

Section 3.7. Vegetation, Wildlife, and Wetlands

Revisions to Section 3.7.2 consist of the updating of Table 3.7-1 (page 3.7-5); the inclusion of Revised Figure 3.7-1b (page 3.7-4) and Revised Figure 3.7-2b (page 3.7-16); and the addition of an impacts analysis for Alternative 3, pages 3.7-36 to 3.7-59, provided below.

**Revised Table 3.7-1.
Habitat Types Present at the Site (acres)**

HABITAT TYPES	ALTERNATIVE 3 INDIAN CREEK SITE (ACRES)
Annual grassland	22.11
Barren	21.36
Foothill pine	0.54
Klamath mixed conifer	8.23
Mixed chaparral	1.24
Montane hardwood	6.47
Montane hardwood-conifer	96.21
Montane riparian	88.17
Open water	0.93
Ponderosa pine	8.32
Riverine	27.57
Urban	48.07
TOTAL	329.22

**Revised Table 3.7-5
Summary of Vegetation, Wildlife, and Wetland Impacts for Alternative 3**

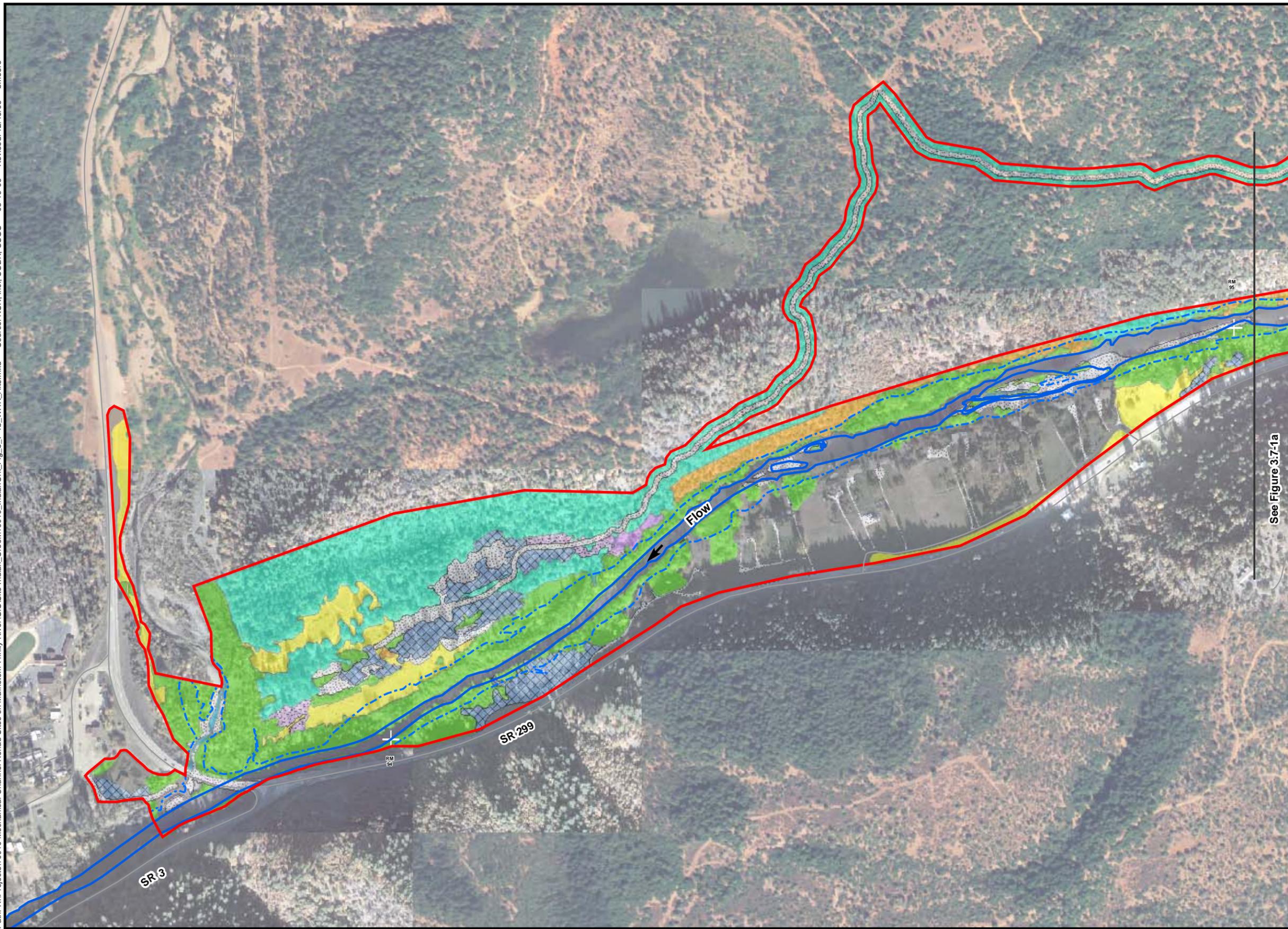
ALTERNATIVE 3	ALTERNATIVE 3 WITH MITIGATION
Impact 3.7-1. Construction activities associated with the project could result in the loss of jurisdictional waters (e.g., wetlands) and riparian habitat.	
S	LS
Impact 3.7-2. Implementation of the project would result in the loss of upland plant communities.	
LS	N/A ¹
Impact 3.7-3. Construction of the project could result in the loss of individuals of a special-status plant species.	
NI	N/A ¹

**Revised Table 3.7-5
Summary of Vegetation, Wildlife, and Wetland Impacts for Alternative 3**

ALTERNATIVE 3	ALTERNATIVE 3 WITH MITIGATION
Impact 3.7-4. Construction activities associated with the project could result in impacts to the state-listed little willow flycatcher.	
S	LS
Impact 3.7-5. Construction activities associated with the project could result in impacts to foothill yellow-legged frogs.	
S	LS
Impact 3.7-6. Construction activities associated with the project could result in impacts to northwestern pond turtles.	
S	LS
Impact 3.7-7. Construction activities associated with the project could result in impacts to nesting Vaux’s swifts, ruffed grouse, yellow warblers, and yellow-breasted chats.	
S	LS
Impact 3.7-8. Construction activities associated with the project could disrupt active special-status raptor nests.	
S	LS
Impact 3.7-9. Construction activities associated with the project could result in impacts to special-status bats and the ring-tailed cat.	
S	LS
Impact 3.7-10. Construction activities associated with the project could result in the temporary loss of non-breeding habitat for several special-status birds.	
LS	N/A ¹
Impact 3.7-11. Construction activities associated with the project could result in impacts to BLM sensitive species.	
S	LS
Impact 3.7-12. Construction activities associated with the project could restrict terrestrial wildlife movement through the project area.	
LS	N/A ¹
Impact 3.7-13. Implementation of the project could result in the spread of non-native and invasive plant species.	
S	LS

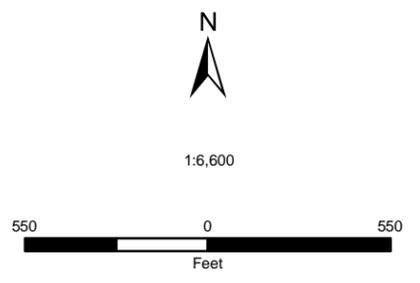
LS = Less than Significant S = Significant N/A = Not Applicable

¹Because this potential impact is less than significant, no mitigation is required.

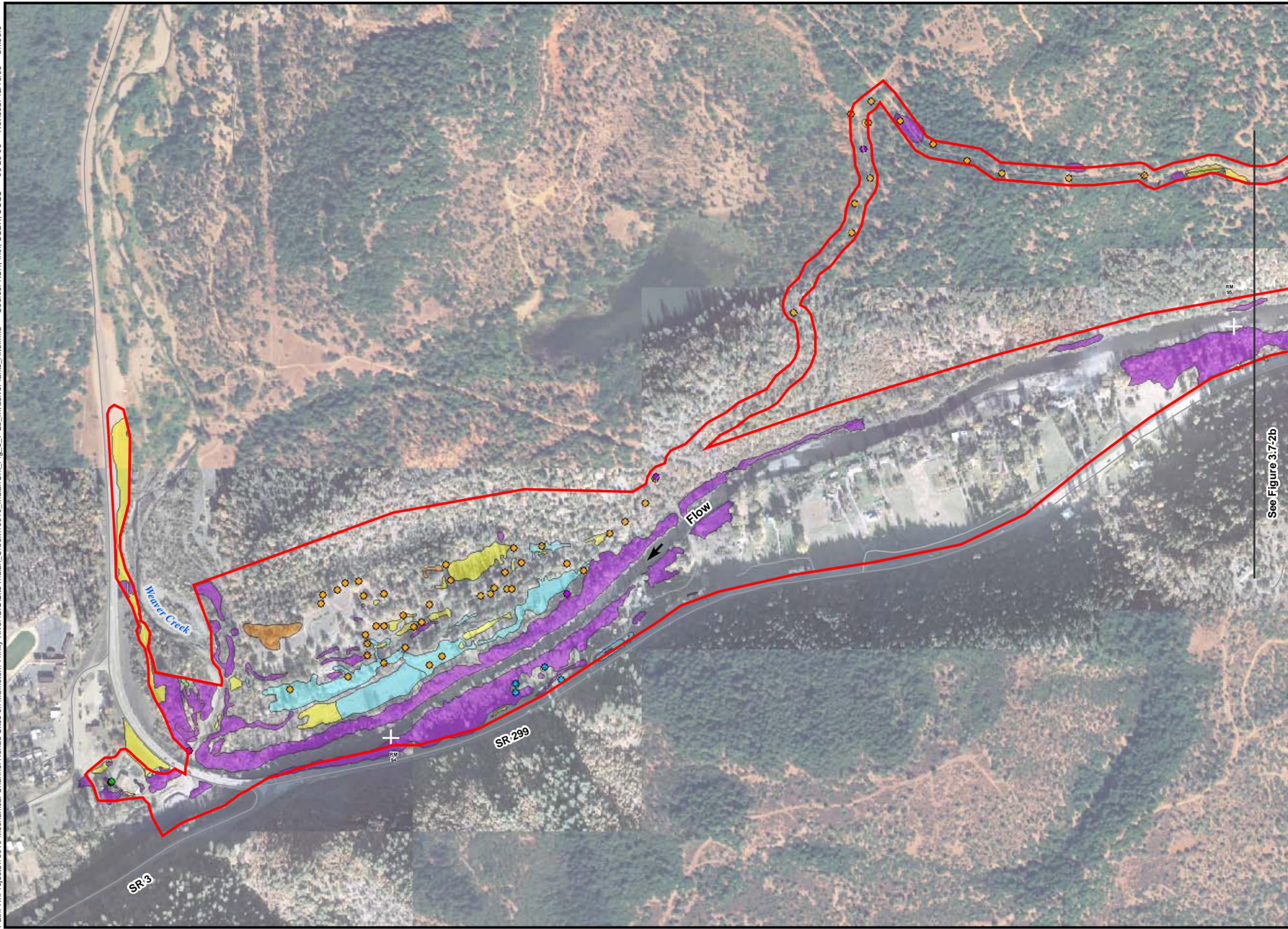


- Revised Site Boundary
 - River Mile (RM)
 - Match Line
 - River Line (300 cfs)
 - Ordinary High Water Mark (6,000 cfs)
- Plant Community**
- Annual Grassland (22.11 acres)
 - Mixed Chaparral (1.24 acres)
 - Montane Riparian (88.17 acres)
 - Foothill Pine (0.54 acre)
 - Ponderosa Pine (8.32 acres)
 - Klamath Mixed Conifer (8.23 acres)
 - Montane Hardwood (6.47 acres)
 - Montane Hardwood - Conifer (96.21 acres)
 - Open Water (0.93 acre)
 - Barren (21.36 acres)
 - Urban (48.06 acres)

See Figure 3.7-1a



Aerial photography:
July 2005



- Site Boundary
- River Mile (RM)
- matchline_field

Plant Species

Isolated Stands

- Black locust
- Canada thistle
- Dalmatian toadflax
- Himalayan blackberry
- Klamathweed
- Scotch broom
- Tree-of-Heaven

Consolidated Stands

- Black locust (0.03 acre)
- Dalmatian toadflax (18.52 acres)
- Himalayan blackberry (41.83 acres)
- Klamathweed (0.72 acre)
- Yellow star-thistle (9.9 acres)

Note: Some areas were not surveyed due to steepness of terrain or no access to private property.

See Figure 3:7-2b



1:6,600



Aerial photography:
July 2005

Impact 3.7-1: Construction activities associated with the project could result in the loss of jurisdictional wetlands and riparian habitat. *Significant Impact Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

Construction activities associated with Alternative 3 would result in temporary impacts to jurisdictional waters (e.g., wetland features) within the site. Revised Table 3.7-6 lists impacts to these wetland features for Alternative 3. Construction of Alternative 3 would result in a direct temporary impact to 13.48 acres of jurisdictional waters (13.40 acres of Riverine and 0.08 acres of riparian wetland; Revised Figure 3.7-4d). Temporary impacts to jurisdictional waters would be considered significant.

Construction activities associated with Alternative 3 would also result in temporary impacts to up to 17.29 acres of riparian habitat as defined by the State [includes both riparian wetlands as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and upland montane riparian vegetation described in California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CDFG 2005; Figures 3.6-10 a and b)]. Impacts to riparian habitat would be considered significant.

**Revised Table 3.7-6
Expected Maximum Areas of Disturbance to Jurisdictional Waters**

JURISDICTIONAL WATER TYPE	APPROXIMATE AREA OF DISTURBANCE (ACRES)
	ALTERNATIVE 3
Riverine	13.397
Ephemeral creek	0.001
Intermittent creek	0.001
Riparian wetland	0.082
Seasonal wet meadow	0.000
Intermittent pool	0.000
Total Jurisdictional Waters	13.481

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

Mitigation measures for this impact under Alternative 3 are identical to those described for the action alternatives in the EA/DEIR. Please see page 3.7-38, 43 of the EA/DEIR for these measures.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

Impact 3.7-2: Implementation of the project would result in the loss of upland plant communities.
Less-than-Significant Impact for Alternative 3

Alternative 3

Revised Table 3.7-7 indicates the total acreage of permanent and temporary impacts to upland plant communities as a result of Alternative 3. The permanent loss of 31.37 acres and a temporary impact to 7.82 acres of upland habitat is not considered significant due to the relative abundance of these upland plant community types within the sites and local area. Furthermore, a proportion of the permanently lost montane riparian habitat communities would be replaced with an early and diverse stage of riparian community that is relatively rare along the river. A combination of replanting and natural revegetation will occur to ensure that riparian habitat values on the Trinity River meet wildlife needs. Current needs for revegetation will be determined via monitoring, coordination with local resource agencies, and adaptively managing to meet changing needs and desired future conditions. Temporary access routes and staging areas will be rehabilitated and stabilized to the satisfaction of the land manager/landowner upon completion of work. Additionally, any affected upland areas will be seeded with native plant species.

Revised Table 3.7-7
Expected Maximum Areas of Disturbance to Upland Plant Communities

UPLAND PLANT COMMUNITY TYPE	APPROXIMATE AREA OF DISTURBANCE (ACRES)	
	ALTERNATIVE 3	
	TEMPORARY	PERMANENT
Annual grassland	3.33	4.08
Barren	0.23	2.22
Foothill pine	0.00	0.05
Klamath mixed conifer	0.00	2.56
Mixed chaparral	0.00	0.42
Montane hardwood	0.00	0.10
Montane hardwood-conifer	0.62	4.45
Montane riparian	1.48	15.80
Ponderosa pine	1.58	0.47
Urban	0.58	1.22
Total	7.82	31.37

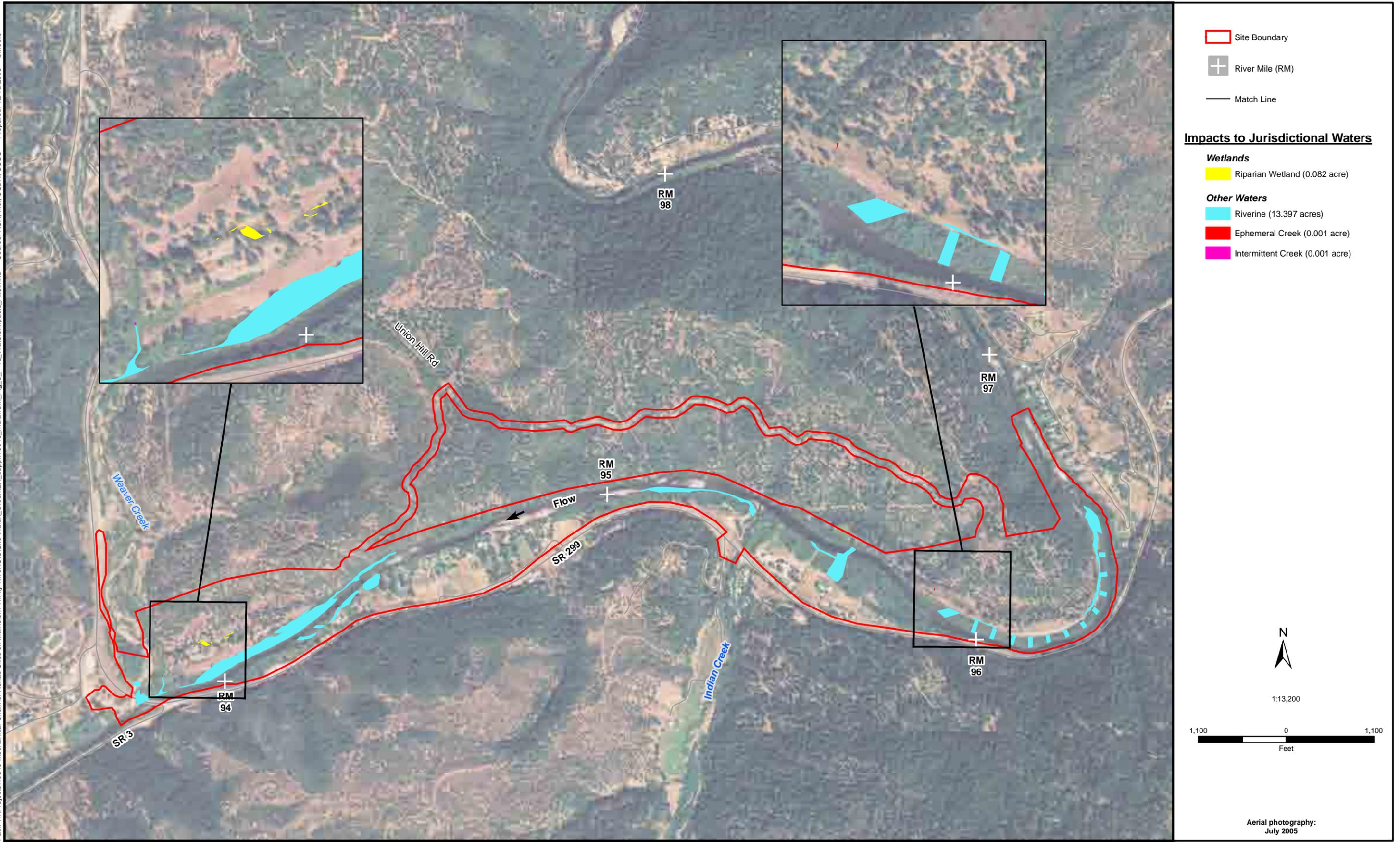


Figure 3.7-4d
Alternative 3 Impacts to Jurisdictional Waters of the United States

*Mitigation Measures**Alternative 3*

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

Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Impact 3.7-3: Construction of the project could result in the loss of individuals of a special-status plant species. *No Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

Floristic (vegetation) inventories and special-status plant surveys were conducted over the entirety of the site. No special-status plant species were detected within the project boundary. Therefore, no impacts to special-status plant species would occur as a result of the project.

*Mitigation Measures**Alternative 3*

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

Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Impact 3.7-4: Construction activities associated with the project could result in impacts to the state-listed little willow flycatcher. *Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

Suitable montane riparian habitat for the little willow flycatcher is present at the site, and willow flycatchers were detected in the study area during the 2005 breeding season (Herrera 2006). Alternative 3 would result in a small, temporary reduction of foraging habitat for this species. However, implementation of Mitigation Measures 3.7-1 a and b will ensure that there is no net loss of riparian habitat and a long-term increase in riparian habitat diversity. Thus, due to the small and temporary nature of the impacts and the regional abundance of similar habitats, the project is not expected to have a significant impact on habitat for the little willow flycatcher. However, the removal of riparian vegetation and the noise associated with construction activities could disturb individuals nesting on or adjacent to the sites. Construction disturbance during the breeding season could result in the incidental loss of fertile eggs or nestlings, or otherwise lead to nest abandonment. Loss of fertile eggs or nesting little willow flycatchers or any activities resulting in nest abandonment would be considered a significant impact.

*Mitigation Measures**Alternative 3*

Mitigation measures for this impact under Alternative 3 are identical to those described for the action alternatives in the EA/DEIR. Please see page 3.7-47 of the EA/DEIR for these measures.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

Impact 3.7-5: Construction activities associated with the project could result in impacts to the foothill yellow-legged frog. *Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

The project site provides suitable habitat for the foothill yellow-legged frog, and the species is known to occur in Indian Creek (Don Ashton, Redwood Sciences Laboratory, pers. comm.). Construction activities associated with Alternative 3 may affect foothill yellow-legged frogs directly and indirectly. Potential direct effects include mortality of individuals due to equipment and vehicle traffic, disturbance of boulders or cobbles that support egg masses, and the loss of riparian vegetation cover. The species may also be indirectly affected if construction activities result in degradation of aquatic habitat and water quality due to erosion and sedimentation, accidental fuel leaks, and spills. These impacts would be considered significant. However, over the long term, the project will benefit the species through the creation of additional and higher quality habitat, such as feathered edges and backwaters that will provide habitat for tadpoles.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

Mitigation measures for this impact under Alternative 3 are identical to those described for the action alternatives in the EA/DEIR. Please see page 3.7-48 of the EA/DEIR for these measures.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

Impact 3.7-6: Construction activities associated with the project could result in impacts to the northwestern pond turtle. *Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

The project site provides suitable habitat for the northwestern pond turtle, and this species has been observed in the project area (Herrera 2006). Construction activities associated with Alternative 3 could affect pond turtles directly and indirectly. Potential direct effects include mortality of individuals due to equipment and vehicle traffic, disturbance to nests in upland areas, and loss of riparian cover. The species may also be indirectly affected if construction activities result in degradation of aquatic habitat and water quality due to erosion and sedimentation, accidental fuel leaks, and spills. Thus, construction activities associated with the project may result in significant impacts to the northwestern pond turtle. However, over the long term, the project will benefit the species through the creation of additional and higher quality habitat. For example, removal of riparian berms will improve access to potential upland nesting and overwintering sites, and the creation of side channels will provide slow-water basking and foraging habitat.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

Mitigation measures for this impact under Alternative 3 are identical to those described for the action alternatives in the EA/DEIR. Please see page 3.7-49 of the EA/DEIR for these measures.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

Impact 3.7-7: Construction activities associated with the project could result in impacts to nesting California yellow warblers, yellow-breasted chats, Vaux's swifts, and ruffed grouse.

Significant Impact for Alternative 3*Alternative 3*

The riparian habitat associated with the Trinity River corridor in the project area provides suitable nesting and foraging habitat for the California yellow warbler and yellow-breasted chat. Both of these species are designated as Species of Special Concern by the CDFG. Both species have been observed in the project area during the breeding season (Herrera 2006) and may nest on site. The conifer habitat in the project area provides habitat for the Vaux's swift and ruffed grouse. Vaux's swifts have been observed in the project area (Herrera 2006).

Alternative 3 would result in a small, temporary reduction of nesting, foraging, and/or roosting habitat for these species. However, implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.7-1 will ensure that there is no net loss of riparian habitat. Furthermore, Alternative 3 would result in a long-term increase in riparian habitat diversity, increasing the quality of the habitat for the California yellow warbler and the yellow-breasted chat. Thus, due to the small and temporary nature of the impacts and the regional abundance of similar habitats, the project is not expected to have a significant impact on habitat for the Vaux's swift, ruffed grouse, California yellow warbler, and yellow-breasted chat. However, the removal of riparian vegetation and the noise associated with construction activities could disturb individuals nesting on or adjacent to the sites. Construction disturbance during the breeding season could result in the incidental loss of fertile eggs or nestlings, or otherwise lead to nest abandonment. Loss of fertile eggs or nesting individuals or any activities resulting in nest abandonment would be considered a significant impact.

*Mitigation Measures**Alternative 3*

Mitigation measures for this impact under Alternative 3 are identical to those described for the action alternatives in the EA/DEIR. Please see page 3.7-51 of the EA/DEIR for these measures.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

Impact 3.7-8: Construction activities associated with the project could disrupt nesting by special-status raptors. ***Significant Impact for Alternative 3***

Alternative 3

Suitable nesting habitat for the northern goshawk, osprey, Cooper's hawk, and sharp-shinned hawk, which are designated as California Species of Special Concern, occurs at the site. Construction disturbance during the breeding season could result in the incidental loss of fertile eggs or nestlings, or otherwise lead to nest abandonment. Loss of fertile eggs or nesting raptors, or any activities resulting in raptor nest abandonment, would be considered a significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

Mitigation measures for this impact under Alternative 3 are identical to those described for the action alternatives in the EA/DEIR. Please see page 3.7-52 of the EA/DEIR for these measures.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

Impact 3.7-9: Construction activities associated with the project could result in impacts to special-status bats and the ring-tailed cat. *Less-than-Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

The Trinity River riparian corridor, including the site for Alternative 3, provides suitable roosting and/or foraging habitat for four bat species: the long-eared myotis, pallid bat, Yuma myotis, and Townsend's western big-eared bat. Species-specific surveys for bats were not conducted at the site; therefore, their presence is assumed. Two of these bat species (long-eared myotis bat and pallid bat) may roost in trees (e.g., spaces under tree bark or in cavities) as well as caves and buildings, while the other two species (Townsend's western big-eared bat and Yuma myotis) prefer to nest in structures such as buildings, caves, and mines. The project area does not provide suitable roosting habitat for the Townsend's western big-eared bat or the Yuma myotis. For the long-eared myotis and pallid bat (species that roost in trees), habitat preference is typically woodland and forest habitat. It is unlikely that these bats would roost in the willows and alders typically found immediately along the Trinity River. However, they may roost in habitats more likely to contain large trees with cavities or loose bark, such as montane hardwood and foothill pine. Impacts to habitat containing potential roost trees will occur at the site. Noise and visual disturbances associated with construction activities may disrupt bats roosting within and directly adjacent to the project area. Further, removing large trees with cavities could result in the direct loss of colonies and may be considered a significant impact.

Each of these bat species has the potential to forage at the project site. Foraging habitat typically consists of forested habitats in close association with water. Construction activities associated with Alternative 3 could temporarily alter the foraging patterns of these species; however, this would be considered a less-than-significant impact based on the abundance of suitable foraging habitat in the vicinity of Alternative 3. No long-term impediments to foraging habitat associated with Alternative 3 are anticipated.

The Trinity River riparian corridor also provides habitat for the ring-tailed cat. The willows and alders typically found immediately along the river are unlikely to provide suitable denning habitat for this species due to their small size and lack of large cavities/snags. However, other habitats in the project area, such as montane hardwood and montane hardwood conifer, may provide suitable denning sites. Thus, removal of large trees with cavities or snags could result in the loss of ring-tailed cats, which would be considered a significant impact. Construction activities would also result in short-term reduction in foraging habitat for this species. However, the project would ultimately result in an increase in habitat and an increase in habitat quality for this species. Thus, due to the abundance of similar habitat in the area, the temporary loss of foraging habitat would be a less-than-significant impact.

*Mitigation Measures**Alternative 3*

Mitigation measures for this impact under Alternative 3 are identical to those described for the action alternatives in the EA/DEIR. Please see page 3.7-54, 55 of the EA/DEIR for these measures.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

Impact 3.7-10: Construction activities associated with the project could result in the temporary loss of non-breeding habitat for special-status birds. *Less-than-Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

The Trinity River riparian corridor, including the project area, provides both foraging and perching habitat for bald eagles, golden eagles, American peregrine falcons, merlins, and black swifts, but suitable nesting habitat is absent. The nearest known bald eagle nesting site is located approximately 7 miles to the northeast on the Trinity River. Construction activities associated with the project could temporarily alter the foraging patterns of these species; however, this impact would be considered less than significant based on the abundance of suitable foraging habitat in the vicinity of the proposed project. No long-term impediments to foraging habitat associated with Alternative 3 are anticipated. The loss of potential perch trees would not affect the abundance of these species or their use of the Trinity River for foraging habitat.

*Mitigation Measures**Alternative 3*

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

Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Impact 3.7-11: Construction activities associated with the project could result in impacts to BLM sensitive species. *Significant Impact for Alternative 3, except for the Pacific fisher, and Less-than-Significant Impact for Alternative 3 for the Pacific fisher*

Alternative 3

As previously discussed, plant surveys for U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sensitive and Survey and Manage species were conducted at the site during the spring and summer of 2002 and fall 2003 (McFarland 2003). Neither of the two BLM sensitive plant species with the potential to occur at the site were identified during the focused plant surveys. Additionally, surveys for mollusks were conducted within the site during the spring 2006 survey period. No mollusks were located during either visit. None of the public lands at the site contain suitable habitat for BLM sensitive mollusks.

Seven of the wildlife species with potential to occur at the site are designated BLM sensitive species: foothill yellow-legged frog, Pacific fisher, small-footed myotis bat, long-eared myotis bat, pallid bat, Townsend's western big-eared bat, and Yuma myotis bat (see Revised Table 3.7-1). With the exception of the Pacific fisher, potential impacts to these species are discussed as separate impacts above. The Pacific fisher may use the Trinity River as a travel corridor; however, suitable denning habitat is not

present at the site. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and mitigation measures are not required for the Pacific fisher.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

Since no significant impacts for the Pacific fisher were identified, no mitigation is required. Mitigation measures 5a, 5b, and 5c on page 3.7-48 of the EA/DEIR will reduce the impacts to the foothill yellow-legged frog to a less-than-significant level. Mitigation measures 9a and 9b on page 3.7-54, 55 of the EA/DEIR will reduce the impacts to special-status bat species to a less-than-significant level.

Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Impact 3.7-12: Construction activities associated with the project could restrict terrestrial wildlife movement through the sites. ***Less-than-Significant Impact for Alternative 3***

Alternative 3

The Trinity River corridor provides habitat and travel corridors for such species as Pacific fisher, American marten, black-tailed deer, river otter, beaver, common merganser (*Mergus merganser*), green heron (*Butorides virescens*), black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), wood duck (*Aix sponsa*), belted kingfisher, cliff swallow (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*), bank swallow, and raccoon. The riparian vegetation along the Trinity River, in association with adjacent and/or nearby mixed-conifer and montane hardwood-conifer habitat, provides connected habitat within an area that has been fragmented by rural residential development and road building. Black-tailed deer inhabit shrublands, forests, and oak woodlands and use riparian vegetation for cover. However, construction noise and activity will not significantly impede the seasonal migration of the Weaverville deer herd from high elevation summer habitats to lower elevation critical winter ranges in the project vicinity. Construction noise could also temporarily alter foraging patterns of resident wildlife species, and vegetation removal along the river could temporarily disrupt wildlife movement through the area. However, no long-term impediments to wildlife movement within the sites are anticipated as a result of implementing Alternative 3. Therefore, this would be a less-than-significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

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

Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Impact 3.7-13: Implementation of the project could result in the spread of non-native and invasive plant species. ***Significant Impact for Alternative 3***

Alternative 3

Implementation of the proposed project could result in the spread of non-native and invasive plant species (e.g., dalmatian toadflax, yellow star-thistle, Himalayan blackberry, and Klamathweed) during ground-

disturbing activities. This would be considered a significant impact. However, further spread of weeds is not anticipated with implementation of the mitigation measures described below.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

Mitigation measures for this impact under Alternative 3 are identical to those described for the action alternatives in the EA/DEIR. Please see page 3.7-58, 59 of the EA/DEIR for these measures.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

Section 3.8. Recreation

Revisions to Section 3.8 consist of the addition of an Alternative 3 impacts analysis to Section 3.8.3, pages 3.8-9 to 3.8-14. Because there have been no changes in recreation areas with Alternative 3 and its associated larger site boundary, the only revision to the original EA/DEIR Figure 3.8-1 would have been depiction of the alternative's extended perimeter. Since no new recreation information would have been depicted in this figure, a revised Figure 3.8-1 does not require revision. The impact analysis for Alternative 3 is provided below.

**Revised Table 3.8-2
Summary of Recreation Impacts for Alternative 3**

ALTERNATIVE 3	ALTERNATIVE 3 WITH MITIGATION
Impact 3.8-1. Construction associated with the project could disrupt recreation activities in the Trinity River.	
S	LS
Impact 3.8-2. Construction of the project could result in an increased safety risk to recreational users.	
S	LS
Impact 3.8-3. Construction associated with the project could lower the river's aesthetic value for recreationists by increasing turbidity levels in the Trinity River.	
S	LS
Impact 3.8-4. Implementation of the project could affect Wild and Scenic River Values.	
LS	N/A ¹

LS = Less than Significant S = Significant N/A = Not Applicable

¹Because this potential impact is less than significant, no mitigation is required.

Impact 3.8-1: Construction associated with the project could disrupt recreation activities (boating, fishing, and swimming) in the Trinity River. *Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

As previously discussed, the Trinity River supports in-stream recreational uses, primarily whitewater recreation and fishing. These in-stream recreational activities take place throughout the year, but are more prevalent between the months of April and December. Access to the Trinity River is available on public and private lands, including undeveloped foot paths and improved access points. Some of these access points prohibit public use. Public access is provided on lands owned by Trinity County and BLM lands. Where available, access to the river provides a variety of water-based recreational activities (e.g., boating, fishing, swimming).

During implementation of Alternative 3, there would be construction equipment and activity within the floodplain and immediately adjacent to the river bank. Actions within the activity areas described in Chapter 2 may result in short-term interruptions to public access. However, river access will remain available at the Douglas City Campground and the Steel Bridge Campground along with several public and private access points to the east and west of these facilities. These facilities will ensure uninterrupted public access to the river on both sides of the project boundary. This impact is considered significant, even though potential disruptions to recreational activities within the project boundary would be temporary.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

Mitigation measures for this impact under Alternative 3 are identical to those described for the action alternatives in the EA/DEIR. Please see page 3.8-10 of the EA/DEIR for these measures.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

Impact 3.8-2: Construction of the project could result in an increased safety risk to recreational users. *Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

During construction of Alternative 3, there would be heavy equipment activity and construction vehicle traffic directly adjacent to the Trinity River. The river crossing required for treatment area R-1 is expected to be in place for up to 4 weeks during the low flow period. This crossing would require the placement of gravel access pads within the river channel. These construction-related activities could distract recreational users (e.g., boaters, anglers) for a short period of time (approximately 3-6 weeks during the low flow period). The in-channel activities associated with the Weaver Creek crossing (X-3) would be accomplished in a way that minimizes impacts to navigation (i.e., safety) but this would still be considered a significant, albeit temporary, impact. Unlike the Proposed Action, Alternative 1, and Alternative 2, no in-channel activities would occur at R-5.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

Mitigation measures for this impact under Alternative 3 are identical to those described for the action alternatives in the EA/DEIR. Please see page 3.8-11 of the EA/DEIR for these measures.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

Impact 3.8-3: Construction activities associated with the project could lower the Trinity River's aesthetic values for recreationists by increasing turbidity levels in the Trinity River.

Significant Impact for Alternative 3

Alternative 3

Alternative 3 could increase turbidity in the Trinity River for some distance downstream. The level of this increase is largely dependent on the flow regime at the time of the discharge. The flows that typically contribute to good fishing tend to be clear, and nominal increases in turbidity may affect the recreational experience of anglers and the aesthetic values of other user groups. Water quality objectives for the Trinity River specifically prohibit increases in the levels of other materials in a way that causes nuisance or adversely affects beneficial uses (i.e., recreation).

The Basin Plan includes two specific prohibitions directed at construction, logging, and other associated non-point source activities:

- The discharge of soil, silt, bark, sawdust or other organic and earthen material from any logging, construction or associated activity of whatever nature into any stream or watercourse in the basin in quantities deleterious to fish, wildlife or other beneficial uses is prohibited.
- The placing or disposal of soil, silt, bark, slash or sawdust or other organic and earthen material from any logging, construction or associated activity of whatever nature at locations where such material could pass into any stream or watercourse in the basin in quantities deleterious to fish, wildlife or other beneficial uses is prohibited.

Implementing Alternative 3 has the potential to increase turbidity and total suspended solids during construction activities. Fine sediments may be suspended in the river for several hours following excavation activities. The extent of downstream sedimentation would be a function of the instream flow velocity and particle size. For example, fine-grained sediments like silts and clays can be carried several thousand feet downstream of the excavation areas, while larger-sized sediments like sands and gravels would tend to drop out of the water column within several feet of the construction limit. Increased turbidity and suspended solids levels would adversely affect water quality (refer to Section 3.5, Water Quality) and could also adversely affect anadromous fish species that are known to occur in the Trinity River (refer to Section 3.6, Fisheries Resources). This would therefore be considered a significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

Mitigation measures for this impact under Alternative 3 are identical to those described for the action alternatives in the EA/DEIR. Please see page 3.8-13 of the EA/DEIR for these measures.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

Impact 3.8-4: Implementation of the project could affect Wild and Scenic River values. ***Less-than-Significant Impact for Alternative 3***

Alternative 3

Construction and implementation of Alternative 3 would have a temporary impact on the scenic and recreational components of the Trinity River’s Wild and Scenic River values. However, the impact on scenic values would be less than significant because the rehabilitation activities would enhance the overall form and function of the Trinity River, thereby enhancing the outstandingly remarkable values for which it was designated a Wild and Scenic River. Temporary impacts on the scenic quality of the river are also discussed above under Impact 3.8-3 and in Section 3.14, Aesthetics.

The impact on recreational values would also be less than significant because access to the river would be available from areas adjacent to the project boundary. Temporary impacts on recreation are also discussed above under Impacts 3.8-1 and 3.8-2.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

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

Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Section 3.9. Socioeconomics

Revisions to Section 3.9.3 consist only of adding an impacts analysis for Alternative 3, pages 3.9-11 to 3.9-14. The impact analysis for Alternative 3 is provided below.

**Revised Table 3.9-2
Summary of Impacts on Socioeconomics for Alternative 3**

ALTERNATIVE 3	ALTERNATIVE 3 WITH MITIGATION
Impact 3.9-1. Construction of the project would provide temporary employment opportunities for construction workers in Trinity County.	
B	B

**Revised Table 3.9-2
Summary of Impacts on Socioeconomics for Alternative 3**

ALTERNATIVE 3	ALTERNATIVE 3 WITH MITIGATION
Impact 3.9-2. Implementation of the project could result in the disruption or displacement of local businesses.	
NI	N/A ¹
Impact 3.9-3. Implementation of the project would result in an increased demand for housing during construction.	
LS	N/A ¹
Impact 3.9-4. Implementation of the project would result in concentrated population growth.	
LS	N/A ¹

LS = Less than Significant

NI = No Impact

B = Beneficial

N/A = Not Applicable

¹Because this potential impact is less than significant, no mitigation is required.

Impact 3.9-1: Construction of the project would provide temporary employment opportunities for construction workers in Trinity County. *Beneficial Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

Project implementation would generate temporary construction-related employment in Trinity County. The number of design, construction, and clerical positions required to complete Alternative 3 is undetermined, but it is expected to add a small percentage to existing local jobs. However, the duration of employment would be dependent on the length of the contracting and construction period (several months/year for up to five years). In addition, Alternative 3 would provide direct local employment opportunities only if workers are hired from the local labor force.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

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

Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Impact 3.9-2: Implementation of the project could result in the disruption or displacement of local businesses. *No Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

Two existing businesses are located within or directly adjacent to the project study area. However, local businesses in the vicinity of the rehabilitation site will not be disrupted or displaced by the project. Construction equipment and vehicle access will not impair access to these local businesses.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

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

Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Impact 3.9-3: Implementation of the project would result in an increased demand for housing during construction. *Less-than-Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

The area surrounding the community of Douglas City is a rural residential area. Few rental opportunities exist within the Douglas City Community Plan area. What rental property does occur in adjacent rural residential areas is typically seasonal rental property available for recreational pursuits. More affordable and more readily available short-term rentals are concentrated in the nearby community of Weaverville. A short-term increase in the demand for housing in Weaverville could occur as a result of construction workers seeking lodging during the construction period. This would be a less-than-significant impact because of the short time during which the housing demand would potentially be increased.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

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

Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Impact 3.9-4: Implementation of the project would result in concentrated population growth. *Less-than-Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

Implementation of Alternative 3 would have a less-than-significant effect on the population numbers of any Trinity County community either during or after construction. Since the majority of workers employed by the project would be drawn from the local work force and because the work is anticipated to be completed in a relatively short period, there would be no concentrated population increases associated with Alternative 3.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

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

Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Section 3.10. Tribal Trust

Revisions to Section 3.10 consist only of adding an analysis of the impacts of Alternative 3 to Section 3.10.3, pages 3.10-9 to 3.10-10. The impact analysis for Alternative 3 is provided below.

**Revised Table 3.10- 1
Summary of Tribal Trust Impacts for Alternative 3**

ALTERNATIVE 3	ALTERNATIVE 3 WITH MITIGATION
Impact 3.10-1. Implementation of the project may reduce the quantity or quality of Tribal trust assets.	
LS	N/A ¹

LS = Less than Significant

N/A = Not Applicable

¹Because this potential impact is less than significant, no mitigation is required.

Impact 3.10-1: Implementation of the project may reduce the quantity or quality of Tribal trust assets.
Less-than-Significant Impact for Alternative 3

Alternative 3

Under Alternative 3, the Trinity River would continue to support tribal trust assets. The short-term impacts described in Section 3.3 (Geology, Fluvial Geomorphology, and Soils); Section 3.5 (Water Quality); Section 3.6 (Fishery Resources); and Section 3.7 (Vegetation Wildlife and Wetlands) would occur if the project is implemented. These impacts are expected to be short-term and to be outweighed by the overall benefits to Tribal trust assets through implementation of the TRRP. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

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

Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Section 3.11. Cultural Resources

Revisions to Section 3.11 consist of the inclusion of Revised Figure 3.11-1 (page 3.11-9) and the addition of an analysis of the impacts of Alternative 3 to Section 3.11.3, pages 3.11-15 to 3.11-17. The impact analysis for Alternative 3 is provided below.

**Revised Table 3.11-1
Summary of Cultural Resources Impacts for Alternative 3**

ALTERNATIVE 3	ALTERNATIVE 3 WITH MITIGATION
Impact 3.11-1: Implementation of the proposed project could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a known cultural resource.	
PS	LS

**Revised Table 3.11-1
Summary of Cultural Resources Impacts for Alternative 3**

ALTERNATIVE 3	ALTERNATIVE 3 WITH MITIGATION
Impact 3.11-2: Implementation of the proposed project could potentially result in disturbance of undiscovered prehistoric or historic resources.	
PS	LS

S = Significant PS = Potentially Significant LS = Less than Significant

Impact 3.11-1: Implementation of the proposed project could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a known cultural resource. *Potentially Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

As previously discussed under “Local Setting” in the EA/DEIR, the project boundary was surveyed for the presence of cultural resources that would be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP.) Based on the results of the surveys, two sites associated with the Union Hill Mine were recorded (Union Hill Terraces [06-TRRP-01] and a Conveyance Ditch [06-TRRP-06], and are therefore considered eligible for inclusion in the NRHP as contributing components to the Union Hill Mine complex. Placement of spoils piles near and within the Union Hill Terrace Mine historical site (06-TRRP-01) could result in significant impacts to sites eligible for inclusion on the NRHP. Site 06-TRRP-06 will not be affected by actions that will take place within the APE.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

Mitigation measures for this impact under Alternative 3 are identical to those described for the action alternatives in the EA/DEIR. Please see page 3.11-16 of the EA/DEIR for these measures.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant.

Impact 3.11-2: Implementation of the proposed project could potentially result in disturbance of undiscovered prehistoric or historic resources. *Potentially Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

As discussed under “Local Setting” in the EA/DEIR, the APE was surveyed for the presence of cultural resources that would be eligible for listing on the NRHP. Based on the results of this survey, two sites associated with the Union Hill Mine were recorded (Union Hill Terraces [06-TRRP-01] and a Conveyance Ditch [06-TRRP-06], and are therefore considered eligible for inclusion on the NRHP as contributing components to the Union Hill Mine complex.

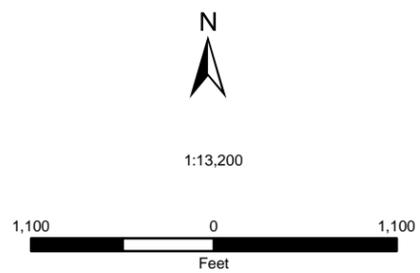
Although unlikely considering the existing level of disturbance, buried archaeological resources that have not been previously recorded may be uncovered during construction. Due to the proximity to the Trinity

Path: R:\Projects\10010 Mechanical Channel Rehab Sites on Mainstem Trinity River\GIS\Site-Indian_Creek\10010_IndianCrk_Fig_3.11-1_APE_Alt3.mxd Source: NSR, Inc.; USBR; USGS 07-12-06 12/19/06 bmoore



 Area of Potential Effects

Note: Numbered areas represent specific activity areas defined in Chapter 2.



Aerial photography:
July 2005

River, unrecorded prehistoric cultural resources associated with habitation by Native Americans may be present. Ground-disturbing activities associated with construction could disrupt or adversely affect unknown subsurface archaeological resources. This would be a potentially significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

Mitigation measures for this impact under Alternative 3 are identical to those described for the action alternatives in the EA/DEIR. Please see page 3.11-17 of the EA/DEIR for these measures.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

Section 3.12. Air Quality

Revisions to Section 3.12 consist only of an analysis of the impacts of Alternative 3 to Section 3.12.3, pages 3.12-11 to 3.12-15. The impact analysis for Alternative 3 is provided below.

**Revised Table 3.12-5
Summary of Air Quality Impacts for Alternative 3**

ALTERNATIVE 3	ALTERNATIVE 3 WITH MITIGATION
Impact 3.12-1. Construction activities associated with the project could result in an increase in fugitive dust and associated particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) levels.	
S	LS
Impact 3.12-2. Construction activities associated with the project could result in an increase in construction vehicle exhaust emissions.	
S	LS
Impact 3.12-3. Construction activities associated with the project and removal of vegetation could result in vegetative materials that managers will decide to burn.	
S	LS

LS = Less than Significant S = Significant

Impact 3.12-1: Construction activities associated with the project could result in an increase in fugitive dust and associated particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) levels. ***Significant Impact for Alternative 3***

Alternative 3

Construction associated with Alternative 3 would require the use of equipment that would temporarily contribute to air pollution within the Trinity River basin. Construction excavation and grading are sources of fugitive dust emissions (PM₁₀) that could have a temporary impact on local air quality. Dust emissions would primarily be associated with removal of vegetation, excavation and disposal of earthen materials, and equipment travel on unpaved road surfaces.

As discussed in the EA/DEIR, the project is located within the North Coast Air Basin (NCAB), where PM10 levels are in non-attainment. The generation of fugitive dust during construction would be considered a temporary and short-term significant impact at a local level due the non-attainment status. To the extent possible, revegetation would be coordinated with construction so that the amount of bare ground is limited. Revegetation would not commence until plants are dormant and fall wet conditions have returned.

Generation of fugitive dust and particulate matter levels associated with construction of Alternative 3 would be less than under Alternative 1 because this alternative would not include implementation of the proposed road access to the north of the activity areas and would therefore involve less earthwork. To the extent possible, revegetation would be coordinated with construction so that the amount of bare ground is limited. Revegetation would not commence until plants are dormant and fall wet conditions have returned. Short-term impacts associated with the generation of fugitive dust during construction would be considered a significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

Mitigation measures for this impact under Alternative 3 are identical to those described for the action alternatives in the EA/DEIR. Please see page 3.12-12, 13 of the EA/DEIR for these measures.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

Impact 3.12-2: Construction activities associated with the project could result in an increase in construction vehicle exhaust emissions. *Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

Construction associated with the project would require the use of equipment that would temporarily contribute to air pollution in the Trinity River basin. Exhaust emissions from heavy equipment during construction may contribute to air pollution. Project construction activities would generate emissions from diesel- and gasoline-powered equipment and vehicles. Diesel particulate is an identified Hazardous Air Pollutant (HAP) and Toxic Air Contaminant (TAC), emissions of which should be minimized. In this regard, the length of the construction will require the contractor to comply with NCUAQMD Rule 104 (3.0) Particulate Matter or use portable internal combustion engines registered and certified under the state portable equipment regulation.

Construction vehicle exhaust emissions associated with Alternative 3 would be slightly less than under Alternative 1 because there would be no construction of the access road to the north of the activity areas and therefore slightly less construction work involved. However, Alternative 3 would have a significant impact on air quality.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

Impact 3.12-3: Construction activities associated with the project and removal of vegetation could result in vegetative materials that managers will decide to burn. *Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

Construction of the project would remove vegetation from the construction areas which may be buried, piled to create wildlife habitat, chipped, or burned. Piling and burning is a quick and economical way to eliminate flammable biomass and reduce concentrations of wildland fuels. Piles would be conserved until after construction and prepared/burned by a local contractor or the BLM during wet weather conditions. Burning of material in the fall/winter period (November-April) will also eliminate effects to nesting birds. In the event that piles are burned, smoke would temporarily contribute to air pollution in the Trinity River basin.

Smoke associated with Alternative 3 would be less than under Alternative 1 because there would be no construction of the access road to the north of the activity areas and therefore less vegetation cleared and possibly burned. However, smoke associated with construction of Alternative 3 would be considered a significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

Mitigation measures for this impact under Alternative 3 are identical to those described for the action alternatives in the EA/DEIR. Please see page 3.12-15 of the EA/DEIR for these measures.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

Section 3.13. Environmental Justice

Revisions to Section 3.13 consist only of the addition of an analysis of the impacts of Alternative 3 to Section 3.13.3, page 3.13-4. The impact analysis for Alternative 3 is provided below.

**Revised Table 3.13-2
Summary of Environmental Justice Impacts for Alternative 3**

ALTERNATIVE 3	ALTERNATIVE 3 WITH MITIGATION
Impact 3.13-1. Implementation of the project could adversely affect a minority or low-income population and/or community.	
LS	N/A ¹

LS = Less than Significant

N/A = Not Applicable

¹Because this potential impact is less than significant, no mitigation is required.

Impact 3.13-1: Implementation of the project could adversely affect a minority or low-income population and/or community. *Less-than-Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

Although minority and low-income residents live within the general vicinity of the project (Trinity River corridor), the project impacts would generally be experienced by residents in relationship to their proximity to the Indian Creek activity areas, regardless of their racial or income characteristics. There is no evidence to suggest that the project would cause a disproportionately high adverse human health or environmental effect on minority and low-income populations compared to other residents of the Douglas City Community Plan area. The known health risks to residents that could be associated with the project are evaluated in Section 3.5, Water Quality; Section 3.12, Air Quality; Section 3.15, Hazardous Materials; and Section 3.16, Noise of the EA/DEIR. For the most part, these health risks are associated with the construction aspects of the project, in that residents and construction workers could be exposed to hazardous materials that may be associated with the project. Possible health risks to minority and low-income residents also include the risk of construction-related accidents. Reclamation will manage the project to minimize these risks, as required by applicable federal and state safety regulations. Therefore, no specific or disproportionate health risks or other impacts to low-income groups would be associated with the project.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

Since no significant impact has been identified for any of the alternatives, no mitigation measures are required.

Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Section 3.14. Aesthetics

Revisions to Section 3.14 consist of the addition of an analysis of the impacts of Alternative 3 to Section 3.14.3, pages 3.14-14 to 3.14-21. Because there are no changes in the locations of the Visual Assessment Units (VAUs) and their associated Key Observation Points (KOPs) with Alternative 3, the only revision to the original EA/DEIR Figure 3.14-1 (page 3.14-7), would have been depiction of this Alternative's extended perimeter (down-river by the Weaver Creek Delta). Since no new Aesthetics information would have been depicted in this figure, a Revised Figure 3.14-1 is not included. The impact analysis for Alternative 3 is provided below.

**Revised Table 3.14-1
Summary of Aesthetic Impacts for Alternative 3**

ALTERNATIVE 3	ALTERNATIVE 3 WITH MITIGATION
Impact 3.14-1. Implementation of the project could result in the degradation and/or obstruction of a scenic view from key observation areas.	
S	LS
Impact 3.14-2. Implementation of the project could substantially change the character of, or be disharmonious with, existing land uses and aesthetic features.	
LS	N/A ¹
Impact 3.14-3. The project may be inconsistent with federal and state Wild and Scenic River Act or Scenic Byway requirements.	
LS	N/A ¹
Impact 3.14-4. The project could generate increased daytime glare and/or nighttime lighting.	
LS	N/A ¹

S = Significant LS = Less than Significant N/A = Not Applicable

¹ Because this potential impact is less than significant, no mitigation is required.

Impact 3.14-1: Implementation of the project could result in the degradation and/or obstruction of a scenic view from key observation areas. ***Significant Impact for Alternative 3***

Alternative 3

As previously discussed in this section, the project study area includes five distinct visual assessment units (VAUs). The potential effects of the Proposed Action on key observation points (KOPs) are discussed below by VAU.

VAU #1 (Steel Bridge Road Unit)

KOP 1 (Views of R-1 and U-1, and a Construction Access Road): Alternative 3 includes rehabilitation activities in R-1 and U-1 and a construction access road along the right bank of the river. As with all of the upland areas, U-1 would be used as a repository for excavated material (i.e., sand, gravel, and cobble) and vegetation. Currently, the lack of soil development in depositional environments throughout the VAUs inhibits recruitment and survival of native vegetation. Alternative 3 will increase the overall percentage of finer grained materials in the upland activity areas, resulting in more favorable vegetation recruitment and survival, which would increase the aesthetic quality of these areas in the long term. Noticeable changes in views of the project study area from KOP 1 would be less than significant.

Rehabilitation of R-1 would require some riparian vegetation removal and berm modification in addition to the placement of large woody debris into the channel for fish habitat. Some upland, riparian, and

annual grassland vegetation removal would be necessary for the construction of the access road. Large willows and cottonwoods as well as other large nesting trees would be retained, and the floodplain would be revegetated with native riparian species and through natural recruitment. Visual impacts associated with R-1, as seen from KOP 1, would be less than significant.

VAU # 2: (SR 299 East End Unit)

KOPs 1 and 2 (Views of R-1, U-2, Access Roads, and a Construction Staging Area): The Proposed Action includes rehabilitation activities in R-1 and U-2, construction of access roads into R-1 and U-2, and use of an upland area above the river's right bank as a construction staging area. Similar to the Proposed Action, rehabilitation of R-1 would require some riparian vegetation removal and berm modification in addition to the placement of large woody debris into the channel for fish habitat. U-2 would be used as a repository for excavated material (i.e., sand, gravel, and cobble) and vegetation. Excavated material and cleared vegetation would be placed at U above the 100-year floodplain elevation.

Although a string of riparian vegetation, primarily cottonwoods and willows, extends along much of the river's left bank, glimpses of the R-1 activity area and access roads would be available to motorists traveling in both directions along SR 299. Both KOP 1 and KOP 2 are representative of river and right bank views that occur throughout the entirety of VAU #2. Topography and upland vegetation on the right side of the river obscure most views of U-2, the construction staging area, and portions of the access roads as seen from SR 299. There are no homes in this VAU.

No long-term visual impacts to key public viewing areas in VAU #2 are anticipated because one of the primary objectives of the project is to improve the visual attractiveness of the project area.

VAU # 3: (SR 299 – Indian Creek Delta Unit)

KOP 1 (View of R-1); KOP 2 (Views of R-2, U-4, Construction Access Road, and a River Crossing); KOPs 3 through 9 (Views of R-3, R-4, U-4, Construction Access Roads, and a Construction Staging Area); Alternative 3 includes rehabilitation of the floodplain and alcove at R-2 and berm removal at R-3 and R-4.

Views of the western end of R-1 from SR 299 are obscured by homes, vegetation, and distance. At this location, the river has meandered away from SR 299. The homes surrounding KOP 1 do not have a view of R-1.

None of the activities at R-2 would be visible from SR 299. At this location, the river continues to be some distance from SR 299, with residential development and upland and riparian vegetation minimizing views from all but the home off of River Ranch Road that backs up to the R-2 alcove. KOP 2, established at the back of this home, clearly shows that the alcove rehabilitation work in this area, the construction access road running through this property, and a river crossing allowing for construction access on the right side of the river, will have a temporary impact on views from the home. The R-2 floodplain rehabilitation work extending downstream from the alcove would not be visible from KOP 2, except for possibly a very small portion of the upstream end. Although it is expected that the channel will restore itself to a natural appearance over time, there would be a temporary, adverse visual impact associated

with the Proposed Action, as viewed from KOP 2. Impacts to visual resources at this location are considered to be significant.

KOPs 3 through 9 were established primarily to assess visual impacts from SR 299 that would result from implementation of R-3 and U-4. KOP 7 is also intended to assess R-4, berm removal along the left bank of the river. R-3 activities involve the removal of the berm on the left bank of the Trinity River downstream of Indian Creek. Impacts to visual resources as viewed from KOPs 3, 4, 6, 8, and 9 are considered to be temporary, but significant. Views from KOP 7 of R-4 are obscured by vegetation. Thus, visual impacts as seen from KOP 7 would be less than significant.

VAU # 4: (River Ranch Road Unit)

KOP 1; KOPs 3 and 4 (Views of R-6 and R-8); KOPs 5, 6, and 7 (Views of R-7, R-8, U-3, a Construction Access Road, and a Construction Staging Area): Alternative 3 consists of rehabilitation activities associated with R-6, R-7, R-8, R-10, and U-3, which include floodplain rehabilitation, vegetation removal, berm removal, alcove and side channel construction, upland disposal sites, construction staging areas, and construction access roads. None of the proposed activity areas in this VAU would be visible from SR 299 or River Ranch Road due to topography, vegetation, residential development, and distance from the river. There would be no impact to visual resources as viewed from KOP 1 since there would be no activities visible from this location or its immediate vicinity.

KOPs 3 and 4 were established at a homesite that has been abandoned and is now owned by Reclamation. This location, from which R-6 (vegetation removal) and the eastern end of R-8 (floodplain rehabilitation, vegetation removal, and side channel and alcove construction on the right bank of the river) are visible when viewed from KOPs 3 and 4, is not visible from SR 299 or any nearby homes. Therefore, any impacts to visual resources at this location would be considered less than significant.

KOPs 5, 6, and 7 extend along SR 299. No activity areas are visible from these locations. Views of R-6, R-7, R-8, R-10, U-3, construction staging areas, and construction access roads are obscured by topography and vegetation. There are no homes along this stretch of SR 299. Therefore, any impacts to visual resources at this location would be considered less than significant.

VAU # 5: (Douglas City Unit)

KOPs 1 through 6 (Views of R-9): Alternative 3 consists of rehabilitation activities associated with R-9. The R-9 activity area would include vegetation removal. This activity area is visible from both SR 299 (KOPs 1, 2, and 3) and SR 3 (KOP 6), although the SR 299/Trinity River bridge obscures portions of the area's east side when viewed from KOP 6. Views of the area from the town of Douglas City are obscured by topography. Although the impacts to visual resources from KOPs 1 through 3 and KOP 6 would be temporary, the impacts would be significant.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

In order to minimize impacts to visual resources resulting from the removal of vegetation within the project study area, mitigation measures 1a through 1d, as described Section 3.7 (Vegetation, Wildlife, and Wetlands) of the EA/DEIR, will be implemented where applicable for all alternatives.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

Impact 3.14-2: Implementation of the project could substantially change the character of, or be disharmonious with, existing land uses and aesthetic features. *Less-than-Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3 (All VAUs)

Alternative 3 has been designed to be not only functional (e.g., enhance fisheries, restore river sinuosity), but to complement the visual resources associated with the site. Overall, this alternative incorporate the diversity of landscapes and vegetation types into the character of the activity areas. For example, excavated materials would be removed and transported to off-site locations or placed in upland areas. In a manner that considers the form and height of existing topographic features. Retention of existing topographic features would significantly lessen the degree of visual impact.

The activities described in Chapter 2 of this SEA/RPDEIR provide a basis for adjustments to the river channel and floodplain over time, which are flow dependent. Although this alternative varies in the degree to which the channel and floodplain would be affected, it would produce gradual, ever-improving changes in the aesthetic quality of this stretch of the Trinity River, while keeping in character with the surrounding land uses. Because changes associated with Alternative 3 would retain the character of existing land uses and features, selection of this alternative would result in a less-than-significant impact on aesthetic resources.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

No significant impacts have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.

Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Impact 3.14-3: The project may be inconsistent with the federal or state Wild and Scenic River Acts or Scenic Byway requirements. *Less-than-Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3 (All VAUs)

Under Section 7 of the Federal Wild and Scenic River Act (WSRA), direct and adverse effects to the values for which the Trinity River was recognized as a Wild and Scenic River are prohibited. Implementation of Alternative 3 would not be inconsistent with these values because the activities would not be considered substantially out of character with the current aesthetic conditions. Implementation of Alternative 3 would result in a less-than-significant impact to WSRA and Scenic Byway requirements.

*Mitigation Measures**Alternative 3*

No significant impacts have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.

Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Impact 3.14-4: The project could generate increased daytime glare and/or nighttime lighting. *Less-than-Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3 (All VAUs)

Under Alternative 3, significant increases in daytime glare and/or nighttime lighting are not anticipated to occur. Construction activities would not take place during nighttime hours; therefore, nearby residences and motorists traveling along the river corridor would not be subjected to the headlights of construction equipment or stationary spotlights. Material removed from the floodplain and deposited into activity areas is generally not reflective and would have a less-than-significant impact on daytime glare. Some changes may occur in the locations and amounts of glare produced by the widened active river channel, but, overall, these changes would be short-lived as the sun passes over; the impacts of these changes would therefore be less than significant. The most likely viewer group to be affected by daytime glare would be residents, but only a few homes near the project boundary have views of various portions of the rehabilitation areas and these views are generally somewhat limited. Furthermore, any occurrences of daytime glare produced by the sun reflecting off the water would be of short duration, which would be considered less than significant.

*Mitigation Measures**Alternative 3*

No significant impacts have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.

Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Section 3.15. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Revisions to Section 3.15 consist only of the addition of an analysis of the impacts of Alternative 3 to Section 3.15.3, pages 3.15-12 to 3.15-15. The impact analysis for Alternative 3 is provided below.

**Revised Table 3.15-2
Summary of Hazards and Hazardous Waste Impacts for Alternative 3**

ALTERNATIVE 3	ALTERNATIVE 3 WITH MITIGATION
Impact 3.15-1. Implementation of the project may increase the potential for release of, or exposure to, potentially hazardous materials that could pose a public health or safety hazard.	
LS	N/A ¹

**Revised Table 3.15-2
Summary of Hazards and Hazardous Waste Impacts for Alternative 3**

ALTERNATIVE 3	ALTERNATIVE 3 WITH MITIGATION
Impact 3.15-2. Construction activities associated with the project may interfere with emergency/response/ evacuation plans by temporarily slowing traffic flow.	
LS	N/A ¹
Impact 3.15-3. Implementation of the project may contribute to area wildland fire potential and catastrophic fire behavior.	
LS	N/A ¹
Impact 3.15-4. Implementation of the project may contribute to an increased risk of landslide and flooding.	
LS/B	N/A ²

LS = Less than Significant B = Beneficial N/A = Not Applicable

¹Because this potential impact is less than significant, no mitigation is required.

²Because this potential impact is less than significant for landslides and beneficial with respects to flooding, no mitigation is required.

Impact 3.15-1: Implementation of the project may increase the potential for release of, or exposure to, potentially hazardous materials that could pose a public health or safety hazard. *Less-than-Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

The potentially hazardous materials (e.g., oil, fuels) that would be needed to operate machinery to be used in conjunction with implementation of the project are similar to those transported along SR 299 on a routine basis. The temporary nature of the construction aspects of the project, combined with the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) and the distance from residences and frequently used recreation areas, would minimize the potential for any hazardous materials used by the project to become a public hazard.

Recent studies have determined that toxins such as mercury and methylmercury do not pose a significant hazard to the environment or the public in their current latent form. These toxins are addressed in Chapter 3.5, Water Quality. Further, it has been determined that any disturbance during project implementation of gravels or sediments that may contain toxins would not result in a significant increase in current background levels of toxins in the environment.

The potential for construction activities under Alternative 3 to result in the significant exposure of the public and the environment to the adverse effects of hazardous substances (e.g., oil, gas, diesel) would be similar to the Proposed Action and Alternative 1 due to the decrease in magnitude of the construction activities.

*Mitigation Measures**Alternative 3*

Since no impact was identified, no mitigation is required.

Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Impact 3.15.2: Construction activities associated with the project may interfere with emergency response/evacuation plans by temporarily slowing traffic flow. *Less than Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

Under Alternative 3, construction traffic would include the mobilization and demobilization of construction equipment (e.g., scrapers, excavators, bulldozers) to the project site. Once the equipment is on the site, construction traffic would be limited to daily trips for personnel and routine service and supply vehicles. Construction activities would be managed to ensure that emergency response/evacuation plans are not impeded.

Under Alternative 3, the potential to interfere with emergency response/evacuation plans would be less than under Alternative 1 due to the additional grading activities required for road access under Alternative 1.

*Mitigation Measures**Alternative 3*

Since no significant impacts were identified, no mitigation is required.

Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Impact 3.15.3: Implementation of the project may contribute to area wildland fire potential and catastrophic fire behavior. *Less-than-Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

Project activities are proposed to occur in the riparian corridor of the Trinity River. Potential fuels within the site boundary (e.g., grasses, herbaceous weeds) are generally non-contiguous, and the river serves as a substantial natural fire break. The types and amounts of fuels and their continuity may be decreased temporarily by implementation of each of the action alternatives, particularly in areas subject to vegetation removal, but any such changes would not be significant with respect to fire potential and behavior. In the long-term, potential fire conditions would be similar to those that currently exist (e.g., potential fuels would be limited to riparian vegetation, sporadic grasses, and herbaceous weeds). Alternative 3 would have a less-than-significant impact on wildland fire potential and behavior.

*Mitigation Measures**Alternative 3*

Since no significant impacts were identified, no mitigation is required.

Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Impact 3.15.4: Implementation of the project may contribute to an increased risk of landslide or flooding. *Less-than-Significant Impact for risk of landslides, Beneficial impact for risk of flooding for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

The risk of landslides would remain less than significant under Alternative 3 because most of the activity is proposed to take place in the river channel or floodplain, both of which have relatively flat topography. Furthermore, Alternative 3 does not involve alteration of toe-slopes adjacent to any geologically unstable areas with the potential to slide.

If Alternative 3 is implemented, the placement of excavated material outside of the base flood elevation (BFE) floodplain would result in no change to or a reduction (beneficial effect) in the existing base floodwater surface elevation.

The potential for flooding would be decreased as a result of Alternative 3.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

Since no significant impacts were identified, no mitigation is required.

Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Section 3.16. Noise

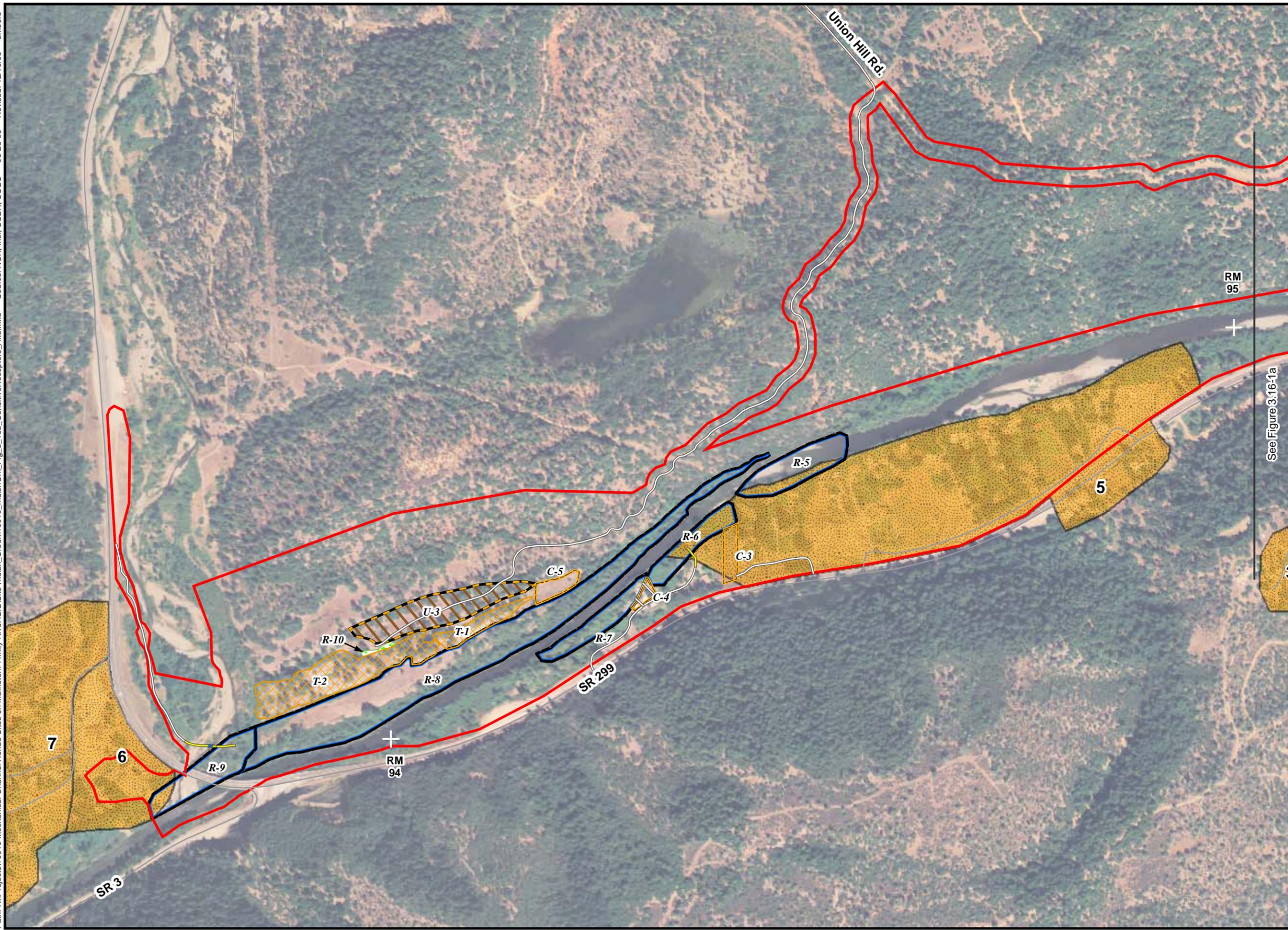
Revisions to Section 3.16 consist of the inclusion of Revised Figure 3.16-1b and the addition of an analysis of the impacts of Alternative 3 to Section 3.16.3, pages 3.16-10 to 3.16-12. The impact analysis for Alternative 3 is provided below.

**Revised Table 3.16-1
Summary of Noise Impacts for Alternative 3**

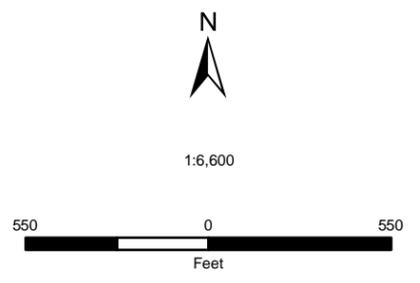
ALTERNATIVE 3	ALTERNATIVE 3 WITH MITIGATION
Impact 3.16-1. Construction activities associated with the project would result in temporary noise impacts to nearby sensitive receptors.	
S	LS

LS = Less than Significant S = Significant

Impact 3.16-1: Construction activities associated with the project would result in noise impacts to nearby sensitive receptors. *Significant Impact for Alternative 3*



- Site Boundary
- River Mile (RM)
- Match Line
- Sensitive Receptor
- Road Type**
 - Construction
 - Existing
 - River Crossing
- Rehabilitation Area**
 - Upland
 - Riverine
 - Dredge Tailings
 - Wetland Enhancement
 - Staging Area



Aerial photography:
July 2005

Alternative 3

During the construction phase of the project, noise from construction activities, including the processing and transport of alluvial materials would dominate the noise environment in the immediate area. As shown in Revised Table 3.16-4, construction activities would generate maximum noise levels ranging from 70 to 90 dBA at a distance of 50 feet, although intervening terrain and vegetation could reduce these noise levels. Construction noise would be temporary and is expected to occur intermittently over the course of the construction period. There would be no permanent noise impacts as a result of project implementation.

Ten sensitive receptors are located in the immediate vicinity of the project boundary (Revised Figures 3.16-1b, . Sensitive receptors identified within 1,000 feet of the project boundary are listed in Revised Table 3.16-2. Each of these sensitive receptors would be subjected to varying degrees of construction noise under Alternative 3. Under Alternative 3, the access road proposed to extend from Union Hill Road to activity areas on the north side of the river would not be constructed, therefore reducing the noise impacts associated with sensitive receptors 8, 9, and 10.

It is anticipated that ground vibration associated with project rehabilitation activities will not be detectable at any of the sensitive receptor locations, nor will it result in structural damage. However, during the construction phase of the project, noise from construction activities would dominate the noise environment in the immediate area. This would be considered a significant impact.

*Mitigation Measures**Alternative 3*

Mitigation measures for this impact under Alternative 3 are identical to those described for the action alternatives in the EA/DEIR. Please see page 3.16-11, 12 of the EA/DEIR for these measures.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

Section 3.17. Public Services

The only revisions to Section 3.17 involve the addition of an Alternative 3 impacts analysis to Section 3.17.3, pages 3.17-8 to 3.17-12. The impact analysis for Alternative 3 is provided below.

**Revised Table 3.17-1
Summary of Public Services and Utilities Impacts for Alternative 3**

ALTERNATIVE 3	ALTERNATIVE 3 WITH MITIGATION
Impact 3.17-1. Implementation of the project could potentially disrupt existing electrical and phone service during the construction phase.	
NI	N/A

**Revised Table 3.17-1
Summary of Public Services and Utilities Impacts for Alternative 3**

ALTERNATIVE 3	ALTERNATIVE 3 WITH MITIGATION
Impact 3.17-2. Construction of the project could result in the generation of increased solid waste.	
LS	N/A ¹
Impact 3.17-3. 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.	
S	LS
Impact 3.17-4. Construction of the project could result in a substantial use of nonrenewable energy resources.	
LS	N/A ¹

LS = Less than Significant N/A = Not Applicable NI = No Impact
¹Because this potential impact is less than significant, no mitigation is required.

Impact 3.17-1: Implementation of the project could disrupt existing electrical and phone service during the construction phase. *No Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

Under Alternative 3, no activities would occur to disrupt electrical or telephone service in the project area. Although power poles and phone lines are located within the site boundary (power lines cross the Trinity River in the central portion of the site and a Verizon phone line is buried in the eastern portion of the site), project activity areas have been designed to avoid impacts to these features. Thus, no impacts to existing electrical or telephone service are anticipated to occur as a result of Alternative 3.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

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. *Less-than-Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

Under Alternative 3, 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., garbage, cans, buckets). Vegetative materials (e.g., stumps, roots, branches) would be disposed of within the site boundary. Disposal methods may include vegetative chipping to provide mulch, burial, piling for wildlife

habitat on site, burning, or placement in the floodplain to provide structural habitat for juvenile fish. Solid waste generated by construction activities will be disposed of at an authorized location; either the Weaverville transfer or 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.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

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.

Significant Impact for Alternative 3

Alternative 3

Although construction activities associated with Alternative 3 would be confined to the project boundary described in Chapter 2, access for processing and transportation of alluvial materials, as well as the mobilization and demobilization of heavy equipment may require traffic control for SR 299 and River Ranch Road. Traffic control requirements associated with transport of processed material will be intermittent in accordance with Caltrans requirements. During periods of construction, approximately 30 dump trucks per day would be used to move material to off-site locations. In addition, construction personnel and service vehicles would use designated routes 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 law enforcement, 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

Alternative 3

Mitigation measures for this impact under Alternative 3 are identical to those described for the action alternatives in the EA/DEIR. Please see page 3.17-11 of the EA/DEIR for these measures.

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. *Less-than-Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

Energy expenditures associated with construction under Alternative 3 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. Construction under Alternative 3 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

Alternative 3

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

Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Section 3.18. Transportation

The only revisions to Section 3.18 involve the inclusion of Revised Figure 3.18-1 and the addition of an Alternative 3 impacts analysis to Section 3.18.3, pages 3.18-7 to 3.18-12. The impact analysis for Alternative 3 is provided below.

**Revised Table 3.18-2
Summary of Transportation Impacts for Alternative 3**

ALTERNATIVE 3	ALTERNATIVE 3 WITH MITIGATION
Impact 3.18-1. Construction activities would reduce/close existing traffic lanes.	
LS	N/A ¹

**Revised Table 3.18-2
Summary of Transportation Impacts for Alternative 3**

ALTERNATIVE 3	ALTERNATIVE 3 WITH MITIGATION
Impact 3.18-2. Construction activities would generate short-term increases in vehicle trips.	
LS	N/A ¹
Impact 3.18-3. Implementation of the project would obstruct access to adjacent land uses.	
S	LS
Impact 3.18-4. Construction activities would increase local roadway wear-and-tear.	
LS	N/A ¹
Impact 3.18-5. Construction activities could pose a safety hazard to motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.	
S	LS
Impact 3.18-6. Affect the form or function of SR 299, specifically the Douglas City Bridge extending over the Trinity River.	
LS	N/A ¹

LS = Less than Significant

S = Significant

N/A = Not Applicable

¹Because this potential impact is less than significant, no mitigation is required.

Impact 3.18-1: Construction activities would reduce/close existing traffic lanes. *Less-than-Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

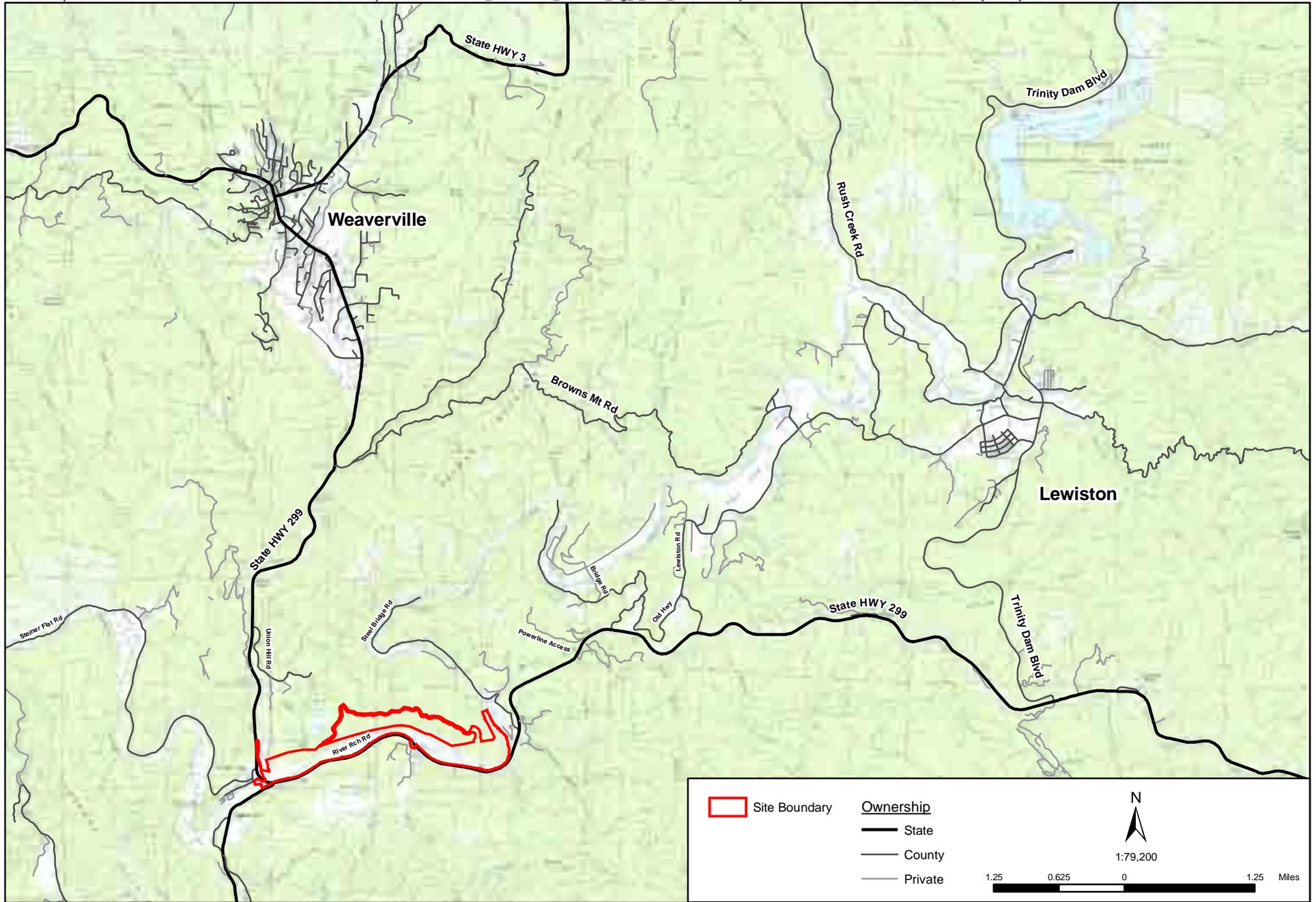
Alternative 3

Project construction activities associated with Alternative 3 would be managed to ensure that SR 299 and River Ranch Road remain open to through traffic, although traffic control may be necessary during the mobilization and demobilization of heavy equipment. No road closures are anticipated; therefore, passage for emergency vehicles would not be restricted. The adequate passage of traffic within and through the construction area in the event of an emergency evacuation is discussed in Section 3.15, Hazards and Hazardous Materials. Because any traffic control requirements associated with project access roads would be temporary, this impact is considered less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

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



Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Impact 3.18-2: Construction activities would generate short-term increases in vehicle trips. *Less-than-Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

Construction activities would require a number of truck and worker vehicle trips on area roads leading to and from the construction areas, including SR 299 and River Ranch Road. Heavy equipment (e.g., large trucks, excavators, back-hoes, etc.) would be mobilized to the construction sites at the beginning of work and removed at the end of work at each site. During the construction period when the greatest number of workers and trucks would be required, up to 20 construction workers and their vehicles would need access to the site daily. The processing and transport of alluvial materials will occur on an intermittent basis over the duration of the construction process (estimated 5 years). On average, an estimated 30 trucks per day will be used to transport processed material to off-site locations, typically during the summer and fall periods. A review of Caltrans 2005 traffic data indicates that the average daily traffic at the intersection of SR 299 and SR 3 is about 4,275 average daily trips (ADT) (<http://traffic-counts.dot.ca.gov/2005all/r280405i.htm>). The increase of 30 trucks per day is less than a one percent increase in ADT over the duration of the project on an annual basis. Throughout construction, Reclamation shall limit the amount of daily construction equipment traffic by staging most construction equipment and vehicles within the project boundary for the duration of work. Construction activities would require intermittent access for up to five years, depending on the success various rehabilitation activities. Because the existing traffic volumes along SR 299 are moderate and the increase in traffic from construction on other area roads would be relatively minor and temporary, increased traffic associated with construction activities is considered a less-than-significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

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

Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Impact 3.18-3: Implementation of the project would affect access to adjacent land uses. *Significant Impact for Alternative 3*

Alternative 3

As described in Section 3.2 of the EA/DEIR, land uses in and adjacent to the rehabilitation site consist mainly of residential areas. No residences occupy the right bank of the Trinity River. Residences and two businesses are present on the left bank within the project boundary. As previously described, construction activities associated with the left side of Trinity River would use primary access points on SR 299. Access to the U-4 area will occur within the Caltrans right-of-way downstream of Indian Creek. Access to adjacent lands may be restricted if traffic control measures are being used. This would constitute a significant impact. Recreational access to the Trinity River would be restricted within the project boundary on both sides of the river during the construction period; however, several public access

points are available adjacent to the project boundary, both upstream and downstream. Impacts relating to recreational activities are discussed under Section 3.8 of the EA/DEIR.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

Mitigation measures for this impact under Alternative 3 are identical to those described for the action alternatives in the EA/DEIR. Please see page 3.18-10 of the EA/DEIR for these measures.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

Impact 3.18-4: Construction activities would increase wear-and-tear on local roadways. ***Less than Significant Impact for Alternative 3***

Alternative 3

Under Alternative 3, construction-related traffic that would be added to area roads would consist of heavy trucks. However, movement of heavy equipment via SR 299 would be minimal because construction equipment (e.g., large trucks, excavators, backhoes) would be mobilized to the project site at the beginning of work and removed at the end of work. Because SR 299 is designed to accommodate a mix of vehicle types, including heavy trucks, the project is not expected to add significantly to roadway wear-and-tear on SR 299. The impacts of the project related to wear-and-tear on SR 299 would therefore be less than significant.

Because of the planning that has occurred to minimize heavy equipment use on the rural roads needed to access the site—River Ranch Road and Union Hill Road—the project is not expected to significantly add to roadway wear-and-tear on these roads. The impacts of the project related to wear-and-tear on rural roads in the project vicinity would therefore be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

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

Significance after Mitigation: N/A

Impact 3.18-5: Construction activities could pose a safety hazard to motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. ***Significant Impact for Alternative 3***

Alternative 3

Traffic safety hazards could arise for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists in the vicinity of the construction access routes when heavy construction equipment is entering or leaving the project site. Access to the Trinity River may be limited to identified routes during construction activities to minimize public exposure to construction traffic. Trucks entering and exiting the access road off SR 299 may pose a temporary hazard to cyclists and motorists using the roadway. Although this impact would be limited to brief and intermittent time periods, it is considered significant.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

Mitigation measures for this impact under Alternative 3 are identical to those described for the action alternatives in the EA/DEIR. Please see page 3.18-11 of the EA/DEIR for these measures.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

Impact 3.18-6: Construction activities could affect the form or function of SR 299, specifically the Douglas City Bridge extending over the Trinity River. ***Less-than-Significant Impact for Alternative 3***

Alternative 3

SR 299 and the Douglas City Bridge will be used to access treatment areas during construction; however, no modification of the form or function of either structure will occur as a result of project implementation. Therefore, the form and function of SR 99, including the Douglas City Bridge would not be affected as a result of the project.

Mitigation Measures

Alternative 3

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

Significance after Mitigation: N/A