

3.15 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

This section discusses potential impacts on agricultural and forestry resources under the Proposed Project. This section describes existing agricultural land uses in Siskiyou County, in which the Proposed Project is located, identifies the acreage of agricultural lands in the county, including Important Farmland and Grazing Land, and describes the factors contributing to potential changes in irrigated agricultural land as a result of the Proposed Project. The forestry resources analysis focuses on the direct changes that would occur as a result of dam removal under the Proposed Project. In support of the forestry impact analysis, this section describes existing tree species, forested acreages, riparian vegetation, and large woody debris in the Area of Analysis (see below).

Relatively few comments were received during the NOP public scoping process relating to agriculture. Some of the comment topics are not analyzed in the Lower Klamath Project EIR because they do not concern environmental impacts of the Proposed Project. One comment expressed concern that landowners in the Scott and Shasta valleys will be required to stop farming in light of water supply impacts from the Proposed Project; while this comment was not accompanied by supporting evidence, this section does address the concern in light of the public's interest. Potential impacts of the Proposed Project on water supply, which by definition includes water supply for agriculture, are discussed in detail Section 3.8 *Water Supply/Water Rights*). Potential impacts related to flood control are discussed in Section 3.6 *Flood Hydrology*.

No public comments were received during the NOP public scoping process regarding forestry resources. See Appendix A for additional information regarding scoping comments.

3.15.1 Area of Analysis

For agricultural and forestry resources the Area of Analysis includes all lands within the Project Boundary plus a half-mile buffer around Copco No. 1 (Figure 3.15-1). This analysis area was chosen to correspond with the area where changes in hydrology and water supply are anticipated due to the Proposed Project and could indirectly affect irrigated agriculture. Additional information pertaining to the potential hydrologic and water supply impacts of the Proposed Project are presented in Sections 3.6 *Water Supply/Water Rights* and 3.8 *Flood Hydrology*.

3.15.2 Environmental Setting

3.15.2.1 Important Farmland

The California Department of Conservation (DOC) developed land use classifications for farmland in Siskiyou County. These classifications are based on the land's suitability for agricultural production by considering physical and chemical characteristics of the soil (soil temperature range, depth of the groundwater table, flooding potential, rock fragment content, and rooting depth), location, growing season, and moisture available to sustain high-yield crops. Analyses of these characteristics were used to develop "Important Farmland" classifications that include Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Local Importance. Along with Grazing Land, these Important Farmland classifications were collectively defined by the DOC as "Agricultural Land."

DOC (2016a) estimated that Siskiyou County had 1,146,245 acres of agricultural land in 2012, of which 756,486 acres were identified as Important Farmland and 389,759 acres as Grazing Land (DOC 2016a). In 2014, Siskiyou County had 1,146,010 acres of agricultural land. Of this total, 754,297 acres were identified as Important Farmland and 391,713 acres were identified as Grazing Land (DOC 2016a). Table 3.15-1 summarizes the most recent DOC farmland conversion data, identifies the 2012 and 2014 acreages of agricultural land in Siskiyou County, and shows the net change in acreage over the two-year period.

Table 3.15-1. Summary of Agricultural Land Conversion in Siskiyou County, 2012-2014.

Important Farmland Category	Acres		Net Change (2012–2014)	
	2012	2014	Acres	Percent
Prime Farmland	74,973	70,724	-4,069	-5.6
Farmland of Statewide Importance	27,305	25,963	-1,342	-4.9
Unique Farmland	34,838	35,365	527	1.5
Farmland of Local Importance	619,550	622,245	2,695	0.4
Important Farmland Subtotal	756,486	754,297	-2,189	-0.3
Grazing Land	389,759	391,713	1,954	0.5
Agricultural Land Total	1,146,245	1,146,010	-235	-0.02

Source: DOC 2016a

DOC's 2014 Field Report for Siskiyou County identifies the factors contributing to changes in agricultural land uses from 2012–2014. According to the 2014 Field Report, some Important Farmland (i.e., Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmland) was converted to Farmland of Local Importance and Grazing Land by leaving formerly irrigated land idle for three or more reporting update cycles, going out of production, or conversion of irrigated uses to cultivation of non-irrigated grain crops (DOC 2016b). A total of 24 acres were converted from farmland to urban and built-up land between 2012 and 2014 (DOC 2016a). Conversely, irrigated cropland was added near the town of Dorris. Additions of new cropland were primarily alfalfa or other irrigated hay crops, often in the form of center-pivot fields (DOC 2016b).

Most of the land in the Area of Analysis is classified by the DOC as Grazing Land, with a small area of Unique Farmland located approximately two miles south of Copco No. 1 Reservoir (Figure 3.15-1).

Parcels zoned by Siskiyou County for Agriculture-Grazing are located within the Area of Analysis to the north and south of Copco No. 1 Reservoir (Figure 3.14-1). There are a number of parcels located immediately upstream of Copco No. 1 Reservoir that are used primarily for grazing and hay production. The DOC (2016c) identified these lands as Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Figure 3.15-1). The pastures/fields on these properties are flood-irrigated via direct diversions from the free-flowing Klamath River upstream of Copco No. 1 Reservoir. There are a few agriculture parcels with grazing land located between 1.2 and 3 miles north of Copco No. 1 Reservoir (Figure 3.15-1). Another agricultural operation is located on land designated as Farmland of Local Importance and is approximately 0.5-miles southwest of Keaton Cove along the Ager-Beswick Road in the Deer Creek drainage. The pastures on all

these properties are flood-irrigated from direct diversions on tributary streams that flow into the reservoir. None of the properties mentioned above rely on Copco No. 1 Reservoir for irrigation water.

The land surrounding Iron Gate Reservoir is entirely BLM or Parcel B property and does not contain any parcels zoned for agriculture under the Siskiyou County General Plan (Figure 3.14-1). DOC (2016) describes most of the terrain around Iron Gate Reservoir as grazing lands. However, there is some open, relatively flat land south of the reservoir in the Long Gulch watershed that is broken into individual parcels that seem based on a review of Google Earth (2016a) aerial imagery, to be used primarily for what appears to be cannabis production. The DOC (2016c) identified these Long Gulch lands as Farmland of Local Importance or suitable for grazing (Figure 3.15-2). Based on a review of Google Earth (2013 and 2016a) aerial photographs, the water source for these parcels appear to be wells. The elevation of these parcels ranges from 110 to 140 feet above the reservoir water surface elevation with the closest parcel being 0.34 miles south of Iron Gate Reservoir.

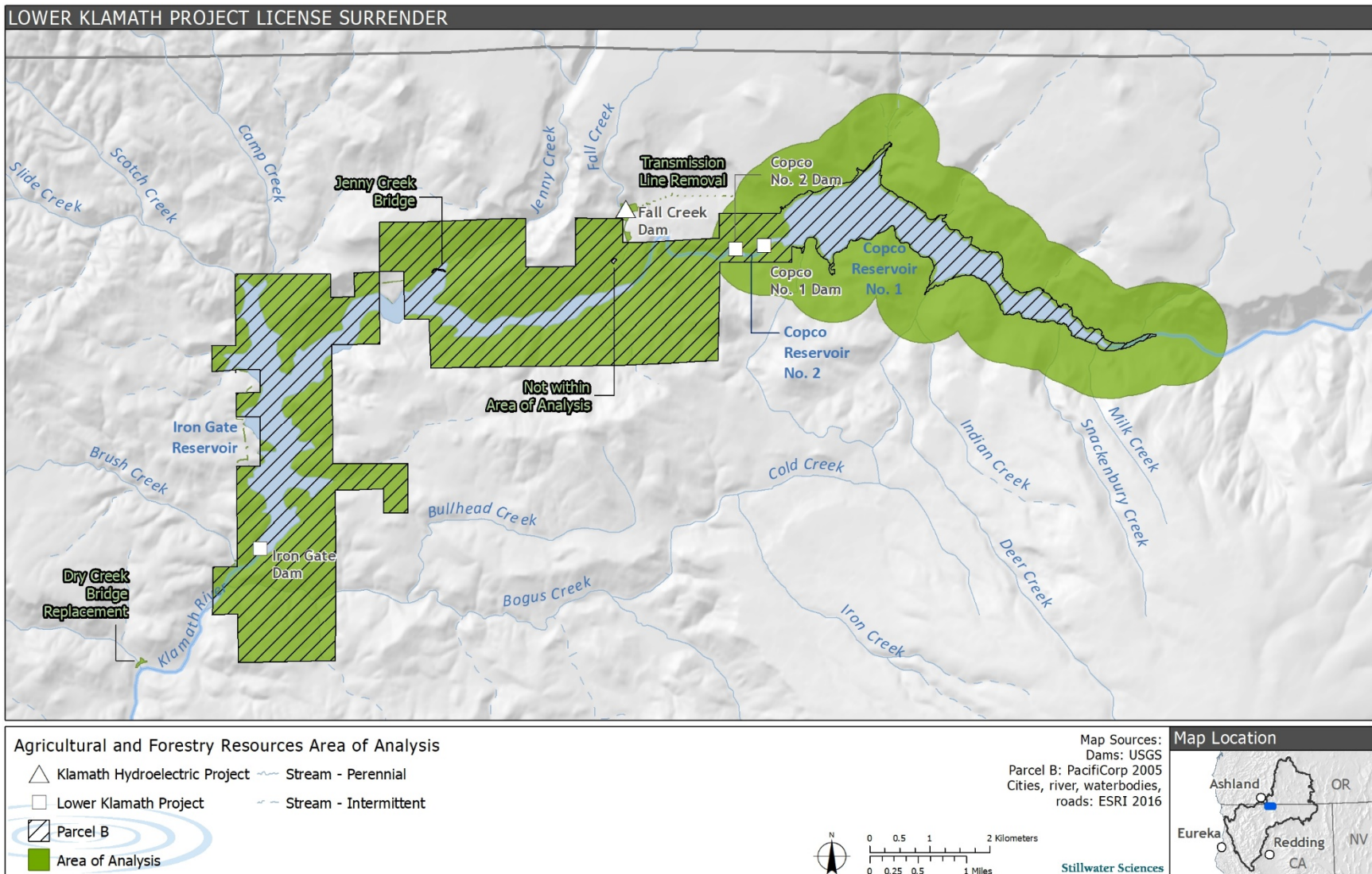


Figure 3.15-1. Agricultural and Forestry Resources Area of Analysis.

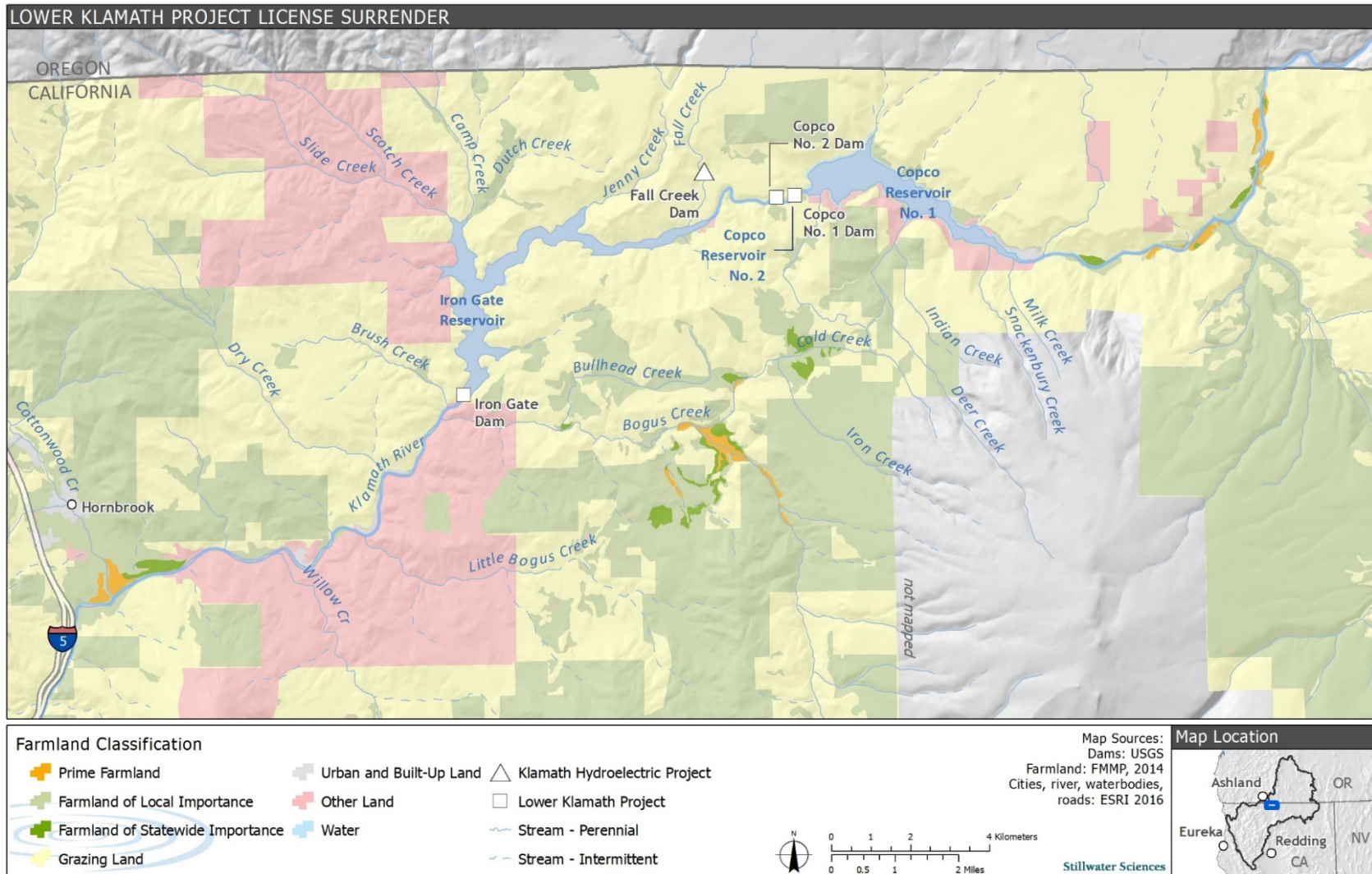


Figure 3.15-2. Farmland classification along the Klamath River from Interstate 5 to the Oregon-California state line (Adapted from DOC 2016c).

3.15.2.2 Existing County Zoning

Lands currently inundated by the reservoirs in Siskiyou County have land use zoning classifications that correspond with the adjacent lands (generally Rural Vacant, Agriculture-Grazing, or Open Space-Natural Resources). There are no lands zoned for forestry resources within the Area of Analysis from the eastern end of Copco No. 1 Reservoir downstream to Iron Gate Dam (Figure 3.14-1). If dam removal occurs, the submerged lands would not require new land use designations or zoning because they do not change with an ownership transition until there is some action that triggers rezoning and a land use amendment (Plucker 2011).

3.15.2.3 Williamson Act

Under the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, also known as the Williamson Act, local governments can enter into contracts with private property owners to protect land (within agricultural preserves) for agricultural and open space purposes. Siskiyou County had 421,125 acres under Williamson Act contracts in 2013, the most recent year for which data are available (DOC 2015). The nonrenewal of a contract is the most common mechanism for termination of Williamson Act contract lands. In Siskiyou County in 2013, approximately 2,428 acres were in some stage of the nonrenewal process, approximately seven acres of contract land terminated through nonrenewal expirations, and no property owners initiated new nonrenewal processes (DOC 2015).

No Williamson Act parcels are within the agriculture and forestry Area of Analysis. Twelve parcels located within five miles of project facilities are under Williamson Act contracts and the nearest of which are located approximately two miles south of Copco No. 1 Reservoir.

3.15.2.4 Forestry Resources

The Lower Klamath Project is located in a transition zone between the Great Basin and California Floristic provinces. In Oregon, the Lower Klamath Project (i.e., J.C. Boyle facilities) generally is located within the interior valley, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer vegetation zones. In California, similar upland tree habitats are present, but the representation of ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, and lodgepole pine is lacking or much reduced. Further, there are no lands that are zoned Forest Resources under the Siskiyou County General Plan within the agriculture and forestry Area of Analysis (Figure 3.14-1). However, some of the lands (primarily near the upstream end of Copco No. 1 Reservoir) in the Lower Klamath Project may be managed for forest resources as a compatible use with existing Open Space zoning.

PacifiCorp (2004) identified and mapped a variety of land cover types from the Link River Dam to the Shasta River. In addition, vegetation datasets are available through CALVEG (Classification and Assessment with Landsat of Visible Ecological Groupings) datasets available through the California Land Cover Mapping & Monitoring Program (USDA Forest Service 2017a) and data from USFWS (2017). These datasets were utilized to create the vegetation maps presented in Appendix G: *Vegetation Communities and Habitat Types* and provide summary acreages described in Table 3.5-1. The upland tree acreage between the Oregon-California state line and Iron Gate Dam and extending 0.25 miles on either side of the Klamath River is presented below in Table 3.15-2. See Section 3.5.2.1 *Vegetation Communities* for a description of the

vegetation types within 0.25 miles of the Klamath River between the Oregon-California state line and the Klamath River Estuary.

Table 3.15-2. Upland tree habitats and mapped between the Oregon-California state line and Iron Gate Dam.

Upland Tree Habitats	Acres	Description, Dominant Species, and Location
Montane hardwood oak	1,813	Moderately open tree canopy, moderately dense shrub layer, moderately dense herbaceous layer. Yellow starthistle and medusahead occur in about 25 percent of stands in the project vicinity. Most abundant around Copco No. 1 Reservoir.
Montane hardwood oak-conifer	2,656	Dense tree cover, sparse shrub layer, moderately open herbaceous layer. Most abundant along the J.C. Boyle Peaking and Bypass reaches, at Copco No. 1 Reservoir, at Fall Creek, and along the Copco No. 2 bypassed reach.
Ponderosa pine	68	Moderate canopy cover, relatively sparse shrub cover, moderately open herbaceous layer.
Juniper	457	Open canopy, shrub layer varies from sparse to dense, herbaceous layer ranges from sparse to dense.
Mixed conifer	9	Dense tree cover often is two-layered, open shrub layer, moderately sparse herbaceous layer.
Total of all upland tree habitats	5,003	

Late-successional Conifer Forest

According to the Northwest Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service and BLM 1994), late-successional forests are those in which the biggest, oldest, and most dominant trees create a mature canopy, with shade-tolerant trees occupying and flourishing on the forest floor. Typically, late-successional forests include trees at least 80 years old. Late-successional forests provide important habitat for a large number of wildlife species.

PacifiCorp (2004) determined that only 13 acres of forest near the J.C. Boyle peaking reach include late-successional conifer forest with large-diameter trees¹⁶⁵. However, 8,435 acres of younger forests, having trees with small to moderately large diameters (11 to 24 inches) also occur (PacifiCorp 2004 as referenced in FERC 2007) between J.C. Boyle and Shasta River. No late-successional conifer forest exists within the Lower Klamath Project.

3.15.3 Significance Criteria

For the purposes of this EIR, impacts on Agriculture and Forestry Resources would be significant if they resulted in the following:

- Substantial conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the

¹⁶⁵ Large-diameter trees are greater than 24 inches in diameter, as measured 4.5 feet above the forest floor.

Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use.

- Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract where the conflict would result in a substantial adverse environmental impact.
- Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g)).
- Substantial loss of forest land or conversion of forest land acreage to non-forest use.
- Other changes in the existing environment that could result in significant conversion of Farmland acreage to non-agricultural use, or significant conversion of forest land acreage to non-forest use.

3.15.4 Impact Analysis Approach

Existing land uses were identified from a variety of sources including Federal and State agencies and the respective counties. The effects analysis identifies direct and indirect effects on agricultural and forest resources under the No Project Alternative, the Proposed Project, and the other alternatives. The types of potential effects that were analyzed included temporary effects associated with dam removal, demolition, and staging and permanent effects such as changes in land use and required changes to local land use plans and zoning ordinances. The State Water Board also considered possible conflicts or inconsistencies between the proposed alternatives and Federal, State, regional, local, or tribal land use plans, policies, or controls relevant in the area of analysis. Temporary and permanent direct and indirect conversions of agricultural and forest lands were also analyzed.

This section includes an evaluation of potential conflicts between the existing and proposed agriculture and forestry land uses associated with the Proposed Project. Physical changes resulting from the Proposed Project and the various alternatives (Section 4 *Alternatives*) are addressed throughout this EIR. Where significant adverse environmental impacts would occur, this EIR offers mitigation measures for reducing the physical impacts on the environment that would be caused by the Proposed Project.

3.15.5 Potential Impacts and Mitigation

Agriculture and forest use resources within the area of analysis are regulated by several Federal, State, and local plans, laws, and policies, which are listed below and considered in this assessment.

- Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981
- USDA Forest Service Klamath National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan
- California Land Conservation Act of 1965 (Williamson Act)
- California Forest Practice Rules
- Siskiyou County Zoning Ordinance

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) of 1981 is intended to minimize the impact Federal programs have on the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses. It assures that to the extent possible federal programs are administered to be compatible with state, local units of government, and private programs and policies to protect farmland. Federal agencies are required to develop and review their policies and procedures to implement the FPPA every two years. The FPPA does not authorize the Federal Government to regulate the use of private or nonfederal land or, in any way, affect the property rights of owners. For the purpose of FPPA, farmland includes prime farmland, unique farmland, and land of statewide or local importance. Farmland subject to FPPA requirements does not have to be currently used for cropland. It can be forest land, pastureland, cropland, or other land, but not water or urban built-up land. Projects are subject to FPPA requirements if they may irreversibly convert farmland (directly or indirectly) to nonagricultural use and are completed by a Federal agency or with assistance from a Federal agency.

The Klamath National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan is used to coordinate and disclose programmatic management direction for the Klamath National Forest. The plan establishes the management direction and associated long-range goals and objectives for the forest; specifies the standards, timing, and vicinity of the practices necessary to achieve that direction; and establishes the monitoring and evaluation requirements needed to ensure that the direction is carried out. There are no lands of the Klamath National Forest within the Project Boundary, although there are some parcels near the east end of Copco No. 1 Reservoir. The plan designates those lands as late-successional reserve, and are managed to enhance habitat for late-successional and old growth-related species (FERC 2007).

The Williamson Act enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use. In return, landowners receive property tax assessments which are much lower than normal because they are based upon farming and open space uses as opposed to full market value.

The California Forest Practice Rules were developed to implement the provisions of the Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 in a manner consistent with other laws, including but not limited to, CEQA. The intent of the rules is that no timber harvesting plan shall be approved which fails to adopt feasible mitigation measures or alternatives from the range of measures set out or provided for in these rules, which would substantially lessen or avoid significant adverse impacts which the activity may have on the environment. The Lower Klamath Project does not propose to harvest timber as part of the Proposed Project.

The Siskiyou County zoning ordinance guides land development in unincorporated portions of Siskiyou County by regulating allowable uses in various zones. Non-federal lands within the land use and planning Area of Analysis are under the jurisdiction of this ordinance. Zones are grouped by six main uses—residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, timberland, and open space (see Section 3.14 *Land Use and Planning* for more information). Hydroelectric facilities are subject to local review in part through the zoning code. The Area of Analysis for land use and planning is located on land zoned Open Space surrounded by: AG-1, prime agricultural; AG-2, non-prime agricultural; and R-R, rural residential agriculture. Most rural residential agriculture lands remain vacant.

Potential Impact 3.15-1 Conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conflict with Williamson Act land or agricultural zoning.

The Proposed Project would use existing road systems to facilitate dam decommissioning and removal. However, upgrades to existing roads would be necessary to allow for the heavy traffic expected during deconstruction. The disposal site for Iron Gate Dam spoils is located on flat land approximately 3,000 feet northeast of the dam. The permanent disposal site for deconstruction spoils from Copco No. 1 and No. 2 would occur at the current location of the maintenance buildings and residence. Disposal sites at J.C. Boyle Dam will include the original borrow sites, spillway, scour hole below the emergency spillway, and abutment locations. As these roads and disposal sites are existing and/or on lands not designated for agriculture, their use for disposal would not directly convert Farmland to non-agricultural use. The analysis of the capacity and use of existing roads is presented in Section 3.22 *Transportation and Traffic*. The Proposed Project would not result in the conversion of farmland within the Area of Analysis for agriculture and forestry resources to non-agricultural uses, and it would not conflict with existing zoning or Williamson Act contracts. There can be no conflict with Williamson Act land because there are no contract parcels within the agriculture and forestry Area of Analysis. Agricultural zoning would not change since existing classifications would remain the same following drawdown. Reservoir drawdown may increase agricultural opportunities on currently inundated lands; however, due to uncertainties in the ultimate land use of the inundated reservoir lands, this is speculative (see also Section 2.7.11 *Land Disposition and Transfer*). The Parcel B lands could ultimately be managed for wide potential range of public interest uses, including but not limited to open space, active wetland and riverine restoration, river-based recreation, grazing, and potentially other uses.

Significance

No significant impact

Potential Impact 3.15-2 Conversion of forest lands to non-forest use or conflict with forest zoning.

Implementation of the Proposed Project would not affect the forest lands or forest uses surrounding Copco No. 1, Copco No. 2, or Iron Gate reservoirs or in the larger agriculture and forestry Area of Analysis. There are no lands zoned for forest resources within the Area of Analysis, from the eastern end of Copco No. 1 Reservoir downstream to Iron Gate Dam (Figure 3.14-1). The Proposed Project would use existing road systems to facilitate dam decommissioning and removal. However, upgrades to existing roads would be necessary to allow for the heavy traffic expected during deconstruction. The disposal site for Iron Gate Dam spoils is located on flat land approximately 3,000 feet northeast of the dam. The permanent disposal site for deconstruction spoils from Copco No. 1 and No. 2 would occur at the current location of the maintenance buildings and residence. Disposal sites at J.C. Boyle Dam will include the original borrow sites, spillway, scour hole below the emergency spillway, and abutment locations. The vegetation would be removed in preparation for debris disposal. Topsoil would be used to cap the site and be seeded once disposal is completed. Trees would be planted on the finished disposal sites. As these roads and disposal sites are existing and/or on lands not designated for forestry, their use for disposal would not directly convert forest lands to non-forest use. Thus, there would be no changes in land use under the Proposed Project that would conflict with current forest use or zoning. There is the potential for an increase in forest land due to revegetation of previously inundated lands

with woody species, however the full extent to which lands would reseed with forest species is unknown.

Significance

No significant impact

Potential Impact 3.15-3 Indirect conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or forest land to non-forest use.

The Proposed Project would use existing road systems to facilitate dam decommissioning and removal. However, upgrades to existing roads would be necessary to allow for the heavy traffic expected during deconstruction. Disposal sites are located as described above. The use of these roads or disposal areas would not indirectly convert farmland to non-agricultural use or forest land to non-forest use.

Significance

No significant impact

Potential Impact 3.15-4 Other changes in the existing environment that could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

The Proposed Project would not involve other changes in the existing environment that could result in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. For example, the irrigated farmlands classified as Prime or of Statewide Importance are located primarily at the farthest eastern extent of Copco No. 1 Reservoir and farther upstream along the Klamath River (Figure 3.15-2). These farmlands are flood-irrigated from direct diversions that are either located on the free-flowing reach of the Klamath River upstream of the Project or along tributaries. The headworks of these diversions would still be operational following the removal of the dams since they are situated on the natural channels of the river and tributaries and do not divert from the Lower Klamath Project reservoirs. Impacts on agricultural crops (primarily hay production) are not expected since the irrigation season occurs after the scheduled drawdown period (November to March; see also Table 2.7-1) and these fields are not reliant on the reservoirs for their water supply. There is a possibility that agricultural diversion headworks downstream of each dam would experience siltation or otherwise be affected during reservoir drawdown. However, the Proposed Project includes measures to address these temporary supply issues (see Potential Impact 3.8-3).

Farmlands of Local Importance are located primarily in the Deer Creek drainage that flows into Copco No. 1 Reservoir along the south shoreline and in the Camp and Dutch creek watersheds on the north side of Iron Gate Reservoir (Figure 3.15-1). Based upon analysis of Google Earth (2013 and 2016b) aerial imagery and well data in Section 3.7 *Groundwater*, these lands are irrigated by diversions from their respective tributaries or use wells for stock watering and do not rely on water within the reservoirs for irrigation. See Section 3.7 *Groundwater* for an analysis of groundwater issues.

In the Lower Klamath Basin, some agricultural diversion of water occurs for farming and ranching from tributaries such as the Shasta, Scott, Salmon, and Trinity rivers. However, the Lower Klamath Project is located on the mainstem Klamath River. Therefore, these diversions of water from tributaries would not be affected by removal of the Lower Klamath Project dams. In addition, removal of the Lower Klamath Project

dams would not place flow obligations on small agricultural diverters in tributaries to the Klamath River or the mainstem itself. (see Potential Impact 3.8-1 for more information.) Ongoing efforts to establish minimum flow requirements in the Mid and Lower Klamath basins and prior flow standards recommended by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board focus only on the flow needs of Klamath River tributaries and do not consider any flow contributions to the mainstem river.

Disposal of Iron Gate Dam demolition debris would be placed on a 36-acre plot of Parcel B land approximately one mile south of the dam. This area is currently zoned as Open Space – Natural Resources under the Siskiyou County General Plan, but is open, non-irrigated grassland that is used for grazing. The site would be cleared of vegetation and topsoil in preparation for debris disposal, which would temporarily halt any grazing activity. Once disposal is completed, the site would be regraded, capped with topsoil, and seeded. This would restore the area and allow for continued grazing. This temporary disturbance would be a less than significant impact in light of the availability of other lands for grazing and the small area involved.

Areas around the Lower Klamath Project reservoirs currently support open range grazing by cattle, which are able to move freely around the reservoir areas, with the exception of areas that present topographic barriers. To protect revegetation efforts and to replace the function of the reservoirs as natural barriers, the KRRC is proposing to use cattle exclusion fencing around the reservoir areas after drawdown. The proposed fencing would be a wildlife friendly design that excludes open-range cattle while allowing the natural movement of deer, turtles, and other wildlife. The fence may be required to fully isolate the reservoir restoration areas. No grazing land would be lost as a result of the fence installation since the fencing would only surround the currently inundated lands. Therefore, the proposed fencing would result in no significant impact.

Scoping comments expressed the concern that reservoir removal could affect local groundwater wells. However, based on available information, Farmland within the Area of Analysis does not rely upon groundwater wells for cultivated area irrigation, instead using flood irrigation by diverting surface water from tributaries to the Klamath River. Within the Area of Analysis, there are two wells located on Farmland of Local Importance in the Deer Creek subwatershed (tributary to Copco No. 1 Reservoir) and another in the Camp Creek subwatershed (tributary to Iron Gate Reservoir) that may be used for stock watering. The Deer Creek subwatershed wells are located approximately 2,000 ft south of Copco No. 1 Reservoir and adjacent to Deer Creek. As such, they are likely highly influenced and recharged by Deer Creek. The bottom of the Camp Creek well extends below the Iron Gate Reservoir bed elevation. Therefore, the Proposed Project's effect on agriculture-related wells within the Area of Analysis would not be likely to result in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural uses and there would be a less than significant impact. In any event, implementation of the Groundwater Well Management Plan (as described in Section 2.6.8.6 *Groundwater Wells Management* and in Appendix B: *Detailed Plan*), including well deepening, would return the production rate of any affected groundwater supply well to conditions experienced prior to dam decommissioning. Therefore, the potential for conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural uses resulting from lowering groundwater levels as a result of the Proposed Project would be less than significant.

The land within the agriculture and forestry Area of Analysis is not zoned forest land, does not contain commercial forest land, and is not used for forestry purposes.

However, the Lower Klamath Project would allow previously inundated lands to revegetate and potentially increase the amount of forest cover within the Area of Analysis, which would be beneficial for forest land. Therefore, the Lower Klamath Project would not result in conversion of forest land to non-forest use in the short term or long term.

Significance

No significant impact for conversion of farmland to non-agriculture uses

No significant impact for conversion of forest land to non-forest use

3.15.6 References

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