



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: Steller's Jay Conditioned Taste Aversion

PEPC Project Number: 30374

Project Description: Please see Golightly-Gabriel research permit REDW-201-SCI-0004 for a short project description. Click on the RPRS link below to generate permit application and permit. Signed copy of permit will be attached when available. Also, for more detailed and updated information, see attached research proposal. Project has been determined to not require an Endangered Species Act section 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit by the US Fish and Wildlife Service because there will be no effect to federally threatened marbled murrelets. The project will not require or cause any ground disturbance.

Project Location: Humboldt County, CA

(See Attached Environmental Screening Form)

Mitigation(s):

- No mitigations identified; see background information for mitigations associated with research on listed marble murrelets.

Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):

E.5 Nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.

On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Park Superintendent / Date:

Steven W. Chang 3/11/2010

NPS Contact Person:

Keith Bensen,

Keith Bensen

Title:

Fish and Wildlife Biologist

Phone number:

707-465-7777



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Redwood NP
Date: 03/11/2010

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Date Form Initiated: 02/18/2010

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Steller's Jay Conditioned Taste Aversion RPRS# 51417

PEPC Project Number: 30374 Project Type: Permit - Research (RP)

Project Location: Humboldt County, California

Project Leader: Keith Bensen, Fish and Wildlife Biologist; Oil Spill Recovery Fund Team Leader

Administrative Record Contact/Location: Keith Bensen, SOC, Orick CA

Notes: item E(5): part of long-term research on predation threats to marbled murrelets; see other Golightly research permits; Conservation Strategy; 2009 Trail and Backcountry Management Plan and associated USFWS BOs for projects related to corvid predation threats to marbled murrelets

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION/LOCATION Please see Golightly-Gabriel research permit REDW-201-SCI-

0004 for a short project description. Click on the RPRS link in PEPC or search under Research Permit

Report System #51417 to generate permit application and permit. Signed copy of permit will be attached to PEPC when available. Also, for more detailed and updated information, see attached research proposal.

Project has been determined to not require an Endangered Species Act section 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit by the US Fish and Wildlife Service because there will be no effect to federally threatened marbled murrelets.

The project will not require or cause any ground disturbance.

Preliminary drawings attached? **No** Background information attached? **Yes (research proposal).**

Project Target Start: 3/29/2010

Is project a hot topic (controversial or sensitive issues that should be brought to attention of Regional Director)? **No**

C. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.	No				
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality	No				
4. Soundscapes	No				
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				
7. Marine or estuarine resources	No				

8. Floodplains or wetlands	No				
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	No				
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	No				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat			Minor		
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	No				
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat		Negligible			
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	No				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	No				
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	No				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	No				
18. Archeological resources	No				
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	No				
20. Cultural landscapes	No				
21. Ethnographic resources	No				
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)			Minor		research permits require report which will be archived in park collection
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	No				

24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.					
25. Energy resources	No				
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	No				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	No				
28. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.					
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity			Minor		data needed to determine effects of nest predator on listed threatened species for potential management actions over the long-term
30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	No				

D. MANDATORY CRITERIA

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		N		
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		N		
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?		N		
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		N		

E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		N		
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		N		
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?		N		
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		N		USFWS ARFO has determined that this project will not adversely affect threatened marbled murrelet and no section 10 permit is required
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		N		
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		N		
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		N		
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		N		

E. OTHER INFORMATION

Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? **Yes** Did personnel conduct a site visit? **No**.

Project leader is familiar with study locations. Researcher has conducted numerous studies in RNSP.

Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? **1999 GMP EIS, ROD approved 4/6/2000; 2009 Trail and Backcountry Management Plan, FONSI approved 6/24/2009**

Is the project still consistent with the approved plan? **Yes**

Is the environmental document accurate and up-to-date? **YES**

Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? **Yes**

Did you make a diligent effort to contact them? **Yes**

Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? **Yes; see other consultations section for documentation of discussions with AFWO regarding section 10 permit; see Trail Plan for complete discussion of consultation history regarding potential for effects on marbled murrelets from visitor use**


Are there any connected, cumulative, or similar actions as part of the proposed action? (e.g., other development projects in area or identified in GMP, adequate/available utilities to accomplish project)? **Yes**

F. INSTRUCTIONS FOR DETERMINING APPROPRIATE NEPA PATHWAY [deleted by environmental specialist, 3/11/2010]

G. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

All interdisciplinary team members sign as directed or deemed necessary by the Superintendent. By signing this form, you affirm the following: you have either completed a site visit or are familiar with the specifics of the site; you have consulted with affected agencies and tribes; and you, to the best of your knowledge, have answered the questions posed in the checklist correctly.

Field of Expertise Interdisciplinary Team Leader Name

Project Leader - Keith Bensen: 

Field of Expertise Technical Specialists Names

NHPA Specialist - Karin Anderson Grantham *AMP 3/11/10*


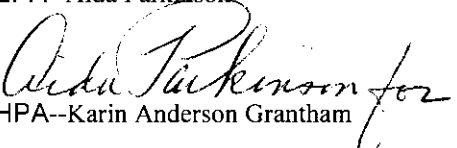
NEPA Specialist - Aida Parkinson *AMP 3/11/10*

NOTE: Chief of Resource Management and Science Terry Hofstra and Research Permit Manager will sign research permit issued to HSU Principal Investigator Richard Golightly and field assistant Pia Gabriel.

H. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

Based on the environmental impact information contained in the statutory compliance file and in this environmental screening form, environmental documentation for this stage of the subject project is complete.

Recommended:

Compliance Specialist	Telephone Number
 NEPA--Aida Parkinson	707-465-7703
 NHPA--Karin Anderson Grantham	707-465-7710

Approved:

Superintendent	Telephone Number
 Steve Chaney Date <i>3-11-10</i>	707-465-7301