

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Feather River Resource Conservation District
422 North Mill Creek Rd
Quincy, CA 95971

(Address)

County Clerk / County of Plumas

520 Main St

Quincy, CA 95971

Project Title: Spanish Creek Vegetation Management Project

Project Applicant: Plumas County Fire Safe Council

Project Location – Specific:

T24N, R10E, S06

Project Location - City: Quincy

Project Location - County: Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposal is an 18 acre fuels reduction project composed of one treatment unit located within the northern American Valley area in Quincy, California. The proposed project's goals are to 1) reduce the extent of hazardous fuel loading on sites with excessive stand density targeting conifer species 12" or less, and 2) increase spacing between residual trees to maximize forest health and productivity. Treatment methodologies utilized to achieve these goals include ~18 acres of hand thinning followed by prescribed fire treatment.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Feather River Resource Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Feather River Resource Conservation District

Exempt Status: (check one)

Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);

Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));

Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15304; Class 4 Minor Alterations to Land

Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project is located on privately owned lands and fits under Categorical Exemption: 15304 Minor Alterations to the Land (Class 4), which allows minor alteration of vegetation including fuel management activities to reduce volume of flammable vegetation, provided the activities do not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant/animal species or cause significant erosion and sedimentation in water. Trees targeted for removal and pruning of residual trees will be restricted to those that reduce the vertical and horizontal continuity of fuels, and/or provide for improved ingress/egress in the event of wildfire. The proposed project has been designed to protect resources from potential significant impacts. This project, as designed, is consistent with the use of a Categorical Exemption.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Michael Hall

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-927-5299

If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
- 2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project: Yes No

Signature:  Date: 3/16/2025 Title: District Manager

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

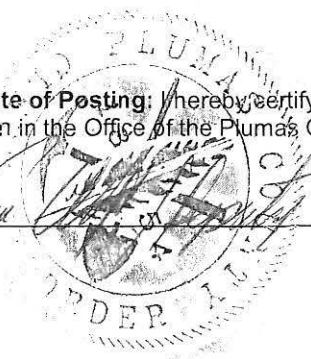
Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Date received for filing at OPR:

Reference: Sections 21108, 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code

Certificate of Posting: I hereby certify that from 3/10/25 to 4/18/25 (30 Days), I posted a copy of this Notice of Exemption in the Office of the Plumas County Clerk

By  Date: 3/18/25



PROPOSAL CONTROL SHEET

Date: 3/18/2025

Proposal:

Fuels Reduction, Vegetation Management, Prescribed Fire

LEAD AGENCY: Feather River RCO

PROJECT TITLE: Spanish Creek Vegetation Management

COUNTY / STATE AGENCY OF FILING: Plumas CA

PROJECT APPLICANT: Feather River RCO PH: 530-927-5299

PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS: 422 N. Mill St, Quincy, CA, 95571
TOWN STATE ZIP

*Original P.C.S. will go to the Clerk Recorder with the Notice of Exemption or Notice of Determination

Environmental Review Report for an Exempt Project

Note: This report form is intended for use by Feather River Resource Conservation District (RCD) staff to document a limited environmental impact analysis supporting the filing of a Notice of Exemption (NOE) document for a proposed Feather River RCD project. Although the project appears to fit within the descriptions for allowable Categorical Exemptions, this report presents Feather River RCD's review for possible "Exceptions" that would preclude finding the project to be categorically exempt as discussed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. This report will be filed with the CEQA administrative record for this project to document the environmental impact analysis conducted by the District.

Author: Michael Hall
Title: District Manager
Address: PO Box 3562
Quincy, CA 95971
Phone: (530) 927-5299
Email: mhall@frrcd.org

Project Name: Spanish Creek Vegetation Management Project
Project Number:
Project Type: Prescribed fire, fuels reduction, minor alteration to vegetation
County: Plumas
Acres: 18
Legal Location: T24M, R10E, S06
Name of USGS 7.5' Quad Map(s): Quincy
 Project Vicinity Map Attached Project Location Map Attached Photos Attached

Other Public Agency Review/Permit Required:

Would the project result in:

YES

NO

Alterations to a watercourse (DFW - Lake and Stream Alteration Agreement) YES NO

Conversion of timberland (CAL FIRE - Conversion Permit or Exemption) YES NO

Demolition (Local Air District - Demolition Permit) YES NO

Soil disturbance over 1 acre (RWQCB - SWPPP) YES NO

Fill of possible wetlands (404 Permit - USACE) YES NO

Other: YES NO

Discuss any above-listed topic item checked Yes and consultation with agencies:

Project Description and Environmental Setting (Describe the project activities, project site and its surroundings, its location, and the environmental setting):

This project is a hazardous fuels reduction project near the city of Quincy, California. The project will utilize hand thinning, piling, and burning to reduce fuel loads on approximately 18 acres of private land. The project would remove trees and ladder fuels up to 12" DBH. Material would be disposed of through piling and burning. The project will follow standard best management practices including protection of watercourses, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and other natural resource protection. Hardwood species, trees and snags with evidence of nesting or roosting by rare / threatened / endangered species will be retained. Stocking standards shall adhere to the minimum acceptable stocking standards defined in the California Forest Practice Rules, all material shall be burned on site. The project will reduce wildfire risk to surrounding properties through fuels reduction

Environmental Impact Analysis

Aesthetics

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

Comment:

This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Agriculture and Forest Resources

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

Comment:

Yes No Would any trees be felled? If yes, discuss protection of nesting birds and compliance with FPRs.

Trees up to 12" DBH and understory vegetation would be removed if it would create a hazard during broadcast burning. Cut material would either be piled for burning or lopped and scattered to be burned through application of broadcast burning.

Qualified biologists will conduct pre-implementation surveys to determine occupancy of any nesting birds. Operations will not occur if occupancy is confirmed.

- Yes No Would the project convert any prime or unique farmland?
- Yes No Would the project result in the conversion of forest land or timberland to non-forest use?
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Air Quality

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:
Pile burning and broadcast burning could create minor, short term impacts to air quality. Before burning, appropriate permits from the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection will be obtained by landowner.

Biological Resources

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- Yes No Will the project potentially effect biological resources?
- Yes No Was a current CNDDDB review completed? Results discussed below:
A 9 quad CNDDDB query was completed, 11 listed species were identified, all with low potential for occurrence. A qualified biologist will conduct pre-implementation surveys to determine occupancy of any nesting birds or denning sites. No riparian habitat exists within the project area.
- Yes No Was a biological survey of the project area completed? Results discussed below:
Prior to implementation, a qualified biologist will survey the project area.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Cultural Resources

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- Yes No Was a current archaeological records check completed? Results discussed below:
A records check is required prior to implementation and all cultural resources flagged to avoid damage during piling
- Yes No Was an RCD Staff or Contract Archaeologist consulted? Results discussed below:
A qualified archaeologist is consulted prior to implementation
- Yes No Was an archaeological survey of the project area completed? Results discussed below:
A survey will be conducted by a qualified archaeologist if records check indicates the presence of cultural resources requiring protections.
- Yes No Will the project effect any historic buildings or archaeological site? Project design will avoid all historic buildings and archaeological sites
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Comment:

Geology and Soils

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- Comment:
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- Comment:
- Yes No Would the project generate significant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?
- Yes No Would these GHG emissions result in a significant impact on the environment? Discuss below:
- Yes No Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? Discuss below:

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

Comment:

This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Hydrology and Water Quality

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

Comment:

Yes No Will the project potentially affect any watercourse or body of water?

This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Land Use and Planning

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

Comment: This project does not conflict with any land use or planning.

This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Mineral Resources

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

Comment: There are no known or related mineral resources or extraction as part of this project.

This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Noise

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

Comment:

This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Population and Housing

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

Comment: This project has no applicability to population and housing issues in Plumas County, CA.

This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Public Services

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

Comment: This project has no applicability to public services or infrastructure in Plumas County, CA.

This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Recreation

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

Comment: This project is not located within any special or designated recreation areas.

This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Transportation/Traffic

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

Comment: This project will not affect transportation or traffic, for it does not take place on any public roadways or thoroughfares.

This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Utilities and Service Systems

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

Comment: This project will have no bearing or effect on public utilities or service systems.

This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Changes Made to Avoid Environmental Impacts: All work is located outside of waterways. Project activities will occur outside known cultural resource sites. Any identified or observed cultural or biological resources should arise, the project activities will halt until resources protection can be decided upon.

Mandatory Findings of Significance:

YES **NO**

(a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

(b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probably future projects)

(c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

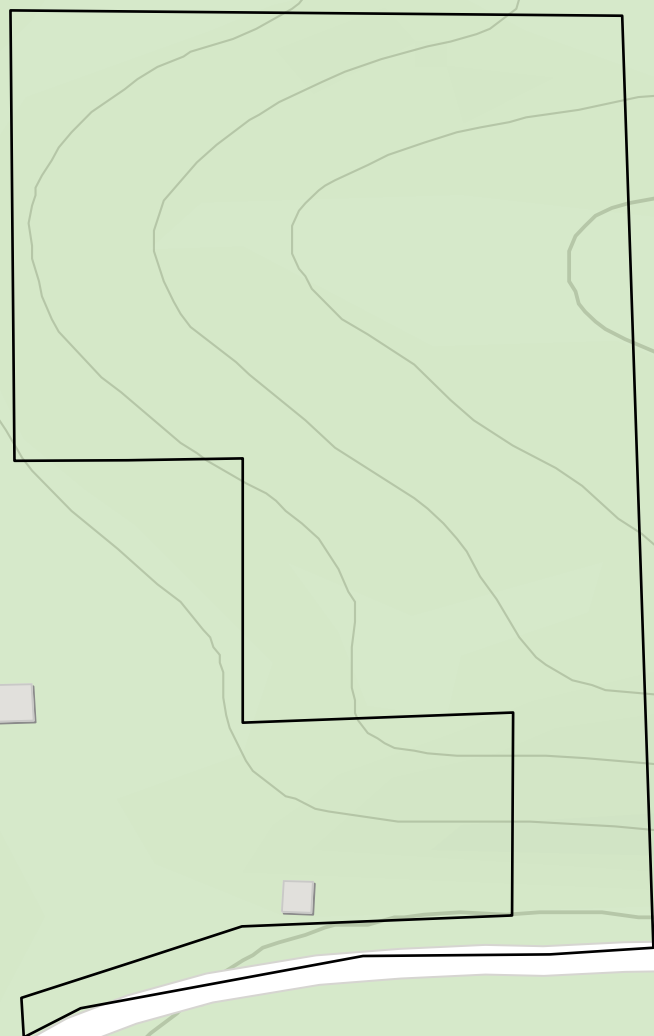
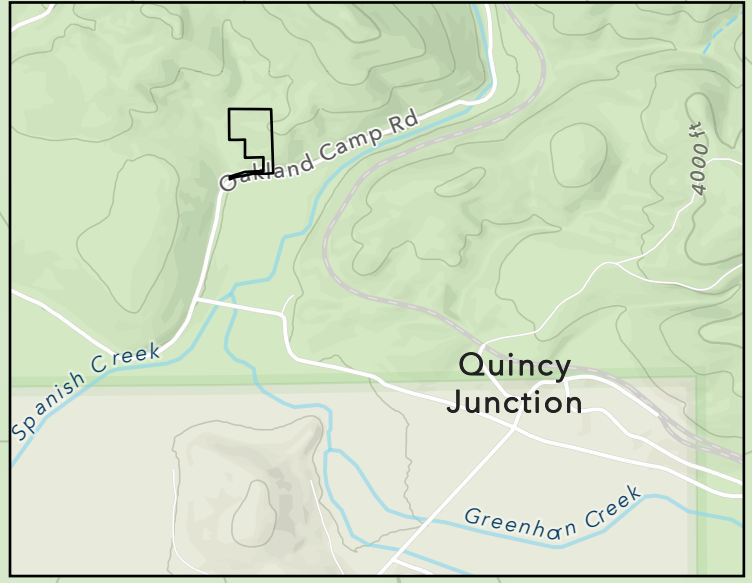
Justification for Use of a Categorical Exemption (discuss why the project is exempt, cite exemption number(s), and describe how the project fits the class): Based on no effects, negative, or cumulative impacts to natural resources, and a greenhouse gas benefit, this project fits within a Categorical Exemption.

Conclusion:

After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the description for the various classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA, Feather River RCD has determined that the project fits within one or more of the exemption classes and no exceptions exist at the project site which would preclude the use of this exemption. The District considered the possibility of (a) sensitive location, (b) cumulative impact, (c) significant impact due to unusual circumstances, (d) impacts to scenic highways, (e) activities within a hazardous waste site, and (f) significant adverse change to the significance of a historical resource. A Notice of Exemption will be filed with the Plumas County Clerk Recorder.

After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the description for the various classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA, Feather River RCD has determined that the project does not fit within the description for the various exemption classes or has found that exceptions exist at the project site which precludes the use of a Categorical Exemption for this project. Additional environmental review will be conducted and the appropriate CEQA document used may be a Negative Declaration or a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Spanish Creek Vegetation Management Project



3600 ft

4000 ft

3600 ft

3600 ft

3400 ft

Oakland Camp Rd

0 0.02 0.05 0.1 Miles