



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Sherwood Ranch Roadside Fuel Reduction		
PROJECT LOCATION	T19N; R14W; Sec 6 T19N; R15W; Secs 1, 2 T20N; R15W; Secs 15, 16, 20-22, 27, 28, 34, 35; MDB&M	COUNTY	Mendocino
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Julie Rhoads VMP Forester I	PHONE	707-671-3357
ADDRESS	802 North Main Street Fort Bragg, CA 95437		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this project is to significantly reduce ladder fuels along the Sherwood-Fort Bragg Road through the Sherwood Rancheria and the Sherwood Ranch communities. These communities are located in a remote and rural area, with difficult terrain and limited options for evacuation routes during an emergency. This effort will benefit residents of the area as well as emergency response and firefighting resources during an emergency. This project aims to reduce roadside fuels along Sherwood Ranch Road, Sherwood Valley Rancheria Road, Sherwood-Fort Bragg Road, Sherwood Road, and Ridge Ranch Road. In total, the project will cover 12.52 miles. Roadside fuel reduction will occur between 50 and 100 feet from the road centerline on either side of the road. Landowners will be given the option to extend vegetation treatment work past the right-of-way, up to 100 feet from the centerline. The maximum treatment acreage, given landowner approval, amounts to 304 acres. The wildland surrounding these communities is comprised of dense timberlands, oak woodlands, and open grasslands. Fuel reduction activities involve the use of hand crews, chainsaws (tree falling, bucking, and brushing), pole saws, chippers, heavy equipment with masticator attachments, and pile burning. Live trees (10 inches in diameter or less) may be removed when appropriate to improve spacing or forest health. Slash and debris created by this project will either be chipped/masticated, lop-and-scattered, or piled for burning. Logs will be bucked and left on site. Chippers and masticators will enter the project area to implement treatments. Larger trees will be pruned to provide for a vertical clearance of up to 14 feet. Dead/dying or hazard trees of any size that pose a safety hazard to the roadway, people, or other infrastructure will be removed. This project includes long term fuel reduction and hazard tree removal as needed.

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 understory brush removal, 10 "DBH or less tree removal, thinning, pruning, chipping, from an existing roadway, and dead/tree removal to improve access for fire engines and reduce volume of flammable vegetation. 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, 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. Attn. VMP Coordinator.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

285E5B2CF01E49C

5/8/2024

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