

CEQA Appendix B

Monitoring Plan

Eagle Lake Sewage Ponds Project

BMPs

For the timber harvest, monitoring of the site will be accomplished according to specifications and methods contained in the 2009 Lahontan timber waiver. For construction, all mitigation measures and IDFs described in the EA/IS and the Storm Water Construction Permit Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan will be required to be implemented correctly in the construction contract. Compliance with mitigation measures, contract specifications and operating plans is ensured by the Forest Service Contracting Officer's Representative.

The EL Project site and the Papoose Meadows Wetland Restoration/Mitigation Bank site will be added to the LNF BMP pool of sites. Random sites are selected on an annual basis for onsite BMP evaluation. Onsite evaluations will be used to assess both BMP implementation and effectiveness. Implementation evaluations will determine the extent to which planned, prescribed and/or required water quality protection measures were implemented. Effectiveness evaluations will gauge the extent to which the practices met their water quality protection objectives. In 2008, 90% of the 77 random BMP evaluations conducted by Lassen National Forest watershed staff were rated as implemented and eighty-nine percent of the evaluations were rated as effective.

Botany Monitoring

Special-status plants

The project area was surveyed for the presence of Threatened or Endangered (TES) and Lassen National Forest Special Interest (SI) plant species, and suitable habitat. The site does not contain habitat for any Threatened or Endangered (TES) plant species. The Forest Special Interest plant species *Mimulus pygmaeus* is the only special-status plant that occurs in the project area. After project completion, in appropriate seasonal moisture conditions, Forest Service botanists will visit the site to assess the presence, vigor, and extent of *Mimulus pygmaeus*.

Integrated Design Feature

1. New occurrences of Threatened and Endangered Species (TES) plant species, discovered before or during ground-disturbing activities within the 14-acre thinning unit, would be protected through flag and avoid methods. Avoidance buffer widths would be based on the requirements of the TES species present [Phase I].

Upon discovery, the Contract Administrator will notify the Forest Botanist, who will at that time determine the appropriate buffer based on the species discovered and the activity occurring in proximity to the plant

Noxious weeds

The site is currently weed-free; therefore, discovery and treatment of new infestations are likely the only noxious weed concerns in this project. Forest botany staff will visit the site annually for five years to see if new weeds have arrived. Any new weeds found will, if possible, be treated by hand removal, tarping, or other cultural methods such as seeding with competitive native species. If these methods are not effective enough, a new NEPA process will be initiated to implement a more suitable method.

Revegetation monitoring

Implementation monitoring would be in the form of documenting the extent of each area that was planted and/or seeded, the list of species used, the number of plants or pounds of seed used and the date of activity. The form of protection would also be documented.

A noxious weed survey would be conducted at the end of the growing season. If any new infestations are identified within the revegetated areas, the infestations would be evaluated, then dug up or pulled by hand.

Long term area monitoring plots would be established. Effectiveness monitoring would occur in years one, three and five. Year one would be used to establish a baseline. If monitoring indicates that revegetation has not provided the percent coverage desired, or plants have failed to establish, the affected area would be reseeded/planted as needed. At this time a determination would be made as to if a different species or method, or irrigation, is required. Also, it would be determined if sufficient interim cover exists to prevent soil erosion. If sufficient cover is not present additional weed-free mulch, pine needles, or rice straw would be re-applied.

Forensic monitoring would be conducted on the berm areas and temporary construction roads where the concern is soil stabilization. If signs of erosion and gullying are noted, the source would be documented. Additional weed-free mulch or rice straw would be re-applied until vegetation has established. Gravel or rip rap would be used if revegetation is not successful.