

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*


Finding of No Significant Impact

## Middle Klamath Coho Refuge Habitat Enhancement Planning and Design Team Support

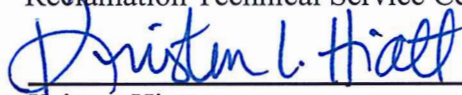
Siskiyou County, California

2019-FONSI-001

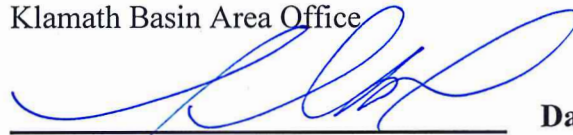
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# Background

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the *Middle Klamath Coho Refuge Habitat Enhancement-Planning and Design Team Support* project (Project) and is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). This FONSI and attached EA are in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 United States Code (USC) §4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508), and the Department of the Interior regulations for the Implementation of the NEPA (43 CFR Part 46).

The Project area is located in northwestern California in the Middle Klamath River subbasin within the reach between Iron Gate Dam and the mouth of the Salmon River in Siskiyou County and would include tributary mouths and lower reaches of tributaries accessible to all rearing coho salmon (maps in Appendix A of attached EA).

Reclamation would provide \$60,000 in funding to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to administer to the Karuk Tribe as part of Reclamation's Klamath River Coho Restoration Grant Program (Grant Program). The funding associated with the Project will be used to further planning and design efforts through reconnaissance activities to identify the most suitable and practicable sites directed at enhancement of off-channel coho refuge habitats and to assist with and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of coho enhancement project planning along the Middle Klamath River corridor. The proposed Project includes planning and reconnaissance only and will not include ground disturbing activities.

The Project is needed to ensure Reclamation remains in compliance with the conservation measures identified in the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), *Endangered Species Act Section 7(a)(2) Biological Opinion, and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Response for Klamath Project Operations from April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2024* (NMFS 2019 BiOp) which serve to minimize the adverse effects associated with the continued operation of the Klamath Project.

# Authority

Through its delegated authority under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC 661 et seq.), as amended, Reclamation is authorized to provide funding assistance for the improvement of fish and wildlife habitat affected by Reclamation's water resource development.

# Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

## **No Action Alternative:**

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not provide funding in the amount of \$60,000 for NFWF to administer to the Karuk Tribe to implement the Project under the Grant Program. The Project area would not change from existing conditions, the purpose of the Project would not be met, and Reclamation would not be in compliance with the conservation measures outlines in the NMFS 2019 BiOp.

## **Proposed Action Alternative:**

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, Reclamation would provide funding in the amount of \$60,000 to NFWF to administer to the Karuk Tribe under the Grant Program. The Karuk Tribe would utilize the funding to further planning and design efforts through reconnaissance activities to identify the most suitable and practicable sites directed at enhancement of off-channel coho refuge habitats and to assist with and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of coho enhancement project planning along the Middle Klamath River.

Funding would be utilized to form a coho salmon project planning and design team that would provide recommendations for a range of design alternatives for projects critical for the recovery of coho salmon populations in the Klamath River. Funding for the Project would support all efforts of the team and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of coho salmon project planning and design efforts.

Tasks that would be funded include:

- Evaluate at a minimum of 16 tributary sites prioritized as part of the “Middle Klamath In-Stream Restoration Candidate Actions Table” (generated by the Middle Klamath In-stream Working Group in 2010). The 16 priority tributary sites identified include: Ti Creek, Eliot Creek, Swillup Creek, Thompson Creek, Camp Creek, Irving Creek, Sandy Bar Creek, Independence Creek, Portuguese Creek, Coon Creek, Rodgers Creek, Titus Creek, Boise Creek, Ullathorne Creek, Stanshaw Creek, and Oniel Creek. Each cold-water source has potential to provide thermal refuge for coho during the summer months. Additional sites may be evaluated and later identified as priority sites for coho enhancement. Tributary sites where intensive planning and design has already occurred are not identified as a priority, but if additional planning needs are identified, work may be re-directed to previously studied sites.
- Provide a suite of project designs from simple to complex, thus ensuring that through if through separate future financial assistance, projects and associated ground work could be implemented as soon as possible. Future planning and design of habitat enhancement projects would include analysis of any respective needs and requirements to ensure implementation of future projects could move forward in a cost-effective way.

- It is likely that up to 20 site visits to the Project site locations would be needed for reconnaissance for the design/administration tasks associated with the Proposed Action Alternative.

The Proposed Action would occur on Tribal, State, Federal and/or Private property with Project activities such as meetings and field tours occurring indoors or at field locations along the Klamath River corridor. For these purposes the “corridor” also includes lower reaches of Klamath River tributaries and along the floodplain (see maps in Appendix A of the attached EA). Permission to access potential sites will be obtained as required prior to entry.

## Coordination and Consultation

On September 17, 2019, Reclamation posted the draft EA for public review at [https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa\\_project\\_details.php?Project\\_ID=40404](https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_project_details.php?Project_ID=40404) and invited public comments by September 23, 2019. No comments were received. The following agencies and entities were consulted during development of the attached EA:

- Karuk Tribe Fisheries Program Manager, Toz Soto
- Jennifer Erickson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Yreka Office
- Joanne Goodsell, Reclamation archaeologist

## Findings

Based on the analysis described in the attached EA, Reclamation finds that the Proposed Action Alternative is not a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment, and, consequently, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The attached EA describes the existing environmental resources in the Proposed Action area and evaluates the effects of the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives on the specified resources. That analysis is provided in the attached EA, and a summary of the analysis is hereby incorporated by reference.

This FONSI is based on the following:

### 1. Water Resources

Due to the administrative nature of the Proposed Action Alternative which is for planning and design only, no construction or in-water work would occur. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, it is anticipated that the only potential disturbance to any of the sites visited would be light and occasional foot traffic and impacts to water resources due to this site surveillance would be absent or negligible. Future projects related to these planning efforts would be analyzed under NEPA after planning designs are completed and future funding is secured. A Clean Water Act permit and water quality certification would not be required.

## 2. Biological Resources

- a. Vegetation— Implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would result in temporary and negligible impacts to vegetation from approximately 20 on-foot, non-ground disturbing site surveys. No permanent disruption or changes to existing vegetation would occur under the Proposed Action Alternative.
- b. Wildlife— The potential impacts birds protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d) resulting from the Proposed Action have been considered. The only on-ground activities involved in this planning stage include site access by vehicle and foot. A two-lane, paved highway runs alongside the majority of the Klamath River in the Project area and there are numerous established trails along most of the tributaries that are accessed by tourists and hikers on a regular basis. The area is mountainous and very rocky as well. The Coho Project Planning and Design Team would walk only on existing trails, boulders/rocks, or in the water. There would be no impacts to any listed plant or animal species or their critical habitat. Local wildlife and birds are already conditioned and accustomed to traffic and hiking in the area. Any disturbance to wildlife from site access was determined to be negligible.
- c. Threatened or Endangered Species— This Project is administrative in nature with only site visits occurring on ground. Species protected under the ESA (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.) and any designated critical habitat in or near the project area have been considered. The Project area may overlap the designated critical habitat for the northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*). On October 16, 2018, Ms. Jennifer Erickson of the USFWS Yreka Office left a voicemail that she conferred with their northern spotted owl biologist and they concurred that there would be no need to restrict access for this Project. It was determined that there would be no affect to this species or its critical habitat.

The Project is anticipated to contribute to efforts of restoring coho salmon habitat along the Klamath River. This proposed planning activity and other similar projects funded under Klamath River Restoration Program were considered by the NMFS and analyzed in their 2019 BiOp, *Endangered Species Act Section 7(a)(2) Biological Opinion, and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Response for Klamath Project Operations from April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2024*.

No further ESA consultation is necessary.

## 3. Cultural Resources

Reclamation determined that this is the type of action that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). The no effect determination is documented in Appendix C of the attached EA.

## 4. Indian Trust Resources

As indicated in Appendix D of the EA, the nearest Indian Trust Asset (ITA) to the proposed activity is the Karuk Tribe approximately 18.11 miles to the southwest of Iron Gate Dam and about .52 miles northwest of the Salmon River mouth. On April 9, 2018, Reclamation's Klamath Basin Area Office ITA Coordinator, Kristen Hiatt, stated "based on the nature of the planned work it does not appear to be in an area that will impact Indian hunting or fishing

resources or water rights nor is the proposed activity on actual Indian lands, [and] it is reasonable to assume that the proposed action will not have any impacts on ITAs.”

**5. Indian Sacred Sites**

The Proposed Action Alternative is administrative in nature. Per Executive Order 13007 (May 24, 1996), the Proposed Action Alternative would not affect access to or use of Indian sacred sites.

**6. Other Resources Considered**

The following resources were also considered. Since the project is primarily administrative in nature with no ground-disturbing activities and since most of the project area is very near a highway and already frequented by tourists, it was determined that there would be no or negligible/immeasurable impacts to the following resources as compared to the No Action Alternative (existing conditions): Socioeconomics, Noise, Air Quality, Environmental Justice, Land Use, Recreation, and Traffic.

**7. Cumulative Impacts**

Due to the administrative (design/planning) nature of the Proposed Action Alternative, no cumulative effects will occur.

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

Environmental Assessment

## **Middle Klamath Coho Refuge Habitat Enhancement Planning and Design Team Support**

Siskiyou County, California  
2019-EA-001



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Interior Region 10 - California Great Basin  
Klamath Basin Area Office

September 2019

## **Mission Statements**

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

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



## Acronyms and Abbreviations

2019 BiOp	Endangered Species Act Section 7(a)(2) Biological Opinion, and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Response for Klamath Project Operations from April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2024
APE	Area of Potential Effect
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
EA	Environmental Assessment
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
ESA	Endangered Species Act of 1973
Grant Program	Klamath River Coho Habitat Restoration Grant Program
ITA	Indian Trust Asset
National Register	National Register of Historic Places
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFWF	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
Project	Middle Klamath Coho Refuge Habitat Enhancement-Planning and Design Team Support Project
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SONCC	Southern Oregon Northern California Coast
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
U.S.	United States
USC	United States Code
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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# Chapter 1 - Introduction and Background

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to examine the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the affected environment that may result from the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) providing \$60,000 in funding through the Klamath River Coho Restoration Grant Program (Grant Program) for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to administer to the Karuk Tribe for the purpose of implementing the *Middle Klamath Coho Refuge Habitat Enhancement-Planning and Design Team Support* project (Project). The proposed Project includes planning and reconnaissance only and will not include ground disturbing activities.

The Grant Program was proposed by Reclamation as a conservation measure to address impacts from operation of the Klamath Project and was identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in their *Endangered Species Act Section 7(a)(2) Biological Opinion, and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Response for Klamath Project Operations from April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2024* (2019 BiOp).

This EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 United States Code (USC) §4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508), and the Department of the Interior regulations for the Implementation of the NEPA (43 CFR Part 46). If there are no significant environmental impacts identified as a result of analysis in this EA, a Finding of No Significant Impact can be signed to complete the NEPA compliance process.

## 1.1 Location

The proposed Project would be located in the Middle Klamath River subbasin within the reach between Iron Gate Dam and the mouth of the Salmon River. It would include tributary mouths and lower reaches of tributaries accessible to all rearing coho salmon. Latitude and longitude for the upstream end of the reach is 41°56'04.27" N, 121°26'09.18" W. Latitude and longitude for the downstream end of the reach is 41°22'40.35" N, 123°29'35.00" W. The upstream end of the reach is located in the Mount Diablo Meridian, while the downstream end of the reach is located in the Humboldt Meridian, both in Siskiyou County, California. See Appendix A for maps of potential thermal refugia enhancement sites.

## 1.2 Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed Project is to further planning and design efforts through reconnaissance activities to identify the most suitable and practicable sites directed at enhancement of off-channel coho refuge habitats and to assist with and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of coho enhancement project planning along the Middle Klamath River corridor. The Project is needed to ensure Reclamation remains in compliance with the

conservation measures identified in the 2019 BiOp. These measures serve to minimize the adverse effects associated with the continued operation of the Klamath Project.

### **1.3 Authority**

Through its delegated authority under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC 661 et seq.), as amended, Reclamation is authorized to provide funding assistance for the improvement of fish and wildlife habitat affected by Reclamation's water resource development.

## **Chapter 2 - Alternatives**

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

### **2.1 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not provide funding in the amount of \$60,000 for NFWF to administer to the Karuk Tribe under the Grant Program to implement the proposed Project. However, taking "no action" would not meet the purpose and need for the project.

### **2.2 Proposed Action Alternative**

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, Reclamation would, consistent with the 2019 BiOp, provide financial assistance in the amount of \$60,000 to NFWF to administer to the Karuk Tribe under the Grant Program. The Karuk Tribe would utilize funds to identify the most suitable and practicable sites along the Middle Klamath River corridor for enhancement of off-channel coho refuge habitats.

Funding would be utilized by the Karuk Tribe to form a coho project planning and design team by formalizing the existing "ad hoc" Coho Project Planning and Design Team. The team would provide recommendations for a range of design alternatives for projects critical for the recovery of Southern Oregon Northern California Coast (SONCC) coho salmon populations in the Klamath River. Funding for the Project would support all efforts of the team and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of coho salmon project planning and design efforts.

Proposed tasks are identified below:

- Evaluate at a minimum of 16 tributary sites prioritized as part of the "Middle Klamath In-Stream Restoration Candidate Actions Table" (generated by the Middle Klamath In-stream Working Group in 2010). The 16 priority tributary sites identified include: Ti

Creek, Eliot Creek, Swillup Creek, Thompson Creek, Camp Creek, Irving Creek, Sandy Bar Creek, Independence Creek, Portuguese Creek, Coon Creek, Rodgers Creek, Titus Creek, Boise Creek, Ullathorne Creek, Stanshaw Creek, and Oniel Creek. Each cold-water source has potential to provide thermal refuge for coho during the summer months. Additional sites may be evaluated and later identified as priority sites for coho enhancement. Tributary sites where intensive planning and design has already occurred are not identified as a priority, but if additional planning needs are identified, work may be re-directed to previously studied sites.

- Provide a suite of project designs from simple to complex, thus ensuring that through if through separate future financial assistance, projects and associated ground work could be implemented as soon as possible. Future planning and design of habitat enhancement projects would include analysis of any respective needs and requirements to ensure implementation of future projects could move forward in a cost-effective way.
- It is likely that approximately 16 site visits to the Project site locations would be needed for reconnaissance for the design/administration tasks associated with the Proposed Action Alternative.

The Proposed Action Alternative would occur on Tribal, State, Federal and/or Private property with project activities such as meetings and field tours occurring indoors or at field locations along the Klamath River corridor. For these purposes the “corridor” also includes lower reaches of Klamath River tributaries and along the floodplain (see maps in Appendix A). Permission to access potential sites would be obtained as required prior to entry.

The design team would aim to segregate sites into three basic project design categories. Design implementation, including any ground disturbing or physical activities are not included in the Proposed Action Alternative and are outside the scope of analysis in this EA. Further environmental permitting and compliance would likely be needed and be completed, as applicable, before any ground disturbing activities begin.

## Chapter 3 - Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

This chapter describes the affected environment and evaluates the environmental consequences that could result from the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives. The No Action Alternative describes the conditions most likely to occur if the Proposed Action were not implemented and provides the basis for comparison to describe the environmental consequences of implementing the Proposed Action Alternative

### 3.1 Resources Not Analyzed in Detail

Impacts on the following resources were considered and found to be minor, or absent due to the nature of the Proposed Action. Brief explanations for their elimination from further consideration are provided below:

#### 3.1.1 Cultural Resources

“Cultural Resources” is a broad term that applies to prehistoric, historic, and architectural resources, as well as to traditional cultural properties. Cultural resources can include both archaeological sites, which contain evidence of past human use, and the built environment, which consists of structures such as buildings, roadways, dams, and canals. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, is the primary Federal legislation that outlines the Federal government’s responsibilities related to cultural resources. Section 106 of the NHPA requires the Federal government to take into consideration the effects of its undertakings on historic properties. Historic properties are, by definition, cultural resources that are included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). The evaluation criteria for National Register eligibility are outlined at 36 CFR Part 60.4.

Compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA follows a process outlined at 36 CFR Part 800. This process includes determining the area of potential effects (APE) for an undertaking, consulting with Indian tribes and other interested parties, identifying if historic properties are present within the APE, assessing the effects the undertaking would have on historic properties, and resolving any adverse effects to historic properties before an undertaking is implemented. The Section 106 process also requires consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) where applicable, to seek concurrence with the finding of effect for the undertaking.

Reclamation determined that this is the type of action that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). The no effect determination provided by Reclamation Archeologist, Scott Williams on April 19, 2018, is documented in Appendix C.

#### 3.1.2 Indian Trust Resources

Indian Trust Assets (ITAs) are legal interests in assets that are held in trust by the United States for Federally recognized Indian tribes or individuals. As shown in Appendix D, the nearest ITA to the Middle Klamath Coho Refuge Habitat Enhancement – Planning and Design Team Support

activity is the Karuk Tribe approximately 18.11 miles to the southwest of Iron Gate Dam and about .52 miles northwest of the Salmon River mouth. On April 9, 2018, Reclamation's Klamath Basin Area Office ITA Coordinator, Kristen Hiatt, stated "based on the nature of the planned work it does not appear to be in an area that will impact Indian hunting or fishing resources or water rights nor is the proposed activity on actual Indian lands, [and] it is reasonable to assume that the proposed action will not have any impacts on ITAs."

### **3.1.3 Indian Sacred Sites**

Executive Order 13007 (May 24, 1996) requires that Federal agencies accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites. The Proposed Action Alternative is administrative in nature but is also not located on Federal lands and therefore would not affect access to or use of Indian sacred sites.

### **3.1.4 Environmental Justice**

Executive Order 12898 requires each Federal agency to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects, including social and economic effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. Reclamation has considered this and has not identified adverse human health or environmental effects on any population that may result from implementing the Proposed Action Alternative which is administrative in nature.

### **3.1.5 Recreation**

Due to the administrative nature and the reconnaissance activities incorporated into the Proposed Action Alternative, no impacts to recreational use are anticipated from implementing the Proposed Action Alternative.

### **3.1.6 Noise and Traffic**

There would not be any quantifiable increases to the ambient noise levels or traffic from the approximate 16 site visits to the Project site locations needed for reconnaissance for the design/administration tasks associated with the Proposed Action Alternative.

## **3.2 Resources Analyzed in Detail**

### **3.2.1 Water Resources**

#### **3.2.1.1 Affected Environment**

Water resources within the Proposed Action Alternative's Action Area include Ti Creek, Eliot Creek, Swillup Creek, Thompson Creek, Camp Creek, Irving Creek, Sandy Bar Creek, Independence Creek, Portuguese Creek, Coon Creek, Rodgers Creek, Titus Creek, Boise Creek, Ullathorne Creek, Stanshaw Creek, and Oniel Creek, tributaries to the Klamath River and protected water bodies under the Federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq.).

#### **3.2.1.2 Environmental Consequences**

##### **No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts to water resources would occur.

### **Proposed Action Alternative**

Due to the administrative nature of the Proposed Action Alternative where only reconnaissance planning and design activities would occur, no construction or in-water work would occur. The planning and design team and/or their partners would conduct at least 16 site visits for the purpose of site reconnaissance to assist with habitat design efforts. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, it is anticipated that the only potential disturbance to any of the sites visited would be light and occasional foot traffic as they evaluate the proposed site locations. Impacts to water resources due to this site surveillance would be absent or negligible. A Clean Water Act permit, nor water quality certification would be required.

### **3.2.2 Biological Resources**

A literature search was conducted to identify vegetation and wildlife, endangered or threatened species or critical habitat with the Proposed Action's proposed location.

#### **3.2.2.1 Affected Environment**

**Vegetation** – Siskiyou County as a whole, is covered with forest vegetation (approximately 66 percent), grassland (12 percent), cropland (2 percent) and water (less than 1 percent).

**Wildlife** – A variety of aquatic and upland terrestrial species of wildlife are known to be present in the Project area, primarily small mammals and birds.

**Threatened and Endangered Species** – The Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 U.S.C. §1531 et seq.) prohibits the unauthorized take of threatened or endangered species and requires Federal agencies to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NMFS if a proposed grant or activity has the potential to adversely affect listed species or adversely modify critical habitat. Species that may be present within the Proposed Action Alternative's action area are listed in Appendix B.

**Essential Fish Habitat** – Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) is designated for commercially fished species under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires Federal fishery management plans, developed by NMFS and the Pacific Southwest Fisheries Management Council, to describe the habitat essential to the fish being managed and to describe threats to that habitat from both fishing and non-fishing activities. Pursuant to section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1855(b)), Federal agencies are required to consult with NMFS on actions that may adversely affect EFH for species managed under the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan. This section also requires NMFS to recommend measures that can be taken by the action agency to conserve EFH.

#### **3.2.2.2 Environmental Consequences**

##### **No Action Alternative**

**Vegetation** – Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts to vegetative resources would occur and the action area would remain in its current condition.

**Wildlife** – Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts to vegetative resources would occur and the action area would remain in its current condition.



***Threatened and Endangered Species*** – Under the No Action Alternative, no negligible impacts to vegetative resources would occur and the proposed Project area would remain in its current condition. There would be no designs developed for the proposed Project area and, consequently, there would be no potential change or potential benefits experienced related to biological resources from current conditions under the No Action Alternative.

***Essential Fish Habitat*** – Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts to EFH would occur as there would be no change to the existing human environment.

### **Proposed Action Alternative**

***Vegetation*** – Implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would result in temporary and negligible impacts to vegetation from at least 16 on-foot, non-ground disturbing site surveys. No permanent disruption or changes to existing vegetation would occur under the Proposed Action Alternative.

***Wildlife*** – The potential impacts to birds protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d) resulting from the Proposed Action Alternative have been considered. The only on-ground activities involved in the Proposed Action Alternative include site access by vehicle and foot.

The Coho Project Planning and Design Team would walk only on existing trails, boulders/rocks, or in the water. Implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would result in temporary and negligible impacts to wildlife as the planning team would temporarily displace wildlife while conducting at least 16 non-ground disturbing site surveys. No permanent disturbances would occur under the Proposed Action Alternative, and wildlife would seemingly be able to repopulate the area once site reconnaissance concludes.

***Threatened and Endangered Species*** – The proposed Project is administrative in nature and includes purely reconnaissance and planning/design efforts with the only on-ground activities involving site access by vehicle and foot. Species protected under the ESA (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.) and any designated critical habitat in or near the project area are listed in Appendix B. The Project area may overlap the designated critical habitat for the northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*). After conferring with the USFWS Yreka office northern spotted owl biologist, Ms. Jennifer Erickson of the USFWS Yreka Office stated on October 16, 2018, that there would be no need to restrict access to lands for this Project.

The Proposed Action Alternative was considered in the NMFS 2019 BiOp which concluded a finding of no jeopardy to coho salmon for actions such as the Proposed Action Alternative.

***Essential Fish Habitat*** – Actions similar to the Proposed Action Alternative described in this EA were analyzed in the NMFS 2019 BiOp which included an EFH analysis. On March 29, 2019, NMFS concluded that Reclamation's Proposed Action Alternative would adversely affect coho salmon and Chinook salmon EFH. The identified EFH conservation recommendations found on page 80-81 of the NMFS 2019 BiOp would be carried out as part of this proposal and therefore would protect, by avoiding or minimizing adverse effects in the mainstem Klamath River and tributaries designated as EFH for Pacific Coast salmon.

### 3.3 Cumulative Impact Analysis

According to the CEQ regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA, a cumulative impact is defined as *the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions*. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

A search was made for all reasonably foreseeable future actions that might cumulatively affect the same resources as the Proposed Action, especially the same listed species or habitat as the Proposed Action.

No land or water-based activities were identified that would affect the same resources as the Proposed Action. Likewise, no reasonably foreseeable actions were identified from the county. Because there are no reasonably foreseeable actions that would create an additive or incremental effect with those of the Proposed Action, there would be no cumulative effects.

There are no adverse impacts associated with implementing the Proposed Action Alternative, and therefore are no cumulative effects to consider.

## Chapter 4 – Coordination and Consultation

### 4.1 Public Involvement

As public involvement and agency coordination are required as part of the NEPA process, per 40 CFR §1506.6, Reclamation is providing the public with an opportunity to comment on the EA during a 7-day review period from September 16, 2019 through September 22, 2019. An electronic version of the EA is available at [https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa\\_base.php?location=kbao](https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_base.php?location=kbao), and physical copies can be obtained at the following location.

Bureau of Reclamation  
Klamath Basin Area Office  
6600 Washburn Way  
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603

Comments may be submitted to Amanda Babcock via email at [ababcock@usbr.gov](mailto:ababcock@usbr.gov).

### 4.2 Persons and Agencies Consulted during Development of the EA

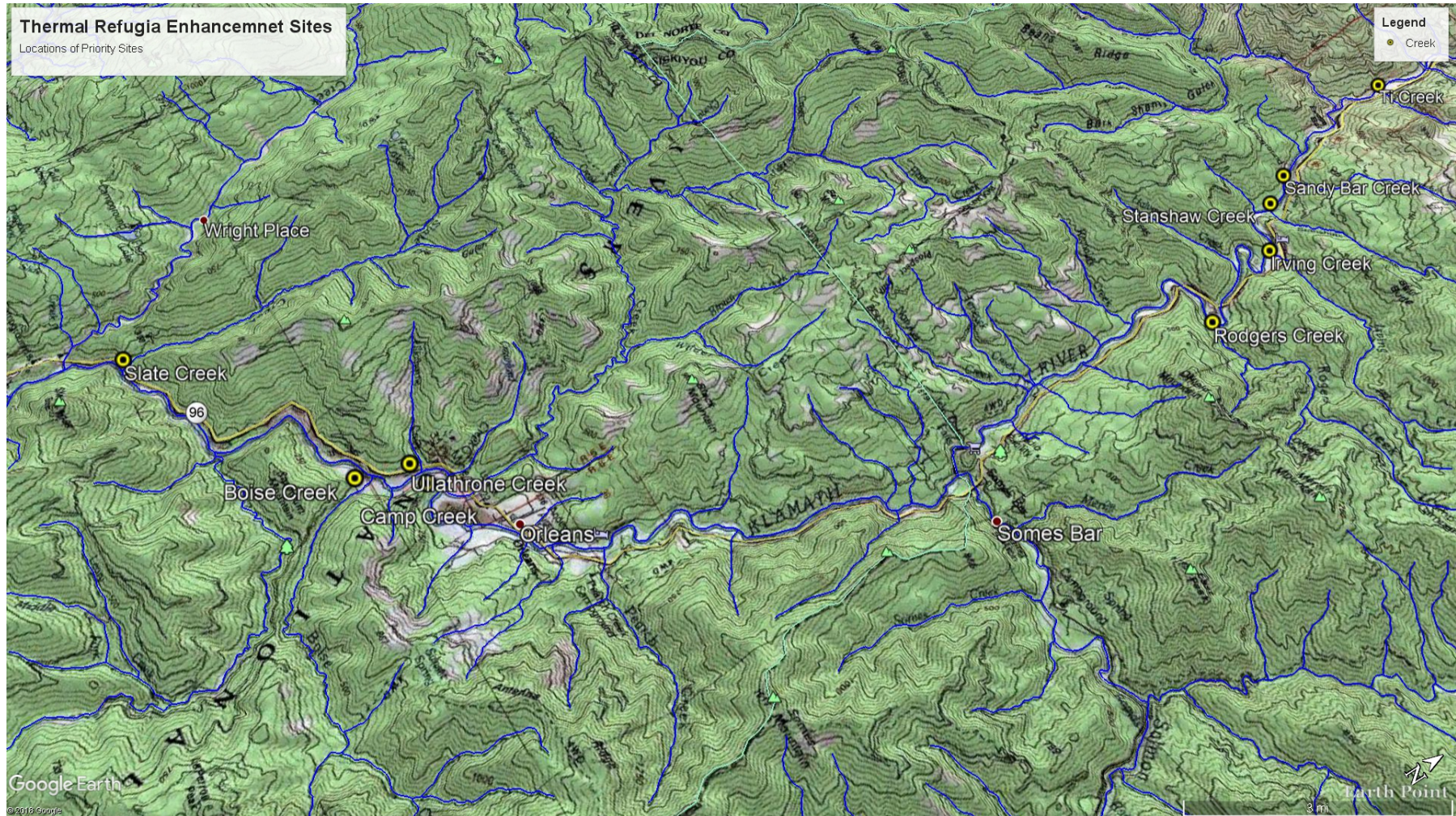
- Karuk Tribe Fisheries Program Manager. Karuk Tribe to provide meeting facilities, information technology support, and biologist's staff time.
- Jennifer Erickson, USFWS Yreka Office. On October 16, 2018, Ms. Erickson left a voicemail that she conferred with their northern spotted owl biologist and they concurred that there would be no need to restrict access for this project.
- Scott Williams, Reclamation archaeologist.

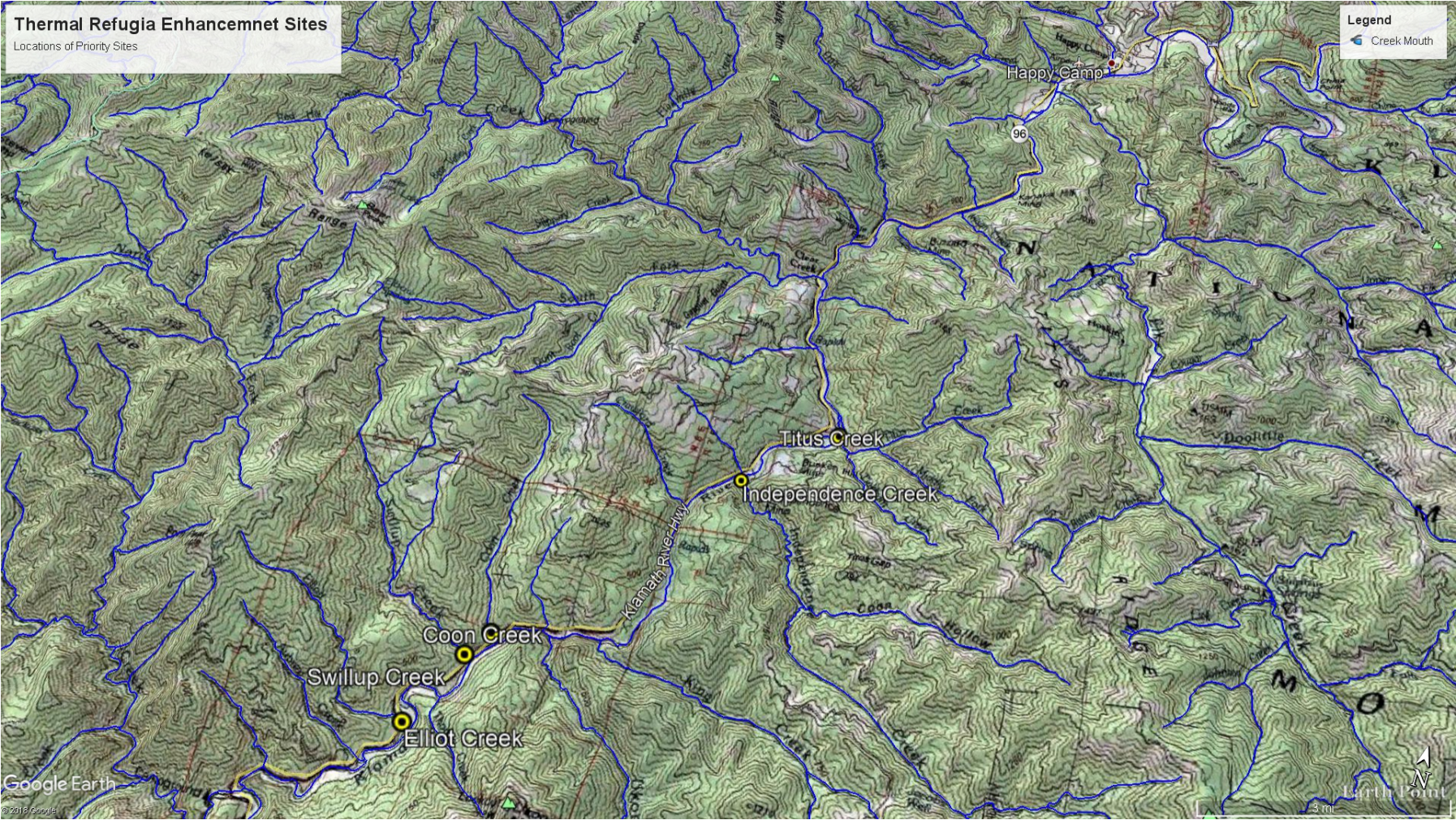
## Chapter 5 - References

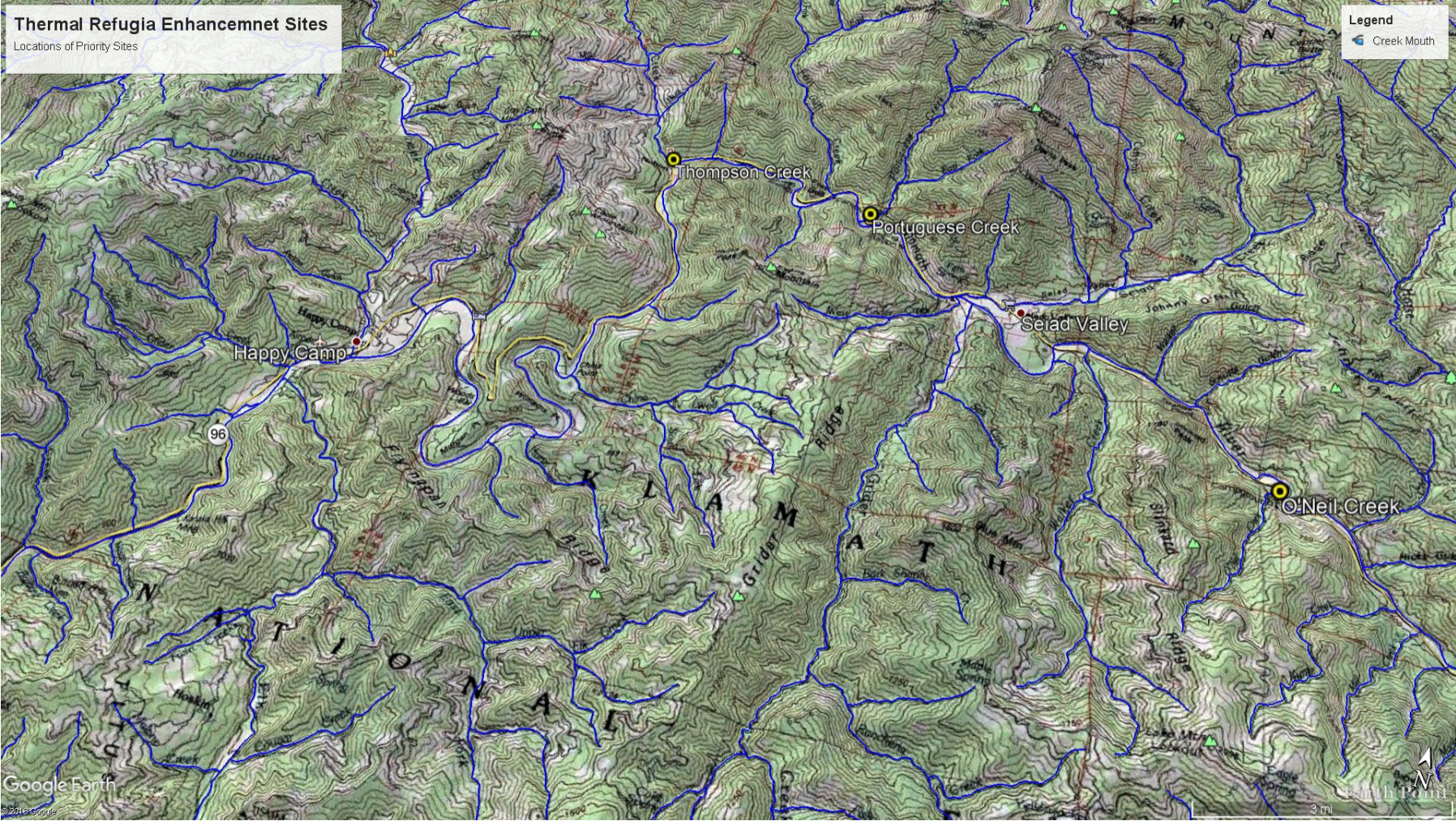
- NMFS. 2019. Endangered Species Act Section 7(a)(2) Biological Opinion, and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Response for Klamath Project Operations from April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2024.
- Erickson, J. 2018. USFWS Yreka Office. Personal Communication. October 16, 2018. Voicemail confirming that their northern spotted owl biologist confirmed no restricted access is required.
- USFWS. 2015. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Information Resources: Listed, proposed, and Candidate Species Lists 2018 (Siskiyou County, California). Website: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/location/2EVLSTMIGBFCXJYYWJSEVSZIJM/resources>
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2017. Ecological Services. Request A Species List: Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Species Lists (Siskiyou County, Oregon). Accessed May 14, 2019 from: <http://www.fws.gov/klamathfallsfwo/es/es.html>

## **Section 6: Appendices**

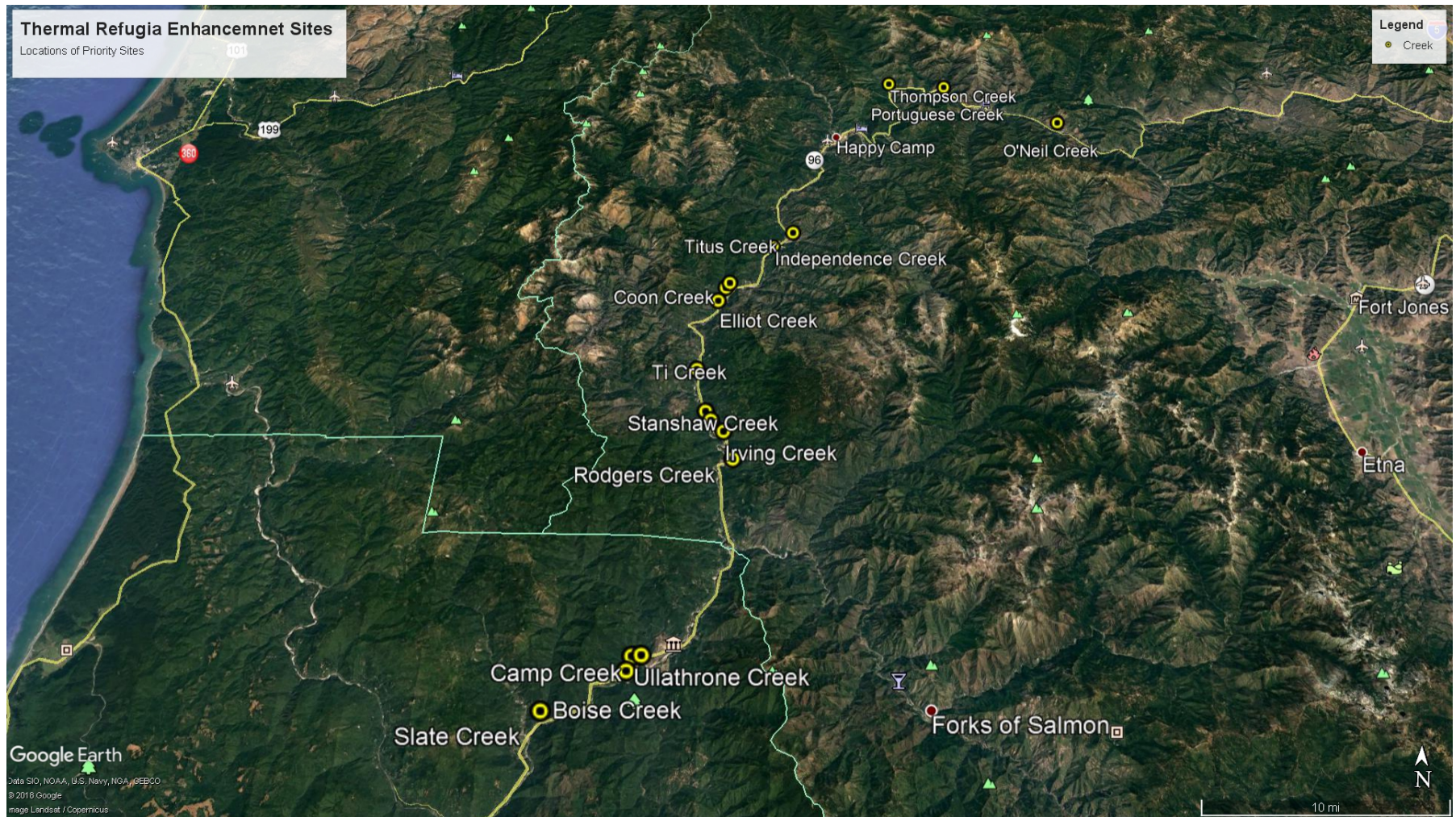
## Appendix A: Maps of Potential Thermal Refugia Enhancement Sites.











## Appendix B: Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, and Candidate Species that May Occur in Siskiyou County, Oregon and within the Proposed Project Reach.



### United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
 Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Office  
 1936 California Avenue, Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601  
 (541) 885-8481 FAX (541)885-7837  
[kfalls@fws.gov](mailto:kfalls@fws.gov)



#### LISTED, PROPOSED, AND CANDIDATE SPECIES THAT MAY OCCUR IN SISKIYOU COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

##### Status: **Endangered**

Phylum	Common Name	Scientific Name	Critical Habitat
Fish	Lost River sucker	<i>Deltistes luxatus</i>	Designated
Fish	Shortnose sucker	<i>Chasmistes brevirostris</i>	Designated
Mammal	Gray wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	
Invertebrate	Shasta crayfish	<i>Pacifistacus fortis</i>	
Plant	Yreka phlox	<i>Phlox hirsute</i>	
Plant	Greene's tuctoria	<i>Tuctoria greenei</i>	Designated
Plant	Gentner's fritillary	<i>Fritillaria gentneri</i>	Designated

##### Status: **Threatened**

Phylum	Common Name	Scientific Name	Critical Habitat
Bird	Northern spotted owl	<i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i>	Designated
Bird	Yellow-billed cuckoo (Western DPS)	<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	Proposed
Amphibian	California red-legged frog	<i>Rana aurora draytonii</i>	Designated
Amphibian	Oregon spotted frog	<i>Rana pretiosa</i>	
Plant	Slender Orcutt grass	<i>Orcuttia tenuis</i>	Designated

##### Status: **Proposed**

Phylum	Common Name	Scientific Name	Critical Habitat
Mammal	Wolverine	<i>Gulo gulo luscus</i>	

##### Status: **Candidate**

Phylum	Common Name	Scientific Name
Plant	Whitebark Pine	<i>Pinus albicaulis</i>

Updated December 14, 2017

Table 1. Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Species and Critical Habitat Identified within the Project Area.

<b>Mammals</b>		<b>ESA Status</b>
Gray Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	E
North American Wolverine	<i>Gulo gulo luscus</i>	Proposed T
Fisher	<i>Pekania pennant</i>	Proposed T
<b>Birds</b>		
Marbled Murrelet	<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	T
Northern Spotted Owl	<i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i>	T, CH
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	T
<b>Amphibians</b>		
Oregon Spotted Frog	<i>Rana pretiosa</i>	T
<b>Fishes</b>		
Lost River Sucker	<i>Deltistes luxatus</i>	E
Shortnose Sucker	<i>Chasmistes brevirostris</i>	E
<b>Crustaceans</b>		
Conservancy Fairy Shrimp	<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>	E
Shasta Crayfish	<i>Pacifastacus fortis</i>	E
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp	<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	T
Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp	<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>	E
<b>Flowering Plants</b>		
Applegate's Milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus applegatei</i>	E
Gentner's Fritillary	<i>Fritillaria gentneri</i>	E
Hoover's Spurge	<i>Chamaesyce hooveri</i>	T
Slender Orcutt Grass	<i>Orcuttia tenuis</i>	T
Yreka Phlox	<i>Phlox hirsuta</i>	E
<b>Conifers and Cycads</b>		
Whitebark Pine	<i>Pinus albicaulis</i>	Candidate

T = Threatened; E = Endangered, CH = Critical Habitat has been designated  
Source: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac> (website accessed July 26, 2019)

## Appendix C: National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 – Cultural Resources Compliance.

### CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE Division of Environmental Affairs Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153)

**MP-153 Tracking Number:** 18-KBAO-088

**Project Name:** Grant: Middle Klamath Coho Refuge Habitat Enhancement- Planning and Design Team Support

**NEPA Document:** 2018-EA-001

**NEPA Contact:** Amanda Babcock, Natural Resource Specialist

**MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer:** Scott Williams, Archaeologist 

**Date:** April 19, 2018

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Reclamation Issuance of funding through the Reclamation Klamath River Coho Habitat Restoration Grant Program and providing approval to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to release the funding to the grantee/applicant, the Karuk Tribe. This is the type of undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to the NHPA Section 106 regulations codified at 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). Reclamation has no further obligations under NHPA Section 106, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1).

The Karuk Tribe applied and was selected for funding under Reclamation's 2016 Klamath River Coho Habitat Restoration Grant Program for its Middle Klamath Coho Refuge Habitat Enhancement- Planning and Design Team Support project. The Grant Program is funded by Reclamation as part of compliance with the current Biological Opinions. The proposed project will be funded by the Bureau of Reclamation and administered through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to the Karuk Tribe. A notice to proceed for the purpose of planning and design will be provided once environmental compliance activities are completed. The Karuk Tribe will utilize the funds for planning and design purposes that will support future implementation projects that target specific life history needs of coho salmon in the Klamath River corridor. No ground disturbing activities or mechanical restoration actions will be taken as part of this project or these granted funds.

This document is intended to convey the completion of the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. I concur with item 8 that this action would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation (LND 02-01) (43 CFR 46.215 (g)). Please retain a copy in the administrative record for this action. Should changes be made to this project, additional NHPA Section 106 review, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be necessary. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.

## Appendix D: Reclamation Indian Trust Assets Coordination and Consultation.

### Indian Trust Assets Request Form (MP Region)

Submit your request to your office's ITA designee or to MP-400, attention Deputy Regional Resources Manager.

**Date:** 4/5/18

<b>Requested by (office/program)</b>	Amanda Babcock, Natural Resources Specialist Student Trainee, Klamath Basin Area Office
<b>Fund</b>	18XR0680A3
<b>WBS</b>	RX.001261ME.3000000
<b>Fund Cost Center</b>	25320000
<b>Region # (if other than MP)</b>	
<b>Project Name</b>	Middle Klamath Coho Refuge Habitat Enhancement- Planning and Design Team Support
<b>CEC or EA Number</b>	2018-EA-001
<b>Project Description</b>	The purpose of the proposed project is to further planning and design efforts directed at enhancement of coho refuges and off-channel refuge habitats, and to assist with and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of coho enhancement project planning along the Middle Klamath River corridor. A project design team will be formed composed of local and regional experts from various fields including; coho ecology, geology, engineering, environmental permitting and in-stream habitat project implementation. The project team will be composed of local experts from the Karuk Tribe, Middle Klamath Watershed Council, U.S. Forest Service, consulting geologist Rocco Fiori and coho ecology expert Larry Lestelle. The team will provide recommendation for a range of design alternatives for projects critical for the recovery of Southern Oregon Northern California Coast (SONCC) coho salmon populations in the Klamath River. The Middle Klamath River corridor is extensive, with roughly 150 miles of river with over 60 cold water tributaries entering the river between Iron Gate Dam and the confluence with the Trinity River. Each cold water source has potential to provide thermal refuge for coho during the summer months. In general, the most functional sites are ones where the connectivity to the active floodplain exists and coho salmon utilize the site for both summer and winter refuge. The project will form a coho project planning and design team by formalizing of the existing "ad hoc" planning team. Funding for this project will support all efforts of the team and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of coho salmon project implementation.

	<p>The project proposes an extensive effort that looks at a minimum of 15 tributary sites prioritized as part of the “Middle Klamath In-Stream Restoration Candidate Actions Table,” generated by the Middle Klamath In-stream Working Group in 2010. The 15 tributary sites identified include: Ti Creek, Eliot Creek, Swillup Creek, Thompson Creek, Teep Teep Creek, Camp Creek, Irving Creek, Sandy Bar Creek, Independence Creek, Oak Flat Creek, Portuguese Creek, China Creek, Coon Creek, Rodgers Creek and Titus Creek.</p> <p>The design team will segregate sites into three basic project design categories. Category 1 type sites will be the simplest type designs, where enhancement work can be accomplished by hand crews and non-mechanical methods with minimal permitting. These types of projects include small wood structures/debris bundles and manual post assisted wood structures. Category 2 projects are more complex and will need more detailed designs (topographic mapping, cross sections and excavation volumes, access routes and disposal sites). Category 2 sites will require mechanical equipment with a moderate level of permitting, but not actual engineer stamped designs. Category 2 projects include constructed ponds, large wood habitat projects and grade control structures, post assisted wood structures and channel modifications. Category 3 sites are the most complex designs and require a high level of permitting and engineer stamped designs. These types of projects include bridge constructions, major channel re-alignments and modifications of road and highway infrastructure. Category 3 projects will require additional funding for engineering work and design, but it is anticipated that this project will lay out the specific steps to achieve that level of design work. For all category 1,2 and 3 types of projects, the project team will provide a feasibility statement, a list of project permitting needs, future planning steps (engineering needs and additional design work), a pre-implementation monitoring plan and conceptual design alternatives (25% level of final design) for each of the feasible project sites. For Category 1 and 2 sites, it is envisioned that sufficient information will be provided to proceed with implementation proposals. For more complex Category 3 sites, a conceptual design and “road map,” or lay out of steps needed to proceed, such as engineer stamped designs are proposed to be provided.</p> <p>The proposed project would be funded in the amount of \$60,000 by the Bureau of Reclamation and administered through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to the Karuk Tribe as part of the 2016 Klamath River Coho Restoration Grant Program. A notice to proceed for the purpose of planning and design would be provided. The Karuk Tribe would utilize the funds for planning and design purposes that would support future implementation projects that target specific life history needs of coho salmon in the Klamath River corridor. No ground disturbing activities or mechanical restoration actions will be taken as part of this project or these granted funds.</p>
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<p><b>*Project Location (Township, Range, Section, e.g., T12 R5E S10, or Lat/Long cords, DD-MM-SS or decimal degrees). Include map(s)</b></p>	<p><b>General:</b> The proposed project site is located in the Middle Klamath River subbasin within the reach between Iron Gate Dam and the mouth of the Salmon River. It will include tributary mouths and lower reaches of tributaries accessible to all rearing coho salmon.</p> <p><b>Iron Gate Dam Location:</b> Mount Diablo Meridian in Siskiyou County, California <b>Latitude:</b> 41°56'04.27" N <b>Longitude:</b> 121°26'09.18" W</p> <p><b>Salmon River Location:</b> Humboldt Meridian in Siskiyou County, California <b>Latitude:</b> 41°22'40.35" N <b>Longitude:</b> 123°29'35.00" W</p> <p>*See maps in Exhibits A, B, and C *XY coordinates are approximations.</p>
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Signature

Amanda Babcock

Printed name of preparer

4/9/2018

Date

**ITA Determination:**

The closest ITAs to the proposed Middle Klamath Coho Refuge Habitat Enhancement- Planning and Design Team Support activity is the Karuk Tribe about 18.11 miles to the southwest of Iron Gate Dam and about .52 miles northwest of the Salmon River mouth (see attached image in Exhibit A).

Based on the nature of the planned work, it **does not** appear to be in an area that will impact Indian hunting or fishing resources or water rights nor is the proposed activity on actual Indian lands. It is reasonable to assume that the proposed action **will not** have any impacts on ITAs.

Kristen L. Hiatt      Kristen L. Hiatt      4/9/18  
Signature                      Printed name of approver                      Date



