

Notice of Exemption



To:
 Office of Planning and Research
 For U.S. Mail:
 P.O. Box 3044
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From:
 Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Inland Deserts Region
 3602 Inland Empire Boulevard,
 Suite C-220
 Ontario, CA 91764

Street Address:
 1400 Tenth Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Rough Creek LCT restoration project

Project Location (include county): This project is located on Rough Creek, approximately 10 miles northeast of the unincorporated community of Bridgeport, Mono County. The Rough Creek headwaters can be accessed from Bodie State Park, along Geiger Grade Road or Dry Lake Road, and the lower reach can be accessed from Bridgeport along Aurora Canyon Road. The Project will occur on Bureau of Land Management property (including a portion of the Bodie Hills Wilderness Study Area) and on privately property.

Project Description:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and collaborating entities will divert a portion of the streamflow around 1000-foot-long reaches of Rough Creek. This will begin in the headwaters and proceed downstream to an artificial barrier located on private property near the California-Nevada Border. CDFW will use small water pumps to isolate complex habitat and use electrofishing to remove non-native fish. Non-native fish preclude the occurrence of federally threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) and other native ichthyofauna in the watershed. Electrofishing to remove nonnative fish will make the watershed suitable habitat for LCT and other native species. No impacts to the streambank or water quality are expected to occur; however, minor impacts to riparian habitat from trampling and pruning vegetation will occur. No sediment or pollutants will be introduced during the entirety of this project, and no ground disturbance will occur outside of the active stream channel is anticipated. This project will temporarily impact up to 4.5 acres of riparian habitat and will not result in permanent impacts to the streambank and channel of Rough Creek.

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. Class 4 (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, §15304), and Class 33 (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, §15333)

Reasons why Project is exempt: *Class 4, §15304*, Minor Alterations to Land - the Project will result in minimal impacts to the condition of the land and will not result in removal of mature, healthy, scenic tree. It will result in the improvement of fish habitat. *Class 33 §15333*, Small Habitat Restoration Projects – the project area will not exceed five acres and will assure restoration, enhancement, and protection of Lahontan cutthroat trout and surrounding habitat with no significant adverse impact on listed species or the environment.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Russell Black (951) 852-6386

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Signature: Russell Black *Date:* 10/21/2024
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 Russell Black, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____