



## Notice of Exemption

### Trinity County Resource Conservation District

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

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Bureau of Land Management Travis Ranch Hazardous Fuels Reduction		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	HM T5S R8E, S14 and MDM T25N R12W S07 Trinity County, CA.	<b>COUNTY</b>	Trinity
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	Trinity County Resource Conservation District (The District)		
<b>CONTACT ADDRESS</b>	Bethany Llewellyn, Program Manager, bllewellyn@tcrd.net	<b>PHONE</b>	530-623-6004
	P.O Box 1450, Weaverville, CA 96093		

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Travis Ranch will implement fuels reduction and oak woodland restoration activities on 32 acres of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in southern Trinity County, with funding provided by a CAL FIRE California Climate Investment (CCI) forest health grant in 2022. Project treatments will reduce fuels and aid healthy forest regeneration in an area impacted by the 2020 August Wildfire Complex. Reducing the accumulation of dead woody material is a critical management priority in the project area because residual fuels will act to increase the overall severity of fire events in the future. Salvage logging operations were conducted on the Travis Ranch and adjacent BLM lands in 2021 to begin addressing this need. The cut, pile, and burn treatments proposed constitute the next important step. They are designed to protect stands by lowering the height of live flame and overall heat output of any subsequent fire. Thinning stands of smaller diameter trees and pruning limbs on fire damaged trees will reduce stand density, alleviate competitive pressures, and improve spacing. Retained trees will thus achieve larger diameters in less time, have greater ability to sequester carbon, and be more resilient to future wildfire. The project area is near homes, critical infrastructure, and along the primary egress route for the area. Combined with reforestation, these treatments will promote a well-stocked, diverse forestland that acts as a carbon sink and supports watershed health within these important headwaters.

#### EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):  
4799.05
- 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 proposed project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 4799.05(d), which exempts state funding of projects undertaken on federal lands that consist of prescribed fire, thinning, or fuel reduction to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire. This exemption is applicable only for projects that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and if the Secretary for Natural Resources has certified that NEPA and laws that affect management of federal forest lands in California have not been substantially amended since August 31, 2018. On April 12, 2021, the Secretary for Natural Resources made the necessary certification. The proposed project was reviewed in the Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) Travis Ranch Hazardous Fuels Reduction, dated 3/28/2023 (DOI-BLM-CA-N030-2023-0016-DNA), available at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2023607/570>. Accordingly, CAL FIRE funding of the proposed project is exempt from CEQA under Section 4799.05.

#### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING:

KELLY SHEEN  
DISTRICT MANAGER