

5.3.9.4 Cumulative Effects

This is a new Section 5.3.9.4.4. Section heading numbers of the remaining sections in Section 5.3.9.4 are increased accordingly.

5.3.9.4.4 South Variant Alternative.

The South Variant Alternative would have the same cumulative effects on wetlands and riparian resources as described for the South Alternative in Section 5.3.9.4.1.

5.3.9.5 Unavoidable Adverse Effects

This is a new Section 5.3.9.5.4. Section heading numbers of the remaining sections in Section 5.3.9.5 are increased accordingly.

5.3.9.5.4 South Variant Alternative.

The South Variant Alternative would have the same unavoidable adverse effects on wetlands and riparian resources as described for the South Alternative in Section 5.3.9.5.1.

5.3.10 Special Status Vegetation Species and Noxious Weeds

5.3.10.2 Environmental Effects

This is a new Section 5.3.10.2.4. Section heading numbers of the remaining sections in Section 5.3.10.2 are increased accordingly.

5.3.10.2.4 South Variant Alternative.

The South Variant Alternative would have short-term direct effects on nine special status plant species and their habitats. Eight of the affected species consist of sensitive plants on federal agency or state plant lists. One of the affected plants is federally listed as threatened. The South Variant Alternative construction would directly affect high numbers of three special status plant species: *Phacelia pulchella* var. *atwoodii* (~4,980,000 individuals); *Pediomelum epipsilum* (~14,500 individuals); and *Camissonia exilis* (~5,800 individuals). The South Variant Alternative construction would directly affect moderate numbers of two special status plant species: *Erigonum corymbosum* var. *nilesii* (1,749 individuals) and *Phacelia mammalariensis* (1,688 individuals). The South Variant Alternative would directly affect small numbers of four special status plant species: *Lupinus caudatus* var. *cutleri* (54 individuals), *Penstemon laevis* (17 individuals), *Echinocactus polycephalus* var. *xeranthemoides* (9 individuals), and *Pediocactus sileri* (8 individuals), the latter federally listed as threatened. The South Variant Alternative could be aligned to avoid direct effects on the eight *Pediocactus sileri*, which occur along the edge of the Hydro System alignment in two places. The cryptobiotic soil crusts where *Pediocactus sileri*, *Camissonia exilis*, and *Phacelia pulchella* var. *atwoodii* occur are fragile and once disturbed can take decades or longer to redevelop; therefore, adverse effects on the cryptobiotic soil crusts and the three associated plant species could be long-term.

The South Variant Alternative would be susceptible to invasive and noxious weed infestation and subject to the same effects as described for the South Alternative in Section 5.3.10.2.1. The South Variant Alternative would not pass through any designated critical habitat for listed plant species.

5.3.10.4 Cumulative Effects

This is a new Section 5.3.10.4.4. Section heading numbers of the remaining sections in Section 5.3.10.4 are increased accordingly.

5.3.10.4.4 South Variant Alternative.

The South Variant Alternative would have the same cumulative effects on special status plants and habitats as described for the South Alternative in Section 5.3.10.4.1.

5.3.10.5 Unavoidable Adverse Effects

This is a new Section 5.3.10.5.4. Section heading numbers of the remaining sections in Section 5.3.10.5 are increased accordingly.

5.3.10.5.4 South Variant Alternative.

The South Variant Alternative would have the same unavoidable adverse effects on special status plant species and habitats as described for the South Alternative in Section 5.3.10.5.1, except the long-term unavoidable adverse effects on special status plant species and habitats from the footprint of project features would be 859 acres not revegetated following construction.

5.3.11 Wildlife Resources

5.3.11.2 Environmental Effects

5.3.11.2.2 South Alternative Construction (including Transmission System).

5.3.11.2.2.1 Wildlife Habitat Effects.

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Total wildlife habitat effects of the South Alternative construction would occur on 4,800 acres. Total shortterm wildlife habitat effects of the South Alternative construction would occur on 4,011 acres. Total longterm wildlife habitat effects of the South Alternative construction would occur on 789 acres. The South Alternative would have short-term effects on Colorado Plateau Region wildlife habitat totaling 3,668 acres. Long-term effects on Colorado Plateau Region wildlife habitat would total 503 acres. The South Alternative would have short-term effects on Mojave Desert Region wildlife habitat totaling 343 acres. Long-term effects on Mojave Desert Region wildlife habitat would total 287 acres. Wildlife habitat restoration would be implemented immediately following construction of the pipeline and penstock alignments. The areas of temporary effects would be restored and revegetated, and would regain some habitat value within two to three growing seasons. Temporary effects on wildlife habitat would not exceed significance criteria.