

Notice of Exemption

To:
Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090



Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Great Gray Owl Safe Harbor Agreement for the Collins Almanor Forest (Request No. 2089-2015-004-00)

Project Location: All land within the Collins Almanor Forest in Tehama and Plumas Counties

Project Description: This project is an agreement that will provide a net conservation benefit to great gray owl in Tehama and Plumas counties. The project establishes a baseline condition and management actions. Agreed to management actions include: the retention of nest and ladder trees, the management of the forest to maintain characteristics that benefit the great gray owl, conifer reduction around meadows and meadow restoration projects to benefit great gray owl prey species, increasing suitable great gray owl nesting habitat, and regular monitoring surveys.

Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

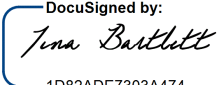
Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Collins Almanor Forest, which has ownership by CCH Lands LLC, General Board of Global Ministries, Collins Pine Company, Rock Creek Lands LLC, Ostrander Construction Company, CCT Lands LLC, and Collins Timber Properties LLC.

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption. Type - Class 7; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15307

Reasons why project is exempt: See Attachment to Notice Exemption (2089-2015-004-00)

CDFW Contact Person: Robert Hawkins, Environmental Program Manager, (530) 524-5694

Signature:  4D82ADE7303A474... **Date:** 8/28/2020
Tina Bartlett, Regional Manager
North Region

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Notice of Exemption**- 2 -****Attachment to Notice of Exemption
Great Gray Owl Safe Harbor Agreement for the Collins Almanor Forest
(2089-2015-004-00)**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), by and through its Deputy Director, has taken final action to execute the Safe Harbor Agreement between State of California, Department of Fish and Wildlife and Collins Almanor Forest (CAF) on enrolled lands in Tehama and Plumas counties. The project is an agreement that assures the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of great gray owl and the habitat it depends on. CDFW has established a baseline condition and consulted with CAF on commitments that will lead to a net conservation benefit. The project will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects. In adopting this Safe Harbor Agreement, CDFW relied for purposes of CEQA on the Class 7 categorical exemption. The exemption as relevant to the Safe Harbor Agreement is discussed below.

Class 7 Categorical Exemption

CDFW finds the Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA) to be exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15307, the "Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources Exemption" (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15307). CDFW has determined that implementation of this SHA is reasonably expected to provide a "net conservation benefit" to great gray owl due to habitat enhancement, which will result in increased availability to nesting and foraging habitat. This will be achieved through forest management, timber operations, and meadow restoration. These areas will be treated to maintain appropriate nesting and foraging habitat elements for great gray owl.