

4. Environmental Consequences and Mitigation Measures

4.14 IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Irreversible impacts are those which cause either directly or indirectly the use of natural resources so that they cannot be restored or returned to their original condition. For both the proposed action and the alternative action, these potential irreversible impacts are associated with consumption of resources: surface water, groundwater, land, and energy. Use of surface and groundwater may be mitigated, depending on the extent to which mitigation can be implemented. Changes in agricultural production could involve the potential loss of agricultural land under the alternative action. Both the proposed and alternative actions result in the loss or consumption of energy resources, either through reduced energy production (hydropower) and/or through additional energy consumption to pump groundwater (directly or indirectly).

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