

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



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

PROJECT TITLE	Butte Unit Station 35 Fuels Reduction Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	Station 35 1464 Forest Srv Rd. Paradise, CA 95969	COUNTY	Butte
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Calvin Davison, Environmental Scientist	PHONE	(530) 815-1376
ADDRESS	6640 Steiffer Rd, Magalia CA 95954		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will reduce fuels and control the spread of invasive broom on an approximately 11-acre CALFIRE parcel in the Town of Paradise. The parcel is located off Forest Service and Moore Rd in the northern end of Paradise, Butte County. This parcel is forested with a maximum slope of 16% and an elevation of around 2100'. The project area is located within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, which identifies this area of high risk for large scale wildland fires. The project area was impacted in the 2018 Camp Fire. This high severity burn caused an explosion of invasive woody perennials on the station's parcel that this project intends to mitigate. This project will also utilize herbicide application to cause mortality with the intent to eradicate an invasive broom (*Genista monspessulana*, *Cytisus scoparius* and *Spartium junceum*) infestation within the station's parcel. All three broom species have a Cal-IPC rating of high. This means that these species have severe ecological impacts on physical processes, plant and animal communities, and vegetation structure as well as attributes that are conducive to moderate to high rates of dispersal and establishment. Treatment methods will include hand cutting, herbicide application, and landscape broadcast burning. Hand cutting will be conducted using hand tools and chainsaws to thin live trees, remove hazard and down trees, and remove ladder fuels. Trees greater than 12 in DBH will be reviewed by an RPF or designee prior to removal. Herbicide application will be directed spray from backpack pumps using glyphosate or triclopyr depending on time of year. The primary target of the herbicide application is broom, other woody non-native perennials may also be targeted for reduction. Cut vegetation may be chipped and scattered, lopped, or piled and burned. There are existing containment lines on the parcel from legacy broadcast burns that will be reused. Reestablishment of the containment lines will only require the use of hand tools to clear the leaves and litter. No heavy equipment will be used in this project.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and 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 of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA: Minor Alterations to Land. The project activities would occur within previously burned areas, control lines have been previously established, so new line would not have to be built.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that 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 or 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 or traffic, utilities and service systems, or to wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE Office, 6640 Steiffer Rd, Magalia CA 95954.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:
 8/5/2022
John Mahwin, Assistant Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection