

## Notice of Exemption

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**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:** North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
5550 Skylane Boulevard  
Santa Rosa CA, 95403  
Phone 707-576-2220  
Fax 707-523-0135  
Email: [NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Project Title:** Big Meadows Restoration Project Phase 2

**Project Location:** 41.584728° N, 123.046618° W

**Project Location – City:** Fort Jones

**Project Location - County:** Siskiyou

**Description of Project:** This Project will restore wet meadow habitat for the Endangered Franklin's bumble bee, improve water quality and flows for the threatened Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) coho salmon, and restore declining aspen forest stands. Wildlife-friendly cattle exclusion fencing will be installed around approximately 25 acres of Big Meadow and the adjacent aspen groves to address the impacts of drift from grazing on nearby public lands. Additionally, low tech process-based techniques, including strategic placement of slash and on-site materials like sod and stones into degraded gullies, and construction of beaver dam analogs and post-assisted log structures in the stream channels within Big Meadow, will be employed to arrest legacy hydrological degradation and encourage channel aggradation to allow increased ground water storage and improved downstream water quality.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Megan Ireson, Scott River Watershed Council

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1): (5268):
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)):
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21 080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption; Section 15333 Small Habitat Restoration Projects
- Statutory Exemptions: section 21080.56 (Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects)

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The goals of the Project are to restore wet meadow habitat, improve water quality and flows for coho salmon, and to restore and conserve rare and declining aspen forest habitat. Additionally, this Project meets the eligibility requirements of section 15333.

**Lead Agency Contact:** Jake Shannon

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** 707-576-2673

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes  No

**Signature:** JAKE SHANNON      **Date:** July 25, 2024      **Title:** Sr. Environmental Scientist (Specialist)

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

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