DocuSign Envelope ID: 5BFB2303-AC91-43D2-A9E6-42FD0DE9D4A0

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

PROJECT TITLE	Huckleberry Ridge Fuel Break		
PROJECT LOCATION	The project area is located approximately one mile south of the community of McCloud. Legal Description: Portions of Sec. 13, 34; T38N; R03W; MDB&M, and portions of Sec. 18, 19; T39N; R02W; MDB&M.	**COUNTY**	Siskiyou
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Jeremy Ravenscroft - CALFIRE / SKU Unit		
ADDRESS	1809 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097	**PHONE**	(530) 842-3516

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The fuel break area is 400 feet wide and 23,232 fee (4.4 miles) in length, for a total of 213 acres. The project area is located directly adjacent to a paved county road (Siskiyou County Road 1N01) and a private gravel road (Old Wyntoon Road). A portion of the fuel break is also located on the top of a prominent ridge line. The project area is characterized by a moderately dense to dense stand of mixed conifer consisting of white fir, Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, incense cedar, sugar pine and highly scattered black oaks 80 to 100 years of age. The understory is composed of dense, highly scattered pockets of brush species and conifer seedlings with light to moderate accumulations of woody debris. Elevation ranges from approximately 3,000 feet to 3,300 feet with slopes ranging from 0% to 60%. Most of the project area is located on slopes less than 5%. Most of the project area is currently managed as non-industrial timberlands which have been selectively harvested in the recent past. The area surrounding the project boundary consists of a golf course, a cemetery, rural residential ownerships, private industrial timber lands and private, non-industrial timberlands of various age classes. Most the surrounding area is comprised of mature mixed conifer stands. The project is designed to conduct maintenance within the footprint of an existing fuel break and increase the width of the existing fuel break. Hand crews will be utilized to remove brush species, remove understory seedlings, this understory saplings (<8" DBH), remove snags, prune leave trees to a height of 6 to 8 feet and remove existing ground fuels between 2 and 5 inches in diameter. All the woody material generated by treatment activities will be lopped or chipped and broadcast back onto the project area or placed in manageable piles, which are no larger than 6 feet in height and 8 feet in diameter, and burned during safe climatic conditions. Those portions of the existing fuel break which are characterized by light vegetative ingrowth will be lopped and scattered back onto the project area. Lopping will require severing vegetation to a length not to exceed two feet, and so that no part of the severed vegetation remains more than four inches above the ground.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ **CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION** **TYPE/SECTION:** Class 4 §15304 Minor Alterations to Land
- ☐ **STATUTORY EXEMPTION (STATE CODE SECTION):**
- ☐ **MINISTERIAL (§21080(B)(1); 15268)**
- ☐ **DECLARED EMERGENCY (§21080(B)(3); 15269(A))**
- ☐ **EMERGENCY PROJECT (§21080(B)(4); 15269(B)(C))**

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

This project fits under Class 4, §15304, Minor Alterations of Land, Categorical Exemption to CEQA:

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, utilities and service systems, or to wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CALFIRE Siskiyou Unit Headquarters in Yreka.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:
28E8C5BCF01E4BC...

1/17/2024

George Morris III – CAL FIRE Northern Region Chief Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection