

Appendix B
BOTANICAL FIELD RECONNAISSANCE REPORT
WITH RARE PLANT AND NOXIOUS WEED SUMMARIES
for
East Creek Restoration Project

Note: The information from this survey and report is intended to be included in the Mountain Meadows Project documents.

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LAND OWNERSHIP: Owned by both Shasta Forest Timberlands LLC and Red River LLC; and managed by W.M. Beaty and Associates, INC.

U.S.F.S. DISTRICT OF PROJECT: Eagle Lake, Lassen National Forest

QUAD(S): Greenville NW 7.5, CA, USFS map #7; 605-2C.

LEGAL SUBDIVISION: T29, R10, Portions of Sections 31 and 32. See maps.

LOCATION: Approximately 6 miles south of Westwood, CA. See maps.

RECONNAISSANCE:

Date(s) of field work: July 12 and 13, 2016

By: Jim Battagin

Number of acres surveyed: Approx. 144 acres.

The area indicated on the attached map was surveyed for the following Plant Species of Concern. These species were either (1) recorded in the California Natural Diversity Database or (2) of concern to this reporter as possibly being in the survey area:

USFW Threatened: *Orcuttia tenuis* (Slender Orcutt grass).

Forest Service Plant Species of concern: *Carex petasata* (Lidden's Sedge), *Carex sheldonii* (Sheldon's Sedge), *Drosera anglica* (Longleaf Sundew), *Oreostemma elatum* (Tall Alpine Aster) and *Pyrrcoma lucida* (Sticky Pyrrcoma).

The following type of reconnaissance was conducted in the project area:

Cursory: _____ General: _____ Complete: X Intuitive controlled: X

The reconnaissance was conducted in the following manner: The entire project area was viewed from various distances. Areas that were thought to be potential habitat for target species (either rare or noxious species) were viewed more closely (i.e. springy areas, hillocks, swales, creek channels and other unusual areas were inspected more closely).

RARE PLANT SURVEY SUMMARY

Species located: Two occurrences of a Lassen National Forest Sensitive Plant Species (California Rare Plant Ranking System 1B.2) were located during the survey: *Pyrrcoma lucida*. See "Botanical Survey and Rare Species Location Map".

Occurrence PYLU-1 was discovered on 7-13-16, numbered 500+ healthy plants and covered an estimated 1/2 acre. The area was slightly sloped, lightly shaded, had little duff and was vernal in nature. This occurrence is flagged with blue and black striped flagging. The GPS coordinate in the middle of the occurrence is N40 degrees, 14.879' and W120 degrees, 53.486'.

Occurrence PYLU-2 was discovered on 7-13-16, numbered about 200 healthy plants and covered an estimated 1/4 acre. The area was slightly sloped, lightly shaded, had little duff and was vernal in nature. This occurrence is flagged with blue and black striped flagging. The GPS coordinate in the middle of the occurrence is N40 degrees, 14.904' and W120 degrees, 53.599'.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) list of federally listed threatened and endangered plant species potentially occurring in the Lassen National Forest includes one threatened plant species, *Orcuttia tenuis* (slender Orcutt grass). *Orcuttia tenuis* is limited to relatively deep vernal pools or vernal pool type habitat with clay soil. No vernal pools were found during field surveys and none are known to occur in the Proposed Project area. Therefore, no threatened or endangered species are considered likely to occur in the Proposed Project area.

Rare Plant Management:

No federal or state listed species were found and therefore no management is required by law. However, one USFS sensitive plant (*Pyrrcoma lucida*) was found in two locations. Even though no protection is required by law, it is recommended that the two occurrences are re-located, re-flagged and project participants are made aware of their locations and efforts are made to avoid any disturbance in these areas.

Unoccupied habitat located (how much, where, description): No suitable unoccupied habitat was seen for any species of concern.

Note: A plant species list was compiled and is included in this report (See “Plant Species List for the East Creek Restoration Project”). Every species seen was recorded. In this way, no species was overlooked as a potential species of concern.

HABITAT TYPES INVESTIGATED:

HABITAT TYPE 1: Intermittent creek channels.

Habitat description 1: Intermittent creek channels that are downcut to varying degrees. Some of these channels are in forested areas, but most of them are in East Creek Meadow.

HABITAT TYPE 2: Meadow.

Habitat description 2: Slightly sloping meadow toward Mountain Meadows Reservoir. Some of the meadow would be considered wet meadow with associated species, but most of the meadow houses upland species or species that tend to grow in areas that are wet in the spring but dry out fairly quickly. The upland species are mostly found along the edges of the meadow.

HABITAT TYPE 3: Forested areas.

Habitat description 3: These forested areas are mostly slightly sloped. Parts of these forested areas house the vernal habitat conducive to the establishment and growth of *Pyrrocoma lucida*. This plant usually grows in areas of water runoff in the spring, high water table, minimal shade and little competition from other plant species.

NOXIOUS WEED ASSESSMENT:

A complete noxious weed survey was conducted in the project analysis area.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's noxious weed list divides noxious weeds into categories A, B, and C. A-listed weeds are those for which eradication or containment is required at the state or county level. With B-listed weeds, eradication or containment is at the discretion of the County Agricultural Commissioner. C-listed weeds require eradication or containment only when found in a nursery or at the discretion of the County Agricultural Commissioner.

No occurrences of A or B-listed were discovered in the analysis area during the botanical survey. However, there was discovered one species on the C list, *Elymus caput-medusae* (old name:

Taeniatherum caput-medusae). Common name Medusa Head.

Although no action is required to manage or contain Medusa Head, it is recommended that care be taken not to spread this species beyond its current boundaries . When practicable, keep machinery and even people out the estimated 4.0 acre area containing this species. The area containing this species is flagged in orange flagging with "Noxious Weeds" printed on the flagging. It is suggested that the flagging be replenished before operations begin. See "Noxious Weeds Location Map". The GPS coordinates for this area are as follows:

The northeast end of the noxious weed occurrence: N40 degrees, 14.820' and W120 degrees, 53.703'.

The center of the noxious weed occurrence: N40 degrees, 14.789' and W120 degrees, 53.755'.

The southwest end of the noxious weed occurrence: N40 degrees, 14.734' and W120 degrees, 53.802'.

The Medusa Head is scattered throughout the area designated on the map, but the area of highest density is found in the middle and SW portions of the affected area.