

Project title: **Malin-Round Mountain Off-ROW Tree Removal 2018**

Requested By: Michael Prowatzke

Mail  
Code : N0220

Phone: 916-353-4081

Date Submitted: 11-9-2018

Date Required: 11-16-2018

### **Description of the Project**

The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Sierra Nevada Region (SNR), is proposing to remove up to 187 hazard trees adjacent to the Malin-Round Mountain (MLN-RDM) right-of-way (ROW) in Modoc, Siskiyou, and Shasta Counties. Hazard trees are trees that have the potential to fall on, grow into, or otherwise compromise the integrity of the transmission lines. Western Order 450.3A dictates the removal of hazard trees in compliance with the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) Standard FAC-003-1. Western has limited discretion on the removal of trees that meet hazard standards.

Upon evaluation by a contracted forester, 137 off-ROW trees along a 61.5 mile stretch of the transmission line were identified as hazards and proposed for removal. Trees evaluated for removal were 39% white fir, 23% ponderosa pine, 18% Douglas fir, 12% black oak, and 4% each sugar pine and cedar. Forty-one percent were dead. It is estimated up to 50 additional trees, with similar demographics, may have become hazards from changing forest conditions (i.e., tree mortality and forest pathogen activity) since this evaluation, and these trees may also be removed in this project, provided they stand within 50' of the ROW.

Trees are expected to be removed in late 2018 to ensure continued reliability of the power system, but work may continue into 2019 after the winter season and the northern spotted owl nesting season have passed.

**Map(s)**

See attached Maps

**Figures(s)**

See attached Figures

**Work Order Number – 100153025**

### Action taken

Note: All Documentation is Attached

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exclusion (CX) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integral Elements          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Assessment (EA)         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEPA Attachment Sheet      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Requirements/Mitigation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Determinations:                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Maps/Figures                          |

**Determination:** Based on my review of information provided to me concerning the proposed action as NEPA Compliance Officer, I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for the categorical exclusion listed above. Therefore, I have determined that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald Robbins, Environment Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved

<b>bcc:</b>	<b>File Code:</b>	<b>Assigned to:</b> Michael Prowatzke	<b>Project #:</b> 100153025	<b>Environmental Specialist- Date:</b> Michael Prowatzke 11-8-2018
-------------	-------------------	--	--------------------------------	---

Western Area Power Administration Sierra Nevada Region	<b>CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION</b>	Project Number 100153025
---	---	-----------------------------

#### Integral Elements

**Project Title: Malin-Round Mountain Off-ROW Tree Removal 2018**

**Category of Action:**

- B1.3: Routine maintenance**

Routine maintenance activities and custodial services for buildings, structures, rights-of-way, infrastructures (including, but not limited to, pathways, roads, and railroads), vehicles and equipment, and localized vegetation and pest control, during which operations may be suspended and resumed, provided that the activities would be conducted in a manner in accordance with applicable requirements. Custodial services are activities to preserve facility appearance, working conditions, and sanitation (such as cleaning, window washing, lawn mowing, trash collection, painting, and snow removal). Routine maintenance activities, corrective (that is, repair), preventive, and predictive, are required to maintain and preserve buildings, structures, infrastructures, and equipment in a condition suitable for a facility to be used for its designated purpose. Such maintenance may occur as a result of severe weather (such as hurricanes, floods, and tornados), wildfires, and other such events. Routine maintenance may result in replacement to the extent that replacement is in-kind and is not a substantial upgrade or improvement. In-kind replacement includes installation of new components to replace outmoded components, provided that the replacement does not result in a significant change in the expected useful life, design capacity,

or function of the facility. Routine maintenance does not include replacement of a major component that significantly extends the originally intended useful life of a facility (for example, it does not include the replacement of a reactor vessel near the end of its useful life). Routine maintenance activities include, but are not limited to: (a) Repair or replacement of facility equipment, such as lathes, mills, pumps, and presses; (b) Door and window repair or replacement; (c) Wall, ceiling, or floor repair or replacement; (d) Reroofing; (e) Plumbing, electrical utility, lighting, and telephone service repair or replacement; (f) Routine replacement of high-efficiency particulate air filters; (g) Inspection and/or treatment of currently installed utility poles; (h) Repair of road embankments; (i) Repair or replacement of fire protection sprinkler systems; (j) Road and parking area resurfacing, including construction of temporary access to facilitate resurfacing, and scraping and grading of unpaved surfaces; (k) Erosion control and soil stabilization measures (such as reseeded, gabions, grading, and revegetation); (l) Surveillance and maintenance of surplus facilities in accordance with DOE Order 435.1, "Radioactive Waste Management," or its successor; (m) Repair and maintenance of transmission facilities, such as replacement of conductors of the same nominal voltage, poles, circuit breakers, transformers, capacitors, crossarms, insulators, and downed powerlines, in accordance, where appropriate, with 40 CFR part 761 (Polychlorinated Biphenyls Manufacturing, Processing, Distribution in Commerce, and Use Prohibitions) or its successor; (n) Routine testing and calibration of facility components, subsystems, or portable equipment (such as control valves, in-core monitoring devices, transformers, capacitors, monitoring wells, lysimeters, weather stations, and flumes); (o) Routine decontamination of the surfaces of equipment, rooms, hot cells, or other interior surfaces of buildings (by such activities as wiping with rags, using strippable latex, and minor vacuuming), and removal of contaminated intact equipment and other material (not including spent nuclear fuel or special nuclear material in nuclear reactors); and (p) Removal of debris.

**Regulatory Requirements for a Categorical Exclusion Determination:** The Department of Energy (DOE), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR 1021.410(b) require the following determinations be made in order for a proposed action to be categorically excluded (see full text in regulation).

1. The proposed action fits within a class of action listed in Appendices A and B to Subpart D. For classes of actions listed in Appendix B, the following conditions are integral elements; i.e., to fit within a class, the proposal must not:
  - a. Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders;
  - b. Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include categorically excluded facilities;
  - c. Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or un-permitted releases; or

d. Have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B;

e. Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

2. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal which may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal;

3. The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. The proposal is not connected to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions requiring preparation of an environmental impact statement.

**Results of Review:** In accordance with DOE environmental regulations (10 CFR 1021), The Western Area Power Administration (Western) has reviewed the proposed action in terms of the level of NEPA review needed. Based on this review, Western has determined the proposal is encompassed within a class of action listed in Appendix B to Subpart D (10 CFR 1021.410) which do not require preparation of either an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA).

The proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.



**Western Area Power Administration,  
SIERRA NEVADA REGION  
NEPA Attachment Sheet**

Project Number  
100153025

**PROJECT TITLE:**

	<b>Malin-Round Mountain Off-ROW Tree Removal 2018</b>
--	---

**AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

	The project occurs over a 61.5 mile stretch between the town of Tionesta (Modoc County) and Round Mountain (Shasta County). The ROW is located in forest and woodland habitat. The MLN-RDM transmission line runs parallel and adjacent to a PG&E transmission line.
--	--

**REVIEW ACTION**

	Habitat types within the project area were compared to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife sensitive species lists for species that may occur in the area. Based on habitat type within and around the site, northern spotted owl has potential to occur in the project area. Project conservation measures consistent with WAPAs programmatic agreements covering within-ROW activities will be employed, and the USFWS provided a letter of concurrence with WAPAs “not likely to adversely affect” determination for this species. Project timing minimizes potential effects on sensitive species that have potential to occur. Migratory Bird Treaty Act restrictions must be adhered to and are detailed below.
--	---

**CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESULTS**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In July 2016, Transcon International archaeologists conducted pedestrian surveys for each tree location except one that was not accessible during survey. The intensive pedestrian survey encompassed a 300 foot wide radius around each designated tree. No cultural resources were detected or recorded at the tree locations. Minimal ground impacts expected. All trees are to be manually removed and left in place. The completed report “ <i>Cultural Resources Inventory Report, Trinity-Weaverville 60-kV Off Right-of-Way Hazard Tree Survey, Trinity County California, July 2016 is on file at SNR.</i> ”
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consultation on this project was completed on:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This action is covered by WAPA's Programmatic Agreement, “Programmatic Agreement Among the Western Area Power Administration, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the California State Historic Preservation Officer Concerning Emergency and Routine Maintenance Activities and Other Routine Activities at Western Facilities in California,” revised March, 2010.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigation required: None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Include in WAPA’s annual report

## BIOLOGICAL RESULTS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Studies conducted, in order to evaluate potential impacts of the proposed project on special status species and/or their habitats, included background research to determine which special-status species and their habitats may occur within the project area and a review of habitat types in the project area. Avoidance measures for migratory birds and other resources are detailed below.</p> <p>Contractor shall adhere to the following avoidance and mitigation measures:</p> <p><b>MBTA (Migratory Bird Treaty Act):</b> If planned activities occur between January 1 and September 15, nesting bird surveys will be required prior to project activities. If a nest is detected, an appropriate buffer will be marked in which all O&amp;M activities and herbicide applications will be prohibited from January 1 to September 15 or until nestlings have fledged. A standard nest buffer of 50 feet will be used, unless otherwise indicated by the surveying biologist. A standard buffer of 250 feet will be used for raptor nests, unless otherwise indicated by the surveying biologist. Nesting surveys can be conducted up to 3 weeks prior to Project activities. <u>Please notify Western a minimum of 2 weeks in advance to schedule nesting surveys.</u></p> <p><b>Northern spotted owl:</b> From February 1 to July 31, herbicide application (with the exception of direct application), tree removal, and any noisy or disturbing O&amp;M activities (e.g., chain saw, mechanical chipper) will be prohibited. O&amp;M activities that only require the use of hand tools and pickup trucks are allowable within this time frame.</p> <p>If O&amp;M activities need to be conducted between February 1 and July 31, a Service-approved biologist will conduct protocol nest surveys using methods described in CDFG 1992 (or the most current survey protocol) under guidance of USFWS. If a nest is detected, the USFWS will be contacted for further guidance.</p> <p><b>Northern goshawk</b></p> <p>From February 15 to August 15 herbicide application (with the exception of direct application), tree removal, and noisy or disturbing O&amp;M activities (e.g., chain saws, mechanical chippers) will be prohibited or a qualified biologist will conduct nest surveys using methods described in USDA 2005. If a nest is detected, a qualified biologist will mark and monitor an appropriate buffer zone around the nest within which all O&amp;M activities and herbicide applications will be prohibited from February 15 to August 15.</p> <p><b>Willow flycatcher:</b> From May 15 to August 31 herbicide application (with the exception of direct application) and vegetation clearing will be prohibited in wetlands or thickets of willows and associated low-growing shrubs or a qualified biologist will conduct nesting surveys prior to O&amp;M activity using methods described in Bombay et al. 2000. This survey protocol requires a minimum of two surveys at each site, one during survey period 2 (June 15 - 25) and one during either survey period 1 (June 1-14), or survey period 3 (June 26 - July 15) to document presence or absence of willow flycatchers in the survey year. In addition, successive surveys must be at least 5 days apart; surveys done fewer than 5 days apart are not considered to be in separate survey periods. Follow-up visits are required when a flycatcher is detected, and suspected but not confirmed to be a willow flycatcher. Follow-ups can occur on the same day as the survey visit if they can be completed prior to 10:00 a.m. Follow-ups must be completed within 5 days of the initial detection.</p> <p>If nesting activity is detected, a qualified biologist will mark and monitor an appropriate buffer zone around the nest within which all O&amp;M activities and herbicide applications will be prohibited from May 15 to August 31.</p> <p><b>Bald Eagle:</b> From February 1 to August 15 herbicide application or noisy or disturbing O&amp;M activities (e.g. power saws, mechanical chippers) will be prohibited anywhere that bald eagles are known to nest or a qualified biologist will conduct nesting surveys using methods described in Jackman and Jenkins 2004. If a nest is detected, all</p>
-------------------------------------	--

herbicide application and O&M activities will be prohibited at a distance determined by the qualified biologist, based on topography and/or other environmental considerations.

**Western pond turtle:** From April 15 to July 15, a qualified biologist will survey within 400 feet of a permanent pond, lake, creek, river, or slough if any ground-disturbing activity that could affect the bed, bank, or water quality of any of these features is proposed. If adult or juvenile pond turtles are present, a qualified biologist will monitor project activities to ensure that turtles are not harmed. If the biologist determines that turtle nests could be adversely affected, then nesting areas will be avoided between June 1 and October 31. Water features will be avoided.

**VELB (Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle):** Prior to initiating vegetation clearance in the Central Valley below 3,000 feet with elderberry plants present, qualified personnel will clearly flag or fence each elderberry plant that has a stem measuring one inch or greater in diameter at ground level. If an elderberry plant meeting this criterion is present:

A minimum buffer zone of 20 feet outside of the dripline of each elderberry plant will be provided during all routine O&M activities, within which only manual methods for vegetation clearing will be allowed.

No insecticides, herbicides, fertilizers, or other chemicals will be used within 100 feet of an elderberry plant, except direct application to target vegetation (e.g. injection or cut-stump). Trimming, rather than removal of shrubs, will be used where feasible. Directional felling of trees and manual cutting of trees prior to removal will be used to minimize impacts to elderberries.

**Pacific fisher:** Between February 1 and August 1, off-road vehicle travel and activity will be avoided to the extent possible. If off-road travel or ground disturbance is required in potential fisher habitat (closed canopy, old-growth forests) at any time of year, disturbance to existing downfall, snags, downed trees/logs, and stumps will be minimized. Existing snags, downfall, and stumps will never be moved or removed unless they are a specific safety concern.

**Gray wolf:** Between January 1 and August 31, off-road vehicle travel and activity will be avoided to the extent possible. If off-road travel or ground disturbance is required in potential gray wolf habitat, a qualified biologist will conduct a survey to determine if dens are present. If dens are present, then activities will be avoided by a buffer determined by WAPA's biologist.

**Plants:** Vehicle access will be permitted only on well-established roads during the bloom season until the site has been cleared by a qualified biologist. All vehicles will have rubber tires. Off-road travel will be avoided to the extent possible.

During the blooming season (February – September), activities require a survey by a qualified biologist to flag existing plant populations or clear the site if the site is located in an area where a sensitive plant population has the potential to occur. The table below identifies the plants that must be surveyed for during specific time periods for each applicable tower range. If botanical surveys and/or marking of sensitive plant populations are required, please notify WAPA at least 2 weeks in advance.

Tower Range	Common Name	Scientific Name	Habitat	Bloom Season
MLN-RDM 54/3-57-1 62/2-63/4	Long-haired star-tulip	<i>Calochortus longebarbatus</i> var. <i>longebarbatus</i>	Clay, mesic. Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest (openings and drainages), meadows, seeps, vernal pools.	June - August
MLN-RDM 62/2-64/5	Klamath fawn lily	<i>Erythronium klamathense</i>	Meadows and seeps and upper montane coniferous	April - July

			forests at elevations between 1200 and 1850 feet.	
MLN-RDM 70/10-74/3	Canyon Creek stonecrop	<i>Sedum obtusatum</i> ssp. <i>paradisum</i>	Chaparral, subalpine forest, yellow pine forest, mixed evergreen forest	May-June
MLN-RDM 75/3-77/3	Northern clarkia	<i>Clarkia borealis</i> ssp. <i>borealis</i>	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest; elevation 400 – 1,340 meters.	June - September
MLN-RDM 80/2-88/4	English Peak greenbriar	<i>Smilax jamesii</i>	Streambanks, wetlands, and lake edges in coniferous forest	May - July
MLN-RDM 80/4-88/4	Butte County morning glory	<i>Calystegia</i> <i>atriplicifolia</i> ssp. <i>buttensis</i>	Dry, rocky places in open (yellow pine) forest, chaparral	May - July

If vegetation-management activities are proposed during the blooming season, a qualified biologist will mark special status plant populations (including a 50-foot buffer zone) prior to O&M activity. Within 100 feet of the marked area, the following work area limits will be provide: 1) only manual clearing of vegetation will be allowed within 50 feet of the edge of the flagged area, and 2) mechanical treatment of all kinds (including mowers, tractors, chippers, dozers) will be prohibited.

**Wetlands:** Restrictions for seasonal wetlands (including vernal pools and vernal pool grasslands) include: Vehicle access will only be permitted on well-established roads unless soils are dry. Soils will be considered sufficiently dry for vehicle access when they resist compaction, and after annual plants have set seed (generally June 1 to September 30, or as determined by a qualified biologist based on personal observation of the soils).

When feasible, all maintenance activities will be routed around wet areas while ensuring that the route does not cross sensitive resource areas.

If vegetation management activities are proposed within 250 feet of a seasonal wetland a biological monitor will be present and/or a qualified biologist will clearly mark the limits of the feature(s) or appropriate buffers. A qualified biologist will clearly flag a 50 foot buffer around all seasonal wetland features if work is proposed during the wet season (generally October 1 to May 31) or flag the feature if work is proposed during the dry season (generally June 1 to September 30).

Mixing or application of pesticides, herbicides, or other potentially toxic chemicals will be prohibited within 250 feet of seasonal wetland features.

Herbicide application to target vegetation by direct application methods (e.g. injection or cut-stump treatment) will be prohibited within 50 feet of wetland features in the wet season and allowed up to the edge of the wetland feature during the dry season.

Herbicide application by basal spray and foliage spray methods will be prohibited within 100 feet of wetland features in any season.

Manual clearing of vegetation (chainsaw, axe, clippers) will be allowed up to the edge of the pool or seasonal wetland in the wet season; a buffer will not be necessary in the dry season.

Mechanical clearing of vegetation (heavy-duty mowers, crawler tractors, or chippers) will be prohibited within 100 feet in the wet season; a buffer will not be necessary in the dry season.



	<p>All equipment will be stored, fueled, and maintained in a vehicle staging area 300 feet or the maximum distance possible from any vernal pool, vernal pool grassland, or seasonal wetland, and no closer than 200 feet unless a bermed (no ground disturbance) and lined refueling area is constructed and hazardous material absorbent pads are available in the event of a spill.</p> <p>Vehicles will be inspected daily for fluid leaks before leaving the staging area.</p> <p><b>Waters (Seep, Spring, Pond, Lake, River, Stream, and Marsh):</b> The following activities will be prohibited at all times within 100 feet of a seep, spring, pond, lake, river, stream, or marsh, and their associated habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Vehicle access, except on existing access and maintenance roads</li> <li>▪ Dumping, stockpiling, or burying of any material</li> <li>▪ Mixing of pesticides, herbicides, or other potentially toxic chemicals</li> <li>▪ Open petroleum products</li> </ul> <p>Equipment will be stored, fueled, and maintained in a vehicle staging area 300 feet or the maximum distance possible from any seep, spring, pond, lake, river, stream, marsh, or their associated habitats. Vehicles will be inspected daily for fluid leaks before leaving resource area.</p> <p>For vegetation management or maintenance within 100 feet of any seep, spring, pond, lake, river, stream, or marsh, or any of their associated habitats, the following work-area limits will be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Only manual-clearing of vegetation will be permitted</li> <li>▪ Basal and foliar application of herbicides will be prohibited. Only direct application treatments (e.g. injection and cut-stump) of target vegetation will be allowed using herbicide approved for aquatic use by the U.S. EPA and in coordination with the appropriate federal land manager.</li> </ul> <p>When feasible, all maintenance activities will be routed around wet areas while ensuring that the route does not cross sensitive resource areas.</p> <p><b>Fisheries:</b> The following avoidance measures apply to perennial watercourses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trim trees providing shade to the riverine areas only to the extent necessary.</li> <li>▪ Only manual removal of vegetation is allowed within 100 feet of perennial watercourses.</li> <li>▪ Only cut-stump treatments using herbicides approved for aquatic use by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and in compliance with the State of California are allowed within 100 feet of perennial watercourses.</li> <li>▪ No chemicals are to be mixed and no open petroleum products are allowed within 100 feet of the perennial watercourses.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigation required (see below)

**COMPLIANCE RESULTS**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Recycled Materials Quantities:</b> All materials generated from the project that can be recycled, shall be recycled. Submit quantities of all recycled material by category to the COR within 30 days of recycling and prior to submittal of final invoice. Record quantities of material by category that is salvaged, recycled, reused, or reprocessed.</p>
--------------------------	---

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Disposal of Waste Material:</b> Dispose or recycle waste material in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local regulations and ordinances. Coordinate with COR regarding sampling and signatures on manifests for wastes materials if required. Submit quantities of total project waste material disposal as listed below to the COR prior to submittal of final invoice.</p> <p>(1) Unregulated Wastes (i.e., trash): Volume in cubic yards or weight in pounds.</p> <p>(2) Hazardous or Universal Wastes: Weight in pounds.</p> <p>(3) PCB Wastes (If applicable): Weight in pounds.</p> <p>(4) Other regulated wastes (e.g., lead-based paint or asbestos): Weight in pounds (specify type of waste in report).</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Pollutant Spill Prevention, Notification, and Cleanup:</b> The Spill Prevention, Notification, and Cleanup Plan is expected to be a brief description of the measures taken by the contractor to prevent spills, to notify in the event of a spill, to train personnel, and to describe the company's commitment of manpower, equipment, and material which would be mobilized in the event of a spill. The plan should describe those elements in proportion to the risks posed by the project. This not intended to be the Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures Plan, as specified in 40 CFR 112. Those plans are required by law for facilities with <math>\geq 1320</math> gallons of oil storage.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Prevention of Air Pollution:</b> Federal law requires the protection of air quality under the Clean Air Act. All activities on this project shall be compliant with Federal, State, and local regulations. In particular, California Air Resources Board regulations apply to diesel equipment and trucks as well as fleets of large spark ignition equipment.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Prevention of Greenhouse Gas Emissions:</b> Federal law requires the reporting of emissions under the Greenhouse Gas Regulation 40CFR98. All emissions of sulfur hexafluoride on this project shall be reported to Natural Resources. Installation and maintenance of equipment containing sulfur hexafluoride or any other greenhouse gas shall be in accordance with management practices designed to eliminate emissions.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Prevention of Water Pollution:</b> Federal law requires the protection of water quality under the Clean Air Act. The project is exempt from the General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities issued by the California State Water Board because it consists of routine maintenance activities in an existing right of way, and because the proposed staging areas occurring outside that existing right of way measure collectively less than one acre. Construction activities must therefore remain strictly within the boundaries specified in the plans in order to qualify for this exemption. Best management practices will be used to control runoff from the project areas.</p>

**MITIGATION**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Other Mitigation: Not Required</p>
--------------------------	---------------------------------------

Western Area Power Administration Sierra Nevada Region	Environmental Requirements for the Malin-Round Mountain Off-ROW Tree Removal 2018	Project Number 100153025
---	---	-----------------------------

**ITEMS CHECKED ARE APPLICABLE TO THIS PROJECT.**

**General**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, migratory bird species and their nests and eggs are protected from injury or death. Impacts to migratory bird nests shall be avoided during the nesting season (January 1 to September 15). If project activities occur during the nesting season, WAPA will survey the project area for migratory bird nests prior to project activities and establish appropriate buffers around any active nests that may potentially be disturbed. If work must be conducted within these buffers, a WAPA supplied biological monitor will be on site for project activities within the buffers. If the biological monitor determines that activities are likely to cause nest impacts or nest abandonment, then project activities in the area shall be postponed or adjusted until nestlings have fledged, the nest is no longer active, or the activities are not likely to cause nest impacts or nest abandonment.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Routine maintenance activities will be avoided from mid-March through mid-June in the vicinity of structures.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Road maintenance operations will be conducted to minimize soil erosion. The United States Forest Service's Best Management Practices, Forest Practices, and Forest Practices Rules of the California Department of Forestry will be implemented where practical.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Culverts will be sized to match storms that may occur during the life of the road to minimize the potential for access road washouts under high intensity storms.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Excavated material will not be stock piled or deposited on or near stream banks, lake shorelines, or other water course perimeters where they could be washed away by high water or storm run-off or could significantly impact the water course.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vegetative management plans will be followed as appropriate.
<input type="checkbox"/>	In areas where excavation is not required, vegetation will be left in place whenever possible and original contours maintained in an undisturbed condition.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Habitat diversity will be maintained to the greatest extent feasible.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brush blades will be used on bulldozers in clearing operations where such use will help preserve the cover crop of grass, low-growing brush, etc.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dispose of all cleared vegetation in an appropriate manner subject to landowner requests.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The biologist will determine whether a sensitive habitat is present at the maintenance site. If special status species are identified in the area, maintenance will receive approval from Natural Resources prior to initiating any maintenance.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural Resources will be contacted immediately: a. If there is a "take" of a special status species or action affecting their critical habitat, and/or b. If archeological, paleontological, or historic evidence is found.
<input type="checkbox"/>	No paint or permanent discoloring agents will be applied to rocks or vegetation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If used, survey stakes will be removed as a part of the final clean up.
<input type="checkbox"/>	All work on access and maintenance roads must stay within the existing prism of the roads.

**Threatened and Endangered Species**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Federal law prohibits the taking of endangered, threatened, proposed or candidate wildlife and plants, and destruction or adverse modification of designated Critical Habitat. Federal law also prohibits the taking of birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.
-------------------------------------	---

	“Take” means to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect a protected animal or any part thereof, or attempt to do any of those things.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Known Occurrence of Protected Species or Habitat: Following issuance of the notice to proceed, and prior to the start of construction, Western will provide training to all contractor and subcontractor personnel involved in the construction activity. Untrained personnel shall not be allowed in the construction area. Western will provide two sets of drawings showing known sensitive areas located on or immediately adjacent to the transmission line right-of-way and/or facility. These areas shall be considered avoidance areas. Prior to any construction activity, the avoidance areas shall be marked on the ground in a manner approved by the COR. If access is absolutely necessary, the contractor shall first obtain permission from the COR, noting that a Western and/or other government or tribal agency biologist may be required to accompany personnel and equipment. Ground markings shall be maintained through the duration of the contract. Western will remove the markings during or following final inspection of the project.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown Occurrence of Protected Species or Habitat: If evidence of a protected species is found in the project area, the contractor shall immediately notify the COR and provide the location and nature of the findings. The contractor shall stop all activity in the vicinity of the protected species or habitat and not proceed until directed to do so by the COR.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prior to the start of project activities, all personnel will participate in environmental awareness training which will inform them of the sensitive habitats within the project area, the species that have the potential to occur in the project area, and the avoidance and minimization measures that are to be adhered to during project activities. Any new crew members that start after project activities have started will be given the environmental awareness training prior to starting work on site.
<input type="checkbox"/>	General Mitigation/Avoidance Measures: The Contractor shall follow all species specific conservation measures listed below as applicable to each site, in coordination with Western’s Natural Resources Point of Contact (POC) and the COR.

**Perennial Streams and Rivers**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>The following activities will be prohibited at all times within 100 feet of a seep, spring, pond, lake, river, stream, or marsh, and their associated habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicle access, except on existing access and maintenance roads, unless approved by Natural Resources</li> <li>• Dumping, stockpiling, or burying of any material, except as required for specific O&amp;M activities (e.g., rip-rap)</li> <li>• Mixing of pesticides, herbicides, or other potentially toxic chemicals</li> <li>• Open petroleum products</li> </ul> <p>Equipment will be stored, fueled, and maintained in a vehicle staging area 300 feet or the maximum distance possible from any seep, spring, pond, lake, river, stream, marsh, or their associated habitats. Vehicles will be inspected daily for fluid leaks before leaving the staging area.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All spills of fuel or hydraulic fluid would be immediately cleaned up according to Western's guidelines for hazardous material handling.

**Compliance Regulatory Requirements**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No violations of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders will be permitted.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There will be no uncontrolled or un-permitted releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or petroleum and natural gas products to avoid Adversely affecting environmentally sensitive resources.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In the event of a Hazardous Material/Waste spill Natural Resources and the COR will be contacted, dispatch notified, and the appropriate Federal, State, and local regulating authority notified depending on the type and size of the spill (For further guidance, please see Natural Resources).

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hazardous Materials/Waste on-site to consider: Fueling of equipment; In the right of way, place spill drip pans (or similar) below fueling areas, spill kit and tools available nearby to stop the flow of fuel spills, and employees trained in spill response.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hazardous Materials/Waste need to be removed off site for disposal/recycling
<input type="checkbox"/>	Piping and oil sampling required
<input type="checkbox"/>	Material Analytical Data: See attached results for reference
<input type="checkbox"/>	Erosion control measures to be taken to prevent sediment from reaching river
<input type="checkbox"/>	Soil Sampling