

March 13, 2018

John Heissenbuttel
Amador Fire Safe Council
P.O. Box 1055
Pine Grove, CA 95665

Re: Mitchell Mine Fuelbreak Project Biological Report

Dear Mr. Heissenbuttel,

A query of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) and the Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS) was conducted for the Pine Grove Quadrangle. The results of the query is appended to this report. The only listed species that was returned was the foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*). While Red Hills soap root (*Chlorogalum grandiflorum*) and Tuolumne button-celery (*Eryngium pinnatisectum*) are not state or federally listed as endangered or threatened, they are included on the list below because they have been included on the rare plants rank list. A description of each species is below.

Foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*):

The foothill yellow-legged frog is listed as a candidate for threatened in California and is found 400 feet south of the project site in Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park. The foothill yellow-legged frog is found in partly shaded, shallow streams and riffles with a rocky substrate in a variety of habitats. They require cobble sized substrate for egg laying and need at least 15 weeks to attain metamorphosis. However, the potential impacts to this species will be avoided as the project will abide by standard watercourse protection buffers, per the forest practice rules.

Red Hills soap root (*Chlorogalum grandiflorum*):

A principally rare plant with potential to occur is Red Hills soap root. The species, while not listed as state or federally endangered or threatened, is listed as a rare plant on the Rare Plants Rank list (formerly known as the California Native Plants Society List). The plant is found in cismontane woodland, chaparral, and lower montane coniferous forest. It occurs frequently on serpentine or gabbro, but also on non-ultramafic substrates, often on historically disturbed sites from 870 to 5560 feet in elevation. According the CNDDDB, Red Hills soap root is known to occur on the northern edge of Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park. However, this species could benefit from a more open forest habitat, which will result from the project treatment.

Tuolumne button-celery (*Eryngium pinnatisectum*):

Tuolumne button-celery is a second rare plant with the potential to occur in the project vicinity. The species' general habitat includes vernal pools, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest. The species is associated with volcanic soils, wetlands, and mesic sites from 230 to 3000 feet in elevation.

There appears to be no potential for special-status species to be impacted by the project. I conclude that no apparent adverse impacts on special-status biological resources should occur as a result of this fuel hazard reduction project. If special status species are discovered, equipment activities will be stopped immediately and the operator will contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for implementation of proper mitigation measures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SPL', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Sara Paiva-Lowry

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