

Notice of Exemption

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

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Region 4
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710



Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Project Title: Monache Meadow Access Road

Project Location: The project is located on the Monache Meadows Wildlife Area, in Tulare County, Township 19 South, Range 35 East, Section 34, 36.22156°N, -118.178335°W.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) proposes the construction of a new access road across upland terrain to enable the rehabilitation and eventual decommissioning of the existing access road, which currently traverses meadow and riparian habitat. Following construction, the existing road will be permanently closed and restored to its natural condition to support ecological recovery and habitat integrity.

The proposed access road will extend approximately 1,400 meters (4,593 feet) from the southwest boundary of the Monache Meadows Wildlife Area to the existing cabin site. The road will have an approximate width of 8 feet and will be sited primarily within rocky and sagebrush-dominated upland habitat, thereby minimizing environmental disturbance. Construction will involve minimal grading, and appropriate erosion control measures - such as water bars and out-sloping - will be employed on steeper segments to maintain hydrologic stability and prevent sediment transport. The proposed alignment will connect with Beck Meadow/Deer Island Road just west of the existing South Fork Kern River crossing. A new gated entrance will be installed at the point where the new access route transitions from U.S. Forest Service land to CDFW-managed property, to ensure secure and controlled access. This project has been designed with careful consideration of ecological sensitivity and long-term land stewardship goals.

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 – 4 (d); California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15307 and 757(7)(D). Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources.

Reasons why project is exempt: This project is a regulatory agency action for protection of natural resources, specifically; minor alterations in land, water, and vegetation on existing officially designated wildlife management areas or fish production facilities which result in improvement of habitat for fish and wildlife resources or greater fish production. Title 14, Section 757(4)(D) specifically includes minor alteration of lands on an existing wildlife management area that will result in improved wildlife habitat and resources as an exempt activity for CDFW. None of the exceptions in Section 15300.2 apply.

CDFW Contact Person: Evan King (559) 972-7835

Signed by: Stafford, Robert (Bob) W Date: 7/30/2025
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 On behalf of Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____