



State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
PO Box 2006
Eureka, CA 95502-2006

PROJECT TITLE: East Fork Mill Creek Floodplain Restoration

LOCATION: Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park

COUNTY: Del Norte

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: The project goal is to enhance in-stream, off-channel, and floodplain habitat and assist in the recovery of coho salmon in the Smith River Basin within Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park. Project work will remove the existing Rock Creek Road bridge and associated elevated roadbed at the East Fork Mill Creek, relocate the roadway and associated crossing further upstream to a former logging road alignment located outside the 100-year flood zone, and create habitat by installation of large wood structures and connecting channels. Associated work is as follows:

- At and along the new proposed road alignment:
 - Install drainage design features including, but not limited to, two (2) 2.5-foot diameter Corrugated Metal Pipe (CMP) culverts and two (2) 2-foot diameter CMP culverts;
 - Excavate drainage ditches sized to convey potential 100-year storm runoff flows while maintaining 6-inch freeboard and line the ditches with 6-inch diameter riprap;
 - Install a pre-fabricated 24-foot-wide by 70-foot-long reinforced concrete steel girder bridge with cast in place concrete abutments;
 - Use engineered fill to raise the roadway approaches to about 5 feet above existing grade;
 - Install retaining walls to contain the new approach roadway fill, and minimize impacts to sensitive creek areas and scour at the bridge site; and
 - Install rip rap to protect the bridge abutments and wingwalls from scour.
- At the location of the removed road and bridge:
 - Remove the road bridge and a 511-foot-long section of the abandoned road's earthen embankment bisecting the East Fork Mill Creek floodplain, down to the existing floodplain elevation, to reestablish connectivity from upstream to downstream;
 - Excavate three (3) new connecting channels where the embankment is removed to restore flow connections across existing floodplain channels;
 - Install large wood structures within the connecting channels to provide cover and velocity shadows for use by aquatic organisms;
 - Install nine (9) large wood structures comprised of up to 42 large logs (trees) with root wads, with logs sized to have a length no less than 1.5 times the bankfull width of the stream. Trees will be sourced from the project site's new road alignment; and
 - Stabilize the wood structures by interweaving and wedging the logs between trees in the riparian area. In areas where there is a lack of trees for wedging the logs, install large wood posts to stabilize the structures.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: North Coast Redwoods District

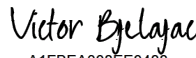
EXEMPT STATUS:

Statutory Exemption; California Public Resource Code 21080.56

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: This project is exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15025(a)(1), and this project meets all the requirements described in the California Public Resources Code, section 21080.56, because the Project is exclusively a project to restore and enhance habitat for California native fish and wildlife. The project obtained concurrence from the Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, that the project qualifies as a statutorily exempt restoration project on December 21, 2023.

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Victor Bjelajac	DATE
District Superintendent	
North Coast Redwoods District	