

Notice of Exemption

Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Post Office Box 1450 · 30 Horseshoe Lane · Weaverville, CA 96093-

PROJECT TITLE	Rush Creek Road Hazardous Fuels Reduction		
PROJECT LOCATION	Weaverville/Lewiston, Trinity County, California. T34N R9W Sections 16, 17, 21, 22, 25-27, 35, 36; T33N R9W Sections 1, 12, 13 (Mount Diablo Base and Meridian)	COUNTY	Trinity
LEAD AGENCY	Trinity County Resource Conservation District (The District)		
CONTACT ADDRESS	Bethany Llewellyn, Project Coordinator, bllewellyn@tcrd.net P.O Box 1450, Weaverville, CA 96093	PHONE	530-623-6004

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District (the District) plans to implement fuels reduction activities in the form of hand thinning and roadside chipping on an approximately 1500-acre footprint associated with this project along Rush Creek Road and in surrounding communities between Weaverville and Lewiston, Trinity County, CA. This project is an integral part of the District's landscape strategy aimed at protecting Trinity County communities from future catastrophic wildfire events and returning the landscape to a healthy, less hazardous state. Fuel Reduction treatments will be strategically implemented along roadsides and adjacent to habitable structures and critical infrastructure to protect the life and property of residents of Rush Creek as well as to provide safe evacuation routes between Lewiston and Weaverville and ease of firefighter access and suppression efforts. The project area includes portions of many different private landowners within the WUI, as well as small areas of USFS, BLM, and county-managed public land, and our objective is to treat ≤ 100 acres over a 5-year period. Topography is moderate (20-50%) throughout much of the project area, with some steeper and gentler areas, and elevations range from approximately 1800'-3500'.

The prescription includes hand thinning of small diameter (less than 10" DBH) trees and shrubs that are adjacent to habitable structures, critical infrastructure, and/or roadways and driveways. Emphasis will be placed on eliminating the continuity of surface and ladder fuels. Some sub canopy trees may be removed to break up vertical continuity to dominant trees as well as to raise the canopy base height, which will reduce future fire intensity. Cut materials will be bucked and carried to the chipper whenever feasible and then chipped and broadcasted on site. Any remaining material that cannot be chipped will be lop-and-scattered on site. The project will be maintained in perpetuity using similar treatments.

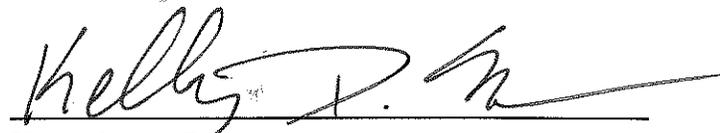
EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/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

It has been determined that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. This project is consistent with the requirements stated in Section 15304; Minor Alterations to land, and will have no significant environmental impacts 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.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



KELLY SHEEN, DISTRICT MANAGER