



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Northern Region  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
(530) 225-2300  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor**  
**MEGHAN HERTEL, Director**



To:  
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation  
[CEQA Submit](#)

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

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**Project Title:** Trout Creek Fish Barrier Restoration Project

**Project Location (Siskiyou County):** The project site is located at Trout Creek in Siskiyou County, State of California; Latitude 41.45662, Longitude -121.91040.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will be modifying, monitoring, and maintaining the existing (natural) partial fish barrier on Trout Creek by increasing the vertical drop height. The proposed modifications would include the installation of a steel grating drop structure with support posts to create a 4ft drop in the flow, the small pool below the drop would be filled with locally sourced boulders to reduce the pool depth, and the sides of the stream above the drop will be reinforced with large boulders and logs sourced onsite to force all high flows to stay in the main channel. These modifications of the natural barrier at Trout Creek would help to separate the upper and lower creek fish populations to protect the genetically distinct McCloud River Redband Trout population upstream of the barrier.

**Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:**

Sam Plemons  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Senior Environmental Scientist - Supervisor  
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601 Locust Street  
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**Exempt Status:**

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 33; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section:

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

February 9, 2026

15333 – Class 33 consists of projects not to exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife.

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The project is exempt because it would restore or enhance habitat for the McCloud River Redband Trout and would be carried out principally with hand labor and not mechanized equipment. The project would not have a significant effect on the environment.

**CDFW Contact Person:** Sam Plemons, Senior Environmental Scientist - Supervisor, (530) 605-8317, Samuel.Plemons@wildlife.ca.gov

*Signature:*  *Date:* 2/11/2026

Jason Roberts, Inland Fisheries Program Manager Northern Region

Date received for filing at LCI: