

## Notice of Exemption

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**To:** X Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:** RCD of Tehama County  
#2 Sutter Street  
Red Bluff, CA. 96080

X County Clerk  
County of Red Bluff  
633 Washington Street, Room 111  
Red Bluff, CA. 96080

**Project Title:** Tehama Mendocino Fuel Reduction Partnership Project Amendment

**Project Applicant:** Resource Conservation District of Tehama County

**Project Location – Specific:** The project area is located on Crane Mills lands, within that portion of the South Coast Range in Western Tehama County.

**South Ridge Project:**

T24N R9W SEC 25 and 36  
T24N R8W SEC 30

**Russell Cat:**

T24N R8W SEC 16,17,18,20

**Snake:**

T25N R8W SEC 32,33,34

**Hensley:**

T24N R8W SEC 21,28,29

**Foot:**

T24 R8W SEC 32

**Riley Cat:**

T24 R7W SEC 7,8  
T24N R8W SEC 1

**Fish:**

T25N R08W SEC 20,21,28,29,30

**Project Location – City:** Paskenta

**Project Location – County:** Tehama

## **Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The Resource Conservation District of Tehama County (RCDTC), and Crane Mills (property owner) have designed the multi-component **Tehama Mendocino Fuel Reduction Partnership Project Amendment**, a large landscape carbon sequestration, forest restoration and post August Complex Fire restoration project that will help California meet its greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals, improve forest health and ecological functions, as well as restore fire resiliency, and the project area's natural fire ecology through various forest management treatments.

As a result of improved forest health and fuels/fire ecology conditions, increased rates of growth within forest stands and subsequent rates of greenhouse gas sequestration will be achieved. This project will employ land management strategies to lessen the growing trend of landscape scale habitat changes as a result of high severity fires that have significantly impacted private timberlands, Mendocino National Forestlands and adjacent communities. The anticipated positive impacts that result from proposed vegetation treatments will improve multiple ecological components within that portion of the South Coast Range within Tehama County including State Responsibility Lands. Among these are carbon sequestration, ecosystem processes, as well as aquatic and wildlife habitat. These efforts will also improve conditions within adjacent communities through improvements in public safety and community, sustainability. The goals of this project will be accomplished through an array of vegetation treatments including:

- Removal of substantially damage timber stands through mastication and pile/burning.
- Thinning of young (less than 100 years old) conifer stands and plantations.
- Disposal of material unsuitable for commercial utilization through mastication, chipping and burning
- Herbicide application will be applied prior to reforestation, in order to enhance the survival of seedlings.
- Reforestation through planting of appropriate tree species.
- Retention of suitable snag trees within all treatment units.

## **Project Components**

The **Tehama Mendocino Fuel Reduction Partnership Project** consists of multiple components in the form of implementation units which apply a comprehensive and cohesive treatments across the larger landscape which, when combined meet the management goals of Crane Mill along with those established for surrounding Mendocino National Forest lands. Cal Fire goals established for surrounding State Responsibility Lands along with RCD of Tehama County watershed protection/improvement objectives will be advanced as well.

**South Ridge Project:** Remove 135 acres of non-merchantable, heavily damaged timber that resulted from the August Complex Fire using mastication techniques. The unit will then be treated with herbicide and 33,750 conifer specie trees will be planted.

**Russell Cat:** Remove 120 acres of non-merchantable, heavily damaged trees as a result of the August Complex Fire through mastication. The unit will then be treated with herbicide and 30,000 conifer species trees will be re-planted.

**Snake:** Removing 245 acres of non-merchantable, heavily damaged trees as a result of the August Complex Fire through mastication. The unit will then be treated with herbicide and 60,000 conifer species trees will be re-planted.

**Hensley:** Remove 76 acres of non-merchantable, heavily damaged trees as a result of the August Complex Fire through mastication. The unit will then be treated with herbicide and 18,750 conifer species trees will be re-planted.

**Foot:** Remove 75 acres of non-merchantable, heavily damaged trees as a result of the August Complex Fire through mastication. The unit will then be treated with herbicide and 18,750 conifer species trees will be re-planted.

**Riley Cat:** Remove 190 acres of non-merchantable, heavily damaged trees as a result of the August Complex Fire through mastication. The unit will then be treated with herbicide and 47,500 conifer species trees will be re-planted.

**Fish:** Remove 320 acres of non-merchantable, heavily damaged trees as a result of the August Complex Fire. Removal will be through mastication. The unit will then be treated with herbicide and 87,500 conifer species trees will be re-planted.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Resource Conservation District of Tehama County

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Resource Conservation District of Tehama County

**Exempt Status:** (Check One)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15304. Minor Alterations of Lands (Class 5)
- Statutory Exemption. State code number:

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

Due to the destructive results from the August Complex Fire, Crane Mills is performing harvest operations under a THP Exemptions related to fire impacted timber lands. Crane Mills will follow all Timber Harvest Practices as required for THP exemption work as specified in the California Forest Practices Act.

In connection with **Tehama Mendocino Fuel Reduction Partnership Project** efforts, the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County is providing project funding obtained through the **California Climate Investments Fire Prevention Grant Program** in order to conduct restoration activities on Crane Mills lands that are surrounded by those under Mendocino National Forest management. As a result, The RCDTC has determined that all proposed activities to be completed in connection with these efforts fall under a Categorical Exemption as the work entails removal of dead timber stands, replanted these areas and in certain instances, apply herbicide. No activities will disturb the soil other than surface scuffing, and will not cause harm to the environment, as project work will be completed within heavily damaged timber stands.

**Lead Agency**

**Contact Person:** Jon Barrett    **Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** 530-727-1280 Ext: 103

**If filed by applicant:**

- 1) Attached certified document of exemption finding.
- 2) Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?    **x Yes**

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_    Date: 2.12.2021

Title: Project Manager

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: