

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
R1InlandFisheries@wildlife.ca.gov



Project Title: High Mountain Lakes Sustainable Fishery and Sensitive Resource Management Project

Project Location (Siskiyou and Trinity Counties): Selected project waterbodies are located within the boundaries of the Trinity Alps Wilderness, Russian Wilderness, Marble Mountain Wilderness and the Scott-Eddy Mountains. Within the Marble Mountains waterbodies may include: Long High Lake, Shadow Lake, Buzzard Lake, and Fisher Lake. Within the Russian Wilderness and Northern Trinity Alps waterbodies may include: Waterdog Lake, Lower Russian Lake, Upper Ruffy Lake, Lipstick Lake, Duck Lake, Eaton Lakes, Fish Lake, Twin Lakes, Virginia Lake, Middle and Boulder Pond. Within the Scott-Eddy Shasta-Trinity Mountains waterbodies may include: Upper Deadfall Lake, Rock Fence Lake, Timber Lake, Scott Lake, Bull Lake, and Parks Creek Lake. Within the Trinity Alps waterbodies may include: Salmon Lake, Forbidden Lakes, and Upper Stoddard Lake.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is seeking to begin non-native fish (e.g. Brook Trout, *Salvelinus fontinalis*) removal from select high mountain lakes and ponds in the Klamath Mountain range (Trinity Alps Wilderness, Russian Wilderness, Marble Mountain Wilderness, Scott-Eddy Mountains) in order to improve the availability of drought resilient habitats for aquatic breeding amphibians such as Cascades Frog (a CESA and federal ESA candidate) and Long-toed Salamander, a California Species of Special Concern. Using numerous data sets, fish stocking records, and remote sensing, CDFW has used a multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) to determine importance of trout population viability, sensitive amphibian habitats, and angler use potential to rank candidate restoration lakes. Fish removal efforts are targeted towards waterbodies with high amphibian/restoration potential and low fisheries/angling value. Fish removal techniques will include gill nets and electrofishing.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 7; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15307. ACTIONS BY REGULATORY AGENCIES FOR PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Reasons why project is exempt: Class 7 consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies as authorized by state law or local ordinance to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of a natural resource where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. Examples include but are not limited to wildlife preservation activities of CDFW. This project includes the physical removal of non-native fish for the purpose of restoration of aquatic habitat to enhance long-term survivability of CESA/federal ESA-petitioned species/species of special concern.

CDFW Contact Person: Adam McKannay, Inland Fisheries and Wild Trout Supervisor, (530) 356-5099, R1InlandFisheries@wildlife.ca.gov.

DocuSigned by: Jason Roberts 8/4/2023

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Jason Roberts, Environmental Program Manager – Inland Fisheries

Date received for filing at OPR: _____