

TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST
SENSITIVE PLANT BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Project: Judah Summit Chairlift Project

Ranger District: Truckee

Date Prepared: October 19, 2004

The purpose of this biological evaluation is to determine whether implementation of the Judah Summit Chairlift Project will result in a trend toward Federal listing of any Sensitive Plant species. This biological evaluation has been prepared in accordance with direction in FSM 2672.4. It is in compliance with 36 CFR 219.19 and 36 CFR 241.1.

Project Location: The Chairlift would be installed on the west facing upper slope of Mt Judah in Section 21 of T17N, R15E, in the southern half of the section.

PROPOSED ACTION

Who: The U.S. Forest Service, Truckee Ranger District proposes to:

What: Amend the existing use Permit by the USDA – Forest Service, Truckee Ranger District for the proposed installation of Judah Summit Chairlift and the additional activity associated with the new lift. The new chair lift serving existing downhill ski terrain located within the existing resort and Use Permit area. The purpose of this addition is to provide lift access and improve the utilization of existing advanced and expert ski terrain as well as the overall variety of terrain available at the resort.

Botanical Review

CONSULTATION TO DATE

The Fish and Wildlife Service is contacted every 90 days to obtain a current list of threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species that may be present on the Tahoe National Forest (TNF). The most recent list was dated August 11, 2004 and is available for review at the District Office. There are no federally listed Threatened or Endangered plant occurring on the TNF, although, *Ivesia webberi* has been upgraded to a candidate species to be considered threatened.

A pre-field review determined that the following Sensitive Plant species are known to occur within the project area or there is suitable habitat present.

Sensitive Plant Species	Documented Occurrence	Suitable Habitat
<i>Arabis rigidissima</i> var. <i>demota</i>	No	Yes
<i>Botrychium ascendens</i> ,	No	No
<i>Botrychium crenulatum</i>	No	No
<i>Botrychium linear</i>	No	No
<i>Botrychium montanum</i>	No	No
<i>Bruchia bolanderi</i>	No	No

Determination Of Effects:

Federally Threatened, Endangered, and Proposed Species:

Bald Eagle and Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle:

It is my determination that the Sugar Bowl Mt. Judah Summit Chairlift Construction Project will not affect these species or their habitat. Formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required.

Region 5 Forest Service Sensitive Species:

California Spotted Owl, Northern Goshawk, Great Gray Owl, Willow Flycatcher, Peregrine Falcon, Pacific Fisher, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Pallid Bat, and Western Red Bat:

It is my determination that the Sugar Bowl Mt. Judah Summit Chairlift Construction Project will not affect these species.

American Marten, Sierra Nevada Red Fox, and California Wolverine:

It is my determination that the Sugar Bowl Mt. Judah Summit Chairlift Construction Project may affect individuals but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability for these species. Current and future management options are not precluded.

Further Biological Analysis is not needed. This memo documents completion of the steps outlined in the 2670 section of USFS Manual regarding Biological Evaluations for Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species for this project.

Prepared & Approved By:


Title: DISTRICT BIOLOGIST

Date: 1/13/05

References:

Forest Service Handbook 2670.

Region 5 USFS Sensitive species evaluation and documentation forms.

Sightings records and atlas of fauna, Tahoe National Forest.

Tahoe National Forest LRMP of 1991, as amended.

Tahoe National Forest Biological Evaluation Template Version 28.

BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION
BIRDS, MAMMALS, AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES, FISH, INVERTEBRATES
SILVER BELT CHAIR LIFT REALIGNMENT PROJECT
SUGAR BOWL SKI AREA
TRUCKEE RANGER DISTRICT
TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST
June 26, 2000

PREPARED BY Tina Malle DATE 6/26/00
JOURNEY LEVEL WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

REVIEWED BY Deborah Ulrich DATE 6/26/00
JOURNEY LEVEL FISHERIES BIOLOGIST

would be removed to install the new lift line, potential roost trees would not likely be affected. Minimal habitat alteration would be expected as a result of this project. Prey species of the pallid bat would not likely be impacted by this project.

CUMULATIVE - Because little is known regarding the life history requirements of the pallid bat (e.g. habitat use or present distribution of this species) a meaningful assessment of cumulative effects is difficult to complete. This project will add to cumulative effect. However, the intensity and duration of these effects are negligible, and limited in both time and space.

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VII. DETERMINATION

FOR THE FOLLOWING SENSITIVE SPECIES:

California spotted owl, Northern goshawk, American marten, California wolverine, Sierra Nevada red fox, pallid bat

It is my determination that implementation of Silver Belt Chair Lift Realignment Project may affect individuals, but is not likely to result in a trend toward Federal listing or loss of viability for these species within the planning area of the Tahoe National Forest. In the absence of a range-wide viability assessment, this viability determination is based on local knowledge of this species as discussed previously in this evaluation, and professional judgement.

~~IX~~ **MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS.** This is the list of all management requirements and LRMP Standards/Guidelines which have been incorporated into the project proposal. These actions have been agreed to by the Interdisciplinary Team and Line Officer.

1. Only trees \leq 12 inch diameter would be removed. Trees greater than 12 inch dbh will be removed only after all alternatives have been explored.
2. Standard erosion control and revegetation will be used to stabilize earth-moving activities to prevent downstream sedimentation into the Yuba River.