

Notice of Exemption

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To:

Office of Planning and Research
 For U.S. Mail:
 P.O. Box 3044

Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Street Address:

1400 Tenth Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814

From:

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



Project Title: Round-Horseshoe Meadow Low-Tech Process-Based Pilot Project (Request No. 1652-2022-052-001-R6)

Project Applicant: Jessica Strickland, Trout Unlimited.

Project Location (include county): The Round-Horseshoe Meadow Low-Tech Process-Based Pilot Project (Project) is located in the headwaters of the Owens River Basin on a private Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) inholding within the Golden Trout Wilderness Area of the Inyo National Forest (INF), Inyo County California. The Project is located approximately one-quarter of a mile south of the Cottonwood Lakes trailhead campground in the INF, United States Geologic Survey Cirque Peak 7.5' quadrangle in portions of T17S, R35E Sections 16 and 22.

Project Description: Pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1652, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has approved the Project submitted by Jessica Strickland, Trout Unlimited.

The primary purpose of the Project is to restore and enhance alpine meadow habitat by constructing 15 biogenic habitat structures, such as beaver dam analogs (BDAs) and post-assisted log structures (PALS). Construction of these structures will induce ecological responses that will benefit fish, wildlife, and vegetation. This 3.80-acre Project is composed of two treatment reaches: (1) Horseshoe Meadow treatment reach (0.28 miles) and (2) Round Meadow treatment reach (0.22 miles). Structural treatments will involve placing material in 45 linear feet of stream covering a surface area of 0.015 acres. Specifically, the Project is designed to provide a net benefit to California golden trout-rainbow trout hybrids (*Oncorhynchus mykiss aguabonita*) by increasing fish habitat quantity due to structural treatments designed to induce lateral channel migration, and impoundment and creation of deep-water habitat. The Project is also designed to expand native riparian and wetland vegetation from treatments designed to enhance aggradation, floodplain reconnection and raising of the water table that will benefit meadow-associated dependent species. The Project will commence on October 19, 2022 and is expected to be completed by June 30, 2023.

Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Trout Unlimited

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 33 California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15333

Reasons why Project is exempt: Class 33 consists of small projects not to exceed five (5) acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife.

CDFW Contact Person: Amy Chandos, Environmental Scientist, (760) 937-3924.

Signature:  **Date:** 10/4/2022

Heidi Calvert, Regional Manager
 Region 6, Inland Deserts Region

Date received for filing at OPR: _____