

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 11, 2021

FROM: Sarah Salazar, Environmental Biologist  
Division of Hydropower Licensing  
Office of Energy Projects

TO: Public Files for the Upper North Fork Feather River  
Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2105-089)

SUBJECT: Updated List of Threatened, Endangered, Candidate, and  
Proposed Species Generated by ECOS-IPaC Website on  
January 11, 2021

On January 11, 2021, Commission staff accessed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's ECOS-IPaC website (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>). The species that were covered in the Commission staff's Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Upper North Fork Feather River (UNFFR) Hydroelectric Project, issued on November 10, 2005, included the threatened valley elderberry longhorn beetle, California red-legged frog, and bald eagle. Since the issuance of the final EIS, the bald eagle was delisted and the valley elderberry longhorn beetle no longer appears on the official species list for the UNFFR Project. In addition to the threatened California red-legged frog, four other federally listed species were found to occur within the UNFFR Project boundary or be affected by the project. These species include the endangered Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, and conservancy fairy shrimp; and the threatened delta smelt and slender Orcutt grass. Each of these species has designated critical habitat, but it is all located outside of the project boundary. No proposed or candidate species are known to occur within the project boundary or be affected by the project.

A copy of the list is attached.



## 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 95825-1846  
Phone: (916) 414-6600 Fax: (916) 414-6713

In Reply Refer To:

January 11, 2021

Consultation Code: 08ESMF00-2020-SLI-2826

Event Code: 08ESMF00-2021-E-02038

Project Name: UPPER NORTH FORK FEATHER RIVER PROJECT (FERC Project No. 2105-089)

Subject: Updated list of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location 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

[www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html](http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html).

<http://>

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(s):

- Official Species List
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## Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

### **Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office**

Federal Building

2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605

Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

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## Project Summary

Consultation Code: 08ESMF00-2020-SLI-2826

Event Code: 08ESMF00-2021-E-02038

Project Name: UPPER NORTH FORK FEATHER RIVER PROJECT (FERC Project No. 2105-089)

Project Type: POWER GENERATION

Project Description: On October 23, 2002, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) for a new license for the existing Upper North Fork Feather River (UNFFR) Project. The UNFFR Hydroelectric Project is an existing 342.6-megawatt (MW) hydroelectric facility located on the North Fork Feather River (NFFR) and Butt Creek, in Plumas County, California. The project occupies 1,024 acres of lands of the United States administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. The UNFFR Project consists of five hydraulically connected developments, with a total of three dams and reservoirs, five powerhouses, associated tunnels, surge chambers, and penstocks. The project has a combined average annual generation of 1,171.9 gigawatt-hours. PG&E proposes no increased capacity.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@40.179460442500044,-121.08949440105886,14z>



Counties: Plumas County, California

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## Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 5 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this 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.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

### Amphibians

NAME	STATUS
California Red-legged Frog <i>Rana draytonii</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2891">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2891</a>	Threatened
Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog <i>Rana sierrae</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9529">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9529</a>	Endangered

### Fishes

NAME	STATUS
Delta Smelt <i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/321">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/321</a>	Threatened

### Crustaceans

NAME	STATUS
Conservancy Fairy Shrimp <i>Branchinecta conservatio</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8246">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8246</a>	Endangered

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## Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Slender Orcutt Grass <i>Orcuttia tenuis</i>	Threatened
There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available.	
Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1063">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1063</a>	

## Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

Document Content(s)

P-2105-089 1-11-21.PDF.....1