



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

2019100171

PROJECT TITLE	Western Klamath Landscape Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	Private lands in the middle reach of the Klamath River (west of Weitchpec to Hornbrook) including small tracts in the Salmon River watershed.	COUNTY	Siskiyou/Humboldt
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Matthew Reischman CAL FIRE-Sacramento		
ADDRESS	1416 Ninth Street Sacramento, CA 94244-2460	PHONE	916-653-9447

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Western Klamath Landscape Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project will establish new fire lines and fuel breaks and maintain existing fuel breaks that have been constructed over the past 15 years. Shaded fuel breaks will be created directly adjacent to residences and roads. Hand crew and mechanical treatments will include thinning small diameter trees (6 " dbh or less), pruning of lower limbs, removal of undergrowth and removal of deadwood. The project will utilize prescribed fire to reduce fuel loads after hand treatments are completed.

The project will enhance the sequestration of carbon and storage of GHG emissions by reducing the extent of moderate to high fire intensity wildfires. The project area is currently overstocked with conifers due to the previous systematic approach to fire suppression. The application of prescribed fire will help to reduce stand density and restore ecological processes, encourage native plant biodiversity, reduce fuel loads, and enhance cultural botanical and wildlife species. Active management following project implementation will maintain a significant firebreak that will assist CAL FIRE, Forest Service, local fire departments, and landowners in managing threatening wildfires in the future. The project reduces the risk of large, severe fires through fuels management around residential structures, homes, and escape routes.

The project goal is to protect the communities, cultural resources, and Tribal cultural species on cooperating lands. Similar goals are being pursued on surrounding National Forest lands in cooperation with Mid-Klamath Watershed Center, Karuk Tribe, the Nature Conservancy and other partners. The project is designed to modify fuels in strategic locations to protect forestlands from uncharacteristically large wildfire and to reduce fine sediment yields to the Klamath River as a result of catastrophic fire.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class 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

This project fits within the descriptions of Class 4 Categorical Exemptions described in CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR §15304) pertaining to Minor Alterations to Land. This project will not have a significant effect on the environment and is exempt from the provisions of CEQA.

Field review confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, 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/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 94244

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DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING


Matthew S. Reischman, Assistant Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

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