

## 4.11 Biological Resources

### Introduction

This section of the DEIR addresses potential impacts to biological resources in Plumas County. The regulatory setting provides a description of applicable federal, State, and local regulatory policies. The environmental setting provides a summary of known biological resources in the County. A description of the potential impacts of the proposed project is also provided and includes the identification of feasible mitigation (where applicable) to avoid or lessen the impacts.

Information obtained from pertinent literature and agency database queries was conducted for the entire County. A list of special-status species with potential to occur in the County was compiled from the following data sources and includes the following:

- “Federal Endangered and Threatened Species that may be Affected by Projects in Plumas County” (USFWS, 2012);
- California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), Rarefind computer program (v4.1.0)(CDFG, 2012);
- CNDDDB reported occurrences of special-status species within Plumas County (CNDDDB 2012 and 2012a); and
- California Native Plant Society’s Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (v8-01a) (CNPS, 2012).

These agency databases are typically considered in the preparation of environmental documents for a variety of projects including those for general plan updates. In reviewing this information, it should be noted that these databases are not intended to provide a comprehensive inventory of all species occurrences within a particular area. The information contained in these databases is based on recorded occurrences provided to these agencies from a number of sources to help provide a planning-level inventory of plant and animal species within a particular area.

### Summary of NOP Comments

NOP comment letters from the United States Department of Agriculture and the Plumas Audubon Society (species habitat fragmentation issues) were received, and addressed in this section, as appropriate.

### Summary of Impact Conclusions

A summary of the biological resource impacts described in this section are provided below in **Table 4.11-1**.

**TABLE 4.11-1  
SUMMARY OF BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE IMPACTS**

<b>Impact Number</b>	<b>Impact Topic</b>	<b>Impact Conclusion</b>	<b>Impact After Mitigation</b>
Impact 4.11-1	Special-Status species	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant
Impact 4.11-2	Natural Communities (including Riparian Habitat and Wetlands)	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant
Impact 4.11-3	Wildlife Movement and Wildlife Nursery Sites	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant
Impact 4.11-4	Local Policies and Ordinances	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant

## Regulatory Setting

### Federal Regulations

#### *Federal Endangered Species Act*

The Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) prohibits the “take” of endangered or threatened fish and wildlife species on public or private property, and the “take” of endangered or threatened plants in areas under federal jurisdiction or in violation of state law. Under the FESA, the definition of “take” is to “harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has interpreted the definition of “harm” to include any significant habitat modification that could result in take. If a project would take a federally listed species, then an incidental take permit is required to authorize the take. Such a permit typically requires various measures to compensate for or to minimize the take.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the FESA, a federal agency reviewing a proposed project within its jurisdiction must determine whether any federally listed threatened or endangered species, or species proposed for federal listing, may be present in the project area, and then must determine whether the proposed project will have a potentially significant impact on such species. In addition, the federal agency must determine whether the project is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any species proposed to be listed under FESA or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat proposed to be designated for such species (16 USC 1536[3], [4]).

The USFWS administers the FESA for all terrestrial and non-marine aquatic species and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) administers FESA for marine fish species, including anadromous salmonids such as salmon, sturgeon, and steelhead. Projects for which a federally listed species or its habitat is present and for which federal permits are required must receive authorization from USFWS and/or NMFS.

#### **Critical Habitat**

The USFWS designates critical habitat for species listed under the FESA. Critical habitat areas are occupied by the species, are located within a specific geographic region determined to be critical for survival, and are protected from destruction and adverse modification. The FESA allows the USFWS to designate critical habitat for threatened and endangered species.

### ***Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code Protections***

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (amended in 1972) is a federal law that prohibits the killing, possessing, or trading in migratory birds, except in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior. This act encompasses whole birds, parts of birds, and bird nests and eggs. The MBTA protects more than 1,000 species including waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, and songbirds. Disturbances causing nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort may be considered a “take.”

### ***Waters of the United States***

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) has primary federal responsibility for administering regulations that concern “waters of the U.S.” within the project area. The ACOE acts under two statutory authorities, the Rivers and Harbors Act (Sections 9 and 10) which governs specified activities in “navigable waters of the U.S.,” and the Clean Water Act (Section 404), which governs specified activities in “other waters of the U. S.” including wetlands. The ACOE requires that a permit be obtained if a project proposes placing structures within, over, or under navigable waters or discharging dredged or fill material into “waters of the U.S.” below the ordinary high-water mark in non-tidal waters. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), USFWS, NMFS, and several other agencies can provide comments on ACOE permit applications.

The federal government defines wetlands in Section 404 of the Clean Water Act as “areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support (and do support, under normal circumstances) a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions” (33 CFR 328.3[b] and 40 CFR 230.3). The federal definition of wetlands requires three wetland identification parameters to be present: wetland hydrology, hydric soils, and hydrophytic vegetation.

“Other waters of the U.S.” refers to those hydric features that are regulated by the Clean Water Act but are not wetlands (33 CFR 328.4). To be considered jurisdictional, these features must exhibit a defined bed and bank and an ordinary high-water mark. Examples of other waters of the U.S. include rivers, creeks, intermittent and ephemeral channels, ponds, and lakes. Human-made wetland areas that are not regulated under this act include stock watering ponds, created water treatment facilities and agricultural ditches created and maintained in upland areas.

## **State Regulations**

### ***California Endangered Species Act***

Pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and Section 2081 of the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Code, a permit from the CDFG is required for a project that could result in the take of a state-listed threatened or endangered species (i.e., species listed under CESA). Under CESA, the definition of “take” includes an activity that would directly or indirectly kill an individual of a species, but the state definition does not include “harm” or “harass,” as the federal definition does. As a result, the threshold for take under the CESA is typically higher than that under the FESA. Under CESA, CDFG maintains a list of threatened species and endangered species (California Fish and Game Code 2070). The CDFG also

maintains two additional lists: (1) a list of candidate species that are species CDFG has formally noticed as being under review for addition to either the list of endangered species or the list of threatened species; and (2) a list of “species of special concern;” these lists serve as “watch lists.”

Consistent with the requirements of CESA, a state agency reviewing a project within its jurisdiction must determine whether any state-listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the project area and determine whether the proposed project will have a potentially significant impact on such species.

### ***California Environmental Quality Act***

CEQA Guidelines Section 15380(b) provides that a species not listed on the federal or state list of protected species may be considered “rare” or “endangered” if the species can be shown to meet certain specified criteria. CEQA provides lead agencies the ability to consider potential project-related impacts to such species, if warranted. Vascular plants listed as rare or endangered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), but which have no designated status or protection under federal or state endangered species legislation, fall into this category. For instance, plants appearing on CNPS List 1B and List 2 are considered to meet CEQA Section 15380 criteria.

Although natural communities do not have any specific legal protection, CEQA calls for an assessment of whether any such resources would be affected, and requires a finding of significance if there will be substantial losses. Natural communities listed by CNDDDB as sensitive are considered by CDFG to be significant resources.

### ***California Fish and Game Code***

The California Fish and Game Code protect a variety of species from take. Certain species are considered *fully protected*, meaning that the code explicitly prohibits all take of individuals of these species except for take permitted for scientific research. Section 5050 lists fully protected amphibians and reptiles, Section 5515 lists fully protected fish, Section 3511 lists fully protected birds, and Section 4700 lists fully protected mammals. It also is possible for a species to be protected under the California Fish and Game Code, but not fully protected.

Eggs and nests of all birds are protected under Section 3503, nesting birds (including raptors and passerines) under Sections 3503.5 and 3513, and birds of prey under Section 3503.5. Migratory nongame birds are protected under Section 3800 and other specified birds under Section 3505.

### ***Special-Status Natural Communities***

Special-status natural communities are identified as such by CDFG’s Natural Heritage Division and include those that are naturally rare and those whose extent has been greatly diminished through changes in land use. The CNDDDB tracks 135 such natural communities in the same way that it tracks occurrences of special-status species: information is maintained on each site in terms of its location, extent, habitat quality, level of disturbance, and current protection measures. CDFG is mandated to seek the long-term perpetuation of the areas in which these communities occur. While there is no statewide law that requires protection of all special-status natural

communities, CEQA requires consideration of the potential impacts of a project to biological resources of statewide or regional significance.

California Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA) - CDFG code sections 1900-1913 comprise the NPPA and seek to preserve, protect, and enhance rare or endangered California plants. The agency is responsible for establishing criteria to determine what native plants are rare or endangered, and for governing the take, possession, propagation or sale of such plants. The CNPS also identifies rare or endangered plants and lists them as 1A, 1B, 2, 3, and 4 species. Plants appearing on CNPS List 1A, 1B, or 2 meet CEQA significance criteria and CDFG sections 1901, 2062 and 2067 criteria as rare or endangered species.

California's Natural Communities Conservation and Planning Act (NCCPA) - This act exists as a natural community conservation planning tool and was initiated to help declining species by conserving natural communities and by allowing complimentary land uses. It is designed to identify and protect individual species that have already declined significantly mainly because the endangered species listing process is long and extensive and often highly controversial. The CDFG takes jurisdiction under California Fish and Game Code Section 2800-2835.

### ***Waters of the State***

The State's authority to regulate activities in "waters of the U.S." is primarily with the CDFG and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). CDFG provides comments on ACOE permit actions under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. California Fish and Game Code Sections 1600-1616 require the notification of CDFG for any activity that would obstruct the flow of, or alter the bed, channel, or bank of a river or stream in which there is a fish or wildlife resource, including intermittent and ephemeral streams. Upon notification, the CDFG has the responsibility to prepare a Streambed Alteration Agreement, in consultation with the project proponent, which includes appropriate mitigation measures.

Under Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act, the SWRCB, acting through the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), must certify that an ACOE permit action meets state water quality objectives.

Discharges to wetlands and "other waters of the state" are also subject to state regulation under the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Porter-Cologne; Ca. Water Code, Div. 7, Sections 13000-14958). Water Code section 13260 requires "any person discharging waste, or proposing to discharge waste, within any region that could affect the waters of the state to file a report of waste discharge (Water Code Section 13260(a) (1)). The term "waters of the state" is defined as "any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state" (Water Code Section 13050(e)). Therefore, whether or not ACOE has concurrent jurisdiction under Section 404 of CWA, the SWRCB and RWQCB have jurisdiction to regulate waters of the state by issuing Waste Discharge Requirements or waivers thereof.

## Environmental Setting

### Regional Setting

Plumas County is located in the northern most portion of the Sierra Nevada mountain range and the southernmost portion of the Cascade Range. A majority of the County has mountainous terrain, interspersed with upper elevation valleys.

#### **Habitats**

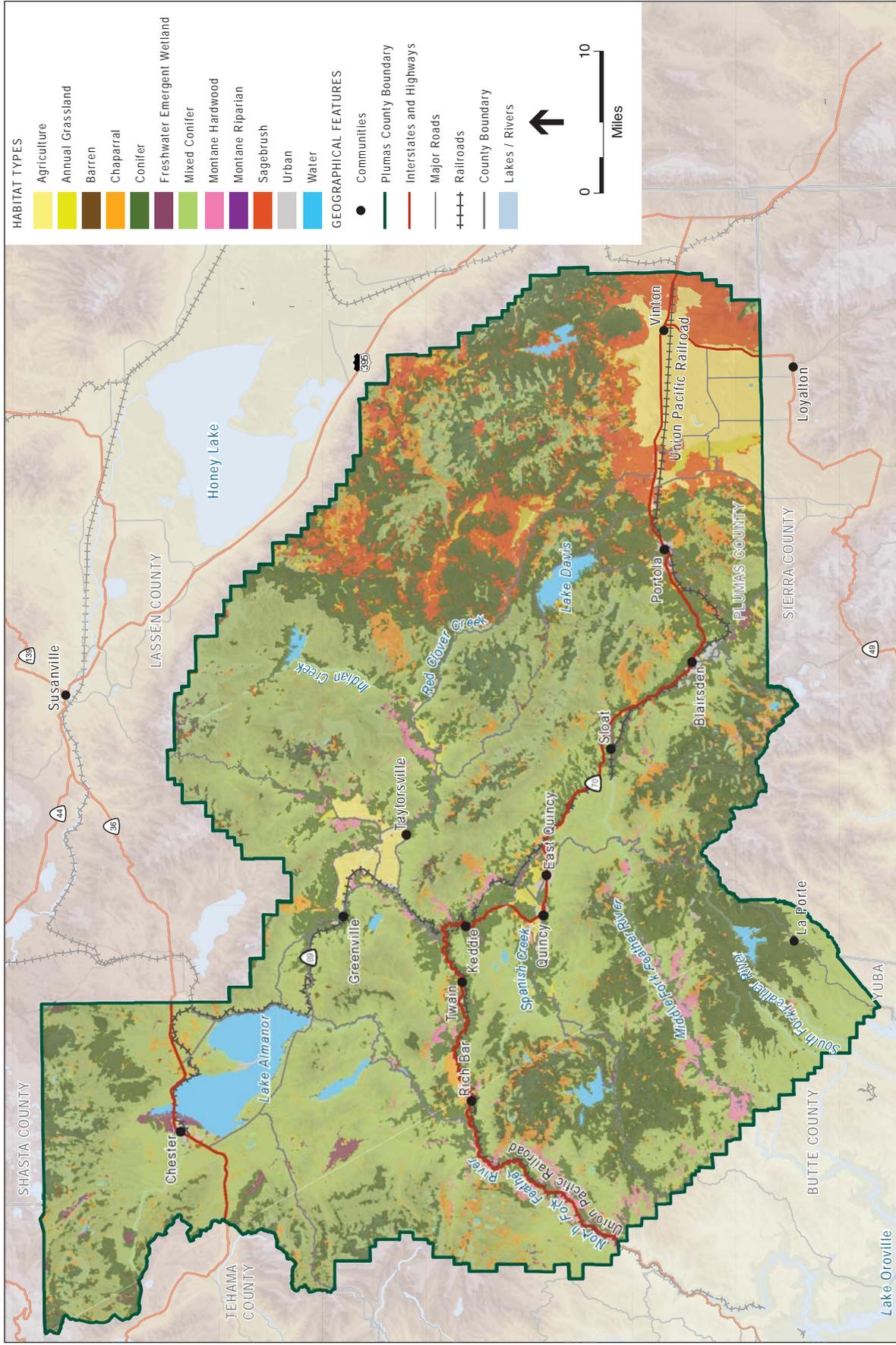
Habitats (or vegetation communities) provide food, shelter, movement corridors, and breeding opportunities for a variety of wildlife species. For Plumas County, the type and distribution of these habitats is closely linked to elevation. As described in **Table 4.11-2** and shown in **Figure 4.11-1**, Conifer (including Mixed Conifer) habitat types comprise the majority (72%) of land coverage in the County and are habitats commonly found at higher elevations.

Plants characteristic of this habitat include a variety of pines and firs. While not considered a comprehensive list of plant and wildlife species, Table 4.11-2 identifies some of the more common species found throughout the County by habitat type.

**TABLE 4.11-2  
SUMMARY OF PRIMARY HABITATS AND COMMON SPECIES IN PLUMAS COUNTY**

Habitats	Percent of Land Coverage	Common Wildlife and Plant Species(1)
Conifer and Mixed Conifer	72%	<b>Wildlife:</b> long-eared myotis, long-legged myotis, Grayheaded pika, American marten, and Sierra marten. <b>Plants:</b> Douglas fir, eastside pine, Jeffrey pine, lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, red fir.
Sage Brush	6%	<b>Wildlife:</b> black-tailed deer, mule deer, rabbits, hares, other small mammals, and various songbird species. <b>Plants:</b> big sagebrush, sagebrush, rabbitbrush, horsebrush, gooseberry, western chokecherry, and curl-leaf mahogany.
Chaparral	5%	<b>Wildlife:</b> black-tailed deer, mule deer, small mammals, and various songbird species. <b>Plants:</b> scrub oak, whitethorn ceanothus, bittercherry.
Montane Hardwood	2%	<b>Wildlife:</b> northern goshawk, bald eagle, great gray owl, long-eared myotis, long-legged myotis, Gray-headed pika, American marten, Sierra marten, and pacific fisher. <b>Plants:</b> huckleberry oak, canyon live oak, Ponderosa pine, Coulter pine, Douglas fir, and tan oak, among others.
Annual Grassland	2%	<b>Plants:</b> wild oats, soft chess, ripgut brome, red brome, wild barley, foxtail fescue, broadleaf filaree, redstem filaree, turkey mullein, true clovers, bur clover, popcorn flower
Freshwater Emergent Wetland	1%	<b>Wildlife:</b> fringed myotis, sandhill crane. <b>Plants:</b> big leaf sedge, baltic rush, redroot nutgrass, saltgrass, common cattail, tule bulrush, river bulrush, and arrowhead.

Notes: (1) These species are those most likely to occur within each of these habitats; however, this does not preclude the possibility of a species to be found within other habitat types throughout the County.



SOURCE: USGS, 1999; FRAP, 2002; ESRI, 2008; and ESA, 2009

Plumas County General Plan Update EIR - 208739

**Figure 4.11-1**

Habitat Types in Plumas County

Additionally, the County and the larger Feather River Watershed area contain a variety of aquatic habitats including small alpine streams, natural ponds, lakes, reservoirs, and rivers that provide habitat to a variety of regionally significant fish species (both economic and environmentally). Within the County, two types of fisheries are found: cold water river/stream species and warm water lake/reservoir species. Historically, the watershed was habitat to Chinook salmon and steelhead. However, construction of the Oroville Dam has prevented these species from entering the upper portions of the watershed. The CDFG manages many of the fish species in the County and have stocked several streams with rainbow and brown trout. A special strain of rainbow trout (Eagle Lake) has been planted by CDFG and is now found in many areas throughout the larger watershed.

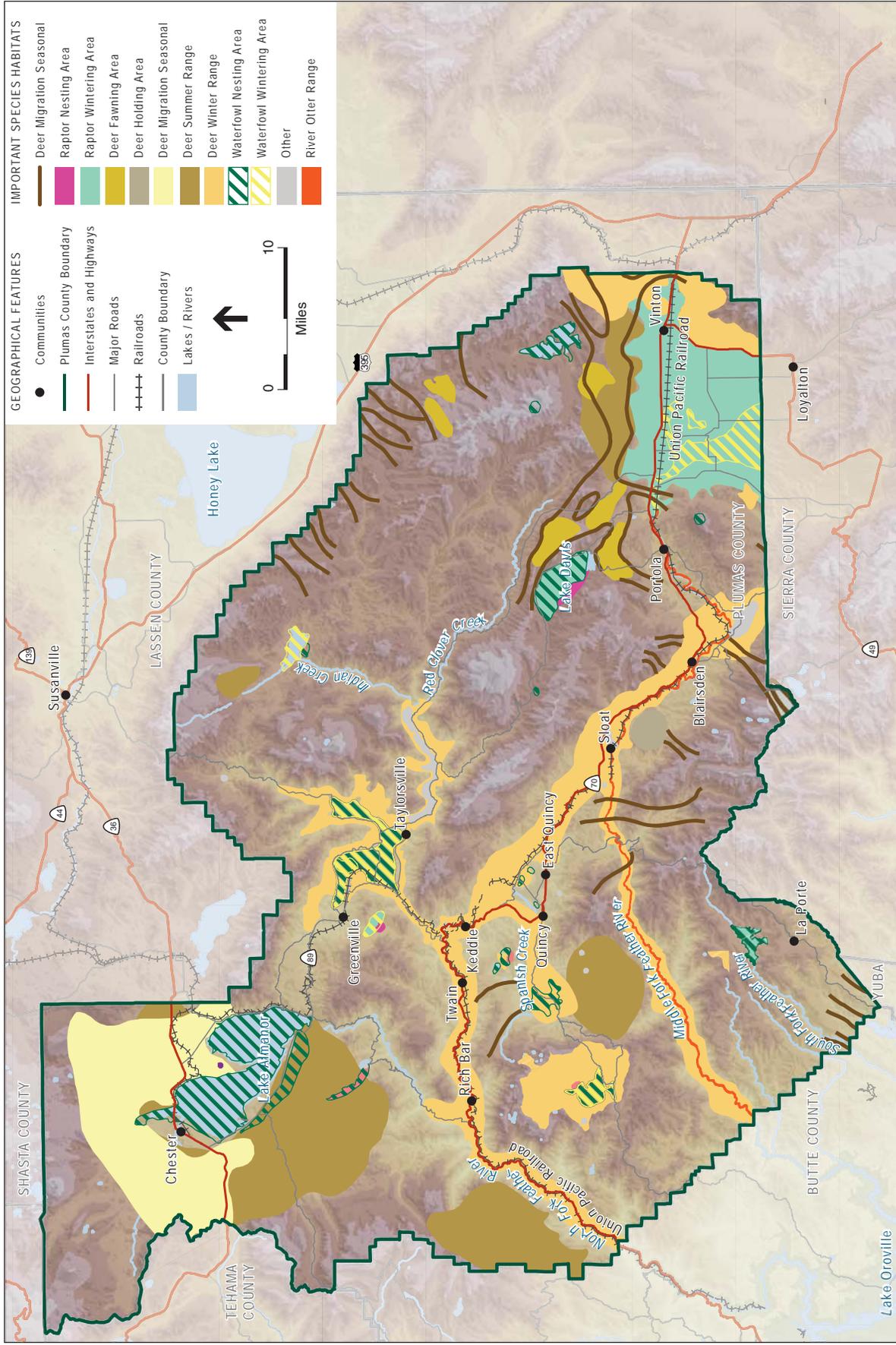
### ***Habitat Connectivity/Wildlife Movement and Corridors***

Wildlife corridors refer to contiguous areas of habitat that connect larger areas of habitat and facilitate genetic exchange within a population or between subpopulations by allowing for movement within or between habitat patches. Habitat reduction and fragmentation are among the primary causes of species decline; consequently, the identification and preservation of key corridors is important to retaining native populations in Plumas County. **Figure 4.11-2** identifies known species habitat and important wildlife migratory corridors within the County.

Habitat connectivity can be assessed at many levels. On a landscape or regional scale connectivity typically refers to how mobile mammals (e.g., deer) are able to move between prominent landscape features such as mountain ranges and meadows. The type of natural habitats between those features combined with the distance would be used to determine the connectedness or permeability of the landscape. At a smaller scale habitat connectivity is often important for seasonal migrations (e.g., steelhead) or local (daily) movements by some wildlife species between nesting and foraging habitat (e.g., golden eagles). The built environment further alters the connectivity of a landscape by removing natural habitat and restricting the opportunities for species movement. In the present day, built environment habitat corridors are recognized as a means to retain some connectivity across a landscape.

### ***Special-Status Species***

**Table 4.11-3** provides a list of special-status species and known natural communities (*natural communities are larger assemblages of various plants and animals*) with the potential to be affected through implementation of the proposed project. The information was obtained through queries of the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB, 2012 and 2012a), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS, 2012) online species list, and the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Online Inventory (2012). The following United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle maps that comprise Plumas County were queried for occurrences as well: the Almanor, American House, Antelope Valley, Babcock Peak, Beckwourth Pass, Belden, Blairsdon, Blue Nose Mountain, Bucks Lake, Calpine, Canyon Dam, Caribou, Cascade, Chester, Chilcoot, Childs Meadows, Clio, Constantia, Crescent Mills, Crocker Mountain, Diamond Mountain, Dixie Mountain, Dogwood Peak, Ferris Creek, Fredonyer Pass, Frenchman Lake, Genesee Valley, Gold Lake, Greenville, Grizzley Valley, Haskins Valley, Humboldt Peak, Humbug Valley, Janesville, Johnsville, Jonesville, Kettle Rock,



SOURCE: USGS, 1999; ESRI, 2008; Plumas County, 2011; and ESA, 2009

Plumas County General Plan Update EIR - 208739  
**Figure 4.11-2**  
 Important Species Habitat Locations

Kimshew Point, La Porte, Loyalton, McKesick Peak, Meadow Valley, Milford, Moonlight Peak, Mt. Fillmore, Mt. Harkness, Mt. Ingalls, Onion Valley, Portola, Pulga, Quincy, Reading Peak, Reconnaissance Peak, Red Cinder, Soapstone Hill, Spring Garden, Squaw Valley Peak, Stony Ridge, Storrie, Stover Mountain, Strawberry Valley, Swain Mountain, Taylorsville, Twain, Westwood West USGS quadrangles.

The “Potential for Occurrence” category in Table 4.11-3 is defined as follows:

- **Unlikely:** The project site and/or immediate area do not support suitable habitat for a particular species. Project site is outside of the species known range.
- **Low Potential:** Project site and/or immediate area only provide limited habitat for a particular species. In addition, the known range for a particular species may be outside of the immediate project area.
- **Medium Potential:** The project site and/or immediate area provide suitable habitat for a particular species, and habitat for the species may be impacted.
- **High Potential:** The project site and/or immediate area provide ideal habitat conditions for a particular species and/or known populations occur in immediate area and within the potential area of impact

**TABLE 4.11-3  
SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN PLUMAS COUNTY**

Species	Fed/State/CNPS Status	General Habitat	Potential to Occur
<b>Invertebrates</b>			
<i>Pseudocopaedodes eunus obscurus</i> Carson wandering skipper	FE/--/--	The Carson wandering skipper is currently known from only two populations, one in Washoe County, Nevada, and one in Lassen County, California. The subspecies is found in grassland habitats on alkaline substrates.	<b>Low.</b> The CNDDDB has one recorded occurrence in the eastern portion of the County west of Honey Lake.
<b>Fish</b>			
<i>Mylopharodon conocephalus</i> Hardhead	--/SSC/--	Found in small to large streams in a low to mid-elevation environments. May also inhabit lakes or reservoirs.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has three recorded occurrences in the western portion of the County within the Feather River.
<b>Amphibians</b>			
<i>Rana boylei</i> foothill yellow-legged frog	--/SSC/--	Found in shallow, slow, gravelly streams and rivers with sunny banks, in forests, chaparral, and woodlands.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has one recorded occurrence in the western/central portion of the County in the vicinity of Meadow Valley Creek. There are four recorded occurrences in the southern portion of the County in the vicinity of Rabbit Creek.

**TABLE 4.11-3 (continued)**  
**SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN PLUMAS COUNTY**

Species	Fed/State/CNPS Status	General Habitat	Potential to Occur
<i>Rana cascadae</i> Cascades frog	--/SSC/--	The Cascade frog concentrates heavily around the volcanic area of the peaks of the Cascades. Its natural habitats are relatively small permanent and temporary ponds associated with temperate forests, temperate grassland, rivers, swamps, freshwater lakes, intermittent freshwater lakes, freshwater marshes generally between 665 m (2,180 ft) and 2,450 m (8,040 ft) elevation.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has seven recorded occurrences in the northern portion of the County within the tributaries to Lake Almanor.
<i>Rana sierrae</i> Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog	--/SSC/--	High mountain lakes, ponds, tarns and streams; rarely found more than 3 feet from water.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has five recorded occurrences in the western portion of the County along Grizzly Creek, Bucks Creek/Lower Bucks Lake, along small tributaries to Mill Creek, and within Grizzly Ravine. There is one recorded occurrence in the eastern portion of the County in the vicinity of Antelope Lake.
<b>Birds</b>			
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i> Northern goshawk	--/SSC/--	Inhabits coniferous forests, but will also inhabit deciduous and mixed forests from sea level to subalpine areas. This species may also be found in urban forested parks.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has numerous recorded occurrences throughout the County associated with various forest habitats.
<i>Buteo swainsonii</i> Swainson's hawk	--/ST/--	Forages in open and agricultural fields and nests in mature trees usually in riparian corridors.	<b>Medium.</b> There are no CNDDDB recorded occurrences of this species within the County however the County is within the species summer breeding range and potential suitable habitat is present.
<i>Empidonax traillii</i> Willow flycatcher	--/SE/--	Breeds in moist, shrubby areas, often with standing or running water. Winters in shrubby clearings and early successional growth.	<b>Medium.</b> There are no recorded occurrences of this species within the County. Potential suitable habitat for this species is present in the southern portion of the County.
<i>Falco mexicanus</i> Prairie falcon	--/WL/--	Found in dry grasslands and prairies, locally alpine tundra; suitable breeding habitat usually requires cliffs for nest sites; in winter, also cultivated fields and lake shores.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has two recorded occurrences in the southeastern portion of the County in the mountainous area between Frenchman Lake and Chilcoot-Vinton. The second occurrence is in the Lassen National Forest west of Westwood.

**TABLE 4.11-3 (continued)**  
**SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN PLUMAS COUNTY**

Species	Fed/State/CNPS Status	General Habitat	Potential to Occur
<i>Grus canadensis tabida</i> Greater sandhill crane	--/ST,FP/--	This species occupy shallow wetlands and open wet meadows and fields.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has three recorded occurrences within the southern portion of the County associated with the marshlands around Little Last Chance Lake as well as in the northern portion of the County associated with Wolf Creek.
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> Bald eagle	--/SE,FP/--	Nests in tall trees or on cliffs, usually near water. In California, year round resident of the Sierra Nevada and Coastal Mountains of Central Western California as well as most of the northern portion of the state. Winter range includes all of California.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has one recorded occurrence within the northern portion of the County associated with Lake Almanor.
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i> Osprey	--/WL/--	Nests near water at the top of tall trees and manmade structures such as power and phone poles, duck blinds, channel markers, navigation aids, and wooden docks. Localized breeding throughout California.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has numerous recorded occurrences throughout the County, the majority of which are within the northern portion associated with Lake Almanor.
<i>Riparia riparia</i> Bank swallow	--/ST/--	Nests in steep banks next to moving water. Rarely occurs west of the Sierra Nevada in California.	<b>Low.</b> Although the CNDDDB has two recorded occurrences, the County is outside of the normal range for this species. The first occurrence is in the northern/central portion of the County along Indian Creek in the Genesee Valley. The second occurrence is in the northeastern portion of the County along Gold Run Creek.
<i>Strix nebulosa</i> Great gray owl	--/SE/--	Prefer dense forests interspersed with open meadows, clearings, or bogs.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has five recorded occurrence in the southern portion of the County associated with the meadows and forests surrounding Lake Davis.
<b>Mammals</b>			
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i> Pallid bat	--/SSC/--	Favors rocky outcrops with desert scrub, but commonly ranges up to forested areas with oak and pine. Roosts in caves, rock crevices, mines, hollow trees, and buildings. Maternity colonies form in rock crevices, in buildings, and other man-made structures.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has one recorded occurrence in the southern portion of the County associated with the rocky outcrops and forested areas of Mount Jackson and Penman Peak.
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i> Townsend's big-eared bat	--/SSC/--	Requires caves, mines, tunnels, buildings, or other human-made structures for roosting. May use separate sites for night, day, hibernation, or maternity roosts. Hibernation sites are cold, but not below freezing. Roosting sites are the most important limiting resource.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has two recorded occurrences in the southwestern portion of the County, south of Bucks Lake, associated with the caves of the Plumas National Forest.

**TABLE 4.11-3 (continued)**  
**SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN PLUMAS COUNTY**

Species	Fed/State/CNPS Status	General Habitat	Potential to Occur
<i>Euderma maculatum</i> Spotted bat	--/SSC/--	Found in a wide variety of habitats from arid deserts and grasslands through mixed conifer forests. Feeds over water and along washes almost entirely on moths. Needs rock crevices in cliffs or caves for roosting.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has one recorded occurrence in the southeastern portion of the County associated with the cliffs, caves and Barry Creek within the Tahoe National Forest
<i>Gulo gulo</i> California wolverine	--/ST,FP,SSC/--	Found in a wide variety of mountain habitats. Needs water, caves, logs, or other cover for denning.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has three recorded occurrences, one in the western portion of the County in the forested area south of Meadow Valley. The second occurrence is in the northeastern portion of the County within the Lassen National Forest. The third occurrence is in the southeastern portion of the County in Squaw Valley.
<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i> Silver-haired bat	--/SSC/--	Found along streams and rivers in wooded areas and in montane coniferous forests. Mainly a tree dweller, but sometimes hibernates in caves. During the spring and summer shelters in tree hollows, under loose bark, among leaves, in birds' nests, in the cracks of sandstone ledges, in buildings, under loose boards of buildings, and sometimes in caves.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has three recorded occurrences in the County. The first occurrence is in the southwestern portion of the County south of Bucks Lake, associated with the dense forests of the Plumas National Forest. The second occurrence is in the southern portion of the County associated with the meadows and forests south of Lake Davis. The third occurrence is in the northern portion of the County within the montane coniferous forests of Lassen National Park.
<i>Lasiurus blossevillii</i> Western red bat	--/SSC/--	Roosts primarily in trees, less often in shrubs. Roost sites often are in edge habitats adjacent to streams, fields, or urban areas. Preferred roost sites are protected from above, open below, and located above dark ground-cover.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has one recorded occurrence in the southeastern portion of the County associated with Grizzly Creek within the Plumas National Forest.
<i>Martes americana</i> American (pine) marten	--/SSC/--	Optimal habitats are various mixed evergreen forests with more than 40% crown closure, with large trees and snags. Important habitats include red fir, lodgepole pine, subalpine conifer, mixed conifer, Jeffrey pine, and eastside pine	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has one recorded occurrence in the western portion of the County north of Belden in the dense coniferous forests of Plumas National Forest.
<i>Martes pennanti (pacifica)</i> DPS Pacific fisher	--/SSC/--	Prefer extensive conifer forests typical of the boreal forest but are also common in mixed hardwood and conifer forests. Fishers prefer forest floors that have large amounts of coarse woody debris. In western forests where fire regularly removes understory debris, fishers show a preference for riparian woodland habitat. Fishers tend to avoid areas with deep snow.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has six recorded occurrences throughout the County associated with the dense coniferous forests of the Plumas and Lassen National Forests.

**TABLE 4.11-3 (continued)**  
**SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN PLUMAS COUNTY**

Species	Fed/State/CNPS Status	General Habitat	Potential to Occur
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	--/SSC/--	Found in dry, open grasslands, fields, and pastures. Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has three recorded occurrences in the southern portion of the County. The occurrences are associated with the open grassland areas of the Plumas National Forest.
<i>Vulpes vulpes necator</i> Sierra Nevada red fox	--/ST/--	Restricted to alpine and subalpine meadows and montane boreal forests	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has six recorded occurrences in the northern portion of the County associated with the montane forests and subalpine meadows of the Lassen National Forest.
<b>Plants</b>			
<i>Astragalus lemmonii</i> Lemmon's milk-vetch	--/--1B.2	A perennial herb that occurs within Great Basin scrub, meadows and seeps, and marshes and swamps (lake shores). Blooms May to August. Elevations 1,007 – 2,200 meters (m).	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has one recorded occurrence within the southern portion of the County.
<i>Astragalus lentiformis</i> Len's-pod milk-vetch	--/--1B.2	Perennial herb that occurs in volcanic, sandy soils within Great Basin scrub, and lower montane coniferous forest habitat. Blooms May to July. Elevations: 1,460 – 1,910 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has numerous recorded occurrences in the southeastern portion of the County within the Plumas National Forest, northeast of Lake Davis.
<i>Astragalus pulsiferae</i> var. <i>pulsiferae</i> Pulsifer's milk-vetch	--/--1B.2	Perennial herb that occurs in usually granitic, sandy or rocky soils within Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, and pinyon and juniper woodland habitats. Blooms May to August. Elevations: 1,300 – 1,800 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has two recorded occurrences in the southeastern and eastern portion of the County within the Plumas National Forest.
<i>Astragalus pulsiferae</i> var. <i>suksdorfii</i> Suksdorf milk-vetch	--/--1B.2	Perennial herb that occurs in volcanic, gravelly, rocky soil within Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, and, pinyon and juniper woodland habitats. Blooms May to August. Elevations: 1,300 – 2,000 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has one recorded occurrence within the northern portion of the County south of Lake Almanor within the Lassen National Forest.
<i>Astragalus webberi</i> Webber's milk-vetch	--/--1B.2	Perennial herb that occurs within broadleafed upland forest, lower montane coniferous forest, and meadows and seeps. Blooms May to July. Elevations: 731 – 1,250 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has several recorded occurrences in the north central portion of the County within the Lassen National Forest.
<i>Boechea constance</i> Constance's rockcross	--/--1B.1	Perennial herb that occurs in serpentinite, rocky soils within chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, and upper montane coniferous forest habitats. Blooms May to July. Elevations: 975 – 2,025 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has several recorded occurrences in the central portion of the County within the Lassen and Plumas National Forests
<i>Clarkia mildrediae</i> ssp. <i>mildrediae</i> Mildred's clarkia	--/--1B.3	Annual herb that occurs in sandy, usually granitic soils within cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest habitats. Blooms May to August. Elevations: 245 – 1,710 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has two recorded occurrences in the western portion of the County within the Lassen National Forest.

**TABLE 4.11-3 (continued)**  
**SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN PLUMAS COUNTY**

Species	Fed/State/CNPS Status	General Habitat	Potential to Occur
<i>Clarkia mosquinii</i> Mosquin's clarkia	--/--1B.1	Annual herb that occurs in rocky soils and along roadsides within cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest habitat. Blooms May to July. Elevations: 185 – 1,219 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has one recorded occurrence in the southwestern portion of the County within the Plumas National Forest.
<i>Eleocharis torticulmis</i> California twisted spikerush	--/--1B.3	Perennial rhizomatous herb that occurs within bogs and fens, lower montane coniferous forest, and meadows and seeps. Blooms June to July. Elevations: 1005 – 1,175 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has two recorded occurrences in the central portion of the County within the Plumas National Forest.
<i>Eremogone cliftonii</i> Clifton's eremogone	--/--1B.3	Perennial herb that occurs in openings, usually with granitic soils within chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, and upper montane coniferous forest habitats. Blooms April to September. Elevations: 455 – 1,770 m	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has several recorded occurrences in the west central portion of the County within the Plumas National Forest.
<i>Erigeron nivalis</i> Barron's buckwheat	--/--1B.2	Perennial herb that occurs in glaciated andesite, rocky or sandy soils within upper montane coniferous forest habitats. Blooms July to August. Elevations: 2010 – 2,050 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has one recorded occurrences in the far northern portion of the County within the upper montane coniferous forests at approximately 2,000 m in the Lassen National Forest.
<i>Eriogonum microthecum</i> var. <i>schoolcraftii</i> Schoolcraft's wild buckwheat	--/--1B.2	Shrub that occurs in sandy to rocky soils within Great Basin scrub and pinyon and juniper woodland habitats. Blooms July to September. Elevations: 1300 – 1,750 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has one recorded occurrence in the far eastern portion of the County within the pinyon and juniper woodland habitats of McKesick Peak within the Plumas National Forest.
<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i> var. <i>ahartii</i> Ahart's buckwheat	--/--1B.2	Perennial herb that occurs in serpentinite soils on slopes and in openings within chaparral and cismontane woodland habitats. Blooms June to September. Elevations: 400 – 2,000 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has two recorded occurrences within the lower southwestern portion of the County along the Mooreville Ridge within the Plumas National Forest.
<i>Frangula purshiana</i> ssp. <i>ultramafica</i> Caribou coffeeberry	--/--1B.2	Perennial deciduous shrub that occurs in serpentinite soils within chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, and upper montane coniferous forest habitats. Blooms May to July. Elevations: 825 – 1,930 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has two recorded occurrences within the western portion of the County in the chaparral and upper montane habitats of Mount Pleasant and Red Mountain within the Plumas National Forest.
<i>Ivesia aperta</i> var. <i>aperta</i> Sierra Valley ivesia	--/--1B.2	Perennial herb that occurs in vernal mesic, usually volcanic soils within Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, pinyon and juniper woodland and vernal pool habitats. Blooms June to September. Elevations: 1,480 – 2,300 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has four recorded occurrences within the eastern and lower southeastern portion of the County within the lower montane coniferous and pinyon juniper woodland habitats of Sugarloaf and the meadows and seeps in the Sierra Valley in the Plumas and Tahoe National Forests.

**TABLE 4.11-3 (continued)**  
**SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN PLUMAS COUNTY**

Species	Fed/State/CNPS Status	General Habitat	Potential to Occur
<i>Ivesia sericoleuca</i> Plumas ivesia	--/--/1B.2	Perennial herb that occurs in vernal mesic, usually volcanic soils within Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, pinyon and juniper woodland and vernal pool habitats. Blooms May to October. Elevations: 1,310 – 2,200 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has two recorded occurrences within the eastern and southeastern portion of the County within the meadow and seep habitat around the Sierra Valley Channels, and the chaparral and lower montane coniferous forests of Dixie Mountain, Plumas, and Tahoe National Forests
<i>Ivesia webberi</i> Webber's ivesia	--/--/1B.1	A perennial herb that occurs in sandy or gravelly soils within Great Basin scrub (volcanic ash), lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodland habitats. Blooms May to July. Elevations: 1,000 – 2,075 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has two recorded occurrences within the north and central portion of the County, within the Plumas National Forest.
<i>Juncus luciensis</i> Santa Lucia dwarf rush	--/--/1B.2	Annual herb that occurs within chaparral, Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, vernal pool habitats. Blooms April to July. Elevations: 300 – 2,040 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has four recorded occurrences within the eastern and southeastern portion of the County within the meadow and seep habitat around the Sierra Valley Channels and Frenchman Lake, and the chaparral and lower montane coniferous forests of Dixie Mountain and Black Mountain, within the Plumas and Tahoe National Forests.
<i>Lewisia cantelovii</i> Cantelow's lewisia	--/--/1B.2	A perennial herb that occurs in mesic, granitic, sometimes serpentinite seeps within broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest habitats. Blooms May to October. Elevations: 330 – 1,370 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has four recorded occurrences within the southwestern portion of the County within the chaparral habitat of the Plumas National Forest.
<i>Lomatium roseanum</i> Adobe lomatium	--/--/1B.2	Perennial herb that occurs in openings with gravelly or rocky soils within Great Basin scrub and lower montane coniferous forest habitats. Blooms June to July. Elevations: 1,463 – 2,255 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has one recorded occurrence within the eastern portion of the County within the open areas of the scrub and lower montane coniferous forests of Stony Ridge.
<i>Mielichhoferia tehamensis</i> Lassen Peak copper moss	--/--/1B.3	Moss that occurs within alpine boulder and rock field (volcanic, mesic, rock and soil) habitats. Elevations: 2,500 – 2,800 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has one recorded occurrence within the northern portion of the County within the alpine boulder and rock fields of Bumpass Mountain in the Lassen National Forest.
<i>Monardella follettii</i> Follett's monardella	--/--/1B.2	Perennial shrub that occurs within lower montane coniferous forest (rocky, serpentinite) habitats. Blooms June to September. Elevations: 600 – 2,000 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has one recorded occurrence in the northern portion of the County within the Plumas National Forest.
<i>Monardella stebbinsii</i> Stebbins' monardella	--/--/1B.2	Perennial rhizomatous herb that occurs in serpentinite, rocky soils within broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, and lower montane coniferous forest habitat. Blooms July to September. Elevations: 780 – 1,100 m.	<b>Medium.</b> The CNDDDB has no recorded occurrences within the County however potential suitable habitat is present throughout.

**TABLE 4.11-3 (continued)**  
**SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN PLUMAS COUNTY**

Species	Fed/State/CNPS Status	General Habitat	Potential to Occur
<i>Orcuttia tenuis</i> Slender Orcutt grass	--/--/1B.1	Annual herb that occurs within vernal pool habitats. Blooms May to October. Elevations: 35 – 1,760 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has three recorded occurrences within the County south of Lake Almanor in the Lassen National Forest and north of Lake Almanor in the Plumas National Forest.
<i>Oreostemma elatum</i> Tall alpine-aster	--/--/1B.2	Perennial herb that occurs in mesic soils within bogs and fens, meadows and seeps, and upper montane coniferous forest habitats. Blooms June to August. Elevations: 1,005 – 2,100 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has two recorded occurrences within the central and northern portions of the County within the Plumas and Lassen National Forests.
<i>Packera eurycephala</i> var. <i>lewisrosei</i> Lewis Rose's ragwort	--/--/1B.2	Perennial herb that occurs in serpentinite soils within chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest habitats. Blooms March to September. Elevations: 274 – 1,890 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has three recorded occurrences within the west central portion of the County within chaparral and lower montane coniferous forests of the Plumas National Forest.
<i>Penstemon personatus</i> Closed-throated beardtongue	--/--/1B.2	Perennial herb that occurs in metavolcanic soils within chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, and upper montane coniferous forest habitats. Blooms June to October. Elevations: 1,065 – 2,120 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has three recorded occurrences within the southwestern portion of the County within the Plumas National Forest.
<i>Penstemon sudans</i> Susanville beardtongue	--/--/1B.3	Perennial herb that occurs in volcanic, rocky soils and sometimes on roadsides within Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, and pinyon and juniper woodland habitats. Blooms June to September. Elevations: 1,200 – 2,425 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has two recorded occurrences in the northeastern portion of the County within the lower montane coniferous forest, and pinyon and juniper woodland habitats of the Plumas National Forest.
<i>Poa sierrae</i> Sierra blue grass	--/--/1B.3	Perennial rhizomatous herb that occurs within lower montane coniferous forest habitats. Blooms April to June. Elevations: 365 – 1,500 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has three recorded occurrences along the western portion of the County within the coniferous forests of the Lassen and Plumas National Forests.
<i>Polygonum polygaloides</i> ssp. <i>esotericum</i> Modoc County knotweed	--/--/1B.1	Annual herb that occurs in mesic soils within Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, and vernal pool habitats. Blooms May to September. Elevations: 885 – 1,690 m.	<b>Medium.</b> There are no recorded occurrences of this species within the County however potential suitable habitat is present within the lower montane coniferous forests and meadows and seeps within the National Forests.
<i>Pyrocoma lucida</i> Sticky pyrocoma	--/--/1B.2	Perennial herb that occurs in alkaline clay soils within Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seep habitats. Blooms July to October. Elevations: 700 – 1,950 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has numerous recorded occurrences within the southeastern portion of the County in the Plumas and Tahoe National Forests.

**TABLE 4.11-3 (continued)  
SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN PLUMAS COUNTY**

Species	Fed/State/CNPS Status	General Habitat	Potential to Occur
<i>Sedum albomarginatum</i> Feather River stonecrop	--/--/1B.2	Perennial herb that occurs in serpentinite soils within chaparral and lower montane coniferous forest habitats. Blooms May to June. Elevations: 260 – 1,950 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has several recorded occurrences within the west central portion of the County within the vicinity of the Feather River and tributaries south of the Butt Valley Reservoir within the Lassen National Forest.
<i>Silene occidentalis ssp. longistipitata</i> Long-stiped campion	--/--/1B.2	Perennial herb that occurs withiin chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, and upper montane coniferous forest habitats. Blooms June to August. Elevations: 1,000 – 2,000 m.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has one recorded occurrence within the western portion of the County in the coniferous forests of Lassen National Forest west of the Butt Valley Reservoir.
<b>Natural Communities</b>			
Central Valley Drainage Resident Rainbow Trout Stream	Natural Community	A distinct habitat found in clear streams at high elevations with high gradient streams as well as lower elevation, cold Central Valley streams that contain an assemblage of rainbow trout. This habitat found in lower elevations is usually found in cold waters flowing from dams.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has one recorded occurrence of this community within the northwestern portion of the County within the Lassen National Forest.
Darlingtonia Seep	Natural Community	Habitat saturated with running water, may or may not have peat. Typically on peridotite, but also on other parent materials.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has several recorded occurrences of this community within the central portion of the County in the Plumas National Forest.
Montane Freshwater Marsh	Natural Community	Quiet sites (lacking significant current) permanently flooded by fresh water (rather than brackish, alkaline, or variable). Prolonged saturation permits accumulation of deep, peaty soils. Dominated by perennial, emergent monocots to 4-5m tall. Often forming completely closed canopies.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has two recorded occurrences of this community in the southeast portion of the County within the Sierra Valley in the Plumas National Forest.
Northern Interior Cypress Forest	Natural Community	An open, fire-maintained scrubby “forest dominated by one of several Cupressus species. These stands may be as high as 15m tall, but usually are lower. On dry, rocky, sterile, often ultramafic soils, frequently associated with Serpentine Chaparral. Scattered through the Siskiyou Mountains, North and South Coast Ranges, Cascades and northern Sierra Nevada.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has two recorded occurrences of this community in the east central portion of the County in the Plumas National Forest.
Northern Vernal Pool	Natural Community	Ephemeral wetlands forming in shallow depressions underlain by a substrate that restricts percolation of water. Herbaceous community dominated by annual herbs and grasses which germinate with winter rains. Rising spring temperatures evaporate pools.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has one recorded occurrence of this community in the southeast portion of the County within the Sierra Valley in the Plumas National Forest.

**TABLE 4.11-3 (continued)**  
**SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN PLUMAS COUNTY**

Species	Fed/State/CNPS Status	General Habitat	Potential to Occur
Sphagnum Bog	Natural Community	Dominated by a dense growth of low-growing, herbaceous perennials and low shrubs. In cold, highly acid, permanently waterlogged soils; low in available nutrients. Peat tends to accumulate without decomposing completely. Occasionally the "soil" is pure peat. Scattered in the North Coast Ranges and Klamath Ranges from Sonoma Co. into Oregon. Scattered in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Ranges from Tulare Co. into Oregon.	<b>High.</b> The CNDDDB has two recorded occurrences of this community in the north and along the east central boundary of the County. The occurrence in the north is in a marshy area of Willow Creek in the Lassen National Forest. The occurrence along the eastern County line is associated with Green Island Lake within the Lassen National Forest.

SOURCE: USFWS, 2012; CDFG, 2012; CNPS, 2012.

KEY:

**Federal: (USFWS)**

FE = Listed as Endangered by the Federal Government  
FT = Listed as Threatened by the Federal Government  
FC = Candidate for listing by the Federal Government

**State: (CDFG)**

SE = Listed as Endangered by the State of California  
ST = Listed as Threatened by the State of California  
SR = Listed as Rare by the State of California (plants only)  
SSC = California Species of Concern  
FP = Fully Protected  
WL = Watch List

**CNPS: (California Native Plant Society)**

List 1A = Plants presumed extinct in California  
List 1B = Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere  
0.1 = Seriously endangered in California  
0.2 = Fairly endangered in California  
0.3 = Not very endangered in California

-- = No Listing

As part of the approval of the Plumas National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on August 26, 1988, a commitment was made to conduct a sensitive habitat and species monitoring and evaluation program for the Plumas National Forest. Since that time, the monitoring of major forest programs has been ongoing, with the publication of formal Forest Plan monitoring reports on an available basis. The Forest Service is currently preparing a monitoring report for the 2006 to 2010 reporting period. Some preliminary results on species occurrences are provided below.

According to monitoring results, the following plant and wildlife species populations are considered stable on the Plumas National Forest: bald eagle, Canada goose, mule deer, prairie falcon, peregrine falcon, Constance's rock cress, Butte County fritillary, Quincy lupine, Stebbins' wild mint, closed throated penstemon, cryptic catchfly, scarlet huckleberry, Cantelow's lewisia, and Feather River stonecrop.

The following species populations are considered to be on a downward trend on the Plumas National Forest: golden eagle and largemouth bass. The downward trend for largemouth bass was specifically due to Northern pike presence in Lake Davis, which were eradicated in September 2007.

The following species were found to be in an upward trend on the Plumas National Forest: goshawk, California spotted owl, and trout.

Consistent with the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group (HFQLG) Forest Recovery Act, the HFQLG Pilot Project Implementation Team for the Lassen, Plumas and Tahoe National Forests also conducts a variety of forest management activities including biological resources monitoring.

### **Noxious Weeds**

A noxious weed is defined as a plant that could displace native plants and natural habitats, affect the quality of forage on rangelands, or affect cropland productivity. One organization and one agency track, list and rate the noxious weeds of California: The California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

The CDFA lists weeds and assigns ratings (A–C) to each species on the list. The ratings reflect this organization’s assessment of the statewide economic importance of the pest, the likelihood that eradication or control efforts would be successful, and the present distribution of the pest in the state. These ratings are guidelines that indicate the most appropriate action to take against a pest under general circumstances.

Noxious weeds in Plumas County were not inventoried for this analysis because target weeds will differ widely from site to site and project to project, depending on the sensitivity of the site to infestation, the nature of the proposed project, and the type of weeds in the immediate area.

## **Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

### **Methodology**

The significance criteria identified below and the habitat/special-status species information provided above were used to identify the potential impact of future development resulting from implementation of the proposed project. Where significant impacts are identified, mitigation (i.e., general plan policies, etc.) is recommended. A significance conclusion is made for residual impacts after the application of recommended mitigation.

### **Significance Criteria**

The significance criteria for this analysis were developed from criteria presented in Appendix G, “Environmental Checklist Form”, of the CEQA Guidelines and based on the professional judgment of the County of Plumas and its consultants. The proposed project would result in a significant impact if it would:

- Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any special-status species;
- Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the CDFG or USFWS;

- Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;
- Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites; and/or
- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

### Impact 4.11-1: Special Status Species

<b>LTS</b>	<b>The proposed project could have an adverse impact on special status species.</b>
	<b>Level of Significance Before Mitigation:</b> <i>Potentially Significant</i>
	<b>Required Additional Mitigating Policies and Implementation Measures:</b> <i>Revised Policy COS-7.2.13 "Biological Resource Maps and Surveys"</i>
	<b>Resultant Level of Significance:</b> <i>Less than Significant</i>

Implementation of new development under the proposed project could result in adverse impacts on special-status species within the various Planning Areas in Plumas County. Impacts on special-status species would include direct loss of individuals or localized populations, elimination or degradation of habitat, and isolation of subpopulations due to habitat fragmentation. Conversion of existing natural habitat to urban development, roadways, and other infrastructure improvements could result in the elimination of populations of special-status species where present within the limits of proposed grading and development.

Indirect impacts could include disruption of critical functions affecting reproductive success; degradation of habitat quality to such an extent that occupied habitat is no longer suitable for individual survival, and other influences. Indirect impacts to special-status species could also occur due to increases in stormwater runoff, erosion and downstream sedimentation, and use of pesticides for agriculture and landscaping.

As detailed in the Regulatory Setting section above, there are a number of federal and state regulations in place to protect biological resources (including special status species) within Plumas County. In addition, the General Plan policies (proposed project) take a comprehensive approach to the protection of biological resources (including habitats and special status species) through the implementation of policies (as shown in **Table 4.11-4**) designed to conservation open space areas, protection visual resources, and maintain good water quality conditions. For example, the Open Space and Conservation Element include Policy COS-7.1.4 which encourages the use of private and public conservation easement programs to protect open space areas. Policies COS-7.1.3 "Collaborative Open Space Land Use Management" and COS-7.2.18 "Inter-Agency Coordination" promote continued coordination with a variety of State, Federal, and trustee agencies (with a focus on resource management responsibilities) to jointly address open

space and habitat issues. Policy COS-7.2.2 “Species and Habitat Avoidance” requires new development to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to threatened, rare, or endangered species and critical/sensitive habitat. In the event that avoidance is not feasible, the policy requires a “no-net-loss” of the habitats that support these species. Additionally, the Open Space and Conservation Element include a number of policies designed to protect the visual quality of the County. The preservation of scenic resources, viewsheds, and scenic corridors (see policies COS-7.6.1 through COS-7.6.5) provide a secondary benefit by preserving important habitat areas that provide space for a variety of special status species.

**TABLE 4.11-4  
MITIGATING POLICIES**

<b>Conservation and Open Space (COS) and Water Resources (W) Elements</b>	
Policies designed to minimize this impact through the implementation of land use management practices (including resource agency coordination) designed to protect open space areas include the following:	
COS-7.1.1 Open Space Land Use Definition	COS-7.2.13 Biological Resource Maps
COS-7.1.2 Conservation and Open Space Program	COS-7.2.14 Natural Landscapes in Site Design
COS-7.1.3 Collaborative Open Space Land Use Management	COS-7.2.15 Use of Native Plant Species for Landscaping
COS-7.1.4 Conservation Easements	COS-7.2.16 Controlled Fuel Management
COS-7.2.8 Vehicle and Wildlife Conflicts	COS-7.2.17 Private Land Management
COS-7.2.12 Habitat Protection and Monitoring	COS-7.2.18 Inter-Agency Coordination
Policies designed to minimize this impact through the protection of sensitive open space areas, species, and wildlife movement corridors include the following:	
COS-7.2.1 Habitat Protection	COS-7.2.9 Wildlife Fencing
COS-7.2.2 Species and Habitat Avoidance	COS-7.2.10 Lake Davis Area
COS-7.2.3 Land Use Management	COS-7.2.11 Density Transfers
Policies designed to minimize this impact through the protection of sensitive wetland, riparian, and stream corridor habitats include the following:	
COS-7.2.4 Stream Corridor Development	COS-7.2.6 No Net Loss of Wetland Habitats
COS-7.2.5 Fishery and Stream Corridor Inventories	COS-7.2.7 Wetland and Riparian Habitat Buffers
Policies designed to minimize this impact through the protection of the visual quality of County open space areas include the following:	
COS-7.6.1 Scenic Areas	COS-7.6.4 Community Design
COS-7.6.2 Development in Identified Scenic Areas and Viewsheds	COS-7.6.5 Scenic Impacts of Off-premise Permanent Advertising Signs and Billboards
COS-7.6.3 Scenic Roadway Protection	
Policies designed to minimize this impact through the implementation of best management practices designed to improve the water quality of local lakes, creeks, and rivers include the following:	
W-9.2.1 Participation in Water Quality Objectives	W-9.2.5 Wastewater Standards and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
W-9.2.2 Background Water Quality	W-9.2.6 Erosion and Sediment Control Measures
W-9.2.3 County Facilities	W-9.7.4 Runoff Quality
W-9.2.4 Wildfire and Water Quality Controls	W-9.7.5 Best Management Practices

**Significance Determination**

Adoption and implementation of the proposed policies and implementation measures under the proposed project would minimize adverse impacts on biological resources to the maximum extent practicable. Policies are designed to protect special status species and conserve sensitive natural communities, such as avoidance of these species or habitats, the implementation of a variety of

land use practices (including conservation easements, restricting development density/intensity, buffers), and the preservation of visual resource areas (including open space areas) that have the potential to include sensitive special status species or natural communities. Additionally, where avoidance is not feasible, the policies require a “no-net-loss” of the habitats that support these species. However, even with implementation of the above mentioned policies, this impact is considered *potentially significant*.

**Required Additional Mitigating Policies**

In addition to the above mentioned general plan policies and implementation measures, the following revision to Policy COS-7.2.13 has been identified as a result of the environmental analysis and is required to mitigate an adverse impact on special status species. The revised policy identified below is to be incorporated into the Conservation and Open Space Element (Goal 7.2 “Biological Resources”) prior to approval of the Final Goals and Policies Report.

- COS-7.2.13 Biological Resource Maps and Surveys** The County shall maintain and consult biological resource maps during the discretionary permit review process in order to identify habitat concerns and guide mitigations that will reduce biological resource impacts. Additionally, the County shall require that any development project that could potentially impact a special status species or sensitive natural community shall be required to conduct a biological survey of the site. If special-status species or sensitive natural communities are found on the site, the project biologist shall recommend measures necessary to avoid, minimize, and/or compensate for identified impacts to special-status species and sensitive natural communities.

**Significance Conclusion**

The County will continue to ensure that new development projects avoid or minimize impacts to both special status and common plant and wildlife species through implementation of proposed policies and implementation measures under the proposed project (in addition to current local, state, and federal statutes and regulations addressing biological resources). Therefore, implementation of the proposed project including adoption of the revised policy listed above (COS-7.2.13 “Biological Resource Maps and Surveys”) would result in a *less- than-significant* impact to both special status and common plant and wildlife species.

**Impact 4.11-2: Natural Communities (including Riparian Habitat and Wetlands)**

<b>LTS</b>	<b>The proposed project could have potential adverse effects on sensitive riparian habitat, other sensitive natural communities and on Federal and State jurisdictional waters and wetlands.</b>
	<b>Level of Significance Before Mitigation:</b> <i>Potentially Significant</i>
	<b>Required Additional Mitigating Policies and Implementation Measures:</b> <i>Revised Policy COS-7.2.13 “Biological Resource Maps and Surveys”</i>
	<b>Resultant Level of Significance:</b> <i>Less than Significant</i>

Implementation of new development under the proposed project could result in adverse impacts on a variety of natural communities (including both riparian and wetland habitats) within the various Planning Areas in Plumas County.

There are several sensitive natural community types within Plumas County that may be lost as a result of development associated with the proposed project. These are described in detail above in the Environmental Setting section and include Central Valley Drainage Resident Rainbow Trout Stream, montane freshwater marsh, and northern interior cypress forest. Development could also result in long-term degradation of riparian sensitive plant communities, fragmentation or isolation of an important wildlife habitat, or disruption of natural wildlife movement corridors associated with riparian habitat. The loss or disruption of riparian habitats is a significant impact due to the value of such habitat for a wide variety of common and special-status species and for providing a wildlife movement corridor along creeks in the County.

Development resulting from the proposed project could also result in the loss of wetlands and waters of the United States and/or the State, including named or unnamed streams, vernal pools, freshwater marshes, and other types of seasonal and perennial wetland communities. Wetlands and other waters would be affected through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption (including dewatering), alteration of bed and bank, and other construction-related activities. This impact is considered potentially significant because it would result in permanent loss of wetlands or waters of the United States and/or the State, or loss of functions or habitats associated with these wetlands or waters.

Finally, development associated with the proposed project could introduce noxious weeds or result in their spread into currently unaffected areas, possibly resulting in the degradation or loss of sensitive natural communities including wetlands and riparian habitats. Noxious weed plants or seeds may be dispersed via construction equipment if appropriate measures are not implemented. New development at the urban-wildland interface within the various Planning Areas would also increase the potential for wildland fire. While fire is an essential part of maintaining many native vegetation communities, fires can also spread weed seed that can compete with native vegetation during the recolonization period following fire, which can reduce the range and vigor of native vegetation communities.

As detailed in the Regulatory Setting section above, there are a number of federal and state regulations in place to protect sensitive natural communities within Plumas County. In addition, the General Plan policies (see Table 4.11-4, above under Impact 4.11-1) address these impacts through a variety of measures. For example, Policy COS-7.2.7 “Wetland and Riparian Habitat Buffers” requires the identification of these areas as part of the development review process for individual projects and requires buffering to avoid impacts to these resources. Additionally, Policy COS-7.2.6 “No-Net-Loss of Wetland Habitats” requires new development projects to achieve a “no-net-loss” of wetland habitats. Other policies include COS-7.2.4 “Stream Corridor Development” which limits development within stream corridors. Other policies include COS-7.2.15 which encourages the use of native plant species in landscaping plans and projects and

Policy COS-7.2.17 which supports private land owners or organizations that acquire land for habitat protection or for the maintenance of sensitive habitats.

The Water Resources Element also includes a number of policies designed to address local and regional water quality concerns. These include Policy W-9.2.5 which relates specifically to monitoring construction activities through NPDES enforcement, requiring the use of BMPs. Policy W-9.2.1 requires the County to support and assist in the development and implementation of TMDLs for the impaired water bodies and pollutants of concern identified by the RWQCB. Policy W-9.2.4 requires the County to design, construction, and maintain County facilities that minimize sediment and other water quality pollutants. Additionally, Policy W-9.2.4 requires the County to cooperate with wildlife management and fire protection agencies and implement a variety of post-fire erosion, sedimentation, and other water quality measures. Policies W-9.7.4 and W-9.7.5 require that all new development (including drainage systems) comply with applicable regulations regarding non-point source pollutant discharge requirements.

### **Significance Determination**

Adoption and implementation of the proposed policies and implementation measures under the proposed project would minimize adverse impacts on biological resources to the maximum extent practicable. Policies are designed to protect sensitive natural communities (including wetland and riparian areas), such as avoidance of these species or habitats, the implementation of a variety of land use practices (including conservation easements, restricting development density/intensity, buffers), and the implementation of a variety of water quality measures. Additionally, where avoidance is not feasible, the policies require a “no-net-loss” of the habitats (including wetlands) that support these species. However, even with implementation of the above mentioned policies, this impact is considered *potentially significant*.

### **Required Additional Mitigating Policies**

In addition to the above mentioned general plan policies and implementation measures, the following revision to Policy COS-7.2.13 has been identified as a result of the environmental analysis and is required to mitigate an adverse impact on sensitive natural communities. The revised policy identified below is to be incorporated into the Conservation and Open Space Element (Goal 7.2 “Biological Resources”) prior to approval of the Final Goals and Policies Report.

- **COS-7.2.13 Biological Resource Maps and Surveys** The County shall maintain and consult biological resource maps during the discretionary permit review process in order to identify habitat concerns and guide mitigations that will reduce biological resource impacts. Additionally, the County shall require that any development project that could potentially impact a special status species or sensitive natural community shall be required to conduct a biological survey of the site. If special-status species or sensitive natural communities are found on the site, the project biologist shall recommend measures necessary to avoid, minimize, and/or compensate for identified impacts to special-status species and sensitive natural communities.

**Significance Conclusion**

The County will continue to ensure that new development projects avoid or minimize impacts to sensitive natural communities through implementation of proposed policies and implementation measures under the proposed project (in addition to current local, state, and federal statutes and regulations addressing biological resources). Therefore, implementation of the proposed project including adoption of the revised policy listed above ( COS-7.2.13 “Biological Resource Maps and Surveys”) would result in a *less- than-significant* impact to sensitive natural communities.

**Impact 4.11-3: Wildlife Movement and Wildlife Nursery Sites**

<b>LTS</b>	<b>The proposed project could result in the potential disturbance and loss of native fish and wildlife species movement corridors.</b>
	<b>Level of Significance Before Mitigation:</b> <i>Potentially Significant</i>
	<b>Required Additional Mitigating Policies and Implementation Measures:</b> <i>Revised Policy COS-7.2.13 “Biological Resource Maps and Surveys”</i>
	<b>Resultant Level of Significance:</b> <i>Less than Significant</i>

Implementation of new development under the proposed project could restrict local or regional movement of native wildlife and fish species by further fragmenting intact habitat areas. Development in natural or open space areas serves to fragment habitat areas, which results in the reduction of size of special-status species populations within these areas. This reduction in habitat (including movement corridors or wildlife nursery areas) affects the ability of special status species populations to grow and increases the probability that populations will be impacted by other environmental factors (e.g., disease, catastrophic weather, predation, etc.). However, given that most development anticipated under the proposed project would be focused within identified Planning Areas, specific impacts may be lessened through implementation of the policies and implementation measures of the proposed project.

As detailed in the Regulatory Setting section above, there are a number of federal and state regulations in place to protect sensitive natural communities (i.e., wildlife movement and nursery sites) within Plumas County. In addition, the General Plan policies (see Table 4.11-4, above under Impact 4.11-1) address these impacts through a variety of measures. For example, Policy COS-7.2.7 “Wetland and Riparian Habitat Buffers” requires the identification of these areas as part of the development review process for individual projects and requires buffering to avoid impacts to these resources. Policy COS-7.2.9 “Wildlife Fencing” discourages the use of fencing in rural areas that could affect wildlife movement patterns. Policy COS-7.2.10 “Lake Davis Area” provides land use guidance to help protection the Lake Davis Deer Fawning Area. Policy COS-7.2.11 “Density Transfers” allows the County to use density transfers (and other acceptable measures) as a means of protecting wildlife migration routes and habitats. Other policies include COS-7.2.4 “Stream Corridor Development” which limits development within stream corridors and Policy COS-7.2.17 which supports private land owners or organizations that acquire land for habitat protection or for the maintenance of sensitive habitats.

### Significance Determination

Adoption and implementation of the proposed policies and implementation measures under the proposed project would minimize adverse impacts on biological resources to the maximum extent practicable. Policies are designed to protect wildlife movement corridors and nursery areas, such as avoidance of these habitats, the implementation of a variety of land use practices (including conservation easements, restricting development density/intensity, buffers), and the implementation of a variety of water quality measures. Additionally, where avoidance is not feasible, the policies require a “no-net-loss” of the habitats (including wetlands) that support these species. However, even with implementation of the above mentioned policies, this impact is considered *potentially significant*.

### Required Additional Mitigating Policies

In addition to the above mentioned general plan policies and implementation measures, the following revision to Policy COS-7.2.13 has been identified as a result of the environmental analysis and is required to mitigate an adverse impacts on wildlife movement corridors and nursery areas. The revised policy identified below is to be incorporated into the Conservation and Open Space Element (Goal 7.2 “Biological Resources”) prior to approval of the Final Goals and Policies Report.

- **COS-7.2.13 Biological Resource Maps and Surveys** The County shall maintain and consult biological resource maps during the discretionary permit review process in order to identify habitat concerns and guide mitigations that will reduce biological resource impacts. Additionally, the County shall require that any development project that could potentially impact a special status species or sensitive natural community shall be required to conduct a biological survey of the site. If special-status species or sensitive natural communities are found on the site, the project biologist shall recommend measures necessary to avoid, minimize, and/or compensate for identified impacts to special-status species and sensitive natural communities.

### Significance Determination

The County will continue to ensure that new development projects avoid or minimize impacts to sensitive natural communities and wildlife movement corridors through implementation of proposed policies and implementation measures under the proposed project (in addition to current local, state, and federal statutes and regulations addressing biological resources). Therefore, implementation of the proposed project including adoption of the revised policy listed above (COS-7.2.13 “Biological Resource Maps and Surveys”) would result in a *less- than-significant* impact to sensitive natural communities and wildlife movement corridors.

### Impact 4.11-4: Local Policies and Ordinances

<b>LTS</b>	<b>The proposed project would not result in a potential Inconsistency with an adopted conservation plan.</b>
	<b>Level of Significance Before Mitigation:</b> <i>Less than Significant</i>
	<b>Required Additional Mitigating Policies and Implementation Measures:</b> <i>None</i>
	<b>Resultant Level of Significance:</b> <i>Less than Significant</i>

At the present time there are no adopted regional habitat conservation plans or Natural Community Conservation Plans currently permitted in the County. Additionally, the Open Space and Conservation Element includes a number of policies (see **Table 4.11-5**, below) designed to ensure the cooperation and consistency with the policy objectives of other resource agencies. For example, Policy COS-7.1.4 which encourages the use of private and public conservation easement programs to protect open space areas. Policies COS-7.1.3 “Collaborative Open Space Land Use Management” and COS-7.2.18 “Inter-Agency Coordination” promote continued coordination with a variety of State, Federal, and trustee agencies (with a focus on resource management responsibilities) to jointly address open space and habitat issues.

The Planning Area and surrounding area is not currently under the jurisdiction of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan or a Natural Conservation Community Plan. Implementation of the proposed project would not conflict with any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or any other adopted biological resources recovery or conservation plan of any federal or state agency. Consequently, this impact is considered to be less than significant.

**TABLE 4.11-5  
MITIGATING POLICIES**

Conservation and Open Space (COS) Element			
Policies designed to minimize this impact through the implementation of land use management practices (including resource agency coordination) designed to protect open space areas include the following:			
COS-7.1.1	Open Space Land Use Definition	COS-7.2.13	Biological Resource Maps
COS-7.1.2	Conservation and Open Space Program	COS-7.2.14	Natural Landscapes in Site Design
COS-7.1.3	Collaborative Open Space Land Use Management	COS-7.2.15	Use of Native Plant Species for Landscaping
COS-7.1.4	Conservation Easements	COS-7.2.16	Controlled Fuel Management
COS-7.2.8	Vehicle and Wildlife Conflicts	COS-7.2.17	Private Land Management
COS-7.2.12	Habitat Protection and Monitoring	COS-7.2.18	Inter-Agency Coordination

**Significance Determination**

Consequently, adoption and implementation of the proposed policies and implementation measures under the proposed project (in addition to current local, state, and federal statutes and regulations addressing biological resources) would ensure that impacts to sensitive natural communities would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

This impact is considered *less than significant*. No additional mitigation measures are required.

**Significance Conclusion**

Implementation of the proposed project would not result in significant impacts to special status species and therefore associated impacts would be *less than significant*.