



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Murphy Ridge Fuel Break – Phase I (Round Valley Indian Tribe)		
PROJECT LOCATION	T23N; R12W; Sections 10, 11, 13, 14, & 24; MDB&M	COUNTY	Mendocino
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Julie Rhoads, Forester I CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit - VMP	PHONE	707-671-3357
ADDRESS	802 North Main Street Fort Bragg, CA 95437		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Murphy Ridge Fuel Break - Phase I project is a 131-acre project located on Murphy Ridge four miles Northeast of Covelo, California, in the southeastern quadrant of the Round Valley Indian Reservation. The project area includes 131 acres of tribal trust land. The objective is to create a shaded fuel break along the ridge and treat abandoned slash in a 3.6-mile control line created during the 2020 August Complex Fire. The fuel break and the fire suppression repair treatment will be located on Round Valley Indian Tribe (RVIT). The fire suppression repair treatment will be implemented using a masticator, a skidder, and a loader. Logs will be bucked and left on site, burned, or hauled offsite for non-commercial disposal. Operations in the shaded fuel break will be conducted by hand crews or machinery with mastication attachments. Larger live trees, (>10" DBH), with low overhanging limbs, will be pruned with a pole saw up to 14' from the ground. Associated slash (limbs/tops <12" diameter) will be masticated or piled and burned. Dead/dying or hazard trees of any size that pose a safety hazard to roadways, people, or other infrastructure will be removed. This project includes long-term maintenance of fuel loading and hazard tree removal as necessary.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section:
- 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

The California Environmental Quality Act 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 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The Murphy Ridge Fuel Break – Phase I project activities are included in the (TR4432b-P5 J51 540T) Murphy Ridge Fuel Break Bureau of Indian Affairs Categorical Exclusion signed on 04/05/2023.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

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9/1/2023

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

Date