

Appendix C

Biological Resources – Special Status Species



APPENDIX C

Biological Resources – Special Status Species

The following table describes special-status species in the project area considered in the evaluation of the Proposed Project to remove the Simonson Substation and construct the Morrison Creek Substation in Smith River, California. Table C-1 lists 26 special-status plant species and 38 special-status wildlife species reported to occur in the project area based on: California Natural Diversity Database (CDFG, 2007b), California Native Plant Society Electronic Inventory (CNPS, 2007), special-status species information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS, 2007), and biological literature of the region.

**TABLE C-1
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CONSIDERED IN THE EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT SITE**

Common Name Scientific Name	Listing Status USFWS/ CDFG/CNPS¹	General Habitat	Potential for Species Occurrence Within the Project Area	Period of Identification
Species Listed				
Animals				
<i>Invertebrates</i>				
Oregon silverspot butterfly <i>Speyeria zerene hippolyta</i>	FT/--	Coastal meadows in Del Norte County. The larvae feed only on the foliage of the western dog violet (<i>Viola adunca</i>). Host plant most common in northern coastal dune scrub and northern coastal bluff scrub.	Low. Host plant not present within the project area.	Spring
<i>Fish</i>				
Southern Oregon/Northern California coast coho salmon <i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>	FT/CT	Spawns and rears in coastal streams containing gravelly substrate, cool water, adequate flow, instream cover, and riparian shading.	Low. Present in Rowdy Creek, but stream is ¼ mile from the project area.	Year-round
<i>Birds</i>				
Marbled murrelet <i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	FT/CE	Near coastal waters, tide-rips, bays, and mountains. Nesting sites are in higher elevations, exclusively in old growth forests.	Low. No large trees are present with the project area.	Year-round
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	--/CE	Can live in a variety of habitats with adequate nest trees, roosts and feeding grounds. Open water such as a lake or an ocean, however, is a necessity.	Low. No large trees are present with the project area. Rowdy Creek may be used for foraging. One historic nest ¼ mile east of the project site, not active since the mid-1970's. In 2007 a pair nested near the mouth of the Smith River, approximately 3 miles away.	Winter
Bank swallow <i>Riparia riparia</i>	--/CT	Colonial nester on vertical banks or cliffs with fine-textured soils near water.	Low. May nest within the banks of Rowdy Creek, but not likely to nest within the project area. CNDDDB record for a nesting location on Smith River, approximately 3 miles from the project site.	Spring

¹ Key to listing status codes can be found at the end of the Table.

**TABLE C-1
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CONSIDERED IN THE EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT SITE (CONT.)**

Common Name Scientific Name	Listing Status USFWS/ CDFG/CNPS¹	General Habitat	Potential for Species Occurrence Within the Project Area	Period of Identification
Northern spotted owl <i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i>	FT/--	Resides in dense, multi-layered mixed conifer, redwood and Douglas fir habitats.	Low. Potential nesting habitat available in adjacent mixed hardwood forest, but no large trees are present within the project area. CNDDDB has 1 record for a nest ¼ mile north of the property. It has not been active for the last 2 years.	Year-round
Plants				
McDonald's rock cress <i>Arabis macdonaldiana</i>	FE/CE/1B.1	Lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest. Rocky outcrops, ridges, slopes, and flats on serpentine.	Low. Suitable habitat potentially available in mixed hardwood forest adjacent to project site, but no suitable habitat available within project site.	May–July
Western lily <i>Lilium occidentale</i>	FE/CE/1B.1	Grows in a variety of habitats including coastal scrub, freshwater marsh, bogs and fens, coastal bluff scrub, coastal prairie, and northern coast coniferous forest.	Low. No suitable habitat available.	June–July
Other Special Status Species				
Animals				
Insects				
Mardon skipper <i>Polites mardon</i>	C/--	Found in open grassland, specifically prairie and meadows dominated by native bunchgrasses. Invasion by non-native plants is a very large threat.	Low. No suitable habitat available, grassland present within site is dominated by non-native grass and herb species.	May–August
Amphibians				
Tailed frog <i>Ascaphus trueii</i>	--/CSC	Inhabits cold, clear, rocky streams or seeps in wet forests.	Low. May be present in Rowdy Creek, but no suitable habitat within project area. Stays near streams, except occasionally in wetter conditions when they may disperse away from streams.	Year-round
Del Norte salamander <i>Plethodon elongates</i>	--/CSC	Found in moist talus in humid shaded and closed-canopy coastal forests of mixed hardwoods and conifers. Also found in rock rubble of old riverbeds, and under bark and logs on forest floor, usually in rocky areas.	Low. May be present in adjacent habitat, but no suitable habitat present within the project site.	Year-round

TABLE C-1
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CONSIDERED IN THE EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT SITE (CONT.)

Common Name <i>Scientific Name</i>	Listing Status USFWS/ CDFG/CNPS ¹	General Habitat	Potential for Species Occurrence Within the Project Area	Period of Identification
Northern red-legged frog <i>Rana aurora aurora</i>	---/CSC	Found in humid forests, woodlands, grasslands, and streamsides with plant cover. Most common in lowlands or foothills. Frequently found in woods adjacent to streams. Breeding habitat is in permanent water sources; lakes, ponds, reservoirs, slow streams, marshes, bogs, and swamps.	Moderate. Potential breeding habitat present in Rowdy Creek. May disperse into adjacent habitats, including grassland.	Year-round
Foothill yellow-legged frog <i>Rana boylei</i>	---/CSC	Frequents shallow, slow, gravelly streams and rivers with sunny banks, in forests, chaparral, and woodlands.	Low. Potential breeding habitat present in Rowdy Creek. Typically stay close to stream during spring, summer and fall, and hibernate during the winter. Project's adjacency to Rowdy Creek provides some potential for occurrence, but typically more aquatic than northern red-legged frog.	Year-round
Southern torrent salamander <i>Rhyacotriton variegates</i>	---/CSC	Found in cold, clear well-shaded streams, waterfalls and seepages, particularly those running through talus and under rocks all year.	Low. May be present in Rowdy Creek, but no suitable habitat within project area.	Year-round
<i>Fish</i>				
Summer-run steelhead trout <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irrideus</i>	FC/CSC	Spawns and rears in coastal streams containing gravelly substrate, cool water, adequate flow, instream cover, and riparian shading.	Low. Present in Rowdy Creek, but stream is ¼ mile from the project area.	Year-round
Chinook salmon <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	FC/CSC	Spawns and rears in coastal streams containing gravelly substrate, cool water, adequate flow, instream cover, and riparian shading.	Low. Present in Rowdy Creek, but stream is ¼ mile from the project area.	Year-round
<i>Birds</i>				
Cooper's hawk <i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	--/CSC	Nests conifers or deciduous stands near riparian areas.	Low. May breed in areas adjacent to project site and forage within project site. No suitable breeding habitat within project site.	March– August
Northern goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	---/CSC	Inhabits deep, conifer –dominated, mixed woodlands.	Low. May breed in areas adjacent to project site and forage within project site. No suitable breeding habitat within project site.	Year-round

TABLE C-1
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CONSIDERED IN THE EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT SITE (CONT.)

Common Name <i>Scientific Name</i>	Listing Status USFWS/ CDFG/CNPS ¹	General Habitat	Potential for Species Occurrence Within the Project Area	Period of Identification
Sharp-shinned hawk <i>Accipiter striatus</i>	--/CSC	Nests in forest canopy.	Low. May breed in areas adjacent to project site and forage within project site. No suitable breeding habitat within project site.	April–August
Golden eagle <i>Aquila Chrysaetos</i>	--/CSC	Nests in large trees, snags, and cliffs, winters on lakes and reservoirs.	Low. May breed in areas adjacent to project site and forage within project site. No suitable breeding habitat within project site. Observed circling project site.	Year–round
Long-eared owl <i>Asio Otus</i>	--/CSC	Riparian habitats dominated by dense willows, cottonwoods, or live oaks; forages in open areas.	Low. May breed in areas adjacent to project site and forage within project site. No suitable breeding habitat within project site.	Year–round
Short-Eared Owl <i>Asio Flammeus</i>	--/CSC	Nests on ground in tall emergent vegetation or grasses, forages over a variety of open habitats.	Low. Foraging habitat present within project area, but no suitable breeding habitat.	Year–round
Ruffed Grouse <i>Bonasa Umbellus</i>	---/CSC	Found in deciduous and mixed woodlands..	Low. May breed in areas adjacent to project site and forage within project site. No suitable breeding habitat within project site.	Year–round
Ferruginous Hawk <i>Buteo Regalis</i>	--/CSC	Occur in semiarid grasslands, rocky outcrops and shallow canyons. Nests on rocky outcrops, hillsides, rock pinnacles, or in trees.	Low. Suitable foraging habitat present within project site, but species only winters in California.	Winter
Vaux's swift <i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	---/CSC	Fairly common in woodlands near water.	Low. No suitable breeding habitat within project site. May breed in areas adjacent to project site.	March–August
Northern harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	--/CSC	Mostly nests in emergent vegetation, wet meadows or near rivers and lakes, but may nest in grasslands away from water.	Moderate. Suitable nesting habitat (grasslands) is present within project site, additional suitable nesting habitat (riparian) is present within areas adjacent to project site.	Year–round
Yellow warbler <i>Dendroica petechia</i>	---/CSC	Favors wet habitats, especially willows and alders; open woodlands, gardens, and orchards.	Low. May nest in riparian habitat adjacent to project site, but not likely to nest within project site.	March–August
White-tailed kite <i>elanus leucurus</i>	FSC/-- 3503.5	Nests in trees adjacent to grasslands, forages over grasslands and agricultural lands.	Low. Foraging habitat present within project site, but no nesting habitat present. Nesting habitat present in areas adjacent to project area.	Year–round

**TABLE C-1
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CONSIDERED IN THE EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT SITE (CONT.)**

Common Name Scientific Name	Listing Status USFWS/ CDFG/CNPS ¹	General Habitat	Potential for Species Occurrence Within the Project Area	Period of Identification
Yellow-breasted chat <i>Icteria virens</i>	---/CSC	Dense second-growth, riparian thickets, and brush.	Low. A very limited amount of brush occurs within the project site, but is likely too small to support the species. Suitable breeding habitat occurs adjacent to the site.	March–August
Loggerhead shrike <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	FSC/CSC	Prefers open habitats with scattered shrubs, trees, posts, fences, utility lines, or other perches. Nests in dense brush or trees.	High. Suitable foraging habitat present within project site. Scattered trees and dense brush around the Simonson substation and at the edge of the proposed Morrison Creek substation provide nesting habitat.	Year–round
Purple martin <i>Progne subis</i>	---/CSC	Breeds near human settlements where nest houses are provided, especially near water and large open areas.	Low. No nest boxes provided within project site.	February–August
<i>Mammals</i>				
Pallid bat <i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	--/CSC	Day roosts are mainly in caves, crevices and mines; also found in buildings and under bark. Forages in open lowland areas.	Low. May breed in areas adjacent to project site and forage within project site. No suitable nursery or roosting sites within project site.	February–August
California red tree vole <i>Arborimus pomo</i>	---/CSC	Largely restricted to the fog belt. Occurs in old-growth and other forests, mainly Douglas-fir, redwood, and montane hardwood-conifer habitats.	Low. Suitable habitat available in adjacent areas but not within the project area.	Year–round
Humboldt marten <i>Martes Americana humboldtensis</i>	---/CSC	Optimal habitats are various mixed evergreen forests with more than 40% crown closure, with large trees and snags. Important habitats include red fir, lodgepole pine, subalpine conifer, mixed conifer, Jeffrey pine, and eastside pine.	Low. No suitable habitat available within the project site.	Year–round
Pacific fisher <i>Martes pennanti pacifica</i>	---/CSC	Found in large areas of mature, dense forest stands (coniferous and deciduous-riparian) with snags and greater than 50% canopy closure.	Low. No suitable habitat available within the project site.	Year–round
(Western) long-eared myotis <i>Myotis evotis</i>	--/CSC	Coniferous forests of high mountains; sometimes in buildings, sometimes roosting in tree bark; night roosts in caves.	Low. May breed in areas adjacent to project site and forage within project site. No suitable nursery or roosting sites within project site.	February–August
Long-legged myotis <i>Myotis volaris</i>	--/CSC	Roosts in trees, crevices, and buildings, especially in forested areas.	Low. May breed in areas adjacent to project site and forage within project site. No suitable nursery or roosting sites within project site.	February–August

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SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CONSIDERED IN THE EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT SITE (CONT.)**

Common Name Scientific Name	Listing Status USFWS/ CDFG/CNPS¹	General Habitat	Potential for Species Occurrence Within the Project Area	Period of Identification
Yuma myotis <i>Myotis yumanesis</i>	--/CSC	Can occur in many different habitats. Requires a source of open water. Roosts most commonly in abandoned buildings.	Low. May breed in areas adjacent to project site and forage within project site. No suitable nursery or roosting sites within project site.	February–August
Dusky-footed woodrat <i>Neotoma fuscipes</i>	FSC/CSC	Woodland, build houses from plant materials and man-made debris.	Low. Habitat available adjacent to site, but no woodland present within project site.	Year–round
Townsend's big-eared bat <i>Plecotus townsendii</i>	FSC/CSC	Roosts in caves, mines, buildings or other human-made structures for roosting. Forages in open lowland areas.	Low. May breed in areas adjacent to project site and forage within project site. No suitable nursery or roosting sites within project site.	February–August
Plants				
Small groundcone <i>Boschniakia hookeri</i>	--/--/2.3	North coast coniferous forests.	Low. No suitable habitat present.	April–August
Yellow-tubered toothwort <i>Cardamine nuttallii</i> var. <i>gemmata</i>	--/--/1B.3	Lower montane coniferous forest, serpentinite north coast coniferous forest.	Low. No suitable habitat present. Possible occurrence in hardwood/conifer forest adjacent to project site.	April–May
Serpentine sedge <i>Carex serpenticola</i>	--/--/2.3	Meadows and seeps.	Low. No suitable habitat present.	March–May
Green sedge <i>Carex viridula</i> var. <i>viridula</i>	--/--/2.3	Bogs and fens, marshes and swamps and north coast coniferous forest.	Low. No suitable habitat present.	September–August
Siskiyou Indian paintbrush <i>Castilleja miniata</i> ssp. <i>elata</i>	--/--/2.2	Bogs and fens as well as lower montane coniferous forest (seeps that are often serpentinite).	Low. No suitable habitat present. Possible occurrence in hardwood/conifer forest adjacent to project site.	May–August
Waldo buckwheat <i>Eriogonum pendulum</i>	--/--/2.2	Lower and upper montane coniferous forest.	Low. No suitable habitat present. Possible occurrence in hardwood/conifer forest adjacent to project site.	August – September
Howell's fawn lily <i>Erythronium howellii</i>	--/--/1B.3	Lower montane coniferous forest and north coast coniferous forest.	Low. No suitable habitat present.	April–May
Mendocino gentian <i>Gentiana setigera</i>	--/--/1B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps.	Low. No suitable habitat present. Possible occurrence in hardwood/conifer forest adjacent to project site.	August–September

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SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CONSIDERED IN THE EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT SITE (CONT.)

Common Name Scientific Name	Listing Status USFWS/ CDFG/CNPS ¹	General Habitat	Potential for Species Occurrence Within the Project Area	Period of Identification
Pacific gilia <i>Gilia capitata</i> ssp. <i>pacifica</i>	--/--/1B.2	Coastal bluff scrub, chaparral, coastal prairie, and valley and foothill grassland.	Moderate. Grassland habitat available, providing potential habitat. The relatively small size of the grassland patch prevents a high potential from occurring.	April–August
Marsh pea <i>Lathyrus palustris</i>	--/--/2.2	Bogs and fens, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, marshes and swamps and north coast coniferous forest.	Low. No suitable habitat present.	March–August
Opposite-leaved lewisia <i>Lewisia oppositifolia</i>	--/--/2.2	Lower montane coniferous forest.	Low. No suitable habitat present. Possible occurrence in hardwood/conifer forest adjacent to project site.	April–May
Howell's sandwort <i>Minuartia howellii</i>	--/--/1B.3	Chaparral and lower montane coniferous forest.	Low. No suitable habitat present.	April–July
Indian-pipe <i>Monotropa uniflora</i>	--/--/2.2	Broadleaved upland forest and north coast coniferous forest.	Low. No suitable habitat present.	June–August
Wolf's evening-primrose <i>Oenothera wolfii</i>	--/--/1B.1	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal prairie and usually mesic lower montane coniferous forest.	Low. No suitable habitat present.	May–October
Del Norte pyrrocoma <i>Pyrrocoma racemosa</i> var. <i>congesta</i>	--/--/2.3	chaparral, serpentinite lower montane coniferous forest.	Low. No suitable habitat present.	August–September
Great burnet <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>	--/--/2.2	Found in a variety of moist habitats including bogs and fens; broadleaved upland forest; meadows and seeps; marshes and swamps; north coast coniferous forest; and riparian forest.	Low. No suitable habitat present. Possible occurrence in hardwood/conifer forest or riparian forest adjacent to project site.	July–October
Siskiyou checkerbloom <i>Sidalcea malviflora</i> ssp. <i>patula</i>	--/--/1B.2	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal prairie and often on road cuts in north coast coniferous forest.	Low. No suitable habitat present.	May–October
Coast checkerbloom <i>Sidalcea oregano</i> ssp. <i>eximia</i>	--/--/1B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, and north coast coniferous forest.	Low. No suitable habitat present.	June–August

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SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CONSIDERED IN THE EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT SITE (CONT.)

Common Name Scientific Name	Listing Status USFWS/ CDFG/CNPS ¹	General Habitat	Potential for Species Occurrence Within the Project Area	Period of Identification
Serpentine catchfly <i>Silene serpentinicola</i>	--/--/1B.2	Gravelly or rocky serpentinite openings within chaparral or lower montane coniferous forest.	Low. No suitable habitat present.	May–July
Howell's jewel-flower <i>Streptanthus howellii</i>	--/--/1B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, usually serpentinite and rocky.	Low. No suitable habitat present.	July–August
Arctic starflower <i>Trientalis arctica</i>	--/--/2.2	Bogs, fens, coastal meadows and coastal seeps.	Low. No suitable habitat present.	June–July
Little-leaved huckleberry <i>Vaccinium scoparium</i>	--/--/2.2	Rocky subalpine coniferous forest.	Low. No suitable habitat present.	June–August
Marsh violet <i>Viola palustris</i>	--/--/2.2	Coastal bogs and fens and mesic coastal scrub.	Low. No suitable habitat present.	March–August
Western bog violet <i>Viola primulifolia</i> ssp. <i>occidentalis</i>	--/--/1B.2	Bogs, fens, marshes and swamps.	Low. No suitable habitat present.	April–September

**TABLE C-1
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CONSIDERED IN THE EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT SITE (CONT.)**

STATUS CODES:

FEDERAL: (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

FE = Listed as Endangered (in danger of extinction) by the Federal Government.

FT = Listed as Threatened (likely to become Endangered within the foreseeable future) by the Federal Government.

FP = Proposed for Listing as Endangered or Threatened.

FC = Candidate to become a *proposed* species.

FSC = Federal Species of Concern. May be Endangered or Threatened, but not enough biological information has been gathered to support listing at this time.

STATE: (California Department of Fish and Game)

CE = Listed as Endangered by the State of California

CT = Listed as Threatened by the State of California

CR = Listed as Rare by the State of California (plants only)

CSC = California Species of Special Concern

* = Special Animals

3503.5=Protection for nesting species of Falconiformes (hawks) and Strigiformes (owls)

California Native Plant Society

List 1A=Plants presumed extinct in California

List 1B=Plants rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere

List 2= Plants rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California but more common elsewhere

List 3= Plants about which more information is needed

List 4= Plants of limited distribution

An extension reflecting the level of threat to each species is appended to each rarity category as follows:

.1 – Seriously endangered in California

.2 – Fairly endangered in California

.3 – Not very endangered in California

SOURCES: CDFG, 2007a; CDFG, 2007b; CNPS, 2007; USFWS, 2007; University of Michigan School of Zoology, 2006; Galea, 2007; and CaliforniaHerps.com, 2007.