Print Form

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

County Clerk
County of: MENDOCINO
501 LOW GAP RD., UKIAH, CA 95482

From: (Public Agency): MENDOCINO COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
115 EAST SMITH ST., UKIAH, CA 95482
(Address)

Project Title: North Bay Forest Improvement Program - Michael Norris

Project Applicant: Michael Norris

Project Location - Specific:

APN: 147-065-140; 147-065-110; 147-065-250; 147-065-120, T17N, R14W, Section 11

Project Location - City: Willits Project Location - County: Mendocino

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Approximately 7.4 acres are to be treated and split into 2 units. *Project objective is to improve wildfire resiliency and enhance the overall health of the forest.* The treatment will include understory thinning, pruning treatment, and follow up slash treatment for both units. This prescription targets overstocked tanoak-dominated hardwood-conifer stands. It will remove at least 90% of all trees ≤4" DBH, 60% of all tree 4–10" DBH, and 100% of dead stems ≤12" DBH. All residual trees ≥20 feet in height shall be pruned from ground level to a height of 8–10 feet, maintaining at least 50% of the live crown to ensure tree vigor is not compromised. Project generated slash shall be placed in approximately 6-foot-wide (diameter) by 5-foot-high piles on the adjacent road or landing for later burning. Larger pieces (greater than or equal to 6 inches in diameter at the small end) may be left if in direct contact with the ground and located away from the boles of any residual trees.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: MENDOCINO COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Michael Norris

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 Minor Alterations to Land
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land. The exemption applies to fuel management activities including pruning, slash abatement, and understory thinning to reduce hazardous fuels. The project is exempt because the planned activities meet the definition of "forestry" in Public Resources Code §753, and have been reviewed and approved by a Registered Professional Forester in consultation with experts from other pertinent fields. Project activities will not involve the removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees, and will not result in a substantial alteration of the current function of the land. The project will reduce hazardous fuels, improve species composition, and promote forest resilience without changing the overall land use or function of the site. Project-specific review has determined that no significant environmental effects will occur, with adequate measures provided for protection of sensitive resources. Project-specific analysis is on file at the Resource Conservation District.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Adam Coleman Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (707) 462-3664 Ext. 102

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: [signature] Date: 10/03/2025 Title: Forestry Project Manager

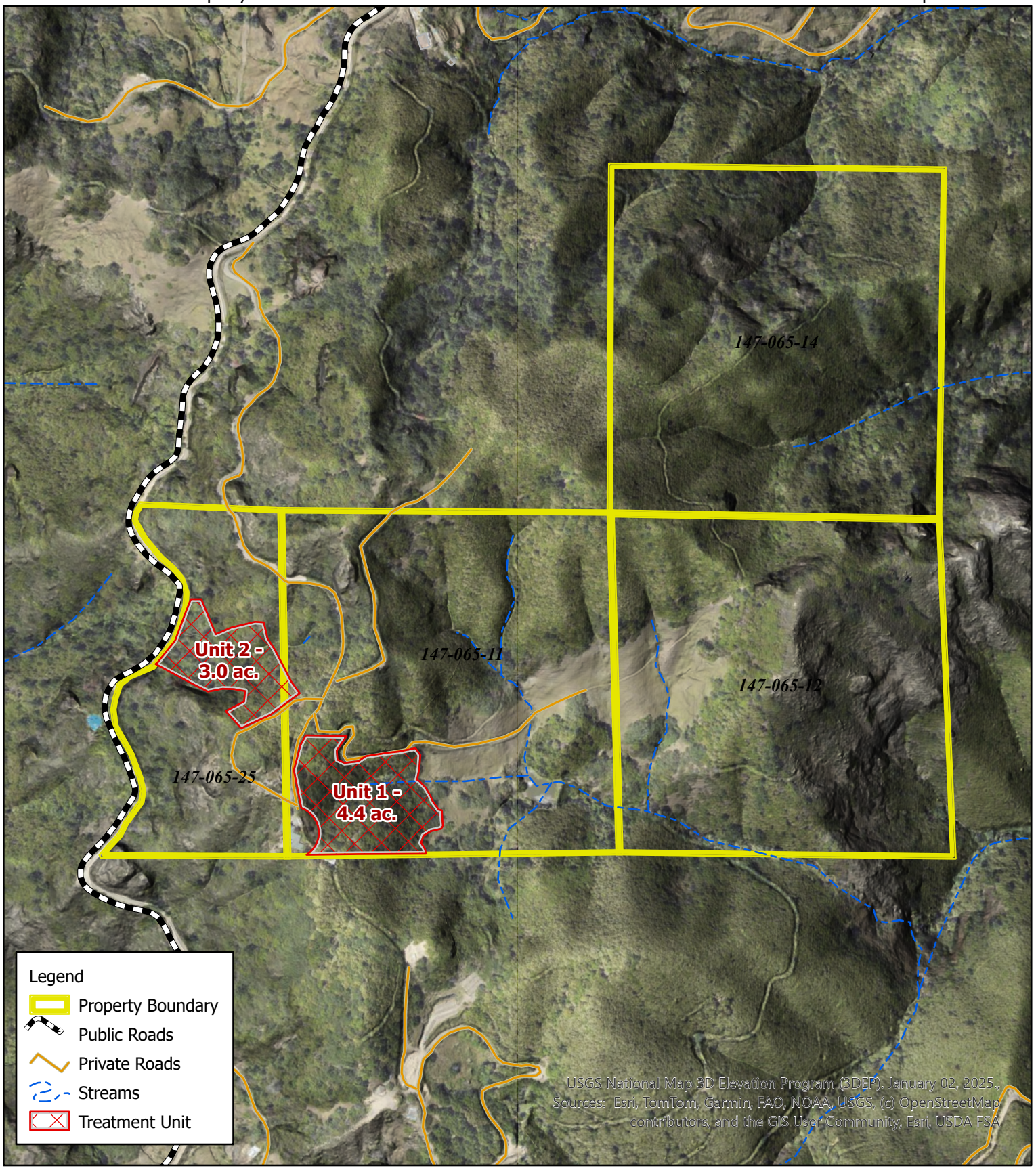
Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

3881 Williams Ranch Road

Client: M. Norris Property Size: 135 acres Location: Willits Map: TREATMENT



Resource Conservation District
Mendocino County

Disclaimer Language
Maps prepared for informational purposes only. Image depicts a combination of publicly available data and observations made of on-the-ground conditions at the time of the site visit. No liability is assumed for the accuracy of the information or data displayed. All lines are approximate.

0 250 500 1,000 1,500
Feet

Scale is 1:6,000 1 inch = 500 feet 10/03/2025

N