the end of the season, reproductive members of the colony (new queens, or gynes, and males). New colonies are initiated by solitary queens, generally in the early spring. This process includes locating a suitable nest site; collecting pollen and nectar from flowers; building a wax structure to store nectar; forming a mass of pollen to lay eggs on; and building a wax structure to enclose the eggs and pollen. Once the colony has been initiated by the queen and the first brood of female workers have grown, pupated, and emerged as adults, the female workers take over all duties of foraging for pollen and nectar, colony defense, nest temperature regulation, and feeding larvae. The queen's only responsibility at this point is to lay eggs (Goulson 2003). As winter approaches, the old queen, workers, and males die, while the gynes continue to forage and search for a suitable location (hibernacula), usually burrowed a few centimeters underground, in which to spend the winter.

There is low potential for Bumble bee species to occur within the grassland onsite. Few plant species observed onsite are potential sources of nectar. The limited abundance and diversity of flowering plants in relation to annual grasses provides low quality habitat for Bombus species as nectar may be available during portions of the year, but little would be available year-round. Areas where this marginal habitat occur onsite will not be disturbed by project activities as no additional ground disturbance is proposed. Therefore, the project will have **no impact** on Crotch bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*), Morrison bumble bee (*Bombus morrisoni*), or Franklin's bumble bee (*Bombus franklini*).

#### Morrison bumble bee (Bombus morrisoni)

Federal status: none; State status: none; IUCN Red List Vulnerable

The Morrison bumble bee occurs from southern British Columbia to California, as well as other areas of the country, but is possibly extinct in the project area. The species colonizes dry scrub

and grass hummocks as well as abandoned animal burrows, bird nests, and rock piles. Food sources include Asclepias, Astragalus, Chrysothamnus, Cirsium, Cleome, Ericameria, Helianthus, Melilotus, and Senecio.

#### Franklin bumble bee (Bombus franklini)

Federal status: none; State status: none; IUCN Red List Critically Endangered

The Franklin bumble bee is limited in distribution from northern California to southern Oregon between the Coast and Sierra-Cascade Ranges. This species lives in areas with floral resources including *Lupinus*, *Eschscholzia*, *Agastache*, *Monardella* and *Vicia*. Abandoned animal burrows and grassy hummocks serve as nesting areas for this species (IUCN, 2008).

#### Crotch bumble bee (Bombus crotchii)

Federal status: none; State status: none; IUCN Red List Endangered

The Crotch bumble bee is limited in distribution to southwestern North America. It occurs primarily in California including the Mediterranean region, Pacific Coast, Western Desert, Great Valley, and adjacent foothills through most of southwestern California. This species inhabits open grassland and scrub habitats. Nests are often located underground in abandoned rodent nests, or aboveground in tufts of grass, old bird nests, rock piles, or cavities in dead trees (Hatfield et al., 2015).

#### Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

The monarch butterfly is widely distributed across the United States, occurring in a variety of urban and rural habitat types, especially those that support milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.) and other flowering forbs that the species forages upon for nectar. Monarchs lay eggs on plants in the milkweed family (Asclepiadaceae) and larvae feed only on milkweeds (Xerces 2021). During breeding and migration, adult monarch butterflies require a diversity of blooming nectar resources, which they feed on throughout their migration routes and breeding grounds (spring through fall).

In 2014, monarchs were petitioned to be listed under the federal ESA. In December 2020, the USFWS found that listing was warranted but precluded by other listing actions on its National Priority List. The monarch is currently slated to be listed in 2024. In California, monarchs are included on the CDFW Terrestrial and Vernal Pool Invertebrates of Conservation Priority list.

Migratory western monarchs depart their overwintering groves in mid-winter to early-spring. Throughout the spring and summer, monarchs breed, lay their eggs on milkweed, and migrate across multiple generations within California and other states west of the Rocky Mountains. There is potential for milkweed to occur within the annual grasses and forbs and the western juniper woodland habitats onsite, which could provide opportunities for egg deposition and larval development. This area will not be disturbed by project activities as no additional ground disturbance is proposed. Therefore, the project will have **no impact** on monarch butterflies.

# Wooly meadowfoam (Limnanthes floccosa ssp. floccosa)

CNPS4.2 Species

Woolly meadowfoam is found in Oregon and California. The species inhabits chaparral, cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grasslands, and vernal pools (Calflora, 2017). Due to the proximity to previous occurrences, the potential for this species to occur was considered. There is low potential for occurrence in the project area as the previous land disturbances from

tilling resulted in recontouring the landscape and removing the vernal features that may have occurred onsite historically (see Figure 4). Additionally, this area will not be disturbed by project activities as no additional ground disturbance is proposed. Therefore, the project will have **no impact** on wooly meadowfoam.

#### Oregon polemonium (Polemonium carneum)

CNPS2B.2 Species

Oregon polemonium occurs in Oregon, Washington, and California. The species inhabits coastal prairie and scrub, and lower montane coniferous forest. It has been reported in Yreka (Calflora, 2017<sup>2</sup>). Due to the proximity to previous occurrences, the potential for this species to occur was considered. There is low potential for occurrence in the project area within the juniper woodland. This area will not be disturbed by project activities as no additional ground disturbance is proposed. Therefore, the project will have **no impact** on Oregon polemonium.

#### Woolly balsamroot (Balsamorhiza lanata)

CNPS 1B.2 Species

Woolly balsamroot is found in Oregon and California and is endangered in California and elsewhere. In California, it is found only in the Shasta and Scott valleys. The species inhabits rocky volcanic areas and grassy slopes in cismontane woodlands. The species has been reported within one mile of the project site on slopes with rocky substrate (Calflora, 2017<sup>3</sup>). There is potential habitat for this species on slopes surrounding the project area; however, no habitat occurs within the project area. Therefore, the project will have **no impact** on wooly balsamroot.

#### Shasta orthocarpus (Orthocarpus pachystachyus)

CNPS 1B.1 Species

The Shasta orthocarpus is endemic to California and was believed to be extinct until rediscovered in 1996. It is now known from two collections but is presumed extirpated in the project area. The species inhabits Great Basin scrub, meadows and seeps, and valley and foothill grasslands (Calflora, 2017<sup>4</sup>). There is a low potential for occurrence of this species at the project site. Potential habitat for this species will not be disturbed by project activities as no additional ground disturbance is proposed. Therefore, the project will have **no impact** on Shasta orthocarpus.

#### Alkali hymenoxys (Hymenoxys lemmonii)

CNPS 2B.2 Species

The Alkali hymenoxys occurs in Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and California. It is endangered in California but common elsewhere. The species inhabits Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, and meadows and seeps with subalkaline soils. The species has been reported in Yreka, several miles from the project site (Calflora, 2017<sup>5</sup>). There is a low potential for occurrence of this species at the project site. Potential habitat for this species will not be disturbed by project activities as no additional ground disturbance is proposed. Therefore, the project will have **no impact** on alkali hymenoxys.

#### 5.2 **Nesting Birds**

Migratory birds and other passerines (songbirds) may nest in the trees located within or in the immediate vicinity of the property. All raptors and migratory birds, including common species and their nests, are protected from "take" under the California Fish and Game Code Section 3503 and 3503.5, and federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

No trees are proposed to be removed. Ongoing maintenance of the access roads and working area may require removal of shrubs and juniper branches. It is unlikely that these maintenance activities would impact avian nesting or result in impacts to an active bird nest.

The mature Oregon white oak (Q. garryana) trees outside of the project area may provide potential nesting habitat for raptors and migratory birds. Ongoing noise pollution from the operations of the recycling plant may influence birds' nest selection in these trees. However, birds may be acclimated to moderate noise levels due to the nearby landfill and other industrial facilities.

#### 5.3 Mule Deer Herd

The City of Yreka General Plan states that "unique to Yreka is the presence of many deer. Herds roam much of western Yreka, having reasonably adapted to the urban environment, finding shelter on vacant lots and food on residential lots not protected with adequate fencing. (It is not uncommon to see deer casually walking on Miner Street in downtown Yreka). Easy access to the mountains to the west gives these herds a range of habitat options." The California State Geoportal "Mule Deer Range - Region 1 [ds277]" dataset, maintained by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, shows that mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) critical winter range exists in the surrounding high elevation areas west of the City of Yreka. Critical deer winter range can include corridors essential for movement, staging areas where deer temporarily congregate, habitats containing high-quality winter forage, or other elements important to the survival of deer in winter (CDFW 2022e).

The nearest critical winter range, including migration routes and congregation areas, is approximately four miles west of the project area on the western side of downtown Yreka (Appendix E). The summer ranges are further north and west. Interstate 5 runs between the winter range area and the project area. Because the project area is well outside of the typical geographic and elevation range, the project would have no impact on the migration of deer in the region.

#### 6.0 PROJECT CONSERVATION FEATURES

The following conservation measures, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and project features will be incorporated into the project to avoid and minimize the potential environmental impacts from construction and long-term operation of the proposed facility:

#### 6.1 Wetland Buffer

 Any ground-disturbing activities would be restricted to areas outside of a buffer zone around any water courses onsite. Typically, ephemeral drainages require a 50-foot setback.

## 6.2 Nesting Birds

- If vegetation removal will occur or construction will be initiated during the nesting season for birds (February 1 through August 31), a qualified biologist should conduct a preconstruction survey within seven days before activities begin. If nesting birds are found, CDFW will be notified and consulted. An appropriate buffer, as determined by CDFW and the qualified biologist, will be placed around the nest until the young have fledged.
- If noise-generating activities are initiated at the recycling plant within the nesting season for birds, then a qualified biologist should conduct a preconstruction survey within seven days before activities begin. If activities cease for seven days for longer during the nesting season, then surveys should be completed again prior to re-initiating activities in case bird nests were constructed during the lull in activities. If nesting birds are found, CDFW will be notified and consulted. An appropriate buffer, as determined by CDFW and the qualified biologist, will be placed around the nest until the young have fledged.
- If an active raptor nest is found during surveys, no construction activities shall occur within 250 feet of the nest unless a smaller buffer zone is approved by CDFW. Construction may resume once the young have left the nest or as approved by the qualified biologist.

## 6.3 Rare Plant Survey

- If ground disturbance is proposed within the annual grassland community onsite, a protocol-level pre-construction survey will be completed for the following botanical species:
  - o Peck's lomatium (Lomatium peckianum)
  - Woolly balsamroot (Balsamorhiza lanata)
  - O Shasta orthocarpus (Orthocarpus pachystachyus)
  - o Alkali hymenoxys (Hymenoxys lemmonii)

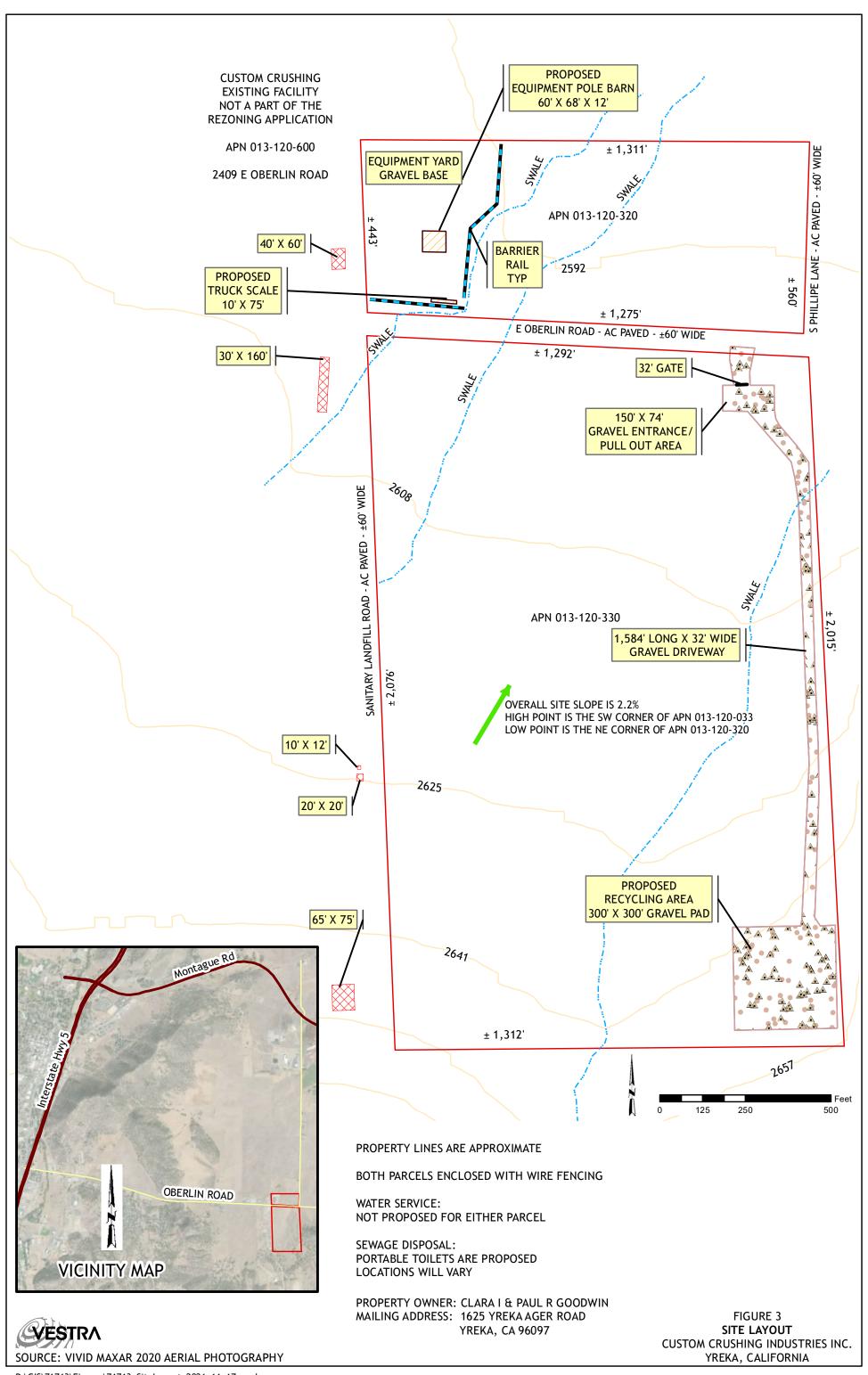
#### 7.0 REFERENCES

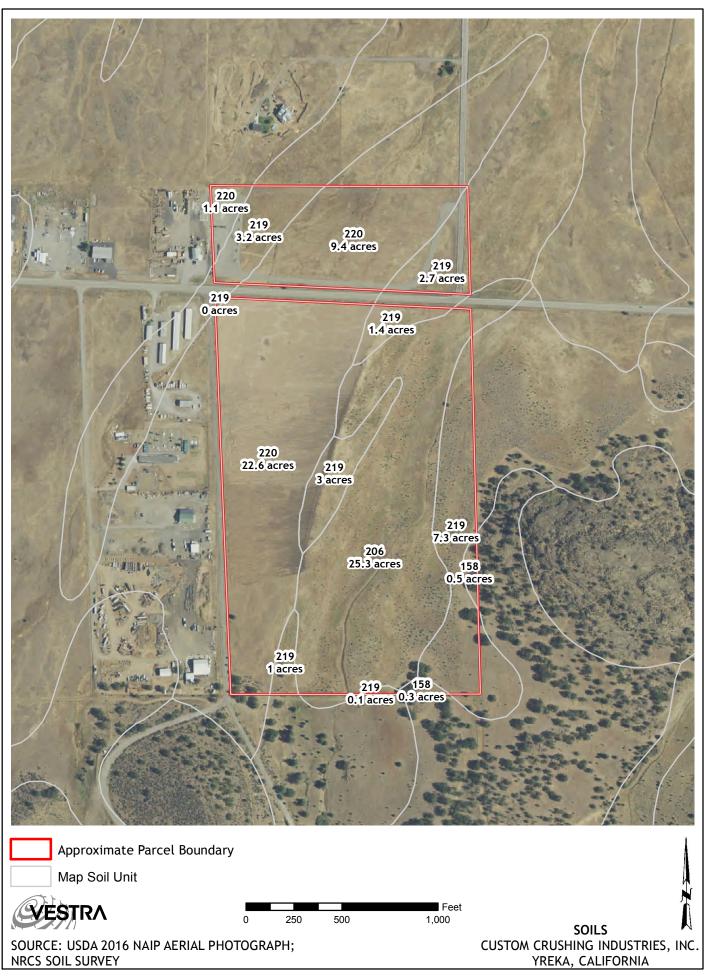
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# United States Department of the Interior



#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Yreka Fish And Wildlife Office 1829 South Oregon Street Yreka, CA 96097-3446 Phone: (530) 842-5763 Fax: (530) 842-4517

In Reply Refer To: April 14, 2022

Project Code: 2022-0032227

Project Name: Custom Crushing Recycling Plant

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project

location or may be affected by your proposed project

#### To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological

evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF

**Migratory Birds**: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations.php.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds.php.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/executive-orders/e0-13186.php.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment	(~)	١.
Attachment	S	١.

Official Species List

# **Official Species List**

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Yreka Fish And Wildlife Office 1829 South Oregon Street Yreka, CA 96097-3446 (530) 842-5763

# **Project Summary**

Project Code: 2022-0032227

Event Code: None

Project Name: Custom Crushing Recycling Plant

Project Type: Commercial Development

Project Description: Yreka CA

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/@41.70927670000004">https://www.google.com/maps/@41.709276700000004</a>,-122.59584533399297,14z



Counties: Siskiyou County, California

# **Endangered Species Act Species**

There is a total of 12 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

#### **Mammals**

NAME STATUS

#### Gray Wolf Canis lupus

Endangered

Population: U.S.A.: All of AL, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, IA, IN, IL, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MO, MS, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NV, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, VA,

VT, WI, and WV; and portions of AZ, NM, OR, UT, and WA. Mexico.

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available.

Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4488">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4488</a>

#### **Birds**

NAME

#### Northern Spotted Owl Strix occidentalis caurina

Threatened

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available.

Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1123">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1123</a>

#### Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus*

Threatened

Population: Western U.S. DPS

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available.

Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911</a>

04/14/2022 4

**Fishes** 

NAME **STATUS** 

Lost River Sucker Deltistes luxatus

Endangered

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5604

Endangered

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available.

Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7160">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7160</a>

Insects

NAME **STATUS** 

Franklin's Bumble Bee Bombus franklini

Shortnose Sucker Chasmistes brevirostris

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7022

Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* 

Candidate

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743

**Crustaceans** 

NAME **STATUS** 

Conservancy Fairy Shrimp Branchinecta conservatio

Endangered

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8246

Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp *Branchinecta lynchi* 

Threatened

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498

Endangered

Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp *Lepidurus packardi* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2246

**Flowering Plants** 

NAME **STATUS** 

Gentner's Fritillary *Fritillaria gentneri* 

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8120

Yreka Phlox Phlox hirsuta

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8243

#### **Critical habitats**

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

# **IPaC User Contact Information**

Agency: Shasta County Name: Anna Prang

Address: 5300 Aviation Drive

City: Redding State: CA Zip: 96002

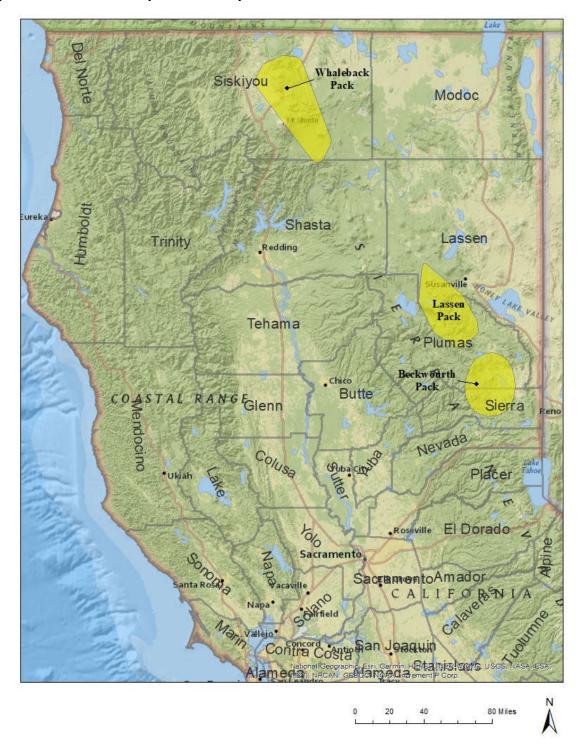
Email aprang@vestra.com

Phone: 5302232585

# **Lead Agency Contact Information**

Lead Agency: Siskiyou County

#### **Approximate Area of Gray Wolf Activity in California**



This map displays the approximate boundaries of known resident California wolf territories based on the best data available (e.g., tracks, trail camera images, confirmed sightings, and GPS collar data). Each pair/pack is labeled accordingly. The locations of dispersing wolves are not included, as dispersing wolves travel widely, and their movements are unpredictable. This map will be updated quarterly or as warranted by new data.

# Mule Deer Range - Region 1 [ds277]



To indicate critical summer range, critical winter range, fall holding area, and fawning ground for deer.

Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS | California State Parks, Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land
Management, EPA, NPS, USDA