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Comments: Regarding the proposed installation of transmission lines, the DEIS, in section 4.10.2.1.1.1 states:

"Changes to understory vegetation community composition would have cascading effects on the value of these areas as habitat for wildlife and for the distribution of fuels in these areas that are difficult to predict within the SGP area."

However, this does not preclude the analysis of fuels, however difficult, considering that the significant impacts of fuel composition changes and introduction of new combustion sources are of increasing concern due to climatological changes, as noted elsewhere in the DEIS.

This statement indicates that the scoping, environmental analysis, and mitigation process has not addressed the potentiality for fire ignition to occur from a transmission line right of way that creates increased sources of combustible fuel due to compaction and species replacement in the vicinity of a widely-recognized ignition source, a transmission line. Transmission line clearing results in the replacement of long-hour fuels with shorter-hour fuels, such as grasses and shrubs, which respond far more quickly to dry climactic conditions, in addition to adding infrastructure whose presence introduces a fire ignition source. As the risk of such a wildfire ignition is clearly of potential substantial impact due, it should be included in the alternatives and mitigation analyses.