



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	FWS Forestry Services California, LLC, "McKinney Fire Reforestation" – Phase 1 (Morrison)		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	The project is in the Klamath Mountains between Yreka and Scott bar, South of Klamath River and North of Fort Jones, CA. Legal Description: T46N, R09W, Sec. 36	<b>COUNTY</b>	Siskiyou
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Shannon Johnson		
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### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE would provide funding to expedite priority restoration measures in moderate to high severity burn areas on 80 acres of area burned in the 2022 McKinney wildfire. Activities will include, but are not limited to, mechanical and/or hand crew site prep, mastication, herbicide pre and post spray, planting, netting, piling, and burning. Herbicides will be applied to brush before mastication to facilitate the effectiveness of mastication and following mastication of resprouting species to increase the effectiveness of regeneration. Trees will not be removed unless they are a hazard to the road or personnel.

The project area is flat to moderately sloped (0 - 50%). It is a burned landscape with historically open to moderately dense mixed conifer stands and brush. The watercourses have been flagged and will be protected as per ASP Forest Practice Rules. The erosion hazard is moderate. There are no known occurrences of plant or animal species listed as Threatened, Rare, or Endangered, either under ESA or CESA, within the project area. There are no known historic or cultural sites located within the project vicinity. Funding supports the broader goal of post fire recovery and forest health and resiliency. The project supports a local workforce within a census designated priority population. In addition to the short-term benefit of restoring and reforesting severely burned forested acres, implementation of the project would promote resilience in the natural ecosystem services, such as overall watershed improvements through improved regulation of surface runoff and groundwater infiltration, increased uptake of carbon dioxide, provide for slope stabilization, and restoration of lost forest-based habitat for species that rely upon these environments.

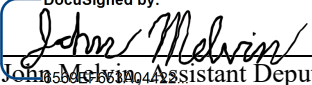
### EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class
- 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

Pursuant to CEQA Section 21080(b)(3) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a) a project is exempt from CEQA when it "maintain[s], repair[s], restore[s]... property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with Section 8550 of the Government Code." Implementation of the project would restore forested landscapes, restore carbon sequestration capacity of targeted forested landscapes, restore and increase capacity as it relates to above and below ground carbon storage, and restore forest habitat destroyed by the McKinney Fire. The action is therefore exempt from CEQA because it would restore property damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster for which a state of emergency was proclaimed, pursuant to CEQA Section 21080(b)(3) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a).

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

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

10/25/2023

Date