

SUBJECT: Comments to Yuba River Development Project FERC Project No. 2246

Preliminary Information Package September 2009

DATE: November 16, 2009

TO: Cheryl Mulder

FROM: Marilyn Tierney, District Biologist, Tahoe National Forest

cc: Cindy Roberts, Dawn Alvarez, Dan Teater

5.1.6 Land Use

This section should also include: The Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment, which amended the TNF and PNF Forest Plans.

Pg. 7.3-12: Western pond turtle sightings are known on NFS land at Bullards Reservoir. It is expected that your inclusion of the Tahoe and Plumas National Forests' GIS layers of Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive species sightings in your information would provide additional pond turtle sightings at New Bullards Bar Reservoir.

7.4.2 Par. 2: Wildlife Habitat is mapped within 0.5 mile of the FERC Project Boundary. We recommend mapping habitat within 1 mile of the FERC Project Boundary. This will better enable us to assess the potential for special-status species to occur that may be affected by the project.

7.4.3: It would be helpful to include USFS species sighting databases from TNF and PNF; GIS layers for Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive species (TES) as well as mapping Protected Activity Centers for the California spotted owl, and the northern goshawk. Including this information would assist the US Forest Service to assess the potential for these species' to nest in close proximity to the project boundary.

Aquatic Macroinvertebrates are also considered a Management Indicator Species for lacustrine (LAC) and riverine (RIV) CWHR habitats.

Page 7.4-6 CWHR: States: "Two species listed only as FSS (*i.e.*, ring-necked snake and lodgepole chipmunk). " Neither of these species have been listed in U.S.F.S. Region 5 as Forest Service Sensitive, either at the present time, nor prior to the 2007 amended list for forests in the Sierra Nevada.

7.7.3.1 : Numerous sightings of great gray owls, a state endangered species, have been present within the Camptonville quadrangle since at least 2004 (Tahoe National Forest threatened, endangered, and sensitive species databases), and in 2009, the California Department of Fish and Game confirmed with the Tahoe National Forest that a nesting pair is located within approximately one mile of Our House

Dam. In the recent past, removing sediment that accumulated at Our House dam required extensive truck hauling along the roadway where this pair frequently foraged on the roadside. This occurrence, and potential effects from project operations should be captured in the baseline information for this project. We acknowledge that the licensee is undergoing current efforts to develop a sediment management plan for this site that may negate any need to haul sediment in the future. In the absence of such a plan, we recommend that this occurrence be captured at this time.

Page 7.7-4 Table 7.7.2-1, Bald eagle: The bald eagle is also considered a Forest Service Region 5 Sensitive species for both the Tahoe and Plumas national forests.

7.7.4.2: CESA-Listed/Fully Protected Species, Bald eagle: Inclusion of USFS sightings would include numerous bald eagle sightings at New Bullards Bar Reservoir, including a bald eagle nesting territory located near Garden Point since at least 1989.

Marilyn
Tierney/R5/USDAFS
11/17/2009 04:47 PM

To Cheryl Mulder/R5/USDAFS
cc Dan Teater/R5/USDAFS, Amy Lind/PSW/USDAFS, Cindy
K Roberts/R5/USDAFS, Dawn Alvarez/R5/USDAFS
bcc
Subject YCWA relicensing PIP Comments for wildlife

I am not clear how you want to consolidate these comments, but since I will be out of the office next week, and much of this, I wanted to send these to you.

I have attached my comments to the YCWA Preliminary Information Package. I recall their stating that they wanted our comments by November 15. My primary comment is that they appear to not have any USFS species sighting data, and I am unclear whether they contacted anyone on the forests to gather information--it seems that they would have. I will follow up with our GIS folks to see that TNF species sighting data are somehow sent to DTA, but I am unavailable to do this until after November 30.

To all of the cc's: If you see that I have something in error, please feel free to correct me. Dawn, I think Cindy's e-mail may be maxed out. Can you please get a copy of this to her? Thanks much!



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