

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



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

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	American Forests, “Collective Recovery: Strategic partnerships for landscape-scale sequoia grove management” – Windy Fire Emergency Stabilization		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Tulare River Indian Reservation; Township 22 South, Range 30 East; Township 22 South, Range 31 East; and Township 23 South, Range 31 East, Mt. Diablo Base Meridian	<b>COUNTY</b>	Tulare
<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 American Forests to conduct fuels reduction, forest development, reforestation, and timber salvage treatments to mitigate impacts and hazards resulting from prolong drought and the 2021 Windy Fire in Tulare County. Treatment activities include mechanical and manual fuel reduction, biomass removal, tree planting, and pile burning. These treatments aim 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 Tule River Reservation and Bureau of Indian Affairs “Windy Fire Emergency Stabilization and Salvage Sale Projects” NEPA Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact, signed June 13, 2023. NEPA coverage for this project is 2,539 acres, with initial treatments at 80 acres.

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

[https://tulerivertribe-nsn.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/TULE%20RIVER%20WINDY%20FIRE%20EA%20UNSIGNED%20FONSI\\_15May23.pdf](https://tulerivertribe-nsn.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/TULE%20RIVER%20WINDY%20FIRE%20EA%20UNSIGNED%20FONSI_15May23.pdf)

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

DocuSigned by:  John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director Resource Management California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	2/6/2025 Date
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