

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Hyampom Road Improvements Project Field Meeting**  
**February 6, 2002**

***ATTENDEES:***

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Jack Miller	CDFG	530-225-2273	jmiller@dfg.ca.gov
Bob Williams	CDFG	530-225-2365	bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov
Joe Croteau	CDFG	530-842-0882	jcroteau@dfg.ca.gov
Curt Babcock	CDFG	530-225-2740	cbabcock@dfg.ca.gov
Cheryl Carrothers	USFS	530-628-5227	ccarrothers@fs.fed.us
Christine Erickson	USFS	530-628-1264	cjerickson@fs.fed.us
Anna Arnold	USFS	530-628-5227	aarnold@fs.fed.us
Candace Miller	Caltrans	530-225-3034	Candace_Miller@dot.ca.gov
Jan Smith	Trinity DOT	530-623-1365	jsmith@trinitycounty.org
Bill Taggart	Trinity DOT	530-623-1365	wtaggart@trinitycounty.org
Elizabeth Hughes	HEC	916-551-1700	hecsac@aol.com
Catherine LeBlanc	HEC	530-758-6484	cleblanc@dcn.davis.ca.us
Bob Blume	Psomas	916-929-7100	rblume@psomas.com
Matt Gause	May & Associates	916-776-2500	mattgause@mayandassociatesinc.com

***GENERAL:***

The meeting started at the U.S. Forest Service Hayfork Ranger Station at 1:30 pm. The items outlined in the “office agenda” portion of the meeting agenda were discussed and are summarized below. At approximately 3:00 pm, a field review of the project area was conducted. Additional items from the “field agenda” that were discussed are also summarized below.

***TRINITY BRISTLESNAIL:***

- According to Jack Miller and Bob Williams of the CDFG, the proposed project will require an incidental take permit (ITP) for Bristlesnail impacts. This will be the first ITP issued by the CDFG for the species.
- Matt Gause showed the group maps of North State Resources Trinity bristlesnail location areas and project impact areas. He calculated approximately 1.69 acres of temporary and permanent disturbance to suitable snail habitat resulting from the proposed project. The areas where North State Resources observed Trinity bristlesnails are outside the expected project impact areas, however the snail could be present throughout the Douglas fir habitat within the project area.
- According to Jack Miller the most difficult issue could be mitigating the bristlesnail habitat loss.
- Matt Gause suggested that woody and leafy debris could be retained during construction and used for snail habitat enhancement.
- Jan Smith said that the County minimized the impact area while designing the project by reducing design speed and lane/shoulder width, etc. The County does not want to be required to replant Douglas fir or be restricted in removing hazard trees along the project corridor.
- Cheryl Carrothers said we need to consider whether or not creating habitat along roadway corridors is really the best approach for maintaining special-status species. A better long-term solution would be to enhance other areas on forest lands. Offsite mitigation may be

possible, and a 3:1 ratio could be required. If offsite mitigation is to be used, the County would be required to complete additional Survey & Manage surveys to determine what impacts might occur to special-status species at the mitigation site(s). Credit for habitat loss could be possible for onsite revegetation, including rehabilitation of staging areas. The old homestead site near the Nine Mile Bridge could also be a potential mitigation area.

- Bill Taggart said a minimum clear zone of 10 feet from the edge of pavement should be maintained for safety.

#### ***ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE:***

- Because Trinity bristlenail take (i.e., the loss of individuals) may result, the CDFG suggested completing an EIR for the project, which Trinity County has decided to complete an EIR. Elizabeth Hughes said that an EIR can be prepared easily because HEC has already completed the initial study for the project.
- USFS biological evaluation (BE) clearance is required, however it may be adequate to include BE-required information (including a signature page) in Caltrans- and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)-required documents. Cheryl Carrothers said she would accept a joint natural environment study (NES)/BE document for wildlife issues. Susan Erwin may accept a similar approach for plant issues.
- Anna Arnold said that since FHWA is the lead agency for the project, it is likely that she would accept their format for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance as long as USFS-required content is included in the document. NEPA documents should be sent to Ann Shirley with a cc: to Anna Arnold. Anna will be the reviewer of the NEPA documents for the project.
- The USFS Use Permit does not need to be complete prior to finalizing the NEPA document.
- The BA needs to be complete prior to NEPA public review; however the Section 7 consultation can be completed afterward.
- FHWA has indicated that a Categorical Exclusion would be adequate for NEPA compliance (via email with Candace Miller).

#### ***COHO SALMON:***

- Jack Miller said that impacts to the coho salmon would be covered under the SAA issued for the project until June, when the species is likely to become listed under the state endangered species act.
- The BA to be prepared for the project should be submitted to the CDFG for its review.
- The County should send the NMFS BO and Incidental Take Statement to CDFG and apply for a 2080.1 consistency determination if the salmon is listed. The County should make sure that it “fully mitigates” impacts to the species to the satisfaction of the CDFG.
- Jack Miller suggested that we make it clear in our documents that the project area lies within potential and historic habitat but not current habitat for the coho salmon, and no direct take of the species is expected to result from the project.

***FOOTHILL YELLOW-LEGGED FROG:***

- The construction window suggested by the USFWS for the Foothill yellow-legged frog and the construction window likely to be required by the National Marine Fisheries Service are similar, in that they do not allow work to take place within the creek prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>. Adhering to this construction window would be sufficient mitigation for potential impacts to the species. Usual mitigation includes moving frogs or egg masses prior to construction.

***JAMES CREEK CULVERT AND CLUSTERED LADY'S SLIPPER:***

- Because of the relocation of the roadway at the site, the culvert will need to be extended upstream. The same type of culvert would be used and the size of the culvert would not change.
- The expected extent of construction disturbance was flagged to allow Susan Erwin and Christine Erickson of the USFS to revisit the site when the lady's slipper plants are likely to be observed and determine if impacts to the population will result from the project.
- The known population of clustered lady's slipper was not observed during our field visit, but, according to Christine Erickson, is likely to be visible in March.
- The CDFG did not identify fish passage issues at the culvert site.

***NINE MILE BRIDGE:***

- Because it is likely that lead-based paint is present on the bridge, the County will employ special measures to clean the bridge prior to its repainting. These measures will include erecting scaffolding around the bridge, covering the scaffolding with heat shrink wrap, and removing the paint within the scaffolding.
- The use of a coffer dam or other diversion methods may be required during bridge widening. Alternatively, it may be possible to widen the piers by attaching a piece above the ground, which would eliminate the need to excavate. This will be determined in the design phase.

***OTHER ISSUES:***

- Jack Miller confirmed that deer are not a major issue within the vicinity of the project.
- Jack Miller confirmed that the small area of alder riparian within the project area would not be considered little willow flycatcher habitat and that special-protocol surveys for the species would not be required by the CDFG.
- The County's current USFS easement would not include realignment or reconstruction of the magnitude required for the proposed project, therefore a special use permit for construction would be required. This permit would be good for 10 years.
- Jack Miller said that a CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) would be required because of the County's involvement in the project. The SAA would cover impacts to Hayfork Creek, James Creek, and the unnamed ephemeral drainages crossed by the project corridor.
- Cheryl Carrothers suggested that staging areas be designated for certain activities, e.g., camping, occupancy only during business hours, etc.

***SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS:***

- Trinity County, HEC, and May & Associates to work with CDFG and USFS to identify potential compensatory mitigation sites for loss of Trinity bristlenail and other terrestrial mollusk habitat, including the old homestead site near the Nine Mile Bridge.
- Matt Gause to refine mapping and acreage calculations of potential impacts to Trinity bristlenail habitat.
- HEC to coordinate with Trinity County to determine acreage of areas to be revegetated, since these areas could be used as credit for impacts to Trinity bristlenail habitat.
- HEC to contact USFS concerning records for native trout in James Creek.
- Cheryl Carrothers to provide HEC with example BE documents.
- Cheryl Carrothers to identify potential habitat enhancement areas/mitigation areas for Trinity bristlenail on USFS lands.
- HEC to contact Susan Erwin regarding her requirements for the plant BE (i.e., can we include the BE-required content and language in our NES).
- HEC to coordinate with Susan Erwin regarding clustered lady's slipper expected impacts and proposed mitigation.
- HEC to coordinate with Susan Erwin regarding USFS requirements for rip-rap revegetation (e.g., proper species mix and revegetation methods). Also ask her about appropriate grass seed mix for revegetating soil cuts and fills.

## WRITTEN AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

The written correspondence with agencies are in hard-copy format, and are not available in this on-line version of the Hyampom Road Improvements Project Post Mile 6.8-8.3 Draft EIR.

The written comments can be viewed in the hard copy version of the Draft EIR, available at :

Hayfork Library located in Hayfork, CA,

Hayfork Ranger Station Headquarters located in Hayfork, CA,

Weaverville Library located at 211 Main Street, Weaverville, CA,

Trinity County Planning Department located at 190 Glen Road, PO Box 2819, Weaverville, CA 96093, (530) 623-1351,

Trinity County Department of Transportation, 303 Trinity Lakes Boulevard, PO Box 2490, Weaverville, CA 96093, (530) 623-1365

Copies of the Draft EIR may be purchased for the cost of the copying at the Trinity County Department of Transportation in Weaverville.