

### **3.17 Public Services and Utilities/Energy**

This section evaluates potential impacts to public services and utilities from implementation of the No-Action Alternative, the Proposed Action, and Alternative 1. Additionally, this section addresses potential impacts to energy resources due to substantial or wasteful use of energy resources during implementation of the Proposed Action and the alternatives. The analysis provided in this section is based on review of local planning documents applicable to the Proposed Action, telephone communication with local service providers, and field reconnaissance by TRRP and NSR staff.

#### **3.17.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

##### **Regional Setting**

###### *Water Supply and Distribution*

Community service districts provide water services to several communities in Trinity County, including Weaverville, Lewiston, and Hayfork. In some instances, local service districts provide water service to small residential areas. Outside these communities, a large portion of the population is served by onsite water developments. These developments include wells, springs, and surface intake facilities along the Trinity River and its tributaries.

###### *Surface Water*

Surface water is provided by pumps and stilling wells in the Trinity River, as well as developed springs throughout the area. Surface water is primarily used for domestic purposes, including incidental use for gardens, livestock, and fire protection.

###### *Groundwater*

The Recent Alluvium formation is the predominant, fresh water-yielding formation along the Trinity River. This formation underlies the four proposed rehabilitation sites at varying depths. Water quality is highly variable and depends on local geologic features. The most common potential hazards to groundwater quality in Trinity County involve concentration of nitrates and dissolved solids from agricultural practices and septic tank failures.

###### *Water Treatment Facilities*

Water treatment facilities vary widely throughout the county. Water treatment facilities that serve communities are operated in accordance with established EPA guidelines. Water supplies that serve small subdivisions and private residences often have filtration and treatment systems that are used to address local water quality concerns.

###### *Wastewater Collection and Treatment*

Trinity County has very limited wastewater collection and treatment facilities. Septic tanks and drain fields are used throughout most of the county. No public wastewater collection and treatment systems are available to residents in the general vicinity of the Proposed Action.

### *Gas Supply and Distribution*

Natural gas providers do not serve northern Trinity County. Liquefied propane gas and kerosene fuels are provided through distributors based in Weaverville and Redding to residents on a case-by-case basis.

### *Solid Waste Collection and Disposal*

Several independent private companies provide subscription garbage collection service to residents of Trinity County. There are also several remote collection sites available for county residents to deliver self-hauled residential, commercial, and industrial refuse, green waste, recyclables, and household hazardous materials. All material collected is transported to a landfill in Anderson, California.

### *Law Enforcement*

The Trinity County Sheriff's Department (TCSD) provides law enforcement for the entire county. TCSD headquarters is located in Weaverville and a substation is located in Hayfork. Resident officers are stationed throughout the county and serve as the primary contact point for local communities.

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) operates from an office in Weaverville and serves as the primary law enforcement agency for state facilities and transportation corridors. The CHP works closely with the TCSD to provide law enforcement coverage to Trinity County.

The BLM and the USFS provide law enforcement in association with their land management activities. Although the focus of BLM and USFS officers is actions on public lands, they work closely with other agencies to provide law enforcement support throughout Trinity County.

### *Fire Protection/Emergency Services*

Sixteen volunteer fire departments located throughout Trinity County, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), and USFS currently meet Trinity County fire protection needs. The volunteer fire departments are responsible for structural fire protection and rescue services in Trinity County throughout the year. The 16 volunteer fire departments are Douglas City, Post Mountain, Hayfork, Wildwood, Junction City, Hyampom, Lewiston, Trinity Center, Coffee Creek, Salyer, Hawkins Bar, Weaverville, Southern Trinity, Downriver, Barker Valley, and Kettenpom-Zenia. The volunteer fire departments currently have a membership of approximately 200 to 225. Only Trinity Center, Hayfork, Lewiston, and Weaverville receive tax revenues to support their volunteer fire departments, although these revenues are limited. The volunteer fire departments routinely respond outside of their legal boundaries to any emergency to which they are dispatched by the 911 center maintained by the TCSD.

By law, CDF is responsible for wildland fire protection on all private lands in Trinity County, and the USFS is responsible for wildland fire protection on all National Forest lands. CDF and USFS fire stations are staffed only during the summer fire season, which normally lasts from May to late October. The Shasta-Trinity National Forest maintains a work station, including a seasonal fire crew, in Junction City directly across Dutch Creek Road from the Junction City Volunteer Fire Department. During the summer fire season, all fire agencies in the county respond to any reported fire, regardless of legal jurisdiction. CDF and USFS are legally and financially responsible for managing wildland fires within their

jurisdiction; however, the volunteer fire departments are often the first to respond and the first to arrive on the scene of a spreading wildfire. CDF and USFS depend on the volunteer fire departments to provide the initial attack on wildfires, and both agencies have agreements with the volunteer fire departments to reimburse the departments for their assistance.

#### *Medical Services*

Medical services in Trinity County are provided by a variety of organizations. There are two health clinics run by Trinity County Public Health Department, located in Weaverville and Hayfork. In addition, Mountain Community Medical Services (formerly Trinity Hospital) in Weaverville provides 24-hour emergency services. Trinity Life Support Ambulance and Southern Trinity Area Rescue (STAR) provide ambulance services, while the TCSD maintains an active Search and Rescue Team.

#### *Telephone Service*

A number of providers offer telephone service to residents of Trinity County. At the present time, no high-speed or fiber optic services are available in the county, and cell phone service is limited to Weaverville and some areas along the Trinity River corridor. In some remote areas, satellite service is the only communication option available to customers.

#### *Electrical Service*

Trinity Public Utilities District serves most of Trinity County, including residences and businesses in the project vicinity.

#### *Schools*

Due to the remote location and isolation of some residents, bus service to Trinity High School is provided for residents throughout the project vicinity. Bus routes for Trinity High School include SR 299, Highway 3, and miscellaneous county roads. There is no school bus service for the Junction City Elementary School District.

### **Local Setting**

The four proposed rehabilitation sites are in the Junction City Community Plan Area. The Plan Area includes the area centered on the Trinity River between Helena and Maxwell Creek.

#### *Water Supply and Distribution*

Water development in the Junction City community is served by mutual or private water systems. No community systems exist in the immediate vicinity of the four proposed rehabilitation sites. BLM operates a water system that provides potable water to the Junction City Campground. Water is generally plentiful throughout the area, although care must be taken to protect the water supply from contamination from septic systems and other sources. Water supply for the Cooper's Bar subdivision associated with the Valdor Gulch rehabilitation site is from private wells on individual properties. There are no wells in the vicinity of the rehabilitation project (Peter Hedkey, pers. comm.).

#### *Surface Water*

The Trinity River is the primary surface water source in the project vicinity. The river, which is subject to dramatic changes in flow on a recurring basis, bisects the four proposed rehabilitation sites.. No intakes were identified within the four proposed rehabilitation sites; however, residents downstream rely on the river for water. These residents use river water, either through direct intakes or stilling wells that intercept shallow subsurface flow adjacent to the river. These developed sources are typically located within the active channel or on the floodplain and require a collection system, pump, and distribution system to service individual residences.

#### *Groundwater*

Due to the location and nature of the terrain, groundwater levels respond to river stage. Observations of the excavations associated with sand and gravel operations within the four proposed rehabilitation sites suggest that groundwater levels fluctuate seasonally with flows. Groundwater wells provide water for domestic purposes adjacent to the four proposed rehabilitation sites. All rehabilitation areas were located to ensure that these wells are avoided. Private residences outside the site boundary use groundwater as their primary or secondary water source in a number of areas.

#### *Wastewater Treatment and Collection*

No sewage disposal systems or public treatment services are located in the immediate vicinity of the four proposed rehabilitation sites, although Junction City Elementary School operates a small treatment facility for its own use. All wastewater treatment and collection for adjacent residences is provided by on-site septic systems. The major constraints to on-site sewage disposal are poor soils, saturated soils, and steep slopes. The Trinity County Soil Survey (U.S. Department of Agriculture 1998) indicates that most of the soils in the Junction City Community Plan Area are moderately to severely restricted for home site development.

#### *Solid Waste Collection and Disposal*

The county's single landfill is located in Weaverville, adjacent to the Lonnie Pool Airport. This landfill now operates as a transfer station. Solid waste is collected from transfer stations throughout the county and delivered to the Weaverville facility. From here, all material is transported by truck to a landfill located in Anderson, California.

#### *Fire Protection*

Local governmental units, such as the Junction City Volunteer Fire Department (JCVFD), provide most emergency public services within the Junction City Community Plan Area. CDF and USFS also provide fire protection services to the area between May and late October. During the summer, a USFS helicopter and a 20-person crew are available during daylight hours. During daylight, CDF also has automatic dispatch of a fire retardant bomber and lead plane from Redding.

The JCVFD has an 11-person volunteer crew and chief. JCVFD crews are the primary responders to vehicle accidents, structure fires, and wildland fires on a year-round basis. The JCVFD provides fire protection and emergency medical aid services to district residents and travelers along SR 299. The

JCVFD maintains three fire engines, a rescue vehicle, and a water tender. Several of these vehicles are located in rural areas outside of the Junction City townsite.

CDF has identified all of the Junction City Community Plan Area as being a high fire hazard area. Three fire lookouts—Weaver Bally, Hayfork Bally, and Bonanza King—allow for quick fire detection throughout the Plan Area. The rural nature of this area and limited fire station locations have resulted in relatively slow response times, particularly in the winter.

### *Utilities*

The project sites themselves are generally devoid of utilities. However, many of the access roads to the rehabilitation sites contain power lines that cross the roads. These power lines may be used as an auxiliary source of power for various proposed activities (e.g., pumps, staging equipment) at the proposed rehabilitation sites.

### *Schools*

There is one elementary school district and one high school district in the general vicinity of the Proposed Action. The Junction City Elementary School District operates a primary school (grades kindergarten through eight) in Junction City. Junction City Elementary School is located near the junction of Red Hill Road and Dutch Creek Road, approximately 4.5 miles and 5.5 miles from the Valdor Gulch and Elkhorn rehabilitation sites, respectively. It serves the river corridor west of Weaverville and the area downstream from Junction City to about Helena. Students from this elementary school attend ninth through twelfth grades at Trinity High School in Weaverville. The area currently has a kindergarten through twelfth-grade population of approximately 100. Of these, approximately 60 attend Junction City Elementary School and approximately 40 attend Trinity High School in Weaverville. The state-rated capacity of the elementary school is 100.

## 3.17.2 RELEVANT PLANS AND POLICIES

### **Trinity County General Plan Goals and Objectives**

The Trinity County General Plan contains goals and policies designed to guide the future physical development of the county, based on current conditions. The General Plan contains all the state-required elements, including community development and design, transportation, natural resources, health and safety, noise, housing, recreation, economic development, public facilities and services, and air quality. The following goals and policies related to public service and utility issues associated with the Proposed Action were taken from the applicable elements of the General Plan (Trinity County 2001), including the Junction City Community Plan (Trinity County 1987).

### *Junction City Community Plan Goals and Objectives*

The Junction City Community Plan covers the area centered on the Trinity River from Helena to Maxwell Creek.

### *Public Services and Facilities*

**Goal:** Maintain as a priority the existing level of public services and improvements within areas of the community already served.

Objective: Insure that new development does not reduce the level of existing services.

### *Project Consistency with the Trinity County General Plan and Community Plans*

The goals and objectives described in Chapter 1 are generally compatible with the applicable General Plan goals and policies summarized above. The overall goal of the Proposed Action is to rehabilitate the sites so that they function in a manner that is closer to historic conditions (i.e., pre-Lewiston Dam).

## 3.17.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES/IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

### **Methodology**

The analysis addresses potential impacts from implementation of the project on the following public services and facilities: water supply and distribution; wastewater collection and treatment; law enforcement; solid waste collection and disposal; fire protection; telephone service; electric service; and schools. The analysis qualitatively addresses potential impacts to energy resources due to substantial or wasteful energy use during project construction. The analysis is based on a review of planning documents applicable to the project area, telephone communication with various agencies, and field reconnaissance.

### **Significance Criteria**

A project would normally have a significant impact on public services or utilities under CEQA if it would

- not comply with published national, state, or local statutes, regulations, or standards relating to solid waste;
- interfere with emergency services;
- degrade the level of service of a public service or utility;
- require relocating infrastructure;
- result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or need for, new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public services;
- require substantial improvements to the infrastructure or level of staffing of a public service or utility to maintain its existing level of service;

- require or result in the construction of new water treatment, wastewater treatment, or storm water drainage facilities, or the expansion of such existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects;
- be served by a landfill without sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project’s solid waste disposal needs;
- disrupt utilities service to create a public health hazard or extended service disruption; or
- encourage activities that result in the use of large amounts of fuel or energy, or would use fuel or energy in a wasteful manner.

**Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Table 3.17-1 summarizes the potential impacts on public services and utilities that could result from implementation of the project.

**TABLE 3.17-1.**  
 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS ON PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Impact	Project site	No-Action Alternative	Proposed Action	Alternative 1	Proposed Action with Mitigation	Alternative 1 with Mitigation
1. Implementation of the project could potentially disrupt existing electrical and phone service during the construction phase.	All sites	NI	NI	NI	N/A <sup>1</sup>	N/A
2. Construction of the project could result in the generation of increased solid waste.	All sites	NI	LS	LS	N/A	N/A
3. Implementation of the project could result in disruption to emergency services or disruption to school bus routes or student travel routes during the construction phase.	All sites	NI	S	S	LS	LS
4. Construction of the project could result in a substantial use of nonrenewable energy resources.	All sites	NI	LS	LS	N/A	N/A

Notes:

LS = Less than Significant    S = Significant  
 NI = No Impact                      N/A = Not Applicable

<sup>1</sup>Because this potential impact is less than significant, no mitigation is required.

### **All Sites (Conner Creek, Valdor Gulch, Elkhorn, and Pear Tree Gulch)**

**Impact 3.17-1:** Implementation of the project could disrupt existing electrical and phone service during the construction phase. *No Impact for the No-Action Alternative, Proposed Action, and Alternative 1*

#### *No-Action Alternative*

Under the No-Action Alternative, no construction-related disruption to existing electrical or telephone service would occur because the project would not be implemented.

#### *Proposed Action and Alternative 1*

Under the Proposed Action and Alternative 1, no activities would occur to disrupt electrical or telephone service in the project area. Although no power poles, power lines, or phone lines are located within the site boundary, there are a number of electrical and phone lines that cross access roads to the proposed Conner Creek and Elkhorn rehabilitation sites on the left side of the Trinity River. Clearance for most phone lines is 18 feet and is higher for utilities lines; these clearances should be adequate to allow access by construction equipment. If any vehicles exceeding this height are anticipated to travel under a phone line, height requirements will need to be verified by the contractor before accessing the site to ensure that utility lines are not damaged. No impacts to existing electrical or telephone service are anticipated to occur as a result of the Proposed Action or Alternative 1.

### **Mitigation Measures**

#### *No-Action Alternative, Proposed Action, and Alternative 1*

Since no significant impact was identified for the alternatives, no mitigation is required.

*Significance after Mitigation:* N/A

**Impact 3.17-2:** Construction of the project could result in the generation of increased solid waste. *No Impact for the No-Action Alternative; Less-than-Significant Impact for the Proposed Action and Alternative 1*

#### *No-Action Alternative*

Increased quantities of solid waste would not be generated under the No-Action Alternative because there would be no construction activities.

#### *Proposed Action*

Under the Proposed Action, construction would result in the generation of solid waste associated with the removal of substantial amounts of vegetation and other construction-related waste (e.g., trash from workers, cans, buckets). Vegetation would be chipped to provide mulch, piled on site, or left in the

floodplain to provide structural habitat for juvenile fishes. Smaller-sized solid waste generated by construction activities would likely be disposed of locally at the Weaverville waste facility. Waste collected at the Weaverville facility is currently transported by truck to a landfill located in Anderson, California. The Anderson landfill currently has sufficient capacity and the necessary permits to accommodate construction waste that is non-hazardous. The contractor would be responsible for determining appropriate disposal sites for any hazardous waste. Disposal of potentially hazardous waste is evaluated in Section 3.15, Hazardous Materials.

#### *Alternative 1*

Under Alternative 1, construction would result in the generation of the same types of solid waste as the Proposed Action, but the amounts of vegetation and construction-related waste would be slightly lower because there would be no restoration activities at Conner Creek areas R-1 and R-2 and Elkhorn area R-2.

### **Mitigation Measures**

#### *No-Action Alternative, Proposed Action, and Alternative 1*

Since no significant impact was identified, no mitigation is required.

*Significance after Mitigation:* N/A.

**Impact 3.17-3:** Implementation of the project may result in disruption to emergency services or disruption to school bus routes or student travel routes during the construction phase. ***No Impact for the No-Action Alternative; Significant Impact for the Proposed Action and Alternative 1***

#### *No-Action Alternative*

Since there would be no construction activities associated with implementation of the No-Action Alternative, there would not be any disruption to emergency services, school bus routes, or student travel routes.

#### *Proposed Action and Alternative 1*

Although construction activities associated with the Proposed Action and Alternative 1 would be confined to the rehabilitation sites described in Chapter 2, access for mobilization and demobilization of heavy equipment may require traffic control on Dutch Creek and Red Hill Roads as well as Wintu Pass Road; the need for such traffic control would be minimal. In addition, construction personnel and service vehicles would use designated routes during throughout the construction phase. Any potential road/bridge closures would be implemented during non-peak hours to avoid traffic circulation impacts. However, a closure, even during non-peak hours (i.e., 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.) could have the potential to significantly decrease response time for police service, fire protection, and other emergency services. This would be considered a significant impact.

In the event that road closures would be required during the school year (mid-August through mid-June), these closures would occur only during non-peak hours, consistent with the requirements outlined in

Section 3.16 and Section 3.17 and in coordination with the appropriate school district to avoid disruption of student access to bus service.

### **Mitigation Measures**

#### *No-Action Alternative*

Since no significant impact was identified, no mitigation is required.

**Significance after Mitigation:** *N/A*

#### *Proposed Action and Alternative 1*

- 3a:** Reclamation shall stipulate in the contract specifications for construction that the contractor must stage construction work and temporary closures in a manner that will allow for access by emergency service providers.
- 3b:** Reclamation shall stipulate in the contract specifications that the contractor must provide 72-hour notice to the local emergency providers (i.e., TCSD, CDF, Junction City Fire Department, and Trinity Life Support Ambulance) prior to the start of temporary closures.

**Significance after Mitigation:** *Less than Significant.*

**Impact 3.17-4:** Construction of the proposed project could result in a substantial use of nonrenewable energy resources. ***No Impact for the No-Action Alternative; Less-than-Significant Impact for the Proposed Action and Alternative 1***

#### *No-Action Alternative*

No use of nonrenewable energy resources would occur under the No-Action Alternative because construction activities would not occur.

#### *Proposed Action and Alternative 1*

Energy expenditures associated with construction under both the Proposed Action and Alternative 1 would include both direct and indirect uses of energy. Combustion of the refined petroleum products needed to operate construction equipment would be part of the direct energy use. Indirect energy use typically represents about three-quarters of total construction energy usage, with direct energy use comprising the remaining quarter. Though construction energy would be consumed only during the construction phase, it would represent irreversible consumption of finite natural energy resources.

Construction would consume fuel and electricity, along with indirect energy for materials used in construction. Fuel would be consumed by both construction equipment and construction-worker vehicle trips. Electricity would be used by construction equipment, such as welding machines, power tools, and pumps. Energy consumed by construction power equipment would be relatively minimal.

Construction energy consumption would be a short-term impact and would not be an ongoing drain on finite natural resources. Alternative 1 would use slightly less energy than the Proposed Action during the construction phase since there would be slightly less earthwork under this alternative. Construction under both the Proposed Action and Alternative 1 would consume energy primarily in the form of fuel and

electricity and would not have a significant effect on local or regional energy sources. Energy consumption by construction activities would be a less-than-significant impact, and mitigation is not required.

**Mitigation Measures**

*No-Action Alternative, Proposed Action, and Alternative 1*

Since no significant impact was identified, no mitigation is required.

*Significance after Mitigation: N/A*