

Estlow, Trevor

From: Rian, Kathryn(Katie)@Wildlife <Kathryn.Rian@Wildlife.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 5:06 PM
To: Estlow, Trevor
Subject: RE: Potential Site Visit
Attachments: northwestnativeslocallytested-july2016_CNPS.pdf

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Hi Trevor,

After reviewing CNDDDB again, I think additional targeted surveys (e.g., rare plants) are probably not warranted. Most of the special status plants documented in that area are either associated with mature redwood forest or slough/wetland habitat. My recommendations are therefore pretty standard for residential development in a forested landscape:

- 1) Given the extent of clearing and the possibility for several special status birds, including osprey, CDFW recommends that tree removal occur outside of nesting season (generally March 15 – August 15). If that's not feasible, a qualified biologist shall survey for active bird nests no more than seven days prior to tree removal or significant trimming. If an active nest is found, the permittee should consult with CDFW regarding appropriate site-specific avoidance measures and buffer distances. If there is a lapse in project-related activities of seven days or more, the biologist should re-survey the area before work resumes.
- 2) Consider a condition of approval prohibiting the use of invasive plant species in landscaping, as the parcel contains sensitive stream habitat and is close to wetlands and riparian areas associated with Ryan Slough. The [Cal-IPC Inventory](#) provides a list of the most problematic species. CDFW always encourages the use of native plants appropriate to coastal northern California, which provide aesthetic and habitat values while requiring minimal watering and maintenance. Using native species in landscaping is particularly important near the shop and existing driveway, where redwoods and other native conifers currently create a cooler microclimate for the stream. Here, I would recommend replanting with a similar mix of tree species or favoring other evergreen trees suitable for developed settings, such as wax myrtle or bay laurel. The Humboldt LID Manual has an excellent list of more mesic species, and the local CNPS chapter has a list of locally tested options, including more upland species (see attached).
- 3) In areas adjacent to sensitive habitat, like the proposed shop building, CDFW recommends minimizing light pollution by lighting areas only as necessary and installing outdoor fixtures that are fully shielded and downward facing, with color temperatures less than 3000K. The Dark Sky Association webpage has some helpful pointers, as well as a list of approved products to choose from.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Katie
