

**BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF
PHASE III OF THE FRANKLIN TRAIL,
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**



Report prepared for:

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and

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1 Introduction

This report describes the biological resources associated with upper northern section (Phase III) of the Franklin Trail (Trail) located near Carpinteria in Santa Barbara County, California (Figure 1). Phase III of the Trail is located on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land, within the Los Padres National Forest (LPNF). This portion is approximately 2.7 miles in length, and varies from 3 feet to 4.5 feet wide. The top of the Trail, at Camino Cielo Road, is 3,720 feet in elevation, while the base of the Phase III Trail is located at 1,703 feet. The study area is shown on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Carpinteria 7.5 Minute Series quadrangle (Figure 2).

Public access to this section of trail was effectively lost with the encroachment of private property on the lower Franklin Trail eliminating access points. The Wheeler Fire burned the upper northern 2.0 miles of Phase III in 1985 and much of the trail was also within the perimeter of the Romero Fire in 1971. Subsequent resprouting of vegetation following this fire resulted in the dense chaparral re-growth found there today.

Proposed work in Phase III of the Franklin Trail will reopen previously inaccessible trail, consisting primarily of vegetation removal and non-mechanized trail maintenance/building. Upon completion this section of trail will connect 7.04 miles of trail beginning near the base of the Carpinteria foothills and terminating at East Camino Cielo Trail at the ridgeline of the Santa Ynez range near the upper reaches of Sutton Canyon.

2 Methodology

This report is based on surveys by the authors conducted in November, 2014, and March, April, May, June, and July, 2015, emphasizing sensitive plant species and wildlife habitat. A review of available literature including the Trail Report and Analysis for Phase III of the Franklin Trail (Ford, 2015), a search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB, 2015), and discussions with individuals knowledgeable about the trail and its environs were also completed.

3 Affected Environment

3.1 Vegetation and Wildlife

The tread of Franklin Trail Phase III traverses well-developed mixed chaparral communities located mainly on west to northwest-facing sideslopes and occasionally ridgelines. The dominant plants are woody, evergreen shrubs ranging from six to ten feet in height except on the very shallow soils of ridgelines, where the plants are shorter and sparser, ranging from two to five feet in height.

A plant species list (Appendix A) developed in spring and early summer of 2015 reflects a surprisingly high number of plant species present despite the appearance of a uniform shrub cover. Dominant species vary along different portions of the Phase III Franklin Trail alignment but include woody chaparral species such as chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), big-pod ceanothus (*Ceanothus megacarpus*), hoary leaf ceanothus (*C. crassifolius*), buckbrush (*C. cuneatus*), hairy ceanothus (*C. oliganthus*), greenbark ceanothus (*C. spinosus*), Eastwood manzanita, *Arctostaphylos glandulosa* subsp. *mollis*, bigberry manzanita, *A. glauca*, toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*), silk-tassel bush (*Garrya veatchii*), chaparral honeysuckle (*Lonicera subspicata*), gooseberries and currants (*Ribes* spp.), chaparral yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus betuloides*), holly-leaved cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*), redberry (*Rhamnus crocea*), holly-leaved redberry (*Rhamnus ilicifolia*) and laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*).



Figure 1. Study Area Location in Santa Barbara County

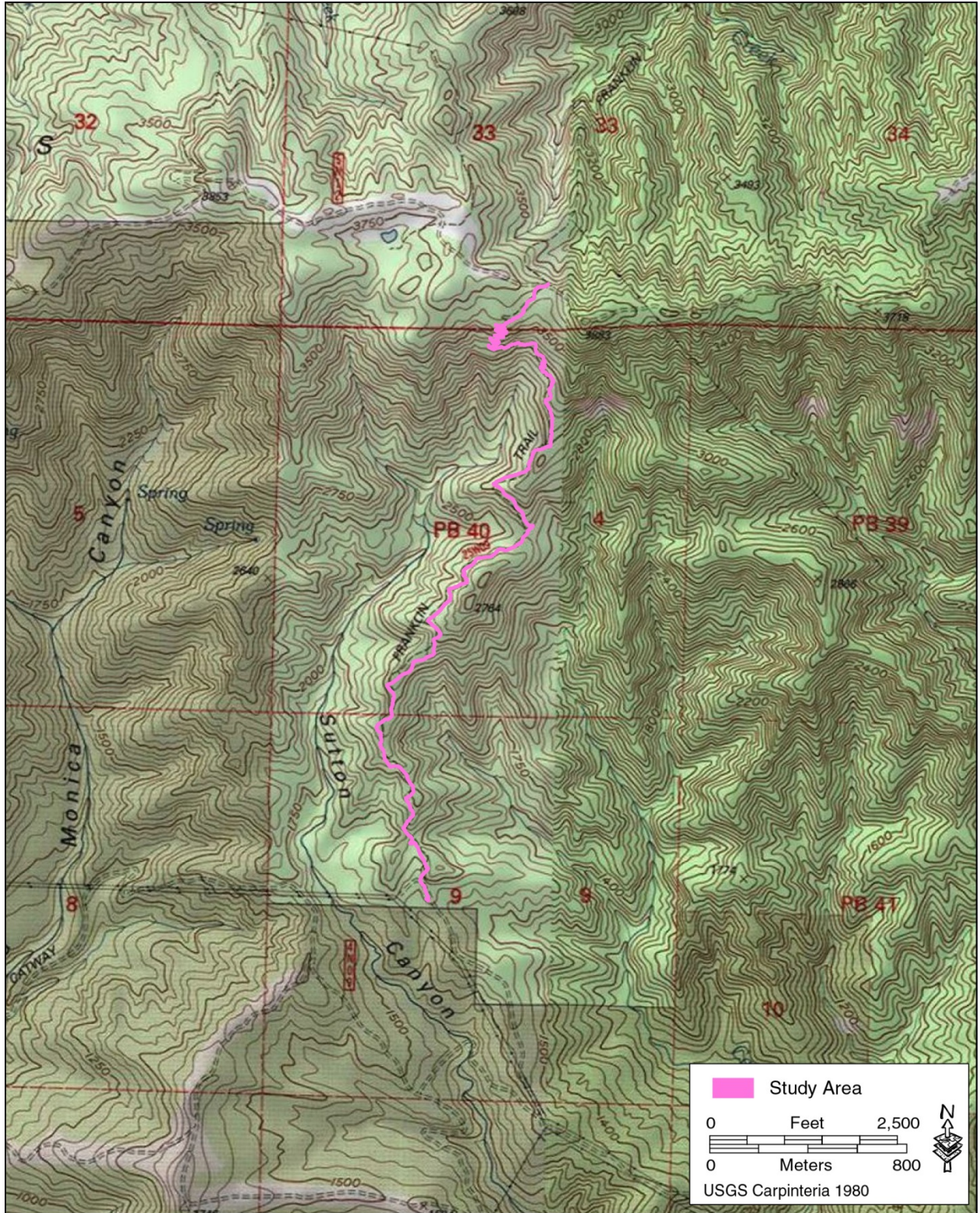


Figure 2. Topographic Map Showing Study Area Location

Species typical of coastal sage scrub, including black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), and California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) are present in places among the chaparral dominants.

Using the terminology of Sawyer, Keeler-Wolf, and Evens (2008), the primary plant communities along the trail include:

- Big pod ceanothus chaparral (the most widespread community)
- Greenbark ceanothus chaparral (mainly on shaded, mesic slopes)
- Chamise chaparral (typically with other co-dominants)
- Eastwood manzanita-chamise chaparral (shallow soils on sandstone outcrops and ridges).

Localized stands of chaparral flowering ash (*Fraxinus dipetala*) and scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*) were also noted. Because the trail alignment is on sideslopes and ridges no riparian associations were near the trail alignment because of their location along intermittent drainages on canyon bottoms generally several hundred feet away from the trail.

Most or all of the area crossed by the Phase III Trail alignment was burned in the Wheeler Fire of 1985 or the Romero Fire of 1971. Some of the characteristic native chaparral shrub species, including toyon, laurel sumac, mountain mahogany, Eastwood manzanita, scrub oak, redberry, holly-leaved cherry, and chamise, can resprout after fire. However other native shrub species, including most of the ceanothus species and one of the manzanita species, are killed outright by fire. Individuals of species such as bigpod ceanothus, hoary-leaved ceanothus, and bigberry manzanita observed along the trail germinated from seed following the most recent burn and therefore range in age from about thirty years to forty four years. Soils in chaparral communities contain a seed bank composed of dormant seeds of a wide variety of species which are responsible for the profusion of wildflowers and shrub seedlings that appear after fire in chaparral communities.

Chaparral is recognized for its ability to soil in place and promote infiltration of rainfall, thereby providing good watershed, and offers valuable wildlife habitat. Various species of ceanothus dominate the landscape transected by the Franklin Trail. In good years one can see mass flowering of various white- or blue flowered Ceanothus species starting at the base of the mountain in December or January and working its way upward over the next months. Under certain conditions one can even smell the mass-blooming ceanothus from distances of a mile or so away (e.g., from along Foothill Road).

Representative bird species observed by sight or sound during visits to Phase III include California towhee (*Pipilo crissalis*), spotted towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*), wren (Chamaea fasciata), annas's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), western scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), and lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*). Common raven (*Corvus corax*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*) may be observed overhead during all seasons. Additional bird species likely to be encountered here include blue-gray gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*) (most commonly in winter), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), golden-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) (winter only), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) (winter only), and fox sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*) (winter only). Exceptional within the Phase III project area as well as along the entire south slope of the Santa Ynez Range were two golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) noted soaring overhead during a visit to this area in late November 2014.

Mammals common to the area include cottontail rabbits (*Sylvilagus spp*), Merriam's chipmunk (*Tamias speciosus*) and deer mouse (*Peromyscus spp.*). Additionally, mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), and black bear (*Ursus americanus*) have been recorded in recent times through observations of animal sign (scat or tracks). Some common reptiles which may be encountered within

Phase III include coast range fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis bocourtii*), and the California alligator lizard (*Elgaria multicarinata multicarinata*). Skinks (*Plestiodon (=Eumeces) spp.*) may be encountered but tend to be secretive and less often observed than the previously mentioned lizards. Gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer*), and kingsnake (*Lampropeltis californiae*) may also be encountered in the vicinity of the trail. Additionally, the southern pacific rattlesnake (*Crotalus oreganus helleri*) may occur in the area.

3.2 Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species

Plants

Floristic surveys of the Franklin Trail Phase III alignment were conducted by a qualified biologist during April through July of 2015, following review of sensitive species known from Los Padres National Forest (USFS 2013a). Attachment A includes an inventory of identifiable plants encountered during survey efforts. No sensitive species were identified, however, a species of mariposa lily (*Calochortus* sp.) was observed at several locations along the trail growing in association with weathered sandstone. It could not be identified to species because its diagnostic flowers were not present during successive site visits conducted in June (in bud) and July (in fruit). This unidentified species could have been one of two Forest-sensitive species [Palmer's mariposa lily (*Calochortus palmeri*) or Weed's mariposa lily (*Calochortus fimbriatus*), or possibly Plummer's mariposa (*Calochortus plummerae*)], which was recently dropped from the FS Sensitive Species list (USFS 2013a). Any of these species could have been flowering during the period between June and July visits. Like many of the herbaceous species found along the Phase III Trail, the *Calochortus* was probably stimulated to grow from dormant seed or corms (bulb like underground storage organs) by a combination of soil disturbance and increased sunlight caused by the initial vegetation removal along the historic tread.

Wildlife

Biological surveys, in conjunction with a habitat assessment along the lower portion of the Franklin Trail, were conducted by a USFS biologist in 2011 to determine the occurrence of Federally listed or proposed species within this area. In addition, a search of the CNDDDB database was undertaken in order to determine current and historical statuses of listed, proposed, and sensitive species within the this area (SBCPD 2012; CNDDDB 2015). Attachment B includes a synthesis of special status or sensitive wildlife species that have the potential to occur in the vicinity of Phase III.

Results of this query determined that no listed or proposed species had been encountered in the immediate area of the Franklin Trail; however, three federally listed species have been identified as occurring or having the potential to occur within a 1 mile radius. These include California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*), California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytoni*), and Southern California ESU steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). The condor could fly over the trail alignment during the project lifetime but does not frequent the front country and would not be expected to fly over the project alignment during the trail building period. The entire Franklin Trail is within the historic range of the California condor and is within flying distance from sites currently occupied by condors (e.g. the Sespe Wilderness to the southeast, and the Sisquoc, in the San Rafael Wilderness to the northwest). Southern California ESU steelhead and California red-legged frog are aquatic or semi aquatic species, respectively, and there is no suitable habitat within proximity to the trail alignment.

Ten Forest Service Sensitive Species were identified as having the potential to occur in the vicinity of Phase III based on the presence of suitable habitat. However, project surveys conducted in 2014 and 2015 (Leidos), as well as 2012 surveys conducted by Rincon Consultants, Inc. (SBCPD 2012), failed to locate any listed, proposed, or Forest Service sensitive species. These findings confirm earlier survey findings by USFS biologists.

Essentially all bird species are protected and managed by federal or state laws and agency policies. As a result, in addition to the federally listed species discussed previously, all bird species currently on the LPNF list of priority bird species and/or other bird species considered sensitive were evaluated for their potential to occur in the area of Phase III of the Franklin Trail. Bald and golden eagles (protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the California Endangered Species Act), and Forest Service Sensitive species California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*), and Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) have occurred or have the potential to occur in or within some proximity to the area of the new Franklin Trail. A golden eagle was recorded soaring above the new Franklin Trail during November 2014 (E. Culbertson personal observation, November 2014).

Finally, other species of interest including monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) and Forest Service Management Indicator Species were also evaluated for potential occurrence in the vicinity of Phase III of the Trail. The CNDDDB database identified monarch butterfly as occurring near the project area (CNDDDB 2015); however, occurrences of this species or any of its host plants were not encountered during surveys.

Three species considered to be Management Indicator Species (MIS) also occur in habitats on or near the new Franklin Trail. These include mountain lion (*Puma concolor*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), and song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). All work conducted within the project area should consider the presence of MIS's and allow for efforts to preserve and protect habitats essential for the survival of these species within the area of the new Franklin Trail.

3.3 Potential Effects on Biological Resources

3.3.1 Short-term (Trail Building Phase)

Reopening of Phase III of the Franklin Trail would result in localized removal of vegetation and localized movement of rock and soil to create a stable tread and contouring to direct runoff safely from the trail preventing concentration of runoff, thereby minimizing erosion and sedimentation (See trail report and analysis). The effects on vegetation would be very localized, minor, and not significant. Erosion from the trail would have negligible effects on riparian habitats, biota, or water quality given the distance of the trail from the nearest drainages, their seasonal nature in the vicinity of the trail, and the amount of vegetation cover in between that would intercept and stop sediment movement. Construction activity along the trail could disturb birds in the immediate vicinity of the trail during nesting season (roughly February 15 through August 31). The dense cover offered by the chaparral along the alignment means this would be a very localized effect. This effect would be avoidable by constructing outside of nesting season or doing surveying for nesting birds prior to constructing during the nesting season and maintaining an appropriate setback from active nests where found. The combination of soil disturbance and increased sunlight along the trail will stimulate germination and growth of a variety of native wildflowers and other herbaceous species from dormant seed and bulbs. Potential direct or indirect effects on threatened, endangered, or Forest-Service Sensitive species would be negligible due to the minor and localized effects of trail building combined with the absence or infrequent occurrence of these species in the affected area.

3.3.2 Long-term (Trail Use)

Use of the trail would likely cause secretive wildlife species to avoid the immediate vicinity of the trail when it is in use. Many species such as coyotes, bobcats, and deer will use the trail, especially during nighttime hours. There is also a potential for invasive species to spread into the Phase III Trail by the activities of trail users. This can be minimized through a combination of monitoring and maintenance to control the spread of invasives, and providing educational material at kiosks to alert users to take precautions to avoid spreading weeds (e.g., by checking boots and socks for seeds). Overall adverse effects of trail use would be very localized and less than significant. No effects of long-term trail use on

threatened, endangered, or sensitive species are anticipated given the very localized effects of trail use combined with the absence or very infrequent occurrence of these species in the affected area.

3.4 Recommended Mitigation

A focus of the trail design (Ford 2015) is to make it sustainable by minimizing the potential for concentration of runoff thereby minimizing erosion and sedimentation. Compliance with the MBTA will require measures to avoid disturbance of nesting birds (seasonal avoidance or surveys during nesting season with suitable localized setbacks from active nests (e.g., 25 feet for most songbirds, given the density of cover in the trail vicinity, and the low level of activity by humans and equipment). Finally, regular monitoring and maintenance activity coupled with educational materials directed at users would serve to manage the potential spread of invasive plant species.

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Attachment A

Plant Species Documented from Phase III of the Franklin Trail (to be provided)

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Attachment B

Sensitive Wildlife Species that May Occur in the Vicinity of Phase III of Franklin Trail

Sensitive Wildlife Species that May Occur in the Vicinity of Phase III of Franklin Trail

<i>Scientific Name</i> <i>Common Name</i>	<i>Status</i> ¹	<i>General Habitat Description</i>	<i>Potential Occurrence in Phase III</i>
Federally and State-Listed Bird Species			
<p><i>Gymnogyps californianus</i> California Condor</p>	<p>FE/SE</p>	<p>Extirpated from nearly all of their historic range in western north America by the early 1900s, by the 1980s the California Condor had been reduced to just a few dozen individuals occupying the mountainous regions of southern California. Loss of habitat, illegal shooting, egg collecting, human disturbance at nesting and foraging areas, and lead poisoning all contributed to this steep population decline. Ongoing recovery efforts and a captive breeding program beginning in 1987 have increased the condors total wild population to 228 free flying birds as of 2014. Today small populations persist in southern and central California (128 free flying birds), along the Grand Canyon in Arizona and Utah, and in Baja California, Mexico. The California condor is a state and federally endangered species.</p> <p>Condors feed exclusively on carrion which they locate while soaring over open areas. Condors' ability to locate carrion is greatly bolstered by watching other carrion foraging birds (e.g. turkey vulture, golden eagle, common raven). In southern California condors utilize rocky cliffs and large trees for nesting and roosting. Foraging takes place most commonly over open areas (e.g. grasslands). Reliable air movements are necessary to sustain the extended soaring flight required for condors to forage and habitat choice reflect these requirements (for example steep hillsides with grassland and oak-savannah would be chosen over a valley bottom) (Snyder et al 2015).</p>	<p>May be found reliably only at select mountainous regions in central and southern California. Transiting individuals may be encountered elsewhere within the state. In southern California two major condor sanctuaries exist, both in the Los Padres National Forest; the Sespe in the Sespe Wilderness, Ventura County, and the Sisquoc in the San Rafael Wilderness, Santa Barbara County. As per Lehman 2015; condors were formerly a widespread resident, that in recent times was reintroduced to Santa Barbara County by the USFWS. Releases occurred at Lion Canyon, in the San Rafael Wilderness in 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1999. Since reintroduction into the county the current last documented breeding record comes from Lion Canyon in 2001 (unsuccessful). Today California Condors occur in the Santa Barbara backcountry as an uncommon transient. Radio tagged individuals moving between the Ventana Wilderness release-site in Monterey County and Hopper Canyon in Ventura County have been recorded flying through and sometimes roosting in Santa Barbara County. Additionally the Sierra Madre Mountains of northern Santa Barbara County are used as a flyway for condors moving between Hopper Canyon and Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge (Kern County). Along the coast the species is a much rarer transient to the south slopes of the Santa Ynez Mountains. Most recently a two-year old wild fledged condor originating from the Hopper Mountain breeding population roosted the evening of May 25, 2015 in a draw below La Cumbre Peak above Santa Barbara (Berci 2015). Because of the project areas proximity to major condor sanctuaries, and because of the tendency of condors to travel long distances between appropriate habitat, this species should be looked for flying through the project area, however work within this area would have no effect on transiting birds.</p>

<i>Scientific Name</i> <i>Common Name</i>	<i>Status¹</i>	<i>General Habitat Description</i>	<i>Potential Occurrence in Phase III</i>
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> Bald Eagle	SE/FS-Sen BAGEPA	Inhabits large lakes, reservoirs, bays and rivers throughout the state. Most commonly occurs at lower elevations and absent from the high Sierra Nevada (Polite 2015). The species also occurs on the Channel Islands off the coast of southern California. Habitat loss and degradation, illegal shooting, and especially the contamination of a food source (fish) by the pesticide DDT (which accumulated in eagles and reduced the birds ability to produce strong eggshells) greatly reduced the species within the lower 48 states through the mid to late 1900s. DDT was banned in the U.S. by the EPA in 1972, and the species was listed as federally endangered under the ESA in 1978. This designation along with Bald and Golden Eagle Act of 1940 protected eagles and their habitat from further degradation. In 2007 the species was removed from the federal list of threatened and endangered species following substantial increases in breeding populations within the lower 48 states. In California the species is listed as endangered under CESA and is a Forest Service Sensitive species.	Although considered very rare along the immediate coast in Santa Barbara County (as per Lehman 2015) Bald Eagle may occur as a transient over the project area during migrations. Work within the project area is not expected to affect these birds. The Bald Eagles status at nearby Jameson Lake along the upper Santa Ynez River (<2 miles by air north of the Sutton Canyon ridgeline and the northern end of the project area) is unknown. Elsewhere in the upper Santa Ynez River the species is known to breed and winter at Cachuma Lake. Additional sightings come from Gibraltar Reservoir (Lehman 2015).
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	FE/SE	<i>E. t. extimus</i> is a state and federally listed endangered species. A subspecies of the more widespread <i>E. traillii</i> (northern ssp.) this flycatchers breeding range extends through southern California, southern Nevada, southern Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and extreme western Texas. Breeding occurs in riparian habitats with established growths of associated riparian trees and shrubs. Substantial declines to the breeding populations occurred through the 1930s as a result of the loss or degradation of this habitat along with brood-parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds (<i>Molothrus ater</i>) (Lehman 2015).	Within the county this species occurs as a migrant in a variety of habitats, most commonly in riparian habitats. Fall transients however have also been found in weedy and brushy areas (Lehman 2015). <i>E. t. extimus</i> is a declining and very local breeder in select areas of the county including several areas within the Santa Ynez River. Very small and localized breeding is thought to occur in the vicinity of Gibraltar Reservoir along the upper Santa Ynez River (Lehman 2015). This area is 10+ miles west and north of the Phase III project area and work here would not affect these birds.
Other Sensitive Bird Species			
<i>Strix occidentalis occidentalis</i> California Spotted Owl	FS-Sen	Occupies dense mature mountain forests and riparian canyons (USFS 2011). California Spotted Owl is a Forest Service sensitive species.	In Santa Barbara County this species is a very uncommon permanent resident in canyon riparian woodland (including on both north and south slopes of the Santa Ynez Mountains) as well as oak-coniferous woodland at the highest elevations. Within the Santa Ynez Mountains occupied sites with some proximity to the project area have included Alder Canyon on the north slope, and Gobernador and Rincon Creeks along the south slope. This species was not surveyed for in drainages adjacent to the project area although work within Phase III would not affect these habitats or this species should it occur there (Lehman 2015)

<i>Scientific Name</i> <i>Common Name</i>	<i>Status¹</i>	<i>General Habitat Description</i>	<i>Potential Occurrence in Phase III</i>
<i>Falco peregrinus</i> <i>anatum</i> Peregrine Falcon	FS-Sen	Occurs in variety of habitats statewide. Requires protected rocky cliffs and ledges for roosting and cover. Riparian habitats and coastal and inland wetlands important habitat yearlong (Polite et al 2015).	This species was removed from the list of threatened and endangered species in 1999 following substantial increases in breeding populations. Uncommon visitor and very local breeding resident along coast of Santa Barbara (Lehman 2015). This species nested through the first half of the 1900s at several south coast locations within the county including at Santa Monica Canyon ~1 mile west of the project area (Lehman 2015). Today this species should be watched for within the project area as a transient. Any suitable nesting or roosting habitat in or near the project area, if present, would not be affected by trail work.
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> Golden Eagle	BAGEPA	Habitat generally rolling foothills, mountain areas, sage-juniper flats, and deserts (Harris 2015). Occurs in Santa Barbara county as a uncommon permanent visitor to the counties mountain regions and interior valleys. Much less common elsewhere in the county (including along the coast) where it occurs as a transient only (Lehman 2015).	Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) is protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and is listed as a fully protected species in California as well as being considered a Watch List species by the CDFW and a USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern. This species was observed over the project area during a survey in November 2014 (E. Culbertson personal observation, November 2014). As the species is only expected as a transient in to the area work here is not expected to affect these birds.
Sensitive Mammal Species			
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i> Pallid Bat	FS-Sen	Occurs as a yearlong resident throughout the state. Occurs in a variety of habitats from sea-level to up to 3,000 m elevation in the Sierra Nevada (Pierson and Rainey 1998) Suitable habitat includes rock crevices, tree hollows, mines, caves, and structures (USFS 2011).	A Forest Service sensitive species. Surveys conducted within the Phase III project area identified suitable pallid bat roosting and foraging habitat although it is not known whether this habitat is occupied. However work within the Phase III project area is not expected to impact the habitat or bats if present (USFS 2011).
<i>Lasiurus blossevillii</i> Western Red Bat	FS-Sen	Locally common in some areas of California, occurring from Shasta Co, to Mexican border with a winter range which includes the lowlands and coastal regions south of San Francisco Bay (Harris 2015).. Requires riparian woodlands for foraging and roosting habitat (USFS 2011).	Suitable roosting and foraging habitat exists at several areas along lower portion of trail although work would impact none of these riparian areas. Likewise, the Phase III project area contains no riparian habitat and so work in this area is not expected to impact this species (USFS 2011).

<i>Scientific Name</i> <i>Common Name</i>	<i>Status¹</i>	<i>General Habitat Description</i>	<i>Potential Occurrence in Phase III</i>
Sensitive Reptiles			
<i>Actinemys marmorata pallida</i> South Pacific Pond Turtle	FS-Sen	Occurs below 4,000 ft. elevation in rivers and streams with deep pools (USFS 2011).	Due to its distance and elevational separation from drainageways which could support this species, work within Phase III is not expected to affect south pacific pond turtles or its habitats.. Appropriate habitat exists in streams onsite within the lower trail project area although work in these areas not expected to affect these riparian habitats (USFS 2011).
<i>Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii</i> San Diego Horned Lizard	FS-Sen	Occurs below 7,000 ft. elevation in open habitats with loose soil used for burrowing (USFS 2011).	Appropriate habitat exists near the Horton property along the lower trail, but none seen onsite. This species has not been observed in Phase III project area and it is unknown whether appropriate habitat exists (USFS 2011).
<i>Anniella pulchra</i> California Legless Lizard	FS-Sen	Occurs in riparian and adjacent upland habitats below 3,500 ft. elevation (USFS 2011).	Due to its distance and elevational separation from drainageways which could support this species, work within Phase III is not expected to affect California legless lizards or its habitats. Appropriate habitat for this species does exist along lower trail alignment (USFS 2011).
<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i> Two-striped Garter Snake	FS-Sen	Occurs in and near aquatic and riparian habitats below 7,000 ft. elevation (USFS 2011).	Due to its distance and elevational separation from drainageways which could support this species, work within Phase III is not expected to affect two-striped garter snake or its habitats. A known location exists 2 miles northwest of the top of the trail. Additionally, appropriate habitat exists onsite along the lower trail (USFS 2011).
Federally and State-Listed Amphibians.			
<i>Rana aurora draytoni</i> California Red-Legged Frog	FT	Occurs in deep freshwater pools with bank cover, in habitats below 5,000 ft. elevation (USFS 2011).	Critical and possibly occupied habitat exists near the lower project area. Due to its distance and elevational separation from drainageways which could support this species work within Phase III is not expected to affect California red-legged frog or its habitats (USFS 2011).
Federally and State-Listed Fishes			
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> Southern California Steelhead	FE	Occurs south of the Santa Maria River in perennial streams with unhindered access to the sea (USFS 2011).	Occupied and designated critical habitat exists in Sutton Canyon west of the Phase III project area. Due to Phase III's distance and elevational separation from drainages which could support this species work within this area is expected to have no effect on southern California steelhead or its habitats (USFS 2011)

<i>Scientific Name</i> <i>Common Name</i>	<i>Status¹</i>	<i>General Habitat Description</i>	<i>Potential Occurrence in Phase III</i>
Sensitive Terrestrial Invertebrates			
<i>Danaus plexippus</i> Monarch Butterfly	FS-Sen	Closely associated with milkweed (<i>Asclepias spp.</i>) during reproduction. Overwinters in coastal California. Sensitive to removal and modification of habitat.	A 2015 query of the CNDDDB database identified monarch butterfly (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>) as occurring near the project area. However, the occurrence of this species or any of its hosts plants were not encountered during surveys for the project.

Notes:

1. FE=Federally listed as Endangered; FT=Federally Listed as Threatened; SE=State-listed as Endangered; ST=State-listed as Threatened; FS-Sen=Forest Service listed as Sensitive; BAGEPA=Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

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