

Fisch, Nathan@Waterboards

From: Lind, Amy -FS <alind@fs.fed.us>
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 4:22 PM
To: Fisch, Nathan@Waterboards
Cc: Lovato, Daniel A -FS; Carpenter, Katherine A -FS; Alvarez, Dawn -FS
Subject: RE: Poe Hydroelectric Project IS, CEQA Checklist and Mitigated Negative Declaration
Attachments: Mcerebralis Pub (Nov 8 2016).docx

Nathan – The Forest Service (Plumas National Forest) provides the following comments on the *Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Poe Hydroelectric Project (issued 9/8/2017)*. As these are primarily technical comments, I am providing them via email, rather than in a formal letter.

One general comment, for your information – During future Forest Service planning efforts (i.e., revisions to National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans) the Forest Service is adopting a new designation for Forest Service special-status or at-risk species. This new designation, “species of conservation concern”, may replace the existing “sensitive species” designation, when Forests undergo Forest Plan revision. We may need to globally revise any 4(e) conditions to reflect this change, at some point in the future.

I am attaching a recent report on whirling disease in the North Fork Feather River watershed, referenced in our comments.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss any of these in more detail.

Best Regards,
Amy Lind

FOREST SERVICE (PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST) COMMENTS ON
STATE WATER BOARD, DRAFT INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, FOR THE POE HYDROELECTRIC
PROJECT (ISSUED 9/8/2017)

Page, and Location, in Document	FS Comment
3, top	Reference to “Interior” - consider including the list of Federal agencies represented, for clarity
3, middle	Reference to State Water Board (SWB) Water Quality Certification (WQC) – should this be draft WQC and also list the date the draft was issued?
5, bottom	Provide a citation for the statement that “Stream conditions under Existing Project operations have improved conditions for such species as hardhead and Sacramento sucker, and reduced optimal conditions for rainbow trout.”
9, top	Similar to other resource areas in Section 3.1, should the <i>Geology and Soils</i> section also reference FERC’s final EA?
11, middle	Please define the term “vicinity” as in “vicinity of the Existing Project”, in relation to rivers of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System or use a more specific term. The Middle Fork Feather River is an existing Wild and Scenic River.
11, bottom and 12, top	Provide citations for the statements about recreation use, access, and facilities associated with the Project.
13, Figure 2	On the map legend, clarify that the “Proposed FERC boundary” is in addition to the existing FERC boundary; e.g., revise the label to read “Proposed addition to FERC boundary”, or similar.
20, middle	Consider adding a note that Forest Service preliminary 4(e) conditions 25 and 26 were included in final 4(e) condition 24. Otherwise, it appears that conditions may be missing from your summary.

45, footnote	Recommend clarifying that the “probability of extinction” information provided in Lind and Yarnell (2011) was actually derived from Kupferberg et al. 2009. For example, the sentence could be rewritten... “They found, based on Kupferberg et al. 2009, that if 40% or more of egg masses....” Then add Kupferberg et al. 2009 to your Reference section.
47, middle	California Red-legged frog – suggest referencing distance to nearest designated Critical Habitat, in French Creek
90, bottom of table	Reference to SWB WQC rationale 3.9 and Condition No. 9 - recommend SWB consider broadening monitoring to include aquatic invasive species, such as <i>Myxobolus cerebralis</i> , which is a myxozoan parasite of salmonids and is known to occur within the North Fork Feather River watershed (see attached report, Richey et al. 2016).



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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Fisch, Nathan@Waterboards [mailto:Nathan.Fisch@Waterboards.ca.gov]

Sent: Friday, September 08, 2017 9:31 AM

To: Lind, Amy -FS <alind@fs.fed.us>; Hatton, Laurie@Wildlife <Laurie.Hatton@wildlife.ca.gov>; Lawson, Beth@Wildlife <Beth.Lawson@wildlife.ca.gov>; Aondrea_Bartoo (Aondrea_Bartoo@fws.gov) <Aondrea_Bartoo@fws.gov>; Richard Roos-Collins <rrcollins@waterpowerlaw.com>; 'Leah Wills' <leah2u@frontiernet.net>; 'Randy Wilson' <randywilson@countyofplumas.com>; Dave Steindorf <dave@americanwhitewater.org>; blancapaloma@msn.com

Cc: Klobas, John <JTK2@pge.com>; Wetzels, Jeff@Waterboards <Jeff.Wetzels@waterboards.ca.gov>; Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards <AnnMarie.Ore@waterboards.ca.gov>

Subject: Poe Hydroelectric Project IS, CEQA Checklist and Mitigated Negative Declaration

Good Morning Poe Stakeholders,

This morning the Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Poe Hydroelectric Project was submitted to the State Clearinghouse. You can find a copy of the IS/MND and the public notice at the State Water Board’s website below.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/poe_ferc2107.shtml

The State Water Board is requesting comments on the IS/MND by October 11th at Noon. I look forward to reading any potential comments and moving the process forward. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Best,

Nathan Fisch
Environmental Scientist
Water Quality Certification Program
Division of Water Rights

State Water Resources Control Board

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