

**U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
INTERIOR REGION 10 – CALIFORNIA-GREAT BASIN
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA OFFICE
TRINITY RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM
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**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Redding Field Office have found that the Trinity River Channel Rehabilitation Projects: Upper Conner Creek (UCC) site (River Mile [RM] 77.1 to 78.5) and Sawmill Gravel Processing (Sawmill) site (RM 108.9 to 109.75) would have no significant impact on the human environment.

The finding is supported by the analysis disclosed in the Environmental Assessment/Initial Study (EA/IS) of the same title, which was completed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts et seq.). For the purposes of NEPA, the EA portion is tiered to the *Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration Program Environmental Impact Statement* and incorporates by reference the *Channel Rehabilitation and Sediment Management Activities for Remaining Phase 1 and Phase 2 Sites, Part 1: Final Master Environmental Impact Report* (EIR).

Recommended by:

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Date
CGB -EA-2024-004

Approved by:

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Bureau of Land Management (Cooperating Agency)

Date
DOI-BLM-CA-N060-2024-0008-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
**Trinity River Channel Rehabilitation Projects: Upper Conner
Creek Site (River Mile [RM] 77.1 to 78.5) and Sawmill Gravel
Processing (Sawmill) Site (RM 108.9 to 109.75)**

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Background and Need

The Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP, Lead Agency) and the Bureau of Land Management Redding Field Office (BLM, Cooperating Agency) have collaboratively prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Initial Study (IS) for the Trinity River Channel Rehabilitation Projects: Upper Conner Creek (UCC) Site (River Mile [RM] 77.1 to 78.5) and Sawmill Gravel Processing (Sawmill) Site (RM 108.9 to 109.75) (referred to herein as the Project).

The TRRP has developed programmatic objectives for channel rehabilitation projects that are described in Section 2 of the Project EA/IS. Ultimately, the goal of channel rehabilitation is to engineer functioning hydrological and ecological conditions to perpetually maintain fish and wildlife resources (including threatened and endangered species) and the river ecosystem. The proposed rehabilitation activities at the project sites are needed to support the TRRP's goals of restoring fish populations to pre-dam levels and restoring dependent fisheries, including those held in trust by the federal government for the Hoopa Valley and Yurok Tribes. The purpose of the project is to advance one of the primary TRRP objectives, which is to mechanically reshape and scale the current channel form to interact with the flow regime so that physical processes would be reestablished to create and maintain fish habitat. The proposed design consists primarily of lowering the floodplains, creating new river channels, and excavating high-elevation riverbank areas to create a more frequently inundated floodplain.

The TRRP is tasked with increasing habitat and river function for all life stages of naturally produced anadromous fish native to the Trinity River in the magnitude necessary to reach congressionally mandated population levels. The TRRP's strategy is to increase habitat diversity, quality, and quantity for juvenile native fish rearing while also ensuring that habitat complexity and quantity increase as the alluvial processes of the Trinity River are enhanced or restored. The magnitude of the disturbance to the Trinity River from historical gold mining cannot be overstated. Hydraulic mining on the hillslopes resulted in large amounts of mining debris that buried the historical valley bottom. Subsequent dredging coupled with fluvial incision from historic water management at the Lewiston and Trinity dams has left a narrow, canal-like channel with a restricted floodplain area.

In general, the purpose of channel rehabilitation is to engineer functioning hydrological and ecological conditions to perpetually maintain fish and wildlife resources (including threatened and endangered species) and the river ecosystem. The proposed rehabilitation activities at the project sites are needed to support the TRRP's goals of restoring fish populations to pre-dam levels and restoring dependent fisheries, including those held in trust by the federal government for the Hoopa Valley and Yurok Tribes. The purpose of the project is to advance one of the primary TRRP objectives, which is to mechanically reshape and scale the current channel form to interact with the flow regime so that physical processes would be reestablished to create and maintain fish habitat. The proposed design consists primarily of removing tailings piles; processing of mine tailings and materials on-site for use in rehabilitation construction; creating new river channels and in-channel features such as riffles, islands, bars, and side channels; and excavating high-elevation riverbank areas to create frequently inundated floodplains.

Public Involvement and Consideration of Public Comments

Public scoping for the Project was initiated on December 4, 2023, and ended on December 17, 2023. During public scoping for this project, four comments were received from the public. At the onset of the public scoping and public comment periods, notices informing the public of the intent to begin the environmental review process were posted on the TRRP and Reclamation websites and at the TRRP Weaverville office. Hardcopy scoping notices were also mailed and emailed to local landowners and interest groups. TRRP hosted an additional "open house" meeting for the public to learn more about the UCC project and provide input, at the Junction City Elementary School on March 15, 2024.

Reclamation and BLM provided a 30-day period for public review of this Draft EA/IS, starting when the agencies posted the document to their official websites on May 2, 2024. The Draft EA/IS was circulated to local, state, and federal agencies and to interested organizations and individuals during a 30-day review period that ended on May 31, 2024. Eight comments were received during the public comment period, including two from organizations and businesses and six responses from individuals. No substantive changes to the EA/IS were made based on comments received from the public.

The scoping notice, newspaper advertisement, comments, and section of the EA that addresses comments are included in Appendix H of the EA/IS, and public comments and responses are included in Appendix I of the EA/IS.

Copies of the Draft and Final EA/IS are available for public review on the following websites:

- TRRP website at <https://www.trrp.net/ucc-sawmill/>
- BLM's National NEPA Register at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2031484/510>.

Proposed Action (Alternative 1)

The Project EA/IS considered two alternatives: the No Action Alternative (Alternative 2 in the EA/IS) and the Proposed Action (Alternative 1 in the EA/IS). After considering the environmental commitments and project design features listed in Section 2.1.4 and Appendix D and Appendix E, impacts from the

Proposed Action would be less than significant pursuant to NEPA. Details concerning these alternatives and other alternatives considered but not carried forward for evaluation are included in Section 2 of the Project EA/IS.

The channel rehabilitation activities are described in detail in Section 2 and in Appendix J (Upper Conner Creek) and Appendix K (Sawmill) of the EA/IS. The Proposed Action entails activities that are intended to improve fish habitat, including recontouring and vegetation removal; revegetation; installation of wood features (structured log jams, wood placement, and wood racking features); excavation and placement of alluvial material in in-channel and riverine areas.

Specific project activities at both sites include the lowering of floodplains by the removal of mine tailings that prohibit natural river processes; processing of mine tailings and materials on-site; creation of in-channel features such as riffles, islands, and medial and lateral bars; and excavation and creation of side channels. Additional project activities include the use of existing permanent roads and creation and reclamation of temporary access roads to facilitate construction; and upland spoils areas where mine tailings will be relocated. Disturbed areas will be revegetated after construction is completed.

FINDINGS

Affected Environment

The Upper Connor Creek (UCC) project site is approximately 35 miles (mi) downstream of the Lewiston Dam, between the previously constructed Hocker Flat (RM 78.4) and Conner Creek (RM 77.2) restoration sites. The UCC project Affected Environment includes the project Environmental Study Limit (ESL), which spans 1.4 RM and encompasses approximately 105.9 acres (ac) including 40.8 ac of BLM-administered land and 65.1 ac of private land. It is located approximately 1.5 mi west of Junction City, CA below the Canyon Creek confluence within the North Fork Reach (RM 79.3 to RM 72.2) of the mainstem Trinity River. Access to the UCC ESL is via State Route (SR) 299 on river right; and Dutch Creek Rd, Red Hill Rd, Senger Rd, and Quail Rd on river left, pending permission from adjacent landowners. The legal description of the UCC ESL is Township 33 North, Range 11 West, Section 1, and Township 34 North, Range 11 West, Section 35 and 36, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian (MDB&M; Figure 1 of the EA/IS). The river elevation at the site is approximately 1,900 feet (ft) above mean sea level (msl). Equipment would access some river left activity areas from river right using temporary crossings.

The Sawmill Gravel Processing site Affected Environment is the Sawmill ESL, which is located approximately 2.5 mi downstream from Lewiston Dam at RM 108.9 to 109.75. The Sawmill ESL encompasses about 103.4 ac, including 67.2 ac of BLM managed-lands, 10.7 ac of State of California managed-lands, 3.5 ac of Reclamation land, and 22.0 ac of private land. It is located approximately 2.5 mi southwest of Lewiston, CA on the mainstem Trinity River. Access to the project site is via Goose Ranch Rd on river left and Lewiston Cemetery Rd on river right. The legal description of the Sawmill ESL is Township 33 North, Range 8 West, Sections 18 and 19, MDB&M. The river elevation at the site is approximately 1,800 ft above msl.

Degree of the Effects

Both the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives were evaluated in the EA/IS with respect to their impacts in the following issue areas: land use, geomorphic environment, water resources, water quality, fishery resources, vegetation, wildlife, wetlands, recreation, socioeconomics, cultural resources, air quality, visual resources, hazards and hazardous materials, noise, public services and utilities/energy, transportation/traffic circulation, environmental justice, and tribal trust. Based on the following summary of the implementation effects of the Proposed Action (as discussed fully in the EA/IS), there would be no

significant impacts to the quality of the human environment; therefore, an environmental impact statement (EIS) or a supplement to the existing EIS is not necessary and will not be prepared.

Short- and Long-term Effects

As analyzed in the EA, this project may have short-term and long-term impacts to aesthetics/visual resources, air quality including greenhouse gases, geomorphology and soils, hydrology, land use, noise, recreation, water quality, traffic/circulation, vegetation, and fish and wildlife; however, these impacts are not significant.

Direct impacts to these resources from the Proposed Action would be minor, localized, and short in duration. In the long-term, the proposed action has the potential to result in an overall benefit to natural and recreational resources by improving the fisheries and contributing to the restoration of the ecological function of the Trinity River, thus any disturbance that may occur in the short term, will be offset by the long-term benefits. Further, project design features described in the EA would be implemented to provide improved wildlife habitat, protect water quality, minimize noise and visual resource impacts during construction (including gravel processing), prevent hazardous spills from construction equipment operations, and protect restore and improve riparian and wetland habitat to reduce the chance of short-term impacts on soils, wildlife, fish, and water quality.

Beneficial and Adverse Effects

This project may have minor impacts to soils, water quality, and wildlife and fish resulting from the proposed channel rehabilitation activities; however, these impacts are not significant. Beneficial and adverse effects include short- and long-term effects, which are summarized above for the general project. Implementation of the Proposed Action is expected to contribute to the Trinity River ecosystem's long-term environmental quality and sustainability with no significant adverse impacts on the environment.

Aesthetics/Visual Resources

Potential impacts of project activities on visual resources would include changes brought about by the excavation, processing and sorting, stockpiling of mine tailings on site, for construction use; moving mine tailings the floodplain to upland spoils areas; lowering of the floodplain and creation of new side channels and in-channel features such as riffles, islands, and bars; placement of large wood; creation of access roads; and the presence of equipment in the project ESLs. These activities could result in temporary degradation and/or obstruction of a scenic view. Over the long term, implementation of the Proposed Action is expected to complement the project ESL's visual resources and aesthetic values by restoring the function typical of an alluvial river. Retention of existing topographic features and planted and natural revegetation would lessen the degree of visual impacts and improve the aesthetic quality of the affected reach of the Trinity River.

Air Quality including Greenhouse Gases

Construction activities would generate short-term and localized fugitive dust and gas and diesel emissions that could affect air quality. Reclamation would implement project design features and environmental commitments (Appendix E of the EA/IS), including requiring provisions in construction documents that minimize construction-related impacts on air quality in order to minimize impacts to air quality.

Cultural Resources

The BLM has designated Reclamation as the lead federal agency for the Section 106 process for this Proposed Action on behalf of both agencies. Pursuant to NHPA Section 106 36 CFR Section 800, Reclamation has completed the identification and evaluation process through consultation with federally

recognized tribes and interested parties, evaluated resources for their eligibility for the NRHP, and assessed adverse effects and made a determination regarding effects on cultural resources. Reclamation, in collaboration with BLM, has determined that there would be no adverse effect to historic properties by the Proposed Action. A Section 106 consultation package for the Proposed Action was prepared for and delivered to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for the SHPO's consideration of the lead agency's recommendation. SHPO concurred with Reclamation's determination that no adverse effect to historic properties would occur.

Indian Sacred Sites

The Proposed Action would not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian Sacred Sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites because none have been identified in or near the boundaries of the Proposed Action.

Environmental Justice

Minority (economically disadvantaged) populations are located in the vicinity of the Proposed Action. However, these populations would not be disproportionately affected by project activities. Post-construction, the Proposed Action would benefit the entire community in the way of a rehabilitated segment of the river corridor with improved aesthetics and wildlife habitat, and fishery resources.

Fisheries Resources

To comply with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), TRRP staff submitted a Biological Assessment (BA) to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in December 2019 concerning TRRP effects on the federally and state-listed (threatened) Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) evolutionarily significant unit of coho salmon. The TRRP office completed formal consultation with NMFS on the effects of TRRP sediment management and channel rehabilitation and scientific monitoring, and the potential effects of floodplain restoration work throughout the Trinity River watershed rather than only on the mainstem Trinity River. The NMFS' August 2020 Trinity River Restoration Program Biological Opinion describes the implementation strategies and conservation measures that will be employed during proposed TRRP construction of the Project.

Temporary impacts on fish-rearing habitat would be minimized through the implementation of environmental commitments and project design features (Appendix D and Appendix E of the EA/IS). In the long term, changes to the physical rearing habitat associated with project implementation are expected to be beneficial. Collective improvements in fluvial channel dynamics contributed by the Proposed Action, in conjunction with future channel rehabilitation projects throughout the Trinity River between Lewiston Dam and the North Fork Trinity River, are ultimately expected to improve spawning and rearing habitat for all life stages of anadromous salmonids. Because effects would generally be localized and because the Proposed Action includes commitments and project design features to avoid and minimize adverse impacts on fish; effects to fisheries resources would be less than significant.

Geomorphology and Soils, including Geology, Geological Hazards, and Mineral Resources

Implementation of the Proposed Action, including the environmental commitments and project design features listed in Appendix D and Appendix E of the EA/IS, would be consistent with the 10 healthy river attributes described in the Trinity River Flow Evaluation Study (USFWS and HVT 1999), the basis for the TRRP efforts to restore and enhance native fish and wildlife populations. It is also consistent with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy, as described in Appendix F. Project activities would increase the potential for short-term soil compaction. However, project implementation would include project design features such as sediment and erosion control measures to reduce and avoid potential short-term construction

impacts on soils. Unique geologic resources or hazards are not present in the project ESLs. Therefore, impacts on these resources would be less than significant.

Hazardous Materials and Petroleum Products

Activities associated with the Proposed Action would use potentially hazardous materials (e.g., solvents) and petroleum products (e.g., oil and fuels) associated with the operation of vehicles and construction equipment during implementation. Implementation of environmental commitments and BMPs (e.g., proper equipment maintenance and materials storage) would minimize the potential for accidental releases of any project-related hazardous materials or petroleum products (see Appendix D and Appendix E). These practices would ensure that impacts from hazardous material and petroleum product losses would be less than significant.

Hydrology and Flooding

Based on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Hydraulic Engineering Center River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) model used by Trinity County to assess compliance with Trinity County's Flood Hazard Zoning, implementation of the Proposed Action, including the altering of the floodplain by the excavation or placement of alluvial materials in the 100-year floodplain and low-flow channel, would not increase the base flood elevation of the Trinity River near structures. Additionally, project implementation would not result in a significant risk of injury, death, or loss involving flooding or erosional processes. The proposed activities are expected to have minimal if any, effects on groundwater elevations or groundwater quality. Therefore, the impacts on water resources would be less than significant.

Indian Trust Assets

TRRP's overarching goals of restoring, enhancing, and conserving the natural production of anadromous fisheries, native plant communities, associated wildlife resources, and overall health of the Trinity River basin are consistent with federal Tribal Trust responsibilities. The primary TRRP goals originate partly from the federal government's trust responsibility to protect fishing rights for ceremonial, subsistence, and commercial purposes of the region's Indian tribes. Under the Proposed Action, the Trinity River would continue to support Tribal Trust assets. Several short-term impacts would occur that would affect Tribal Trust assets, including impacts to geology, fluvial geomorphology, and soils; water quality; fishery resources; and vegetation, wildlife, and wetlands. These impacts are generally associated with construction activities that would temporarily affect resources in the project ESLs. Potential impacts on Tribal Trust assets would be minimized by project design criteria implemented to protect those assets. The impacts to Tribal Trust assets would be less than significant.

Land Use, including Agricultural Lands

The Proposed Action would not change the uses of the project ESLs lands nor require changes to land use allocations or zoning designations, including agricultural forest lands. Temporary disruptions to nearby property owners and recreationists using the river and adjacent land near the project ESLs could occur during the rehabilitation activities (i.e., 3 to 6 months for construction and up to 5 years for revegetation efforts). However, no long-term impacts are anticipated, and the use of the land in the project ESL would be the same as under current conditions. The restored floodplain and habitats would enhance the area for recreationists and would maintain open space and scenic views near the private residences.

The Proposed Action is located in Trinity County, California, and would be consistent with Trinity County's General Plan and Zoning Ordinance, which provides development standards for land in Trinity County, including areas located within the Trinity River floodplain. The BLM's Redding Resource

Management Plan (RMP) (BLM 1993) describes various objectives for resource conditions applicable to federal lands in the project ESL.

Short-term land-use impacts resulting from the Proposed Action would be minimal because of project design criteria, environmental commitments, and mitigation measures (Appendix D and Appendix E of the EA/IS) that require maintenance of public and private access to the Trinity River, adjacent residents, and businesses. Additionally, project implementation would not prevent existing land uses from continuing or impede future land uses. Therefore, impacts on land use would be less than significant.

Noise

During the construction phase of the Proposed Action, noise from construction activities would temporarily dominate the noise environment in the project ESL. Construction noise would be temporary and would be expected to occur primarily between July and December; construction activities would be scheduled between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday to minimize potential noise impacts to area residences. During working hours, Reclamation would ensure that the contractor operates all equipment to minimize noise impacts to nearby sensitive receptors (residences adjacent to the project ESL, etc.). Therefore, noise impacts resulting from the implementation of the Proposed Action would be temporary and minimal.

Public Services and Utilities/Energy

The Proposed Action would not disrupt electrical or telephone service within or adjacent to the project ESL. A project-specific traffic control plan, including traffic control associated with project activities, would be implemented. The Proposed Action is not expected to cause more than minimal, if any, disruptions to public services. However, access for mobilization and demobilization of heavy equipment may require a higher level of traffic control for local roadways and may disrupt traffic flow and circulation before, during, and after construction (see Transportation/Traffic Circulation below). Any disruptions to public services resulting from mobilization and demobilization of heavy equipment are expected to be minimal and of short duration.

Recreation

Construction activities could temporarily disrupt public access from Sky Ranch Road on river right and access to private lands on river left for the UCC site, and at the Sawmill site recreation access point. However, river access and recreational opportunities would continue to be available at other locations along the river. Potential disruptions and hazards to recreational activities within the project area would be temporary and minimal. Because construction of the Proposed Action (e.g., temporary crossings and associated equipment movement) could affect the safety of recreational users, signage would be employed to notify river users to be cautious of heavy equipment in the river corridor. Construction activities associated with the Proposed Action could lower the Trinity River's aesthetic values for recreationists by increasing its turbidity; however, increases in turbidity are expected to be localized and of short duration.

Socioeconomics, Population, and Housing

The Proposed Action could directly generate short-term income growth through the payment of wages and salaries for individuals working on the project's construction but would result in little long-term increased economic activity. In addition, because of the limited size and duration of the project, impacts on socioeconomic conditions, population, or housing would be negligible.

Transportation/Traffic Circulation

Construction equipment and vehicles would temporarily increase traffic on local roads around the project ESL, primarily SR 299 and Sky Ranch Rd (UCC) and Lewiston Rd (Sawmill), which provides access to the area from local communities and commercial fishing operations. Throughout the construction periods, the amount of daily construction equipment traffic would be limited by staging the construction equipment and vehicles within the project ESL boundary for the duration of work. The use of area roads by project-related trucks and heavy equipment would increase wear and tear on the local roadways. Traffic safety hazards could arise for motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, and equestrians in the vicinity of the construction access routes due to the movement of project-related trucks and heavy construction equipment. The contractor would be required to implement a traffic control plan to maximize public safety and maintain traffic flow during construction. With the inclusion of environmental commitments outlined in Appendix E and mitigation measures outlined in Appendix D, impacts on traffic and transportation would be minimal to moderate but would be temporary and less than significant.

Vegetation, Wildlife, and Wetlands including Forestry Resources

Construction activities associated with the Proposed Action would result in a temporary loss of riparian vegetation and waters of the United States. However, in the long term, floodplain function and riverine processes would be restored by revegetation of alluvial features, particularly floodplains. Upland features (i.e., terraces) would also be restored, primarily by converting old dredge tailing deposits into productive wildlife habitat. Overall, the Proposed Action would increase structural and species diversity and would speed reestablishment of native riparian and upland vegetation. Long-term changes in river inundation periods are expected to increase seasonal and perennial riparian habitats and offset impacts to wetlands and other waters. The project is designed to enhance the functions and services of the aquatic system, including wetlands and other waters.

The Proposed Action was planned to benefit riparian and upland habitat and function and has the potential to affect wildlife, including special-status wildlife species (designated BLM sensitive species and/or federally and state ESA-listed threatened and endangered species). Therefore, specific environmental commitments and project design features are included in the Proposed Action to ensure that activities occur in a manner that addresses potential impacts to special-status species, including avian and amphibian species.

No wildlife species listed under the ESA as threatened, endangered, or candidates for listing as threatened or endangered have been observed in the project area during project field surveys. In addition, the highly disturbed complex of dredge tailings deposits with isolated riparian and upland vegetation does not provide habitat for the northern spotted owl or other federally listed wildlife species potentially found in the area. Therefore, the project would not affect federally listed species.

The Proposed Action, including the environmental commitments and project design features listed in Appendix D and Appendix E combined with riparian revegetation measures, would ensure that the Proposed Action would not significantly impact vegetation, wildlife, and wetlands.

Water Resources and Quality

Implementation of the Proposed Action, including construction activities in and adjacent to the low-flow channel, could temporarily increase turbidity and total suspended solids in the water column. The project could also result in a spill of hazardous materials (e.g., grease, solvents) into the Trinity River.

Construction activities would be staged and timed to minimize potential water quality effects. Appropriate project design features, such as placing clean rock berms around work areas and isolating them from the river, would be implemented to avoid and reduce water quality impacts. Turbidity affects would be localized and short term, and the project would adhere to a water quality permit. The Spill Prevention

Plan developed by the contractor would prevent hazardous material spillage. Therefore, impacts on water quality would be less than significant.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

The Secretary of the Interior designated the Trinity River as a National Wild and Scenic River in 1981. Implementation of the Proposed Action would result in a long-term benefit to the form and function of the Trinity River relative to the values that existed on the date of designation, thereby enhancing the Outstandingly Remarkable Values for which it was designated as a Wild and Scenic River, including its anadromous fishery. Implementation of the Proposed Action would alter the riverine environment; however, construction activities would not permanently affect the scenic or recreational values of the Trinity River for which it was designated.

Effects on Public Health and Safety

The proposed action is not expected to impact public health and safety. Hazards to the public were assessed in the Master EIR, and no issues were identified. Indirect public health or safety concerns are assessed in the Air Quality, Noise, Recreation, and Transportation and Traffic sections. Therefore, no direct or significant indirect impacts to public health and safety would result from the Proposed Action.

Effects that would violate federal, state, tribal, or local law protecting the environment. Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.

There are no effects that constitute violations of any Federal, State, and local law protecting the environment. The proposed action conforms with the provisions of NEPA and FLPMA and is compliant with the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Endangered Species Act. There was no controversy found regarding impacts to resources or resource uses from the proposed action.

Redding Field Office Consistency Review of Northwest Forest Plan Implementation

Does the proposed action occur within either the California Klamath or California Cascades Physiographic Zones of the Northwest Forest Plan?

(X) Yes () No

The project occurs within the California Klamath/Cascades Mountains Physiographic Zone of the Northwest Forest Plan.

1.A. Projects that comply with the Pechman Exemption (Attachment 1).

Does the proposed action meet an existing exemption category (2006 Pechman Exemption)

(X) Yes () No

1.B. Projects that Comply With the 2001 Survey and Manage Record of Decision and Plan Amendment with Subsequent ASRs except for the Red Tree Vole (Attachment 1).

The project area has been examined for the three required survey criteria, which include

1. Does the project area occur within the range of the species?

(X) Yes () No

Comments: See Appendix L of the EA/IS

2. Does the project contain suitable habitat

(X) Yes () No

Comments: See Appendix L of the EA/IS

3. Does the project negatively affect the species or habitat?

() Yes (X) No

Comments: See Appendix L of the EA/IS

If all three Survey and Manage Species Review boxes are checked 'Yes', S&M species surveys are required. If however, upon review of the above survey criteria, it has been determined that the project occurs outside the range of S&M species, the project does not contain suitable habitat or the project does not negatively affect species or their habitat the project does not meet required survey criteria.

2. Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) Compliance

Will the proposed action prevent or retard attainment of any of the ACS objectives, below, in the long term at both the site and watershed level.

() Yes (X) No

- 1. The Proposed Action would maintain or have no effect upon the distribution, diversity, and complexity of watershed and landscape-scale features to ensure protection of the aquatic systems to which species, populations, and communities are uniquely adapted.*
- 2. The Proposed Action would maintain or have no effect upon the spatial and temporal connectivity within and between watersheds.*
- 3. The Proposed Action would maintain or have no effect upon the physical integrity of the aquatic system.*
- 4. The Proposed Action would maintain or have no effect upon water quality necessary to support healthy riparian, aquatic, and wetland ecosystems.*
- 5. The Proposed Action would maintain or have no effect upon the sediment regime under which this aquatic ecosystem evolved.*
- 6. The Proposed Action would maintain or have no effect upon in-stream flows.*
- 7. The Proposed Action would maintain or have no effect upon the timing, variability, and duration of floodplain inundation and water table elevation in meadows and wetlands.*
- 8. The Proposed Action would maintain or have no effect upon species composition and structural diversity of plant communities in riparian areas and wetlands.*
- 9. The Proposed Action would maintain or have no effect upon habitat which supports well-distributed populations of native plant, invertebrate and vertebrate riparian-dependent species.*

The proposed project will have no effect on ACS compliance and will not prevent or retard attainment of any of the ACS objectives listed above.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH 40 CFR 1501.6

After considering the environmental effects described for the Proposed Action in the Trinity River Channel Rehabilitation Projects: Upper Conner Creek (UCC) site (River Mile [RM] 77.1 to 78.5) and Sawmill Gravel Processing (Sawmill) site (RM 108.9 to 109.75) EA/IS and project record, including information received during the 30-day public comment period, we have determined that implementation of the Proposed Action would not have significant environmental impacts, is in conformance with the BLM's RMP, and would not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, a supplemental EIS is not needed and will not be prepared. There are no connected actions to the Proposed Action that would result in significant effects to resources analyzed in the EA/IS.

Based on the documentation in the EA/IS and the project record, I find that the short- and long-term effects of the Proposed Action, with the incorporation of environmental commitments outlined in Appendix E and mitigation measures outlined in Appendix D of the EA/IS, as disclosed in the EA/IS are not significant with respect to the affected area and its resources, and would not violate Federal, State, Tribal, or local law or jeopardize public health and safety/welfare or environmental quality. Further, the

effects of the Proposed Action, disclosed in Section 4, support the finding that it meets TRRP objectives established in the 2000 ROD and would be consistent with the 1993 Redding resource management plan for the BLM.

Section 2.1.4 of the EA describes how mitigation measures and environmental commitments apply to the Proposed Action and Appendix D includes a detailed Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (RRMP) for the Project that would be employed during implementation to avoid or limit potential impacts to natural and cultural resources. To offset impacts to on-site streams and riparian habitat, TRRP would replant wetland and woody riparian vegetation. As outlined in the RRMP, monitoring will occur annually for five years. Post-construction monitoring would be required at the UCC and Sawmill sites to ensure that recovery of wetlands and riparian vegetation meet permit requirements within 5 years of the completion of rehabilitation project construction and revegetation. The mitigation measures included in Appendix D are an updated version of those included in the Master Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which are required by law or regulation.

The authority by which environmental commitments and mitigation measures are enforced lies with the lead NEPA agency (Reclamation), cooperating agency under NEPA (BLM), the California Environmental Quality Act lead agency (California North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board), and the permitting agencies (the Army Corps of Engineers, Trinity County, the State and Regional Water Boards). Principal authorities that relate to the need for mitigation include; NEPA, FLPMA, CEQA, National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and other applicable statutes and regulations.

The construction of the Proposed Action at the Upper Conner Creek and Sawmill sites is expected to provide localized improvements in aquatic and riparian habitats currently present at the site. The Proposed Action would assist in meeting long-term needs to enhance fish habitat and provide properly functioning river conditions. Although effects considered included those adverse and beneficial, the finding is not biased by the beneficial effects of the action.

The Proposed Action described in this finding is consistent with BLM's RMP, the FLPMA, and the California Environmental Quality Act. The following permits are required to authorize the project:

- Section 404, Clean Water Act, Nationwide Permit 27 (San Francisco District, USACE);
- Section 401, Clean Water Act Water Quality Certification (Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region);
- Section 7, Endangered Species Act, 2020 Biological Opinion (NMFS);
- BLM Free Use Permit (FUP) to use mineral materials pursuant to 43 CFR 3604;
- BLM FUP to remove and use vegetation for site-specific rehabilitation activities pursuant to 43 CFR 5510;
- BLM Fee Permit for the removal of commercially viable trees pursuant to 43 CFR 5400;
- BLM Right of Way;
- Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (State of California)
- Encroachment Permits (California Department of Trinity County); and
- Floodplain Development Permit (Trinity County).

Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations

The Proposed Action to implement the rehabilitation activities, including those specified under the jurisdiction of BLM, is consistent with the intent of the RMP for the Redding Field Office for resource management conditions. Contact

For additional information concerning the Proposed Action, contact Lauren Alvares, Permitting Specialist and Coordinator for the Trinity River Channel Rehabilitation Projects: Upper Conner Creek Site and Sawmill Gravel Processing Site, Trinity River Restoration Program, P.O. Box 1300, and 1313 Main Street, Weaverville California, 96093. Email: lalvares@usbr.gov.