

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Habitat Assessment**



September 17, 2018

JN 163306

**Town of Mammoth Lakes**

Attn: *Ruth Traxler*  
P.O. Box 1609  
Mammoth Lakes, California 93546

**SUBJECT: Habitat Assessment for the Mammoth Arts and Cultural Center Project located in the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mono County, California**

Dear Ms. Traxler:

Michael Baker International (Michael Baker) conducted a habitat assessment for the proposed Mammoth Arts and Cultural Center (MACC) Project (Project) located in the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mono County, California. Michael Baker biologist Travis McGill inventoried and evaluated the condition of the habitat within the Project site on November 14, 2017 to characterize existing site conditions and assess the potential occurrence of special-status<sup>1</sup> plant and wildlife species that could pose a constraint to Project implementation. This report provides an in-depth assessment of the suitability of the on-site habitat to support special-status plant and wildlife species identified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB), the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California, and other electronic databases as potentially occurring in the vicinity of the Project site.

**PROJECT LOCATION**

The Project site is generally located west of U.S. Route 395 and south of State Route 203 on the eastern foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountain range in the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mono County, California (refer to Exhibit 1, *Regional Vicinity*). The Project site is depicted on the Old Mammoth quadrangle of the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic map series in Section 35 of Township 3 south, Range 27 east (refer to Exhibit 2, *Site Vicinity*). Specifically, the Project site is located north of Mammoth Creek Road, east of Old Mammoth Road, south of Meridian Boulevard, and west of U.S. Route 395 (refer to Exhibit 3, *Project Site*).

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed MACC would include a 298-seat Performing Arts Theatre, 500-seat outdoor amphitheater, a new parking lot, and a workshop and storage building (refer to Exhibit 4, *Conceptual Site Plan*). Additionally, the Project proposes renovations to the existing Edison Theatre (roof replacement) and parking lot improvements (paving and restriping).

<sup>1</sup> As used in this report, "special-status" refers to plant and wildlife species that are federally or State listed, proposed, or candidates; plant species that have been designated a California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Rare Plant Rank; and wildlife species that are designated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as fully protected, species of special concern, or watch list species.

## **METHODOLOGY**

A literature review and records search was conducted to determine which special-status biological resources have the potential to occur on or within the general vicinity of the Project site. In addition to the literature review, a general habitat assessment or field survey of the Project site was conducted. The field survey was conducted to document existing conditions within the Project site and assess the potential for special-status biological resources to occur.

### **Literature Review**

Prior to conducting the field survey, a literature review and records search was conducted for special-status biological resources potentially occurring on or within the vicinity of the Project site. Previously recorded occurrences of special-status plant and wildlife species and their proximity to the Project site were determined through a query of the CDFW's QuickView Tool in the Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS), CNDDDB Rarefind 5, the CNPS Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California, and Calflora Database. In addition, the compendia of special-status species published by CDFW, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Critical Habitat Mapper and species listings were also reviewed.

All available reports, survey results, and literature detailing the biological resources previously observed on or within the general vicinity of the Project site were reviewed to understand existing site conditions and note the extent of any disturbances that have occurred on the Project site that would otherwise limit the distribution of special-status biological resources. Standard field guides and texts were reviewed for specific habitat requirements of special-status and non-special-status biological resources, as well as the following resources:

- Google Earth Pro historic aerial imagery (1993 – 2018);
- Town of Mammoth Lakes General Plan Update (2007);
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Custom Soil Resource Report for Mono County; and
- USFWS Critical Habitat designations and Primary Constituent Elements (PCEs) for Threatened and Endangered Species.

The literature review provided a baseline from which to inventory the biological resources potentially occurring within the Project site. Additional recorded occurrences of those species found on or near the Project site were derived from database queries. The CDFW's CNDDDB Rarefind 5 was used, in conjunction with ArcGIS software, to review historical special-status species occurrence data within the vicinity of the Project site.

### Habitat Assessment and Field Survey

Michael Baker biologist Travis McGill inventoried the extent and condition of the habitats within the Project site on November 14, 2017. Plant communities were preliminarily identified on aerial photographs and visually inspected during the field survey to document their extent within the Project site. The plant communities occurring within the Project site were evaluated for their potential to provide suitable habitat for special-status plant and wildlife species as well as function as corridors and/or linkages that may support the movement of wildlife through the area. Special attention was given to any special-status habitats and/or undeveloped, natural areas, which have a higher potential to support special-status plant and wildlife species.

All plant and wildlife species, including dominant plant species within each plant community, observed during the field survey were recorded. Plant species were identified by visual characteristics and morphology in the field. Unusual and less familiar plant species were photographed during the field survey and identified in the laboratory using taxonomical guides. Wildlife detections were made through observation of scat, trails, tracks, burrows, nests, and/or visual and aural detection. In addition, general site characteristics including soil condition, topography, hydrology, anthropogenic disturbances, indicator species, condition of on-site plant communities, and presence of potential jurisdictional drainage and/or wetland features were noted.

### **EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS**

The Project site abuts Meridian Boulevard to the north and the Cerro Coso Community College Eastern Sierra Campus to the south and southwest. Mammoth Elementary School and residential housing is located to the north of the Project site, across Meridian Boulevard, while vacant land can be found to the east and southeast. The Mammoth Ski Museum is located within the southwest portion of the Project site while undeveloped land occurs within the northern, eastern, and southeast portions of the Project site. Exposed rocks and surface boulders occur throughout the landscaped and undeveloped areas of the Project site. College Parkway and a paved bike trail bisect the southeast portion of the Project site. On-site surface elevation ranges from approximately 7,814 to 7,862 feet above mean sea level and generally slopes from the northwest to southeast. According to the USDA NRCS Custom Soil Resource Report for Mono County, the Project site is underlain by the following soil units: Chesaw family, 0 to 5 percent slopes (163bo) and Glean family, 0 to 50 percent slopes (215) (refer to Exhibit 5, *Soils*). Refer to Attachment B for representative photographs taken throughout the Project site.

### **VEGETATION**

The only natural plant community occurring within the Project site was big sagebrush scrub (refer to Exhibit 6, *Vegetation*). The remaining portions of the Project site consists of land cover types that would be classified as landscaped, disturbed, and developed. This natural plant community and land cover types are described in further detail below. Refer to Attachment C for a complete list of plant species observed within the Project site.

#### Big Sagebrush Scrub (5.58 Acres)

The undeveloped, natural areas located within the northern, eastern, and southeast portions of the Project site are composed of a big sagebrush scrub plant community. This plant community is primarily dominated by big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*). Other common plant species occurring within this plant community include green leaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos patula*), hoary aster (*Dieteria canescens*), rubber rabbitbush (*Ericameria nauseosa* var. *speciosa*), Bailey's buckwheat (*Eriogonum baileyi* var. *baileyi*), and antelope bitterbush (*Purshia tridentata*). Several Jeffery pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) trees are also scattered throughout this plant community, however, they are not grouped together and do not provide a dense canopy within this plant community.

#### Landscape (1.10 Acres)

The landscaped area within the Project site is associated with the Mammoth Ski Museum which is located within the southwest portion of the Project site. Individual Jeffery pines are scattered throughout the landscaped area with various non-native grasses consisting of crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*), Indian wild rice (*Stipa hymenoides*), and cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) as understory.

#### Disturbed (0.37 Acres)

Disturbed areas within the Project site do not comprise a natural plant community and instead consist of unpaved land with heavily compacted soils that are routinely exposed to anthropogenic disturbances (i.e., dirt trails, activities associated with the on-site museum, and weed abatement activities). Surface soils within these areas are generally devoid of vegetation and/or support non-native and ruderal/weedy plant species.

#### Developed (1.41 Acres)

Developed areas within the Project site generally consist of paved, impervious surfaces and infrastructure including the Mammoth Ski Museum, parking lots, sidewalks, College Parkway, and a bike path associated with the Cerro Coso Community College Eastern Sierra Campus.

### **WILDLIFE**

Plant communities provide foraging habitat, nesting/denning sites, and shelter from adverse weather or predators. This section provides a general discussion of those wildlife species that were observed or that are expected to occur within the Project site. The discussion is to be used a general reference and is limited by the season, time of day, and weather conditions in which the field survey was conducted. Wildlife detections were based on calls, songs, scat, tracks, burrows, and direct observation.

#### Fish

No fish or hydrogeomorphic features (e.g., creeks, ponds, lakes, reservoirs) with frequent sources of water that would support populations of fish were observed on or within the vicinity of the Project site. Therefore, no fish are expected to occur and are presumed absent from the Project site.

### Amphibians

No amphibians or hydrogeomorphic features (e.g., creeks, ponds, lakes, reservoirs) with frequent sources of water that would support amphibian species were observed on or within the vicinity of the Project site. Therefore, no amphibians are expected to occur and are presumed absent from the Project site.

### Reptiles

No reptilian species were observed during the field survey. However, the Project site and surrounding habitat has the potential to support a variety of reptilian species that are adapted to a high level of human disturbance. Common reptilian species expected to occur on or within the vicinity of the Project site include Nevada side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana nevadensis*), Great Basin fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis longipes*), northern sagebrush lizard (*Sceloporus graciosus graciosus*), and Great Basin gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer deserticola*).

### Birds

The Project site provides suitable foraging and cover habitat for a variety of resident and migrant bird species. Red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) was the only bird species detected during the field survey. Other common bird species expected to occur on or within the vicinity of the Project site include northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), western wood-peewee (*Contopus sordidulus*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), Steller's jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*), cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*), mountain chickadee (*Poecile gambeli*), red-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*), lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*), American robin (*Turdus migratorius*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), and various other migrant and resident songbirds.

### Mammals

The Project site and surrounding habitat has the potential to support a variety of mammalian species. However, most mammalian species are nocturnal and are difficult to observe during a diurnal field survey. Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) scat was observed during the field survey. Other common mammalian species that are expected to occur on or within the vicinity of the Project site include opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), lodgepole chipmunk (*Tamias speciosus*), Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), and black bear (*Ursus americanus*).

### **NESTING BIRDS**

No remnant or active nests were observed during the field survey. However, the plant communities within the Project site provide foraging and nesting habitat for a variety of year-round and seasonal avian residents, as well as migrating songbirds that could occur in the area. Further, unvegetated areas within the Project site provide nesting habitat for bird species that nest on the open ground and the individual Jeffery pine trees found within the Project site provide additional nesting habitat.

## **MIGRATORY CORRIDORS AND LINKAGES**

Habitat linkages provide links between larger undeveloped habitat areas that are separated by development. Wildlife corridors are similar to linkages, but provide specific opportunities for animals to disperse or migrate between areas. A corridor can be defined as a linear landscape feature of sufficient width to allow animal movement between two comparatively undisturbed habitat fragments. Adequate cover is essential for a corridor to function as a wildlife movement area. It is possible for a habitat corridor to be adequate for one species, but inadequate for others. Wildlife corridors are significant features for dispersal, seasonal migration, breeding, and foraging. Additionally, open space can provide a buffer against both human disturbance and natural fluctuations in resources.

The Project site is not located within any local or regional designated migratory corridors or linkages. Although the majority of the Project site is dominated by natural habitat, the Project site is bordered by Meridian Boulevard, College Parkway, and existing development which limits wildlife movement opportunities. As such, the proposed Project would not be expected to disrupt wildlife movement opportunities within or adjacent to the Project site. It is important to note that Mammoth Creek is located approximately 0.30 miles to the south of the Project site and provides west to east wildlife movement opportunities along the riparian corridor associated with the creek from the mountains to the valley floor. However, the proposed Project would not result in impacts to Mammoth Creek and would not be expected to disrupt wildlife movement within undeveloped areas to the south or prevent the creek from continuing to function as a wildlife movement corridor. Due to the distance from the Project site, the proposed Project would not be expected to disrupt wildlife movement within this area or prevent the Mammoth Creek from continuing to function as a wildlife movement corridor.

## **JURISDICTIONAL AREAS**

There are three key agencies that regulate activities within coastal streams, wetlands, and riparian areas in California. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Regulatory Branch regulates discharge of dredge or fill materials into “waters of the United States” pursuant to Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act. Of the State agencies, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) regulates discharges to surface waters pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA and the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and CDFW regulates alterations to streambed and associated plant communities under Code Sections 1600 *et seq.*, of the California Fish and Game Code.

No jurisdictional drainage and/or wetland features were observed within or adjacent to the Project site that would be considered jurisdictional by the Corps, Regional Board, or CDFW. Therefore, development of the proposed Project would not result in impacts to Corps, Regional Board, or CDFW jurisdictional areas and regulatory approvals would not be required.

## **SPECIAL-STATUS BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

The CDFW’s CNDDB was queried for reported locations of special-status plant and wildlife species as well as special-status natural plant communities in the Old Mammoth, Mammoth Mountain, Crystal Crag,

and Bloody Mountain USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles. A search of published records of these species was conducted within these quadrangles using CDFW's CNDDDB Rarefind 5 online software and Quickview Tool in BIOS. The habitat assessment evaluated the conditions of the habitat(s) within the boundaries of the Project site to determine if the existing plant communities, at the time of the survey, have the potential to provide suitable habitat(s) for special-status plant and wildlife species.

The literature search identified thirty-five (35) special-status plant species, twenty-three (23) special-status wildlife species, and one (1) special-status plant community as having the potential to occur within the Old Mammoth, Mammoth Mountain, Crystal Crag, and Bloody Mountain USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles. Special-status plant and wildlife species were evaluated for their potential to occur within the Project site based on habitat requirements, availability and quality of suitable habitat, and known distributions. Special-status plant and wildlife species determined to have the potential to occur within the vicinity of the Project site are presented in Attachment D, *Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources*.

#### Special-Status Plants

Thirty-five (35) special-status plant species have been recorded in the CDFW's CNDDDB and CNPS databases in the Old Mammoth, Mammoth Mountain, Crystal Crag, and Bloody Mountain USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles (refer to Attachment D). No special-status plant species were observed within the Project site during the field survey. Based on habitat requirements for specific special-status plant species and the availability and quality of habitats needed by each species, it was determined that the Project site does not provide suitable habitat for any of the special-status plant species identified in the CDFW's CNDDDB and CNPS databases. Therefore, the proposed Project would have no effect on special-status plant species and mitigation would not be required.

#### Special-Status Wildlife

Twenty-three (23) special-status wildlife species have been reported in the Old Mammoth, Mammoth Mountain, Crystal Crag, and Bloody Mountain USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles (refer to Attachment D). No special-status wildlife species were observed within the Project site during the field survey. Based on habitat requirements for specific special-status wildlife species and the availability and quality of habitats needed by each species, it was determined that the Project site has a high potential to support western white-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus townsendii townsendii*), and a low potential to provide suitable foraging habitat for northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) and prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*). All remaining special-status wildlife species identified in the CDFW's CNDDDB are presumed to be absent from the Project site based on habitat requirements, availability and quality of habitat needed by each species, and known distributions.

#### Special-Status Plant Communities

According to the CDFW's CNDDDB, one (1) special-status plant community has been reported in the Old Mammoth, Mammoth Mountain, Crystal Crag, and Bloody Mountain USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles: 1) Mono Pumice Flat (refer to Attachment D). Based on the results of the field survey, this special-status plant community does not occur within the Project site. Therefore, the proposed Project would have no effect on special-status plant communities and mitigation would not be required.

### Critical Habitat

Critical Habitat refers to specific areas within the geographical range of a species at the time it is listed that include the physical or biological features that are essential to the survival and eventual recovery of that species. Maintenance of these physical and biological features requires special management considerations or protection, regardless of whether individuals or the species are present or not. In the event that a project may result in take or adverse modification to a species' designated Critical Habitat, a project proponent may be required to engage in suitable mitigation. However, consultation for impacts to Critical Habitat is only required when a project has a federal nexus. This may include projects that occur on federal lands, require federal permits (i.e., Corps, CWA Section 404 permit), or receive any federal oversight or funding. If there is a federal nexus, then the federal agency that is responsible for providing funds or permits would be required to consult with the USFWS for the loss or adverse modification to Critical Habitat. If a project does not have a federal nexus, consultation with the USFWS is not required.

The Project site is not located within federally designated Critical Habitat (refer to Exhibit 7, *Critical Habitat*). Therefore, the proposed Project would have no effect on Critical Habitat and consultation with the USFWS for the loss or adverse modification of Critical Habitat would not be required.

### **LOCAL POLICIES AND ORDINANCES**

#### Town of Mammoth Lakes Tree Removal and Protection

Section 17.36.140 of Mammoth Lakes Municipal Code includes provisions to protect and to regulate the removal of certain trees, based on the important environmental, aesthetic and health benefits that trees provide to Mammoth Lakes residents and visitors, and the contribution of such benefits to public health, safety and welfare. These benefits include, but are not limited to, enhancement of the character and beauty of the community as a "Village in the Trees," protection of property values, provision of wildlife habitat, reduction of soil erosion, noise buffering, wind protection, and visual screening for development.

Due to the presence of pine trees within the Project site, a tree removal permit or tree removal and protection plan shall be obtained from the Town of Mammoth Lakes prior to development of the proposed Project. Since the proposed Project will receive development approval through a land use, building, or grading permit, a tree removal and protection plan shall be prepared that is consistent with the standards of Section 17.36.140 of Mammoth Lakes Municipal Code. As a result, a separate tree removal permit would not be required, and the removal of trees is considered approved through the land use, building, or grading permit. The tree removal and protection plan shall clearly depict all the trees to be preserved and/or removed from the Project site. Please refer to Attachment E for a copy of Section 17.36.140 of the Mammoth Lakes Municipal Code.

### **LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND STATE HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANS**

The proposed Project is not located within an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state Habitat Conservation Plan. Therefore, the proposed Project would have no effect to any local, regional, or state Habitat Conservation Plans and mitigation would not be required.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Project site abuts Meridian Boulevard to the north and the Cerro Coso Community College Eastern Sierra Campus to the south and southwest. The Mammoth Ski Museum is located within the southwest portion of the Project site while vacant, undeveloped land is located within the northern, eastern, and southeast portions of the Project site. One natural plant community occurs within the Project site: 1) big sagebrush scrub. In addition, the Project site contains land cover types that would be classified as landscaped, disturbed, and developed.

No special-status wildlife species were observed within the Project site during the field survey. Based on habitat requirements for specific special-status wildlife species and the availability and quality of habitats needed by each species, it was determined that the Project site has a high potential to support western white-tailed jackrabbit, and a low potential to provide suitable foraging habitat for northern goshawk and prairie falcon. All remaining special-status wildlife species identified in the CDFW's CNDDB are presumed to be absent from the Project site based on habitat requirements, availability and quality of habitat needed by each species, and known distributions. Although the Project site has a high potential to support western white-tailed jackrabbit and a low potential to provide suitable foraging habitat for northern goshawk and prairie falcon, it does not provide high quality habitat for these species. Further, the undeveloped, natural areas to the south of the Project site, including Mammoth Creek, provide ample habitat for these species. Therefore, impacts to foraging habitat as a result of the proposed Project would be less than significant and no mitigation would be required.

The Project site and surrounding area has the potential to provide refuge/cover from predators, perching sites, and favorable conditions for nesting birds. Nesting birds are protected pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the California Fish and Game Code. If project activities are to be initiated during the nesting season (February 1st to August 31st), a pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than three (3) days prior to the start of any vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities. A qualified biologist shall survey all suitable nesting habitat within the project impact area, and within a biologically defensible buffer distance surrounding the project impact area, for nesting birds prior to commencing project activities. Documentation of surveys and findings shall be submitted to the Town of Mammoth Lakes for review and file. If no active nests are detected, project activities may begin. If an active nest is found, the bird shall be identified to species and the approximate distance from the closest work site to the nest shall be estimated and the qualified biologist shall establish a "no-disturbance" buffer around the active nest. The distance of the "no-disturbance" buffer may be increased or decreased according to the judgement of the qualified biologist depending on the level of activity and sensitivity of the species. The qualified biologist shall periodically monitor any active nests to determine if project-related activities occurring outside the "no-disturbance" buffer disturb the birds and if the buffer should be increased. Once the young have fledged and left the nest, or the nest otherwise becomes inactive under natural conditions, project activities within the "no-disturbance" buffer may occur.

Due to the presence of pine trees within the Project site, a tree removal permit or tree removal and protection plan shall be obtained from the Town of Mammoth Lakes prior to development of the proposed Project. Since the proposed Project will receive development approval through a land use, building, or grading

permit, a tree removal and protection plan shall be prepared that is consistent with the standards of Section 17.36.140 of Mammoth Lakes Municipal Code. As a result, a separate tree removal permit would not be required, and the removal of trees is considered approved through the land use, building, or grading permit. The tree removal and protection plan shall clearly depict all the trees to be preserved and/or removed from the Project site.

Please do not hesitate to contact Tom Millington at (909) 974-4961 or [tommillington@mbakerintl.com](mailto:tommillington@mbakerintl.com) or Ashley Spencer at (909) 974-4962 or [ashley.spencer@mbakerintl.com](mailto:ashley.spencer@mbakerintl.com) should you have any questions regarding this report.

Sincerely,



Thomas Millington  
Biologist  
Natural Resources



Ashley Spencer  
Biologist  
Natural Resources

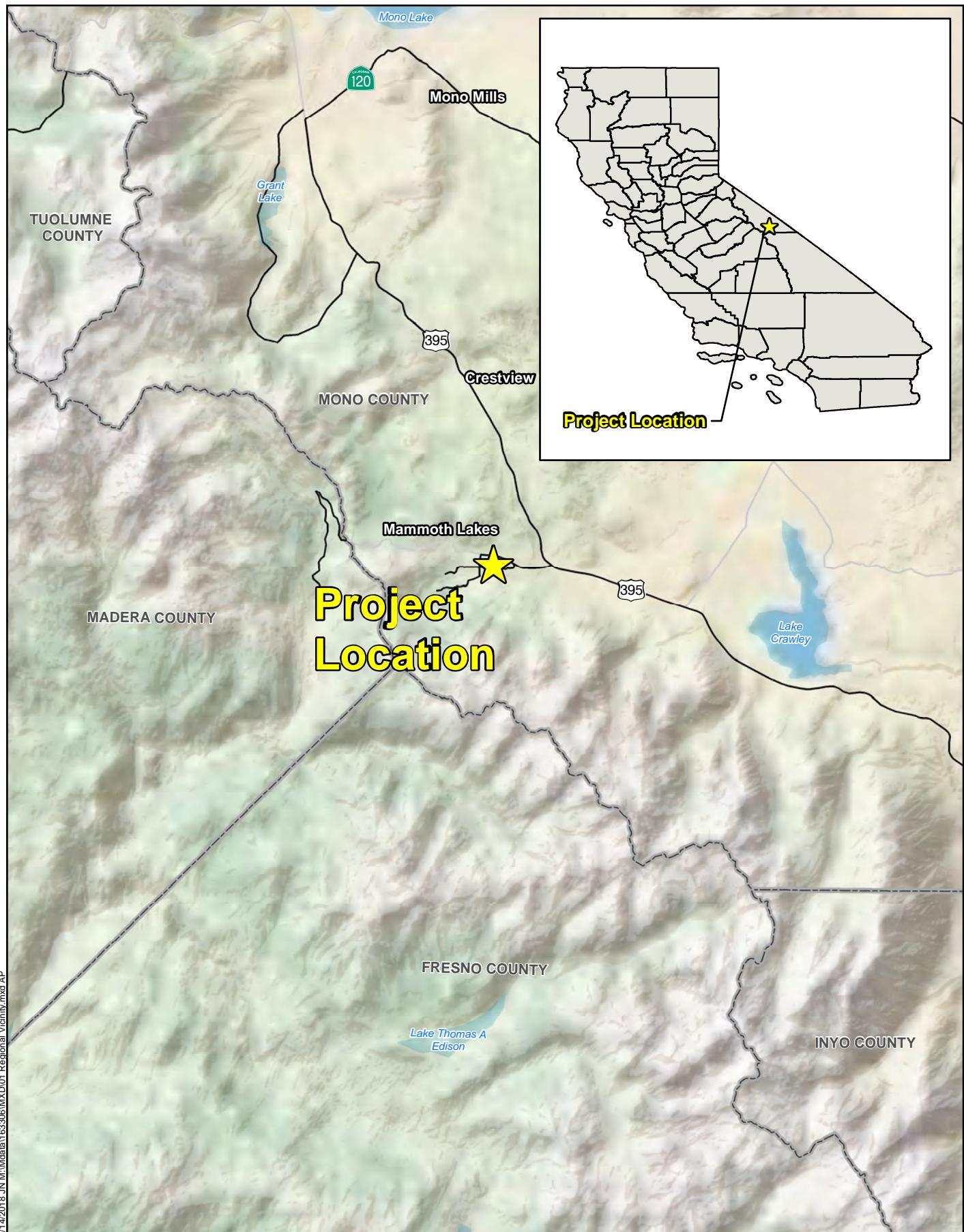
Attachments:

- A. Project Exhibits
- B. Site Photographs
- C. Flora and Fauna Compendium
- D. Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources
- E. Section 17.36.140 of the Mammoth Lakes Municipal Code

**Attachment A**

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Project Exhibits



## MAMMOTH ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER PROJECT HABITAT ASSESSMENT

### Regional Vicinity

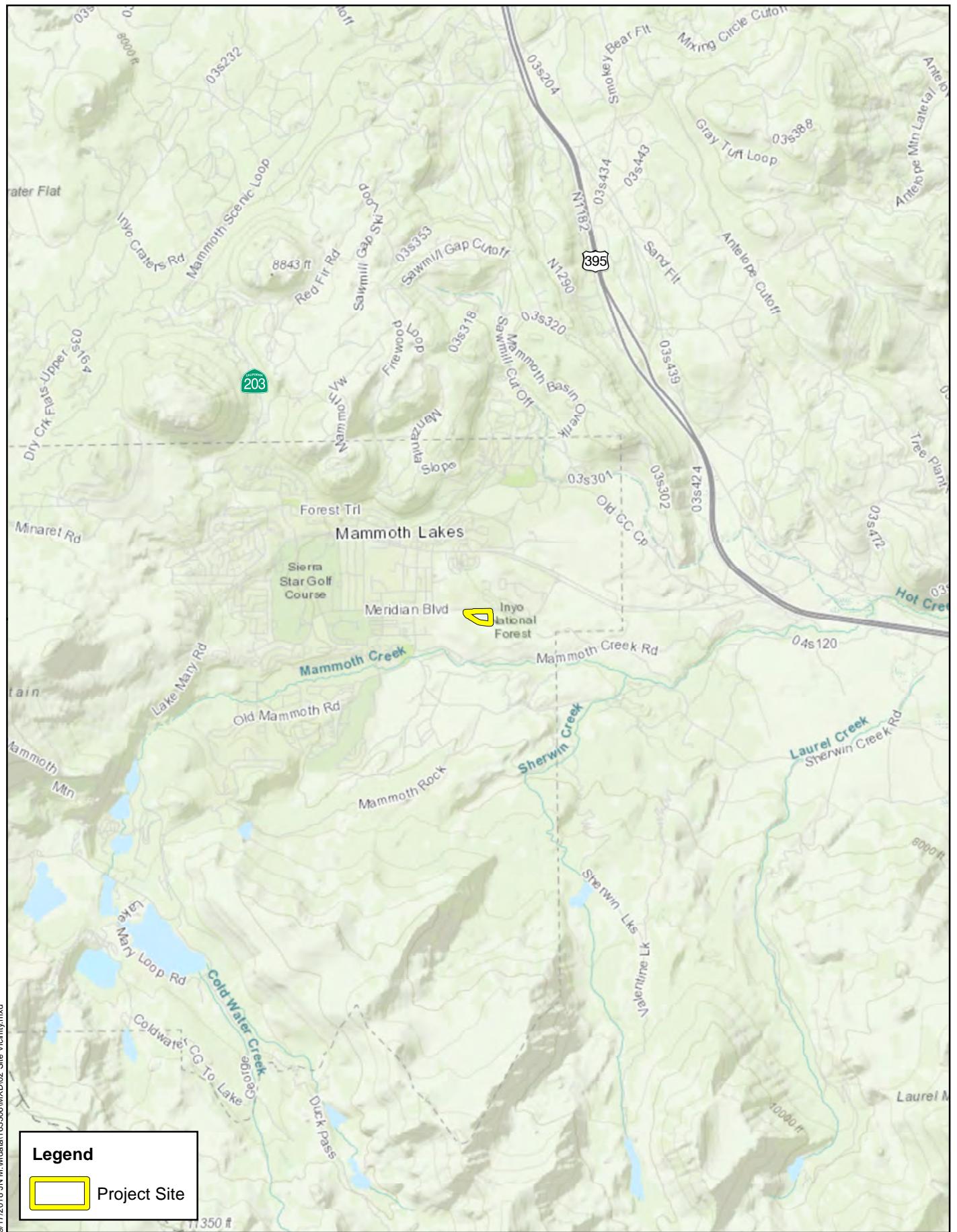


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Miles





### MAMMOTH ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER PROJECT

### HABITAT ASSESSMENT

## Project Site

Exhibit 3

Michael Baker  
INTERNATIONAL



0

200

400

Feet

Source: Google Imagery



MAMMOTH ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER PROJECT  
HABITAT ASSESSMENT

## Conceptual Site Plan





9/17/2018 JN M:\M\data\163306\MXD05 Soils.mxd

#### MAMMOTH ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER PROJECT HABITAT ASSESSMENT

**Soils**

**Michael Baker**  
INTERNATIONAL



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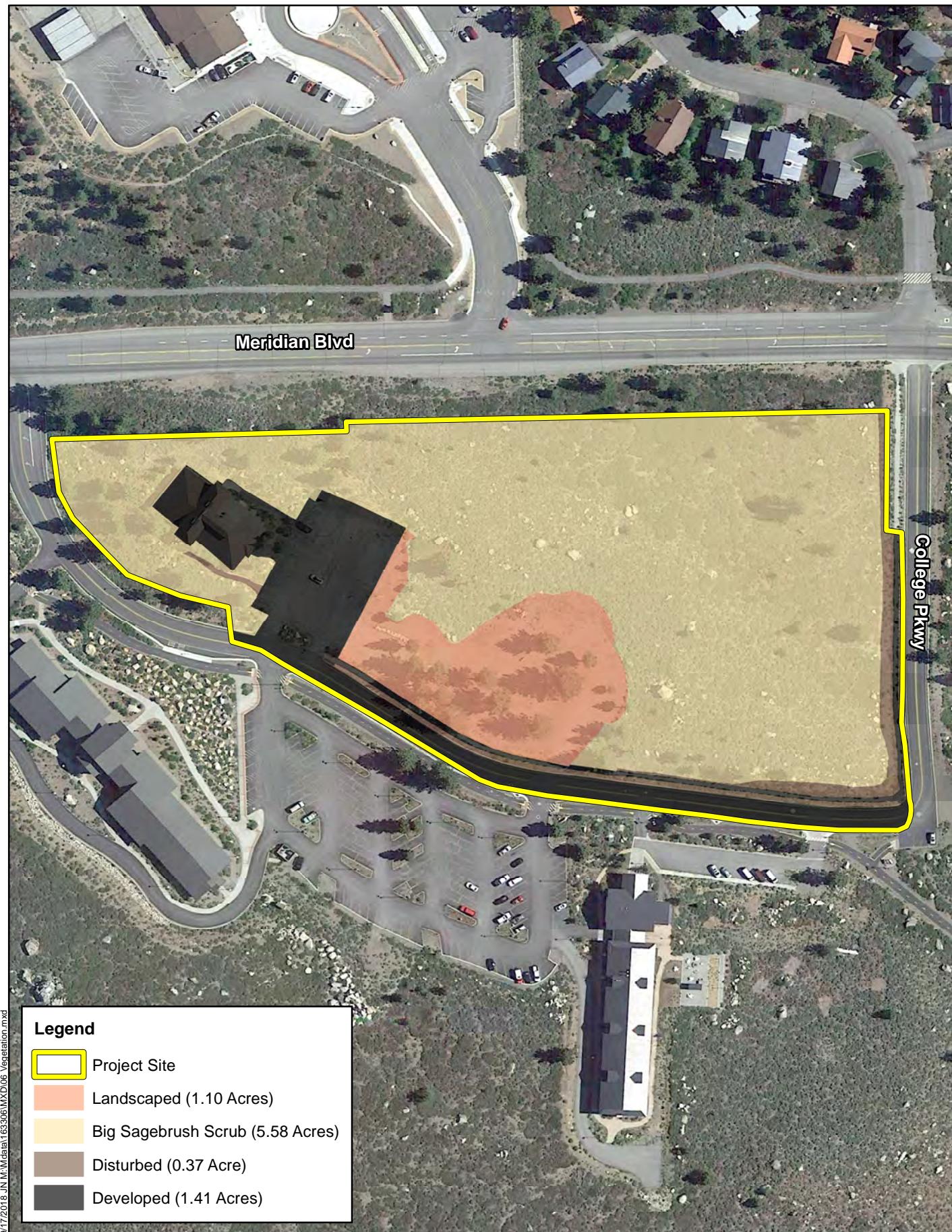
250

500

Feet

Source: Google Imagery, Esri SSURGO Soils Database

Exhibit 5



MAMMOTH ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER PROJECT  
HABITAT ASSESSMENT

Vegetation

Exhibit 6

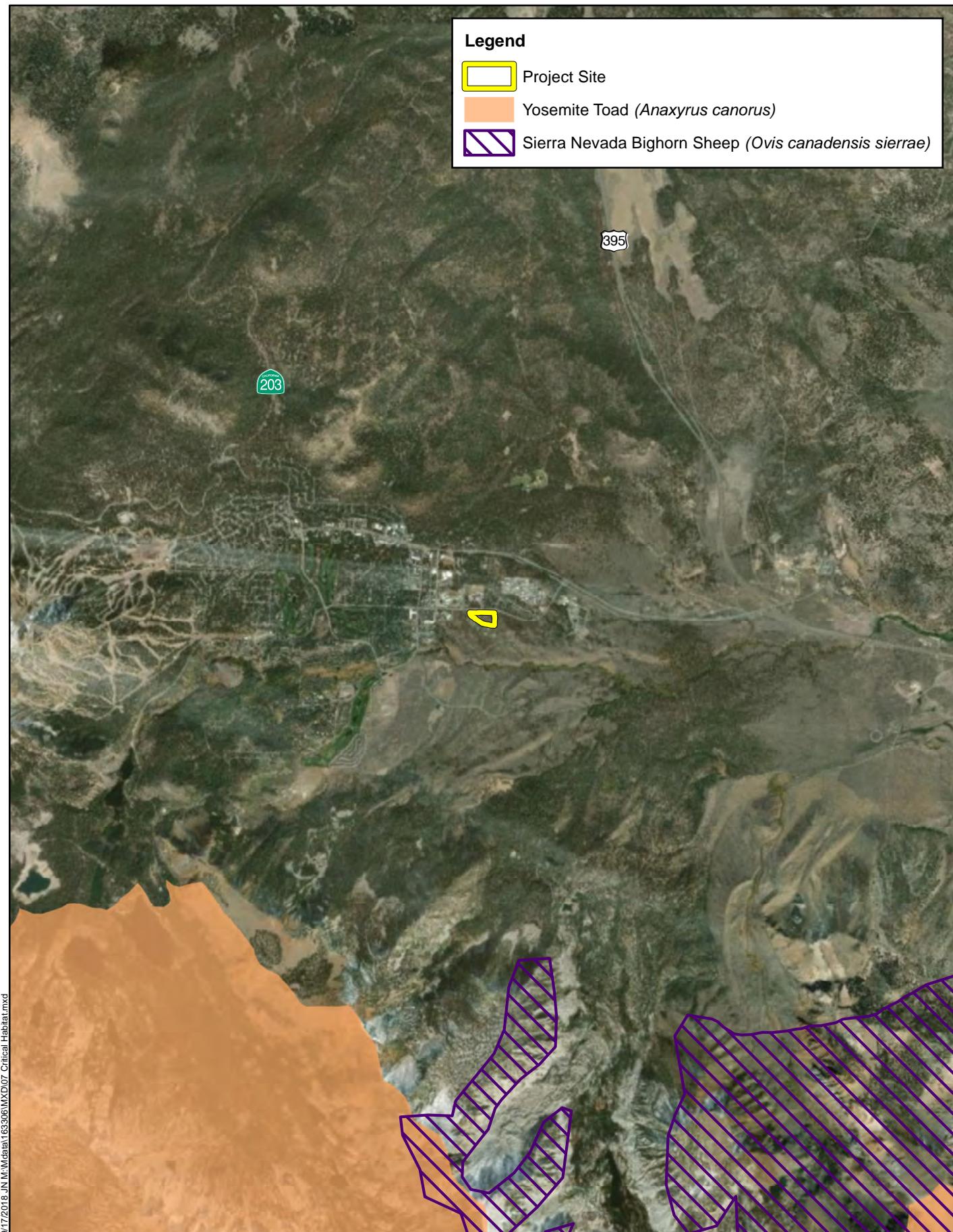


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Feet



9/17/2018 JN M:\M\data\163306\MXD007\_Critical Habitat.mxd



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1

2

Miles

**Attachment B**

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Site Photographs



**Photograph 1:** Standing within the central portion of the Project site looking southeast. The landscaped area of the Project site can be seen in the foreground.



**Photograph 2:** Photograph showing the landscaped area which is found within the central portion of the Project site.



**Photograph 3:** Standing within the northern portion of the Project site looking northwest. The big sagebrush scrub plant community can be seen in the foreground.



**Photograph 4:** Looking east across the southeast portion of the Project site.



**Photograph 5:** Standing within the southeast portion of the Project site looking southwest.



**Photograph 6:** Looking northwest across the southeast portion of the Project site.



**Photograph 7:** Standing along the southern boundary of the Project site looking west. The Cerro Coso Community College Eastern Sierra Campus can be seen in the distance.



**Photograph 8:** Looking north across the eastern portion of the Project site.

**Attachment C**

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Flora and Fauna Compendium

**Table C – 1: Plant Species**

<b>Scientific Name*</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
<b>Plantae (Plants)</b>	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	common yarrow
<i>Agropyron cristatum*</i>	crested wheatgrass
<i>Arctostaphylos patula</i>	green leaf manzanita
<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>	big sagebrush
<i>Bromus tectorum*</i>	cheatgrass
<i>Descurainia californica</i>	sierra tansy mustard
<i>Dieteria canescens</i>	hoary aster
<i>Elymus cinereus</i>	great basin wild rye
<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i> var. <i>speciosa</i>	rubber rabbitbrush
<i>Eriogonum baileyi</i> var. <i>baileyi</i>	Bailey's buckwheat
<i>Erysimum perenne</i>	sanddune wallflower
<i>Lepidium densiflorum</i>	common pepper grass
<i>Pinus jeffreyi</i>	Jeffrey pine
<i>Purshia tridentata</i>	antelope bitterbrush
<i>Salsola tragus*</i>	Russian thistle
<i>Stipa hymenoides</i>	Indian rice grass
<i>Stephanomeria tenuifolia</i>	wire lettuce

**Table C – 2: Wildlife Species**

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
<b>Aves (Birds)</b>	
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	red-tailed hawk
<b>Mammalia (Mammals)</b>	
<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	mule deer

\*Non-native/invasive

## **Attachment D**

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Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

**Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources**

<b>Scientific Name Common Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Habitat Description</b>	<b>Observed Onsite</b>	<b>Potential to Occur</b>
<b>SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES</b>				
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i> northern goshawk	USFWS: CDFW: None SSC	Within, and in vicinity of, coniferous forest. Uses old nests, and maintains alternate sites. Usually nests on north slopes, near water. Red fir, lodgepole pine, Jeffrey pine, and aspens are typical nest trees. Breeding within the California range extends from approximately 1,000 to 10,800 feet above mean sea level (amsl).	No	<b>Low:</b> The Project site provides suitable foraging habitat, but no suitable nesting habitat for this species. Additionally, per CNDB records this species is known to occur within the vicinity of the Project site.
<i>Ambystoma californiense</i> California tiger salamander	USFWS: CDFW: THR THR ; WL	Nocturnal, and fossorial, spending most time underground in animal burrows. Frequents grassland, oak savanna, and edges of mixed woodland and lower elevation coniferous forest.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Anaxyrus canorus</i> Yosemite toad	USFWS: CDFW: THR SSC	Vicinity of wet meadows in central High Sierra, approximately 6,400 to 11,300 feet amsl. Primarily montane wet meadows; also in seasonal ponds associated with lodgepole pine and subalpine conifer forest.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Aplodontia rufa californica</i> Sierra Nevada mountain beaver	USFWS: CDFW: None SSC	Dense growth of small deciduous trees & shrubs, wet soil, & abundance of forbs in the Sierra Nevada & east slope. Needs dense understory for food & cover. Burrows into soft soil. Needs abundant supply of water.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i> Swainson's hawk	USFWS: CDFW: None THR	Breeds in grasslands with scattered trees, juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, savannahs, & agricultural or ranch lands with groves or lines of trees. Requires adjacent suitable foraging areas such as grasslands, or alfalfa or grain fields supporting rodent populations.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Catostomus fumeiventris</i> Owens sucker	USFWS: CDFW: None SSC	Endemic to the Owens River drainage. In its native river habitat, it is most common in areas with long runs & few riffles. Adults can thrive in reservoirs, but need gravelly riffles in tributary streams for spawning. Inhabits streams and lakes below 7,500 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Contopus cooperi</i> olive-sided flycatcher	USFWS: CDFW: None SSC	Uncommon to common, summer resident in a wide variety of forest and woodland habitats below 9,000 feet throughout California exclusive of the deserts, the Central Valley, and other lowland valleys and basins. Preferred nesting habitats include mixed conifer, montane hardwood-conifer, Douglas-fir, redwood, red fir, and lodgepole pine.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i> yellow rail	USFWS: CDFW: None SSC	For breeding, this species requires sedge marshes/meadows with moist soil or shallow standing water. In the winter, this species inhabits wet meadows and coastal tidal marshes.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Dendragapus fuliginosus howardi</i> Mount Pinos sooty grouse	USFWS: CDFW: None SSC	Within the Sierra Nevada portion of its range, this species occupies various vegetation types according to the season. In the spring, this species congregates in hooting habitat consisting of open, mature conifer forest on or near a ridge between 6,000 and 10,000 feet in elevation.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.

**Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources**

<b>Scientific Name Common Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Habitat Description</b>	<b>Observed Onsite</b>	<b>Potential to Occur</b>
<i>Euderma maculatum</i> spotted bat	USFWS: None CDFW: SSC	Primarily rely on crevices and caves in tall cliffs for roosting. Also, have been documented as roosting in conifers and aspen, sometimes traveling long distances from day roosts. Foraging habitat includes marshes, meadows, riparian zones, shrub-steppe, and open ponderosa pine forest.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Falco mexicanus</i> prairie falcon	USFWS: None CDFW: WL	Ranges from southeastern deserts northwest throughout the Central Valley and along the inner Coast Ranges and Sierra Nevada. Distributed from annual grasslands to alpine meadows, but associated primarily with perennial grasslands, savannahs, rangeland, some agricultural fields, and desert scrub. Within the Sierra Nevada, this species range above the timberline in late summer, but winter at lower elevations. During the breeding season, this species is commonly found in foothills and mountains which provide cliffs and escarpments for nesting.	No	<b>Low:</b> The Project site provides suitable foraging habitat, but no suitable nesting habitat for this species.
<i>Gulo gulo</i> California wolverine	USFWS: PTHR CDFW: THR ; FP	Needs water source. Uses caves, logs, burrows for cover & den area. Hunts in more open areas. Can travel long distances.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Hydromantes platycephalus</i> Mount Lyell salamander	USFWS: None CDFW: WL	This species occurs only in the Sierra Nevada from Placer Co. south to Tulare Co. and an isolated population in Sierra Co. Only active on the surface when free water in the form of seeps, drips, or spray is available. Occurs in massive rock areas in mixed conifer, red fir, lodgepole pine, and subalpine habitats. Elevation range extends from 4,130 to 11,940 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Larus californicus</i> California gull	USFWS: None CDFW: WL	Require isolated islands in rivers, reservoirs and natural lakes for nesting, where predation pressures from terrestrial mammals are diminished. Uses both fresh and saline aquatic habitats at variable elevations and degrees of aridity for nesting and for opportunistic foraging.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Lepus townsendii townsendii</i> western white-tailed jackrabbit	USFWS: None CDFW: SSC	Sagebrush, subalpine conifer, juniper, alpine dwarf shrub & perennial grassland. Open areas with scattered shrubs & exposed flat-topped hills with open stands of trees, brush & herbaceous understory. Found at elevations ranging from 131 to 14,108 feet amsl.	No	<b>High:</b> Suitable habitat for this species can be found within the big sagebrush scrub habitat.
<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii seleniris</i> Paiute cutthroat trout	USFWS: THR CDFW: None	Cool, well-oxygenated waters. Cannot tolerate presence of other salmonids, requires clean gravel for spawning.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i> osprey	USFWS: None CDFW: WL	Occurs in a variety of plant communities in association with riparian habitats including shrublands, grasslands, swamps, and coniferous and deciduous forests. In California, ospreys are primarily associated with ponderosa pine ( <i>Pine ponderosa</i> ) and mixed-conifer types.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Pekania pennant</i> fisher - west coast DPS	USFWS: None CDFW: CTHR ; SSC	Intermediate to large-tree stages of coniferous forests & deciduous-riparian areas with high percent canopy closure. Uses cavities, snags, logs & rocky areas for cover & denning. Needs large areas of mature, dense forest.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.

**Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources**

<b>Scientific Name Common Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Habitat Description</b>	<b>Observed Onsite</b>	<b>Potential to Occur</b>
<i>Rana sierrae</i> Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog	USFWS: END CDFW: THR ; WL	Inhabits lakes, ponds, meadow streams, isolated pools, and sunny riverbanks in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Open stream and lake edges with a gentle slope up to a depth of 5-8cm is preferred. Tadpoles may require 2 - 4 years to complete their aquatic development. Found at elevations ranging from 984 to 12,000 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Setophaga petechia</i> yellow warbler	USFWS: None CDFW: SSC	Nests over all of California except the Central Valley, the Mojave Desert region, and high altitudes and the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada. Winters along the Colorado River and in parts of Imperial and Riverside Counties. Nests in riparian areas dominated by willows, cottonwoods, sycamores, or alders or in mature chaparral. May also use oaks, conifers, and urban areas near stream courses.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Sorex lyelli</i> Mount Lyell shrew	USFWS: None CDFW: SSC	High elevation riparian areas in the southern Sierra Nevada. Requires moist soil, lives in grass or under willows. Uses logs, stumps, etc. for cover. Found at elevations ranging from 6,890 to 11,909 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Strix nebulosa</i> great gray owl	USFWS: None CDFW: END	Resident of mixed conifer or red fir forest habitat, in or on edge of meadows. Requires large diameter snags in a forest with high canopy closure, which provide a cool sub-canopy microclimate. Found at elevations ranging from 6,000 to 9,000 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Vulpes vulpes necator</i> Sierra Nevada red fox	USFWS: None CDFW: THR	Historically found from the Cascades down to the Sierra Nevada. Found in a variety of habitats from wet meadows to forested areas. Use dense vegetation & rocky areas for cover & den sites. Prefer forests interspersed w/ meadows or alpine fell-fields. Found at elevations ranging from 3,937 to 11,811 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.

**SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT SPECIES**

<i>Arabis repanda</i> var. <i>greenei</i> Greene's rockcress	USFWS: None CDFW: None CNPS: 3.3	Subalpine coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest on granitic, talus, rocky or sandy soils. Blooming period is June to August. Has an elevational range of 7,693 to 11,811 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Astragalus johannis-howellii</i> long valley milk-vetch	USFWS: None CDFW: SR CNPS: 1B.2	Occurs in sandy loam soils within great basin scrub habitat. Blooming period is from June to August. Found at elevations ranging from 6,693 to 8,301 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Astragalus kentrophyta</i> var. <i>danaus</i> Sweetwater Mountains milk-vetch	USFWS: None CDFW: None CNPS: 4.3	Alpine boulder and rock field, subalpine coniferous forest in rocky talus. Blooming period is July to September. Found at elevations ranging from 9,842 to 12,008 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Astragalus monoensis</i> mono milk-vetch	USFWS: None CDFW: SR CNPS: 1B.2	Great Basin scrub, upper montane coniferous forest, pumice flats with sparse vegetative cover. Has an elevational range of 6,923 to 11,007 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Atriplex pusilla</i> smooth saltbush	USFWS: None CDFW: None CNPS: 2B.1	Great Basin scrub, meadow and seep, wetland. Known from hot springs, and alkali springs. Blooming period is June to September. Found at elevations ranging from 4,265 to 6,561 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.

**Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources**

<b>Scientific Name Common Name</b>	<b>Status</b>			<b>Habitat Description</b>	<b>Observed Onsite</b>	<b>Potential to Occur</b>
<i>Boechera cobrensis</i> masonic rockcress	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 2B.3	Great Basin scrub, Pinon and juniper woodlands, usually in sandy soils. Blooming period is June to July. Has an elevational range of 4,511 to 10,187 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Boechera pinziae</i> Pinzl's rockcress	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 1B.3	Alpine, alpine boulder and rock field, subalpine coniferous forest in steep, unstable scree and sand. Blooming period is July. Found at elevations ranging from 9,842 to 10,990 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Boechera tularensis</i> Tulare rockcress	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 1B.3	Subalpine coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest on rocky slopes. Blooming period is May to August. Has an elevational range of 5,987 to 10,991 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Botrychium crenulatum</i> scalloped moonwort	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 2B.2	Occurs in bogs and fens, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps (freshwater), and upper montane coniferous forest. Blooming season is from June to September. Has an elevational range of 4,160 to 10,761 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Bruchia bolanderi</i> Bolander's bruchia	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 4.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadow and seep, and upper montane coniferous forest. Moss which grows on damp clay soils. Seems to colonize bare soil along streambanks, meadows, fens and springs. Found at elevations ranging from 5,577 to 9,186 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Carex geyeri</i> Geyer's sedge	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 4.2	Great Basin scrub and lower montane coniferous forest. Blooming period is May to August. Has an elevational range of 3,789 to 7,201 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Carex incurviformis</i> Mt. Dana sedge	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 4.3	Alpine boulder and rock field. Blooming period is July to August. Found at elevations ranging from 12,139 to 13,320 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Carex petasata</i> Liddon's sedge	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 2B.3	Broadleaved upland forest, lower montane coniferous forest, meadow and seep, Pinon and juniper woodlands, and wetlands. Blooming period is May to July. Has an elevational range of 1,969 to 10,892 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Cinna bolanderi</i> Bolander's woodreed	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 1B.2	Habitats include meadows and seeps and upper montane coniferous forest, often mesic. Blooming period is from July to September. Found at elevations ranging from 5,479 to 8,005 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Claytonia megarhiza</i> fell-fields claytonia	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 2B.3	Alpine, alpine boulder and rock field, and subalpine coniferous forest in the crevices between rock in rocky and gravelly soils. Blooming period is July to September. Has an elevational range of 8,530 to 11,588 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Crepis runcinata</i> fiddleleaf hawksbeard	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 2B.2	Mojavean desert scrub, and Pinon and juniper woodlands in moist, alkaline valley bottoms. Blooming period is May to August. Found at elevations ranging from 4,101 to 6,480 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Cryptantha glomeriflora</i> clustered-flower cryptantha	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 4.3	Found in granitic or volcanic, sandy soils in Great Basin scrub, meadows and seeps, subalpine coniferous forest, and upper montane coniferous forest. Blooming period is June to September. Has an elevational range of 5,905 to 12,303 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.

**Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources**

<b>Scientific Name Common Name</b>	<b>Status</b>			<b>Habitat Description</b>	<b>Observed Onsite</b>	<b>Potential to Occur</b>
<i>Draba cana</i> canescent draba	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 2B.3	Alpine, alpine boulder and rock field, limestone, meadow and seep, and subalpine coniferous forest in carbonate substrates. Blooming period is July. Found at elevations ranging from 9,842 to 11,500 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Draba lonchocarpa</i> spear-fruited draba	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 2B.3	Alpine boulder and rock field, limestone. On limestone scree. Blooming period is June to July. Has an elevational range of 9,843 to 10,810 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Draba praealta</i> tall draba	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 2B.3	Meadows and seeps on mesic sites. Blooming period is July to August. Found at elevations ranging from 8,202 to 11,204 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Epilobium howellii</i> subalpine fireweed	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 4.3	Meadow and seeps, subalpine coniferous forest, and wetland. Found in wet meadows, mossy seeps. Blooming period is July to August. Has an elevational range of 6,561 to 10,239 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Ericameria nana</i> dwarf goldenbush	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 4.3	Pinyon and juniper woodland (rocky, carbonate or granitic soils). Blooming period is July to November. Found at elevations ranging from 4,806 to 9,186 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Eriogonum microthecum</i> var. <i>alpinum</i> alpine slender buckwheat	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 4.3	Found in alpine dwarf scrub and Great Basin scrub, sometimes rocky or gravelly soils. Blooming period is July to September. Has an elevational range of 8,202 to 10,826 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Erythranthe laciniata</i> cut-leaved monkeyflower	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 4.3	Found in lower montane coniferous forest and upper montane coniferous forest habitats, often mesic. Blooming period is from April to July. Found at elevations ranging from 1,608 to 8,694 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Fritillaria pinetorum</i> pine fritillary	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 4.3	Grows in granitic or metamorphic soils within chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodland, upper montane coniferous forest, and subalpine coniferous forest. Blooming period is from May to July. Found at elevations ranging from 5,692 to 10,827 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Hulsea brevifolia</i> short-leaved hulsea	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 1B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest and upper montane coniferous forest in granitic or volcanic soil of forest openings and road cuts. Blooming period is July to September. Has an elevational range of 4,921 to 10,500 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Kobresia myosuroides</i> seep kobresia	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 2B.2	Occurs in alpine boulder and rock fields (mesic), meadows and seeps (carbonate), and subalpine coniferous forest habitats. Blooming period is June. Found at elevations ranging from 4,888 to 10,646 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Lupinus duranii</i> Mono Lake lupine	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 1B.2	Great Basin scrub, subalpine coniferous forest, and upper montane coniferous forest in pumice flats, coarse barren soils of volcanic origin. Blooming period is May to August. Found at elevations ranging from 6,562 to 9,843 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Meesia longisetata</i> long seta hump moss	USFWS: None	CDFW: None	CNPS: 2B.3	Bogs and fens, meadows and seeps, upper montane coniferous forest on moist soils along streams and meadows, often carbonate. Found at elevations ranging from 5,741 to 9,990 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.

**Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources**

<b>Scientific Name Common Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Habitat Description</b>	<b>Observed Onsite</b>	<b>Potential to Occur</b>
<i>Phacelia inyoensis</i> Inyo phacelia	USFWS: None CDFW: None CNPS: 1B.2	Meadow and seep, in alkaline meadows. Blooming period is April to August. Has an elevational range of 3,002 to 10,500 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Potamogeton robbinsii</i> Robbins' pondweed	USFWS: None CDFW: None CNPS: 2B.3	Marsches and swamps, wetlands. Deep water, lakes. Blooming period is July to August. Found at elevations ranging from 5,020 to 10,827 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Puccinellia simplex</i> California alkali grass	USFWS: None CDFW: None CNPS: 1B.2	Found in alkaline soils within chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pool habitat. Blooming period is from March to May. Has an elevational range of 7 to 3,051 feet amsl.		<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Salix brachycarpa</i> var. <i>brachycarpa</i> short-fruited willow	USFWS: None CDFW: None CNPS: 2B.3	Alpine dwarf scrub, limestone, meadow and seeps, subalpine coniferous forest, and wetland. Found on edges of lakes, and in wet meadows, on limestone, marble, and metamorphic substrates. Blooming period is June to July. Found at elevations ranging from 9,843 to 11,483 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Sedum pinetorum</i> pine city sedum	USFWS: None CDFW: None CNPS: 3	Alpine boulder and rock field, subalpine coniferous forest, likely on rocky volcanic slopes. Blooming period is July.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Triglochin palustris</i> marsh arrow-grass	USFWS: None CDFW: None CNPS: 2B.3	Meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps (freshwater), subalpine coniferous forest (mesic). Blooming period is July to August. Has an elevational range of 7,497 to 12,139 feet amsl.	No	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable habitat is present within the Project site.
<b>SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT COMMUNITIES</b>				
Mono Pumice Flat	CDFW Sensitive Habitat	Pumice flats occur on level to slightly sloping terrain, and are characterized by open expanses of pumice gravel, which are typically moist a short distance beneath the surface.	No	<b>Absent</b>

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) -****Federal**

END - Federal Endangered

THR - Federal Threatened

PTHR - Proposed Threatened

**California Department of Fish and Wildlife****(CDFW) - California**

END- California Endangered

THR - California Threatened

CTHR - Candidate Threatened

SR - State listed rare

SSC - California Species of Concern

WL - Watch List

FP - California Fully Protected

**California Native Plant Society (CNPS)*****California Rare Plant Rank***

1B Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere

2B Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but More Common Elsewhere

3 Plants About Which More Information is Needed – A Review List

4 Plants of Limited Distribution – A Watch List

**Threat Ranks**

0.1 - Seriously threatened in California

0.2 - Moderately threatened in California

0.3 - Not very threatened in California

**Attachment E**

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Section 17.36.140 of the Mammoth Lakes Municipal Code

17.36.140 - Tree Removal and Protection.

- A. **Purpose.** This section includes provisions to protect and to regulate the removal of certain trees, based on the important environmental, aesthetic and health benefits that trees provide to Mammoth Lakes residents and visitors, and the contribution of such benefits to public health, safety and welfare. These benefits include, but are not limited to, enhancement of the character and beauty of the community as a "Village in the Trees," protection of property values, provision of wildlife habitat, reduction of soil erosion, noise buffering, wind protection, and visual screening for development.
- B. **Applicability.** The terms and provisions of this section shall apply to all private and public property within the Town of Mammoth Lakes.
- C. **Exemptions.** The following shall be exempt from the provisions of this section:
  - 1. Removal of a tree that presents an immediate safety hazard to life or property, as determined by the Town Manager, Director, Building Official, Public Works Director, Police Chief, Fire Marshall, Public Utility Company, or their designees.
  - 2. Routine tree maintenance, such as the trimming or thinning of branches.
  - 3. Tree removal performed by the Town, public utilities, or other public agencies in public utility easements or public rights-of-way;
  - 4. Tree removal for fuels reduction purposes on publicly owned land, performed in conjunction with an approved fuel reduction program or activity;
  - 5. Removal of trees felled by natural weather conditions or an act of God;
  - 6. Removal of visibly dead trees; and
  - 7. Coniferous and deciduous trees with a "Diameter at Breast Height" (DBH) of less than 12 inches.
- D. **Tree removal permit required.** No person shall remove or cause to be removed any tree from any property, which is subject to this section and not otherwise exempted pursuant to Section 17.36.140.C, 17.36.140.F. or 17.36.140.G, without first obtaining a valid tree removal permit pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 17.60 (Applications, Processing, and Fees).
- E. **Tree removal permit application and review.**
  - 1. **Tree removal permit application.** The following information shall be provided in the tree removal permit application:
    - a. A site plan or drawing showing the location, type and size of all tree(s) proposed to be removed;
    - b. A statement of the reasons for removal; and
    - c. Written consent of the owner of record of the land on which the tree(s) are proposed to be removed, or their authorized agent or contractor.
  - 2. **Tree removal permit review.** The following shall be considered when reviewing tree removal permits:
    - a. The Director shall inspect the property and evaluate each application. The applicant shall clearly mark or flag all trees proposed for removal.
    - b. The Director shall issue a permit if any of the conditions 1. through 10. below are determined to apply. The Director may request the applicant to provide a professional assessment by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) or arborist to support the reasons for the proposed tree removal.
      - i. The tree(s) is infected with an epidemic insect or disease where the recommended control is not applicable and an arborist has recommended removal to prevent transmission;

- ii. The tree is visibly dying;
  - iii. The tree(s) presents a hazard to health, safety or property that cannot be corrected by pruning, transplanting or other treatments;
  - iv. The tree(s) severely interfere with the growth and development of a more desirable tree;
  - v. The removal of the tree would be necessary to provide for the required amount of snow storage on a residential or commercial property;
  - vi. The removal of the tree would substantially increase mid-day solar access to a solar collector;
  - vii. The tree(s) interferes or is causing extensive damage to utility services or facilities, roadways, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, pavement, water or sewer line, foundations or existing structures;
  - viii. The removal of the trees(s) would be necessary to maintain defensible space around a structure, or for fuels reduction purposes approved by Mammoth Lakes Fires Protection District;
  - ix. The removal of the tree(s) would allow for improved enjoyment or quality of a publicly-accessible recreation or event site (e.g., improved event circulation or seating, enhanced golf course playability, etc.) consistent with the Town's destination resort objectives.
  - x. Other reason, which, in the determination of the Director, would be necessary to maintain public health, safety or welfare, or to avoid damage to buildings or property.
- c. Creation of views, lawns, or similar amenities shall not be sufficient cause to remove trees.
3. Expiration of tree removal permits. Tree removal permits shall remain valid for a period of five years from date of issue.

F. **Multi-family residential project tree management plan.** An Administrative Permit for a tree management plan may be approved by the Director for an existing multi-family residential or lodging property of twenty-five units or more consistent with the standards of this section. Separate tree removal permits would not be required with an approved tree management plan.

1. **Tree Management Plan.** A tree management plan shall include the following information:
  - a. Name of multi-family residential or lodging property.
  - b. Narrative describing purpose and objectives of the tree management plan.
  - c. Location, species, diameter at DBH, reason, and anticipated year of removal for each tree expected to be removed under the management plan.
  - d. Signature of certified RFP or arborist certifying the validity of the tree management plan.
2. **Expiration of tree maintenance plan.** Tree management plans shall remain valid for a period of five years from date of issue. Substantial revisions or amendments to an approved tree management plan shall be approved by the Director.

G. **Construction-related tree removal and protection.** If a site has received development approval through a land use, building, or grading permit that includes a tree removal and protection plan consistent with the standards of this section, then a separate tree removal permit is not required, and removal of trees is considered approved through the land use, building, or grading permit.

1. **Tree removal and protection plan.** A tree removal and protection plan is required prior to conducting development activities which require a land use permit, building permit or grading permit, including, but not limited to, clearing, grading, excavation or demolition work on any property or development site containing one or more trees.

- a. The tree removal and protection plan shall clearly depict all trees to be preserved and/or removed on the site. The plan must be drawn to scale and include the following:
    - i. Location, species and diameter of each tree at DBH.
    - ii. Clear identification of all trees proposed to be removed.
    - iii. Location of drip line of each tree.
    - iv. Location of existing and proposed roads, water, sanitary and storm drain, irrigation and other utility lines/facilities and easements.
    - v. Location of existing and proposed structures.
    - vi. Grade change or cut and fill during or after construction.
    - vii. Existing and proposed impervious surfaces.
    - viii. Location and type of tree protection measures to be installed per Section G.1.b., below.
  - b. *Tree protection measures.* Except as otherwise allowed by the review authority or Director, all required tree preservation measures set forth in this section shall be instituted prior to any construction or development activities, including but not limited to, clearing, grading, excavation or demolition work, and shall be removed only after completion of all construction activity, including landscaping and irrigation installation.
    - i. Fencing, a minimum of three feet tall with posts placed no more than ten feet apart shall be installed at the edge of the tree drip line. Fencing shall be flush with the initial (undisturbed) grade.
    - ii. No construction activity shall occur within the tree drip lines, including, but not limited to dumping or storage of materials such as building supplies, soil, waste items, equipment or parked vehicles.
    - iii. Tree drip lines shall be maintained free of chemically injurious materials and substances such as paints, thinners, cleaning solutions, oil and gasoline, concrete or drywall excess, construction debris or run-off.
    - iv. No excavation, trenching, grading, root pruning or other activity shall occur within the drip line unless approved by the review authority or the Director.
    - v. The applicant shall not proceed with any development or construction activities, except installation of erosion control measures, until the Town has inspected and approved the installation of the required tree protection measures and a grading and/or building permit has been issued by the Town.
  - c. *Waiver of requirement to provide tree removal and protection plan.* The Director may waive the requirement to provide a tree removal and protection plan where it can be demonstrated, to the Director's satisfaction, that no trees would be removed or otherwise directly or indirectly affected by the proposed activity.
- H. **Penalty for removal of a tree without a permit.** The following penalties may be imposed for removal of a tree(s) without an approved tree removal permit where one is required, consistent with Municipal Code Section 8.32 (Administrative Citations).
- 1. Coniferous trees over 12 inches: a fine of no less than \$2,500 per tree and/or as valued by an RPF or arborist; in no circumstances shall the fine be less than \$2,500 and no more than \$50,000, per tree;
  - 2. Deciduous trees over 12 inches: a fine of \$1,000 per tree and/or as valued by an RPF or arborist; in no circumstances shall the fine be less than \$1,000 and no more than \$5,000;
  - 3. Replacement plantings may be required as determined by the Director consistent with Section 17.36.140. I, which may include valuation by an RPF or arborist.

- I. **Mitigation for tree removal.** As mitigation for tree removal, either in conjunction with a tree removal permit, construction-related tree removal, or as penalty for tree removal performed without a permit, the Director may require replacement plantings. If required, replacement shall be limited to plantings in areas suitable for tree replacement with species identified in the Town of Mammoth Lakes' Recommended Plant List. The replacement ratio shall be determined by the Director. If required, the minimum replacement tree size shall be seven gallons. Replacement requirements may also be determined based on the valuation of the tree as determined by an RPF or arborist. The property owner shall maintain plantings to a level approved by the Director.

(Ord. No. 14-02, § 4, 3-19-2014; Ord. No. 15-01, § 4(Exh. A, § 26), 1-21-2015)