



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Whitebark Institute of Interdisciplinary Environmental Sciences, "ESCCRP: Phase I Implementation" Grant: Inyo Craters Area Bark Beetle Mortality Hazard Abatement Project (USFS)		
PROJECT LOCATION	T3S; R27E; Secs. 9, 16-17, 20-21, 29 MDB&M	COUNTY	Mono
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE would provide funding to the Whitebark Institute to conduct fuel reduction treatments and biomass removal consisting of removing dead and dying trees which are currently a danger to the public, to infrastructure and to improvements in the Inyo Craters area and along the Mammoth Scenic Loop. These treatments will remove hazard trees and reduce wildfire risks to local resources and community members, promote native plant and wildlife species, and improve forest resiliency.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class
- Statutory Exemption (state code section): Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)(1)
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

CEQA does not apply to prescribed fire, thinning, or fuel reduction projects undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the NEPA if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The proposed project was reviewed in its entirety through the Mammoth Ranger District, Inyo National Forest NEPA Inyo Craters Area Bark Beetle Mortality Hazard Abatement Project Categorical Exclusion and Decision Memo signed on March 7, 2022.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

John Melvin

9/23/2022

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John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director
Resource Management
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Date