



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

CGB-ED-2025-159

Environmental Assessment

Hoopa Ceremonial Flow Release

California – Great Basin Region

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has considered several key factors mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This Environmental Assessment (EA) represents Reclamation's expert judgement and good-faith effort to prioritize analysis and documentation of the most important factors required by the statute and fulfills NEPA's requirements within the congressionally mandated page and time limits. Any factors addressed briefly or unaddressed were, in Reclamation's judgement, comparatively not of a substantive nature that meaningfully informed the environmental effects and the resulting decision on how to proceed.

This effort is now substantially complete and in Reclamation's expert opinion, the analysis has thoroughly considered the key factors mandated by NEPA and is adequate to inform and reasonably explain Reclamation's decision regarding the proposed Federal action.

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Mission Statements

The U.S. Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and affiliated Island Communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AF	acre-feet
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
CGB	California Great Basin
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
EA	Environmental Assessment
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impacts
HVT	Hoopa Valley Tribe
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
ITA	Indian Trust Asset
LSNFH	Livingston Stone National Fish Hatchery
MAF	million-acre-feet
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
National Register	National Register of Historic Places
NCAO	Northern California Area Office
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service/NOAA Fisheries
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
USC	United States Code
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

1. Introduction

This Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared by the Northern California Area Office located in Shasta Lake, CA under environmental documentation number CGB-ED-2025-159 to examine the potential impacts to the affected environment associated with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) proposal to release supplemental flows from Lewiston Dam to meet the safety needs of the Hoopa Valley Tribe (HVT) Boat Dance participants, as well as to allow for the Boat Dance ceremony. The Proposed Action would be implemented in mid-August and be complete by end of August. The action area includes the Trinity River from Lewiston Dam to the confluence with the Klamath River.

This EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 United States Code (USC) §4321 et seq.) and the Department of the Interior regulations for implementation of the NEPA (43 CFR 46). If there are no significant environmental impacts identified as a result of the analysis, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Decision Record can be signed to complete the NEPA compliance process.

1.1 Project Purpose and Need

The HVT Council sent a letter to Reclamation on March 28, 2025 requesting a flow release from Lewiston Dam to meet the needs associated with the biennial Boat Dance ceremony.

Reclamation proposes to authorize a flow release from Lewiston Dam to meet the needs associated with the HVT biennial Boat Dance ceremony. The ceremony would be held on Tuesday, August 26th at approximately 7 p.m. To address the safety of the Boat Dance participants, as well as to allow for the Boat Dance ceremony, the requested release is to achieve 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) on August 25th, peak at 2,600 cfs on the 26th at 7 p.m., and return to 1,000 cfs for the 27th-30th at the USGS Hoopa gage.

1.2 Location and Background

The Project area would be located on the Trinity River as the point of water release is Lewiston Dam (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Vicinity map of the water release site (Lewiston gage, USGS #11525500).



Figure 2. Vicinity map of the monitoring gage at Hoopa (Hoopa gage, USGS #11530000) on the Trinity River, approximately 100 river miles downstream of Lewiston Dam.

The legal location of the water release site is Section 8 of Township 33N, Range 8W of the Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, California.

The legal location of the USGS monitoring gage at Hoopa (Hoopa gage, USGS Gage #11530000) on the Trinity River is Section 25 of Township 08N, Range 04E of the Humbolt Base and Meridian, California. This monitoring gage is approximately 100 river miles downstream of Lewiston Dam.

The White Deerskin Dance is one of two major ceremonies celebrating world renewal. The Hoopa honor the Earth and Creator for providing sustenance and the continuance of the Hoopa Valley Tribe (HVT). One of the ways of referring to the White Deerskin dance is as the hun'q'ehch'idilye, "along the river religious dance." This major ceremony is conducted at villages sites and resting places by the Trinity River and involves travel on the river. The White Deerskin Dance is held from late August into September. The exact timing of the dance depends upon the river and its waters. The dance is held for a period of 10 days. The Hoopa bring salmon they have caught at their fishing sites to share with the participants and attendees and offer them for the ceremony. The dancers

set out from Ta'k'imilding, the main Hoopa village on the northern division of the valley and move from one village to another. First, they go up the Trinity River to Xowunq'it, across from Me'dilding, the major village in the southern division of the valley. Here they dance on the afternoon of their arrival, and again the next morning. Then they go by boat to Tse:mita'h, on the river just below the mouth of Hostler Creek, and dance one afternoon and one morning. In the afternoon they board boats which have been decorated for the dance. The Boat Dance is a moving and spectacular part of the White Deerskin Dance, involving dancing and singing while crossing the Trinity River. The Boat Dance coincides with the move of the households in the camps accompanying the dancers from Tse:mit'ah on the east side of the Trinity River to Ch'e:indiqot'ding on the west side. Its practice celebrates the river's flows and their connotation of river health. The next day, as the dance continues, the camps move to Tse:k'iwotl'ding, Ts'ilunding, Dahsita:ne:q'it (resting place: at the foot of Bald Hill), and finally, on Bald Hill, to Niltuquluy, where the last White Deerskin dances are held.

For the Boat Dance in August/September, the HVT typically asks Reclamation to increase dam releases to allow their people to safely perform the ceremony. Although the river's flows without these additional releases are believed to be above pre-dam levels, the additional water is usually not adequate to mitigate for changes in the river channel considered attributable to dam operations (i.e., the water depth is still too shallow). This creates a substantial risk of capsizing in shallow water for the boats and dancers. If the boats capsize, it has negative spiritual implications.

2. Alternatives

This EA considers two alternatives including the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative reflects conditions without the Proposed Action Alternative and serves as a basis of comparison for determining potential effects to the human environment from implementing the Proposed Action.

2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not release supplemental flows from Lewiston Dam between August 22nd and 30th. Nor would Reclamation facilitate safe conditions for the Boat Dance ceremony for the HVT. The flow release schedule for Lewiston Dam operations would remain unaltered.

2.2 Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, Reclamation would design and execute a supplemental flow release schedule through which the HVT could safely perform their biannual Boat Dance ceremony.

The flow release would consist of increasing flows to achieve 1,000 cfs on August 22nd, peak at 2,600 cfs on the 26th at 7 p.m. and return to 1,000 cfs for the 27th–30th at the USGS Hoopa gage.

3. Affected Environment and Environmental Effects

3.1 Introduction

The affected environment section describes the existing condition and trends of the environment that may be affected by implementing the proposed action. This EA will emphasize only those resources, or resource uses, that may be affected by the proposed action, and only to the extent necessary to enable an understanding of the extent and context of the anticipated environmental effects.

3.2 Resources Not Considered in Detail

Reclamation analyzed the affected environment and determined that the Proposed Action would not have the potential to cause adverse effects to the following resources:

Table 1. Resources Not Considered in Detail

Resource	Discussion
Indian Trust Assets	Indian Trust Assets (ITAs) are legal interests in assets that are held in trust by the United States for federally recognized Indian tribes or individuals. The nearest ITA to the proposed Project is the Hoopa Valley Reservation which the Trinity River intersects at approximately 99 river miles downstream of the water release point. On August 13, 2025, Reclamation's ITA coordinator stated: "Based on the nature of the planned work, it does not appear to be in an area that will impact Indian hunting or fishing resources or water rights nor is the proposed activity on actual Indian lands. [Therefore,] it is reasonable to assume that the Proposed Action will not have any impact on ITAs" (<i>Native American Lands</i> , n.d.).
Indian Sacred Sites	Sacred sites are defined in Executive Order 13007 (May 24, 1996) as "any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on federal land that is identified by an Indian tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; provided that the tribe or appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion has informed the agency of the existence of such a site." No Indian sacred sites have been identified within the footprint of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action Alternative would not affect nor prohibit access to or ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites.

Resource	Discussion
Cultural Resources	<p>The Section 106 process is in the federal regulations at 36 CFR Part 800. These regulations describe the process that the federal agency (Reclamation) takes to identify cultural resources and the level of effect that the proposed undertaking would have on historic properties.</p> <p>If approved, the Project is the type of undertaking that would not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR §800.3 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 implementing regulations. Furthermore, it was determined that the Proposed Action would also not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation (LND 02-01) (43 CFR 46.215 (f). As a result of these determinations, Reclamation has no further obligations under NHPA Section 106, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1).</p>
Noise	<p>The Project would release water in a functionally unpopulated area in Trinity County. The noise associated with the Proposed Action Alternative is expected to have only a temporary and minor impact on neighboring areas of the USGS gage at Lewiston as the supplemental water release would occur over the course of 7 days. Therefore, noise associated with Project activities would only be a minor and temporary increase over baseline levels and no long-term increases to ambient noise levels from implementation of the proposed Project would occur.</p>
Socioeconomics	<p>The Proposed Action is not expected to have any significant or prolonged impact (beneficial or adverse) to local or regional economies. Reclamation has not identified disproportionate or adverse human health or environmental effects on any population because of implementing the Proposed Action Alternative.</p>
Air Quality	<p>Section 176 (c) of the Clean Air Act (42 USC 7506 (c)) requires that any entity of the federal government that engages in, supports, or in any way provides financial support for, licenses or permits, or approves any activity, to demonstrate that the action conforms to the applicable State Implementation Plan required under Section 110 (a) of the Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 (a)) before the action is otherwise approved.</p> <p>The Project area and surrounds are in attainment for all of the air quality pollutants reported on the United States Environmental</p>

Resource	Discussion
	<p>Protection Agency's NEPAassist planning tool. This includes Ozone 1- hr, Ozone 8-hr, Lead, Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) 1-hr, Particulate Matter 2.5, Particulate Matter 10, Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂).</p> <p>Impacts to air quality would not result from the supplemental water release.</p>
Land Use	The Proposed Action would not result in changes to land use as the supplemental flow release would consist of typical flow operations.
Soils	It is assumed that impacts would be negligible due to the flow augmentation consisting of relatively low and typical discharge rates for the late summer period.
Vegetative Communities	The Proposed Action would not result in changes to vegetative communities as the supplemental flow release would not result in atypical flooding events that would impact vegetative communities.
Recreation	<p>Significant recreational activities in Trinity Reservoir and/or on the Trinity River include pleasure rafting, boating and recreational fishing. These activities are not anticipated to be affected by the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative because the amount of water to be released is relatively small to the extent that the loss in the reservoir elevation is essentially immeasurable and the increase in flow of the river would only increase the river water level at the USGS Lewiston gage by about 2.8 feet, according to the USGS rating table at Lewiston (CDEC, n.d.). Although the turbidity in the action area is anticipated to increase marginally because of the implementation of the Proposed Action, a minor turbidity increase during this time of year is not abnormal due to comparable increases in water flow in past years and, therefore, turbidity-dependent recreational activities such as fishing would not be affected by the Proposed Action.</p>
Wild and Scenic River	<p>Section 7(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) requires agencies to evaluate the effects of a Federally-assisted water resources project proposed within a Wild and Scenic River (WSR) corridor on the river's free-flowing condition, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs). The mainstem Trinity River is designated as a WSR for its fisheries and recreational values from below Lewiston Dam to its confluence within the</p>

Resource	Discussion
	<p>Klamath River at Weitchpec. In addition to the mainstem, three other sections of the river received the WSR designation, including the North Fork from the confluence within the mainstem (within the action area) to the southern boundary of the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area, were designated as WSRs to preserve the anadromous and resident fisheries, outstanding geologic resources values, scenic values, recreational values, and cultural and historical values. Neither these value/ORVs, nor the free-flowing condition or water quality of the river would be adversely affected by the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative.</p>
Power Generation	<p>Trinity Dam has two controlled methods of releasing water at different levels: via the main outlet works, which is conveyed through the powerplant and is the predominant method of releasing water, and via the auxiliary outlet works which is used to supplement releases in addition to the main outlet works. The main outlet flow pattern generates power while the auxiliary outlet works flow pattern does not. The Proposed Action would be implemented via the main outlet works and would, thus, not hinder power generation (Ballard, 2025).</p>
Cold Water Pool	<p>The water release method that would be used to release water under the Proposed Action would be through the main outlet works. This method draws water from a higher elevation in the reservoir and may be slightly warmer in some years. However, Trinity Reservoir has a very large cold water pool this year (2025 water year) and a significant change to the cold water pool is not anticipated because of the method to draw water for the Proposed Action (Patton, 2025).</p>

3.3 Resources Analyzed in Detail

3.3.1 Water Resources/Hydrology

Hydrological forecast information associated with both short- and long-term effects are included in the analyses that follow. Hydrologic forecasts may be accurate in the short term but become less reliable in larger timeframes. As such, the long-term forecast information provided herein is speculative in nature; considerable uncertainty is likely associated with these values, although these are the best available data.

3.3.1.1 Affected Environment

Reclamation stores water for multiple purposes in Trinity Reservoir. This facility and other Central Valley Project (CVP) facilities are intricately operated in a coordinated fashion to satisfy a number of geographically diverse flood control and environmental requirements, as well as provide water to satisfy water delivery and water rights responsibilities and to generate hydroelectric power. Trinity Reservoir is the primary water storage facility in the Trinity River Division (TRD) of the CVP. At capacity, it stores approximately 2.5 million acre-feet (MAF) of surface water and is predicted to receive an annual inflow of approximately 1.7 MAF during the “Wet” 2025 water year (CDWR, n.d.). Water released from Trinity Reservoir flows to Lewiston Reservoir which re-regulates water through Lewiston Dam. From Lewiston Reservoir, water is either diverted for use in the Sacramento River Basin via the 10.7-mile Clear Creek Tunnel or released into the Trinity River through the Lewiston Dam to flow 112 miles before entering the Klamath River at Weitchpec. The USGS Hoopa gage is located 100 river miles downstream of Lewiston Dam. The Klamath River then flows approximately 43 miles before entering the Pacific Ocean. The Trinity River Hatchery (TRH), located at the base of Lewiston Dam, also diverts a small quantity of water from Lewiston Reservoir in support of fish hatchery operations and releases small quantities of water into the Trinity River.

Water from the Trinity Reservoir via Lewiston Reservoir is released to the Trinity River year-round, as prescribed by the Trinity Management Council (TMC). Releases from the deep portions of the reservoir assure release of suitably cold water throughout the year in support of fishery restoration goals for the Trinity River as well as assuring suitably cold water is diverted to meet cold water needs of fish species in the Sacramento River Basin. Both river systems have species Federally-listed as either Threatened or Endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

3.3.1.2 Environmental Effects

No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative flow from Lewiston Dam would remain at summer baseflow of 450 cfs, consistent with the prescription of the Trinity ROD and TMC and recommendation by the TRRP (TRRP, n.d.).

Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action, water flow from Lewiston Dam would be the same as the No Action Alternative until August 22nd when the supplemental flow release from Lewiston Dam would commence. Lewiston Dam releases would increase by 300 cfs (from 450 to 750 cfs) on August 22nd and by 1,350 cfs (from 750 to 2,100 cfs) on August 25th to achieve a peak flow of 2,600 cfs at the USGS Hoopa gage by August 26th at 7 p.m. Flows will begin decreasing on August 26th to achieve 1,000 cfs at the USGS Hoopa gage by August 27th and will maintain this flow rate over 2 days then decrease by 350 cfs (from 800 to 450 cfs) to achieve summer baseflow at Lewiston Dam.

Implementation of the Proposed Action would facilitate the safety of the HVT Boat Dance participants during the time of the ceremony by increasing the water depth in the Hoopa area to address changes in the river channel and minimize potential for capsizing.

Based on observations from past flow augmentation actions, implementation of the Proposed Action is anticipated to have only temporary impacts to the hydrology and water quality of the Trinity River.

During the 2023 "Wet" water year, Reclamation released supplemental water for the safety needs of the HVT Boat Dance, amounting to a total of 10,804 AF of water which commenced on August 18th and returned to summer baseflow (450 cfs) on August 26th, with a peak flow of 2,440 cfs at the USGS Lewiston gage. The volume of water released for the HVT Boat Dance was only 1.5% of the total volume of water released to Trinity River during the 2023 water year, 703,377 AF (TRRP, n.d.).

Assuming a similar water volume for the supplemental water release as the 2023 HVT Boat Dance water release and a similar total water volume released to the Trinity River during the "Wet" 2023 water year, the implementation of the Proposed Action would result in approximately 1.5% of the total water released to the Trinity River in the 2025 water year.

3.3.2 Biological Resources

The following publicly available databases were reviewed and referenced:

- The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB)

- USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac>)

3.3.2.1 Affected Environment

Special Status Species

Federally listed threatened, endangered, and candidate species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (16 U.S.C. §1531 et seq.) that may occur in or near the Project area are listed below in Table 2. This list was generated by accessing and querying the USFWS IPaC database on August 05, 2025, and CDFW's CNDDDB on August 05, 2025. An Official Species List was obtained from IPaC on August 05, 2025 (Project Code: 2025-0131817). Specifically, the species and species lists were generated from the USFWS database by querying for special status species within Trinity County and the Project area, from the CNDDDB by using a 1.5-mile buffer centered on and surrounding the Project area, and from the NMFS West Coast Region Species and Habitat Application. The query results suggest that a total of thirteen (13) federally listed, proposed, and/or candidate species, have the potential to inhabit the Project area (Table 2). There is no proposed or designated critical habitat in the project area for any of the species.

Table 2. Special Status Species Potentially in the Area

Special Status Species	ESA Status
North American Wolverine (<i>Gulo gulo luscus</i>)	Threatened
California Condor (<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>)	Experimental, Non-Essential
Northern Spotted Owl (<i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i>)	Threatened
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>)	Threatened
Northwestern Pond Turtle (<i>Actinemys marmorata</i>)	Proposed Threatened
Monarch Butterfly (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>)	Proposed Threatened
Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee (<i>Bombus suckleyi</i>)	Proposed Endangered
Conservancy Fairy Shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>)	Endangered
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp (<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>)	Threatened
Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>)	Endangered
Coho Salmon – Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast ESU (<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i> pop. 2)	Threatened

Chinook Salmon – Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast ESU (<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> pop. 14)	Candidate
Chinook Salmon – Upper Klamath and Trinity Rivers ESU (<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> pop. 30)	Candidate
Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	Delisted; Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

3.3.2.2 Environmental Effects

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not design and execute a supplemental flow release schedule for Lewiston Dam to meet the safety needs of the HVT Boat Dance ceremony. No augmentation flows would be released from Lewiston Dam in late August. There would be no effects to species listed in Table 2 from the No Action Alternative.

Proposed Action Alternative

Special Status Species

Based on observations from past flow augmentation actions, the Proposed Action would only have a temporary and minor effect to wildlife species (birds, mammals, etc.) that use the mainstem Trinity river or the riparian corridors along the Trinity and Klamath Rivers. This conclusion is based on the very minor change in river stage through the river system.

Similarly, based on observations from past augmentation actions, the Proposed Action would have a beneficial effect to anadromous fish species that benefit from cold flow pulses such as the federally listed Coho Salmon – Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast ESU. Although the flow increase is relatively small in amount and duration under the Proposed Action, the influence on water temperature may be substantial in the lower reaches of the Trinity River. Past observations suggest that an increase in flow from 450 cfs to 1,000 cfs at the USGS Hoopa gage would decrease the water temperature in the lower reaches by approximately 1.1°F and a subsequent increase in flow from 1,000 cfs to 2,600 cfs at the USGS Hoopa gage would decrease the water temperature in the lower reaches by approximately 3.8°F for a total decrease in water temperature of 4.9°F in the lower reaches of the Trinity River as a result of the implementation of the Proposed Action. This decrease in temperature in the lower reaches has lasted for approximately 5-6 days after the peak flow release while the water temperature at the point of water release, Lewiston Dam (USGS Gage #11525500),

has stayed relatively constant (USGS, n.d.). The decrease in temperature in the lower reaches of the Trinity River encourages upstream migration of adult salmon. However, the amount of flow under the Proposed Action would not be substantial enough to encourage additional fish from the Pacific Ocean or estuary to prematurely move upstream into the Klamath and Trinity River system. Adventitious triggering of upstream migration may reduce overcrowding and disease spread in adult salmon. Water temperatures in the Klamath River do not exhibit the same magnitude of cooling as the lower Trinity because of the comingling of Trinity River and Klamath River flows and heating of the water from the confluence of the Trinity River through to the Klamath River estuary.

Under the Proposed Action, the flow increase would have influence on water turbidity. However, the influence is anticipated to be insignificant as the level of turbidity would not be uncommon as well as temporary in duration.

There are no adverse effects anticipated to federally listed species, including adult or juvenile Coho salmon.

The northwestern pond turtle and Upper Klamath and Trinity Rivers ESU Chinook salmon are reported within 1.5 mile of the Project. However, the minor change in river stage and variable changes in water quality (i.e., turbidity, water temperature) through the river system would be temporary and would not impact these species.

Other special status species reported within 1.5-miles of the Project, such as bald eagles, are listed under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) and not under the ESA and may be present in the project area at the time of Project implementation. However, the minor change in river stage and variable changes in water quality (i.e., turbidity, water temperature) through the river system would be temporary and would not adversely impact bald eagles, their eggs or nests.

The Project area is surrounded by as forested/shrub riparian habitat and freshwater forested/shrub wetlands (National Wetlands Inventory, n.d). However, habitat for the Yellow-billed cuckoo would not be adversely impacted due to the minor change in river stage which would not lead to significant inundation of the floodplain. Additionally, there are no vernal pools in or surrounding the Project area according to EcoAtlas (CWMW, n.d) that would support the Conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, or vernal pool tadpole shrimp. The predominantly terrestrial habitats of the North American wolverine would not be adversely impacted due to impacts remaining local to the Project area as well as remaining short-term in duration. Similarly, the predominantly arborous habitats of the California condor and the northern spotted owl would not be adversely impacted due to impacts remaining local to the Project area as well as

remaining short-term in duration. Additionally, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined experimental, (non-essential) populations are not necessary for the continued existence of these populations. The Project area has suitable habitat for the monarch butterfly and may be an area over which monarch butterflies may traverse. However, there are no reported observations of either monarch butterflies at any life stage or the monarch butterfly's obligate host plants, milkweed species, within the Project area or the riparian zone that may be inundated because of the Proposed Action (Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper, n.d.). The Project area lacks the open terrestrial habitat required by the Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee and its host species, Western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis*). Although the environment surrounding the Project may be classified as woodlands and forest, the Project and impact areas are constrained to the point of water release, the Trinity River, and its floodplain to the extent of 2,600 cfs at the USGS Hoopa gage.

Thence, there would be no effect to North American wolverines, California condors, northern spotted owls, yellow-billed cuckoos, northwestern pond turtles, monarch butterflies, Suckley's cuckoo bumble bees, Conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, vernal pool tadpole shrimp, or coho salmon because of the Project.

3.3.3 Public Health and Safety

3.3.3.1 Affected Environment

As mentioned in Section 3.3.1.1, Reclamation controls water releases from Trinity Reservoir via Lewiston Reservoir for a multitude of purposes related to the CVP including, but not limited to, flood control and restoration. Several factors, including rate, current river stage, and topography, affect how water spreads from the point of water diversion at Lewiston Dam along the Trinity River onto the adjacent floodplains which ultimately, affects impacts to communities situated along the Trinity River or dependent on the Trinity River.

3.3.3.2 Environmental Effects

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, flow from Lewiston Dam would remain at summer baseflow of 450 cfs, consistent with the prescription of the Trinity ROD and TMC and recommendation by the TRRP (TRRP, n.d.). Communities along the Trinity River or dependent on the Trinity River would experience no scheduled change in river flow or river stage.

Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action, as described in detail in Section 3.2.1.2, water flow from Lewiston Dam would be the same as the No Action Alternative until August 22nd when the supplemental flow release from Lewiston Dam would commence and reach a peak flow of 2,600 cfs on August 26th at 7 p.m. before returning to summer baseflow after August 30th. Communities along the Trinity River such as Hoopa would likely experience an increase in river stage of approximately 2.8 feet for several hours during peak flow (CDEC, n.d.). Notification is provided to inform the public of the change in flow and urging, as always, to exercise caution when recreating in or around the Trinity River.

3.4 Reasonably Foreseeable Effects

Reasonably foreseeable is defined as sufficiently likely to occur such that a person of ordinary prudence would take it into account in reaching a decision according to the DOI NEPA Handbook (DOI NEPA Handbook, 516 DM 1, Section 6.1). Reasonably foreseeable effects of the Proposed Action include a rapid and temporary increase in water turbidity; rapid and temporary decrease in water temperature; and minor temporary increase in water level in the Trinity River. Absent the Proposed Action, the safety needs of the HVT Boat Dance participants would not be met nor would there exist beneficial effects to Federally-listed anadromous fish species in the Trinity River.

Reasonably foreseeable future Reclamation actions planned within the Project area may include restoration flows from Trinity Reservoir via Lewiston Reservoir to comply with water temperature targets set forth by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (North Coast RWQCB), NMFS and the State Water Regional Control Board (SWRCB) Water Rights Order 90-05 from mid-August to the end of the 2025 water year.

No appreciable or significant individual adverse effects on any resources were identified when evaluating the Proposed Action Alternative, and it has been determined that this Project, as proposed, would not incrementally contribute to additive effects on the human environment.

3.5 Effects on the Quality of Life of the American People

The Proposed Action enables the Boat Dance ceremony, a segment of the two major HVT 30-day ceremonies in which world renewal is celebrated and the Earth and Creator are honored by the Hoopa people for providing sustenance and the continuance of the Hoopa people, to occur safely. Furthermore, the Proposed Action facilitates the way of life and culture of the HVT. Absent the Proposed Action, the HVT Boat Dance

participants and boats would more likely capsize in shallow water, an act that carries negative spiritual implications.

In addition, the Proposed Action promotes higher quality experiences and products to Americans such as sustenance fishing and salmonid species (trout and salmon).

Appendix A. Consultation and Coordination

In accordance with DOI NEPA Handbook, 516 DM 1, Appendix 3 (4)(7), the following including the list of agencies and persons consulted:

Table 1. Agencies and persons consulted

Name	Title	Agency/Organization
Derek Rupert	Fish Biologist	Reclamation – Northern California Area Office
Willam (Bill) Norton	Archeologist	Reclamation – California Great Basin Regional Office

Appendix B. Public Involvement

Reclamation may seek comments on an EA if determined to be appropriate to support decision making on a proposed action and anticipates reaching a finding of no significant impact (DOI NEPA Handbook, 516 DM 1, Appendix 3 (1)). Given the routine and minor occurrence and inappreciable effects of the Proposed Action, a draft environmental assessment for publication was not prepared.

Appendix C. References

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