



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Trinity Community Resilience Project (5GG17203)		
PROJECT LOCATION	Portions of Section 31 on T34N, R10W; and portions of Section 06 on T33N R09W; Mt. Diablo Meridian. The project is directly adjacent to the community of Weaverville, CA.	COUNTY	Trinity
PUBLIC AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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ADDRESS	875 Cypress Ave., Redding, CA 96001	PHONE	530-225-2413

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Watershed Research and Training Center (WRTC), plans to implement understory broadcast burning and fuel reduction activities on approximately 113 acres of private land in Weaverville, CA. Pre-burn fuel treatments to minimize fire intensities, especially along control lines and adjacent to critical infrastructure, will occur where necessary within the project area. Pre-fire treatments include fuels reduction in the form of hand thinning (with chainsaws) to remove suppressed trees (less than 8" DBH) and brush/shrubs in strategic locations. Residual materials will be treated by piling and burning, chipping, and/or lop and scatter. Burn units are subdivided by natural features on the landscape (roads, watercourses, trails etc.) to facilitate control efforts and manage smoke impacts based on burn day smoke dispersion. All handlines were established during previous fire suppression efforts, using these, along with the weaverbasin trail system, no new control lines will need to be constructed. Broadcast burning will be implemented during appropriate environmental conditions that will allow us to meet our resource objectives as per the prescribed fire burn plan. Burns will be conducted using hand ignition and other standard prescribed fire methods. Burn prescriptions would aim to reduce surface fuel loading 25-85% and understory woody vegetative cover by 15-65% from pre-burn levels. Implementation will be in the form of a burn with partners from CAL FIRE, USFS, Trinity RCD, and the Weaverville Volunteer Fire Departments. Objectives include; reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire, stimulating the growth of woody shrubs, oaks, and conifers, increasing water yields, meadow and oak restoration, encouraging the return of native grasses by reducing non-natives invasive plants, reducing conifer encroachment into the oak woodland and grassland areas.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 § 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

Field review confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The project consists of minor treatments to land and vegetation in the form of hand thinning and understory broadcast burning via hand crews. The activities do not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species, or sedimentation to surface waters. This project will not convert forestland to non-forest uses, and all treated vegetation will have the ability to grow back. 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, utilities and service systems, or to wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at 875 Cypress Ave., Redding, CA 96001.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Matthew Reischman

11/5/2020

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