

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM / INITIAL STUDY

**NOTE: Environmental Compliance will be covered as part of Phase II and Environmental Assessment (NEPA)**

1. Project Title: Floodplain Reconnection and Restoration on La Barranca and Blackberry Island
2. Lead Agency Name and Address: As USFWS properties, environmental compliance will be completed in accordance with NEPA
3. Contact Person: Dan Efseaff  
Restoration Ecologist  
Sacramento River Partners  
539 Flume Street  
Chico, CA 95928  
(530) 894-5401 ext. 21
4. Project Location: The La Barranca (River Mile 237.5-239.5 R) and Blackberry Island (River Mile 239-240 L) Units are located approximately 5 miles southeast of Red Bluff, in Tehama County, California.
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address: The project is still in the proposal stage
6. Description of Project:
  1. Restore 500 acres (approximately 460 acres on the La Barranca Unit and 40 acres across the river on the Blackberry Island Unit) with native riparian plants,
  2. Breech or remove the levee (reconnecting the floodplain to the river),
  3. Reduce fish entrapment and provide non-structural floodwater retention,
  4. Conduct a hydraulic evaluation,
  5. Complete environmental compliance documentation (part of phase II), and
  6. Implement weed control and replant with native species in targeted areas of the existing riparian forest and former gravel mining areas (approximately 400 acres).
  7. Maintain native habitat community and species diversity and restore and enhance those resources where they are missing.
7. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

Most of the lands adjacent to the project are in riparian habitat, with some sites bordered by agricultural land. Neighboring properties are in either private or public ownership.

## Environmental Factors Potentially Affected:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact", as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Planning   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Circulation      | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geological Problems                | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy and Mineral Resources    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |  |  |

*The project will have positive potentially significant impacts on the above.*

Determination: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. A **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)** is required.
- ☐ I find that the project MAY have a significant effect(s) on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets, if the effect is a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated." An EIR is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there **WILL NOT** be a significant effect in this case because all potentially significant effects (1) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards, and (2) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project.

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Signature

Date

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Printed Name

For

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Positive Impact
<b>I. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the proposal:</b>				
a. Conflict with general plan designation or zoning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
b. Conflict with applicable environmental plans or policies adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
c. Be incompatible with existing land use in the vicinity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
d. Affect agricultural resources or operations (e.g., impacts to soils or farmlands, or impacts from incompatible land uses)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including a low-income or minority community)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
<b>II. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the proposal:</b>				
a. Cumulatively exceed official regional or local population projections?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
b. Induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectly (e.g., through projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
c. Displace existing housing, especially affordable housing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
<b>III. GEOLOGIC PROBLEMS. Would the proposal result in or expose people to potential impacts involving:</b>				
a. Fault rupture?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
b. Seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
c. Seismic ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
d. Seiche, tsunami, or volcanic hazard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
e. Landslides or mudflows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
f. Erosion, changes in topography, or unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading, or fill?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
g. Subsidence of the land?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
h. Expansive soils?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>

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I. Unique geologic or physical features?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
IV. WATER. Would the proposal result in:				
a. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards, such as flooding?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c. Discharge into surface waters or other alteration of surface water quality (e.g, temperature, dissolved oxygen, or turbidity)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e. Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f. Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations, or through substantial loss of groundwater recharge capability?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
g. Altered direction or rate of flow of groundwater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
h. Impacts to groundwater quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
i. Substantial reduction in the amount of groundwater otherwise available for public water supplies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
V. AIR QUALITY. Would the proposal:				
a. Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b. Expose sensitive receptors to pollutants?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c. Alter air movement, moisture, or temperature, or cause any change in climate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d. Create objectionable odors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
VI. TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION. Would the proposal result in:				
a. Increased vehicle trips or traffic congestion?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b. Hazards to safety from design features (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

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c. Inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
d. Insufficient parking capacity on-site or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
e. Hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
f. Conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
g. Rail, waterborne, or air traffic impacts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
<b>VII. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal result in impacts to:</b>				
a. Endangered, threatened, or rare species or their habitats (including but not limited to plants, fish, insects, animals, and birds)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
b. Locally designated species (e.g., heritage trees)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
c. Locally designated natural communities (e.g., oak forest, coastal habitat, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
d. Wetland habitat (e.g., marsh, riparian, and vernal pool)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
e. Wildlife dispersal or migration corridors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
<b>VIII. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal:</b>				
a. Conflict with adopted energy conservation plans?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
b. Use non-renewable resources in a wasteful and inefficient manner?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
c. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of true value to the region and the residents of the State?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
<b>IX. HAZARDS. Would the proposal involve:</b>				
a. A risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substances (including but not limited to: oil, pesticides, chemical, or radiation)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
b. Possible interference with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
c. The creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>

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d. Exposure of people to existing sources of potential health hazards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
e. Increased fire hazard in areas with flammable brush, grass, or trees?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
<b>X. NOISE. Would the proposal result in:</b>				
a. Increases in existing noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
b. Exposure of people to severe noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
<b>XI. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered government services in any of the following areas:</b>				
a. Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
b. Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
c. Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
d. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
e. Other governmental services?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
<b>XII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the proposal result in a need for new systems or supplies, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:</b>				
a. Power or natural gas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
b. Communications systems?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
c. Local or regional water treatment or distribution facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
d. Sewer or septic tanks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
e. Storm water drainage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
f. Solid waste disposal?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
g. Local or regional water supplies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
<b>XIII. AESTHETICS. Would the proposal:</b>				
a. Affect a scenic vista or scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
b. Have a demonstrable negative aesthetic effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
c. Create light or glare?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
<b>XIV. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal:</b>				

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a. Disturb paleontological resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b. Disturb archaeological resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c. Affect historical resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d. Have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e. Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
<b>XV. RECREATION. Would the proposal:</b>				
a. Increase the demand for neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b. Affect existing recreational opportunities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
<b>XVI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.</b>				
a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish and wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

