

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



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

PROJECT TITLE	Butte Unit Station 35 Fuels Reduction Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	Station 35 1464 Forest Service Rd. Paradise, CA 95969	COUNTY	Butte
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Calvin Davison, Environmental Scientist	PHONE	(530) 815-1376
ADDRESS	2535 Zanella Way Chico, CA 95928		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will reduce fuels and control the spread of invasive broom on an approximately 11-acre CAL FIRE parcel in the Town of Paradise. The parcel is located off Forest Service Rd. and Moore Rd in the northern end of Paradise, Butte County. This parcel is forested with a maximum slope of 16% and an elevation of around 2100'. The project area is located within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, which identifies this area of high risk for large scale wildland fires. The project area was impacted in the 2018 Camp Fire. This high severity burn caused an explosion of invasive woody perennials on the station's parcel that this project intends to mitigate. This project will utilize herbicide application with the intent to control woody perennials and eradicate invasive broom species (Genista monspessulana, Cytisus scoparius and Spartium junceum). All three broom species have a California Invasive Plant Council rating of high. These species have severe ecological impacts on physical processes, plant and animal communities, and vegetation structure as well as attributes that are conducive to moderate to high rates of dispersal and establishment. Treatment methods will include hand cutting, heavy equipment operation, mastication, herbicide application, burn unit preparation and burning. Hand cutting will be conducted using hand tools and chainsaws to thin live trees, remove hazard and down trees, and remove ladder fuels. Live trees greater than 16 in DBH will be reviewed by an RPF or designee prior to removal. Felled trees may be moved offsite by heavy equipment, no commercialization of forest products will occur. Herbicide application will be applied in accordance with applicable Department of Pesticide Regulations. Cut vegetation may be chipped, lopped and scattered, broadcast burned or piled and burned. Existing fire control lines will be maintained, and additional may be implemented as necessary to ensure safe operations.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class 4 § 15304 - Minor Alterations to Land
Class 1 § 1662.1 - Existing Facilities
- 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 under portions of Class 4 § 15304 - Minor alterations to Land, and Class 1 § 1662.1 Existing Facilities. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that 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 or 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 or traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE Office, 2535 Zanella Way, Chico CA 95928.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Signed by: _____ <small>28E8C3BCF01E4BC...</small>	10/20/2025 _____ Date
George Morris III, Northern Region Chief California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	