

Notice of Exemption

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

From:
CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710



Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

State Clearinghouse Number: N/A

Project Title: Reintroduction of Mountain Yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*) in Ramshaw Meadows, Tulare Co.

Project Location (include county): Mulkey and Ramshaw Meadows, Golden Trout Wilderness, Inyo National Forest, Tulare County. Collection site in Mulkey at Lat 36.408740, Lon -118.162831. Reintroduction site in Ramshaw at Lat 36.351440, Lon -118.255086

Project Description: This project will reintroduce adult Mountain Yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa* Northern DPS) (MYLF) back into historically occupied habitat in Ramshaw Meadows. Adult MYLF will be collected from Mulkey Meadows and transported on foot carried directly to the lower end of Ramshaw Meadows where unoccupied high-quality habitat is present. The Year One collection target is 15 MYLF, and Year Two collection target will be 15-25 MYLF based on the monitoring of the donor and translocated populations, for a total of 30-40 MYLF. Both the donor and reintroduced populations will continue to be monitored utilizing Catch-Mark-Recapture techniques to determine the success of the recovery action to re-establish the Ramshaw population. MYLF is listed as Federally ESA (Endangered) and State CESA (Endangered). The project will result in population expansion and is a significant recovery action.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Dr. Roland Knapp and Dr. Thomas Smith: University of California Santa Barbara. Cooperative partners include USFWS, USFS, and CDFW.

Exempt Status:

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

Reasons why project is exempt: The Class 7 categorical exemption applies to proposed “actions by regulatory agencies for protection of natural resources” projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, 21000 et seq.). The proposed project is an activity that falls within the Class 7 categorical exemption because it is a wildlife preservation activity of the State Department of Fish and Wildlife that is limited in scope and no serious or major disturbances to environmental resources are expected. The amphibian species benefited is MYLF, an ESA (Endangered) and CESA (Endangered) listed species. This project will result in the re-establishment of a historic population of MYLF and a significant recovery trend within their native range.

CDFW Contact Person: Brian Beal, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor 559 250-5780

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Signature: _____ **Date:** 6/8/2021
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Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____