

Notice of Exemption

To:

Office of Planning and Research
[CEQA Submit](#)

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Northern Region
 601 Locust Street
 Redding, CA 96001
R1LSARedding@wildlife.ca.gov



Project Title: Trinity Alps Forest Restoration Project (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-TRI-40036-R11)

Project Location: The project takes place across five parcels encompassing a total of 3,157 acres located in northeastern Trinity County along or near the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) within the Scott Mountain and Tangle Blue Lake U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangles. Multiple stream, spring, and wet meadow tributaries to the Trinity River upstream of Trinity Lake are associated with the project, including Eagle Creek, Tangle Blue Creek, Horse Creek, Miller Creek, and Scott Mountain Creek.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-TRI-40036-R11, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the Trust for Public Land, as represented by Brady Moss.

The scope of construction activities authorized by this Agreement is limited to the restoration of approximately 3,157 acres of alpine woodland habitat. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) intends to purchase these lands, thereby terminating timber harvest, and implement a comprehensive suite of restoration treatments aimed at erasing the legacy effects of logging. TPL will decommission roads, including culverts and other stream crossings, and then donate the restored parcels to the United States Forest Service (USFS) to be incorporated into existing USFS lands and wilderness areas. Decommissioning will affect 89 stream crossings and associated riparian areas, as well as springs and wet meadows, restoring hillslope hydrology and removing habitat barriers.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Trust for Public Land

Exempt Status:

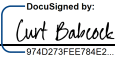
- Statutory Exemption. State code number: Public Resources Code Section 21080.56
 Categorical Exemption.

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP), Public Resources Code section 21080.56 as a project that meets all of the following conditions: (1) the Project is exclusively to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend; or is exclusively to restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife; (2) the Project may have public benefits incidental to the Project's fundamental purpose; (3) the Project will result in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery; and includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment; and (4) Project construction activities are solely related to habitat restoration.

On October 11, 2022, pursuant to Section 21080.56, subdivision (e), the Director of CDFW received a request from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to concur with the WCB's determination as lead agency (see attached) that the Project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in Section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) through (d), inclusive. On November 7, 2022, the Director of CDFW concurred with that determination (that CDFW concurrence is available at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Notices/CEQA>). On November 18, 2022, the WCB filed a notice of exemption on CEQAnet for its determination that the Project is exempt pursuant to Section 21080.56: State Clearinghouse Number 2022110442.

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CDFW Contact Person: Helen Bowman (Environmental Scientist), (530) 485-7889, and R1LSARedding@wildlife.ca.gov

Signature:  _____ Date: 8/3/2023
Curt Babcock, Environmental Program Manager



Date received for filing at OPR: _____