

Herger Feinstein Quincy Library Group Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

Table of Contents

Cover Letter	
Executive Summary	I
Preface	i
Chapter 1 - Purpose and Need	1-12
Chapter 2 - Alternatives	13-47
Chapter 3 – Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences	
Section A	48-55
Section B	56-144
Section C	145-288
Section D	289-349
Chapter 4 – List of Preparers	350-354
Chapter 5 - Glossary	355-326
Chapter 6 – Cited References	327-344
Chapter 7 – Response to Comments	345-415
Chapter 8 – Response to Comments	416
Appendix A - Modeling	
Appendix B – Selected Herbicide Water Quality Monitoring Results	
Appendix C – Herbicides BMPs	
Appendix D – Existing Projects	
Appendix E – Herbicide Descriptions	
Appendix F – Environmental Fate of Proposed Herbicides	
Appendix G – Human Health Risk Assessment	
Appendix H – NPE Risk Assessment	

List of Tables

Table S-1. Herbicides evaluated for potential use in DFPZ maintenance and noxious/invasive plant control for Alternative E.	V
Table S-2. Summary of risk to groups of old-forest-dependent species by alternative.	VIII
Table S-3. Summary of effects from changes in water quality, watershed conditions, and riparian habitat by alternative.	IX
Table S-4. Summary of risk of invasive or noxious weed infestations and risk of impacts to human health and safety by alternative.....	XI
Table S-5. Summary of change in air quality by alternative.	XI
Table S-6. Summary of change in wildfire behavior by flame length and rate of spread by alternative.....	XII
Table 2-1. Length of time (years): (1) after DFPZ construction until initial maintenance treatments and (2) between initial and subsequent maintenance treatments, by vegetation condition.1	23
Table 2-2. Herbicides evaluated for potential use in DFPZ maintenance for Alternative E.	26
Table 2-3. Herbicide and NP9E application rates to be used to maintain DFPZs.	27
Table 2-4. Alternative E. Acreages of HFQLG DFPZs by vegetative classes and SNFPA land allocations.	29

Table 2-5. Alternative E. Average cost per year by decade.....	33
Table 2-6. Alternative F. Acreages of HFQLG DFPZs by vegetative classes and SNFPA land allocations.....	36
Table 2-7. Alternative F. Average cost per year by decade.....	40
Table 2-8. Projected acreages of DFPZ maintenance of the alternatives by decade.	42
Alternative E	
Alternative F	42
Table 2-9. Summary of risk assessment for groups of old forest dependent species by alternative.....	43
Table 2-10. Summary of effects for changes in water quality, watershed conditions, and riparian habitat by Alternative.....	44
Table 2-11. Summary of risk of invasive or noxious weeds infestations and risk of negative impacts to human health and safety by Alternative.	46
Table 2-12. Summary of change in Air Quality by Alternative.	47
Table 2-13. Summary of change in Fire Behavior in flame length and rate of spread by Alternative.	47
Table 3-1. Administrative Study first 10-year treatment schedule.....	51
Table 3-2. Acres of treatments and miles of road construction proposed under the Administrative Study.	53
Table 3-3. Forestry herbicide applications within HFQLG counties - 1999 to 2001.1	54
Table 3-4. Forestry herbicide applications by HFQLG County, CY 2000, in pounds.	54
Table 3-5. Forestry herbicide applications by HFQLG County, CY 2000, in acres.....	55
Table 3-6. Total fuels projects acreage in the Pilot Project Area accomplished by September 30, 2002.....	56
Table 3-7. Avian old forest associated threatened, Forest Service sensitive, and management indicator and NTMB species.	61
Table 3-8. Existing spotted owl protected areas within HFQLG Pilot Project.....	62
Table 3-9. Spotted owl suitable habitat attributes within the HFQLG Pilot Project.	62
Table 3-10. Northern goshawk status within the HFQLG Pilot Project.	64
Table 3-11. Old forest associated Forest Service sensitive mammal species.	65
Table 3-12. Old forest associated threatened and Forest Service sensitive plant species with their assigned guilds.	71
Table 3-13. Alternative E. Potential acreages to be treated with herbicides by vegetation type and treatment frequency.	89
Table 3-14. Wildlife herbicide exposure factors.....	90
Table 3-15. Wildlife contact rate herbicide exposure factors.	91
Table 3-16. Expected herbicide exposure rates to surrogate avian species from typical application rates in a direct spray scenario.1	96
Table 3-17. Toxicity effect levels on surrogate avian species from varying lengths of exposure.....	97
Table 3-18. Expected herbicide exposure rates to surrogate mammal species from typical application rates in a direct spray scenario.1	98
Table 3-19. Toxicity effect levels on surrogate mammal species from varying lengths of exposure.	99
Table 3-20. Potential dose scenarios for terrestrial animals at typical herbicide application rates and central vegetation residue rates.....	102
Table 3-21. Herbicide effects on plant groups.....	104

Table 3-22. Potential herbicide exposures for bees in a direct spray scenario, assuming 100% absorption.....	105
Table 3-23. Distribution of food consumption by volume.	106
Table 3-24. Daily mean consumption rate and range of consumption for the four species of raptors.	107
Table 3-25. Summary of doses compared to the NOEL/NOAEL in avian scenarios and the risk associated with those doses.....	108
Table 3-26. Doses compared to the NOAEL/NOEL and risk of adverse effects in mammal scenarios.....	121
Table 3-28. Comparison of offsite drift rates for the given application rate to observed toxicity values.	140
Table 3-34. Selected properties of herbicides proposed for DFPZ maintenance.	155
Table 3-35. Area of herbicide treatment proposed for Alternative E, by distance from perennial and intermittent streams.....	155
Table 3-36. Health advisory information for glyphosate, picloram, and hexazinone.....	157
Table 3-29. Sediment production from timber harvest and fires, Eldorado and Tahoe National Forests.....	164
Table 3-30. Downslope sediment delivery.	165
Table 3-31. Proximity of DFPZs to stream channels, by estimated treatment type.	165
Table 3-32. Estimated sediment reaching stream channels from DFPZ maintenance by mechanical treatments and prescribed fire for Alternative E.....	167
Table 3-33. Estimated sediment reaching stream channels from DFPZ maintenance by mechanical treatments and prescribed fire for Alternative F.....	167
Table 3-52. Equivalent roaded acres by road type.....	169
Table 3-53. Equivalent roaded acre coefficients used in this Final Supplement to determine risk of exceeding thresholds of concern.....	171
Table 3-54. Total equivalent roaded acres for DFPZ maintenance by vegetation type.....	172
Table 3-55. Number of watersheds within each threshold-of-concern class, based on the application of disturbance coefficients at time zero, including all past, present, and reasonably-foreseeable actions.	174
Table 3-56. Example of ERAs for two watersheds by disturbance type in years since completion of the HFQLG Pilot Project.	175
Table 3-57. Total ERAs for all alternatives.....	176
Table 3-58. Percent of threshold for the sixteen watersheds with the highest risk for CWE under each of the three alternatives.....	179
Table 3-37. Avian aquatic and riparian-associated threatened, Forest-Service sensitive, management indicator and NTMB species.....	183
Table 3-38 Aquatic and riparian-associated Forest Service sensitive reptile species.....	185
Table 3-39. Aquatic and riparian-associated threatened, candidate and Forest Service sensitive amphibian species.....	185
Table 3-40. Aquatic and riparian associated threatened, Forest-Service sensitive, and management indicator fish species.....	188
Table 3-42. Aquatic and riparian-associated threatened and Forest Service sensitive invertebrate species.....	191
Table 3-43. Aquatic and riparian associated threatened and Forest Service sensitive plant species.....	196

Table 3-41. Estimated DFPZ maintenance acreage in Battle and Butte Creek Watersheds, under Alternative E and F.	198
Table 3-44. Alternative E. Potential acres to be treated by treatment type within aquatic and riparian areas.	212
Table 3-45. Summary of doses compared to the NOEL/NOAEL in surrogate aquatic and riparian species scenarios and the risk associated with those doses.	213
Table 3-46. Potential herbicide exposure rates of surrogate amphibian species from typical application rates compared to effects thresholds rates and central /typical water contamination rates.	216
Table 3-47. Expected herbicide exposure rates of surrogate fish species from typical application rates and central/typical water contamination rates compared to effects thresholds.	220
Table 3-49. Potential herbicide doses for bees in a direct spray scenario, assuming 100% absorption compared to effects thresholds.	227
Table 3-50. Expected herbicide exposure rates of surrogate aquatic plants from typical application rates as well as central and typical water contamination rates compared to effects thresholds.	228
Table 3-51. Herbicide effects on aquatic and riparian-associated special-status plant species.	240
Table 3-59. Projected extent of herbicide use under Alternative E.	255
Table 3-60. Estimated exposure rates for herbicides used to maintain DFPZs.	259
Table 3-61. Herbicide and nonylphenol polyethoxylate application rates for DFPZ maintenance.	260
Table 3-62. Developed recreation areas within 1 mile of herbicide-maintained DFPZs.	261
Table 3-63. Water contamination rates of herbicides, and NPE surfactants.	262
Table 3-64. Reference doses (RfD) of herbicides and NPE surfactants.	263
Table 3-65. Hazard quotients (non-cancer) for backpack applicators – general (non-accidental) exposures to herbicides and NPE surfactants.	264
Table 3-66. Hazard quotients (non-cancer) for backpack applicators – accidental/incidental exposures for typical application rates of herbicides, and NPE surfactants.	266
Table 3-67. Hazard quotients (non-cancer) for backpack applicators and accidental or incidental exposures for upper application rates of herbicides, and NPE surfactants.	266
Table 3-68. Hazard quotient (non-cancer) for the public – direct spray scenarios using herbicides, and NPE surfactants.	267
Table 3-69. Hazard quotient (non-cancer) for the public – contact with vegetation sprayed by herbicides, and NPE surfactant.	268
Table 3-70. Hazard quotient (non-cancer) for the public – ingesting fruit contaminated by herbicides, NPE surfactants.	269
Table 3-71. Hazard quotient (non-cancer) for the public – drinking water contaminated by herbicides, and NPE surfactants.	270
Table 3-72. Hazard quotient (non-cancer) for the public –consumption of fish, acute exposure, contaminated by herbicides, and nonylphenol polyethoxylate.	271
Table 3-73. Hazard quotient (non-cancer) for the public – consumption of fish, chronic exposure, contaminated by herbicides, and nonylphenol polyethoxylate.	272
Table 3-74. Surface area, population, and average daily vehicles miles traveled per day (VMT) for 1981 and 2000 by air basin and affected county.	278
Table 3-75. National and state ambient air quality standards (NAAQS)	280
Table 3-76. Maximum concentrations of ozone and particulates and days exceeding state and federal standard for year 2000.	285
Table 3-77. Emissions for toxic air contaminants by air basin (tons/year) for 2001.	286

Table 3-78. Percentages of permissive burn days from 1973-2000 by air basins.	290
Table 3-79. PM10 emitted annually during DFPZ maintenance by prescribed fire under Alternative E, by county (tons/year).	294
Table 3-80. PM10 emissions avoided annually under Alternative E by using hand, herbicide, and mechanical treatments for DFPZ maintenance (tons/year).	295
Table-3-81. PM10 emitted annually during DFPZ maintenance by prescribed fire under Alternative F, by county (tons/year).	296
Table 3-82. PM10 emissions avoided annually, by county under Alternative F by using hand, herbicide, and mechanical treatments for DFPZ maintenance (tons/year).	296
Table 3-83. Summary of change in Fire Behavior in flame length and rate of spread by Alternative.	300

List of Figures

Figure 2-1. Alternative E. Average annual acreage treated by decade.	32
Figure 2-2. Alternative E. Average annual cost by slope class by decade.	33
Figure 2-3. Alternative F. Average annual acreage treated by decade.	35
Figure 2-4. Alternative F. Average annual cost by slope class by decade.	39
Figure 2-5. Average annual cost of the alternatives by decade.	42
Figure 3-1. Herbicide treatment areas and perennial stream courses.	154
Figure 3-2. Anticipated recovery of ERAs from SNFPA Administrative Study (as analyzed in this Final Supplement) following various vegetation treatments.	170
Figure 3-7. Comparison of alternatives to all sources of ERAs.	178
Figure 3-3. ERA percent of watershed threshold under All Alternatives at time zero*.	180
Figure 3-4. ERA percent of watershed threshold under all three alternatives within ten years.	181
Figure 3-8. Air pollution control districts located within the HFQLG Pilot Project Area.	282
Figure 3-9. Class I Areas located within the HFQLG Pilot Project Area.	283
Figure 3-10. Percentages of permissive burn days for the Northeast Plateau for 1973-2000. ...	291
Figure 3-11. Monthly percentages of permissive burn days by air basin for 1998.	292
Figure 3-12. Monthly average permissive burn and available burn days (1999-2001).	293
Figure 3-13. Monthly average percentage of permissive burn and available burn days (1999-2001).	293
Figure 3-14. Average length of period comprised of more than three consecutive available/permissive burn days for the Northeast Plateau in 2001.	294

List of Maps

Map Alternative A.	End of Chapter 2
Map Alternative E.	End of Chapter 2
Map Alternative F.	End of Chapter 2