



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 (Covelo Timberlands)		
PROJECT LOCATION	T23N; R12W; Sections 10, 13, 14, & 24; MDB&M	COUNTY	Mendocino
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Julie Rhoads, Forester I		
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit - VMP 802 North Main Street Fort Bragg, CA 95437	PHONE	707-671-3357

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is a portion of the larger 172-acre "Murphy Ridge Fuel Break - Phase I" Wildfire Prevention Grant (5GG21220). The project is located on Murphy Ridge four miles northeast of Covelo, California. The grant covers 131 acres of tribal trust land on Round Valley Indian Tribe, and 41 acres of private timberlands on Covelo Timberlands, LLC. Within the 41-acre portion on private timberland, the objective is to treat abandoned slash in a 3.6 mile, 100- to 125-foot-wide control line created during the 2020 August Complex Fire. The fire suppression repair treatment will be implemented using a masticator, skidder, and loader. Logs will be bucked and left on site, burned, or hauled off site for non-commercial disposal. 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: 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

The project meets the requirements of a CEQA Article 19 Class 4 Categorical exemption "Minor Alterations to Land" (Section 15304, Public Resources Code) as the proposed fuel management activities entail the reduction and removal of residual flammable material along a fire control line. As such, CAL FIRE has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, and 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, utilities, and service systems, or to wildfire. No exceptions apply (Section 15300.2) which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit, 802 N. Main Street. Fort Bragg, CA 95437 Attn. VMP Coordinator.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

10/4/2023

George Morris III, Northern Region Chief
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection