



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban  
Development  
451 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20410  
www.hud.gov

espanol.hud.gov

## **Environmental Review for Activity/Project that is Categorically Excluded Subject to Section 58.5**

Pursuant to 24 CFR 58.35(a)

### **Project Information**

**Project Name:** Forest and Watershed Health Program (FWHP), Rim Rangeland Infrastructure Project Two

**Responsible Entity:** California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)

**Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity):** Same

**State/Local Identifier:** 16-NDR-11694

**Preparer:** Patrick Talbott

**Certifying Officer Name and Title:** Karen Patterson, Chief of Grant Management Section

**Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity):** Same

**Consultant (if applicable):** None

**Direct Comments to:** Patrick Talbott

**Project Location:** Rim Fire Burn Scar in Tuolumne County, Stanislaus National Forest. See Attached Map with locations of Rangeland Project 2 Activities

**Description of the Proposed Project [24 CFR 50.12 & 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]:**

HCD is using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)-National Disaster Resilience (NDR) federal funding awarded by HUD to reconstruct public improvements in the Stanislaus National Forest. Rangeland Project Two includes the following activities: three (3) fencing structures approximately 1.6 miles in length; three (3) wildlife friendly water troughs or guzzlers; four (4) cattleguards; and two (2) corral structures. These activities consist primarily of replacing similar rangeland infrastructure that was destroyed in the Rim Fire. Replacement of this public infrastructure is critical to protecting forest resources and for the management of cattle in the forest. The replacement of this infrastructure will allow range permittees to fully access their grazing allotments and at the same time protect sensitive areas from impact of the grazing cattle. See attached map for locations of each of the 12 activities covered by this review.

**Level of Environmental Review Determination:**

Categorically Excluded per 24 CFR 58.35(a), and subject to laws and authorities at §58.5.

**Funding Information**

Grant Number	HUD Program	Funding Amount
B-13-DS-06 001	CDBG-NDR	\$70,359,459

**Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount:**

\$26,231,666 (CDBG-NDR funding provided to USFS in CEA: 16-NDR-11694)

**Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]:**

\$223,840 (See Attached cost estimates for each activity.)

**Compliance with 24 CFR 50.4, 58.5, and 58.6 Laws and Authorities**

Record below the compliance or conformance determinations for each statute, executive order, or regulation. Provide credible, traceable, and supportive source documentation for each authority. Where applicable, complete the necessary reviews or consultations and obtain or note applicable permits of approvals. Clearly note citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references. Attach additional documentation as appropriate.

<b>Compliance Factors:</b> Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations  No
<b>STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 &amp; 58.6</b>		
<b>Airport Hazards</b>  24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	Yes    No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project activities are not within an airport clear zone, as no airport sites exist within or near the project area. See attached list of airports and project map that documents none are in project area. Proposed action does not impact any residential, commercial or habitable structures of any kind.

<p><b>Coastal Barrier Resources</b></p> <p>Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]</p>	<p>Yes No  <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>There are no Coastal Barrier Resources on the west coast of the United States. Therefore, there will be no impact on any coastal barrier resources.</p>
<p><b>Flood Insurance</b></p> <p>Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]</p>	<p>Yes No  <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>There are no physical structures associated with the proposed rangeland infrastructure improvements that require flood insurance. Therefore, no flood insurance is required.</p>
<p><b>STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 &amp; 58.5</b></p>		
<p><b>Clean Air</b></p> <p>Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) &amp; (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93.</p>	<p>Yes No  <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>None of the proposed activities will impact air quality air pollution standards. The proposed projects will not worsen local air quality and will not cause air quality to exceed federal or state ambient air quality standards. Per consultation with Maria Benech, USFS staff, (209) 288-6285, on August 10, 2018.</p>
<p><b>Coastal Zone Management</b></p> <p>Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) &amp; (d)</p>	<p>Yes No  <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>All projects are located in the California Sierra Nevada mountains. It is not in or near any Coastal Zone by definition within Coastal Act Public Code 30103. Therefore, there will be no impact on any coastal zones.</p>
<p><b>Contamination and Toxic Substances</b></p> <p>24 CFR Part 50.3(i) &amp; 58.5(i)(2)</p>	<p>Yes No  <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>This project is in a rural/forested area. No contaminated sites exist within or near the project area. Project activities will not create any new toxic hazards. Per consultation with Maria Benech, USFS staff, (209) 288-6285, on August 10, 2018, USFS staff have conducted site visits to the project area. Staff did not find indications of toxics and there is no historical data that indicates any toxics or contaminated sites are in the area.</p>

<p><b>Endangered Species</b></p> <p>Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402</p>	<p>Yes    No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>All project activities will be conducted so as to not impact current species listed on threatened or endangered lists.</p> <p>USFS documents, including the wildlife and botany project input forms and the aquatic species specialist input for this Range Project shows that no species or habitat will be impacted by the proposed project. The project does not lie within a critical habitat unit for the California red legged frog per the Federal Register (March 17, 2010; Volume 75, Number 51) and is not within a proposed critical habitat unit for the Sierra Nevada yellow legged frog per the Federal Register (April 25, 2013; Volume 78, Number 80).</p>
<p><b>Explosive and Flammable Hazards</b></p> <p>24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C</p>	<p>Yes    No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>This project is in a rural/forested area. Per consultation with Maria Benech, USFS staff, (209) 288-6285, on August 10, 2018, USFS staff have visited the project sites and confirmed that there are no above ground explosive or flammable hazards located in the area. Therefore, all project activities are in an Acceptable Separation Distance (ASD) from any above-ground explosive or flammable fuels or chemicals containers. The project will not create any new hazardous operations of this kind.</p>
<p><b>Farmlands Protection</b></p> <p>Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658</p>	<p>Yes    No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Per consultation with Maria Benech, USFS staff, (209) 288-6285, on August 10, 2018, project area does not contain protected farmlands and activities will not lead to conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses. See attached project map and map of farmland showing no farmland in project area. In addition, all proposed activities (rangeland improvements) will ensure sustainable agricultural uses/cattle grazing in the forest.</p>

<p><b>Floodplain Management</b></p> <p>Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55</p>	<p>Yes No  <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Per phone consultation with USFS staff, Maria Benech, (209) 288-6285, on August 10, 2018, project activities will not have an adverse impact on floodplains. None of the proposed activities will take place in floodplains or impact existing structures within a floodplain. Rangeland activities will be beneficial and reduce flood hazards and erosion in the area. consulted on the project's impact on flood zones</p> <p>Executive Order 11988 applies to Floodplain Management. Floodplains are found along stream channels throughout the project area. Implementation of this decision would maintain or improve the existing condition of these floodplains by protecting meadows and riparian areas.</p>
<p><b>Historic Preservation</b></p> <p>National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800</p>	<p>Yes No  <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>HCD submitted a letter to SHPO on August 8, 2018 with a determination of no impacts on historic or cultural resources. SHPO responded in writing on September 6, 2018 that they concurred with HCD's determination. See attached SHPO concurrence letter.</p>
<p><b>Noise Abatement and Control</b></p> <p>Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B</p>	<p>Yes No  <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The project activity is not a "noise sensitive use" under HUD regulations. Project area is not urban and no existing residential units will be impacted by noise created from project construction activity implementation.</p> <p>HUD requires that grantees give adequate consideration to noise exposures and sources of noise as an integral part of the urban environment when HUD assistance is provided for planning purposes (24 CFR part 51 Sec. 51.101). This project is located in a rural area. Any noise resulting from the project would be short in duration and cease when project activities are</p>

		complete; thus, not creating a permanent and long-lasting new source of noise in the project area.
<b>Sole Source Aquifers</b>  Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	Yes    No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project activity will not impact a sole source aquifer. No sole source aquifers are in the project area. There are no adverse effects on watershed, water quality or other beneficial uses of water. See attached project map and map of sole source aquifers that document none in the project area.
<b>Wetlands Protection</b>  Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	Yes    No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project activities will not have a negative impact on wetlands. The proposed projects will help preserve and protect existing wetlands and meadows.  Executive Order 11990 requires protection of wetlands. Wetlands within the project area include meadows, stream channels and springs. This project is consistent with Executive Order 11990 since this project would maintain or improve the condition of wetlands.  Per attached USFS Decision Memo, executed on August 10, 2018, all of the Rangeland Project 2 activities will be located outside of meadow and riparian wetland areas.
<b>Wild and Scenic Rivers</b>  Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	Yes    No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Tuolumne River is a wild and scenic river. Per consultation with Maria Benech, USFS Stanislaus National Forest staff on August 10, 2018, none of the project activities will not have an impact on the river, as none of the activities will take place within one mile of the river.
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE</b>		
<b>Environmental Justice</b>  Executive Order 12898	Yes    No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project activities will not lead to higher concentrations of low income persons or place families into areas that

		are unhealthy. The project could make job and learning opportunities available to low income persons through California Conservation Corps training programs.
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**Field Inspection (Date and completed by):**

USFS staff including a wildlife biologist, hydrologist, range specialist and botanist have inspected the project locations throughout the summer of 2018 as part of making the NEPA compliance determinations listed above. USFS staff will be on site during implementation of the projects to ensure continued compliance, as necessary.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusions:**

The proposed project activities convert to exempt and do not trigger a higher level of environmental review because the scope of work primarily consists of replacing existing rangeland infrastructure destroyed in the Rim Fire Disaster. Replacement of this rangeland infrastructure will be very beneficial to the USFS in re-establishing sustainable grazing by permit holders. The replacement of fences, troughs, cattleguards and corrals will also provide future protection of sensitive habitat.

**Mitigation Measures and Conditions [40 CFR 1505.2(c)]**

Summarize below all mitigation measures adopted by the Responsible Entity to reduce, avoid, or eliminate adverse environmental impacts and to avoid non-compliance or non-conformance with the above-listed authorities and factors. These measures/conditions must be incorporated into project contracts, development agreements, and other relevant documents. The staff responsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures should be clearly identified in the mitigation plan.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure
None	None

**Determination:**

- This categorically excluded activity/project converts to Exempt, per 58.34(a)(12) because there are no circumstances which require compliance with any of the federal laws and authorities cited at §58.5. Funds may be committed and drawn down after certification of this part for this (now) EXEMPT project; OR

- This categorically excluded activity/project cannot convert to Exempt because there are circumstances which require compliance with one or more federal laws and authorities cited at §58.5. Complete consultation/mitigation protocol requirements, **publish NOI/RROF and obtain "Authority to Use Grant Funds"** (HUD 7015.16) per Section 58.70 and 58.71 before committing or drawing down any funds; OR
- This project is now subject to a full Environmental Assessment according to Part 58 Subpart E due to extraordinary circumstances (Section 58.35(c)).

Preparer Signature:  Date: 12-5-2018

Name/Title/Organization: Patrick Talbott, Grant Management Representative, HCD

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Responsible Entity Agency Official Signature:

 Date: 12-5-2018

Name/Title: Karen Patterson, Chief of Grant Management Section

This original, signed document and related supporting material must be retained on file by the Responsible Entity in an Environmental Review Record (ERR) for the activity/project (ref: 24 CFR Part 58.38) and in accordance with recordkeeping requirements for the HUD program(s).

### Range Project 1

Name	Type	Output (eg miles of fence)	Priority	Contract Estimate	Force Account	CCC Estimate	NEPA document	CEQA?	On DOB Map dated 2/7/18?
Wet Meadow	Fence	0.25	2	\$ 6,600.00			Rim Facility Maintenance LTF	Waiver	Y
Duckwall Ridge	Fence	1.2	1+	\$ 31,680.00			Duckwall Ridge Fence Extension C	Waiver	Y
Marble Mountain SE to Thompson Meadow	Fence	6	2	\$ 158,400.00			Rim Facility Maintenance LTF	Waiver	Y
Jawbone Station Admin. Site	Fence	1.3	2	\$ 34,320.00			Rim Facility Maintenance LTF/Rim Fire Habitat Improvement CE (Extensions)	Waiver	Y
Fermons Meadow (Main and Upper)	Fence	1	2	\$ 26,400.00	\$ 14,000.00		Rim Facility Maintenance LTF	Waiver	Y
Jawbone Lava Cap Drift Fence	Fence	4.3	1+	\$ 113,520.00	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 62,400.00	Rim Facility Maintenance LTF	Waiver	Y
John's Meadow and Long John's Meadow (Granite Stewardship)	Fence	1	1	\$ 26,400.00		\$ 48,000.00	Rim Facility Maintenance LTF	Waiver	Y
Abernathy Meadow	Fence	0.6	3	\$ 15,840.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 206,400.00	Rim Facility Maintenance LTF	Waiver	Y
Sweetwater	Fence	0.5	3	\$ 13,200.00			Rim Facility Maintenance LTF	Waiver	Y
<b>Totals</b>		<b>16.15</b>		<b>\$ 426,360.00</b>	<b>\$ 49,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 587,400.00</b>			
Total low estimate budget (no CCC)				\$ 475,360.00					
Total high estimate budget (with CCC)				\$ 636,400.00					

### Range Project 2

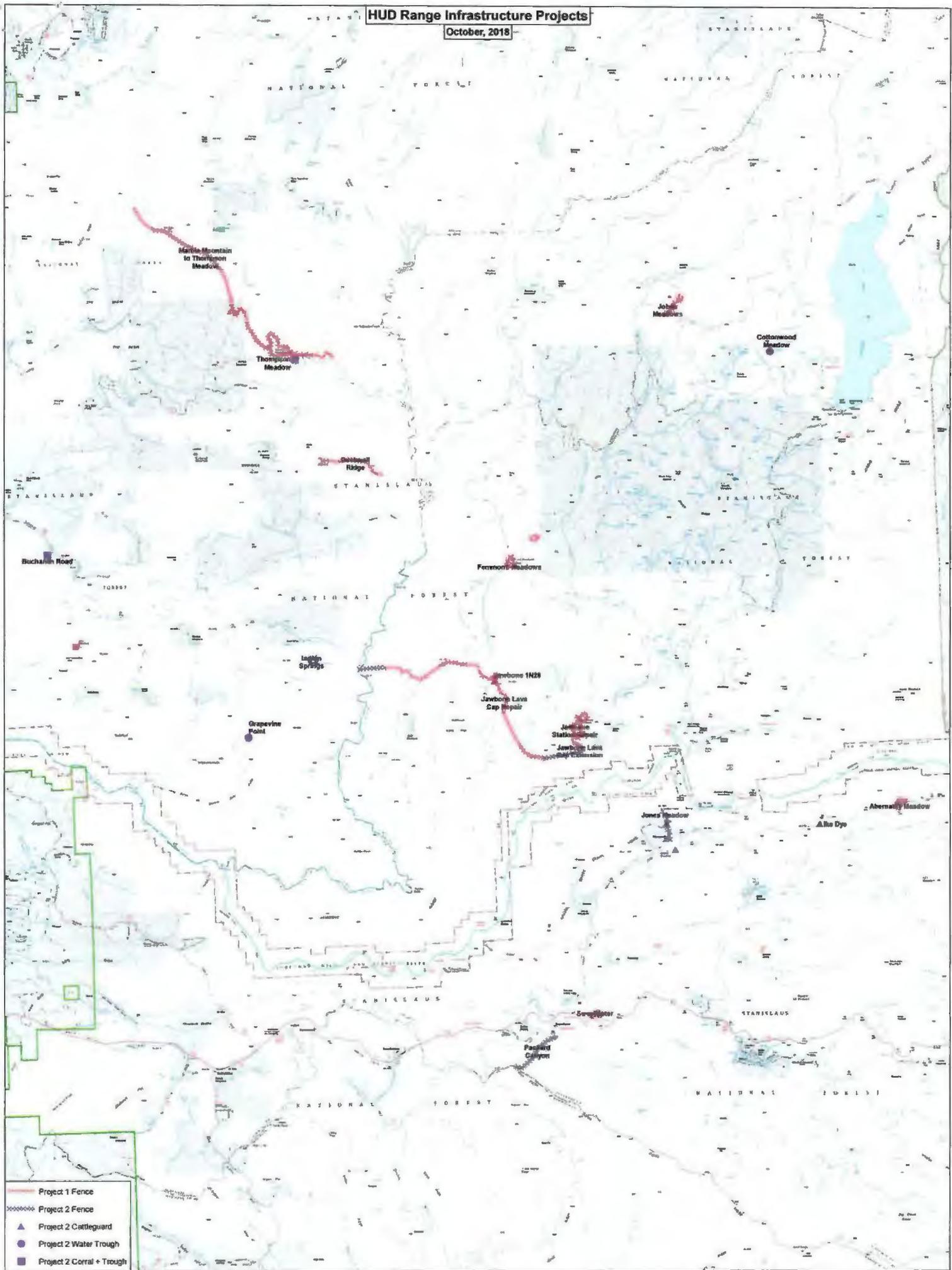
Name	Type	Output (eg miles)	Priority	Contract Estimate	Force Account	CCC Estimate	NEPA document	CEQA?	On DOB Map dated 2/7/18?
Indian Springs	Fence	0.5	1+	\$ 13,200.00	\$ 14,000.00		Rim Infrastructure Project 2	New NOE	Y
Jones Meadow	Fence	0.6	2	\$ 15,840.00	\$ 7,000.00		Rim Infrastructure Project 2	Waiver	Y
Jawbone Lava Cap	Fence	0.5	1	\$ 13,200.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	Rim Infrastructure Project 2	Waiver	Y
Thompson Meadow	Corral	1	1	\$ 39,000.00			Rim Infrastructure Project 2	Waiver	Y
1N20 at Buchanan Rd. Hunter Creek	Corral	1	2	\$ 39,000.00			Rim Infrastructure Project 2	Add to NOE	Y
Jones Meadow (Cherry Oil Road)	Cattleguard	1	1	\$ 10,000.00			Rim Infrastructure Project 2	Add to NOE	Y
Jones Meadow (1S26)	Cattleguard	1	1	\$ 10,000.00			Rim Infrastructure Project 2	Waiver	Y
Ike Dye (1S02 x 1S26)	Cattleguard	1	1	\$ 10,000.00			Rim Infrastructure Project 2	Waiver	Y
Corral Creek	Cattleguard	1	2+	\$ 10,000.00			Rim Infrastructure Project 2	Waiver	Y
Cottonwood Meadow	Trough	1	1	\$ 8,000.00			Rim Infrastructure Project 2	Add to NOE	Y
Grapevine Point	Trough	1	3	\$ 8,000.00			Rim Infrastructure Project 2	Waiver	Y
1N20 at Buchanan Rd. Hunter Creek	Trough	1	2	\$ 8,000.00			Rim Infrastructure Project 2	Add to NOE	Y
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$ 223,840.00</b>	<b>\$ 49,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 234,640.00</b>			
Total low estimate budget (no CCC)				\$ 272,840.00					
Total high estimate budget (with CCC)				\$ 283,640.00					

No CEQA coverage, needs to be added to NOE

Projects removed	Type	Output	Priority	Contract Estimate	Force Account	CCC Estimate	Notes
Packard Canyon area	Fence	1.5	2	\$ 39,600.00	\$ 14,000.00		None - need letter to file Waiver
Boggy Meadow	Fence	0.5	1	\$ 13,200.00			Rim Facility Maintenance LTF
Anderson Flat	Corral	1	1	\$ 39,000.00			Rim Infrastructure Project 2 in Mariposa
Anderson Flat	Trough	1	2	\$ 8,000.00			Rim Infrastructure Project 2 in Mariposa

# HUD Range Infrastructure Projects

October, 2018



- Project 1 Fence
- - - Project 2 Fence
- ▲ Project 2 Cattleguard
- Project 2 Water Trough
- Project 2 Corral + Trough

## Tuolumne County Public and Private Airports, California:

Tuolumne County airport directory. List contains all public airports, helipads & helidecks, and seaplane ports & bases. Also lists all private airports and landing strips, which may be used by private members or in emergency situations. Airports listed include airport codes, administrators and contact information. Return to the [California county list](#).

Columbia Airport - O22 Columbia, California Facility Usage: Public	County Of Tuolumne 2 South Green St Sonora, CA 95370 (209) 533-5685
Columbia Heliport - 6Q0 Columbia, California Facility Usage: Private	Tuolumne County 10723 Airport Rd Columbia, CA 95310 (209) 533-5685
Hermitage Airport - 45CN Groveland, California Facility Usage: Private	Kenneth L. Wagner P.O. Box 1301 Groveland, CA 95321 (209) 962-4069
Pine Mountain Lake Airport - E45 Groveland, California Facility Usage: Public	Tuolumne County 2 South Green St Sonora, CA 95370 (209) 533-5685
Kistler Ranch Airport - 08CL Jamestown, California Facility Usage: Private	P. J. Kistler, Md 10 Versailles Menlo Park, CA 94025 (650) 323-9538
Peoria Airport - 6CL9 Jamestown, California Facility Usage: Private	Dafka Llc 17775 Hwy 108 Jamestown, CA 95327 (209) 984-8750
Bald Mountain Heliport - 76CA Long Barn, California Facility Usage: Private	Usda Forest Service 19777 Greenley Rd Sonora, CA 95372 (209) 532-3671
<p><a href="#">Public Records in Tuolumne County</a> - Provides access to a variety of government websites in Tuolumne County. This is a great place to find out about permits, licenses, aviation rules and regulations, taxes, and a lot of other public resources.</p>	



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Director

Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Telephone: (916) 445-7000 FAX: (916) 445-7053

calshpo.ohp@parks.ca.gov www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

September 6, 2018

Refer to HUD\_2018\_0807\_001

Mr. Patrick Talbott  
CDBG-NDR Contract Manager  
Department of Housing & Community Development  
Division of Financial Assistance  
2020 West El Camino Avenue, Suite 500  
P.O. Box 952054  
Sacramento, CA 94252-2054

Re: Rangeland Infrastructure Project Two Located in the Stanislaus National Forest, County of Tuolumne, CA

Dear Mr. Talbott:

The California State Historic Preservation Officer received the consultation submittal for the above referenced undertaking for our review and comment pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800. The regulations and advisory materials are located at [www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov).

Pursuant to 36 CFR §800.4(d), we still do not object to the United States Forest Service (USFS) finding offered for this undertaking through a separate consultation process. Likewise, we have no objections to the fact that the Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD) reiterated the finding of no historic properties affected by the proposed Rangeland Infrastructure Two fence and infrastructure replacement project located in the Stanislaus National Forest in Tuolumne County. However, HCD may have additional Section 106 responsibilities under certain circumstances set forth at 36 CFR Part 800. For example, in the event that historic properties are discovered during implementation of the undertaking your agency is required to consult further pursuant to §800.13(b).

We appreciate HCD's consideration of historic properties in the project planning process. If you have questions please contact Shannon Lauchner, Historian II, with the Local Government & Environmental Compliance Unit at (916)445-7013 or by email at [shannon.lauchner@parks.ca.gov](mailto:shannon.lauchner@parks.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Julianne Polanco  
State Historic Preservation Officer

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

2020 W. El Camino Avenue, Suite 500, 95833  
P. O. Box 952054  
Sacramento, CA 94252-2054  
(916) 263-2771 / FAX (916) 263-2763  
[www.hcd.ca.gov](http://www.hcd.ca.gov)



August 7, 2018

Julianne Polanco  
State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

RE: Determination of Impact on Historic and Cultural Resources from Rangeland Infrastructure Project Two funded with Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") National Disaster Resilience ("NDR") funding.

Dear Ms. Polanco:

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is completing an environmental review of a second proposed rangeland infrastructure project located in Tuolumne County within the Stanislaus National Forest (see attached maps). The proposed scope of work consists of: three (3) fencing structures approximately 1.6 miles in length; three (3) wildlife friendly water troughs or guzzlers; three (3) cattleguards; and two (2) corral structures. These activities consist primarily of replacing similar rangeland infrastructure that was destroyed in the Rim Fire Disaster.

HCD is administering federal CDBG-NDR funding which has been awarded by the United State Department of Housing and Community Development (HUD) for these activities. The United States Forest Service (USFS) has been granted the CDBG-NDR funding by HCD to rebuild the rangeland infrastructure, which will allow sustainable grazing to again take place in this part of the Stanislaus National Forest.

The USFS has already conducted an environmental review per their National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations, policies and procedures. Most of the environmental federal regulations must be addressed by both the USFS and HCD therefore, HCD is utilizing USFS compliance review information and determinations as part of completing the HUD NEPA review. Both the USFS and HCD will complete separate NEPA reviews of the proposed activities using USDA or HUD environmental review regulatory forms and process.

Based on a review of the forested areas where fences, troughs, cattleguards and corrals are to be rebuilt, it was determined that there are no structures impacted and more importantly no historic structures (residential or commercial). Therefore, HCD has determined that no historic structures will be impacted by the proposed Rangeland Project 2.

USFS determined that there will be no adverse effects on cultural resources from the proposed scope of work. This determination was based on a review of Stanislaus Forest heritage

resource files for those parts of the Rangeland Project 2 Area of Potential Effects (APE) that has been inventoried to current professional standards for cultural resources. Some of the APE was not covered by existing surveys so USFS completed a Cultural Resource Management Report 05-16-4508, see attached. The Report found that there was a possibility for cultural/heritage resources, so an archaeologist will flag any cultural resources prior to starting any work. An archaeologist will also be present during specific parts of the work.

The USFS consulted with local Tribes regarding these proposed activities back in 2015 at the initial planning stages of this work. See attached USFS flyer on activities covered by the consultation and list of Tribes who were contacted/consulted. The Tuolumne Band of Mi-Wuk requested a field trip of some of the sites where activities were to take place and they requested a draft and final memo of the USFS Decision Memo. The Tribe expressed strong verbal support for the rangeland projects under consultation. Lastly, the USFS will require that an Archaeologist must be present at the sites during placement of the infrastructure in case any cultural resources are found.

Based on the fact that there are no structures in the Forest where the fence, trough, cattleguards and corral installations will take place, and based the fact that no cultural resources were identified in most areas or that an archaeologist will identify any resources present and based on Tribal consultation, HCD has made the determination that there will be no significant impact on historic or cultural resources from the proposed Rangeland Project 2 actions. If however, cultural resources are found as part of completing the proposed rangeland improvement activities, then an archaeologist will be present to evaluate and preserve cultural /heritage resources.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and specifically to **36 CFR 800.4**, regarding the identification of historic resources, HCD requests that you review our determination and verify that it is correct. If you agree with our determination, then we will proceed with completion of the NEPA review and begin the rangeland improvement project.

If you have questions or comments about the enclosed documentation then feel free to contact me at: [Patrick.talbott@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:Patrick.talbott@hcd.ca.gov) or 916-263-2297. We appreciate your attention to this request for verification of our determination.

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Sincerely,



Patrick Talbott,  
CDBG-NDR Contract Manager

Cc: Karen Patterson, Chief of Grant Management Section