



COUNTY OF ALPINE
Community Development Department
50 Diamond Valley Road
Markleeville, CA 96120

Notice of Exemption

PROJECT TITLE	Sierra Pines Fuel Reduction		
PROJECT LOCATION	38.760899, -119.817751	COUNTY	Alpine
LEAD AGENCY	Alpine County		
CONTACT	Sam Booth		
ADDRESS	50 Diamond Valley Road, Markleeville, CA 96120	Phone	(530) 694-2140

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is located within the community of Woodfords, California. The project area is an 88 acre treatment area encompassed by Upper Manzanita Dr, Zellmer Ln, Hawkins Ranch Rd, and the Sierra Pines Mobile Home Park. The project area is dominated by native sagebrush habitat of California Wildlife Habitat Relationship (CWHR) Shrub Size 3 and Canopy Closure M. The proposed project will reduce the continuity of sagebrush in effort to reduce hazardous fuel loading and arrangement such that the flame length, intensity, rate of spread, and duration of potential wildfire is reduced.

The proposed project will 1) Utilize mechanical mastication to reduce the extent of sagebrush on site, targeting 85-90% of the sage for mastication, 2) leave remaining sagebrush in a discontinuous, mosaic fashion at least 15 feet from the dripline of any conifer such that residual shrubs will not contribute to horizontal or vertical fuels, 3) lop and scatter of nominal dead and dying conifers through hand operations with assistance from machinery, and 4) prune the scattered 6" to 22" DBH Jeffrey Pine present within the project area to a minimum height of 10 feet as measured from the lowest live green limb to the top of the surface fuels.

Live riparian hardwood and other riparian species will be retained and left unaltered. Conifer Snags 16"+ DBH and over 20 feet tall shall be retained at a minimum rate of 2 per acre where they exist in the preharvest stand provided they do not pose a safety risk during and following operations. The desired, post treatment stand conditions will not contribute to initiating or sustaining a crown fire and will have projected flame lengths of less than 2-4 feet in the surface fuels, with increased resilience to wildfire. The resulting stand would appear well thinned with the primary carrier of the fire being leaves and/or grasses. The proposed action will effectively reduce hazardous fuels within the project area.

EXEMPTION STATUS

Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class 4 15304 Minor Alterations to Land

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under Categorical Exemption: 15304 Minor Alterations to 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 of waters. The 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 hydrology and water and soil resources to prevent significant erosion or sedimentation of waters. The project, as designed, is consistent with the use of a Categorical Exemption.

Field review by County staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of

exemption for this project. The County has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland or 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, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation or traffic, utilities and service systems or to wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at the Alpine County Community Development Department, 50 Diamond Valley Road, Markleeville, CA 96120.

Date Received For Filing at OPR: _____

Date: 3/19/25 _____ Signed: 

Sam Booth
Community Development Director
50 Diamond Valley Road
Markleeville, CA 96120