

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



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

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	National Forest Foundation, "Lava Mountain Forest Health Project"		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Mammoth Lakes and Mono Lake Ranger Districts, Inyo National Forest	<b>COUNTY</b>	Mono
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>LEAD AGENCY CONTACT</b>	Shannon Johnson, Staff Chief PO Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460 shannon.johnson@fire.ca.gov	<b>PHONE</b>	530-338-8197
<b>PROJECT PROPONENT</b>	National Forest Foundation		
<b>PROJECT PROPONENT CONTACT</b>	Sophie Castleton, Eastern Sierra & Great Basin Program Manager 27 Fort Missoula Road Ste 3, Missoula, MT 59804 scastleton@nationalforests.org	<b>PHONE</b>	442-888-4599

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

CAL FIRE is providing funding to the National Forest Foundation to restore up to 2,062 acres through commercial thinning, mechanical and manual fuels reduction, prescribed burning, and biomass removal forest health treatment activities. These treatments will occur within the Inyo National Forest along the Mammoth Scenic Loop and near the June Mountain community in Mono County and will reduce wildfire risks to local resources and community members, promote native plant and wildlife species, address overcrowding and pest infestations, and improve forest resiliency.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class
- Statutory Exemption (state code section): Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)(1)
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

**REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT**

CEQA does not apply to fuel reduction, reforestation, & habitat restoration projects undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the NEPA, if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The proposed project was reviewed under the (1) Three Creeks Jeffrey Pine Forest Health & Restoration Project NEPA EA & DN-FONSI, signed January 26, 2018, (2) June Mountain Ski Area Vegetation Management Planning Project NEPA EA & DN-FONSI, signed June 8, 2012, and (3) Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project NEPA EA & DN-FONSI, signed September 19, 2024. NEPA coverage for this project is 68,747 acres, with initial treatments at 2,062 acres.

The NEPA record of project approval is available to the General Public at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r05/invo/projects>

DocuSigned by:  John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director Resource Management California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	9/8/2025 Date
--	------------------