

## CONTENTS

<b>1. Introduction</b> .....	1-1
1.1 Study Area and Background.....	1-1
1.2 U.S. Forest Service Mission and Policies.....	1-2
1.3 Western's Reliability and Safety Responsibilities.....	1-3
<b>2. Coordination and Communication</b> .....	2-1
2.1 Principal Representatives.....	2-1
2.2 Noncompliance.....	2-1
2.3 Plan Amendments and Changes.....	2-1
2.4 Tracking and Identification.....	2-1
<b>3. Operation and Maintenance Activities</b> .....	3-1
3.1 Inspection/System Management.....	3-1
3.2 Maintenance Activities.....	3-2
3.3 Equipment/System Upgrades.....	3-13
3.4 Emergency Response.....	3-13
3.5 Operation and Maintenance Activity Categories.....	3-14
3.6 O&M Implementation.....	3-16
<b>4. Fire Plan</b> .....	4-1
4.1 Fire Call Directory.....	4-1
4.2 Fire Season.....	4-1
4.3 Fire Precaution Measures.....	4-2
<b>5. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)</b> .....	5-1
<b>6. Project Conservation Measures (PCMs)</b> .....	6-1
6.1 Development of PCMs.....	6-1
6.2 Implementation of PCMs.....	6-2
6.3 Changes to PCMs.....	6-2
<b>7. GIS Database</b> .....	7-1
7.1 GIS Data on DVD/External Drive:.....	7-2
7.2 GIS Data Accessibility.....	7-2
7.3 GIS Definitions.....	7-2
<b>8. References</b> .....	8-1

## Tables

Table 2-1	USFS Contact Information.....	2-1
Table 2-2	Western Contact Information.....	2-1
Table 3-1	Sample IVM Prescription.....	3-5
Table 4-1	USFS Fire Contact Numbers.....	4-1
Table 4-2	Western Fire Contact Numbers.....	4-1
Table 5-1	Standard Operating Procedures.....	5-2
Table 6-1	Special-status Plant Project Conservation Measures.....	6-3
Table 6-2	Special-status Wildlife and Fish Project Conservation Measures.....	6-29
Table 6-3	Water Resources/Aquatic Habitat Project Conservation Measures.....	6-55
Table 6-4	Cultural Resources Project Conservation Measures.....	6-59

## Figures

Figure 1-1	Project Overview .....	1-5
Figure 1-2	USFS Lands Crossed by Western's North Area Lines.....	1-7
Figure 3-1	Wire Zone/Border Zone Management Practice.....	3-4
Figure 3-2	Buffered Vegetation Management.....	3-4

## Appendices

Appendix A	Clearance Requirements
Appendix B	Herbicide Information
Appendix C	Noxious Weed Management
Appendix D	Habitat Descriptions
Appendix E	Culvert and Drainage Dip Descriptions
Appendix F	Additional O&M Requirements and Information

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Study Area and Background

The Western Area Power Administration (Western) markets and delivers reliable, cost-based hydroelectric power and related services within a 15-state region of the central and western United States. Within its Sierra Nevada Region, Western owns, operates, and maintains 115-kilovolt (kV), 230-kV, and 500-kV transmission lines in Alameda, Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Yolo and Yuba Counties, California, and Klamath County, Oregon (see Figure 1-1). These lines include portions of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and the entire Pacific Alternating Current Intertie (PACI) transmission lines. Additionally, Western operates and maintains (also has partial ownership of) the California-Oregon Transmission Project (COTP), which is owned by the Transmission Agency of Northern California (TANC) and comprises three 500-kV lines that extend from the Captain Jack Substation in Klamath County, Oregon, to the Tesla Substation in San Joaquin County, California. Besides transmission lines, TANC owns numerous communication facilities throughout California. Collectively, the CVP, PACI, COTP, seven communication facilities, and associated access roads are referred to as Western's North Area Right-of-Way (ROW), and comprise the project area.

A Master Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Program has been prepared for all O&M activities within the North Area ROW. The Master O&M Program contains specific O&M plans for each land manager [National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS)], as well as for private lands. This particular O&M plan focuses on the requirements on USFS land.

Western has developed long-range maintenance and management strategies for the high-voltage transmission lines and related facilities on USFS land in central and northern California, specifically within Shasta-Trinity and Modoc National Forests. Shasta-Trinity National Forest is the largest forest in California, with a diverse landscape ranging from 1,000 feet to 14,162 feet in elevation. The 2.1-million-acre forest encompasses five wilderness areas, hundreds of mountain lakes, and 6,278 miles of stream and rivers. The Modoc National Forest is the most northeasterly of the national forest units in California, with a gross area of about 2 million acres. The highest peak in the Modoc National Forest is Eagle Peak at 9,722 feet; the Pit River drains a great deal of the watershed in this area. Figure 1-2 shows Western's existing North Area lines within the Shasta-Trinity and Modoc National Forests.

The management objectives of this O&M plan are to:

1. prevent operational hazards;
2. provide access for maintenance;
3. protect facilities from fire;
4. control the spread of noxious weeds and protect environmental quality;

5. adhere to principles of Western's Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) Program;
6. establish stable, low-growing plant communities under ROWs;
7. develop a technically and economically efficient program; and
8. protect public and worker safety.

The purpose of this document is to describe the routine O&M activities proposed by Western associated with its transmission lines, substations, communication systems, microwave sites, and other ancillary facilities on USFS land. This O&M plan sets forth a formal agreement between Western and the USFS on specific O&M matters. It will apply to any and all Western contractors and their employees within the study area. Western is responsible for ensuring that all contractors and their employees are aware of the contents of this O&M plan.

## 1.2 U.S. Forest Service Mission and Policies

Western has coordinated extensively with the USFS in developing this specific O&M plan for USFS land. This O&M plan was developed in a manner to ensure consistency with the USFS mission and goals as described below.

*"The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations."*

The USFS has the following goals:

- **Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire.** Restore the health of the nation's forests and grasslands to increase resilience to the effects of wildland fire.
- **Reduce the impacts from invasive species.** Restore the health of the nation's forests and grasslands to be resilient to the effects of invasive insects, pathogens, plants, and pests.
- **Provide outdoor recreational opportunities.** Provide high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities on forests and grasslands, while sustaining natural resources, to meet the nation's recreational demands.
- **Help meet energy resource needs.** Contribute to meeting the nation's need for energy.
- **Improve watershed condition.** Increase the number of forest and grassland watersheds that are in fully functional hydrologic condition.
- **Conduct mission-related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals.** Conduct research and other mission-related work to fulfill statutory stewardship and assistance requirements.

### **1.3 Western's Reliability and Safety Responsibilities**

The Master O&M Program focuses on maintaining all facilities in Western's North Area ROW, thereby ensuring reliability of the transmission system and safe, all-weather access to the transmission line structures and other Western facilities. These objectives are consistent with reliability, safety, and environmental regulations and policies, including the National Electric Safety Code, the Western Systems Coordinating Council requirements, North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) Reliability Standards (Standard FAC-003-1 – Transmission Vegetation Management Program), and the Western directives for protecting human safety and maintaining system reliability. A detailed white paper listing Western's clearance requirements is provided in Appendix A.

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Figure 1-1 Project Overview

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Figure 1-2 USFS Lands Crossed by Western's North Area Line

*8.5 x 11 Color*

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## 2. COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION

### 2.1 Principal Representatives

Clear, efficient, and timely communication and coordination between the USFS and Western is necessary for the implementation and monitoring of this O&M plan on USFS lands. To ensure this, USFS and Western will each designate representatives assigned to all Western O&M activities within the USFS boundary. Western and USFS commit to timely communication, with prompt e-mail and phone responses. Contact information for all representatives is provided below in Tables 2-1 and 2-2.

**Table 2-1 USFS Contact Information**

Name	Title	Phone Number	E-mail
Vacant	Public Uses Staff Officer	(530) 226-9525	To be determined
Stacy Smith	Special Use Officer	(530) 926-9643	ssmith01@fs.fed.us

**Table 2-2 Western Contact Information**

Name	Title	Phone Number	E-mail
Steve Tuggle	Environmental Resource Manager	Office (916) 353-4549 Cell (916) 804-9721	tuggle@wapa.gov
Ami Goerdts	Biologist	Office (916) 353-4526 Cell (916) 847-3608	goerdts@wapa.gov
Cherie Johnston Waldear	Archaeologist	(916) 353-4035	waldear@wapa.gov
Heidi Miller	Realty Specialist	(916) 353-4420	hmiller@wapa.gov

### 2.2 Noncompliance

The USFS will immediately notify Western's principal representative should the O&M plan not be adhered to. If the matter has not been resolved after informal discussions, the USFS will follow the regulatory procedures for a formal complaint.

### 2.3 Plan Amendments and Changes

If modifications and/or changes to this O&M plan are needed, they may be initiated at the request of Western or the USFS. Modifications and/or changes will be coordinated between Western and the USFS, and joint approval will be required by the USFS supervisor and Western project management.

### 2.4 Tracking and Identification

It is anticipated that all activities and sites will be tracked by the tower numbers in Western's geographic information system (GIS) and/or by township, range, and section numbers. These tracking units may be supplemented with 1:24,000 scale topographic maps and/or photos that identify tower numbers and the road system. See Section 7 for more details on Western's GIS system.



### 3. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

Western's Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Program has been developed to improve the safety and reliability of the electric transmission systems, including existing North Area transmission lines. The project includes the Pacific AC Intertie (PACI), Central Valley Project (CVP), and California-Oregon Transmission Project (COTP) rights-of-ways (ROWs) as well as the TANC-owned/Western-maintained communication facilities. The program focuses on preventing transmission outages associated with vegetation interference (grow-in and fall-in) by maintaining clearances between the existing transmission lines and vegetation within and adjacent to the ROWs. In addition, maintaining safe and reliable access to the ROW is paramount to long-term sustainability of Western's infrastructure system, which must meet the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) directives, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc. (IEEE) clearance guidelines, and Western's Order 430.1.

In general, Western will employ vegetation management practices that will promote low-growing native plant communities<sup>1</sup> within the ROW. The methods selected for vegetation management will depend on the sensitivity of the resources in the area, the existing vegetation conditions, the surrounding topography, and the measures coordinated with resource agencies and land managers.

Western has coordinated with the Forest Service (USFS) on this project and has designed its O&M program to meet USFS plans and policies as well as Western's safety and reliability requirements. Within USFS lands, Western acknowledges USFS's concerns related to maintenance of access roads and the associated issues of potential soil erosion and slope instability. This section specifically outlines the Western/USFS coordinated O&M program on USFS lands.

#### 3.1 Inspection/System Management

In compliance with Western's *Guidelines, Requirements, Inspections, and Procedures* (GRIP) 19, Western has been conducting aerial, ground, and climbing inspections of its existing transmission infrastructure since initial construction. Western has updated these required inspections under this O&M program. The following paragraphs describe Western's inspection requirements.

##### 3.1.1 Aerial Inspections

Aerial inspections will be conducted a minimum of every 6 months by helicopter or small plane over the entire transmission system to check for hazard trees<sup>2</sup> or encroaching vegetation, as well as to locate damaged or malfunctioning transmission equipment. Typically, aerial patrols will be flown between 50 and 300 feet above Western's

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<sup>1</sup> Low-growing native plant communities consist of native grasses, shrubs, forbs, and herbaceous species.

<sup>2</sup> Trees located within or adjacent to the easement or permit area that present an immediate hazard to the facility or have the potential to encroach within the safe distance to the conductor as a result of bending, growing, swinging, or falling toward the conductor.

transmission infrastructure depending on the land use, topography, and infrastructure requirements. In general, the aerial inspections will pass over each segment of the transmission line within a one-minute period.

### **3.1.2 Ground Inspections**

Annual ground inspections will check access to the towers/poles, tree clearances, fences, gates, locks, and tower hardware, and ensure that each structure would be readily accessible in the event of an emergency. They allow for the inspection of hardware that will not be possible by air, and identify redundant or overgrown access roads that should be permanently closed and returned to their natural state. Ground inspections are typically conducted by driving a pickup truck along the ROW and access roads. Detailed ground inspections will be performed on 20 percent of all lines and structures annually, for 100 percent inspection every 5 years. They will involve a shake test (i.e., manually shaking the knee braces of the tower to see if there is anything loose on the structure).

### **3.1.3 Climbing Inspections**

Climbing inspections will be performed on all antenna towers at least once every 7 years to identify deterioration in hardware that could not be detected from either ground or aerial patrols. In addition, climbing of transmission line structures would occur if problems were identified during ground inspections. Typically, such activities will involve the use of a pickup truck or bucket truck.

## **3.2 Maintenance Activities**

In general, Western O&M activities for the North Area transmission lines will include the following:

- **Vegetation maintenance (transmission line and access road ROWs).** Vegetation maintenance ensures that vegetation does not interfere with human safety, transmission line conductors, towers, or other hardware, or impede access to the transmission line for maintenance crews. In general, vegetation maintenance can be performed using a variety of methods including manual methods (hand-controlled, powered or non-powered tools such as chainsaws and clippers), mechanical methods (such as heavy-duty mowers), and herbicidal applications (used either to prohibit or retard vegetative growth).
- **Access road maintenance.** Access road maintenance includes activities to ensure that legal access roads are in appropriate condition for all-weather access to transmission lines by maintenance and inspection crews. These activities include grading, surfacing, erosion-control measures and constructing water diversions such as culverts, ditches, and water bars.

- **Transmission line and associated structure, hardware, and equipment maintenance.** This category of activities includes equipment and system upgrades, routine aerial and ground patrols of transmission lines and ROWs, and transmission system repairs.

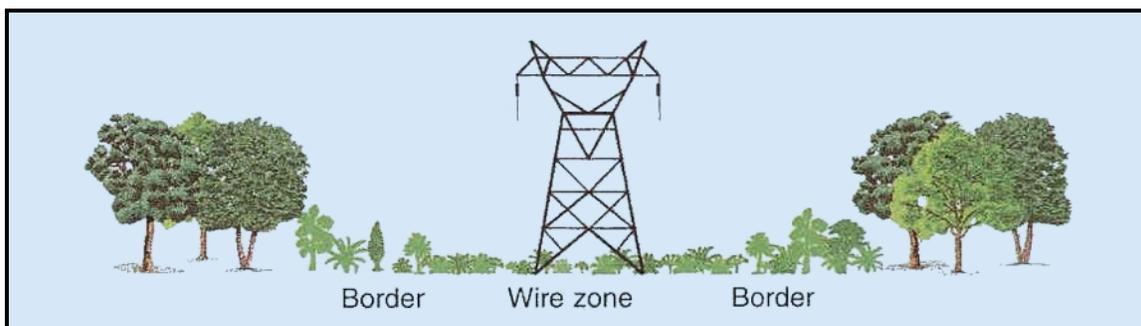
The methods used to complete maintenance activity will be selected in consultation with the USFS.

### ***3.2.1 Vegetation Maintenance***

Western's proposed Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program identifies the correct vegetation maintenance approach (also referred to as prescription) for specific areas based on the sensitivity of resources, reliability and safety issues, and environmental laws and regulations. IVM is a practice of managing undesirable vegetation in which action clearance thresholds are established and proactively monitored. For those areas that are in violation of the threshold, all possible control options are evaluated, selected, and implemented. Control options are based on worker and public safety, environmental impact, effectiveness, site characteristics, and economics. Initially, the ROW is restored through the removal of undesirable vegetation. The ROW is then enhanced via various management techniques to protect facilities, reduce the potential for fire, and provide habitat for wildlife and a variety of plant species. Under the IVM program, vegetation maintenance options range from wire zone/border zone management (with the greatest vegetation clearance) to buffered vegetation management (with the least vegetation clearance).

Establishment of a wire zone/border zone is a key consideration in the development of IVM programs. For most areas, Western will adopt a wire zone/border zone approach to ROW vegetation management, which recognizes the ROW as a valuable economic and ecological resource. Key to this concept is the management of the ROW from two perspectives, the wire zone and the border zone. The wire zone includes the ROW area immediately under the transmission wire plus 10 feet on both sides. The border zone is the remainder of the ROW on both sides of the wire zone. The goal is to have a low shrub-forb-grass cover type in the wire zone and a taller shrub-forb-grass cover type in the border zone. Brush and/or tree vegetation should be thinned to a maximum average distance of 30 feet between main stems. Also, this approach will maintain 30 feet of clearance around each transmission tower or transmission structure. Benefits of this approach include a reduction in the frequency of disturbance due to less frequent vegetation management activities. Figure 3-1 is an illustration of the desired appearance of a ROW subject to the wire zone/border zone management practice.

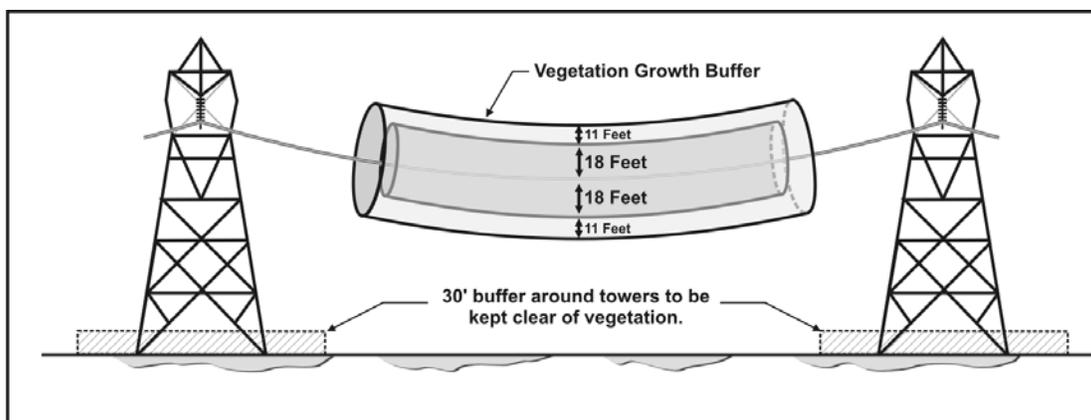
**Figure 3-1 Wire Zone/Border Zone Management Practice**



In specific areas where conversion of the ROW from naturally occurring tree-dominated native plant communities into a wire zone/border zone ROW is not appropriate, Western has developed a buffered vegetation management approach that aligns USFS goals with Western's need to maintain NERC reliability standards (currently 18 feet of clearance from any vegetation). Under the buffered vegetation management approach, Western will maintain the required clearance between vegetation and any point of the circuit or transmission system. As with the wire zone/border zone vegetation management approach, this approach will maintain 30 feet of clearance around each transmission tower or transmission structure. Benefits of this approach include the reduction of ground-disturbing activities and the related reduction in the establishment of nonnative plant species. Figure 3-2 provides an illustration of the buffered vegetation management approach proposed for USFS lands, as necessary.

A transmission circuit can move vertically depending on the atmospheric temperature and electrical load on the line. Western and USFS recommend adding 60 percent to the clearance standard as a buffer to account for the sag in the line during high temperatures and high-load periods. As a result, the buffered vegetation management area will include the mandatory 18 feet Clearance I requirements plus 60 percent buffer clearance (approximately 11 feet based on the current 18-foot requirement) for vegetation growth and sag in the line (refer to Figure 3-2).

**Figure 3-2 Buffered Vegetation Management Approach for 500-kV Line**



Note: A minimum 23 foot buffer (for clearance and vegetation growth) from conductor to vegetation would be required for a 230-kV buffered vegetation management area

As described above, Western proposes to implement a combination of vegetation management practices that are consistent with the principles of IVM and in concert with USFS goals and policies. Depending on the area and the requirements, Western will develop specific prescriptions to manage vegetation along the ROWs (e.g., fuel shade break). The prescriptions will fall between the wire zone/border zone and buffered vegetation management approaches. (See Table 3-1 for example). The following paragraphs describe the general vegetation management methodologies identified for USFS land.

**Table 3-1 Sample IVM Prescription**

Shaded Fuel Break Prescription
Vegetation within a 29-foot (or most recent requirement plus 60%) buffer of the conductor or that can encroach within the buffer will be manually removed.
Elderberry, redbud, fruit trees, and other low-lying vegetation (typically under 12 feet at maturity) will not be removed. Western will consult with USFS for further detail of desirable vegetation to be left within the ROW (does not apply around tower footprint). Remaining brush (other than desirables) will be manually thinned to an average of 20 to 30 feet of spacing per single shrub or tree, and toyon will be favored for keeping over manzanita, and oaks over knobcone pines.
30 feet of vegetation-free clearance will be maintained around each transmission tower or transmission structure.
Directional pruning, whereby trees are pruned to direct growth away from the conductors, will be used in special situations where it is desirable to leave trees in place as visual screens (e.g., along roads, streams, and rivers) or where easement contracts and land/resource plans dictate such tree removal or trimming criteria (e.g., in orchards and along streams).
Western acknowledges federal land management concerns related to the fuels left in the ROW and will promote the reduction of fuel load during vegetation management activities. All vegetation will be chipped (to not exceed 4 inches) and broadcast back into the ROW unless otherwise authorized by the USFS. Where access is limited, lopping and scattering (that would not exceed 12 inches from ground) must be authorized by the USFS and Western prior to work.
When trimming is appropriate, all conifers will be trimmed back to the bole of the targeted tree.
Large-diameter trees will be limbed (branches less than 4 inches) and scattered so that the depth of the slash or tree boles does not exceed 18 inches in height.
Mechanical methods will be constrained where soils are susceptible to compaction or erosion.
Rubber-tired tractors will be prohibited on slopes exceeding 40 percent and on soils where there is a high potential for compaction and erosion (except on access roads). Slopes greater than 40 percent will be avoided by all mechanical equipment. The only exceptions will be on existing access roads and in designated areas where adverse impacts can be avoided.
Legal access roads will be brushed to 16-foot width. Western will refer to the map and USFS for questions and identification of access roads.

**3.2.1.1 Manual Vegetation Control Methods**

Manual vegetation control is defined as the application of powered and non-powered handheld tools or installation of synthetic or natural barriers to manage vegetative growth. The primary benefit of manual methods is selectivity; only unwanted vegetation is removed. The primary disadvantages of manual methods are that they are labor intensive and are most effective in relatively low-density vegetation. The manual vegetation control techniques employed by Western are described below.

## ***CUTTING***

The most commonly used manual method to control vegetation is cutting target plants with power saws. Other manually operated tools such as axes, machetes, and clippers may also be used. This method is highly effective on species that do not resprout. For species that resprout, including most deciduous trees, sprouts may resurge to original heights within several years and at much greater density than the original stems (BPA 1983). Access for subsequent manual treatments is thereby hindered.

## ***GIRDLING***

Girdling involves manually cutting away bark and cambium tissues around the trunk of target trees. This treatment is rarely practiced by Western, but may be appropriate in some cases (e.g., where large trees cannot be felled by cutting) if agreed to by USFS. Conifer species are killed by girdling, but hardwoods frequently will resprout below the girdle unless the cut is treated with herbicide. Girdling results in standing dead trees or snags, which are left to decompose and fall on their own. Snags are left at the USFS's request and may provide habitat for cavity-nesting species and other wildlife (Western 2007). Girdling could pose a fuels-management problem by mixing standing dead fuel with live fuel, which can significantly increase the potential for a crown fire.

## ***TOPPING AND TRIMMING***

Topping involves cutting a tree at a specific height to prevent it from growing into transmission lines or microwave beam paths without felling the whole tree. Conifers will not be topped, although this treatment may be used on other species in rare cases as the situation dictates.

Trimming or pruning is the removal of selected branches from tree trunks for the same purposes, along with aesthetic preservation. Directional pruning is practiced by Western to the extent possible, whereby the trees are pruned to direct growth away from the conductors.

Western uses these highly labor-intensive techniques in special situations where it is desirable to leave trees in place as visual screens (e.g., along roads, streams, and rivers) or where easement contracts and land/resource plans dictate such tree removal or trimming criteria (e.g., in orchards and along streams) (Western 2007). Under the buffered vegetation management approach, limbing or trimming of the individual branches that encroach into the buffered vegetation area is the preferred method. For this approach, topping is not acceptable because it may encourage faster growth toward the transmission lines. In addition, when there is no compelling need to remove an entire tree, that tree should not be cut down.

## ***SLASH DISPOSAL/FUELS REDUCTION***

Manual cutting operations by Western are sometimes followed by slash disposal techniques designed to reduce fire hazards or to improve esthetic appeal. Slash refers to the debris left within the vegetation treatment area. The slash will be treated as follows:

- **Chipper-accessible areas (sites located within 150 feet of truck/chipper-passable roads):** Foliage and limbs less than 6 inches diameter will be chipped into truck box, removed from site, and disposed of at an approved location. Limbs and logs greater than 6 inches diameter will remain on site, unless alternate treatment is specified in the Tree Work Authorization Form.
- **Non-chipper-accessible areas (sites located farther than 150 feet of truck/chipper passable roads):** Foliage and limbs less than 6 inches diameter will be lopped and scattered outside of cleared ROW to a depth no greater than 18 inches. Limbs and logs greater than 6 inches diameter will remain on site whole, unless alternate treatment is specified in the Tree Work Authorization Form.
- **High-visibility or high-recreational-use areas only:** Foliage and limbs less than 6 inches diameter will be treated as described above according to truck/chipper access. Limbs and logs greater than 6 inches diameter will be cut into manageable lengths and stacked in piles (not to exceed 4 feet cubed) to encourage public consumption, unless alternate treatment is specified in the Tree Work Authorization Form.

### **3.2.1.2 Mechanical Vegetation Control Methods**

Mechanical methods employ machines to remove or control vegetation. These methods are often nonselective in that certain plants cannot be targeted for removal or avoided. Mechanical methods, however, may be highly effective at controlling brush on gentle topography with few site obstacles. Most mechanical equipment is not safe to operate on slopes over 30 to 35 percent. Mechanical methods are also constrained where soils are susceptible to compaction or erosion. Site obstacles such as rocks, stumps, or logs also reduce efficiency of these methods (Western 2007).

### **3.2.1.3 Herbicide Control Methods**

Under the Proposed Action, Western may expand its use of herbicides for vegetation management. Western will coordinate with each land management and/or local agency to ensure that its use of herbicides is consistent with local herbicide-use regulations or guidelines (e.g., Nation Risk Assessment process).

An herbicide is a chemical used to kill or suppress the growth of plants. The most satisfactory classification of herbicides is based upon how they are used for weed control and how they work. Accordingly, herbicides are classified into two major types:

- **Selective herbicides** kill certain plants but do not significantly affect the most desirable plants. For example, some selective herbicides kill broadleaf plants (including brush) but do not affect grasses.
- **Nonselective herbicides** are chemicals that are generally toxic to plants without regard to species. Plants differ in susceptibility to any specific chemical and the choice of herbicide and application rate depends on the species to be controlled.

Western proposes using only those herbicides that have been approved for use in ROW maintenance based on evaluations of toxicity, solubility, soil adsorption potential, and persistence in water and soil. Further, these herbicides must be registered for use in California by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Appendix B provides detailed information on these herbicides, including BLM and USFS requirements. Western will use only employees or contractors with required applicator licenses/certificates.

Western will follow strict safety procedures and best management practices (BMPs) while applying herbicides. These practices, described in Western's Integrated Vegetation Management Guide and Transmission Vegetation Management Program (IVM) (Western 2007), are a part of the O&M program and will include the following provisions:

- Federal and California pesticide regulations for restrictions on use of particular herbicides will be reviewed;
- Land owner/interagency agreements for herbicide type or application method restrictions will be reviewed;
- All herbicide use will be approved by the individual agencies based on herbicide-use proposals that will be submitted by Western annually;
- Western will use only those herbicides approved by Forest Service Region 5 on nonnative and invasive plant species on USFS lands;
- Site conditions will be matched to specific herbicides and application methods, including the plants that are to be controlled, seasonal limitations, presence of sensitive environmental areas (such as endangered species, habitat, and wetlands), presence/proximity of non-target vegetation, and vegetation conditions (such as height and amount of tall-growing brush);
- Western's environmental protection requirements will be reviewed;
- Restrictions and guidance listed on the herbicide label will be followed;
- Equipment will be calibrated to ensure proper mixture and volume of herbicide;
- The proper nozzle tip will be selected to avoid overspray;
- Herbicides will be handled to avoid accidental spills and ensure worker and public safety;
- Herbicide application methods will be adjusted based on wind speed and direction, which may include avoiding application on windy days when drift potential is greatest;
- If requested, Western will provide the USFS with the following information after completion of a maintenance activity: herbicide used, amount (including concentration), location of application, and method and date of application.

There are several different ways to apply herbicides, and the method selected depends on the type of control needed, the type of vegetation, and the site situation (i.e., site conditions, location). Application methods include stump treatment, basal spray treatment, foliage spray treatment, soils treatment, and under-surfacing materials treatment.

### ***STUMP TREATMENT***

Stump treatment is used when vegetation is cut to the ground line. This method is primarily used: 1) after initial clearing and 2) during maintenance clearing when trees have grown too tall to use foliage spray or when drift is an issue (Western 2007). Western currently applies either an oil-based herbicide mixture or a ready-to-use non-oil solution.

### ***BASAL SPRAY TREATMENT***

This treatment method involves spraying the lower part of the stem and the exposed roots of incompatible vegetation with an oil-based formula. Basal spray treatment will be used on resprouting species and identified nonnative and invasive plant species. This method is more selective than a foliage spray and does not cause immediate brownout of vegetation (Western 2007). In general, this treatment is prescribed where:

- brush is too tall to use foliage spray without causing unacceptable drift;
- the ROW is adjacent to cropland, residences, susceptible vegetation, or other sensitive areas, and drift is a problem;
- the ROW contains a high density of compatible species, and a foliage spray cannot be applied without injuring the compatible cover.

### ***FOLIAR SPRAY TREATMENT***

Foliar spraying is a common method of applying herbicides on brush up to 15 feet tall. This method uses a water-based formulation that is applied to the entire plant's foliage and stems. Because it is sprayed into the air, drift can be a problem under certain atmospheric conditions. Also, most foliage sprays cause immediate brownout of vegetation. This method will not be used in areas where drift and brownout are concerns (e.g., adjacent to cropland, residences, susceptible vegetation, or other environmentally or visually sensitive areas) (Western 2007).

## ***3.2.2 Access Road Maintenance***

Western acknowledges that issues related to maintenance of access roads are of primary concern to USFS. As part of the O&M program, Western must maintain safe and reliable access roads to the existing infrastructure. Western will comply with applicable land owner specifications, and will notify USFS of major maintenance activities. The following paragraphs describe Western's approach to maintaining existing legal access roads.

For all access road work, any equipment will be cleaned and inspected prior to operations. All ditches, existing culverts, and inlet assemblies will be cleaned. Slash

and debris may be scattered, but will not be placed near or in stream channels, culvert inlets, or ditches. There will be a clearing limit of 4 feet on both sides of the existing roadbed. Trees over 6 inches in diameter within the clearing limit that do not impede blading will be limbed to a height of 14 feet and left standing.

The following paragraphs describe in additional detail Western's approach to maintaining its existing legal access roads.

### ***3.2.2.1 Clearing Culverts and Ditches***

Existing culverts and ditches must be kept free of debris and obstructions. Ditches on newly constructed roads could require frequent cleaning and checking after each major storm until revegetation has occurred. It is a goal of Western to check each culvert at least once a year after spring rains and before winter rains; additional culvert checks will be performed as needed to keep culverts clean and unobstructed. During inspection and clearing of culverts and ditches, Western will:

- leave grass in the ditch unless it has filled with sediment and is no longer functioning;
- check for undercutting road shoulders and banks;
- check culverts for blockage by debris;
- not leave a berm on the side of the road; berms will channel water down the road.

### ***3.2.2.2 Culvert and Ditch Specifications***

#### **CULVERTS**

A culvert will be constructed of corrugated metal or corrugated steel. The area 10 feet upstream and downstream of a culvert and a width 2 feet wider than its diameter will be cleared.

Western understands the potential for adverse environmental effects if a culvert is installed without consideration of existing biological resources. As such, Western will consider the following guidelines when constructing new culverts:

- Whenever possible, low-water crossings will be installed instead of a culvert;
- Applicable permits (including national regulatory permits for wetlands and state water quality certification) will be obtained as appropriate;
- Projects will be scheduled so that they do not coincide with fish migrations, spawning, and egg-incubation periods;
- The appropriate erosion and sediment controls will be installed on disturbed soils as soon as possible (i.e., before site work is finished).

Culverts need to be large enough to pass a 100-year flood at 67 to 75 percent of capacity. They will be designed to accommodate water velocities and flows necessary for fish, frogs, and other aquatic species to swim through the culvert. Culvert diameters will match the width of the stream at an average point. Stream widths will be measured at the top of the banks as this may best represent the stream size during normal high water or bank-full conditions. The angle or slope of the culvert will be equal to the stream grade to maintain an acceptable water velocity for fish passage. For culvert design specifications, refer to drawings in Appendix E. The designs presented in Appendix E are example culvert design specifications that may be used in the field depending on the unique site characteristics, while maintaining the 100-year flood at 67 to 75 percent of capacity.

### ***WATER BARS***

A water bar is a ridge that directs water off the road. Water bars will be spaced 200 feet apart for roads with a grade under 6 percent, 125 feet apart for grades between 6 and 10 percent, and 50 feet apart for grades between 10 and 13 percent. For water bar design specifications, refer to drawings in Appendix E.

### ***ROLLING DRAIN DIPS***

A rolling drain dip likewise allows for cross-drainage. It consists of a shallow dip followed by a hump, along with an earth berm at the edge of one side of the road. For rolling drain dip design specifications, refer to drawings in Appendix E.

#### ***3.2.2.3 Removing Slide Debris***

Slide debris can cause increased sediment loads in established roadway drainage systems as well as in established streams. In order to prevent this, Western will not sidecast removed material. Should slide debris occur, the cause will be evaluated to determine if removal of the slide debris could exacerbate slope instability by undercutting the toe of the slope. In some instances, removal of some debris could be required and stabilization of the remaining material could prevent further problems. The appropriate erosion and sediment controls will be installed on disturbed soils as soon as possible (i.e., before site work is finished). Mulching and other forms of erosion control will be used to prevent erosion.

#### ***3.2.2.4 Repairing Road Structures***

In order to maintain safe access, associated road structures will be routinely inspected and maintained. Road structures in need of repair could include bridges, culverts, cattleguards, and fences. Should a structure need to be modified, maintenance activities will be designed to reduce erosion and sedimentation in streams. Western will employ the following BMPs:

- Be consistent with USFS structure design and specifications;
- Protect vegetation and minimize the amount of disturbance of plants and soils by equipment;

- Work quickly to minimize the time disturbed soils are exposed;
- Divert run-off away from exposed soils into vegetated buffers;
- Disperse concentrated stream flows;
- Provide adequate run-off channels;
- Trim slopes to stable configurations and revegetate as soon as possible;
- Comply with land-manager design and engineering requirements for new or modified structures;
- Attempt to inspect new or modified structures at least once a year after spring rains and before winter rains;
- Mitigate the damage created during emergency road repairs as soon as possible to prevent further damage and erosion.

### **3.2.2.5 Controlling Erosion**

Western will work with guidance from USFS to review and annually prioritize roads for repair, over a 5-year period. This will involve monitoring for erosion, rehabilitating gullies and rills, and ensuring that there are no ruts of deeper than three inches.

### **3.2.2.6 Repairing Damaged Access Roads**

For damaged access roads or roads with existing drainage and erosion problems, Western will replace the surface material lost or worn away, then grade and shape the road surface, turnouts, and shoulders to their original condition, or better. Watering could be required to control dust and to retain fine surface rock.

This program would make it a goal to eliminate old erosional features while proactively preventing new problems. While repairing damaged access roads, Western will adhere to the following BMPs:

- Be consistent with USFS structure design and specifications;
- Minimize the amount of disturbance of plants and soils by equipment;
- Work quickly to minimize the time disturbed soils are exposed;
- Divert run-off away from exposed soils and into vegetated areas;
- Disperse concentrated stream flows;
- Provide adequate run-off channels;
- Trim slopes to stable configurations and revegetate as soon as possible;
- Attempt to check road quality at least once a year after spring rains and before winter rains;

- Mitigate any damage created by emergency repairs as soon as possible to prevent further damage and erosion.

### **3.2.2.7 Removing Access Roads**

Based on conversations with USFS, Western will consider removing access roads that are no longer needed. Western will annually prioritize roads for removal, and notify the authorized officer with a legal description of the road segments to be abandoned. Western will provide the USFS with a plan to restore the abandoned roads to a natural state over a 5- to 6-year period.

### **3.2.3 Transmission System Maintenance**

The need for repairs and preventative maintenance activities is based on the results of inspections or other reports. Repairs and preventative maintenance activities include: replacing insulators; tightening, replacing, or repairing towers/poles or hardware; and looking for ROW encroachments. These activities will be performed wherever damage or deterioration of transmission lines or facilities poses a threat to safety or reliability. The type of equipment needed may include a pickup truck, bulldozer, backhoe, bucket truck, and hand tools, and will depend on the required repair or maintenance activity. For major activities, Western will coordinate with USFS.

## **3.3 Equipment/System Upgrades**

In order for the transmission system to operate in a safe, reliable, and efficient manner, Western needs to replace or upgrade system components based on the age, condition, and technology of the piece of equipment. System upgrades or replacements will include: new conductors, capacitor banks, transformers and breakers, small solar-power arrays, and other electrical equipment.

## **3.4 Emergency Response**

Emergencies are any event requiring immediate response to a condition by Western personnel. These may include, but are not limited to, car-to-pole contacts, downed poles, fires, transformer outages, and/or outages due to a downed wire as a result of an unexpected situation (e.g., extreme weather, fallen tree, etc.). Responding crews will vary in number and equipment needs depending on the size and severity of the emergency.

Western will assess the situation and then contact Western Dispatch Office and appropriate personnel at USFS. Western personnel will secure the site for worker and public safety. Western Dispatch Office will contact appropriate internal and external contacts to remediate, repair, or mitigate the situation. Crews may be required to respond to an emergency in a remote area without roads. In areas without vehicle access, helicopters may be used to respond quickly to emergencies.

### 3.5 Operation and Maintenance Activity Categories

The following is a list of the O&M activities according to the associated level of potential effect to sensitive resources. Note that substation and facility maintenance activities are restricted to the confines of the existing fenced substation or facility perimeter.

- Category A – Inspection and Minor Maintenance Activities
- Category B – Routine Maintenance Activities
- Category C – New Infrastructure

Western has developed project conservation measures (PCMs) designed to protect natural resources within the North Area ROWs and access roads. These PCMs were designed to reduce potential impacts and are based on the O&M categories named above and described below. PCMs include identification of limited operating periods, pre-activity flagging of resources, and equipment restrictions. Western will notify USFS of activities that require advance consultation.

Section 6 provides a list of PCMs that Western will follow. Sections 3.5.1 through 3.5.3 provide descriptions of each O&M category.

#### **3.5.1 Category A – Inspection and Minor Maintenance Activities**

Maintenance activities in Category A are primarily inspection-type actions, with some minor repairs that would cause minimal, if any soil disturbance. These maintenance tasks will cause no or nominal effects to sensitive resources as long as standard operating procedures (SOPs) are followed (see Table 5-1). Typical activities under Category A include but are not limited to:

##### **Substation Maintenance**

- Maintenance and replacement of transformers and breakers
- Servicing and testing of equipment at existing substations, including oil change-outs
- Installation or replacement of bushings
- Cleaning or replacement of capacitor banks
- Maintenance or installation of propane tanks within a substation yard
- Maintenance of switches, voltage regulators, reactors, tap changes, reclosers, and valves
- Replacement of wiring in substations and switch yards
- Replacement of existing substation equipment including regulators, capacitors, switches, wave traps, radiators, and lightning arresters
- Installation of cut-out fuses
- Adjusting and cleaning disconnect switches
- Placement of temporary transformer
- Maintenance, installation and removal of solar power array and controller
- Installation of foundation for storage buildings above ground mat within existing substation yard
- New footings
- Ground mats repairs
- Remediation of small spill of oil and hazardous materials (less than 1 gallon)
- Clearing vegetation by hand within the property boundary of a fenced substation
- Application of soil sterilants and herbicides within the property boundary of fenced substation

### **Transmission Line Maintenance**

- Ground and aerial patrols
- Ground wire maintenance
- Aircraft warning devices maintenance
- Insulator maintenance
- Bird guard maintenance
- Cross arm maintenance on wood pole transmission line structures
- Emergency manual removal and/or pruning of danger trees or vegetation
- Steel members of steel transmission line structures
- Hardware on wood and steel transmission line structures
- X brace and knee brace maintenance
- Dampener maintenance
- Ground rod maintenance
- Armor rod maintenance and clipping-in structures
- Conductor upgrade/maintenance
- Emergency placement of rocks at bases of poles or structures to stabilize small eroded areas
- Remediation of small spill of oil and hazardous materials (less than 1 gallon)
- Antennae maintenance
- Structure mile marker maintenance

### **Communication System Maintenance**

- Microwave radio tower maintenance
- Communication tower and antennae maintenance
- Light beacon maintenance
- Microwave dish maintenance
- Parabolic dish maintenance
- Periodic antenna tower climbing inspections

### **Facilities Maintenance**

- Building maintenance including interior and exterior painting; and roof, ceiling, floor, window, and door maintenance
- Clearing vegetation by hand within the property boundary of fenced maintenance facilities
- Application of soil sterilants and herbicides within the property boundary of fenced maintenance facility

## **3.5.2 Category B – Routine Maintenance Activities**

Maintenance activities in Category B include some of the typical repair tasks that occur along Western's existing ROW. Category B actions have the potential to cause minimal effects to sensitive resources. Category B maintenance equipment could include, but is not limited to, rubber-tired vehicles such as bucket trucks, backhoes, front-end loaders, cranes, auger trucks, bobcats, masticators, and pole trucks. In addition to SOPs, Western has committed to implementing all PCMs identified for Category B maintenance activities. Typical activities under Category B include but are not limited to:

### **Transmission Line Maintenance**

- Maintenance and repair of existing culvert
- Remove soil deposition around tower legs
- Ground anchors maintenance
- Fill in erosional features on access roads
- Remediation of small spill of oil and hazardous materials (between 1 and 10 gallons)
- Grading existing access roads
- Application of herbicides
- Place fill or rock(s) around existing culverts
- Place fill or rock(s) around existing towers or structures
- Vehicle and equipment staging
- Installation and repair of fences and gates
- Installation or replacement of overhead and underground power, communication, or ground electrical line (less than 100 feet)
- Manual removal and/or pruning of danger trees or vegetation
- Mechanical vegetation management by means of masticators, or other similar mechanical equipment

### **Communication System Maintenance**

- Foundations or footings maintenance
- Installation of underground and overhead water, power, communication, or ground electrical line (less than 100 feet)
- Installation of cellular equipment onto existing infrastructure
- Maintenance and repair of existing culverts
- Remediation of small spill of oil and hazardous materials (between 1 and 10 gallons)
- Application of soil sterilants and herbicides

### **3.5.3 Category C – New Infrastructure**

Category C maintenance activities are generally those that have the potential to disturb large areas and will utilize heavy equipment to complete particular tasks. Category C maintenance equipment could include, but is not limited to, the use of steel tracked and/or rubber tired bulldozers, graders, backhoes, and front-end loaders. Typical activities under Category C include, but are not limited to:

#### ***Transmission Line and Communication System Maintenance***

- Adding new access roads
- Installation of new culverts
- Installation of new foundations for storage building at existing facilities
- Erosion-control projects at existing facilities
- Reconductoring
- Mechanical vegetation management by means of bulldozers or other similar mechanical equipment
- Tower/pole relocation/realignment/replacement within existing ROW
- Installation or replacement of overhead or underground power, communication, or ground electrical line (greater than 100 feet)
- Remediation of small spill of oil and hazardous materials (greater than 10 gallons)

## **3.6 O&M Implementation**

As described in Section 7, Western has developed a comprehensive O&M geographic information system (GIS), which will be used as the baseline for proactively managing the sensitive resources in the field. This GIS system was developed for Western's line crews and environmental compliance staff, as well as USFS personnel.

Western has color-coded each span based on the resource sensitivities identified within the ROW, as well as the potential for the maintenance categories (A, B, C) to cause adverse effects. The following bullets provide the negotiated actions for each color.

- **Green** = Sensitive resources absent (no PCMs need to be followed); maintenance crews may proceed while complying with SOPs.
- **Yellow** = Maintenance crews must comply with applicable PCMs and SOPs; contacting Western's Natural Resources Department is not necessary unless there are questions regarding PCMs.
- **Red** = PCMs are of sufficient complexity to necessitate contacting Western's Natural Resources Department; securing a qualified monitor or consulting with tribes, SHPO, US Fish and Wildlife Service, or other federal agencies may be required.

## 4. FIRE PLAN

This fire plan establishes standards and practices that will minimize the risk of fire danger, and in case of fire, provides for immediate suppression and notification.

### 4.1 Fire Call Directory

USFS understands that Western will be completing maintenance activities within its ROW throughout the year. Should Western (or a representative of Western) identify a potential fire during maintenance activities, Western (or a representative of Western) will immediately call 911 and report the location and extent of the fire. In addition, USFS requests that Western (or representative of Western) contact USFS within 15 minutes of identifying a potential fire using the phone numbers listed below in Table 4-1. The phone numbers listed in Table 4-1 will be included in all contracts between Western and private maintenance contractors. In addition, all Western line crew supervisors will have the numbers readily available, so that communication between Western and USFS is conducted in a timely manner.

**Table 4-1 USFS Fire Contact Numbers**

Dispatch Center	Daytime #	After Hours #
Shasta-Trinity ECC (north of Mayfield Rd)	(530) 226-2400	Same
Yreka ECC (south of Mayfield Rd)	(530) 842-7066	Same

In addition to USFS fire contact numbers, this O&M plan also includes emergency numbers for Western personnel. Western has provided the dispatch office number for its Sierra Nevada Region, as well as Western's local transmission maintenance supervisor (see Table 4-2). Should USFS identify a fire near Western's existing ROW, USFS will contact the emergency personnel listed in Table 4-2.

**Table 4-2 Western Fire Contact Numbers**

Name	Daytime #	After Hours #
Western Dispatch Office	(916) 353-2201	Same
Ross Mcfate, Lineman IIII	(530) 247-6710	Same

The fire contact directory will be updated by Western and USFS each year (preferably before April 1st of each year). Updates will include dispatch centers, key contacts, titles, and daytime and after-hour phone numbers. The updated directory will be produced by Western and distributed to all appropriate Western and USFS representatives.

### 4.2 Fire Season

The fire season is largely dependent on weather, fuel moisture, and the calculated fire indices. Fire season typically starts in June and ends in early October or when a season-ending rain event occurs. Most wildland fire starts occur in July and August; the most severe fires typically occur in August and September, when fuel moistures reach their yearly minimum. Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and Shasta-Trinity National Forest declare a joint start- and end-of-fire season, depending on current

conditions. It should be noted that wildland fires have occurred in the area in all twelve months of a calendar year.

### **4.3 Fire Precaution Measures**

#### **4.3.1 Fire Conditions**

During periods of high temperatures, dry vegetation, and/or high winds, Western (or a representative of Western) will be responsible for checking daily fire levels during the fire season and ceasing all operations when fire levels require emergency precautions. Depending on the fire risk, Western may schedule early morning work with no or limited work in the afternoon hours. Western may also require the maintenance contractor to cease operations at any time due to a fire danger.

In extreme fire conditions, Western may require cessation of operations on a day-by-day basis based on the fire index. During fire season, Western (or a representative of Western) will have one full-time person (the fire watch) for the sole purpose of monitoring the fire index and watching the mechanical operations for fire ignition. The fire watch will monitor the humidity level and cease mechanical operations if the humidity level falls below 20 percent.

Western (or a representative of Western) will stay on site for one hour (or longer if required by the USFS) after the end-of-the-day mowing operations to ensure fire safety and that no smoldering or burning materials are present. Western will abide by the current fire restrictions for campfires, smoking, and welding.

#### **4.3.2 Water Supply for Fire Fighting**

For areas in remote locations or those areas that require mechanical mastication, a 300-gallon tank (minimum) filled with water will be stored at the worksite(s) during the fire season. The tank will be equipped with an engine-driven pump and a minimum of 250 feet of hose. The water tank will be operational, mobile, and kept at the worksite.

#### **4.3.3 Engines Equipped with Spark Arresters**

All internal and external combustion engines at the worksite will be equipped with spark arresters on the exhaust that meet USFS requirements. The arresters must meet the requirements established by the SAE Standard J335 or USFS Specification 5100-1; 36 CFR 261.52 explains the requirements. The spark arresters must be properly installed and maintained at all times.

#### **4.3.4 Other Fire Requirements**

All maintenance crews using masticators will carry reliable communication (cell phone, satellite phone, or radio) to summon help in the event of a fire. If cellular coverage is not available, the location of the nearest public phone will be identified to all crew members. When reporting a fire, the following information will be reported:

- Name, contact telephone number, and project name;
- Location information including legal description (township, range, section) and descriptive location (commonly known reference point);
- Fire information including acres affected, rate of spread, and wind conditions.

During times of high fire danger, masticators will concentrate on standing trees, leaving high stumps, and keeping the chipper out of rocks. All equipment, including pickups/service vehicles and machines, will be equipped with a shovel, water pump, and fire extinguisher. No welding will occur on site without prior approval of the land manager. Western (or a representative of Western) will follow all appropriate fire restrictions issued by federal and state agencies.



## **5. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPs)**

Western has developed a set of SOPs to reduce public and worker safety hazards and limit potential impacts to the environment associated with the maintenance activities described in section 3. These SOPs will be followed at all times, during all O&M activities, and throughout the project area, including within the USFS boundary. At a minimum, Western will conduct an annual training class on these procedures for all maintenance crews. Table 5-1 provides a list of SOPs by issue area.

These SOPs will also be included in all contracts and agreements with maintenance contractors. All contractors will be responsible for understanding the requirements, schedule limitations, and notification procedures associated with each SOP. Prior to each maintenance job, Western will reiterate to the contractor the importance of complying with the SOPs during all phases of the maintenance job.

Maintenance crews (Western personnel or contractors) will notify Western's Natural Resources Department of any noncompliance with an SOP. Western will review the noncompliance notice and discuss with USFS and resource agencies any remedies associated with the noncompliance action, as appropriate.

**Table 5-1 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) by Issue Area**

SOP	Description
<b>AESTHETICS</b>	
AES-SOP-1	Material storage and staging areas will be selected to minimize views from public roads, trails, and nearby residences, to the extent feasible. During O&M, the work site will be kept clean of debris and construction waste. For areas where excavated materials will be visible from sensitive viewing locations, excavated materials will be disposed of in a manner that is not visually evident, in coordination with the land owner (as appropriate), and in compliance with applicable regulations.
AES-SOP-2	Replacement structures and hardware (e.g., conductors and insulators) will be replaced in kind, to the extent feasible, while ensuring that structures and hardware that are visible from sensitive viewing locations will have appropriate colors, finishes, and textures to most effectively blend into the visible landscape. If structures are visible from more than one sensitive viewing location, and backdrops are substantially different from different vantage points, the darker color will be selected, because dark colors tend to blend into landscape backdrops.
AES-SOP-3	Maintenance operations will be conducted in a manner that limits unnecessary scarring or defacing of the natural surroundings to preserve the natural landscape to the extent possible. To preserve vegetative screening from public areas, tree removal and vegetation clearing will be minimized along state highways and near recreation sites, and wherever possible along scenic roadways.
<b>AIR QUALITY</b>	
AQ-SOP-1	Western will adhere to all requirements of those agencies having jurisdiction over air quality matters, and any necessary permits for operation and maintenance will be obtained.
AQ-SOP-2	Machinery and vehicles will be kept in good operating condition and older equipment will be replaced with equipment meeting more stringent California emission standards; appropriate emissions-control equipment will be maintained for vehicles and equipment, per California, EPA, and Western air-emission requirements.
AQ-SOP-3	Idle equipment will be shut down when not in active use; visible emissions from stationary generators will be controlled.
AQ-SOP-4	Dust-control measures will be implemented in road construction and maintenance, as needed. Trucks transporting loose material will be covered or maintain at least 2 feet of freeboard and will not create any visible dust emissions.
AQ-SOP-5	There will be no open burning of construction trash.
AQ-SOP-6	Grading activities will cease during periods of high winds (as determined by local air quality management districts).
AQ-SOP-7	Major operations will be avoided on days when the local Air Quality Index is expected to exceed 150.
<b>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b>	
B-SOP-1	All contract crews will complete biological pre-maintenance awareness training to ensure they are familiar with sensitive biological resources and associated SOPs and PCMs. All supervisors and field personnel will have on file a signed agreement that they have completed the training, and understood and agreed to the terms. SOPs and applicable PCMs will be written into the contract for O&M work, and contractors will be held responsible for compliance.

SOP	Description
B-SOP-2	Western crews will complete annual awareness training to ensure they are familiar with sensitive biological resources and associated SOPs and PCMs. All supervisors and field personnel will have on file a signed agreement that they have completed the training, and understood and agreed to the terms. Further, Western crews will have access to the O&M GIS database in the field to be able to identify sensitive resources and associated PCMs.
B-SOP-3	O&M excavations greater than 3 feet deep will be fenced, covered, or filled at the end of each working day, or have escape ramps provided to prevent the entrapment of wildlife. Trenches and holes will be inspected for entrapped wildlife before being filled. Any entrapped animals will be allowed to escape voluntarily before O&M activities resume, or they may be removed by qualified personnel, with an appropriate handling permit if necessary.
B-SOP-4	Vehicle traffic will be restricted to designated access routes and the immediate vicinity of O&M sites. Vehicle speeds will not exceed 15 mph on access and maintenance roads and 10 mph on unimproved access routes. Vehicles and equipment will be parked on pavement, existing roads, and previously disturbed areas, to the maximum extent feasible.
B-SOP-5	No pets or firearms will be permitted at project sites.
B-SOP-6	At the end of each work day, O&M workers will leave work areas and adjacent habitats to minimize disturbance to actively foraging animals, and remove food-related trash from the work site in closed containers for disposal. Workers will not deliberately or inadvertently feed wildlife.
B-SOP-7	Nighttime O&M activities will be minimized to emergency situations. If nighttime O&M work is required, lights will be directed to the minimum area needed to illuminate project work areas.
B-SOP-8	Where feasible and appropriate, tall dead trees will be topped and left in place as snags or as downed logs to support wildlife dependent on these important features, in coordination with the land owner.
B-SOP-9	Mortalities or injuries to any wildlife that occur as a result of project- or maintenance-related actions will be reported immediately to the Western Natural Resources Department or other designated point of contact, who will instruct O&M personnel on the appropriate action, and who will contact the appropriate agency if the species is listed. The phone number for the Western Natural Resources Department or designated point of contact will be provided to maintenance supervisors and to the appropriate agencies.
B-SOP-10	Caves, mine tunnels, and rock outcrops will never be entered, climbed upon, or otherwise disturbed.
B-SOP-11	If a pesticide label stipulates a buffer zone width for protection of natural resources that differs from that specified in a PCM, the buffer zone width that offers the greatest protection will be applied.

SOP	Description
B-SOP-12	<p>To protect nesting birds (birds not specifically protected by PCMs but protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act), whose nests could occur within the ROW, Western and its subcontractors will perform Category B&amp;C O&amp;M activities outside the nesting season, which runs from March 1 through August 15 in the Valley region and from April 1 through September 15 in the Redding/Trinity and Round Mountain/Modoc regions. Alternatively, a qualified biologist will conduct nesting-bird surveys prior to project activities. For special-status birds, see specific PCMs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An additional survey may be required if gaps between the survey and the project activity exceed three weeks.</li> <li>• Should an active nest be discovered, the qualified biologist will establish an appropriate buffer zone (in which O&amp;M activity is not allowed) to avoid disturbance in the vicinity of the nest. Maintenance activities will not take place until the biologist has determined that the nestlings have fledged or that maintenance activities will not adversely affect adults or newly fledged young.</li> <li>• Alternatively, the qualified biologist will develop a monitoring/mitigation plan that permits the maintenance activity to continue in the vicinity of the nest while monitoring nesting activities to ensure that the nesting birds are not disturbed.</li> </ul> <p>At such time when Western finalizes an avian protection plan, Western will adhere to the guidance in that document.</p>
B-SOP-13	<p>Measures described in the <i>Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2006</i> (Avian Power Line Interaction Committee 2006) and <i>Mitigation Bird Collisions with Power Lines: The State the Art in 1994</i> (Avian Power Line Interaction Committee 1994) will be implemented during O&amp;M activities to minimize bird mortality and injury. At such time when Western finalizes an avian protection plan, Western will adhere to the guidance in that document.</p>
B-SOP-14	<p>At completion of work and at the request of the land owner/manager, all work areas except access roads will be scarified or left in a condition that will facilitate natural or appropriate vegetation, provide for proper drainage, and prevent erosion.</p>
B-SOP-15	<p>Prior to any application of herbicide, Western will query the California Department of Pesticide Regulation PRESCRIBE database, entering location information by county, township, range, and section, entering both the commercial name and the formulation of the desired pesticide, and will follow all use limitations provided to ensure compliance with applicable pesticide standards. This database is currently located at <a href="http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/endspec/precint.htm">http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/endspec/precint.htm</a>. The measures generated by the PRESCRIBE database will supersede those in the PCMs where they are different.</p>
<b>CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>	
C-SOP-1	<p>All contract crews will complete cultural resources pre-maintenance awareness training to ensure they are aware of the locations of cultural resource sites; maintenance methods to be used in areas with sensitive cultural resources; and restrictions required in cultural resources areas (i.e., SOPs and PCMs). Crews will be educated on the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, which makes it a federal offense to willfully damage or remove any artifacts or materials from an archaeological site. All supervisors and field personnel will have on file a signed agreement that they have completed the training, and understood and agreed to the terms. SOPs and applicable PCMs will be written into the contract for O&amp;M work, and contractors will be held responsible for compliance.</p>

SOP	Description
C-SOP-2	Western crews will complete annual awareness training to ensure they are familiar with sensitive cultural resources and associated SOPs and PCMs. All supervisors and field personnel will have on file a signed agreement that they have completed the training, and understood and agreed to the terms. Further, Western crews will have access to the O&M GIS database in the field to be able to identify sensitive resources and associated PCMs.
C-SOP-3	Operation of vehicles or heavy construction equipment will be avoided in areas that are not designated transmission line and legal access road ROWs or other established transportation routes. This measure will minimize the possibility of disturbing unmapped cultural resources.
C-SOP-4	Upon discovery of potential buried cultural materials, work within 50 feet of the find will be halted and the discovery will be reported immediately to the Western Natural Resources Department or other designated point of contact. Western will comply with provisions in the National Historic Preservation Act and consult with the California State Historic Preservation Officer and appropriate tribes to determine measures to avoid the resource or mitigate during maintenance activities.
<b>GEOLOGY AND SOILS</b>	
GS-SOP-1	Should Western need to modify or relocate a structure, Western will have a certified professional geotechnical engineer evaluate the potential for geotechnical hazards and unstable slopes.
GS-SOP-2	Upon completing ground-disturbing work, all work areas will be left in a condition that facilitates natural and appropriate vegetation regrowth, provides for proper drainage, and prevents erosion.
GS-SOP-3	All O&M activities must be in conformance with Western's Integrated Vegetation Management Environmental Guidance Manual and Erosion Control and Revegetation Plan.
GS-SOP-4	Wet areas will be avoided to the extent practicable and all activity will be minimized during winter and other wet periods to prevent damage (e.g., rutting, erosion, soil compaction). If wet areas cannot be avoided, Western will use wide-track or balloon tire vehicles and equipment or timber mats.
GS-SOP-5	All excavated soil will be backfilled and tamped at the location of excavation and used to provide positive drainage, or will be hauled off site to an area appropriate for disposal of excavated material, in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations and in coordination with the land owner.
GS-SOP-6	Use of ground-disturbing mechanical equipment to remove vegetation will be avoided on continuous slopes over 35 percent, unless the threat of erosion is minimal because of bedrock, or reseeded will be performed. Short distances on slopes up to 40 percent will be allowable.
GS-SOP-7	Where soil has been severely disturbed and the establishment of vegetation will be needed to minimize erosion, appropriate measures, as approved by the federal land manager, will be implemented to establish an adequate cover of native grass or other native vegetation as needed. All mulch and seed will be of high purity to prevent the spread of noxious weeds. Soil preparation, seeding, mulching, and fertilizing will be repeated as necessary to insure soil stabilization and revegetation acceptable to the federal land manager.
GS-SOP-8	Disturbance and removal of soils and vegetation will be limited to the minimum area necessary for access and O&M activities. Grading will be minimized to the extent possible. When required, grading will be conducted such that run-off waters flow predominantly away from watercourses/washes to reduce the potential for material to enter the watercourse/wash.

**North Area ROW Maintenance Program**  
**WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE**

SOP	Description
<b>LAND USE</b>	
LU-SOP-1	Any damage (e.g., to fences and gates) during maintenance activities will be repaired or replaced, and restored to their preconstruction condition.
LU-SOP-2	Western will notify affected land owners for vegetation management and encroachment activities, as appropriate. Western will post proper signage in areas requiring temporary closure or limited access due to O&M activities.
LU-SOP-3	The spread of noxious weeds will be minimized. Western will clean seeds from ground-disturbing equipment before entering cropland or forestland, or moving between these subject areas.
<b>NOISE</b>	
NOISE-SOP-1	All vehicles and equipment will be equipped with required exhaust-noise-abatement devices.
NOISE-SOP-2	For long-term O&M activities confined to a specific area, Western's Natural Resources Department will be contacted to evaluate local thresholds and all requirements of those agencies having jurisdiction over noise matters.
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH</b>	
PH-SOP-1	For identified locations, structures and/or shield wire will be marked with highly visible devices (e.g., lights and marker balls) where required by governmental agencies (e.g., Federal Aviation Administration) with jurisdiction.
PH-SOP-2	Signs and/or flags will be erected in areas of public access to indicate maintenance activities are taking place; workers will be conspicuous by wearing high-visibility vests and hardhats.
PH-SOP-3	O&M excavations greater than 3 feet deep will be fenced, covered, or filled at the end of each working day, or have escape ramps provided to prevent injury of the public and workers.
PH-SOP-4	<p>With regard to herbicide use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All herbicide applicators will have received training and be licensed in appropriate application categories.</li> <li>• Herbicide-free buffer zones will be maintained per label instructions.</li> <li>• All herbicide label and material safety data sheet instructions will be followed regarding mixing and application standards and equipment-cleaning standards to reduce potential exposure to the public through drift and misapplication.</li> <li>• Western will ensure that areas treated with herbicides will be posted and re-entry intervals specified and enforced in accordance with label instructions. Herbicides and equipment will never be left unattended in areas with unrestricted access.</li> <li>• Climate, geology, and soil types will be considered (including rainfall, wind, depth of aquifer, and soil permeability) in selecting the herbicide with lowest relative risk of migrating to water resources.</li> <li>• There will be no aerial application of herbicides.</li> <li>• All herbicide spill requirements will be followed in the rare case of an herbicide spill, including containment, cleanup, and notification procedures.</li> </ul>

SOP	Description
PH-SOP-5	<p>With regard to hazardous materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazardous materials will not be drained onto the ground, into streams, or into drainage areas.</li> <li>• Any release, threat of release, or discharge of hazardous materials within the project area in connection with project activities will be cleaned up and/or remediated, in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations.</li> <li>• All construction waste, including trash and litter, other solid waste, petroleum products, and other potentially hazardous material will be removed in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations.</li> <li>• Discovery of, or the accidental discharge of, a significant amount of hazardous materials will be immediately reported to Western's dispatch and Natural Resources Department.</li> <li>• There will be no storage of hazardous materials in the project area without approval from the authorized officer.</li> <li>• Upon termination of the permit, a report will be submitted to determine whether there had been site contamination and if so, that the remediation met compliance with applicable laws.</li> </ul>
PH-SOP-6	All contract crews will complete hazardous materials pre-maintenance awareness training to ensure they are aware of SOPs and PCMs, as well as pertinent regulations and the consequences for non-compliance. All supervisors and field personnel will have on file a signed agreement that they have completed the training, and understood and agreed to the terms. SOPs and applicable PCMs will be written into the contract for O&M work, and contractors will be held responsible for compliance.
PH-SOP-7	Contractors must submit a spill response plan that is approved by Western. Clean-up actions and costs resulting from contractor misconduct will be the responsibility of the contractor and approved by Western's Natural Resources Department.
PH-SOP-8	Western crews will complete annual awareness training to ensure they are familiar with SOPs and PCMs related to hazardous materials. All supervisors and field personnel will have on file a signed agreement that they have completed the training, and understood and agreed to the terms.
PH-SOP-9	All flammable vegetation will be removed a minimum of 30 feet from tower center and conductors or as required by federal requirements, and to ensure access to towers.
PH-SOP-10	Western and its contractors will comply with all applicable federal and state regulations regarding fire suppression, including but not limited to having all equipment be equipped with a shovel, water pump, and fire extinguisher, the use of spark arrestors on all internal and external combustion engines, verification of daily fire levels during fire season, and a minimum of a 300-gallon water tank with a minimum of 250 feet of hose.
<b>RECREATION</b>	
REC-SOP-1	Western will direct members of the public to alternate trails or recreation areas if blocked by machinery or for safety purposes.
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	
TRANS-SOP-1	All lane closures or obstructions on major roadways associated with maintenance activities will be restricted to off-peak periods to minimize traffic congestion and delays, and will be coordinated with appropriate authorities (e.g., Caltrans).

**North Area ROW Maintenance Program**  
**WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE**

SOP	Description
<b>WATER RESOURCES</b>	
WR-SOP-1	Non-biodegradable debris will not be deposited in the ROW.
WR-SOP-2	Should Western need to relocate a structure or access road affecting waters of the United States or waters of the state, Western will consult with TANC and, as appropriate, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Bridges will be used at new stream crossings wherever possible. Any discharge of material (displaced soils and, in certain circumstances, vegetation debris) within waters of the United States will be subject to USACE regulations under the Clean Water Act, and could require a permit. Western Natural Resources Department will be contacted. Any discharge of material (displaced soils and, in certain circumstances, vegetation debris) within waters of the state will be subject to SWRCB regulations under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and applicable Clean Water Act regulations as administered on behalf of the United States by the SWRCB.
WR-SOP-3	Sediment-control devices, such as placement of native rock, will be used at all dry wash crossings.
WR-SOP-4	Run-off from the maintenance site will be controlled and will meet the State Water Resources Control Board storm water requirements in the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.
WR-SOP-5	Run-off control structures, diversion ditches, erosion-control structures, and energy dissipaters will be cleaned, maintained, repaired, and replaced to meet the standards set by applicable permits and the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, or where such a plan is inapplicable, similar standards set by Western or the applicable federal land manager.
WR-SOP-6	All contaminated discharge water created by O&M activities (e.g., concrete washout, pumping for work-area isolation, vehicle wash water, drilling fluids) will be contained and disposed of in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations.
WR-SOP-7	Vehicles will be inspected daily for fluid leaks before leaving the staging area.
WR-SOP-8	Impacts to areas under the jurisdiction of the USACE and SWRCB shall be avoided to the extent feasible. Where avoidance of jurisdictional areas is not feasible and the action is not covered under nationwide permits and/or western's programmatic 401 permit, Western would obtain 404/401 permits applicable to the action. Western would perform an impact assessment for the O&M activity, which would identify and quantify the acreage of each jurisdictional area (wetland, riparian, etc.). Western would provide creation, restoration, or preservation mitigation consistent with the 404/401 permitting requirements. The mitigation shall be implemented prior to or concurrent with the action, would be in-kind habitat, would include the appropriate buffers to protect the functions and values of the jurisdictional mitigation area, and is anticipated would be in close proximity to the impact or in the same watershed (Valley) or Resource Conservation District (Redding/Trinity) or Resource Conservation and Development agency (Round Mountain/Modoc). The mitigation ratio would be determined during the permit process, but within a range of 1:1 to 4:1, depending on the sensitivity of the habitat and other factors. If required, annual reporting to USACE and/or SWRCB would provide a complete accounting of impacts and mitigation.

**Note:** Prior to commencement of O&M activities, all personnel will be trained on the implementation of SOPs. Western will ensure that certified personnel (e.g. certified professional in erosion and sediment control, certified professional in storm water quality) are available for review of proper implementation of SOPs.

## 6. PROJECT CONSERVATION MEASURES (PCMs)

### 6.1 Development of PCMs

Western has completed extensive biological and cultural resource surveys along the North Area facilities, communication sites, transmission line ROWs, and documented access roads. These detailed surveys inventoried all biological habitat types, assessed the potential for sensitive species occurrence, and inventoried all cultural resources along the ROWs and access roads. All of this site-specific resource information has been included in Western's GIS as baseline for resource management during O&M activities. See section 7 for details on Western's GIS database.

In coordination with USFS and Western's line crews, Western identified the different types of O&M activities that may occur along the ROW and legal access roads. These maintenance activities were grouped into three categories based on the level of potential for adverse effects: Category A (inspection and minor maintenance activities), Category B (routine maintenance activities), and Category C (new infrastructure). See section 3.4 for a detailed description of the O&M categories.

Based on the occurrence or potential for occurrence of sensitive resources, as well as on the projected O&M activities that may occur, Western developed PCMs to proactively protect the sensitive resources during O&M activities. Each sensitive resource has an associated PCM for each category of activity (A, B, and C). PCMs are listed in Table 6-1 (Special-status Plan PCMs), Table 6-2 (Special-status Wildlife and Fish PCMs), Table 6-3 (Water Resources/Aquatic Habitat PCM's), and Table 6-4 (Cultural Resource PCM's). PCMs that protect water resources and aquatic habitats also protect fish, wildlife, and plants found in them.

In accordance with the special-status species matrix below, federally and state-listed species as well as USFS-sensitive species will be protected on all ROWs on USFS land.

	<b>Western ROW (PACI, CVP)</b>	<b>COTP ROW</b>
<b>BLM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federally listed species</li> <li>• State-listed species</li> <li>• BLM-sensitive species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federally listed species</li> <li>• State-listed species</li> <li>• BLM-sensitive species</li> </ul>
<b>NPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federally listed species</li> <li>• NPS species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not applicable</li> </ul>
<b>USFS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federally listed species</li> <li>• State-listed species</li> <li>• USFS-sensitive species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federally listed species</li> <li>• State-listed species</li> <li>• USFS-sensitive species</li> </ul>
<b>Private</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federally listed species</li> <li>• State-listed species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federally listed species</li> <li>• State-listed species</li> </ul>

## **6.2 Implementation of PCMs**

Prior to a particular O&M activity, Western and USFS will use Western's GIS database to identify the sensitive resources within the proposed O&M activity area. Based on the sensitive resources that are identified, GIS will display the associated PCM numbers identified for the proposed work area. The PCM number will be used to reference the PCM text in Tables 6-1 through 6-4. Each PCM number has text describing the requirements associated with each O&M maintenance category (A, B, C). Generally, the PCM requirements for maintenance Category C (new infrastructure) are more stringent than those of Category A (inspection and minor maintenance activities).

Western will ensure that all maintenance crews (or maintenance contractors) understand each particular PCM identified in the work area. Compliance with all applicable PCMs will be included in the contract of each maintenance contractor.

## **6.3 Changes to PCMs**

Should Western want to change a PCM for a particular resource, Western will contact USFS in writing and discuss the changes to the PCM. The revised PCM will be similar in magnitude and extent as the original PCM. Should a resource no longer require protection (e.g., delisted species) by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State Historic Preservation Office, or other appropriate agency, Western and USFS will document the removal of the resource in a formal memo, and then remove the resource from Western's GIS database.

Western will update the GIS data when new resources require protection (e.g., newly listed species). Additionally, Western will review the GIS data at least once a year to verify that all resources are accurate. New resources may require new PCMs, depending on the resource and the O&M activity. Western will coordinate with USFS in developing new PCMs for newly listed resources.

**Table 6-1 Special-status Plant Project Conservation Measures**

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
<b>UPLAND SPECIES</b>				
PCM-B001	<i>Allium sanbornii</i> var. <i>sanbornii</i> Sanborn's onion	CNPS List 4/ NPS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B	<p>From May 1 to September 30, vehicle access will be permitted only on well-established roads until the site has been cleared by a qualified biologist. All vehicles will have rubber tires. Off-road travel will be avoided to the extent possible.</p> <p>If vegetation-management activities are proposed between May 1 and September 30, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&amp;M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the marked area, 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited.</p> <p>Herbicide use will be prohibited at all times in the vicinity of this species with the exception of direct application to target vegetation. All work will be hauled off site.</p> <p>Ground disturbing activities require a survey by a qualified biologist to mark existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by NPS.</p> <p>Standard erosion- and sediment-control measures will be installed for all ground-disturbing activities in compliance with best management practices adopted by Western to prevent impacts to plants.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>

North Area ROW Maintenance Program  
 WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B002	<i>Amsinckia grandiflora</i> Large-flowered fiddleneck	FE/SE/1B.1	A	Follow SOPs.
			B	<p>From April 1 to May 31, vehicle access will be permitted only on well-established roads until the site has been cleared by a qualified biologist. All vehicles will have rubber tires. Off-road travel will be avoided to the extent possible.</p> <p>If vegetation-management activities are proposed between April 1 and May 31, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&amp;M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the marked area, 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited.</p> <p>Herbicide use will be prohibited at all times with the exception of direct application to target vegetation.</p> <p>Ground-disturbing activities between April 1 and May 31 require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance during this time frame will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by all appropriate resource agencies.</p> <p>All work will be hauled off site.</p> <p>Standard erosion- and sediment-control measures will be installed for all ground-disturbing activities in compliance with best management practices adopted by Western to prevent impacts to plants.</p> <p>If ground disturbance is required within a plant population, it must be completed after the plant has set seed (after May 31) and the top 4 inches of topsoil will be stockpiled separately during excavations. When this topsoil is replaced, compaction will be minimized to the extent consistent with utility standards.</p> <p>A description of the O&amp;M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B003	<i>Arctostaphylos mallori</i> Mallory's manzanita	CNPS List 4/ NPS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B	<p>Vehicle access will be permitted only on well-established roads until the site has been cleared by a qualified biologist. All vehicles will have rubber tires. Off-road travel will be avoided to the extent possible.</p> <p>A qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&amp;M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited.</p> <p>Herbicide use will be prohibited at all times with the exception of direct application to target vegetation.</p> <p>Ground-disturbing activities require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by NPS.</p> <p>All work will be hauled off site.</p> <p>Standard erosion- and sediment-control measures will be installed for all ground-disturbing activities in compliance with best management practices adopted by Western to prevent impacts to plants</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>
PCM-B004	<i>Arnica venosa</i> Shasta County arnica	CNPS List 4/NPS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	<p>Follow PCM-W002.</p> <p>If vegetation-management activities are proposed between May 1 and July 31, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&amp;M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited.</p> <p>Ground-disturbing activities require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by NPS.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>

**North Area ROW Maintenance Program  
WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE**

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B005	<i>Calystegia atriplicifolia</i> ssp. <i>buttensis</i> Butte County morning-glory	CNPS List 1B.2/BLMS/FSS	A	Follow SOPs
			B	<p>From May 1 to July 31, vehicle access will be permitted only on well-established roads until the site has been cleared by a qualified biologist. All vehicles will have rubber tires. Off-road travel will be avoided to the extent possible.</p> <p>If vegetation-management activities are proposed between May 1 and July 31, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&amp;M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited.</p> <p>Herbicide use will be prohibited at all times with the exception of direct application to target vegetation.</p> <p>Ground-disturbing activities proposed between May 1 and July 31 require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by BLM and/or USFS.</p> <p>All work will be hauled off site.</p> <p>Standard erosion- and sediment-control measures will be installed for all ground-disturbing activities in compliance with best management practices adopted by Western to prevent impacts to plants.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B006	<i>Castilleja rubicundula</i> ssp. <i>rubicundula</i> Pink creamsacs	CNPS List 1B.2/BLMS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B	<p>From April 1 to June 30, vehicle access will be permitted only on well-established roads until the site has been cleared by a qualified biologist. All vehicles will have rubber tires. Off-road travel will be avoided to the extent possible.</p> <p>If vegetation-management activities are proposed between April 1 and June 30, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&amp;M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited.</p> <p>Herbicide use will be prohibited at all times with the exception of direct application to target vegetation.</p> <p>Ground-disturbing activities proposed between April 1 and June 30 require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by BLM.</p> <p>All work will be hauled off site.</p> <p>Standard erosion- and sediment-control measures will be installed for all ground-disturbing activities in compliance with best management practices adopted by Western to prevent impacts to plants.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>

**North Area ROW Maintenance Program**  
**WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE**

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B007	<i>Chamaesyce ocellata</i> ssp. <i>rattanii</i> Stony Creek spurge	CNPS List 1B.2/BLMS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B	<p>From May 1 to October 31, vehicle access will be permitted only on well-established roads until the site has been cleared by a qualified biologist. All vehicles will have rubber tires. Off-road travel will be avoided to the extent possible.</p> <p>If vegetation-management activities are proposed between May 1 and October 31, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&amp;M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited.</p> <p>Herbicide use will be prohibited at all times with the exception of direct application to target vegetation.</p> <p>Ground-disturbing activities proposed between May 1 and October 31 require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by BLM.</p> <p>All work will be hauled off site.</p> <p>Standard erosion- and sediment-control measures will be installed for all ground-disturbing activities in compliance with best management practices adopted by Western to prevent impacts to plants.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B008	<i>Clarkia borealis</i> <i>ssp. arida</i> Arid northern clarkia	CNPS List 1B.1/BLMS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B	<p>From June 1 to August 31, vehicle access will be permitted only on well-established roads until the site has been cleared by a qualified biologist. All vehicles will have rubber tires. Off-road travel will be avoided to the extent possible.</p> <p>If vegetation management activities are proposed between June 1 and August 31, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&amp;M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited.</p> <p>Herbicide use will be prohibited at all times with the exception of direct application to target vegetation.</p> <p>Ground-disturbing activities proposed between June 1 and August 31 require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by BLM.</p> <p>All work will be hauled off site.</p> <p>Standard erosion- and sediment-control measures will be installed for all ground-disturbing activities in compliance with best management practices adopted by Western to prevent impacts to plants.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>

North Area ROW Maintenance Program  
 WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B009	<i>Cordylanthus palmatus</i> Palmate-bracted bird's beak	FE/SE/1B.2	A	Follow SOPs.
			B	<p>From May 1 to October 31, vehicle access will be permitted only on well-established roads until the site has been cleared by a qualified biologist. All vehicles will have rubber tires. Off-road travel will be avoided to the extent possible.</p> <p>If vegetation-management activities are proposed between May 1 and October 31, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&amp;M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited.</p> <p>Herbicide use will be prohibited at all times with the exception of direct application to target vegetation.</p> <p>Ground-disturbing activities proposed between May 1 and October 31 require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance during this time frame will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by all appropriate resource agencies.</p> <p>All work will be hauled off site.</p> <p>Standard erosion- and sediment-control measures will be installed for all ground-disturbing activities in compliance with best management practices adopted by Western to prevent impacts to plants.</p> <p>If ground disturbance is required within a plant population, it must be completed after the plant has set seed (after May 31) and the top 4 inches of topsoil will be stockpiled separately during excavations. When this topsoil is replaced, compaction will be minimized to the extent consistent with utility standards.</p> <p>A description of the O&amp;M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B010	<i>Cypripedium fasciculatum</i> Clustered lady's slipper	CNPS List 4/NPS/BLMS/FSS	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002 (in aquatic habitat).
			B	<p>Follow all measures listed for A.</p> <p>From June 1 to August 31, vehicle access will be permitted only on well-established roads until the site has been cleared by a qualified biologist. All vehicles will have rubber tires. Off-road travel will be avoided to the extent possible.</p> <p>If vegetation-management activities are proposed between June 1 and August 31, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&amp;M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited.</p> <p>Herbicide use will be prohibited at all times with the exception of direct application to target vegetation.</p> <p>Ground-disturbing activities require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by NPS and/or BLM and/or USFS.</p> <p>All work will be hauled off site.</p> <p>Standard erosion- and sediment-control measures will be installed for all ground-disturbing activities in compliance with best management practices adopted by Western to prevent impacts to plants.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>

**North Area ROW Maintenance Program**  
**WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE**

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B011	<i>Eschscholzia rhombipetala</i> Diamond-petaled California poppy	CNPS List 1B.1/BLMS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B	<p>From March 1 to April 30, vehicle access will be permitted only on well-established roads until the site has been cleared by a qualified biologist. All vehicles will have rubber tires. Off-road travel will be avoided to the extent possible.</p> <p>If vegetation-management activities are proposed between March 1 and April 30, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&amp;M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited.</p> <p>Herbicide use will be prohibited at all times with the exception of direct application to target vegetation.</p> <p>Ground-disturbing activities proposed between March 1 and April 30 require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by BLM.</p> <p>All work will be hauled off site.</p> <p>Standard erosion- and sediment-control measures will be installed for all ground-disturbing activities in compliance with best management practices adopted by Western to prevent impacts to plants.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B012	<i>Fritillaria pluriflora</i> Adobe lily	CNPS List 1B.2/BLMS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B	<p>From February 1 to April 30, vehicle access will be permitted only on well-established roads until the site has been cleared by a qualified biologist. All vehicles will have rubber tires. Off-road travel will be avoided to the extent possible.</p> <p>If vegetation-management activities are proposed between February 1 and April 30, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&amp;M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited.</p> <p>Herbicide use will be prohibited at all times with the exception of direct application to target vegetation.</p> <p>Ground-disturbing activities require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by BLM.</p> <p>Standard erosion- and sediment-control measures will be installed for all ground-disturbing activities in compliance with best management practices adopted by Western to prevent impacts to plants.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>

**North Area ROW Maintenance Program  
WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE**

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-013	<i>Iliamna bakeri</i> Baker's globe mallow	CNPS List 4.2/BLMS/FSS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B	<p>From June 1 to September 30, vehicle access will be permitted only on well-established roads until the site has been cleared by a qualified biologist. All vehicles will have rubber tires. Off-road travel will be avoided to the extent possible.</p> <p>If vegetation-management activities are proposed between June 1 and September 30, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&amp;M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited.</p> <p>Herbicide use will be prohibited at all times with the exception of direct application to target vegetation.</p> <p>Ground-disturbing activities require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by BLM and/or USFS.</p> <p>All work will be hauled off site.</p> <p>Standard erosion- and sediment-control measures will be installed for all ground-disturbing activities in compliance with best management practices adopted by Western to prevent impacts to plants.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B014	<i>Lasthenia conjugens</i> Contra Costa goldfields	FE/CNPS List 1B.1	A	Follow SOPs.
			B	<p>From March 1 to June 30, vehicle access will be permitted only on well-established roads until the site has been cleared by a qualified biologist. All vehicles will have rubber tires. Off-road travel will be avoided to the extent possible.</p> <p>If vegetation management activities are proposed between March 1 and June 30, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&amp;M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited.</p> <p>Herbicide use will be prohibited at all times with the exception of direct application to target vegetation.</p> <p>Ground-disturbing activities proposed between March 1 and June 30 require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance during this time frame will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by all appropriate resource agencies</p> <p>All work will be hauled off site.</p> <p>Standard erosion- and sediment-control measures will be installed for all ground-disturbing activities in compliance with best management practices adopted by Western to prevent impacts to plants.</p> <p>If ground disturbance is required within a plant population, it must be completed after the plant has set seed (after June 30) and the top 4 inches of topsoil will be stockpiled separately during excavations. When this topsoil is replaced, compaction will be minimized to the extent consistent with utility standards.</p> <p>A description of the O&amp;M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>

**North Area ROW Maintenance Program  
WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE**

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B015	<i>Neviusia cliffonii</i> Shasta snow-wreath	CNPS List 1B.2/BLMS/FSS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B	<p>Vehicle access will be permitted only on well-established roads until the site has been cleared by a qualified biologist. All vehicles will have rubber tires. Off-road travel will be avoided to the extent possible.</p> <p>A qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&amp;M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited.</p> <p>Herbicide use will be prohibited at all times with the exception of direct application to target vegetation.</p> <p>Ground-disturbing activities require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by BLM and/or USFS.</p> <p>All work will be hauled off site.</p> <p>Standard erosion- and sediment-control measures will be installed for all ground-disturbing activities in compliance with best management practices adopted by Western to prevent impacts to plants.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B016	<i>Pseudobahia bahifolia</i> Hartweg's golden sunburst	FE/SE/ CNPS List 1B.1	A	Follow SOPs/
			B	<p>From March 1 to May 31, vehicle access will be permitted only on well-established roads until the site has been cleared by a qualified biologist. All vehicles will have rubber tires. Off-road travel will be avoided to the extent possible.</p> <p>If vegetation-management activities are proposed between March 1 and May 31, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&amp;M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited.</p> <p>Herbicide use will be prohibited at all times with the exception of direct application to target vegetation.</p> <p>Ground-disturbing activities proposed between March 1 and May 31 require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by all appropriate resource agencies.</p> <p>All work will be hauled off site.</p> <p>Standard erosion- and sediment-control measures will be installed for all ground-disturbing activities in compliance with best management practices adopted by Western to prevent impacts to plants.</p> <p>If ground disturbance is required within a plant population, it must be completed after the plant has set seed (after May 31) and the top 4 inches of topsoil will be stockpiled separately during excavations. When this topsoil is replaced, compaction will be minimized to the extent consistent with utility standards.</p> <p>A description of the O&amp;M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>

North Area ROW Maintenance Program  
WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B017	<i>Sedum paradisum</i> Canyon Creek stonecrop	CNPS List 1B.2/NPS/BLMS/FSS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B	<p>If vegetation-management activities are proposed between May 1 and June 30, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&amp;M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited.</p> <p>Herbicide use will be prohibited at all times with the exception of direct application to target vegetation.</p> <p>All work will be hauled off site.</p> <p>Standard erosion- and sediment-control measures will be installed for all ground-disturbing activities in compliance with best management practices adopted by Western to prevent impacts to plants.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>
PCM-B018	<i>Sidalcea robusta</i> Butte County checkerbloom	BLMS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B	<p>From April 1 to June 30 vehicle access will be permitted only on well-established roads until the site has been cleared by a qualified biologist. All vehicles will have rubber tires. Off-road travel will be avoided to the extent possible.</p> <p>If vegetation-management activities are proposed between April 1 and June 30, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&amp;M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited.</p> <p>Herbicide use will be prohibited at all times with the exception of direct application to target vegetation.</p> <p>Ground-disturbing activities require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by BLM.</p> <p>All work will be hauled off site.</p> <p>Standard erosion- and sediment-control measures will be installed for all ground-disturbing activities in compliance with best management practices adopted by Western to prevent impacts to plants.</p>

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B018 (cont.)	<i>Sidalcea robusta</i> Butte County checkerbloom	BLMS	C	Follow all measures listed for A and B. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.
PCM-B019	<i>Triteleia crocea</i> var. <i>crocea</i> Yellow triteleia	CNPS List 4/ NPS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B	From May 1 to June 30, vehicle access will be permitted only on well-established roads until the site has been cleared by a qualified biologist. All vehicles will have rubber tires. Off-road travel will be avoided to the extent possible.  If vegetation-management activities are proposed between May 1 and June 30, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the marked area, 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited.  Herbicide use will be prohibited at all times with the exception of direct application to target vegetation.  All work will be hauled off site.  Ground-disturbing activities require a survey by a qualified biologist to mark existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by NPS.  Standard erosion- and sediment-control measures will be installed for all ground-disturbing activities in compliance with best management practices adopted by Western to prevent impacts to plants.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.

North Area ROW Maintenance Program  
WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
<b>VERNAL POOLS, VERNAL POOL GRASSLANDS, AND SEASONAL WETLANDS</b>				
PCM-B020	<i>Calochortus longebarbatus</i> var. <i>longebarbatus</i> Long-haired star tulip	CNPS List 1B.2/BLMS/FSS	A	Follow SOPs, PCM-W001, and PCM-W002 (in appropriate habitat).
			B	Follow all measures listed for A. From May 1 to June 30, vehicle access will be permitted only on well-established roads until the site has been cleared by a qualified biologist. All vehicles will have rubber tires. Off-road travel will be avoided to the extent possible. If vegetation-management activities are proposed between May 1 and June 30, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the marked area, 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited. Herbicide use will be prohibited at all times with the exception of direct application to target vegetation. All work will be hauled off site. Ground disturbing activities require a survey by a qualified biologist to mark existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by NPS. Standard erosion- and sediment-control measures will be installed for all ground-disturbing activities in compliance with best management practices adopted by Western to prevent impacts to plants.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.
PCM-B021	<i>Chamaesyce hooveri</i> Hoover's spurge	FT/CNPS List 1B.1	A and B	Follow SOPs and PCM-W001. A description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.
PCM-B021 (cont.)	<i>Chamaesyce hooveri</i> Hoover's spurge (cont.)	FT/CNPS List 1B.1 (cont.)	C	Follow all measures listed for A and B. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.
PCM-B021a			A, B, and C	<u>Critical Habitat</u> : Follow SOPs, PCM-W001a, and PCM-B021.

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B022	<i>Gratiola heterosepala</i> Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop	SE/ CNPS List 1B.1	A and B	Follow SOPs, PCM-W001, and PCM-W002. Where impacts to listed plants cannot be avoided, the top 4 inches of topsoil will be stockpiled separately during excavations. When this topsoil is replaced, compaction will be minimized to the extent consistent with utility standards.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.
PCM-B023	<i>Juncus leiospermus</i> var. <i>ahartii</i> Ahart's dwarf rush	CNPS List 1B.1	A and B	Follow SOPs and PCM-W001.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.
PCM-B024	<i>Juncus leiospermus</i> var. <i>leiospermus</i> Red Bluff dwarf rush	CNPS List 1B.1/BLMS/FSS	A and B	Follow SOPs and PCM-W001.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.
PCM-B025	<i>Limnanthes floccosa</i> ssp. <i>californica</i> Butte County meadowfoam	FE/SE/ CNPS List 1B.1	A and B	Follow SOPs, PCM-W001, and PCM-W002. A description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.
PCM-B025a			A, B, and C	<u>Critical Habitat</u> : Follow PCM-W001a and PCM-B025.

North Area ROW Maintenance Program  
WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B026	<i>Paronychia ahartii</i> Ahart's paronychia	CNPS List 1B.1/BLMS	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W001 (in appropriate habitat).
			B	<p>Follow all measures listed for A</p> <p>From March 1 to June 30, vehicle access will be permitted only on well-established roads until the site has been cleared by a qualified biologist. All vehicles will have rubber tires. Off-road travel will be avoided to the extent possible.</p> <p>If vegetation-management activities are proposed between March 1 and June 30, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&amp;M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited.</p> <p>Herbicide use will be prohibited at all times with the exception of direct application to target vegetation.</p> <p>Ground-disturbing activities proposed between March 1 and June 30 require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by BLM.</p> <p>All work will be hauled off site.</p> <p>Standard erosion- and sediment-control measures will be installed for all ground-disturbing activities in compliance with best management practices adopted by Western to prevent impacts to plants.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>
PCM-B027	<i>Navarretia heterandra</i> Tehama navarretia	CNPS List 4/NPS	A and B	Follow SOPs and PCM-W001.
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>
PCM-B028	<i>Neostapfia colusana</i> Colusa grass	FT/SE/ CNPS List 1B.1	A and B	<p>Follow SOPs and PCM-W001.</p> <p>A description of the O&amp;M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B029	<i>Oenothera deltooides</i> ssp. <i>howellii</i> Antioch Dunes evening primrose	FE/SE/CNPS List 1B.1	A	Follow SOPs
			B	If vegetation-management activities are proposed between March 1 and September 30, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited.  Ground-disturbing activities require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by USFS or BLM.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.
PCM-B030	<i>Orcuttia pilosa</i> Hairy Orcutt grass	FE/SE/ CNPS List 1B.1	A and B	Follow SOPs and PCM-W001. A description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.
PCM-B030a			A, B, and C	<u>Critical Habitat</u> : Follow PCM-W001a and PCM-B030
PCM-B031	<i>Orcuttia tenuis</i> Slender Orcutt grass	FT/SE/ CNPS List 1B.1/FSS	A and B	Follow SOPs and PCM-W001. A description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.

**North Area ROW Maintenance Program**  
**WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE**

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B031a			A, B, and C	<u>Critical Habitat:</u> Follow PCM-W001a and PCM-B031.
PCM-B032	<i>Tuctoria greenii</i> Greene's tuctoria	FE/SR/ CNPS List 1B.1	A and B	Follow SOPs and PCM-W001. A description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.
PCM-B032a			A, B, and C	<u>Critical Habitat:</u> Follow PCM-W001a, and PCM-B032.
PCM-B033	<i>Tuctoria mucronata</i> Solano grass	FE/SE/ CNPS List 1B.1	A and B	Follow SOPs and PCM-W001. A description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.
<b>SEEP, SPRING, POND, LAKE, CREEK, MARSH SPECIES</b>				
PCM-B034	<i>Astragalus tener</i> var. <i>ferrisiae</i> Ferris's milkvetch	CNPS List 1B.1/BLMS	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B	Follow PCM-W002. If vegetation-management activities are proposed between April 1 and May 31, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) and the perimeter of the spring or wet meadow prior to O&M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited. Ground-disturbing activities proposed between April 1 and May 31 require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by BLM.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B035	<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i> Fox sedge	CNPS List 2.2/NPS	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B	Follow PCM-W002. If vegetation-management activities are proposed between May 1 and June 30, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited. Ground-disturbing activities require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by NPS.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.
PCM-B036	<i>Cryptantha crinita</i> Silky cryptantha	CNPS List 1B.2/BLMS	A	Follow SOPs, PCM-W002, and PCM-W001.
			B	Follow PCM-W002. If vegetation-management activities are proposed between April 1 and May 31, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) and the perimeter of the spring or wet meadow prior to O&M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited. Ground-disturbing activities proposed between April 1 and May 31 require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by BLM.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.

North Area ROW Maintenance Program  
WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B037	<i>Eryngium racemosum</i> Delta button celery	SE/CNPS List 1B.1	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B	Follow PCM-W002. If vegetation-management activities are proposed between June 1 and September 30, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) and the perimeter of the spring or wet meadow prior to O&M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited. Ground-disturbing activities require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by Western after discussion with CDFG.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.
PCM-B038	<i>Lilaeopsis masonii</i> Mason's lilaeopsis	SR/CNPS List 1B.1	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B	Follow PCM-W002. If vegetation-management activities are proposed between April 1 and November 30, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited. Ground-disturbing activities require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by Western after discussion with CDFG.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B039	<i>Puccinellia howellii</i> Howell's alkali grass	CNPS List 1B.1/BLMS/NPS	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B and C	Follow PCM-W002. If vegetation-management activities are proposed between April 1 and June 30, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited. Ground-disturbing activities require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by BLM and/or NPS.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.
PCM-B040	<i>Smilax jamesii</i> English Peak greenbriar	1B.3/FSS/BLMS	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B	Follow PCM-W002. If vegetation-management activities are proposed between May 1 and July 31, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited. Ground-disturbing activities require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by USFS or BLM.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B041	<i>Trillium ovatum</i> ssp. <i>oettingeri</i> Salmon Mountains wakerobin	CNPS List 4.2/NPS	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B	Follow PCM-W002. If vegetation-management activities are proposed between May 31 and July 31, a qualified biologist will mark plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provided: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited. Ground-disturbing activities require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site. Ground disturbance will be prohibited within the flagged boundary unless otherwise directed by NPS.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.

- Annual herbs have limited operating periods (LOPs) for off-road travel, vegetation management, and ground disturbance that correspond to the life history of the plant (e.g., when the plant sets seed and/or is non-vegetative).
- In general, perennial herbs have LOPs for off-road travel and vegetation management that correspond to the life history of the plant (e.g., when the plant sets seed and/or is non-vegetative).
- Ground disturbance in suitable habitat for perennials requires a survey due to the presence of underground plant parts (e.g., roots, bulbs).
- There are no LOPs for shrubs because there is not a non-vegetative period.
- Herbicide use will be prohibited at all times (with the exception of direct application to target vegetation) in areas that could support special-status plants. Western will refer to the PRESCRIBE database for specific measures regarding herbicide application.

**Table 6-2 Special-status Wildlife and Fish Project Conservation Measures**

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
<b>INVERTEBRATES</b>				
PCM-B042	Conservancy fairy shrimp <i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>	FE	A, B, and C	Follow SOPs and PCM-W001. If conservancy fairy shrimp habitat cannot be avoided, the following will be implemented. Protocol-level preconstruction surveys will be required or species presence will be assumed. If conservancy fairy shrimp are present or assumed present, Western will initiate formal consultation with FWS. For Category B and C activities, a description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.
PCM-B042a			A, B, and C	<u>Critical habitat:</u> Follow PCM-B042. For Category B and C activities, a description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.
PCM-B043	Delta green ground beetle <i>Elaphrus viridis</i>	FT	A, B, and C	Follow SOPs and PCM-W001. For Category B and C activities, a description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.
PCM-B043a			A, B, and C	<u>Critical habitat:</u> Follow PCM-B043. For Category B and C activities, a description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.
PCM-B044	Longhorn fairy shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	FE	A, B, and C	Follow SOPs and PCM-W001. If longhorn fairy shrimp habitat cannot be avoided, the following will be implemented. Protocol-level preconstruction surveys will be required or species presence will be assumed. If longhorn fairy shrimp are present or assumed present, Western will initiate formal consultation with FWS. For Category B and C activities, a description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.

**North Area ROW Maintenance Program**  
**WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE**

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B045	Valley elderberry longhorn beetle <i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	FT	A	Follow SOPs at all times and PCM-W002 for elderberries in riparian habitat.
			B	<p>Prior to initiating vegetation clearance in the Central Valley below 3,000 feet with elderberry plants present, qualified personnel<sup>2</sup> will clearly flag or fence each elderberry plant that has a stem measuring one inch or greater in diameter at ground level. If an elderberry plant meeting this criterion is present:</p> <p>A minimum buffer zone of 20 feet outside of the dripline of each elderberry plant will be provided during all routine O&amp;M activities, within which only manual methods for vegetation clearing will be allowed.</p> <p>No insecticides, herbicides, fertilizers, or other chemicals will be used within 100 feet of an elderberry plant, except direct application to target vegetation (e.g. injection or cut-stump.) Trimming, rather than removal of shrubs, will be used where feasible. Directional felling of trees and manual cutting of trees prior to removal will be used to minimize impacts to elderberries.</p> <p>Replacement of existing conductor or installation of additional lines will be performed by pulling the line from tower to tower without touching the vegetation in areas where elderberry plants are present.</p> <p>If elderberry plants meeting the size criterion cannot be avoided, Western would refer back to its 2005 BO (USFWS File # 1-1-03-F-0107) in which the take of 10 elderberry shrubs per year for 10 years was addressed and authorized for the counties of Sacramento, Sutter, and Placer. Western is not requesting additional take of the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle, but would like to expand the area where take is allowed to include the North Area ROW Maintenance Project area. Take within this expanded area was previously addressed in Western's 1998 BA (USFWS File # 1-1-97-F-140). Additionally, the 10 take per year for 10 years (started in 2007) is already mitigated for in Western's 27-acre mitigation site in River Bend Park (formerly Goethe Park) in the American River Parkway.</p> <p>A description of the O&amp;M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B above.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate Federal land manager, land owner, or agency, as necessary.</p>

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B046	Vernal pool fairy shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	FT	A, B, and C	Follow SOPs and PCM-W001. If vernal pool fairy shrimp habitat cannot be avoided, the following will be implemented. Protocol-level preconstruction surveys will be required or species presence will be assumed. If vernal pool fairy shrimp are present or assumed present, Western will initiate formal consultation with FWS. For Category B and C activities, a description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.
PCM-B046a			A, B, and C	<u>Critical habitat:</u> Follow PCM-B046. For Category B and C activities, a description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.
PCM-B047	Vernal pool tadpole shrimp <i>Lepidurus packardii</i>	FE	A, B, and C	Follow PCM-W001. If vernal pool tadpole shrimp habitat cannot be avoided, the following will be implemented. Protocol-level preconstruction surveys will be required or species presence will be assumed. If vernal pool tadpole shrimp are present or assumed present, Western will initiate formal consultation with FWS. For Category B and C activities, a description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.
PCM-B047a			A, B, and C	<u>Critical habitat:</u> Follow PCM-B047. For Category B and C activities, a description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.

**North Area ROW Maintenance Program**  
**WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE**

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
<b>FISHES</b>				
PCM-B048	Central Valley fall/late fall-run chinook salmon <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	SSC/FSS	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B	<p>Follow PCM-W002.</p> <p>To comply with the salmon injunction for herbicide applications, Western will ensure that there will be no ground application of any of the chemicals named in the injunction (<a href="http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/endspec/salmonid.htm">http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/endspec/salmonid.htm</a>). Currently, the no-use buffer is 60 feet from any salmonid-supporting waters.</p> <p>In-water or near-shore work within the five sub-areas located within the North Area ROW will be performed within the date ranges below, unless otherwise authorized by NMFS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Delta: Any of the waterways in the action area that are south and west of the City of Sacramento. June 1 and October 15 of any given year.</li> <li>• The Mainstem Sacramento River - South: The waters of the Sacramento River from the City of Sacramento north to Hamilton City. June 1 and October 15 of any given year.</li> <li>• The Mainstem Sacramento River - North: The waters of the Sacramento River from Hamilton City north to Keswick Dam. December 1 and April 1 of any given year.</li> <li>• Butte, Mill, Deer, and Battle Creeks: Any of the waters that comprise the forks or mainstems of these four named creeks. December 1 and April 1 of any given year.</li> <li>• The North State Tributary Area: Any of the waterways in the action area that are north of the City of Sacramento and flow into the mainstem Sacramento River, excluding Butte, Mill, Deer, and Battle Creeks, as described above. June 1 and October 15 of any given year.</li> </ul> <p>Instream O&amp;M activities will be completely isolated from the active flowing stream. This will be accomplished by building cofferdams or temporary berms to keep O&amp;M activities out of stream channels. Cofferdams or temporary berms will be constructed using non-erodable, clean materials. Water from these O&amp;M envelopes will be transported off site or pumped to sediment or percolation basins. Cofferdams or berms will not impede the movement of fish at any time, and pump intakes will be screened to meet NMFS criteria.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B above.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate Federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B049	Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	FT/ST/FSS	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B	<p>Follow PCM-W002.</p> <p>To comply with the salmon injunction for herbicide applications, Western will ensure that there will be no ground application of any of the chemicals named in the injunction (<a href="http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/endspec/salmonid.htm">http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/endspec/salmonid.htm</a>). Currently, the no-use buffer is 60 feet from any salmonid-supporting waters.</p> <p>In-water or near-shore work within the five sub-areas located within the North Area ROW will be performed within the date ranges below, unless otherwise authorized by NMFS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Delta: Any of the waterways in the action area that are south and west of the City of Sacramento. June 1 and October 15 of any given year.</li> <li>• The Mainstem Sacramento River - South: The waters of the Sacramento River from the City of Sacramento north to Hamilton City. June 1 and October 15 of any given year.</li> <li>• The Mainstem Sacramento River - North: The waters of the Sacramento River from Hamilton City north to Keswick Dam. December 1 and April 1 of any given year.</li> <li>• Butte, Mill, Deer, and Battle Creeks: Any of the waters that comprise the forks or mainstems of these four named creeks. December 1 and April 1 of any given year.</li> <li>• The North State Tributary Area: Any of the waterways in the action area that are north of the City of Sacramento and flow into the mainstem Sacramento River, excluding Butte, Mill, Deer, and Battle Creeks, as described above. June 1 and October 15 of any given year..</li> </ul> <p>Instream O&amp;M activities will be completely isolated from the active flowing stream. This will be accomplished by building cofferdams or temporary berms to keep O&amp;M activities out of stream channels. Cofferdams or temporary berms will be constructed using non-erodible, clean materials. Water from these O&amp;M envelopes will be transported off site or pumped to sediment or percolation basins. Cofferdams or berms will not impede the movement of fish at any time, and pump intakes will be screened to meet NMFS criteria.</p> <p>A description of the O&amp;M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of NMFS reporting requirements.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B above.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate Federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>

**North Area ROW Maintenance Program**  
**WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE**

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B049a	Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> (cont.)	FT/ST/FSS	A, B, and C	<u>Critical habitat:</u> Follow PCM-B049. For Category B and C activities, a description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of NMFS reporting requirements.
PCM-B050	Central Valley steelhead <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	FT	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B	Follow PCM-W002. To comply with the salmon injunction for herbicide applications, Western will ensure that there will be no ground application of any of the chemicals named in the injunction ( <a href="http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/endspec/salmonid.htm">http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/endspec/salmonid.htm</a> ). Currently, the no-use buffer is 60 feet from any salmonid-supporting waters. In-water or near-shore work within the five sub-areas located within the North Area ROW will be performed within the date ranges below, unless otherwise authorized by NMFS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Delta: Any of the waterways in the action area that are south and west of the City of Sacramento. June 1 and October 15 of any given year.</li> <li>• The Mainstem Sacramento River - South: The waters of the Sacramento River from the City of Sacramento north to Hamilton City. June 1 and October 15 of any given year.</li> <li>• The Mainstem Sacramento River - North: The waters of the Sacramento River from Hamilton City north to Keswick Dam. December 1 and April 1 of any given year.</li> <li>• Butte, Mill, Deer, and Battle Creeks: Any of the waters that comprise the forks or mainstems of these four named creeks. December 1 and April 1 of any given year.</li> <li>• The North State Tributary Area: Any of the waterways in the action area that are north of the City of Sacramento and flow into the mainstem Sacramento River, excluding Butte, Mill, Deer, and Battle Creeks, as described above. June 1 and October 15 of any given year.</li> </ul> Instream O&M activities will be completely isolated from the active flowing stream. This will be accomplished by building cofferdams or temporary berms to keep O&M activities out of stream channels. Cofferdams or temporary berms will be constructed using non-erodible, clean materials. Water from these O&M envelopes will be transported off site or pumped to sediment or percolation basins. Cofferdams or berms will not impede the movement of fish at any time, and pump intakes will be screened to meet NMFS criteria. A description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of NMFS reporting requirements.

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B050 (cont.)	Central Valley steelhead <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	FT	C	Follow all measures listed for A and B above. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate Federal land manager, land owner, or agency.
PCM-B050a			A, B, and C	<u>Critical habitat:</u> Follow PCM-B050. For Category B and C activities, a description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of NMFS reporting requirements.
PCM-B051	Delta smelt <i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i>	FT/ST	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B	Follow PCM-W002. In-water or near-shore work within the five sub-areas located within the North Area ROW will be performed within the date ranges below, unless otherwise authorized by NMFS: Instream O&M activities will be completely isolated from the active flowing stream. This will be accomplished by building cofferdams or temporary berms to keep O&M activities out of stream channels. Cofferdams or temporary berms will be constructed using non-erodable, clean materials. Water from these O&M envelopes will be transported off site or pumped to sediment or percolation basins. Cofferdams or berms will not impede the movement of fish at any time, and pump intakes will adhere to the NMFS and CDFG screen criteria ( <a href="http://swr.ucsd.edu/hcd/fishscrn.htm">http://swr.ucsd.edu/hcd/fishscrn.htm</a> and <a href="http://iep.water.ca.gov/cvffrt/DFGCriteria2.htm">http://iep.water.ca.gov/cvffrt/DFGCriteria2.htm</a> ) or more recent guidance. All instream work will adhere to an approach velocity of 0.2 feet/second during pumping. A description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B above. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate Federal land manager, land owner, or agency.
PCM-B051a			A, B, and C	<u>Critical habitat:</u> Follow PCM B051. For Category B and C activities, a description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.

**North Area ROW Maintenance Program**  
**WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE**

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B052	Green sturgeon <i>Acipenser medirostris</i>	FT/SSC	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B	<p>Follow PCM-W002.</p> <p>In-water or near-shore work within the five sub-areas located within the North Area ROW will be preformed within the date ranges below, unless otherwise authorized by NMFS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Delta: Any of the waterways in the action area that are south and west of the City of Sacramento. June 1 and October 15 of any given year.</li> <li>• The Mainstem Sacramento River - South: The waters of the Sacramento River from the City of Sacramento north to Hamilton City. June 1 and October 15 of any given year.</li> <li>• The Mainstem Sacramento River - North: The waters of the Sacramento River from Hamilton City north to Keswick Dam. December 1 and April 1 of any given year.</li> <li>• Butte, Mill, Deer, and Battle Creeks: Any of the waters that comprise the forks or mainstems of these four named creeks. December 1 and April 1 of any given year.</li> <li>• The North State Tributary Area: Any of the waterways in the action area that are north of the City of Sacramento and flow into the mainstem Sacramento River, excluding Butte, Mill, Deer, and Battle Creeks, as described above. June 1 and October 15 of any given year.</li> </ul> <p>Instream O&amp;M activities will be completely isolated from the active flowing stream. This will be accomplished by building cofferdams or temporary berms to keep O&amp;M activities out of stream channels. Cofferdams or temporary berms will be constructed using non-erodible, clean materials. Water from these O&amp;M envelopes will be transported off site or pumped to sediment or percolation basins. Cofferdams or berms will not impede the movement of fish at any time, and pump intakes will be screened to meet NMFS criteria.</p> <p>A description of the O&amp;M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of NMFS reporting requirements.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B above.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate Federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B053	Hardhead <i>Mylopharodon conocephalus</i>	FSS	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B and C	<p>Follow PCM-W002.</p> <p>Because of potential range overlap with listed salmonids, In-water or near-shore work within the five sub-areas located within the North Area ROW will be preformed within the date ranges below, unless otherwise authorized by USFS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Delta: Any of the waterways in the action area that are south and west of the City of Sacramento. June 1 and October 15 of any given year.</li> <li>• The Mainstem Sacramento River - South: The waters of the Sacramento River from the City of Sacramento north to Hamilton City. June 1 and October 15 of any given year.</li> <li>• The Mainstem Sacramento River - North: The waters of the Sacramento River from Hamilton City north to Keswick Dam. December 1 and April 1 of any given year.</li> <li>• Butte, Mill, Deer, and Battle Creeks: Any of the waters that comprise the forks or mainstems of these four named creeks. December 1 and April 1 of any given year.</li> <li>• The North State Tributary Area: Any of the waterways in the action area that are north of the City of Sacramento and flow into the mainstem Sacramento River, excluding Butte, Mill, Deer, and Battle Creeks, as described above. June 1 and October 15 of any given year.</li> </ul> <p>Instream O&amp;M activities will be completely isolated from the active flowing stream. This will be accomplished by building cofferdams or temporary berms to keep O&amp;M activities out of stream channels. Cofferdams or temporary berms will be constructed using non-erodible, clean materials. Water from these O&amp;M envelopes will be transported off site or pumped to sediment or percolation basins. Cofferdams or berms will not impede the movement of fish at any time.</p>

**North Area ROW Maintenance Program**  
**WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE**

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B054	Lost River sucker <i>Deltistes luxatus</i>	FE/SE	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B	<p>Follow PCM-W002 for instream work within or near habitat for the Lost River sucker, including irrigation canals operated by the Tule Lake Irrigation District.</p> <p>Because of potential range overlap with listed salmonids, in-water or near-shore work will only occur between June 1 and October 15 within the North State Tributary Area (any of the waterways in the action area that are north of the City of Sacramento and flow into the mainstem Sacramento River, excluding Butte, Mill, Deer, and Battle Creeks), unless otherwise authorized by USFWS.</p> <p>Instream O&amp;M activities will be completely isolated from the active flowing stream. This will be accomplished by building cofferdams or temporary berms to keep O&amp;M activities out of stream channels. Cofferdams or temporary berms will be constructed using non-erodible, clean materials. Water from these O&amp;M envelopes will be transported off site or pumped to sediment or percolation basins. Cofferdams or berms will not impede the movement of fish at any time.</p> <p>A description of the O&amp;M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B above.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate Federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>
PCM-B055	Rough sculpin <i>Cottus asperimus</i>	ST	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B	<p>Follow PCM-W002.</p> <p>Because of potential range overlap with listed salmonids, in-water or near-shore work will only occur between June 1 and October 15 within the North State Tributary Area (any of the waterways in the action area that are north of the City of Sacramento and flow into the mainstem Sacramento River, excluding Butte, Mill, Deer, and Battle Creeks).</p> <p>Instream O&amp;M activities will be completely isolated from the active flowing stream. This will be accomplished by building cofferdams or temporary berms to keep O&amp;M activities out of stream channels. Cofferdams or temporary berms will be constructed using non-erodible, clean materials. Water from these O&amp;M envelopes will be transported off site or pumped to sediment or percolation basins. Cofferdams or berms will not impede the movement of fish at any time.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B above.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B056	Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	FE/SE	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B	<p>Follow PCM-W002.</p> <p>To comply with the salmon injunction for herbicide applications, Western will ensure that there will be no ground application of any of the chemicals named in the injunction (<a href="http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/endspec/salmonid.htm">http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/endspec/salmonid.htm</a>). Currently, the no-use buffer is 60 feet from any salmonid-supporting waters.</p> <p>In-water or near-shore work within the five sub-areas located within the North Area ROW will be preformed within the date ranges below, unless otherwise authorized by NMFS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Delta: Any of the waterways in the action area that are south and west of the City of Sacramento. June 1 and October 15 of any given year.</li> <li>• The Mainstem Sacramento River - South: The waters of the Sacramento River from the City of Sacramento north to Hamilton City. June 1 and October 15 of any given year.</li> <li>• The Mainstem Sacramento River - North: The waters of the Sacramento River from Hamilton City north to Keswick Dam. December 1 and April 1 of any given year.</li> <li>• Butte, Mill, Deer, and Battle Creeks: Any of the waters that comprise the forks or mainstems of these four named creeks. December 1 and April 1 of any given year.</li> <li>• The North State Tributary Area: Any of the waterways in the action area that are north of the City of Sacramento and flow into the mainstem Sacramento River, excluding Butte, Mill, Deer, and Battle Creeks, as described above. June 1 and October 15 of any given year.</li> </ul> <p>Instream O&amp;M activities will be completely isolated from the active flowing stream. This will be accomplished by building cofferdams or temporary berms to keep O&amp;M activities out of stream channels. Cofferdams or temporary berms will be constructed using non-erodible, clean materials. Water from these O&amp;M envelopes will be transported off site or pumped to sediment or percolation basins. Cofferdams or berms will not impede the movement of fish at any time, and pump intakes will be screened to meet NMFS criteria.</p> <p>A description of the O&amp;M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of NMFS reporting requirements.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B above.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>

**North Area ROW Maintenance Program**  
**WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE**

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B056a	Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> (cont.)		A, B, and C	<u>Critical habitat</u> : Follow PCM-B056. For Category B and C activities, a description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of NMFS reporting requirements.
PCM-B057	Shortnose sucker <i>Chasmistes brevirostris</i>	FE/SE	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B	Follow PCM-W002. Because of potential range overlap with listed salmonids, in-water or near-shore work will only occur between June 1 and October 15 within the North State Tributary Area (any of the waterways in the action area that are north of the City of Sacramento and flow into the mainstem Sacramento River, excluding Butte, Mill, Deer, and Battle Creeks), unless otherwise authorized by USFWS.  Instream O&M activities will be completely isolated from the active flowing stream. This will be accomplished by building cofferdams or temporary berms to keep O&M activities out of stream channels. Cofferdams or temporary berms will be constructed using non-erodible, clean materials. Water from these O&M envelopes will be transported off site or pumped to sediment or percolation basins. Cofferdams or berms will not impede the movement of fish at any time.  A description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B above. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate Federal land manager, land owner, or agency.

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>				
PCM-B058	California red-legged frog <i>Rana draytonii</i>	FT	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B and C	<p>Follow all measures for Category A above.</p> <p>A Service-approved biologist<sup>3</sup> will identify potential California red-legged frog (CRLF) breeding habitat and will flag a 500-foot buffer. The following restrictions apply within the buffer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicles must remain on existing access roads and maintain a speed limit of 15mph;</li> <li>• Only manual vegetation removal is allowed;</li> <li>• Only direct (e.g. injection and cut-stump) herbicide application methods are allowed, except when otherwise restricted;</li> <li>• No ground disturbance (e.g. digging or auguring); and</li> <li>• Erosion-control devices will be of a material that will not entrap amphibians.</li> </ul> <p>If it is not possible to follow the above-stated measures, a preactivity survey will be conducted no more than 24 hours before O&amp;M activities begin. A Service-approved biologist will remain on site during all activities to ensure protection of CRLFs OR an exclusion barrier will be constructed around the work site, following Service-approved methods and materials, which will be removed at the end of the work activity. Crews will inspect trenches left open for more than 24 hours for trapped animals. Only a Service-approved biologist will remove trapped animals.</p> <p>To comply with the California red-legged frog injunction for herbicide applications, Western will ensure that, in the counties named in the injunction (<a href="http://www.epa.gov/espp/litstatus/redleg-frog/steps-info.htm">http://www.epa.gov/espp/litstatus/redleg-frog/steps-info.htm</a>) Currently, the no-use buffer is 60 feet from any aquatic feature, aquatic breeding habitat, non-breeding aquatic habitat, and upland habitat.</p> <p>A brief description of the O&amp;M activity, including location and duration, will be sent to Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.</p>

North Area ROW Maintenance Program  
WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B059	California tiger salamander <i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	FT	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W001.
			B and C	Follow all measures for category A above. A Service-approved biologist <sup>3</sup> will identify potential California tiger salamander (CTS) breeding habitat and will flag a 500-foot buffer. The following restrictions apply within the buffer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicles must remain on existing access roads and maintain a speed limit of 15mph;</li> <li>• Only manual vegetation removal is allowed;</li> <li>• Only direct (e.g. injection and cut-stump) herbicide application methods are allowed, except when otherwise restricted;</li> <li>• No ground disturbance (e.g. digging or auguring); and</li> <li>• Erosion-control devices will be of a material that will not entrap amphibians.</li> </ul> If it is not possible to follow the above-stated measures, a preactivity survey will be conducted no more than 24 hours before O&M activities begin. A Service-approved biologist will remain on site during all activities to ensure protection of CTSs OR an exclusion barrier will be constructed around the work site, following Service-approved methods and materials, which will be removed at the end of the work activity. Crews will inspect trenches left open for more than 24 hours for trapped animals. Only a Service-approved biologist will remove trapped animals. A description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.
PCM-B059a			A, B, and C	<u>Critical habitat</u> : Follow PCM-B059. For Category B and C activities, a description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.
PCM-B060	Cascades frog <i>Rana cascadae</i>	FSS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	Follow PCM-W002.
PCM-B061	Foothill yellow-legged frog <i>Rana boylei</i>	FSS/BLMS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	Follow PCM-W002.
PCM-B062	Oregon spotted frog <i>Rana pretiosa</i>	FSS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	Follow PCM-W002.
PCM-B063	Western spadefoot <i>Spea hammondi</i>	BLMS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	Follow PCM-W001.

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
<b>REPTILES</b>				
PCM-B064	Alameda whipsnake <i>Masticophis lateralis euryxanthus</i>	FT	A	Follow SOPs. Vehicles will be restricted to existing access roads and limit speed to 15 mph. Equipment and debris will be placed only in cleared areas where snakes will be readily visible. All activities that will take place on the ground will be conducted during daylight hours to increase chances of sighting in areas where whipsnakes are present.
			B	Follow all measures listed for A above. Shrub removal will be limited in areas of potential habitat; vegetation will be manually cleared and only direct (e.g. injection and cut-stump) herbicide treatment is allowed. A description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B above. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate Federal land manager, land owner, or agency.
PCM-B065	Coast horned lizard <i>Phrynosoma coronatum frontale</i>	BLMS	A, B, and C	Off-road travel will be minimized. Vehicle speeds will not exceed 15 mph on access and maintenance roads and 10 mph on unimproved access routes.

**North Area ROW Maintenance Program  
WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE**

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B066	Giant garter snake <i>Thamnophis gigas</i>	FT/ST	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002 in aquatic giant garter snake (GGS) habitat.
			B	<p>Follow PCM-W002 in aquatic GGS habitat, which supersedes those below where they are different.</p> <p>Use of herbicides (with the exception of direct application) within 200 feet of potential giant garter snake habitat will be prohibited at all times.</p> <p>Movement of heavy equipment will be confined to existing roadways to minimize habitat disturbance. Vegetation management will be confined to the minimum area necessary to facilitate O&amp;M activities.</p> <p>GGS aquatic and upland habitats will be flagged as environmentally sensitive areas by a Service-approved biologist within or adjacent to the disturbance footprint. Only manual vegetation removal will be allowed within the flagged area.</p> <p>A Service-approved monitor will be present for O&amp;M activities within the flagged area. Ground-disturbing activities will be avoided within 200 feet from the banks of GGS aquatic habitat. If this is not feasible, O&amp;M activities will be conducted between May 1 and September 30, the giant garter snake active period, and all potentially affected aquatic habitats will be dewatered prior to any ground disturbance. Dewatered areas will remain dry with no puddled water remaining for at least 15 consecutive days prior to excavation or filling of that habitat. If a site can not be completely dewatered, prey items will be netted or otherwise salvaged if present.</p> <p>Any temporary fill and debris will be immediately removed and disturbed areas restored to pre-project conditions prior to October 1. Restoration work could include such activities as replanting species removed from banks or replanting emergent vegetation in the active channel. Filter fences and mesh will be of a material that will not entrap reptiles and amphibians. Erosion-control blankets will be used as a last resort because of their tendency to biodegrade slowly and trap reptiles and amphibians. No monofilament plastics will be used for erosion control near aquatic features.</p> <p>If it is not feasible to conduct O&amp;M activities between May 1 and September 30, Western would initiate consultation with USFWS on that action.</p> <p>A description of the O&amp;M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.</p>
			C	<p>Follow all measures listed for A and B above.</p> <p>Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&amp;M activity to the appropriate Federal land manager, land owner, or agency.</p>

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B067	Northern sagebrush lizard <i>Sceloporus graciosus graciosus</i>	BLMS	A, B, and C	Off-road travel will be minimized. Vehicle speeds will not exceed 15 mph on access and maintenance roads and 10 mph on unimproved access routes.
PCM-B068	Western pond turtle <i>Actinemys marmorata</i>	FSS	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B and C	From April 15 to July 15, any ground-disturbing activity within 400 feet of a permanent pond, lake, creek, river, or slough that could affect the bed, bank, or water quality of any of these features will be prohibited OR a qualified biologist <sup>4</sup> will inspect the project area.  If adult or juvenile pond turtles are present, a qualified biologist will monitor project activities to ensure that no turtles are harmed. If a qualified biologist determined that nests could be adversely affected, potential nesting areas will be avoided between June 1 and October 31. Follow PCM-W002.
<b>BIRDS</b>				
PCM-B069	American peregrine falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i> (nesting)	SE/FSS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	From January 1 to July 31 herbicide applications and noisy or disturbing O&M activities (e.g., power saws, mechanical chippers) will be prohibited in the vicinity of potential peregrine falcon nesting habitat (cliffs) OR a qualified biologist <sup>4</sup> will conduct nesting surveys to verify absence. If a nest is detected, all O&M activities and all herbicide applications will be prohibited at a distance determined by the qualified biologist, based on topography and/or other environmental considerations.
PCM-B070	Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> (nesting and wintering)	SE	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	From February 1 to August 15 herbicide application or noisy or disturbing O&M activities (e.g., power saws, mechanical chippers) will be prohibited anywhere that bald eagles are known to nest OR a qualified biologist <sup>4</sup> will conduct nesting surveys using methods described in Jackman and Jenkins 2004. If a nest is detected, all herbicide application and O&M activities will be prohibited at a distance determined by the qualified biologist, based on topography and/or other environmental considerations.

**North Area ROW Maintenance Program**  
**WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE**

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B071	Bank swallow <i>Riparia riparia</i> (nesting)	ST	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	From April 1 to August 15 rip-rapping of vertical streambanks greater than 3 feet in height and herbicide application within 150 feet of such habitats will be prohibited OR a qualified biologist <sup>4</sup> will conduct nesting surveys prior to O&M activities that involve modifications to such streambanks. If a nesting colony is detected, a qualified biologist will mark and monitor an appropriate buffer zone within which all O&M activities and herbicide applications will be prohibited from April 1 to August 15. Follow PCM-W002.
PCM-B072	California black rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i>	ST	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B and C	Because black rails are resident where they occur (i.e., not migratory), herbicide use in potential black rail habitat will be prohibited (with the exception of direct application) all year long unless, under guidance of CDFG, the habitat is determined to be unoccupied. From February 15 to July 31, surface disturbances including noise or changes to the hydrological regime will be prohibited in potential black rail habitat (shallowly flooded wetlands or irrigated pasture) OR a qualified biologist <sup>4</sup> will conduct nesting surveys to verify absence. If nesting activity is detected or likely, a qualified biologist will mark and monitor an appropriate buffer zone around the nest within which all O&M activities will be prohibited from February 15 to July 31. Follow PCM-W002.
PCM-B073	California spotted owl <i>Strix occidentalis occidentalis</i>	FSS/BLMS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	From April 1 to June 15 herbicide application (with the exception of direct application), tree removal, pruning, topping, and other disturbances will be prohibited in suitable habitat (forest) OR a qualified biologist <sup>4</sup> will conduct nest surveys using methods described in CDFG 1992. If a nest was detected, a qualified biologist will mark and monitor an appropriate buffer zone around the nest within which all O&M activities and herbicide applications will be prohibited from April 1 to June 15.
PCM-B074	Great gray owl <i>Strix nebulosa</i> (nesting)	SE/FSS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B	From March 15 to July 31 herbicide application (with the exception of direct application) and removal of snags or trees will be prohibited OR a qualified biologist <sup>4</sup> will conduct nesting surveys using methods described in Beck & Winter 2000 to verify absence. If a nest was detected, a qualified biologist will mark and monitor an appropriate buffer zone around the nest within which all O&M activities and herbicide applications will be prohibited from March 15 – July 31.

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B074 (cont.)	Great gray owl <i>Strix nebulosa</i> (nesting)	SE/FSS	C	Follow all measures listed for A and B above. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate Federal land manager, land owner, or agency.
PCM-B075	Greater sage grouse <i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i> (nesting and leks)	FSS/BLMS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	From March 1 to September 31 herbicide application (with the exception of direct application), vegetation clearing, and surface disturbance will be prohibited in sagebrush habitats OR a qualified biologist <sup>4</sup> will conduct surveys for leks and nests to verify absence. If nesting activity or leks are detected or known, a qualified biologist will mark and monitor an appropriate buffer zone around nests or leks within which all O&M activities and herbicide applications will be prohibited from March 1 to September 31.
PCM-B076	Greater sandhill crane <i>Grus canadensis tabida</i> (nesting and wintering)	ST/FSS	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B and C	From March 15 to August 31 herbicide application (with the exception of direct application), vegetation clearing, and ground disturbance will be prohibited in marshes, uplands adjacent to marshes, pastures, and meadows OR a qualified biologist <sup>4</sup> will conduct nesting surveys prior to O&M activities. If nesting activity is detected, a qualified biologist will mark and monitor an appropriate buffer zone around the nest within which all O&M activities and herbicide applications will be prohibited from March 15 to August 31. Follow PCM-W002.
PCM-B077	Little willow flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii brewsteri</i> (nesting)	SE/FSS	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B and C	From May 15 to August 31 herbicide application (with the exception of direct application) and vegetation clearing will be prohibited in wetlands or thickets of willows and low-growing shrubs OR a qualified biologist <sup>4</sup> will conduct nesting surveys prior to O&M activity using methods described in Bombay et al. 2000. If nesting activity is detected, a qualified biologist will mark and monitor an appropriate buffer zone around the nest within which all O&M activities and herbicide applications will be prohibited from May 15 to August 31. Follow PCM-W002.
PCM-B078	Northern goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> (nesting)	FSS/BLMS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	From February 15 to August 15 herbicide application (with the exception of direct application), tree removal, and noisy or disturbing O&M activities (e.g., chain saws, mechanical chippers) will be prohibited OR a qualified biologist <sup>4</sup> will conduct nest surveys using methods described in USDA 2005. If a nest is detected, a qualified biologist will mark and monitor an appropriate buffer zone around the nest within which all O&M activities and herbicide applications will be prohibited from February 15 to August 15.

**North Area ROW Maintenance Program**  
**WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE**

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B079	Northern spotted owl <i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i>	FT	A	Follow SOPs. Aerial and ground patrols are permissible year-round. From February 1 to July 31 any noisy O&M activities that require equipment other than hand tools and pickup trucks will be prohibited.  If O&M activities need to be conducted between February 1 and July 31, a Service-approved biologist <sup>3</sup> will conduct protocol nest surveys using methods described in CDFG 1992 (or the most current survey protocol) under guidance of US Fish and Wildlife Service. If a nest is detected, the US Fish and Wildlife Service will be contacted for further guidance.
			B	From February 1 to July 31 herbicide application (with the exception of direct application), tree removal, and any noisy or disturbing O&M activities (e.g., chain saw, mechanical chipper) will be prohibited. O&M activities that only require the use of hand tools and pickup trucks are allowable within this time frame.  If O&M activities need to be conducted between February 1 and July 31, a Service-approved biologist <sup>3</sup> will conduct protocol nest surveys using methods described in CDFG 1992 (or the most current survey protocol) under guidance of US Fish and Wildlife Service. If a nest is detected, the US Fish and Wildlife Service will be contacted for further guidance.  A description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.
			C	Follow all measures listed for A and B above.  Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate Federal land manager, land owner, or agency.
PCM-B079a			A, B, and C	<u>Critical habitat</u> : Follow PCM-B079.  For Category B and C activities, a description of the O&M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B080	Swainson's hawk <i>Buteo swainsoni</i> (nesting)	ST/FSS	A, B, and C	From April 1 to July 31 herbicide application and tree removal will be prohibited. A 0.25-mile buffer zone will be established and maintained around potential Swainson's hawk nest trees, within which there will be no intensive disturbance (e.g., use of heavy equipment, power saws, chippers, cranes, or draglines). This buffer may be adjusted, as assessed by a qualified biologist <sup>4</sup> , based on changes in sensitivity exhibited by birds over the course of the nesting season and the type of O&M activity performed (e.g., high noise or human activity such as mechanical vegetation maintenance versus low noise or human activity such as semi-annual patrols). Within 0.25 mile of an active nest (as confirmed by a qualified biologist), routine O&M activities will be deferred until after the young have fledged or until it was determined by a qualified biologist that the activities will not adversely affect adults or young OR a qualified biologist will conduct nest surveys using methods described in SHTAC 2000 (or the most recent survey protocol) to determine absence.
PCM-B081	Tricolored blackbird <i>Agelaius tricolor</i> (nesting colony)	BLMS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	From March 15 to August 15 herbicide application (with the exception of direct application) and vegetation clearing/disturbance will be prohibited in marshes, willows, and blackberry thickets OR a qualified biologist <sup>4</sup> will conduct a nesting survey prior to O&M activities. If nesting activity is detected, a qualified biologist will mark and monitor an appropriate buffer zone around the nesting colony within which all O&M activities and herbicide applications will be prohibited from March 15 to August 15. Follow PCM-W002.
PCM-B082	Western burrowing owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i> (burrow sites winter and summer)	SSC/BLMS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	From February 1 to August 31 herbicide application (with the exception of direct application) and other O&M activity will be prohibited within 250 feet of potential burrowing owl nesting dens (ground squirrel burrows, culverts, concrete slabs, debris piles that could support nesting burrowing owls). From September 1 through January 31, disturbance will be prohibited within 160 feet of potential burrowing owl dens. OR a qualified biologist <sup>4</sup> will conduct nesting and wintering surveys using methods described in California Burrowing Owl Consortium 1993. If nesting or wintering activity is detected, a qualified biologist will mark and monitor an appropriate non-disturbance buffer in the vicinity of burrows that have been active within the last three years. Within the buffer zone, all O&M activities and herbicide applications will be prohibited from February 1 to August 31.

**North Area ROW Maintenance Program**  
**WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE**

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B083	Western yellow-billed cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i> (nesting)	SE/FSS	A	Follow SOPs and PCM-W002.
			B and C	Follow PCM-W002. From March 15 to September 31 herbicide application (with the exception of direct application) or tree/vegetation disturbance will be prohibited in riparian forest OR a qualified biologist <sup>4</sup> will conduct nest surveys. If nesting activity is detected, a qualified biologist will mark and monitor an appropriate buffer zone around the nest within which all O&M activities and herbicide applications will be prohibited from March 15 to September 31.
<b>MAMMALS</b>				
PCM-B084	American marten <i>Martes americana sierra</i>	FSS	A, B, and C	Between March 1 and August 31, off-road vehicle travel will be avoided. If off-road travel or ground disturbance is required in potential marten habitat at any time of year, disturbance to downfall, snags, downed trees/logs, and stumps will be avoided. Snags, downfall, and stumps will never be moved or removed unless they are a specific safety concern.
PCM-B085	California wolverine <i>Gulo gulo luteus</i>	ST/FSS	A, B, and C	Between January 1 and August 31, off-road vehicle travel and activity will be avoided. If off-road travel or ground disturbance is required in potential wolverine habitat, a qualified biologist <sup>4</sup> will determine the presence or absence of wolverines.
PCM-B086	Fringed myotis <i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	BLMS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	Noisy or disturbing O&M activities (e.g., power saws, mechanical chippers) will be minimized in the vicinity of caves, mine tunnels, and rock outcrops. Snags and live trees will be left standing to the maximum extent possible.
PCM-B087	Greater western mastiff bat <i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	BLMS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	Noisy or disturbing O&M activities (e.g., power saws, mechanical chippers) will be minimized in the vicinity of significant rock outcrops.
PCM-B088	Long-eared myotis <i>Myotis evotis</i>	BLMS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	Noisy or disturbing O&M activities (e.g., power saws, mechanical chippers) will be minimized in the vicinity of caves, mine tunnels, and rock outcrops. Snags and live trees will be left standing to the maximum extent possible.

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B089	Pacific fisher <i>Martes pennanti</i>	FSS/BLMS	A, B, and C	Between February 1 and August 1, off-road vehicle travel and activity will be avoided. If off-road travel or ground disturbance is required in potential fisher habitat at any time of year, disturbance to downfall, snags, downed trees/logs, and stumps will be minimized. Snags, downfall, and stumps will never be moved or removed unless they are a specific safety concern.
PCM-B090	Pallid bat <i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	FSS/BLMS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	Noisy or disturbing O&M activities (e.g., power saws, mechanical chippers) will be minimized in the vicinity of caves, mine tunnels, and rock outcrops. Snags and live trees will be left standing to the maximum extent possible.
PCM-B091	Pygmy rabbit <i>Brachylagus idahoensis</i>	BLMS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	Off-road travel will be prohibited in pygmy rabbit habitat. Where off-road travel or activities is required, trampling or driving over sagebrush and other shrubs of any size will be prohibited.

North Area ROW Maintenance Program  
WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B092	San Joaquin kit fox <i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>	FE/ST	A	Follow SOPs
			B	<p>O&amp;M activities will be avoided between Interstate 580 and the Tesla Substation from February 1 through May 31, the kit fox breeding season.</p> <p>Prior to O&amp;M activities that involve ground disturbance, a qualified biologist<sup>4</sup> will survey the proposed disturbance footprint and all areas within 250 feet of the proposed activity for potential kit fox den sites. Survey methods and protection measures will be consistent with those described in USFWS 1999b and USFWS 1999c or by other more current methods approved by the USFWS. The status of all dens will be determined and mapped; results will be submitted to USFWS within 5 working days after survey completion and before start of ground disturbance.</p> <p>All potential den sites outside the disturbance footprint will be conspicuously marked with stakes and flagging 30 days prior to ground-disturbing activities using materials that do not prevent access by kit foxes. Circular exclusion zones will be established around kit fox dens, and will have a radius measured outward from the entrance or cluster of entrances of 50 feet for potential dens, 100 feet for known dens; the distance for natal or pupping dens will be determined in coordination with USFWS and CDFG. No ground-disturbing activities will be permitted within exclusion zones.</p> <p>If destruction of a potential or known den is unavoidable within the disturbance footprint, the den site will be monitored by a Service-approved biologist<sup>3</sup> for a period of at least three days prior to disturbance. Unoccupied dens could be blocked with a sand bag or hand excavated to prevent occupation until O&amp;M activities are completed. Procedures for monitoring and excavating will be consistent with those described in USFWS 1999c. If the den is occupied, Western would initiate consultation with USFWS for that project.</p> <p>O&amp;M activities will take place only between one hour after sunrise and one hour before sunset except when emergencies necessitate night work. If nighttime construction is required, lights will be directed to the minimum area needed to illuminate project work areas.</p> <p>All trash, especially food-related trash, will be deposited into closed containers and removed on a daily basis.</p> <p>Excavations greater than three feet deep will be fenced, covered, or filled at the end of each working day, or will have escape ramps provided to prevent the entrapment of foxes. Pipes will be capped at all times until they are used. Any mortalities or injuries to kit foxes that occur as a result of project-related or O&amp;M-related actions will be reported to the Western Natural Resources Department, who will report the incident to the USFWS.</p> <p>A description of the O&amp;M activity, including location and duration, will be kept on file at Western's Natural Resources Department in support of USFWS reporting requirements.</p>

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B092 (cont.)	San Joaquin kit fox <i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>	FE/ST	C	Follow all measures listed for A and B above. Prior to site mobilization, Western will provide notification of the O&M activity to the appropriate Federal land manager, land owner, or agency.
PCM-B093	San Joaquin pocket mouse <i>Perognathus inornatus inornatus</i>	BLMS	A, B, and C	Off-road travel and activity will be avoided to the maximum extent possible.
PCM-B094	Sierra Nevada red fox <i>Vulpes vulpes necator</i>	ST/FSS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	From March 1 through August 31, any off-road travel and activity, noise-generating equipment use, vegetation removal, herbicide use, or ground-disturbing activities will be avoided. If this is not feasible, a pre-activity survey by a qualified biologist <sup>4</sup> will be conducted to determine whether pupping dens are present. Activities within 500 feet of pupping dens will be avoided between March 1 and August 31. If this is not feasible, Western will coordinate with CDFG.
PCM-B095	Spotted bat <i>Euderma maculatum</i>	BLMS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	Noisy or disturbing O&M activities (e.g., power saws, mechanical chippers) will be minimized in the vicinity of cliffs and rock outcrops.
PCM-B096	Townsend's big-eared bat <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	FSS/BLMS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	Noisy or disturbing O&M activities (e.g., power saws, mechanical chippers) will be minimized in the vicinity of caves, mines, and tunnels.
PCM-B097	Western red bat <i>Lasiurus blossevillei</i>	FSS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	Noisy or disturbing O&M activities (e.g., power saws, mechanical chippers) will be minimized in the vicinity of broadleaf woodlands in riparian areas. Live broadleaf trees will be left standing to the maximum extent possible.

**North Area ROW Maintenance Program  
WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE**

PCM-ID	Species Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-B098	Western small-footed myotis <i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>	BLMS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	Noisy or disturbing O&M activities (e.g., power saws, mechanical chippers) will be minimized in the vicinity of caves, mine tunnels, and rock outcrops. Snags and live trees will be left standing to the maximum extent possible.
PCM-B099	Yuma myotis <i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	BLMS	A	Follow SOPs.
			B and C	Noisy or disturbing O&M activities (e.g., power saws, mechanical chippers) will be minimized in the vicinity of caves, mine tunnels, and rock outcrops. Snags and live trees will be left standing to the maximum extent possible.

<sup>1</sup> Status codes: BLMS= BLM sensitive, FE = Federally endangered, FSS= Forest Service sensitive, FT = Federally threatened, SE = state endangered, SSC = state species of special concern, ST = state threatened

<sup>2</sup> Qualified personnel are those who are capable of consistently and accurately identifying the subject resource and have been approved by Western's Natural Resource Department.

<sup>3</sup> A Service-approved biologist is one whose resume has been submitted to and who has been formally approved by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. This biologist's resume reflects a high level of experience with the Federally listed species covered by a particular PCM.

<sup>4</sup> A qualified biologist is one who has previous experience with the species covered by a particular PCM and who understands the habitat requirements of the species such that he/she can make a well-informed decision about potential presence, potential project-related impacts, and appropriate avoidance/minimization measures.

**Table 6-3 Water Resources/Aquatic Habitat Project Conservation Measures**

PCM-ID	Activity Category	PCM
<b>VERNAL POOLS, VERNAL POOL GRASSLANDS, AND SEASONAL WETLANDS</b>		
PCM-W001	A	<p>Vehicle access will be permitted only on well-established roads unless soils are dry. Soils will be considered sufficiently dry for vehicle access when they resist compaction, and after annual plants have set seed (generally June 1 to September 30, or as determined by qualified personnel based on personal observation of the soils).</p> <p>For patrolling the ROW off of established roads in a pickup truck, or for inspecting hardware on structures with a bucket truck, vernal pools, vernal pool grasslands, and seasonal wetlands will be avoided by 50 feet during the wet season. No avoidance will be necessary if soils are completely dry (generally June 1 to September 30).</p>
	B and C	<p>Vehicle access will be permitted only on well-established roads unless soils are dry. Soils will be considered sufficiently dry for vehicle access when they resist compaction, and after annual plants have set seed (generally June 1 to September 30, or as determined by a qualified biologist based on personal observation of the soils).</p> <p>If vegetation-management activities are proposed within 250 feet of a vernal pool, vernal pool grassland, or seasonal wetland, a qualified biologist will be present at all times to ensure the protection of the work-area limits below OR qualified personnel will clearly fence the limits of the work area, according to limits presented in the following, prior to the maintenance activity. (The herbicide restriction measures generated by the PRESCRIBE database supersede those below where they are different.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mixing or application of pesticides, herbicides, or other potentially toxic chemicals will be prohibited.</li> <li>• Herbicide application to target vegetation by direct application methods (e.g. injection or cut-stump treatment) will be prohibited within 50 feet in the wet season (generally October 1 to May 31) and allowed up to the edge of the pool or seasonal wetland in the dry season (generally June 1 to September 30).</li> <li>• Herbicide application by basal spray and foliage spray methods will be prohibited within 100 feet in any season.</li> <li>• Manual clearing of vegetation (chainsaw, axe, clippers) will be allowed up to the edge of the pool or seasonal wetland in the wet season (generally October 1 to May 31); a buffer will not be necessary in the dry season (generally June 1 to September 30).</li> <li>• Mechanical clearing of vegetation (heavy-duty mowers, crawler tractors, or chippers) will be prohibited within 100 feet in the wet season (generally October 1 to May 31); a buffer will not necessary in the dry season (generally June 1 to September 30).</li> </ul> <p>All equipment will be stored, fueled, and maintained in a vehicle staging area 300 feet or the maximum distance possible from any vernal pool, vernal pool grassland, or seasonal wetland, and no closer than 200 feet unless a bermed (no ground disturbance) and lined refueling area is constructed and hazardous-material absorbent pads are available in the event of a spill. Vehicles will be inspected daily for fluid leaks before leaving the staging area.</p> <p>When feasible, all maintenance activities will be routed around wet areas while ensuring that the route does not cross sensitive resource areas.</p> <p>For ground-disturbing activities, a 100-foot (wet season) or 50-foot (dry season) buffer zone from the edge of the vernal pool or wetland will be maintained and the vernal pool or wetland will be protected from siltation and contaminant run-off by use of erosion control. Erosion-control materials will be of a tightly woven natural fiber netting or similar material that will not entrap reptiles and amphibians (e.g., coconut coir matting). No monofilament plastics will be used for erosion control near vernal pools and seasonal wetlands. Erosion-control measures will be placed between the outer edge of the buffer and the activity area. All fiber rolls and hay bales used for erosion control will be certified as free of noxious weed seed.</p>

**North Area ROW Maintenance Program**  
**WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE**

PCM-ID	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-W001 (cont.)	B and C	For ground-disturbing activities, such as installation or repair of underground components (water, power, communication, or ground electrical line) or soil borings, a 250-foot buffer zone will be maintained.
PCM-W001a	A, B, and C	Follow PCM-W001.

PCM-ID	Activity Category	PCM
<b>SEEP, SPRING, POND, LAKE, RIVER, STREAM, AND MARSH</b>		
PCM-W002	A	<p>The following activities will be prohibited at all times within 100 feet of a seep, spring, pond, lake, river, stream, or marsh, and their associated habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vehicle access, except on existing access and maintenance roads</li> <li>• dumping, stockpiling, or burying of any material</li> <li>• mixing of pesticides, herbicides, or other potentially toxic chemicals</li> <li>• open petroleum products</li> </ul> <p>All equipment will be stored, fueled, and maintained in a vehicle staging area 300 feet or the maximum distance possible from any seep, spring, pond, lake, river, stream, marsh, or their associated habitats. Vehicles will be inspected daily for fluid leaks before leaving the staging area.</p> <p>When feasible, all maintenance activities will be routed around wet areas while ensuring that the route does not cross sensitive resource areas.</p>
	B and C	<p>The following activities will be prohibited at all times within 100 feet of a seep, spring, pond, lake, river, stream, or marsh, and their associated habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vehicle access, except on existing access and maintenance roads</li> <li>• dumping, stockpiling, or burying of any material, except as required for specific O&amp;M activities (e.g., rip-rap)</li> <li>• mixing of pesticides, herbicides, or other potentially toxic chemicals</li> <li>• open petroleum products</li> </ul> <p>Equipment will be stored, fueled, and maintained in a vehicle staging area 300 feet or the maximum distance possible from any seep, spring, pond, lake, river, stream, marsh, or their associated habitats. Vehicles will be inspected daily for fluid leaks before leaving the staging area.</p> <p>When feasible, all maintenance activities will be routed around wet areas while ensuring that the route does not cross sensitive resource areas.</p> <p>For vegetation management or maintenance within 100 feet of any seep, spring, pond, lake, river, stream, or marsh, or any of their associated habitats, the following work-area limits will be provided (the herbicide restriction measures generated by the PRESCRIBE database supersede those below where they are different):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only manual-clearing of vegetation will be permitted</li> <li>• Basal and foliar application of herbicides will be prohibited. Only direct application treatments (e.g. injection and cut-stump) of target vegetation will be allowed using herbicide approved for aquatic use by the U.S. EPA and in coordination with the appropriate federal land manager.</li> </ul> <p>All instream work, such as culvert replacement or installation, bank recontouring, or placement of bank protection below the high-water line, will be conducted during no-flow or low-flow conditions and in a manner to avoid impacts to water flow, and will be restricted to the minimum area necessary for completion of the work.</p> <p>All equipment used below the ordinary high-water mark will be free of exterior contamination.</p> <p>For ground-disturbing activities, a 100-foot buffer zone will be maintained from the edge of the seep, spring, pond, lake, river, stream,</p>

**North Area ROW Maintenance Program**  
**WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE**

PCM-ID	Activity Category	PCM
PCM-W002 (cont.)	B and C (cont.)	<p>marsh, or their associated habitats for protection from siltation and run-off of contaminants by use of erosion-control measures. Erosion-control materials will be of a tightly woven natural fiber netting or similar material that will not entrap reptiles and amphibians (e.g., coconut coir matting). No monofilament plastics will be used for erosion control near vernal pools and seasonal wetlands. Erosion-control measures will be placed between the outer edge of the buffer and the activity area. All fiber rolls and hay bales used for erosion control will be certified as free of noxious weed seed.</p> <p>Seed mixtures applied for erosion control and restoration will be certified as free of noxious weed seed, and will be composed of native species or sterile nonnative species.</p> <p>Western will obtain appropriate 404 discharge and 401 water-quality permits prior to any maintenance activities that must take place within jurisdictional wetlands or other waters of the US. These will be coordinated with USACE and RWQCB as needed.</p> <p>Dewatering work for maintenance operations adjacent to or encroaching on seeps, springs, ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, or marshes will be conducted to prevent muddy water and eroded materials from entering the water or marsh.</p> <p>All stream crossings will be constructed such that they permit fish to pass and reduce the potential for stream flows to result in increased scour, washout, or disruption of water flow. Wherever possible, stream crossings will be located in stream segments without riparian vegetation, and structure footings will be installed outside of stream banks. Should Western need to modify existing access roads or install new access roads, they will be built at right angles to streams and washes to the extent practicable.</p> <p>Trees providing shade to water bodies will be trimmed only to the extent necessary and will not be removed unless they present a specific safety concern. Trees that must be removed will be felled to avoid damaging riparian habitat. They will be felled out of and away from the stream maintenance zone and riparian habitat, including springs, seeps, bogs, and any other wet or saturated areas. Trees will not be felled into streams in a way that will obstruct or impair the flow of water, unless instructed otherwise. Tree removal that could cause stream-bank erosion or result in increased water temperatures will not be conducted in and around streams. Tree removal in riparian or wetland areas will be done only by manual methods.</p>

**Table 6-4 Cultural Resources Project Conservation Measures**

PCM-ID	Activity Category	Description
<b>Surveyed Areas (Resource Present) – PCMs</b>		
PCM-C001	A	Avoid driving vehicles or equipment over archeological sites. If infeasible, only vehicles with rubberized tires/treads are allowed within sites; no skidding or steel-tracked equipment.
		Stage vehicles and equipment outside of cultural resource sites.
		Only the following activities are allowed in cultural sites: manual clearing of vegetation, and chip/broadcast disposal of cut vegetation.
	B and C	Cultural resource sites that are located within an area where ground-disturbing activity will take place shall be flagged for avoidance and ground-disturbing activities shall avoid all cultural resource sites. Sites that cannot be avoided will require further consultation with SHPO prior to any ground-disturbing activity.
		Use of petroleum-based herbicides is prohibited in cultural sites.
		A Western-approved archeological monitor may be required during ground disturbing activities. Contact Western's Natural Resource Department.
PCM-ID	Activity Category	Description
<b>Not Protocol Surveyed Areas and Not Surveyed Areas – PCMs</b>		
PCM-C002	A	Instruct crews to pay particular attention for the presence or discovery of cultural materials in areas where protocol-level surveys were not previously conducted.
		Upon discovery of potential buried cultural materials, work within 50 feet of the find will be halted and the discovery will be reported immediately to the Western Natural Resources Department or other designated point of contact. Western will comply with provisions in the National Historic Preservation Act and consult with the California State Historic Preservation Officer to determine measures to avoid the resource or mitigate during maintenance activities.
		If cultural resources are discovered, provisions in PCM-C001 shall be followed.
	B	Follow all measures listed for A above.
		A Western-approved archeological monitor may be required during ground-disturbing activities. Contact Western's Natural Resource Department.

**North Area ROW Maintenance Program**  
**WESTERN – USDA FOREST SERVICE**

PCM-ID	Activity Category	Description
PCM-C002 (cont.)	B (cont.)	<p>Mastication activities shall adhere to the following BMPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Western will require mastication operators to prevent blading devices from removing vegetation at ground level to avoid soil disturbance. All mowed vegetation shall not be cut below 6 inches.</li> <li>• Mastication equipment will not be used within areas recently subjected to heavy rains in order to prevent rutting in wet soils from equipment tires.</li> <li>• A qualified archaeologist will be on site during mastication activities to monitor survey areas being cleared of vegetation. Should any cultural resources be detected, mastication activities will cease in the area until an assessment and the significance of the find is made. Results of the monitoring and survey activities will be provided in the annual report.</li> </ul>
	C	<p>Follow measures listed for A and B above.</p> <p>A Western-approved archeological monitor may be required. Contact Western's Natural Resource Department.</p>

## 7. GIS DATABASE

Western has developed the Master O&M Program using a detailed GIS database. All sensitive resources were captured in the field and brought into a user-friendly GIS database that Western and USFS personnel can use to manage the O&M activities within the USFS boundary. Western has coordinated with USFS in developing this database, which will greatly enhance Western's and USFS's capabilities in processing proposed maintenance activities in a timely manner.

All information needed to process a proposed maintenance activity is included in the GIS database. Western captured all infrastructure (i.e., towers, transmission lines, and access roads) in the ROW using GPS units; defined the North Area ROWs with polygons; obtained aerial orthophotography and conducted videography of the ROW; and took still photos of transmission line corridors. All data have a spatial accuracy of less than 5 meters horizontal resolution. USFS can access all of these data using ArcGIS or ArcView. The final GIS database includes specific locations for:

- gates;
- crossing lines – other transmission lines, pipes crossing the ROW, fences;
- crossing points – culverts, low water, etc.;
- cultural isolates;
- cultural diagnostic artifacts;
- cultural lines;
- cultural sites;
- cultural surveys – where protocol/non-protocol surveys were conducted;
- species points and polygons;
- elderberry points and polygons; and
- habitat points, lines, and polygons.

Western has also provided datasets that can easily be reviewed by USFS:

- **Category A, B, C** – ROW span and access road polygons color-coded green, yellow, or red based on maintenance activity category and sensitive resource presence within each span or access road polygon. This dataset will be useful in quickly identifying the critical issues associated with each span and maintenance activity.
- **Sensitive Resource Lookup Table** – a table that lists all potential and observed occurrences of sensitive resources for each ROW span, access road, habitat polygon.

## 7.1 GIS Data on DVD/External Drive:

Western will provide USFS with a DVD/External Drive with all files for the North Area O&M Program. USFS's DVD/External Drive will include the following information:

- All GIS data listed above in Shapefile format;
- Western's infrastructure data: transmission lines, ROW, access roads, structures, facilities, Federal lands, various boundaries, street data;
- Aerial Ortho Imagery (MrSID or TIFF format) and image catalog;
- Aerial videos and tower photos;
- North Area EA MXD file to be used with ArcGIS;
- LinearVision Viewer 2.4.55 to view videos; and
- Readme.txt file.

## 7.2 GIS Data Accessibility

The GIS data will be accessed by Western resource staff, Western field crews, and USFS personnel. The following bullets describe the data accessibility for each team member:

- Western's office staff will access GIS data and PCM information through the intranet ArcIMS site. Category A, B, C, and habitat layers are turned on through the table of contents list and each span or habitat is then identified for a list of resources and PCMs;
- Western's field staff will access GIS data and PCM information through the ArcPad field GIS application installed on field laptops. Category A, B, C, and sensitive-resource layers are turned on through the icon buttons at the top of the viewing window. ArcPad does not list sensitive resources and PCMs per span or habitat;
- Cooperating agencies will access GIS data and PCM information through the North Area EA MXD file for ArcGIS. A 9.2 version of ArcGIS ArcView is recommended. Category A, B, C, and sensitive-resource layers are turned on through the table of contents list and each span or habitat is then identified for a list of resources and PCMs.

## 7.3 GIS Definitions

Definitions for various GIS terms and acronyms are as follows:

- **ArcGIS ArcView** – a GIS application developed by Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) in Redlands, CA.

- **ArcIMS** – internet mapping service application: a web application that serves up GIS capability developed by ESRI.
- **ArcPad** – a simple field GIS application developed by ESRI.
- **GIS** – geographic information system: allows access of spatial data through a graphic window or through a table. Each spatial feature (point, line, polygon) has a true-world location and has an associated attribute in a table.
- **GPS** – global positioning system: a system of satellites that allow field users to collect data precisely to the feature's true-world location.
- **MrSID** – compressed 20:1 aerial imagery file type using Lizardtech GeoExpress software.
- **MXD** – a project file to view GIS data in an ArcGIS ArcView application.
- **Shapefile** – a simple geographic file of point, line, or polygon with an associated table represented as a graphic in a GIS application.



## 8. REFERENCES

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- USDI Bureau of Land Management. 2006. United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, California Fire Restriction and Emergency Closure Plan, February 2006.
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- Western. 2007. Western Area Power Administration, Integrated Vegetation Management Guide and Transmission Vegetation Management Program, February 2007.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. Integrated Vegetation Management Environmental Guidance Manual, March 2003.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2002. Draft Environmental Assessment for Right-of-Way Maintenance in the Sacramento Valley, California, May 2002.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2001. Right-of-Way Maintenance Guidance for Danger Trees, Encroachments, and Access Routes, November 21, 2001.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2001. Sierra Nevada Region Guides, Requirements, Instructions, and Procedures, GRIP No.16.



# **Appendix A**

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## Clearance Requirements



## **APPENDIX A CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Western Area Power Administration Clearance Requirements for Transmission Line Circuits White Paper**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

This white paper provides a description of the regulations and guidance pertinent to the management of vegetation as it relates to the reliability of electric transmission systems. As described in the following sections, a variety of clearance standards is used throughout the industry.

According to a 2004 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) report<sup>1</sup>, the vast majority of transmission owners follow the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) rules or American National Standards Institute (ANSI) guidelines, or both, when managing vegetation around transmission-system equipment. The NESC deals with electric safety rules, including transmission wire clearance standards, whereas the applicable ANSI code deals with the practice of pruning and removal of vegetation. In developing an effective, compliant, and environmentally responsible vegetation management approach, Western Area Power Administration (Western) has taken into consideration the regulations and guidance described within this white paper.

#### **2. KEY STANDARDS RELATING TO ELECTRIC SYSTEM RELIABILITY AND SAFETY**

The following standards, guidelines, rules, and regulations identify requirements and suggested practices for vegetation management in transmission line corridors.

##### **2.1 National Electric Safety Code 1977, 2006**

The NESC is the national code covering a variety of basic provisions regarding electric supply stations, overhead and underground electric supply and communication lines. It contains work rules for construction, maintenance, and operation of electric supply and communication lines and equipment.

NESC Rule 218 generally requires that "trees that interfere with ungrounded supply conductors should be trimmed or removed." Additionally, the rule is generally interpreted to require utilities to perform a "reasonable" amount of utility vegetation management (UVM) work. It does not specify cycles, clearances, program

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<sup>1</sup> Utility Vegetation Management and Bulk Electric Reliability Report from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, September 7, 2004. <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/electric/indus-act/reliability/veg-mgmt-rpt-final.pdf>

requirements, performance objectives, or any other type of requirement that would result in meeting specific UVM objectives.

Rule 218 was revised in 2006 to note that utility experience is a key issue in developing clearance standards. Both the frequency of pruning and the distance by which vegetation is pruned back from the lines are affected by the line voltage class, the relative growth rates, and the failure characteristics of relevant plant species, right-of-way limitations, location of the vegetation relative to the conductors, potential movement of conductors and vegetation during routine winds, and the sag of conductors due to elevated temperatures or ice loadings.

NESC Rule 232, 233, and 234 prescribe clearances of wires from ground, structures, and other installations but provide no specific information with respect to clearances to vegetation. Rule 217A4 requires supporting structures to be kept free from climbing hazards, such as vines. However, no further specificity is provided.

## 2.2 American National Standards Institute

ANSI Z133.1 *Pruning, Trimming, Repairing, Maintaining, and Removing Trees and Cutting Brush – Safety Requirements* is the industry safety standard for working on vegetation in proximity to energized electrical apparatus. Table 2-1 provides the minimum approach distances from energized conductors for qualified line-clearance arborists. Table 2-2 provides the recommended distance from energized conductors for persons other than a qualified line-clearance arborist.

**Table 2-1 Minimum Approach Distances from Energized Conductors for Qualified Line-Clearance Arborists**

Nominal Voltage kV phase-to-phase	Distance (feet)	
	Sea Level to 5,000 ft	5,001 to 10,000 ft
230.0 – 242.0	8	9
500.0	19	21

Source: ANSI Z133.1 Revision – October 2000

**Table 2-2 Minimum Approach Distances from Energized Conductors for Persons Other than a Qualified Line-Clearance Arborists**

Nominal Voltage kV phase-to-phase	Distance (feet)
230.0 – 242.0	16
500.0	26

Source: ANSI Z133.1 Revision – October 2000

## 2.3 North American Electric Reliability Council Standards

NERC is a nonprofit corporation whose members are ten regional reliability councils. NERC's function is to maintain and improve the reliability of the North American integrated electric transmission system, including preventing outages from vegetation located in transmission ROWs, minimizing outages from vegetation located adjacent to ROWs, and maintaining clearances between transmission lines and vegetation on and along transmission ROWs. As a result of the recommendations following the August 14, 2003 blackouts on the East Coast, NERC was charged with developing a vegetation management standard that would be applicable to all utilities and that would provide greater specificity than the NESC and ANSI standards.

Standard FAC-003-1, Transmission Vegetation Management Program, became effective April 7, 2006 and mandatory for all utilities, pursuant to Section 1211 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This standard applies to all transmission lines operated at 200 kV and above and to any lower-voltage lines considered critical to the reliability of the electric system in the region. The transmission owner must prepare, and keep current, a formal transmission vegetation management program (TVMP). The TVMP must identify and document clearances between vegetation and overhead, ungrounded supply conductors, taking into consideration transmission line voltage, the effects of ambient temperatures on conductor sag under maximum design loading, and the effects of wind velocities on conductor sway. Minimum clearance distances shall be no less than those set forth in IEEE Standard 516-2003. Western's North Area transmission lines are 230 kV and 500 kV. As such, Western must demonstrate compliance with Standard FAC-003-1 and is in the process of developing a TVMP. As described in section 2.6, Western is developing Clearance 1 and Clearance 2 standards based on IEEE Standard 516-200 and OSHA Standard 1910.333 (c)(3)(i).

Clearance 1 requirements are defined as the appropriate clearance distances to be achieved at the time of transmission vegetation management. Clearance 2 requirements are the specific radial clearances to be maintained between the vegetation and conductors under all rated electrical operating conditions.

## 2.4 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Standard 516-2003

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) is a leading authority in setting standards for the electric power industry. Standard 516-2003, Guide for Maintenance Methods on Energized Power Lines, provides minimum vegetation-to-conductor clearances to maintain electrical integrity (see Table 2-3).

**Table 2-3 IEEE Standard 516-2003: Minimum Vegetation-to-Conductor Distances**

Voltage (kV)	Distance (ft)	Distance (m)
500	19	5.7
230	13	3.9

## 2.5 California Public Resource Code

Western also recognizes the California Public Resource Code (PRC) requirements associated with transmission-system safety issues.

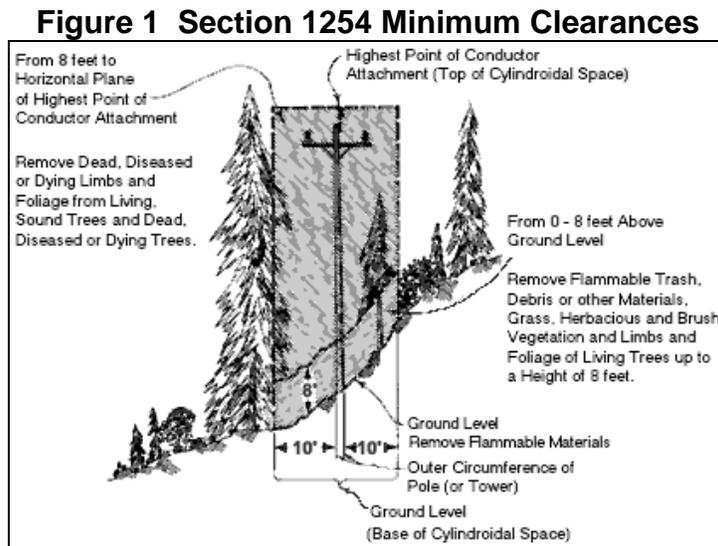
### **Section 4292 - Power Line Hazard Reduction**

According to PRC Section 4292, Western shall coordinate with land managers to prevent fires caused by electric transmission-system equipment. Also, minimum clearing distances surrounding transmission support structures are specified. As stated in Section 4292:

Except as otherwise provided in Section 4296, any person that owns, controls, operates, or maintains any electrical transmission or distribution line upon any mountainous land, or forest-covered land, brush-covered land, or grass-covered land shall, during such times and in such areas as are determined to be necessary by the director or the agency which has primary responsibility for fire protection of such areas, maintain around and adjacent to any pole or tower which supports a switch, fuse, transformer, lightning arrester, line junction, or dead end or corner pole, a firebreak which consists of a clearing of not less than 10 feet in each direction from the outer circumference of such pole or tower.

### **Section 1254**

The following is a graphical representation of Section 1254 showing the minimum clearances required around a utility pole.



The firebreak clearances required by PRC 4292 are applicable within an imaginary cylindrical space surrounding each pole or tower on which a switch, fuse, transformer or

lightning arrester is attached and surrounding each deadend or corner pole, unless such pole or tower is exempt from minimum clearance requirements by provisions of 14, CCR, 1255 or PRC 4296. The radius of the cylindroid is 3.1 m (10 feet) measured horizontally from the outer circumference of the specified pole or tower with height equal to the distance from the intersection of the imaginary vertical exterior surface of the cylindroid with the ground to an intersection with a horizontal plane passing through the highest point at which a conductor is attached to such pole or tower. Flammable vegetation and materials located wholly or partially within the firebreak space shall be treated as follows:

- At ground level - remove flammable materials, including but not limited to, ground litter, duff and dead or desiccated vegetation that will propagate fire.
- From 0 - 2.4 m (0-8 feet) above ground level remove flammable trash, debris or other materials, grass, herbaceous and brush vegetation. All limbs and foliage of living trees shall be removed up to a height of 2.4 m (8 feet).
- From 2.4 m (8 feet) to horizontal plane of highest point of conductor attachment remove dead, diseased, or dying limbs and foliage from living sound trees and any dead, diseased, or dying trees in their entirety.

### ***Section 4293 - Line Clearance Guidelines***

Section 4293 provides minimum distances of vegetation clearance from electrical conductor. As specified below, 10 feet in all directions between vegetation and transmission lines would apply to the transmission lines within the North Area Project.

Except as otherwise provided in Sections 4294 to 4296, inclusive, any person that owns, controls, operates, or maintains any electrical transmission or distribution line upon any mountainous land, or in forest-covered land, brush-covered land, or grass-covered land shall, during such times and in such areas as are determined to be necessary by the director or the agency which has primary responsibility for the fire protection of such areas, maintain a clearance of the respective distances which are specified in this section in all directions between all vegetation and all conductors which are carrying electric current:

- (a) For any line which is operating at 2,400 or more volts, but less than 72,000 volts, 4 feet.
- (b) For any line which is operating at 72,000 or more volts, but less than 110,000 volts, 6 feet.
- (c) For any line which is operating at 110,000 or more volts, 10 feet.

In every case, such distance shall be sufficiently great to furnish the required clearance at any position of the wire, or conductor when the adjacent air temperature is 120 degrees Fahrenheit, or less. Dead trees,

old decadent or rotten trees, trees weakened by decay or disease and trees or portions thereof that are leaning toward the line which may contact the line from the side or may fall on the line shall be felled, cut, or trimmed so as to remove such hazard. The director or the agency which has primary responsibility for the fire protection of such areas may permit exceptions from the requirements of this section which are based upon the specific circumstances involved.

## 2.6 Western Requirements

Effective March 18, 2008, WAPA Orders 430.1 and 450.3A establish guidance and organizational support for the maintenance and safe operation of Western Area Power Administration right-of-way (see Table 2-4). Responsibility for vegetation management and control belongs to Western, but functions are restricted based upon land and resource plans that dictate tree removal or trimming criteria within and adjacent to the ROW. Under this general guidance, vegetation management and control pertains to trees with the immediate potential to fall into transmission-system equipment (hazard trees).

The following table provides criteria for tree removal or trimming, as provided by the 2007 Power System Safety Manual (PSSM), Appendix B, Table B-1. The purpose of the PSSM is to provide direction and guidance necessary so that Western employees can perform work without injury or occupational illness, and to prevent accidents which result in personal injury, illness, property damage, or electrical system interruptions.

As described in section 2.3, Western is in the process of drafting a TVMP order to address NERC's FAC-003-1 clearance requirements. Table 2-4 provides clearance requirements based on information in NERC's FAC-003-1.

**Table 2-4 Transmission Line ROW Clearing Requirements**

Line Voltage (kV)	General ROW Width (feet)	Clearance 1 Requirements <sup>a</sup> Also WAPA O 430.1	Clearance 2 Requirements <sup>b</sup>
69	75	20 feet	3.3 feet
115	80	21 inches	3.2 inches
230	125 – 150	23 feet	5.3 feet
500	200	29 feet	11.3 feet

Notes: (a) Clearance 1 requirements are from WAPA Orders 430.1 and 450.3A. (b) Clearance 2 requirements are from Western's Power System Safety Manual, Appendix A, Table A-1.

## 2.7 Utility Vegetation Management and Bulk Electric Reliability Report, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Sept. 7, 2004

A CN Utility Consulting Vegetation Management Report<sup>2</sup> prepared on behalf of the FERC identified a number of preferred utility vegetation-management practices, including the following:

- Application of wire zone/ border zone concepts (Figure 2)
- Proper consideration of line sag and sway
- Frequent field inspection of vegetation conditions
- Comprehensive public education programs

The wire zone/border zone approach is considered both environmentally responsible and effective in ensuring reliability. This method involves creating a low-growing vegetation environment directly under transmission lines, which physically prevents dangerous vegetation from encroaching into energized transmission facilities. As a general rule, the higher the voltage, the more sensitive the line will be to tree-related faults. Therefore, higher-voltage transmission lines are typically located higher above the ground in comparison to lower-voltage lines to provide adequate distance from vegetation.

The report states that the wire zone/border zone has “been proven to be effective in reducing and/or eliminating outages related to vegetation on transmission ROW.” Additional benefits include reduced long-term maintenance costs, improved habitat for wildlife, biodiversity, and wildland fire mitigation.

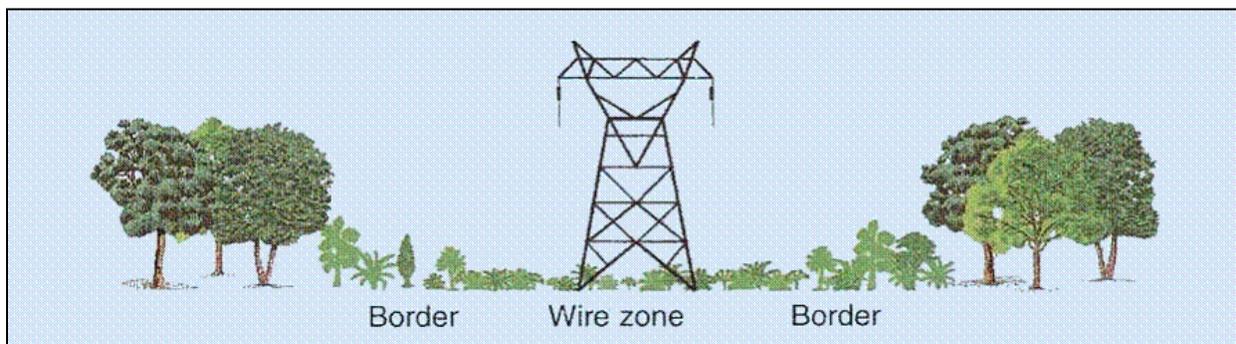
Best management practices identified include the following:

- The ROW width should be determined based on the following objective: “No vegetation, or parts of vegetation, shall be allowed to grow or fall into the transmission facilities.”
- All transmission UVM work should be identified, scheduled, completed and maintained consistent with wire zone/border zone objectives and industry-accepted protocols.
- Conductor sag and sway must be considered whenever managing transmission ROWs.

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<sup>2</sup> CN Utility Consulting, Utility Vegetation Management Final Report, (March 2004) (CNUC Final Vegetation Report). [http://www.cnutility.com/images/uvm\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://www.cnutility.com/images/uvm_final_report.pdf)

**Figure 2 Wire Zone/Border Zone**



## **2.8 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Among the Edison Electric Institute and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Forest Service), the U.S. Department of Interior (Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.**

This MOU was created to enable Federal agencies and utilities to streamline and expedite the management of vegetation near utility facilities, including facilities on Federal lands. The purpose of the MOU is to establish a framework for developing cooperative rights-of-way integrated vegetation management (IVM) practices among the parties to the MOU. The MOU does not impose any binding obligations on any person. The National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Forest Service are a signatory to the MOU, indicating that some level of cooperation with utilities is expected in the management of vegetation near utility lines.

## **3. CONCLUSIONS**

There are many standards, guidelines, and rules that relate to vegetation management; only a handful actually apply to Western as a federal agency, but the provisions of all may be useful in any decision-making and planning undertaken by Western. As presented in this brief white paper, a majority of the clearance requirements are similar to protect public and worker safety, as well as to increase reliability of the system.

As directed by NERC Standard FAC-003-1, Clearance 2 standards must be as restrictive as IEEE Standard 516-200. In addition, Clearance 1 standards must be more restrictive than Clearance 2 standards. Western is using IEEE Standard 516-600 as the basis for developing Clearance 2 standards. Clearance 1 standards are based on Western's Power System Safety Manual, Appendix A, Table A-1.

# Appendix B

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## Herbicide Information



## **APPENDIX B HERBICIDE APPLICATION**

This section describes Western's approach to using herbicides to control vegetation along the North Area ROWs. The approach is based on Western's 2007 Integrated Vegetation Management Guidance (IVM) document and related operations and maintenance (O&M) activities planned for the North Area. Western has developed specific requirements for herbicide use on National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and private lands. Section 1 outlines Western's overall approach to herbicide use for vegetation management. Section 2 summarizes Western's negotiated approach for herbicide use on NPS, USFS, and BLM lands.

### **1. Western IVM Herbicide Procedures**

Historically, Western's vegetation management activities have been restricted primarily to the control of vegetation that will pose a fire or safety hazard to transmission facilities. However, the IVM expands the vegetation-management activities to include the control of noxious or undesirable weeds and to promote low-growing plant communities within the ROW.

Western considered several factors when selecting the appropriate, effective, and safe herbicide for IVM. It is generally desirable to select an herbicide that has low toxicity, will not move from its target or leach into groundwater (low water solubility), and will not remain in the environment for a long period of time (low persistence). Western uses several different ways to apply herbicides. The method selected depends on the type of control needed, the type of vegetation, and the site situation (site conditions and locations). Some of the methods that Western utilizes are stump treatment, basal spray/treatment, foliage spray/treatment, soil treatment (preemergence), and under-surfacing materials treatment.

Sections 7 and 8 of the 2007 IVM provide a wealth of information on herbicide formulation, herbicide application, pre-application procedures, safety precautions, record keeping, and clean up. Table B-1 provides the list of herbicides Western plans to use on NPS, BLM, USFS, and private lands. Section 5 provides a list of standard operating procedures that Western will follow in applying herbicide. For example, PH-SOP-5 requires that all herbicide applicators will have received training and be licensed in appropriate application categories.

### **2. Western's Approach to Herbicide in NPS, USFS, & BLM**

Western has been proactive in collaborating with the NPS, USFS, and BLM in order to understand their concerns with herbicide use on Federal lands. As such, Western has conducted several meetings with the respective agencies to discuss their concerns, especially the use of herbicides. Understandably, the use of herbicides is an important topic of concern. Western has recognized this extremely important issue and has taken initiative to learn more about the use of herbicides on Federal lands. Western has even attended herbicide training with David Bakke, Pesticide-Use Specialist and Invasive

Plants Coordinator State and Private Forestry, of the USFS. The training took place in Sacramento, CA on March 14-16, 2007. This training provided guidance on herbicide use and the associated human and ecological risks.

Western is responsible for the development of interagency agreements, which include the management of noxious weeds. Unlike on private lands where Western develops cooperative agreements with county agents or boards, on federal lands Western will defer compliance with federal and state weed-control laws and regulations to the landowner or administrator. Herbicide use on NPS, USFS, and/or BLM lands is restricted to specifically approved herbicides that the respective agency has approved for application on their jurisdictional lands.

Western will only use herbicides that have been approved and that have had human health and ecological risk assessments prepared. USFS has prepared comprehensive risk assessments for 14 herbicides routinely used in the forest (see website [www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/pesticide/risk.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/pesticide/risk.shtml)). These documents quantitatively evaluate the probability that a given pesticide use might impose harm on humans or other species in the environment. Table B-1 provides a list of herbicides that Western may request to use on NPS, USFS, and BLM lands.

**Table B-1 Herbicides Planned for Use in NPS, BLM, USFS and Private Lands**

Herbicide	Trade Name**	EPA Registration Number	Use	Aquatic	Land Use Application			
					NPS	BLM	USFS	Private Lands
Bromacil and Diuron	Krovar <sup>®</sup> 1 DF**	352-505	Substations; non-sensitive areas only	No				Yes
Chlorsulfuron	Telar <sup>®</sup> DF**	352-522	ROW	No	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No	Yes	Yes
Clopyralid	Transline <sup>®**</sup>	62719-259	Noxious Weed Control	No	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No	Yes	Yes
2,4-D	Weedar 64 <sup>®**</sup>	71368-1	Substations, ROW	No	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes
	2,4-D LV6 Ester <sup>®**</sup>	228-95	Substations, ROW	No	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes
	HI-DEP <sup>®**</sup>	2217-703	Substations, ROW	No	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes
	2,4-D Amine 4 <sup>**®</sup>	1381-103	Substations, ROW	No	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes
Clopyralid and 2,4-D	Curtail <sup>®**</sup>	62719-48	Substations, ROW; noxious weed control	No				Yes
Dicamba	Vanquish <sup>®**</sup>	228-397	ROW (Stump Treatment), Substations	No	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Banvel <sup>®**</sup>	51036-289		No				Yes
Dithiopyr	Dimension Ultra 40 <sup>®</sup>	62719-445	Landscaped Areas	No				Yes
Diuron	Karmex <sup>®</sup> DF**	1812-362	Substations	No				Yes
	Diuron 80 DF IVM <sup>®</sup>	62719-310	Substations	No				Yes
Flumioxazin	Payload <sup>®</sup>	59639-120	Bareground – Substations, <i>Kochia</i> control	No				Yes
Fosamine Ammonium	Krenite <sup>®</sup> S**	352-395	ROW	No				Yes
Glyphosate	Roundup <sup>®</sup> PRO**	524-475	Substations	No	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Aquamaster <sup>®</sup> (aquatic)**	524-343	Areas near water,	Yes				Yes
	Rodeo <sup>®</sup> (aquatic)**		wetlands					Yes

North Area ROW Maintenance Program  
 APPENDIX B HERBICIDE INFORMATION

Herbicide	Trade Name**	EPA Registration Number	Use	Aquatic	Land Use Application			
					NPS	BLM	USFS	Private Lands
		62719-324	Areas near water, wetlands	Yes	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes
Imazapyr	Arsenal <sup>®</sup> (liquid)**	241-346	Substations, ROW	No	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Stalker <sup>®**</sup>	241-398	Stump Treatment	No	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Arsenal <sup>®</sup> 0.5G**	34913-23	Substations	No				Yes
Oxyfluorfen	GoalTender <sup>®</sup>	62719-447	Landscaped Sites – Bareground Control	No	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sulfometuron Methyl	Oust <sup>®</sup> XP**	352-601	Storage Yards, Subs	No	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sulfometuron Methyl and Chlorsulfuron	Landmark <sup>®</sup> MP <sup>®</sup>	352-621	Bareground - Substations	No				Yes
Tebuthiuron and Diuron	Sprakil SR-13 <sup>®*8</sup>	34913-15	Substations	No				Yes
Mefluidide	Embarc <sup>®</sup> 2S** (Plant growth regulator)	2217-759	Buffers, around subs. (on grass)	No				Yes
Imazapyr and Diuron	Topsite 2.5G <sup>®**</sup>	34913-22	Substations, some ROW Substations	No				Yes
	Sahara DG <sup>®**</sup>	241-372		No				Yes
Tebuthiuron	Spike <sup>®</sup> 80DF**	62719-107	Substations	No				Yes
Triclopyr	Garlon 3A <sup>®**</sup>	62719-37	ROW	Yes	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Garlon 4 <sup>®*8</sup>	62719-40	Stump Treatment	No	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Garlon 4 Ultra <sup>®</sup>	62719-527		No	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Pathfinder <sup>®**</sup>	62719-176		No				Yes
Pendamethalin	Pendulum WDG <sup>®</sup>	241-340	Substations	No				Yes
Oryzalin	Surflan A.S. <sup>®</sup>	70506-44-829	Substations	No				Yes
Fluroxypyr	Vista <sup>®</sup>	62719-308	ROW, Substation esp. for Kochia	No				Yes
Paclobutrazol	Profile 2SC <sup>®</sup> (Tree growth regulator)	67690-22	ROW (sensitive areas) Substations	No				Yes

Herbicide	Trade Name**	EPA Registration Number	Use	Aquatic	Land Use Application			
					NPS	BLM	USFS	Private Lands
			(screens)					
Trifluralin	Biobarrier® Biobarrier II®	59823-1 59823-3	Substations, yards	No				Yes

\* NPS does not pre-approve herbicides. On an annual basis, Western shall submit to the NPS regional office an application with intended herbicides and amounts, and identify target species and locations.

NPS shall enter the request into the Pesticide Use Proposal system and track its approval process.

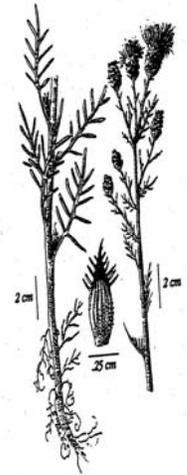
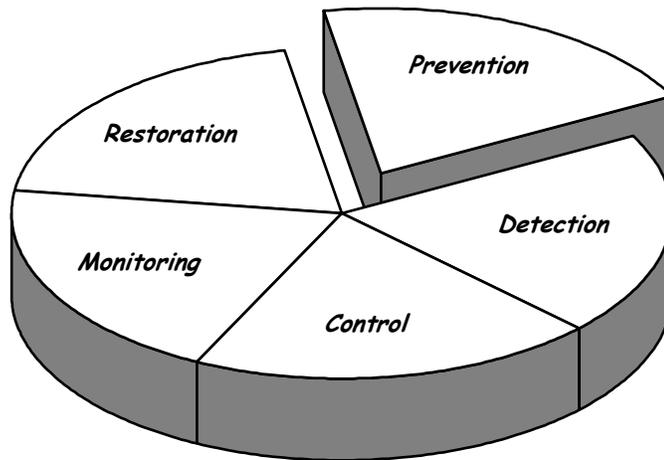
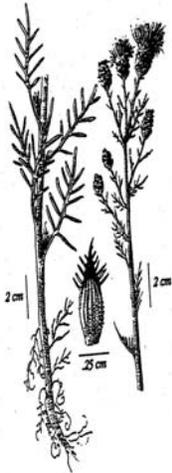


# Appendix C

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## Noxious Weed Management





USDA - FOREST SERVICE

**Guide** to Noxious Weed Prevention Practices

# INDEX

<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Supporting Direction.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Using This Guide.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>General Weed Prevention Practices for Site-disturbing Projects and Maintenance Programs.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Aquatic Weed Prevention Practices.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Cultural Resources.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Fire Management</b>	
<b>Pre-fire, Pre-incident Training.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Plans.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Wildfires-General.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Prescribed Fire.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Fire Rehabilitation.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Forest Vegetation Management</b>	
<b>Timber Harvest Operations &amp; Stewardship Contracting.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Post Vegetation Management Operations.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Grazing Management.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Lands and Special Uses.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Minerals.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Recreation, Wilderness, and Special Management Areas.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Research Activities.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Road Management</b>	
<b>New and Reconstruction.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Road Maintenance and Decommissioning.....</b>	<b>17</b>

<b>Watershed Management.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Wildlife, Fisheries, and Botany.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Appendix 1, Forest Service Timber Sale Contract Provisions.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Appendix 2, Sample Special Use Supplemental Clause.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Appendix 3, Example of a Closure Order.....</b>	<b>25</b>

# USDA-Forest Service

# GUIDE TO

## NOXIOUS WEED PREVENTION PRACTICES

### Introduction

Preventing the introduction and spread of noxious weeds is one objective of Integrated Weed Management Programs on National Forest System lands throughout the United States. This Guide to Noxious Weed Prevention Practices (Guide) provides a comprehensive directory of weed prevention practices for use in Forest Service planning and wildland resource management activities and operations. This Guide will help National Forest and Grassland managers and cooperators identify weed prevention practices that mitigate identified risks of weed introduction and spread for a project or program.

This Guide uses the term “*weed*” to include all plants defined as “*noxious weeds*” by Forest Service policy:

**“ . . .plants designated as noxious weeds by the Secretary of Agriculture or by the responsible State official. Noxious weeds generally possess one or more of the following characteristics: aggressive and difficult to manage, poisonous, toxic, parasitic, a carrier or host of serious insects or disease, and being native or new to or not common to the United States or parts thereof.” (FSM 2080.5)**

For National Forests and Grasslands that use a State-defined noxious weed list, the listed weed species are the priority for implementing weed prevention practices in cooperation with neighbors and partners. National forests and grasslands that do not have a State-defined noxious weed list need to determine local weed prevention priorities using weed lists created by other State or local organizations. At line officer’s discretion, the practices described in this Guide may also be applied to non-native invasive plants that are not defined as “noxious”.

### Supporting Direction

This Guide to Noxious Weed Prevention Practices supports implementation of the February 3, 1999 Executive Order on Invasive Species. Federal agencies are expected to follow the direction in the Executive Order.

Development of weed prevention practices is supported by Forest Service noxious weed policy and strategy. Forest Service policy identifies prevention of the introduction and establishment of noxious weed infestations as an agency objective. This policy directs the Forest Service to: (1) determine the factors that favor establishment and spread of noxious weeds, (2) analyze weed risks in resource management projects, and (3) design management practices to reduce these risks. The Forest Service Noxious Weed Strategy identifies development of practices for prevention and mitigation during ground-disturbing activities as a long-term emphasis item. The February 1999 Executive Order on Invasive Species requires Federal agencies to use relevant programs and

authorities to prevent the introduction of invasive species and not authorize or carry out actions that are likely to cause the introduction or spread of invasive species unless the agency has determined, and made public, documentation that shows that the benefits of such actions clearly outweigh the potential harm, and all feasible and prudent measures to minimize risk of harm will need to be taken in conjunction with the actions.

## Using This Guide

All resource management projects need to analyze weed risks in the planning stage. Risk includes identifying the likelihood of weeds spreading to the project area and determining the consequence of weed establishment in the project area. Resource programs undertaking maintenance operations need to analyze weed risks when preparing operating plans. A finding of risk is the basis for identifying the appropriate weed prevention practices from the Guide, which are likely to be effective in a particular project situation.

**The Guide to Noxious Weed Prevention Practices provides a toolbox of ideas for use in mitigating identified weed risks in resource management operations. The Guide adds no new requirements or regulations.**

**In 2001 two weed prevention practices are required by Forest Service policy:**

- 1. For forested vegetation management operations, use equipment cleaning contract provisions WO-C/CT 6.36 (see Appendix 1)**
- 2. Post and enforce weed-free feed orders, where they exist. (FSM 2081.03).**

All other weed prevention practices in this Guide are optional for use based upon an analysis of weed risks. This list of practices, if applied, is considered to be good overall direction, however, not all of these practices can be implemented in every project.

When considering the use of a weed prevention practice for a specific project or resource program, evaluate the efficacy of the weed prevention practice to meet the goal, its feasibility to implement in the specific situation, and its cost-effectiveness. A determination of cost-effectiveness may consider the probability and cost of weed control if a weed prevention practice is not used and the relative contribution of the project or activity to the overall weed risk at the site.

The Guide identifies weed prevention practices that can be applied to specific site-disturbing projects and that may also be applicable for maintenance activities. These weed prevention practices are listed in the first section: *“General Weed Prevention Practices for Site-disturbing Projects and Maintenance Activities.”* The remaining sections list weed prevention practices that are more uniquely applicable to particular resource management programs, listed by type of resource activity. The intent of this Guide is for managers to first identify and apply the General Weed Prevention practices and then supplement those practices with the appropriate resource activity specific guidance.

## ***General Weed Prevention Practices for Site-disturbing Projects and Maintenance Programs***

**Goal 1:** Incorporate weed prevention and control into project layout, design, alternative evaluation, and project decisions.

- Practice 1: Environmental analysis for projects and maintenance programs will need to assess weed risks, analyze potential treatment of high-risk sites for weed establishment and spread, and identify prevention practices. Determine prevention and maintenance needs, to include the use of herbicides, if needed, at the onset of project planning.

**Goal 2.** Avoid or remove sources of weed seed and propagules to prevent new weed infestations and the spread of existing weeds.

- Practice 2. Before ground-disturbing activities begin, inventory and prioritize weed infestations for treatment in project operating areas and along access routes. Identify what weeds are on site, or within reasonably expected potential invasion vicinity, and do a risk assessment accordingly. Control weeds as necessary.
- Practice 3. After completing “Practice 2” above, to reduce risk of spreading weed infestations, begin project operations in uninfested areas before operating in weed-infested areas.
- Practice 4. Locate and use weed-free project staging areas. Avoid or minimize all types of travel through weed-infested areas, or restrict to those periods when spread of seed or propagules are least likely.
- Practice 5. Determine the need for, and when appropriate, identify sites where equipment can be cleaned. Clean equipment before entering National Forest System lands; a Forest Officer, in coordination with the Unit Invasive Species Coordinator, needs to approve use of on-Forest cleaning sites in advance. This practice does not apply to service vehicles traveling frequently in and out of the project area that will remain on the roadway. Seeds and plant parts need to be collected when practical and incinerated. Remove mud, dirt, and plant parts from project equipment before moving it into a project area.
- Practice 6. Clean all equipment, before leaving the project site, if operating in areas infested with weeds. Determine the need for, and when appropriate, identify sites where equipment can be cleaned. Seeds and plant parts need to be collected when practical and incinerated.
- Practice 7. Workers need to inspect, remove, and properly dispose of weed seed and plant parts found on their clothing and equipment. Proper disposal means bagging the seeds and plant parts and incinerating them.
- Practice 8. Coordinate project activities with any nearby herbicide application to maximize cost effectiveness of weed treatments.

- Practice 9. Evaluate options, including closure, to regulate the flow of traffic on sites where desired vegetation needs to be established. Sites could include road and trail rights-of-way, and other areas of disturbed soils.

**Goal 3.** Prevent the introduction and spread of weeds caused by moving infested sand, gravel, borrow, and fill material in Forest Service, contractor and cooperator operations. For practices 10 through 12 below, work with the responsible transportation agencies to voluntarily adopt these practices where county and state governments have responsibility for maintenance of roads that cross National Forest System lands.

- Practice 10. Inspect material sources on site, and ensure that they are weed-free before use and transport. Treat weed-infested sources for eradication, and strip and stockpile contaminated material before any use of pit material.
- Practice 11. Inspect and document the area where material from treated weed-infested sources is used, annually for at least three years after project completion, to ensure that any weeds transported to the site are promptly detected and controlled.
- Practice 12. Maintain stockpiled, uninfested material in a weed-free condition.

**Goal 4.** In those vegetation types with relatively closed canopies, retain shade to the extent possible to suppress weeds and prevent their establishment and growth.

- Practice 13. Retain native vegetation in and around project activity to the maximum extent possible consistent with project objectives.

**Goal 5.** Avoid creating soil conditions that promote weed germination and establishment.

- Practice 14. Minimize soil disturbance to the extent practical, consistent with project objectives.

**Goal 6.** Where project disturbance creates bare ground, consistent with project objectives, re-establish vegetation to prevent conditions to establish weeds.

- Practice 15. Revegetate disturbed soil (except travelways on surfaced projects) in a manner that optimizes plant establishment for that specific site. Define for each project what constitutes disturbed soil and objectives for plant cover revegetation.
- Practice 16. Revegetation may include topsoil replacement, planting, seeding, fertilization, liming, and weed-free mulching as necessary. Use native material where appropriate and feasible. Use certified weed-free or weed-seed-free hay or straw where certified materials are required and/or are reasonably available. Always use certified materials in areas closed by administrative order; refer to Appendix 3 for a sample closure order. Where practical, stockpile weed-seed-free topsoil and replace it on disturbed areas (e.g. road embankments or landings)
- Practice 17. Use local seeding guidelines to determine detailed procedures and appropriate

mixes. To avoid weed-contamination, a certified seed laboratory needs to test each lot against the all-State noxious weed list to Association of Seed Technologists and Analysts (AOSTA) standards, and provide documentation of the seed inspection test. There are plant species not on State and Federal noxious weed lists that the Forest Service would consider non-native invasive weeds. Check State and Federal lists to see if any local weeds need to be added prior to testing. Seed lots labeled as certified weed free at time of sale may still contain some weed seed contamination. Non-certified seed should first be tested before use.

- Practice 18. Inspect and document all limited term ground-disturbing operations in noxious weed infested areas for at least three ( 5) growing seasons following completion of the project. For on-going projects, continue to monitor until reasonable certainty is obtained that no weeds have occurred. Provide for follow-up treatments based on inspection results.

**Goal 7.** Improve effectiveness of prevention practices through weed awareness and education.

- Practice 19. Provide information, training and appropriate weed identification materials to people potentially involved in weed introduction, establishment, and spread on National Forest System lands, including agency managers, employees, forest workers, permit holders, and recreational visitors. Educate them to an appropriate level in weed identification, biology, impacts, and effective prevention measures.
- Practice 20. Provide proficient weed management expertise at each administrative unit. Expertise means that necessary skills are available and corporate knowledge is maintained.
- Practice 21. Develop incentive programs encouraging weed awareness detection, reporting, and for locating new invaders.

**Goal 8.** Set the example; maintain weed-free administrative sites.

- Practice 22. Treat weeds at administrative sites and use weed prevention practices to maintain sites in a weed-free condition.

## ***Aquatic Weed Prevention Practices***

**Goal 1.** To prevent new weed infestations and the spread of existing weeds, avoid or remove sources of weed seed and propagules.

- Aquatic 1. Provide outreach to state fish and game departments, counties, and other agencies concerning the unique prevention measures and control practices associated with aquatic weeds.
- Aquatic 2. Inspect boats (including air boats), trailers, and other boating equipment and remove any visible plants, animals, or mud before leaving any waters or boat launching facilities. Drain water from motor, live well, bilge, and transom wells while on land before

leaving the vicinity. Wash and dry boats, tackle, downriggers, anchors, nets, floors of boats, props, axles, trailers, and other boating equipment to kill weeds not visible at the boat launch.

- Aquatic 3. Before transporting to new waters, rinse boat and boating equipment with hot (40°C or 104°F) clean water, spray boat or trailer with high-pressure water, or dry boat and equipment for at least 5 days.
- Aquatic 4. Inspect seaplanes and remove weeds from floats, wires, cables, water rudders, and pump floats; wash with hot water or spray with high-pressure water, or dry for at least 5 days.
- Aquatic 5. Before take-off – avoid taxiing through heavy surface growths of weeds before takeoff; raise and lower water rudders several times to clear off plants. If weeds were picked up during landing, clean off the water rudders before take-off and leave the water rudders up during take-off. After take-off – if water rudders were down during take-off, raise and lower water rudders several times to free weed plant fragments while over original body of water or over land. If weeds remain visible on floats or water rudders, the pilot may return to flight origin and remove plants if an extra landing and takeoff is not a safety concern.
- Aquatic 6. Maintain a 100 feet buffer of aquatic weed-free clearance around boat launches and docks.
- Aquatic 7. Promptly post sites if aquatic invasives are found. Confine infestation; where prevention is infeasible or ineffective, close facility until infestation is contained.
- Aquatic 8. Wash and dry tackle, downriggers, float tubes, waders, and other equipment to remove or kill harmful species not visible at the boat launch.
- Aquatic 9. Avoid moving weed plants from one body of water to another.
- Aquatic 10. Avoid running personal watercraft through aquatic plants near boat access locations. Instead, push or winch watercraft onto the trailer without running the engine. After the watercraft is out of the water, start the engine for 5-10 seconds to blow out any excess water and vegetation. After engine has stopped, pull weeds out of the steering nozzle. Inspect trailer and any other sporting equipment for weed fragments and remove them before leaving the access area. Wash or dry watercraft before transporting to another body of water.
- Aquatic 11. Waterfowl hunters may use elliptical, bulb-shaped, or strap anchors on decoys, because these types of anchors avoid collecting submersed and floating aquatic plants. Inspect waders and hip boots, removing any aquatic plants, and where possible, rinse mud from them before leaving the water. Remove aquatic plants, animals, and mud attached to decoy lines and anchors.
- Aquatic 12. Construct new boat launches and ramps at deep-water sites. Restrict motorized boats in lakes near areas that are infested with weeds. Move sediment to upland

or quarantine areas when cleaning around culverts, canals, or irrigation sites. Clean equipment before moving to new sites. Inspect and clean equipment before moving from one project area to another.

## *Cultural Resources*

- Use the General weed prevention practices.

## *Fire Management*

### *Pre-fire, Pre-incident Training*

**Goal 1.** Improve effectiveness of prevention practices through weed awareness and education.

- Fire 1. Increase weed awareness and weed prevention in all fire training.
- Fire 2. Include weed risk factors and weed prevention practices in Resource Advisor duties on all Incident Management Teams and Burn Rehabilitation Teams.

### *Plans*

**Goal 2.** Improve effectiveness of prevention practices through weed awareness and education.

- Fire 3. Assign a local weed specialist or include in Resource Advisor duties to the Incident Management Team when wildfire or control operations occur in or near a noxious weed area.
- Fire 4. Resource Advisors need to provide briefings that identify operational practices to reduce weed spread, (for example: avoiding known weed infestation areas when locating fire lines). Include this information in shift briefings.
- Fire 5. Provide weed identification aids to Field Observers.

### *Wildfires – General*

All wildfire weed prevention goals apply except in instances where human life or property is at risk.

**Goal 3.** Avoid or remove sources of weed seed and propagules to prevent new weed infestations and the spread of existing weeds.

- Fire 6. Ensure that rental equipment is free of weed seed and propagules before the contracting officers representative accepts it.

- Fire 7. Maintain a network of airports, helibases, camps, and staging areas in a noxious weed-free condition.
- Fire 8. Coordinate with local weed specialists to locate and treat practice jump areas to make them weed-free.
- Fire 9. Inspect and treat weeds that establish at equipment cleaning sites after fire incidents.

**Goal 4.** Avoid creating soil conditions that promote weed germination and establishment.

- Fire 10. Use appropriate suppression tactics to reduce suppression-induced disturbances to soil and vegetation while minimizing seedbed creation due to disturbance from fire effects.
- Fire 11. Avoid moving water buckets from infested lakes to lakes that are not infested prior to inspection and cleaning. There is no hazard in using water infested with aquatic weeds on terrestrial sites.

### ***Prescribed Fire***

**Goal 5.** To prevent new weed infestations and the spread of existing weeds, avoid or remove sources of weed seed and propagules or manage fire as an aid in control of weeds.

- Fire 12. Ensure that rental equipment is free of weed seed and propagules before the contracting officers representative accepts it.
- Fire 13. Avoid ignition and burning in areas at high risk for weed establishment or spread due to fire effects. Treat weeds that establish or spread because of unplanned burning of weed infestations.
- Fire 14. When possible use staging areas and helibases that are maintained in a weed-free condition.
- Fire 15. Pre-inventory project area and evaluate weeds present with regard to the effects on the weed spread relative to the fire prescription.

**Goal 6.** Avoid creating soil conditions that promote weed germination and establishment.

- Fire 16. Use appropriate preparation and suppression tactics to reduce disturbances to soil and vegetation.

### ***Fire Rehabilitation***

**Goal 7.** Incorporate weed prevention into project layout, design, alternative evaluation, and decisions.

- Fire 17. Evaluate weed status and risks in Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation plans.

When appropriate, apply for Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation and restoration funding.

**Goal 8.** To prevent conditions favoring weed establishment, re-establish vegetation on bare ground caused by project disturbance as soon as possible using either natural recovery or artificial techniques as appropriate to the site objectives.

- Fire 18. To prevent weed spread, treat weeds in burned areas as part of the Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation plan. For known infestations that will likely increase, the first preference is prevention, such as planting species to compete with unwanted plants.
- Fire 19. Inspect and document weed establishment at fire access roads, cleaning sites, all disturbed staging areas, and within burned areas; control infestations to prevent spread within burned areas. If you suspect the presence of noxious weeds, request BAER funds to inspect and document for emergence in the spring. Request BAER funds for control if noxious weeds are present and NEPA has already been approved.
- Fire 20. Seed and straw mulch to be used for burn rehabilitation (for wattles, straw bales, dams, etc.) all need to be inspected and certified that they are free of weed seed and propagules.
- Fire 21. Regulate human, pack animal, and livestock entry into burned areas at risk for weed invasion until desirable site vegetation has recovered sufficiently to resist weed invasion.

## ***Forest Vegetation Management***

### ***Timber Harvest Operations & Stewardship Contracting***

**Goal 1.** Avoid or remove sources of weed seed and propagules to prevent new weed infestations and the spread of existing weeds.

- Forest Veg 1. Treat weeds on projects used by contractors, emphasizing treatment of weed infestations on existing landings, skid trails, and helibases before activities commence.
- Forest Veg 2. Train contract administrators to identify noxious weeds and select lower risk sites for landings and skid trails.
- Forest Veg 3. Encourage operators to maintain weed-free mill yards, equipment parking, and staging areas.
- Forest Veg 4. Use standard timber sale contract provisions such as WO-C/CT 6.36 to ensure appropriate equipment cleaning (reference Appendix 1).

**Goal 2.** To prevent weed germination and establishment, retain native vegetation in and around project activity and keep soil disturbance to a minimum consistent with project objectives.

- Forest Veg 5. Minimize soil disturbance to no more than needed to meet project objectives. Logging practices to reduce soil disturbance include, but are not limited to:
  - Over-snow logging
  - Skyline or helicopter logging
  - Reuse landings, skid trails and helibases when they are weed free
- Forest Veg 6. Minimize period from end of logging to site preparation, revegetation, and contract closure.

### ***Post Vegetation Management Operations***

**Goal 3.** To prevent weed germination and establishment, retain native vegetation in and around project activity and keep soil disturbance to a minimum consistent with project objectives.

- Forest Veg 7. Minimize soil disturbance to no more than needed to meet vegetation management objectives. Prevention practices to reduce soil disturbance include, but are not limited to:
  - Treating fuels in place instead of piling
  - Minimizing heat transfer to soil in burning
  - Minimizing fireline construction

**Goal 4.** To prevent favorable conditions for weed establishment, re-establish vegetation on bare ground caused by project disturbance.

- Forest Veg 8. For long-term restoration and weed suppression where forested vegetation management has created openings, recognize the need for prompt reforestation.

## ***Grazing Management***

**Goal 1.** Consider noxious weed prevention and control practices in the management of grazing allotments.

- Grazing 1. Include weed prevention practices, inspection and reporting direction, and provisions for inspection of livestock concentration areas in allotment management plans and annual operating instructions for active grazing allotments.
- Grazing 2. For each grazing allotment containing existing weed infestations, include prevention practices focused on preventing weed spread and cooperative management of weeds in the annual operating instructions. Prevention practices may include, but are not limited to:

- Altering season of use
- Exclusion
- Activities to minimize potential ground disturbance
- Preventing weed seed transportation
- Maintaining healthy vegetation
- Weed control methods
- Revegetation
- Inspection
- Reporting
- Education

**Goal 2.** Avoid or remove sources of weed seed and propagules to prevent new weed infestations and the spread of existing weeds. Minimize transport of weed seed into and within allotments.

- Grazing 3. If livestock are potentially a contributing factor to seed spread, schedule use by livestock in units with existing weed infestations which are known to be susceptible to spread by livestock, to be prior to seed-set or after seed has fallen.
- Grazing 4. If livestock were transported from a weed-infested area, annually inspect and treat allotment entry units for new weed infestations.
- Grazing 5. Close pastures to livestock grazing when the pastures are infested to the degree that livestock grazing will continue to either exacerbate the condition on site or contribute to weed seed spread. Designate those pastures as unsuitable range until weed infestations are controlled.

**Goal 3.** Maintain healthy, desirable vegetation that is resistant to weed establishment.

- Grazing 6. Through the allotment management plan or annual operating instructions, manage the timing, intensity (utilization), duration, and frequency of livestock activities associated with harvest of forage and browse resources to maintain the vigor of desirable plant species and retain live plant cover and litter.
- Grazing 7. Manage livestock grazing on restoration areas to ensure that vegetation is well established. This may involve exclusion for a period of time consistent with site objectives and conditions. Consider practices to minimize wildlife grazing on the areas if needed.

**Goal 4.** Minimize disturbed ground conditions favorable for weed establishment in the management of livestock grazing.

- Grazing 8. Include weed prevention practices that reduce ground disturbance in allotment management plans and annual operating instructions. Consider for example: changes in the timing, intensity, duration, or frequency of livestock use; location and changes in salt grounds; restoration or protection of watering sites; and restoration of yarding/loafing areas, corrals, and other areas of concentrated livestock use.
- Grazing 9. Inspect known areas of concentrated livestock use for weed invasion.

Inventory and manage new infestations.

**Goal 5.** Improve effectiveness of weed prevention practices through awareness programs and education. Promote weed awareness and prevention efforts among range permittees.

- Grazing 10. Use education programs or annual operating instructions to increase weed awareness and prevent weed spread associated with permittees' livestock management practices.
- Grazing 11. To aid in their participation in allotment weed control programs, encourage permittees to become certified pesticide use applicators.

## *Lands and Special Uses*

**Goal 1.** Avoid or remove sources of weed seed and propagules to prevent new weed infestations and the spread of existing weeds.

- Lands 1. Consider weed status of lands when making land adjustment decisions.
- Lands 2. Conduct weed inventories of all lands considered for acquisition.
- Lands 3. As a condition of land adjustment decisions, the Forest Service may require the nonfederal proponent to treat weeds, to federal standards, on the land proposed for federal acquisition.
- Lands 4. Include a weed prevention and control provision in all new special-use authorizations such as, permits, easements or leases involving ground-disturbing activities when authorized activities present a high risk for weed infestation or the location of the activity is vulnerable to weed introduction or spread. Include a weed prevention and control provision in existing authorizations that authorize ground-disturbing activities when the authorization is amended for other reasons; consider the need to amend an authorization directly, when ground-disturbing activities are involved. These provisions can be accomplished through the development and incorporation of a supplemental clause (reference sample clause R1-D4 in Appendix 2) or as a requirement in an associated operation and maintenance plan.

## *Minerals*

**Goal 1.** Incorporate weed prevention into project layout, design, alternative evaluation, and decisions.

- Minerals 1. Include weed prevention measures, including project inspection and documentation, in operation and reclamation plans.

**Goal 2.** To prevent conditions favoring weed establishment, minimize bare soil conditions and re-establish vegetation on bare ground caused by project disturbance.

- Minerals 2. Retain bonds until reclamation requirements are completed, including weed treatments, based on inspection and documentation.

## *Recreation, Wilderness, and Special Management Areas*

**Goal 1.** To prevent new weed infestations and the spread of existing weeds, avoid or remove sources of weed seed and propagules.

- Recreation 1. Encourage public land users before recreating on public lands, to inspect and clean motorized and mechanized trail vehicles of weeds and their seeds.
- Recreation 2. On designated public lands, issue closure orders that specify the use of weed free or weed-seed-free feed, hay, straw, and mulch. Refer to 36 CFR 251.50 and Appendix 3. Cooperate with State, County, Tribal governments, and other agencies to develop and support publicly available weed-free materials.
- Recreation 3. Where they exist, post and enforce weed-free feed orders. (FSM 2081.03)
- Recreation 4. Encourage backcountry pack and saddle stock users to feed stock only weed-free feed for several days before travel on National Forest System lands.
- Recreation 5. Inspect, brush, and clean animals, especially hooves and legs before entering public land. Inspect and clean tack and equipment.
- Recreation 6. Tie or hold stock in ways that minimize soil disturbance and avoid loss of desirable native vegetation.
- Recreation 7. Annually inspect all campgrounds, trailheads, and recreation areas that are open to public vehicle use for weeds; treat new infestations.
- Recreation 8. Maintain trailheads, boat launches, outfitter and public camps, picnic areas, airstrips, roads leading to trailheads, and other areas of concentrated public use in a weed-

free condition. Consider high use recreation areas as high priority for weed eradication.

- Recreation 9. Consider seasonal or full time closure to campgrounds, picnic areas, and other recreation use areas until weeds are reduced to levels that minimize potentials for spread.
- Recreation 10. In areas susceptible to weed infestation, limit vehicles to designated, maintained travel routes. Inspect and document inspections on travelways for weeds and treat as necessary.

**Goal 2**. Improve effectiveness of prevention practices through weed awareness and education.

- Recreation 11. Post weed awareness messages and prevention practices at strategic locations such as trailheads, roads, boat launches, and forest portals.
- Recreation 12. In weed-infested areas, post weed awareness messages and prevention practices at roadsides.

## ***Research Activities***

**Goal 1**. Incorporate weed prevention into research project design, layout, installation, and decisions.

- Research 1. Address weed establishment risk and spread in research project study plans and decisions.

## ***Road Management***

### ***New and Reconstruction***

**Goal 1**. Incorporate weed prevention into project layout, design, alternative evaluation, and decisions.

- Road 1. For timber sale purchaser road maintenance and decommissioning, use standard timber sale contract provisions such as WO-C/CT 6.36 to ensure appropriate equipment cleaning (reference Appendix 1).
- Road 2. For road new and reconstruction conducted as part of public works (construction) contracts and service contracts include contract language for equipment cleaning such as is in WO-C/CT 6.36 (Appendix 1).

### ***Road Maintenance and Decommissioning***

**Goal 2**. Minimize roadside sources of weed seed that could be transported to other areas.

- Road 3. Periodically inspect system roads and rights-of-way for invasion of noxious weeds. Train road maintenance staff to recognize weeds and report locations to the local weed specialist. Inventory weed infestations and schedule them for treatment.
- Road 4. Schedule and coordinate blading or pulling of noxious weed-infested roadsides or ditches in consultation with the local weed specialist. Do not blade or pull roadsides and ditches that are infested with noxious weeds unless doing so is required for public safety or protection of the roadway. If the ditch must be pulled, ensure the weeds remain on-site. Blade from least infested to most infested areas. When it is necessary to blade noxious weed-infested roadsides or ditches, schedule activity when seeds or propagules are least likely to be viable and to be spread. Minimize soil surface disturbance and contain bladed material on the infested site.
- Road 5. Avoid acquiring water for dust abatement where access to the water is through weed-infested sites.
- Road 6. For timber sale purchaser road maintenance and decommissioning, use contract provisions for equipment cleaning such as WO-C/CT 6.36 (Appendix 1).
- Road 7. For road maintenance and decommissioning conducted as part of public works (construction) contracts and service contracts include contract language for equipment cleaning such as is in WO-C/CT 6.36 (Appendix 1).
- Road 8. Treat weeds in road decommissioning and reclamation projects before roads are made impassable. Reinspect and follow-up based on initial inspection and documentation.

## ***Watershed Management***

**Goal 1.** Avoid or remove sources of weed seed and propagules to prevent new weed infestations and the spread of existing weeds.

- Watershed 1. Inspect and document for early detection of noxious weed establishment and spread in riparian areas and wetlands. Eradicate new infestations before they become established.
- Watershed 2. Address noxious weed risks in watershed restoration projects and water quality management plans.
- Watershed 3. Pay particular attention to practices listed under “General Weed Prevention Practices for Site-disturbing Projects and Maintenance Programs” and Aquatic Weed Prevention Practices”.

## *Wildlife, Fisheries, and Botany*

**Goal 1.** Avoid creating soil conditions that promote weed germination and establishment.

- Wildlife 1. Periodically inspect and document those areas where wildlife concentrate in the winter and spring resulting in overuse or soil scarification.
- Wildlife 2. Use weed-free materials at big game baiting stations.
- Wildlife 3. For wildlife openings and habitat improvement projects, follow the practices outlined in General Weed Prevention Practices--Goal 4; Forest Vegetation Management, Timber Harvest Operations & Stewardship Contracting.

# APPENDIX 1

## FOREST SERVICE TIMBER SALE

### CONTRACT PROVISIONS

#### WO-C6.36

C6.36 – EQUIPMENT CLEANING. (5/01) Unless the entire Sale Area is already infested with specific noxious weed species of concern, Purchaser shall ensure that prior to moving on to the Sale Area all off-road equipment, which last operated in areas known by Forest Service to be infested with specific noxious weeds of concern, is free of soil, seeds, vegetative matter, or other debris that could contain or hold seeds. Purchaser shall certify in writing that off-road equipment is free of noxious weeds prior to each start-up of timber sale operations and for subsequent moves of equipment to Sale Area. The certification shall indicate the measures taken to ensure that off-road equipment is free of noxious weeds will be identified. “Off-road equipment” includes all logging and construction machinery, except for log trucks, chip vans, service vehicles, water trucks, pickup trucks, cars, and similar vehicles. A current list of noxious weeds of concern to Forest Service is available at the Forest Supervisor’s Office.

Purchaser must clean off-road equipment prior to moving between cutting units on this timber sale that are known to be infested with noxious weeds and other units, if any, that are free of such weeds. Sale Area Map shows areas, known by Forest Service prior to timber sale advertisement, that are infested with specific noxious weed species of concern.

Purchaser shall employ whatever cleaning methods are necessary to ensure that off-road equipment is free of noxious weeds. Equipment shall be considered free of soil, seeds, and other such debris when a visual inspection does not disclose such material. Disassembly of equipment components or specialized inspection tools is not required.

Purchaser shall notify Forest Service at least 5 days prior to moving each piece of off-road equipment on to the Sale Area, unless otherwise agreed. Notification will include identifying the location of the equipment's most recent operations. If the prior location of the off-road equipment cannot be identified, Forest Service may assume that it was infested with noxious weed seeds. Upon request of Forest Service, Purchaser must arrange for Forest Service to inspect each piece of off-road equipment prior to it being placed in service.

If Purchaser desires to clean off-road equipment on National Forest land, such as at the end of a project or prior to moving to a new unit that is free of noxious weeds, Purchaser and Forest Service shall agree on methods of cleaning, locations for the cleaning, and control of off-site impacts, if any.

New infestations of noxious weeds, of concern to Forest Service and identified by either Purchaser or Forest Service on the Sale Area, shall be promptly reported to the other party. Purchaser and Forest Service shall agree on treatment methods to reduce or stop the spread of noxious weeds when new infestations are found. In the event of contract modification under this Subsection, Purchaser shall be reimbursed for any additional protection required, provided that any work or

extra protection required shall be subject to prior approval by Forest Service. Amount of reimbursement shall be determined by Forest Service and shall be in the form of a reduction in stumpage rates, unless agreed otherwise in writing. However, in no event may stumpage rates be reduced below Base Rates.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Include in all new contracts.

The Forest Service must identify on the sale area map units that are infested with specific noxious weeds species of concern.

The prospectus for the sale must notify prospective purchasers that maps of these known locations are available from the local Forest Supervisor's Office or District Ranger Station. A list of noxious weeds of concern to the Forest Service (normally included in the Noxious Weed Program Guide) must be available for the purchaser's inspection. The current National Forest Noxious Weed Program Guide, noxious weed atlas, or other data sources, as needed, will be used to determine locations of known infestation.

Significant changes in the status of noxious weed infestations on the sale may require contract modifications to deal with changed conditions. An example might be where new noxious weed infestations are discovered after contract award, which require costly additional methods to prevent the spread of such infestations.

## **WO-CT6.36**

**CT6.36 – EQUIPMENT CLEANING.** (5/01) Unless the entire Sale Area is already infested with specific noxious weed species of concern, Purchaser shall ensure that prior to moving on to the Sale Area all off-road equipment, which last operated in areas known by Forest Service to be infested with specific noxious weeds of concern, is free of soil, seeds, vegetative matter, or other debris that could contain or hold seeds. Purchaser shall certify in writing that off-road equipment is free of noxious weeds prior to each start-up of timber sale operations and for subsequent moves of equipment to Sale Area. The certification shall indicate the measures taken to ensure that off-road equipment is free of noxious weeds will be identified. "Off-road equipment" includes all logging and construction machinery, except for log trucks, chip vans, service vehicles, water trucks, pickup trucks, cars, and similar vehicles. A current list of noxious weeds of concern to Forest Service is available at the Forest Supervisor's Office.

Purchaser must clean off-road equipment prior to moving between cutting units on this timber sale that are known to be infested with noxious weeds and other units, if any, that are free of such weeds. Sale Area Map shows areas, known by Forest Service prior to timber sale advertisement, that are infested with specific noxious weed species of concern.

Purchaser shall employ whatever cleaning methods are necessary to ensure that off-road equipment is free of noxious weeds. Equipment shall be considered free of soil, seeds, and other such debris when a visual inspection does not disclose such material. Disassembly of equipment components or specialized inspection tools is not required.

Purchaser shall notify Forest Service at least 5 days prior to moving each piece of off-road equipment on to the Sale Area, unless otherwise agreed. Notification will include identifying the location of the equipment's most recent operations. If the prior location of the off-road equipment cannot be identified, Forest Service may assume that it was infested with noxious weed seeds. Upon request of Forest Service, Purchaser must arrange for Forest Service to inspect each piece of off-road equipment prior to it being placed in service.

If Purchaser desires to clean off-road equipment on National Forest land, such as at the end of a project or prior to moving to a new unit that is free of noxious weeds, Purchaser and Forest Service shall agree on methods of cleaning, locations for the cleaning, and control of off-site impacts, if any.

New infestations of noxious weeds, of concern to Forest Service and identified by either Purchaser or Forest Service on the Sale Area, shall be promptly reported to the other party. Purchaser and Forest Service shall agree on treatment methods to reduce or stop the spread of noxious weeds when new infestations are found. In the event of contract modification under this Subsection, Purchaser shall be reimbursed for any additional protection required, provided that any work or extra protection required shall be subject to prior approval by Forest Service. Amount of reimbursement shall be determined by Forest Service and shall be in the form of a reduction in stumpage rates, unless agreed otherwise in writing. However, in no event may stumpage rates be reduced below Base Rates.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Include in all new contracts.

The Forest Service must identify on the sale area map units that are infested with specific noxious weeds species of concern.

The prospectus for the sale must notify prospective purchasers that maps of these known locations are available from the local Forest Supervisor's Office or District Ranger Station. A list of noxious weeds of concern to the Forest Service (normally included in the Noxious Weed Program Guide) must be available for the purchaser's inspection. The current National Forest Noxious Weed Program Guide, noxious weed atlas, or other data sources, as needed, will be used to determine locations of known infestation.

Significant changes in the status of noxious weed infestations on the sale may require contract modifications to deal with changed conditions. An example might be where new noxious weed infestations are discovered after contract award, which require costly additional methods to prevent the spread of such infestations.

# APPENDIX 2

## SAMPLE SPECIAL USE SUPPLEMENTAL CLAUSE USDA-FOREST SERVICE NORTHERN REGION

Include a weed prevention and control provision, such as the following supplemental clause example, in all new special-use authorizations such as, permits, easements, and leases, or when those authorizations are amended, when there are ground-disturbing activities.

The following is a weed prevention and control supplemental clause approved for use in Region 1. **(Reminder: Supplemental clauses used in a special use authorization must be reviewed and approved by the Regional Forester, after review by the local Office of the General Counsel.)**

**R1 SUPPLEMENT 2709.11-2000-1  
EFFECTIVE 02/08/2000**

**2709.11, 50  
Page 31 of 41**

**R1-D4 - Noxious Weed/Exotic Plant Prevention and Control.** Use this clause in all authorizations involving ground disturbance which could result in the introduction or spread of noxious weeds and/or exotic plants. This clause may also be used where cooperative agreements for noxious weed control are in place with state and local governments.

The holder shall be responsible for the prevention and control of noxious weeds and/or exotic plants of concern on the area authorized by this authorization and shall provide prevention and control measures prescribed by the Forest Service. Noxious weeds and exotic plants of concern are defined as those species recognized by *(insert county weed authority and/or national forest)* in which the authorized use is located.

The holder shall also be responsible for prevention and control of noxious weed and exotic plant infestations which are not within the authorized area, but which are determined by the Forest Service to have originated within the authorized area.

When determined to be necessary by the authorized officer, the holder shall develop a site-specific plan for noxious weed and exotic plant prevention and control. Such plan shall be subject to Forest Service approval. Upon Forest Service approval, the noxious weed and exotic plant prevention and control plan shall become a part of this authorization, and its provisions shall be enforceable under the terms of this authorization.

With respect to the second paragraph of the above provision, the intent is to apply this

provision only for a well defined confined area such as a narrow linear right-of-way where it can be determined without a doubt that the noxious weeds resulted from the activities of the holder.

# APPENDIX 3

## Example of a Closure Order

### Closure Order

SPECIAL ORDER  
OCCUPANCY AND USE  
ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS  
IN THE STATE OF MONTANA

Pursuant to the Regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture, Title 36 CFS 261.50 (a) and (b), the following acts are prohibited within all National Forest System lands within the State of Montana.

These restrictions are in addition to those enumerated in Subpart A, part 261, Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations and will remain in effect from October 6, 1997, until rescinded or revoked.

1. The possession or storage of hay, grain, straw, cubes, palletized feed or mulch that is not certified as being noxious weed free or noxious weed seed free by an authorized State Department of Agriculture official or designated county official; each individual bale or container must be tagged or marked as weed free and reference the written certification (36 CFR 261.58 (t) ).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50 (e), the following are exempt from this Order:

- A. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the action or omission.
- B. Transporting feeds, straw, or hay on Federal, State, and county roads that are not Forest Development Roads or Trails.

The above restrictions are necessary to prevent the spread of noxious weeds on National Forest Systems lands (16 USC 551). Upon issuance of this order, all previous orders requiring the use of certified noxious weed free or noxious weed seed free forage on NFS lands in Montana shall be superceded.

Violation is punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000 and/or up to six months imprisonment (16 U.S.C. 551 and 18 U.S.C. 3571 (b) (6)).

/S/ Kathleen A. McAllister

10-8-97

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HAL SALWASSER  
Regional Forester  
Northern Region

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Date

# **Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement**

## **Noxious Weeds Management**

January 2004

- Inform forest users, local agencies, special use permittees, groups, and organizations in communities near national forests about noxious weed prevention and management.
- Work cooperatively with California and Nevada State agencies and individual counties (for example, Cooperative Weed Management Areas) to: (1) prevent the introduction and establishment of noxious weed infestations and (2) control existing infestations.
- As part of project planning, conduct a noxious weed risk assessment to determine risks for weed spread (high, moderate, or low) associated with different types of proposed management activities. Refer to weed prevention practices in the Regional Noxious Weed Management Strategy to develop mitigation measures for high and moderate risk activities.
- When recommended in project-level noxious weed risk assessments, consider requiring off-road equipment and vehicles (both Forest Service and contracted) used for project implementation to be weed free. Refer to weed prevention practices in the Regional Noxious Weed Management Strategy.
- Minimize weed spread by incorporating weed prevention and control measures into ongoing management or maintenance activities that involve ground disturbance or the possibility of spreading weeds. Refer to weed prevention practices in the Regional Noxious Weed Management Strategy.
- Conduct follow-up inspections of ground disturbing activities to ensure adherence to the Regional Noxious Weed Management Strategy.
- Encourage use of certified weed free hay and straw. Cooperate with other agencies and the public in developing a certification program for weed free hay and straw. Phase in the program as certified weed free hay and straw becomes available. This standard and guideline applies to pack and saddle stock used by the public, livestock permittees, outfitter guide permittees, and local, State and Federal agencies.
- Include weed prevention measures, as necessary, when amending or re-issuing permits (including, but not limited to, livestock grazing, special uses, and pack stock operator permits).

- Include weed prevention measure and weed control treatments in mining plans of operation and reclamation plans. Refer to weed prevention practices in the Regional Noxious Weed Management Strategy. Monitor for weeds, as appropriate, for 2 years after project implementation (assuming no weed introductions have occurred).
- Conduct a risk analysis for weed spread associated with burned area emergency rehabilitation (BAER) treatments. The BAER team is responsible for conducting this analysis. Monitor and treat weed infestations for 3 years after the fire.
- Consult with American Indians to determine priority areas for weed prevention and control where traditional gathering areas are threatened by weed infestations.
- Complete noxious weed inventories, based on regional protocol. Review and update these inventories on an annual basis.
- As outlined in the Regional Noxious Weed Management Strategy, when new, small weed infestations are detected, emphasize eradication of these infestations while providing for the safety of field personnel.
- Routinely monitor noxious weed control projects to determine success and to evaluate the need for follow-up treatments or different control methods. Monitor known weed infestations, as appropriate, to determine changes in weed population density and rate of spread.



# Appendix D

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## Habitat Descriptions



## APPENDIX D HABITAT DESCRIPTIONS

### Habitat Types Present in the Project Area

**Agriculture, rice (Agri);** rice fields, note if flooded or fallow

**Agriculture, orchard (Agor);** fruit trees, note type if can

**Agriculture, pasture (Agps);** note if irrigated

**Agriculture, grain (Aggr)** alfalfa, hay; note if irrigated

**Agriculture, vineyard (Agvn);** grapes, kiwi

**Agriculture, row crop (Agrc);** tomatoes, root crops, safflower, etc.; note type if can

**Agriculture, nursery/garden (Agga);** note type

**Barren (Bar);** rock, pavement, sand, etc.

**Chaparral, mixed (Cmi);** shrub dominant, chamise, buckthorn, poison oak, fremontia, toyon; <5,000'

**Chaparral, montane (Cmo);** mostly evergreen shrub, manzanita, ceanothus, chinquapin; 3,000-10,000'

**Chaparral, oak (Coa);** dense, tall, live/blue oak, manzanita, toyon, buckbrush, poison oak; Sierra foothills

**Commercial, industrial (Com);** developed land use other than residential or farms

**Elderberry, isolated (Ebis);** elderberry shrub not in savanna setting

**Elderberry, savanna (Ebsv);** note elderberry savanna boundary and associated dominant plants

**Forest, Douglas fir (Fdf);**tall evergreen Doug fir w/tanoak, madrone, pines, black oak; 1,000-4,000'

**Forest, Klamath mixed conifer (Fkm);** evergreen trees w/shrubs; firs and pines, Klamath region

**Forest, mixed conifer (Fmc);** firs and pines, cedar, chinquapin, currant, snowberry; 2,000-6,500'

**Forest, ponderosa pine (Fpp);** >50% ponderosa pine, cedar, fir, blk oak, live oak, tanoak;800-5,000'

**Forest, white fir (Fwf);** white fir dominant, live oak, chinquapin, squawcarpet; 4,500-5,000'

**Golf (Glf);** golf course

**Grasslands, non-native annual/ naturalized (Gnn);** soft chess, wild oats, ripgut, ryegrass;<3,000'

**Grasslands, native perennial (Gnp);** soft chess, orchardgrass, oatgrass, fescue, hairgrass

**Gully (Gully);** gully in access road, note if repairs needed

**Levee (Lev);** man-made levee structure

**Meadow, other (Mot);** seasonally dry swales, ann. grasses, forbes, some meadow species when wet

**Meadow, wet montane (Mwm);** herbaceous, sedges, rushes, corn lily, clover; >3,940'

**Other (Oth);** describe habitat type with dominant species

**Park (Prk);** maintained public park

**Riparian, Great Valley forest (Rgf);** valley oak, blk walnut, sycamore, cottonwood, elderberry;<500'

**Riparian, Great Valley scrub (Rgs);** willows, elderberry, verbena, blackberry; <1,000'

**Riparian, montane aspen (Rma);** Aspen, willows, alders, cottonwood, aspen, pines; 6,500-9,850'

**Riparian, montane scrub (Rms);** willows, alder, dogwood, near montane meadows; <8,000'

**Riparian, montane white alder (Rmw);** white alder, maple, ash, bay, willow, cottonwood;<6,000'

**Scrub, sagebrush bitterbrush (Ssb);** big sagebrush/bitterbrush, ponderosa, juniper; 1,600-10,500'

**Urban (Urb);** lawns, trees, backyard

**Waters, creek, intermittent (Waci);** intermittent creek, < 20 feet wide

**Waters, creek, perennial (Wacp);** continually flowing, < 20 feet wide

**Waters, pond (Wapd);** small, <6' deep

**Waters, lake (Walk);** large, > 6' deep

**Waters, river (Warv);** perennial/intermittent, > 20 feet wide

**Waters, seep/spring (Wasp);** note origin

**Waters, impoundment (Waim);** stock pond, man-made ponding feature

**Waters, drainage (Wadr);** ditches, agriculture drainages (usually well vegetated and shallow)

**Waters, irrigation canal (Waic);** flooded up to supply irrigation water to fields, usually deeper

**Waters, other (Waot);** culvert/pipe, other waters not classified (note type)

**Wetlands, freshwater marsh (Wfm);** perennial sedge, rushes, nutgrass, cattail, bulrush; <7,500'

**Wetlands, other (Wot);** wetland not classified in other categories

**Wetlands, seasonal (Wse);** seasonal ponding, ryegrass, barley, curly dock, rushes, eleocharis

**Wetlands, vernal pool isolated (Wvpi);** seasonal ponding, coyote thistle, popcorn flwr, downingia, toadrush, goldfields, typically with colorful, concentric rings

**Woodland, black oak (Wbla);** black oak, ponderosa, cedar, live oak, manzanita; 200-8,000'

**Woodland, blue oak (Wblu);** blue oak, foothill pine, valley grassland understory; <3,000-4,000'

**Woodland, foothill pine-chapparal (Wfp);** foothill pine, blue oak, buckeye, ridges and canyons

**Woodland, live oak (Wlo);** live oak, foothill pine, toyon, buckbrush, coffeeberry, foothills <2,000'



# Appendix E

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## Culvert and Drainage Dip Descriptions



# Appendix F

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Additional O&M Requirements and Information



## NORTH AREA RIGHT-OF-WAY MAINTENANCE PROGRAM WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

The Aquatic Conservation Strategy was developed to restore and maintain the ecological health of watersheds and aquatic ecosystems contained within them on public lands. Because activities are proposed for Riparian Reserves the proposed action and all action alternatives were evaluated to determine how planned activities would affect implementation of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. This evaluation was accomplished by evaluating the effects of proposed management activities in Riparian Reserves for each of the nine Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives (Shasta-Trinity National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, 1994). A description of the how the proposed action and alternatives will affect each ACS objective follows.

### **Evaluation of the Nine ACS Objectives and how the Proposed Action “meets”, “does not adversely affect”, or “does not retard or prevent attainment of” or otherwise achieve ACS objectives at the 5<sup>th</sup> field watershed scale.**

Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives	How the Proposed Activities for All Action Alternatives Meet the ACS
1) Maintain and restore the distribution, diversity, and complexity of watershed and landscape-scale features to ensure protection of the aquatic systems to which species, populations and communities are uniquely adapted.	The proposed actions and alternatives do not propose any additional impacts to watersheds, and provide both Standard Operating Procedures including Best Management Practices and resource specific Project Conservation Measures for both water features and riparian dependant species.
2) Maintain and restore spatial and temporal connectivity within and between watersheds. Lateral, longitudinal, and drainage network connections include floodplains, wetlands, upslope areas, headwater tributaries, and intact refugia. These network connections must provide chemically and physically unobstructed routes to areas critical for fulfilling life history requirements of aquatic and riparian-dependent species.	This project does not propose any changes to watercourse alignments or flow regimes. All watercourses will be protected from impacts using both Standard Operating Procedures and Project Conservation Measures detailed in the EA and Operations Plan. Connectivity will not be changed or affected as a result of operation and maintenance of the right of way corridors.
3) Maintain and restore the physical integrity of the aquatic system, including shorelines, banks, and bottom configurations.	Water courses, wetlands and vernal pools within the right of way will be avoided during maintenance and operation of the power lines. Buffers around each feature vary from 50 feet to 300 feet depending on the proposed maintenance activity. Only hand operations are permitted within the perimeter of aquatic and riparian features.
4) Maintain and restore water quality necessary to support healthy riparian, aquatic, and wetland ecosystems. Water quality must remain within the range that maintains the biological, physical, and chemical integrity of the system and benefits survival, growth, reproduction, and migration of individuals composing aquatic and riparian communities.	Standard Operating Procedures including Best Management Practices and Project Conservation Measures will ensure that water quality is not affected by routine maintenance activities. Riparian vegetation will be maintained and only those limbs or tops that encroach or threaten to encroach into the legally required clear area will be hand trimmed and removed.

Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives	How the Proposed Activities for All Action Alternatives Meet the ACS
5) Maintain and restore the sediment regime under which aquatic ecosystems evolved. Elements of the sediment regime include the timing, volume, rate, and character of sediment input, storage, and transport.	All road maintenance and repair will be conducted according to the Standard Operating Procedures and the Project Conservation Measures to protect soils and water resources within and on access roads leading to the rights of way. Operations will be conducted in summer and fall when flows are at their lowest point. No new road construction is proposed that could create additional sources of sediment.
6) Maintain and restore in-stream flows sufficient to create and sustain riparian, aquatic, and wetland habitats, and to retain patterns of sediment, nutrient, and wood routing. The timing, magnitude, duration, and spatial distribution of peak, high, and low flows must be protected.	Operation and maintenance activities will not affect in-stream flows on watercourses within the rights of way. Buffering and limits on methods of vegetation maintenance will limit impacts on water courses and wetlands to negligible levels. Activities near water courses or wetlands will be scheduled for summer and fall to take advantage of the lowest flows and driest conditions.
7) Maintain and restore the timing, variability, and duration of floodplain inundation and water table elevation in meadows and wetlands.	Operation and maintenance of the line will occur after the winter/spring period of rainfall and will have no material affect on the natural cycle of flooding and inundation of meadows, vernal pools and riparian wetlands.
8) Maintain and restore the species composition and structural diversity of plant communities in riparian areas and wetlands to provide adequate summer and winter thermal regulation, nutrient filtering, appropriate rates of surface erosion, bank erosion, and channel migration and to supply amounts and distributions of coarse woody debris sufficient to sustain physical complexity and stability.	Buffering around all water courses, wetlands, and vernal pools will limit the impacts to these resources. Species composition and structural diversity will be unaffected. Any clearing or maintenance work will be limited to those actions needed to keep the legally mandated clear area around the wires within the rights of way.
9) Maintain and restore habitat to support well-distributed populations of native plant, invertebrate, and vertebrate riparian-dependent species.	Buffering around all water courses, wetlands, and vernal pools will limit impacts to these resources and maintain habitats needed to support well-distributed populations of native plant, invertebrate, and vertebrate riparian-dependent species.

# **FUELS TREATMENT PLAN**

## **Annual Hazard Reduction Plan**

Following annual reconnaissance of the permit area, Holder will submit a hazard reduction treatment plan to the Forest Service. If feasible, this plan may be staged to identify multiple entries over several years (3 to 5). This plan will be as follows:

Prior to June 1 each year, Holder will submit a plan to the Forest Service, which includes the following items:

- Location of treatment area(s) on GIS database by tower numbers or tower span
- List of access roads necessary for operations.
- Known sensitive resources and applicable Project Conservation Measures.

Holder shall identify the trees to be removed either by paint/flagging, or by height description and the outer boundaries for clearing where large numbers of trees are identified.

Prior to July 1 of each year, the Forest Service may conduct a site visit. Merchantable timber may be marked for sale if the total volume warrants. Depending on the area identified and the estimate of trees removed, it may be necessary for a holder representative to attend the site visit. The Forest Service may also review any unmerchantable trees and brush to be removed to determine the necessary fuel treatment measures. Limited operating periods may be imposed for reconnaissance and hazard reduction activities when weather, soil conditions, or other environmental constraints (e.g., nesting seasons) dictate.

When trees are cut, stump heights shall not exceed eight (8) inches above ground line when measured on the uphill side of the tree. Un-merchantable saw logs and fuel wood material may be treated as fuel wood. Fuel wood material is generally all species at least 8 feet long and 6 inches diameter at the small end. Where fuel wood recovery and utilization is jointly determined to be not practical, fuel wood will be treated as noted below. Slash, rocks and soil shall not be placed in lakes, meadows, streams, or streamside protection zones.

## **Emergency Tree Removal**

Within ten (10) days following the cutting of any emergency trees, Holder shall notify the Forest Service of the location, number and size of the trees cut and the Forest Service shall make a determination if a timber sale contract or fuel treatment plan is needed. This determination will be based on both resource and economic factors including but not limited to location, amount, size, access, and existing fuel load. For incidental amounts that would not reasonably justify the administration and conduct of a planned timber harvest, the Forest Service may determine that no additional treatment is required beyond specific fuel treatment.

If a timber sale contract or fuel treatment plan is needed, the Forest Service and Holder will negotiate the timing of the required activity. Treatment may be postponed and incorporated with future treatments, removals, or planned operation and maintenance visits if they are reasonably anticipated and no additional hazard or loss of value is expected. Conversely, treatment may be required within a short timeframe if other resource impacts are a concern. Examples include but are not limited to insect infestation areas or high fire hazard and fuel load.

## **Fuels Treatment**

### Debris Removal/Slash Disposal

Slash and trees removed as emergency trees or during annual hazard reduction shall be treated by one or a combination of the following methods, as designated on the annual hazard reduction plan:

- A. chipping
- B. decking
- C. lopping and scattering
- D. piling
- E. off-site piling for burning
- F. Mastication (either with or without herbicide application)

Lopping and scattering will be approved only where fuels are very sparse. The Forest Service will review the annual hazard reduction treatment plan and approve the treatment method.

### Fuel Treatments:

**Chipping:** All slash, 3 feet or more in length and up to 6 inches in diameter, shall be processed through a chipping machine and deposited to a loose depth not exceeding 6 inches. Chips may be hauled off-site and utilized as biomass where economically feasible.

**Decking:** All slash 3 feet or more in length and a minimum of 6 inches in diameter shall be skidded and decked along roadway or at designated landings for public use and disposal.

**Lopping and Scattering:** All slash material not decked or chipped will be lopped and scattered in a manner that will not create a depth of more than eighteen (18) inches, and that will ensure a separation of six (6) inches or more between all materials three (3) feet or larger. Remaining materials six (6) inches or larger in diameter will be cut into a maximum of four (4) foot lengths. Lopping may be done by axes or power saws.

When scattered, slash must not be left in streambeds, natural drainages, roadside ditches or collecting basins at the entrance of culverts. Slash must not be scattered so that concentrations lie around the base of any live trees.

**Piling:** If chipping or lop/scatter is not feasible and holder or its operating agent opts to pile slash for burning, holder or its operating agent and the Forest Service shall agree on designated piling locations. In areas designated, holder or its operating agent shall pile unutilized material that is 8 inches or bigger on the large end and at least 10 feet or more long. Unless agreed to otherwise, in writing, piling shall be done in the same normal operating season.

**Construction and Size of Piles:** All piles shall be as compact as possible with the heavier material placed on top. Height of piles shall be not less than 3 feet and not more than 5 feet with a diameter of not more than 8 feet. All piles shall have good base to keep the pile from toppling.

The slash shall be piled so that the length is at a right angle to direction of the contour. All material in excess of 6 feet in length shall be cut before placing in the pile. Material protruding 2 feet or more beyond the general profile of the pile will be bucked off and added to the pile. All piles shall be at least 30 feet apart to prevent premature ignition during burning.

**Location of Piles:** The Forest Service and holder or its operating agent shall agree to pile locations. Piles will be located so that burning will not cause damage to standing green trees. Unless otherwise approved by the Forest

Service, this will be construed to be a least 20 feet from the bole of any live tree. Piles will be located at least 30 feet from any adjacent pile unless otherwise specified.

All piled slash will be burned. If burning is performed by the Forest Service, a collection agreement will be used to fund this activity. If burning is performed by holder, or its operating agent, prior written approval of the authorized officer is required and the burning shall be done in accordance with restrictions, conditions, and requirements outlined in the Burning Permit. Piles that do not consume due to dirt or poor construction will be repiled by the Holder if the Forest Service repile's the units a collection agreement will be used to fund the activity Slash may be piled from June 1 through October 31 except, when restricted by a Limited Operating Period.

**Mastication:** Brush will be mowed or masticated to a height of 6"-8" above ground level. Small clumps of vegetation will remain untreated to provide wildlife habitat and thermal shading. These clumps will be approx 1 acre per 10 acres of treatment or 10% of treated acres. Equipment used in treatment units will be washed or air blown free of noxious weeds prior to entering treatment units and before leaving treatment units.

## **FIRE PLAN**

The Fire Precautionary Period is **May 1** to **October 31**.

The provisions set forth below outline the responsibility for fire prevention and suppression activities and establish a suppression plan for fires within the right of way. The provisions set forth below also specify conditions under which contract activities will be curtailed or shut down.

Holder shall take all steps necessary to prevent his/her employees, subcontractors and their employees from setting fires not required in completion of the contract, shall be responsible for preventing the escape of fires set directly or indirectly as a result of operations, and shall extinguish all such fires which may escape.

Holder shall equip each internal combustion engine with a spark arrester, except for motor vehicles equipped with a maintained muffler and shall permit and assist in periodic testing and inspection of required fire equipment. One fire extinguisher meeting specifications of C.P.R.C. Section 4431 shall be kept with each operating power saw. A size 0 or larger shovel with an overall length of not less than 38 inches shall be kept with each gas can but not more than 300 feet from each power saw.

Fire tools kept at each operating landing shall be sufficient to equip all employees in the operations associated with each project. Holder shall provide a water tank truck or trailer on or in proximity to right of way during Holder's Operations hereunder during Fire Precautionary Period unless otherwise agreed. When Project Activity Level B or higher is in effect, a tank truck or trailer shall be on or immediately adjacent to each active landing unless otherwise excepted when hot saw technology is being used.

Holder shall provide continuous access to all roads for emergency vehicles

The Holder must secure a special written permit from the District Ranger or designated representative before engaging in any of the activities listed below. The terms and conditions of any of the permits required for this contract are as shown on copies attached to the Fire Plan.

- (1) Blasting and Storage of Explosives and Detonators. (Explosives Permit required by California Health & Safety Code, Section 12101.)
- (2) Burning.
- (3) Air Pollution. (Issued by local State or County Air Pollution Control Districts, as applicable.)

(4) Welding and Cutting.

**Regulations for Burning:** Before setting any fires, the Holder shall notify the authorized officer. Special care shall be taken to prevent scorching or causing any damage to adjacent structures, trees, and shrubbery. Piles of material to be burned shall be of such size and so placed that during burning no damage shall result to adjacent objects.

**Smoking and Fire Rules:** Smoking shall not be permitted during fire season, except in a barren area or in an area cleared to mineral soil at least three feet in diameter (CPRC 4423.4).

**Storage and Parking Areas:** Equipment service areas, parking areas, and gas and oil storage areas shall be cleared of all flammable material for a radius of at least 10 feet unless otherwise specified by local administrative unit. Small mobile or stationary internal combustion engine sites shall be cleared of flammable material for a slope distance of at least 10 feet from such engine.

### **EMERGENCY MEASURES**

For maintenance activities, holder shall obtain current **Project Activity Level** information from the Forest Service.

The Forest Service, in its sole discretion, may change the predicted activity level if the current fire suppression situation, weather and vegetation conditions warrant additional restriction of activities. Holder shall obtain the predicted Project Activity Level by calling the phone number **866-242-9941** before starting work each day. If practicable, Forest Service will determine the following day's activity level by 6:00 PM local time. If predictions made after 6:00 PM are significantly different than originally estimated, Forest Service will inform Holder when changes in restrictions or industrial precautions are indicated.

Forest Service may change the Project Activity Levels to other values upon revision of the National Fire Danger Rating System and may change the specific Project Activity Levels and/or requirements when such changes are necessary for the protection of the National Forest. When sent to Holder, the revised Project Activity Levels will supersede previous levels.

*Table version 6/13/2006*  
**PROJECT ACTIVITY LEVEL**

<b>Level</b>	<b>Project Activity Requirements</b>
<b>A</b>	Minimum required by Section 3 1. PAL levels are cumulative, Ev level would include all preceding PAL requirements.
<b>B</b>	1. A fire patrolperson is required for mechanical operations from cessation of operations until 2 hours after operations cease or sunset, which ever occurs first.  2. (Additional restrictions specified by the forest.)
<b>C</b>	1. The following operations are prohibited from 1:00 PM until 8:00 PM local time: a. Blasting 2. (Additional restrictions specified by the forest.)

<p><b>D</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The following restrictions apply: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. No blasting after 10:00 AM</li> <li>b. Welding or cutting of metal only by special permit</li> <li>c. No Burning without a permit</li> </ol> </li>   <li>2. The following activities may not operate after 1:00 PM local time unless fire patrolperson(s) walks all areas operated that day once per hour until sunset local time and has the capability of notifying the designated Forest Service Dispatch Center within fifteen (15) minutes of discovery of a fire: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Chipping outside of landings and roadbeds</li> <li>b. Chainsaw operations outside of landings and roadbeds</li> <li>c. Tree felling operations</li> <li>d. Ripping roads and landings</li> <li>e. Mastication</li> </ol> </li>   <li>3. (Additional restrictions specified by the forest.)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Ev</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The following operations are prohibited: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Blasting</li> <li>b. Welding or cutting metal</li> <li>c. Burning</li> </ol> </li>   <li>2. Following activities may operate when fire patrolperson walks from 9:00 AM until local sunset all areas once per hour that were mechanically operated that day. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Activities that may operate all day: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Equipment servicing at approved sites.</li> <li>2. Roads: Dust abatement or rock aggregate installation (does not include pit or quarry development)</li> </ol> </li>   <li>B. All other Operations are permitted until 1:00 PM local time.</li>   <li>C. (Additional restrictions specified by the forest.)</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<p><b>E</b></p>	<p>The following activities may operate subject to B1. and B2.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Equipment at approved sites may be serviced.</li> <li>2. Roads: Dust abatement or rock aggregate installation (does not include pit development).</li> <li>3. Chainsaw operation associated with loading at approved landings.</li> </ol>

**REPORTING ALL WILD FIRES:**

Holder’s employees shall report all fires as soon as possible but no later than 15 minutes after initial discovery to any of the following Forest Service facilities and/or personnel listed below, but not necessarily in the order shown:

	Name	Office Address and/or telephone	Home address and/or telephone
<b>Dispatch Center</b>	<b>Shasta Trinity NF ECC</b>	<b>(530) 226-2400</b>	<b>same</b>
<b>Nearest FS Station</b>	<b>McCloud District</b>	<b>(530) 964-2184</b>	
<b>Division Chief</b>	<b>Paige Boyer</b>	<b>(530) 964-3740</b>	<b>(530) 925-1607 Cell</b>
<b>Battalion Chief</b>	<b>Brian Ramsey</b>	<b>(530) 964-3741</b>	<b>(530) 925-1670 Cell</b>
<b>District Ranger</b>	<b>Mike Hupp</b>	<b>(530) 925-1600</b>	
<b>Special Uses</b>	<b>Stacy Smith</b>	<b>(530) 926-9643</b>	

When reporting a fire, provide the following information;

1. Your Name
2. Call back telephone number
3. Project name
4. Location:
  - Legal description (Township, Range, Section)
  - Descriptive location (Reference point)
5. Fire Information:
  - Acres
  - Rate of Spread
  - Wind Conditions

**Hazardous Materials**

**Definitions:**

**Oil:** Includes oil of any kind or in any form, including, but not limited to, petroleum, fuel oil, sludge, and oil refuse.

**Hazardous Substances:** Any element, compound, mixture, solution, or substance which, when released into the environment, may present substantial danger to the public health and welfare or the environment. (This excludes petroleum products, and natural or synthetic gases useable for fuel). Any substance found and not readily identifiable should be treated as hazardous until otherwise identified.

**Hazardous Spill:** Any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping or disposing into the environment of an oil or hazardous substance.

**Discovery and Notification:** Discovery of, or the accidental discharge of a significant amount of, oil and/or hazardous materials shall be reported immediately to the nearest Interagency Command Center. For the purposes of the preceding requirement, a “significant amount” shall be such an amount, which, under the circumstances of the discharge, triggers another reporting requirement under any applicable federal, state or local law or regulation. Holder shall clean up or otherwise remediate any release, threat of release, or discharge of hazardous materials that occurs either on site or in connection with holder’s activities, whether or not those activities are authorized under the

permit. Holder shall perform cleanup or remediation immediately upon discovery of the release, threat of release, or discharge of hazardous materials. Holder shall perform the cleanup or remediation to the satisfaction of the authorized officer and at no expense to the United States. Upon revocation or termination of the permit, holder shall deliver the permit area to the Forest Service free and clear of contamination.

**Storage of Hazardous Materials:** Holder shall not store any hazardous materials of any type or in any quantity on the Permit area without obtaining the prior written approval of the authorized officer, and this approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. Holder shall also request approval by the State and/or County when required. Any request for storage of hazardous materials will require an Emergency Response Plan, Health and Safety Plan and Spill Plan which includes specific terms and conditions including, but not limited to, the specific type of materials to be stored, the volume and type of storage. Each plan will be specific to the request. Such terms and conditions proposed by holder are subject to approval by the authorized officer. If any hazardous materials are used or stored at the site, the holder shall deliver and maintain a surety bond as required by the authorized officer.

**Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan:** If the total oil and oil product storage within the Easement exceeds 1,320 gallons, or if any single container exceeds a capacity of 660 gallons, holder shall prepare a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan. Such plan shall meet applicable Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements (40 CFR 112) including certification by a registered professional engineer, and the Above Ground Petroleum Storage Act of 1989 (SB 1050) as amended.

**Certification upon Revocation or Termination:** If holder uses or stores hazardous materials within the permit area, upon revocation or termination of the permit, holder shall provide the Forest Service with a report certified by a professional or professionals trained in environmental site assessments and acceptable to the Forest Service. The report shall determine if the permit area has been contaminated by the presence of hazardous materials and if there has been a release or discharge of hazardous materials upon the permit area, into surface water at or near the permit area, or into groundwater below the permit area during the term of the permit. If a release or discharge has occurred, the professional or professionals shall document and certify that the release or discharge has been fully remediated and that the operations of the holder are in compliance with all Federal, State and local laws applicable within the permit.

