



State of California
 The Natural Resources Agency
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Miller DSF Seed Production Area		
PROJECT LOCATION	Coordinates at 40°35.9725235'N, 121°59.0965028'W Portions of T 32 N, R 01 W, Sections 22, 27, and 28, MDBM USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle: Inwood 1985	COUNTY	Shasta
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Topher Byrd, RPF # 3068 Reforestation Services Program		PHONE (408) 499-4255
ADDRESS	5800 Chiles Road Davis, CA 95618		

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection’s (“CAL FIRE”) Reforestation Services Program (“RSP”), in cooperation with the Shasta-Trinity Unit, is proposing the establishment of an approximately 65-acre seed production area (“Project”) on Miller Demonstration State Forest near Whitmore, CA. This effort is made possible, in part, by a USDA Forest Service grant awarded to CAL FIRE, part of a nationwide, \$8M initiative to support nurseries and seed orchards managed by states, territories, and tribes. The project will support the growth and development of low-elevation Ponderosa pine cones to support seed banking efforts managed by RSP. This reliable source of highly demanded seed will allow RSP to maintain a continuous supply for seed and seedling orders for non-industrial private forest landowners in California.

To establish the project, re-grading and maintenance of approximately 3.4 miles of an existing road system and seed stand improvement treatments will be implemented to better access the stand and to facilitate movement within the stand during cone surveys, monitoring, and collection. These actions will also reduce site competition, improving growth and vigor of the residual stand. Road maintenance activities will include mastication of vegetation along the road edge to clear the 12’ road prism, prune overhanging branches and limbs, grade, and lay down rock where needed. These road improvement activities will limit potential for erosion and soil impacts. Existing watercourse crossings are fords and will be maintained. All equipment will operate from existing roads and no expansion of the existing road system is proposed. The stand improvement activities will include the removal and/or mastication of competing vegetation in the understory. Reducing fuel loads within the SPA will also improve wildfire resilience for the continuity of seed production. This will be done by hand crews using gas-powered tools and/or a masticator. No healthy, mature trees would be felled unless deemed a safety hazard. Planting may be done in openings created through brush removal and up to three interpretive signs may be installed along project boundaries.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 1, 4 §15301 Existing Facilities, §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

CAL FIRE staff have reviewed the project and conclude that no exceptions stated in CCR 15300.2 apply to this project that would prevent the use of a “Notice of Exemption”. No significant adverse environmental impacts 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, populations and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/ traffic, utilities and service systems, or to wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE’s Lewis A. Moran Reforestation Center, 5800 Chiles Road, Davis, CA 95618.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

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3/5/2025

John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director Date
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection