



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	JDSF – Linquist 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 single-track multi-use trail within the Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF). Under the Public Resources Code public recreation is an allowable use on Demonstration State Forests. JDSF is composed of an existing network of multi-use trails where recreational use is increasing. The vicinity of the project area is highly popular with recreationists, including hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers.

Part of this project lies within the Linquist Pre-Commercial Thinning (PCT) Study Area, composed of a redwood/Douglas-fir stand. Approximately 0.6 miles of hand-build trails were previously constructed to serve timber surveys. The Mendocino Coast Cyclists (MCC) has been granted permission to improve the trail network with the construction of new trails, including 4 reroute segments within the study area for a distance of approximately 0.3 miles and 0.9 miles of new proposed trail to connect to another existing trail within the vicinity and County Road 409. The intent of the reroutes include improving the trail gradient for hiking and uphill mountain bike climbing. Completion of the bypass trail is targeted for late summer/early fall, 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 to bare soil with McCleod’s and Rogue Hoe’s creating a trail surface of approximately 2-3 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 8-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 Alteration 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 perennial or ephemeral watercourse. These actions fall under Class IV, Minor Alterations to Land. 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

4/6/2021

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