

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

INTRODUCTION

Chapter 4 presents the environmental analysis that forms the core of this document -- it describes the environmental setting of the project area, and examines the environmental consequences associated with the proposed divestiture. This analysis is presented for the following 16 environmental disciplines:

- 4.1 Land Use
- 4.2 Forestry
- 4.3 Hydrology and Water Quality
- 4.4 Fisheries and Aquatic Biology
- 4.5 Terrestrial Biology
- 4.6 Recreation
- 4.7 Cultural Resources
- 4.8 Agriculture
- 4.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- 4.10 Population, Employment, and Housing
- 4.11 Public Services and Utilities
- 4.12 Transportation
- 4.13 Noise
- 4.14 Air Quality
- 4.15 Aesthetics
- 4.16 Geology, Soils, and Minerals

Each section addresses the following topics:

- **Relevant regulations and policies.** Local, regional, State, and Federal policies that govern actions affecting each environmental discipline are summarized.
- **Description of the environmental setting.** The specific resources (e.g., wildlife species or minerals) or environmental conditions (e.g., current air quality and noise environment) are described for each environmental discipline.
- **Discussion of the analytical methods used in impact analysis.** Each discipline based its analysis on the approach defined in Chapter 3, especially the development assumption. The way that these assumptions were used to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed divestiture is explained.
- **Description of standards of significance.** In order to assess whether identified impacts are significant, standards of significance are stated and defined for each discipline, as well as the source of these standards.
- **Statements describing potential environmental impacts.** One or more general impacts are identified for each discipline. Each general impact statement is followed by a discussion of how and where that impact could occur as a result of the project.

4.0 Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures

- **Recommended mitigation measures.** Mitigation measures are proposed to reduce or avoid impacts identified.

In addition to Chapter 4, two other chapters evaluate environmental impacts. Chapter 5 (Section 5.4) describes the cumulative project scenario and the cumulative impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed divestiture; Chapter 6 describes and analyzes alternatives to the proposed divestiture.