

**Notice of Exemption**

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

**From:**  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Watershed Restoration Grants Branch  
*Street Address:*  
1010 Riverside Pkwy  
West Sacramento, CA 95605



*For U.S. Mail:*  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

**Project Title:** Wood Creek Phase III - Felt Ranch Off-Channel Rearing Habitat (Project)

**Project Location Humboldt County:** The Project is located on approximately 44 acres of privately-owned and publicly-owned land located at 40.782617, -124.089509 in Humboldt County, California.

**Project Description:** On January 9, 2025, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) executed a \$6,740,000 grant from the Cannabis Restoration Grant Program to the Northcoast Regional Land Trust for the Project. This project is designed to create a diversity of slow-water aquatic habitats in the stream-estuary ecotone (SEE) for use by fish, wildlife, and vegetation, including non-natal rearing of Coho Salmon. This project will create new anadromous salmonid habitat in what is presently a large agricultural field located in a former drained estuary, greatly increase habitat connectivity and diversity along a salinity gradient extending from the mouth of Wood Creek upstream to the Felt Ranch freshwater marshlands, and elongating the SEE will provide resiliency against climate change and sea level rise for all animals and plants that depend on the SEE. Upon completion, this project will create 7,511 feet of new anadromous salmonid stream habitat in a high-priority watershed, enhancing 12 acres of wetlands and improving hydrologic connectivity to an additional 24 acres of protected wetlands.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:** Northcoast Regional Land Trust

**Exempt Status:**  Statutory Exemption: Public Resources Code section 21080.56 (Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects)

**Reasons why project is exempt:** CDFW has determined that the Project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in Section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) through (d), inclusive. CDFW's determination is supported by (1) the Humboldt County Department of Public Works' April 14, 2023, initial determination as lead agency that the Project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in Section 21080.56 subdivisions (a) through (d), inclusive; and (2) pursuant to Section 21080.56, subdivision (e), the CDFW Director's June 13, 2023 concurrence with that Humboldt County Department of Public Works determination, which is available at [wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Cutting-Green-Tape/SERP/Concurrences](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Cutting-Green-Tape/SERP/Concurrences).

**CDFW Contact Person:** Shadee Kohan, Environmental Scientist, (916) 594-6128, [shadee.kohan@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:shadee.kohan@wildlife.ca.gov).

**Signature:**                     Matt Wells                     **Date:**                     1/9/2025                    

Matt Wells, Branch Chief

Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_