

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, Room 2
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
Bishop Field Office
787 N. Main Street, Suite 220
Bishop, CA 93514

Project Title: Slink Fire Hazard Tree Removal

Project Location: The project will be located on the Slinkard/ Little Antelope Wildlife Area (Wildlife Area) in northern Mono County, State of California. The Project is located in Sections 32 and 33 Township 9 North, Range 22 East; Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, and 36 of Township 8 North, Range 22 East; Sections 18, 19, and 30 of Township 8 North, Range 23 East, and Section 8 of Township 7 North, Range 22 East, MDBM, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Coleville, Risue Canyon, Lost Cannon Peak, and Chris Flat Quadrangle maps.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (“CDFW”) proposes to conduct roadside hazardous tree removal at the Slinkard/ Little Antelope Wildlife Area (“Wildlife Area”) following the 2020 Slink Fire. The goal of this project is to fell dead and dying trees up to 150 feet of existing roads where there is the potential to impact the road network within the Wildlife Area. The project is designed to mitigate potential injury or damage to infrastructure and property that could result from falling trees. Trees will be felled cross slope and bucked up to create full contact between the trunk and the ground. Logs may be stockpiled at designated landing points and slash produced will be scattered, chipped, or piled and burned. Off road equipment will be limited to areas outside designated riparian corridors and only used during periods of dry soil conditions. If work is conducted between March 15th and July 31st bird clearance surveys will be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to the beginning of work.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial:
- Declared Emergency:
- Emergency Project:
- Categorical Exemption: 14 CCR, Section 15301 and 15304

Reasons why Project is exempt:

The project is *Class 1, §15301* (Existing Facilities) Exempt; the Project includes the maintenance and repair of existing roadways by the removal of dead and dying hazardous trees as a result of the 2020 Slink Fire. The project will not significantly expand or extend the existing roadways.

The project is *Class 4, §15304* (Minor Alterations to Land) Exempt; the Project will result in minor alterations to CDFW land and vegetation on an officially designated Wildlife Area which will mitigate potential injury or damage to infrastructure and property that could result from falling trees. The project will not involve removal of healthy mature trees.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Graham Meese, Graham.Meese@Wildlife.ca.gov, (760) 872-1171

Signature: DocuSigned by:
Heidi Calvert
CAEE4779B63E4A3 _____ **Date:** 5/17/2022

Heidi Calvert, Regional Manager

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____