



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

From: Department of Fish and Wildlife Inland Deserts Region 3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220 Ontario, CA 91764

Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Slinkard Creek Headwaters Protection

Project Location (include county): This project is located on Slinkard Creek on the Slinkard/ Little Antelope Wildlife Area, approximately 3 miles west of the community of Coleville, Mono County. The work will occur along the creek in portions of Sections 3, 4, 9, and 10, Township 8N, Range 22E, U.S. Geological Survey Coleville Quadrangle map; approximate Geographic Coordinates: 38.5610, -119.5596.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife will install a series small beaver dam analog (BDA) structures in upper Slinkard Creek to restore habitat and mitigate the impacts of the 2020 Slink Fire wildfire to sensitive aquatic and riparian habitats located downstream. A series of up to twelve BDA structures will be installed in a 0.62-mile-long reach of Slinkard Creek on the Wildlife Area. The BDA structures will consist of vertical wooden posts inserted across the channel to provide a framework for willow and other woody material to be woven horizontally between posts. The structures will be constructed primarily using hand labor using native vegetation available on the property. These structures will capture suspended sediment mobilized by runoff to avoid downstream water quality impacts to aquatic habitats, and to restore riparian and wetland habitats that have been historically impaired by erosion and entrenchment. This project will temporarily impact up to 0.10 acres of stream and riparian habitat and will not result in permanent impacts to the streambank or channel of Slinkard Creek.

Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption.
Categorical Exemption. Class 4 (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, §15304), and Class 33 (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, §15333)

Reasons why Project is exempt: Class 4, §15304, Minor Alterations to Land - the project will result in minimal impacts to the condition of the land, water, and vegetation on an existing officially designated wildlife management area which will result in the improvement of habitat for fish and wildlife resources and will not result in removal of mature, healthy, scenic trees. Class 33 §15333, Small Habitat Restoration Projects –the project will reduce or eliminate erosion and sedimentation through streambank stabilization with native vegetation, the project area will not exceed five acres, and will assure the restoration, enhancement, and protection of habitat for fish, plants, and wildlife with no significant adverse impact on listed species.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Alisa Ellsworth, Alisa.Ellsworth@Wildlife.ca.gov

DocuSigned by: Alisa Ellsworth For Date: 3/4/2021
Signature: Chris Hayes, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____