



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE Disaster Recovery of Private Lands in California – RRF LASSEN-PLUMAS LLC (Sheep and Dixie)

PROJECT LOCATION Near Susanville, CA: Privately owned timberland within portions of the Upper Willard Creek (8637.200301), Lower Willard Creek (8637.200302), Cheney Creek (8637.200400) and Upper Gold Run (8637.200803) Lower Gold Run (8637.200801) Planning Watersheds. **COUNTY** Lassen

Legal Description: Within portions of T29N – R11E, Secs 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34

LEAD AGENCY California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE, through Disaster Relief Funds provided by the United State Forest Service, would allocate funds to expedite priority restoration measures in high severity burn areas on approximately 3,724 acres footprint of privately owned timberland (owned by RRF LASSEN-PLUMAS LLC and managed by W. M. Beaty & Associates, Inc.) within generally proximity to the community of Susanville, Ca. Allocated funding supports the broader goal of post fire recovery and forest health and resiliency. The project area, which was burned in the 2020 Sheep Fire (North Complex) and the 2021 Dixie Fire, will implement landscape level site preparation and reforestation. Grant funding in addition to landowner contributions, will support removal of unmerchantable burned trees from the project area, control of competing vegetation with herbicide and planting of conifer seedlings to expedite reforestation. Restoring this area to a forested landscape will benefit the local wildlife species, reduce fire risk to the Susanville area, support a local workforce, enable continued operations of wood processing facilities, improve forest health and watershed conditions, increase the storage of CO₂, reduce fire fuel loads and continue the landowner's legacies of sustainable forest management. Treatments will include biomass through cutting and chipping and/or mastication on 2,893 acres. Mechanical piling and burning on 831 acres. Control of competing vegetation through ground based targeted herbicide application prior to reforestation, with tree planting occurring on all 3,724 acres.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class
- 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

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 Sheep and Dixie Fires. 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

5/14/2024

Date