

# Communications Memo

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**To:** Public Files  
**From:** Quinn Emmering  
**Date:** December 5, 2016  
**Docket:** P-12496-002  
**Project:** Lassen Lodge Hydroelectric Project

**Subject:** USFWS official letter and list of threatened and endangered species generated from the Information for Planning and Conservation system (IPaC)

On November 23, 2016, staff accessed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's IPaC system to determine if any federally listed species or critical habitats listed under the Endangered Species Act have the potential to occur in the vicinity of the proposed Lassen Lodge Hydroelectric project. The IPaC system generated the report attached to this memo.



## United States Department of the Interior



### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office

FEDERAL BUILDING, 2800 COTTAGE WAY, ROOM W-2605

SACRAMENTO, CA 95825

PHONE: (916)414-6600 FAX: (916)414-6713

Consultation Code: 08ESMF00-2017-SLI-0338

November 23, 2016

Event Code: 08ESMF00-2017-E-00633

Project Name: Lassen Lodge Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 12496

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

#### To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the Service under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Please follow the link below to see if your proposed project has the potential to affect other species or their habitats under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service:

[http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/protected\\_species/species\\_list/species\\_lists.html](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/protected_species/species_list/species_lists.html)

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2)

of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan ([http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle\\_guidance.html](http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html)). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (<http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm>; <http://www.towerkill.com>; and <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment



United States Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Lassen Lodge Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 12496

## Official Species List

### Provided by:

Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office  
FEDERAL BUILDING  
2800 COTTAGE WAY, ROOM W-2605  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95825  
(916) 414-6600

**Consultation Code:** 08ESMF00-2017-SLI-0338

**Event Code:** 08ESMF00-2017-E-00633

**Project Type:** POWER GENERATION

**Project Name:** Lassen Lodge Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 12496

**Project Description:** The proposed Lassen Lodge Hydroelectric Project would involve the construction of the following new facilities: a diversion dam, intake structure with fish screens and trash racks, pipeline and penstock, powerhouse, switchyard, substation, station service line, transmission line, multipurpose areas, and access roads. The 8-foot-high, 2-foot-wide, and 63-foot-long diversion dam would be a buttressed concrete stem wall structure located at river mile (RM) 23, approximately 0.5 RM upstream of the Old State Highway Route 36 Bridge. The intake structure would be a 17 by 25-foot enclosed concrete structure with two 5 by 12-foot trash racks. A canal-type fish screen structure would be approximately 20 foot by 59 foot located and located contiguous with the intake structure. Once water enters the intake, it would travel through a 48-inch-diameter, 7,565-foot-long, low-pressure pipeline and then into a 36-inch-diameter, 5,230-foot-long, high-pressure penstock. Water would then enter a 50 by 50-foot powerhouse with a single multi-jet vertical Pelton-type turbine and would be closed-coupled to a synchronous generator with a capacity of 5 megawatts (MW). The water would then exit the powerhouse at atmospheric pressure into the tailrace within the powerhouse foundation. The tailwater would then enter a buried concrete box culvert (8 by 6 by 70-foot) and exit to the stream by cascading 9 feet to the rock-strewn streambed over existing large boulders. The project bypass reach would be approximately 2.4 miles long.

An enclosed and security-fenced substation would be located approximately 500 feet west-southwest of the powerhouse. Underground conduits from the powerhouse to the substation would



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Project name: Lassen Lodge Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 12496

convey generated power. The substation would disturb an approximate 50 by 50-foot area. A 0.5-mile-long, 12-kilovolt (kV) station service line would be constructed from the substation to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) 12-kV distribution line adjacent to Highway 36. A 12-mile-long, 60-kV transmission line would connect the powerhouse substation to a switchyard adjacent to PG&E's 60-kV Volta-South transmission line in the town of Manton, California. A security-fenced switchyard would be located approximately 300 feet east of the point of interconnection. The switchyard would disturb an area of approximately 40 by 35-foot, including a 10 by 10-foot concrete block building. An approximate 0.1 mile, aerial 12-kV line would connect the switchyard to the existing PG&E line.

Rugraw also proposes four multipurpose areas: (1) a construction yard near the diversion dam; (2) a construction area near the powerhouse; (3) a multipurpose area near the Old Highway 36 Bridge that would also serve as a helicopter landing site; and (4) a multipurpose area toward the west end of the proposed project boundary to support transmission line construction.

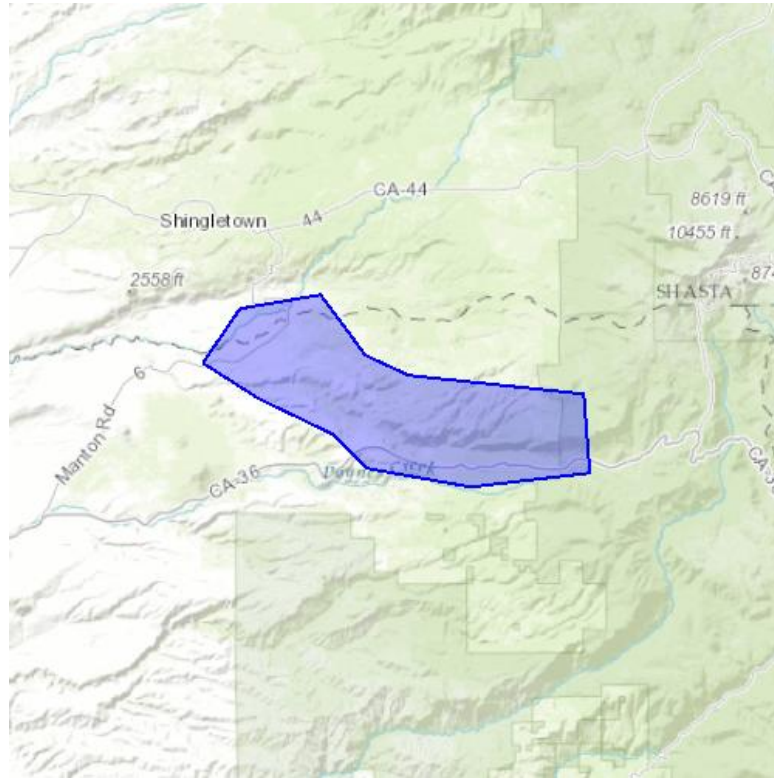
**Please Note:** The FWS office may have modified the Project Name and/or Project Description, so it may be different from what was submitted in your previous request. If the Consultation Code matches, the FWS considers this to be the same project. Contact the office in the 'Provided by' section of your previous Official Species list if you have any questions or concerns.



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### Project Location Map:



**Project Coordinates:** MULTIPOLYGON (((-121.62483215332031 40.340787335365974, -121.62963867187499 40.390488829277956, -121.7717742919922 40.40147052898621, -121.80816650390625 40.414018849687714, -121.8445587158203 40.45217227681351, -121.9104766845703 40.44328916582583, -121.94068908691405 40.40983633607083, -121.89468383789061 40.38682786469453, -121.83425903320314 40.365381076021734, -121.80679321289062 40.343927461258914, -121.72164916992186 40.33241295173677, -121.62483215332031 40.340787335365974)))

**Project Counties:** Shasta, CA | Tehama, CA



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## Endangered Species Act Species List

There are a total of 7 threatened or endangered species on your species list. Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Critical habitats listed under the **Has Critical Habitat** column may or may not lie within your project area. See the **Critical habitats within your project area** section further below for critical habitat that lies within your project. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

Amphibians	Status	Has Critical Habitat	Condition(s)
California red-legged frog ( <i>Rana draytonii</i> ) Population: Wherever found	Threatened	Final designated	
<b>Crustaceans</b>			
Conservancy fairy shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta conservatio</i> ) Population: Wherever found	Endangered	Final designated	
Vernal Pool fairy shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> ) Population: Wherever found	Threatened	Final designated	
Vernal Pool tadpole shrimp ( <i>Lepidurus packardi</i> ) Population: Wherever found	Endangered	Final designated	
<b>Fishes</b>			
Delta smelt ( <i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i> ) Population: Wherever found	Threatened	Final designated	
steelhead ( <i>Oncorhynchus (=salmo)</i> )	Threatened		



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<p><i>mykiss</i> Population: Northern California DPS</p>			
<b>Flowering Plants</b>			
<p>Slender Orcutt grass (<i>Orcuttia tenuis</i>) Population: Wherever found</p>	Threatened	Final designated	





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## **Critical habitats that lie within your project area**

There are no critical habitats within your project area.

**From:** [fwfq\\_ecos\\_support@fws.gov](mailto:fwfq_ecos_support@fws.gov)  
**To:** [Quinn Emmering](#)  
**Subject:** Official Species List for project: Lassen Lodge Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 12496  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 23, 2016 9:38:24 AM  
**Attachments:** [Official Species List SACRAMENTO FISH AND WILDL OFC 23 Nov 2016.pdf](#)  
[ipacProjectShapefile.zip](#)

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This email contains a US Fish and Wildlife Service official species list for your project (Lassen Lodge Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 12496) from the following office:

Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office  
FEDERAL BUILDING  
2800 COTTAGE WAY, ROOM W-2605  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95825  
(916) 414-6600

Also attached is a shapefile of the project boundary you defined in IPaC. If you wish to return to IPaC in the future and use the same project boundary for another project, when defining your project location, use the IPaC 'Upload shape file' feature and select this shapefile.

You may also view your official species list by returning to the IPaC project Regulatory Documents page at <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/project/BJIVLZYQABDSLAAHTBXHRH4ZGU/regulatoryDocuments>.

If you have any problems opening the document, please contact the ECOS help desk at <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/help>.

Document Content(s)

Communications Memo - USFWS T&E Species List.PDF.....1-1

IPaC Official Species List 11-23-2016.PDF.....2-9

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