

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



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

PROJECT TITLE	Climate and Wildfire Institute, "Restoring fire resilience and stabilizing carbon storage in an old-growth, headwater forest" - Teakettle Prescribed Burn		
PROJECT LOCATION	Sierra National Forest lands; Township 11 South, Range 27 East, sections 16 and 21, and portions of 8, 9, 10, 15, 17, 20, 22, 27, 28, and 29.	COUNTY	Fresno
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE would provide funding to the Climate and Wildfire Institute to reintroduce fire to approximately 3,274 acres of old-growth forest to restore its resilience and stabilize carbon stores in large trees through prescribed broadcast and piling burning. Prior to reintroducing fire, treatments including manual thinning and piling will be conducted. The project aims to reduce wildfire risks to local resources and community members, promote native plant and wildlife species, and improve forest resiliency.

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))

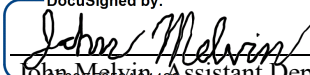
REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

CEQA does not apply to fuel reduction, reforestation, & habitat restoration projects undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the NEPA, if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The proposed project was reviewed in its entirety under the Sierra National Forest Teakettle Prescribed Burn Decision Memo signed on October 29, 2024.

The NEPA record of project approval is available to the General Public at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/sierra/?project=64413>

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:  John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director Resource Management California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	11/19/2024 _____ Date
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