



State of California
 The Natural Resources Agency
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	JDSF – Caspar Bypass Trail		
PROJECT LOCATION	Jackson Demonstration State Forest Fort Bragg, CA 95437	COUNTY	Mendocino
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Erik Wahl, Forester I RPF#2800		
ADDRESS	CALFIRE Jackson Demonstration State Forest 802 North Main Street Fort Bragg, CA 95437	PHONE	(707) 964-5674

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project includes the construction of a 0.7-mile single-track multi-use trail within the Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF). The goal of this project includes creating a trail suitable for use as a bypass prior to the beginning of timber operations associated with the approved Caspar 500 Timber Harvest Plan (THP) that encompasses 533 acres. Completion of the bypass trail is targeted for late winter, 2021.

The trail construction method will involve removal of vegetation with a gas-powered chainsaw and pruners. Hand tools will be used to create the trail surface, removing down debris and duff with McCleod tools, creating a trail surface of approximately 2 feet wide. Other hand tools may include the use of Pulaski’s, pruner shears, and rakes. Removal of vegetation will involve mostly brush cutting and tree limbs. A few trees up to 4-inches DBH will be removed. Removed vegetation will be lopped and scattered. The amount of vegetation removal and creation of slash is expected to be minor, as an effort was made to locate the trail between standing trees and within natural openings. Trail construction will use the natural topography to ensure proper drainage, grade control, and to demonstrate proper techniques that minimize the need for long-term maintenance. Trail surface construction will occur during rainless periods. Heavy equipment will not be used for this project.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4/Section 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 falls under the Class IV Minor Alterations to Land (PRC § 15304) classification of Categorical Exemptions. The project will require some removal of understory vegetation, including brush removal and few trees. Any hazard tree will be felled to allow for public safety. The trail is away from watercourses or areas that can have an impact on slope stability. The trail does not cross any classified perineal or ephemeral watercourse. These areas were carefully inspected for environmental concerns.

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, 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, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at JDSF Offices in Fort Bragg (802 North Main Street).

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

	2/10/21
Matthew Reischman, Assistant Deputy Director Resource Protection and Improvement California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	Date