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: Trinity

**From:** (Public Agency): Trinity County Resource Conservation District
30 Horseshoe Lane
Weaverville, CA, 96093
(Address)

Project Title: GreaterWillow Creek Post Fire Disaster Recovery Project

Project Applicant: Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Project Location - Specific:
Salyer, Trinity County, California (Project Map Attached)

Project Location - City: Salyer Project Location - County: Trinity

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project will conduct hazardous fuels reduction to support post-fire recovery, forest health, and wildfire/forest resiliency. The project occurs in the Six Rivers Lightning Complex (2022) wildfire footprint. Treatments will vary based on conditions present and location-specific objectives, but will generally include removing hazardous vegetation, including brush and small-diameter trees, to increase horizontal spacing and eliminate vertical continuity of fuels.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Trinity County Resource Conservation District

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: Section 15304, Class 4
- ☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: General Rule exemption, Guidelines section 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15304. Pursuant to Section 15304, Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations of vegetation that do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. The project involves the removal of small-diameter understory trees and brush species to reduce the vertical and horizontal continuity of forest fuels. The trees being removed are in a suppressed state or damaged and are not considered healthy. The project includes a range of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to assure no significant adverse environmental impacts would occur. Review by Trinity County Resource Conservation District staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. No significant adverse effects were identified during the evaluation process. Therefore, the General Rule exemption also would apply.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Skylar Fisher Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-623-6004

**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: Kelly D Sheen Digitally signed by Kelly D Sheen Date: 2026.01.29 14:16:01 -08'00' Date: 1/29/2026 Title: Executive Director

▪ 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: _____

# Notice of Exemption

## Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Post Office Box 1450 · 30 Horseshoe Lane · Weaverville, CA 96093-1450

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

Trinity County Clerk-Recorder
11 Court St.
Weaverville, CA 96093

**From:** Trinity County Resource
Conservation District
P.O. Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093-1450

**Project Title:** Greater Willow Creek Post Fire Disaster Recovery Project
**Project Location – Specific**: Willow Creek and Salyer, CA **County:** Trinity County

**Lead Agency:** Trinity County Resource Conservation District (The District)
**Lead Person:** Skylar Fisher **Email:** sfisher@tcrcd.net **Telephone:** 530-623-6004

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:**
The project will conduct hazardous fuels reduction to support post-fire recovery, forest health, and wildfire/forest resiliency. The project occurs in the Six Rivers Lightning Complex (2022) wildfire footprint. Treatments will vary based on conditions present and location-specific objectives, but will generally include removing hazardous vegetation, including brush and small-diameter trees, to increase horizontal spacing and eliminate vertical continuity of fuels. Hazardous fuels treatments will include: chipping, lop and scatter, or pile and burn. These treatments will reduce wildfire risks to local resources and community members, improve forest health, and promote resilience in natural ecosystem services. Worksites will be located throughout the greater Willow Creek and Salyer areas over a project area of approximately 270.3 acres and will occur periodically throughout a 1-year timeframe (through December 2026).

The treatment objective is to reduce hazard trees and surface, ladder, and canopy fuel continuity in order to lower wildfire ignition potential and fire intensity, support post-fire forest recovery and minor reforestation. Treatments will include hand thinning of brush, shrubs, and trees up to 10 inches DBH, targeting dead, dying, burned, suppressed, diseased, or poor vegetation, while retaining healthy trees at approximately 20–25 foot spacing adjusted for site conditions. Hazard trees of any size that are dead, dying, diseased, fire-damaged, or structurally compromised and pose a risk to people, structures, roads, trails, or critical infrastructure will be removed consistent with CAL FIRE exemptions, and will be designated by an RPF. Selective removal of intermediate trees greater than 10 inches DBH may occur where trees are damaged, suppressed, diseased, or contribute to ladder fuels and vertical fuel continuity, with the objective of raising canopy base height and reducing crown fire potential. Healthy, fire-resistant species and native hardwoods will be favored for retention, and no trees with active nests, dens, or listed species habitat will be removed without CDFW approval. Ladder fuel reduction will include pruning retained trees and brush to 10–15 feet above ground or one-third of the canopy height, whichever is greater, without compromising tree health or stability. Operations will utilize hand tools, chainsaws, brush cutters, weed whackers, chippers, and limited mastication only within specified parcels and locations; no heavy equipment will be used outside existing roads, landings, or stable infrastructure, and winching or long-lining will be conducted only from stable infrastructure. Vegetative material will be treated through chipping, lop-and-scatter, or piling and burning: chips may be broadcast, piled, or hauled offsite with a maximum depth of 18 inches; slash will be lopped to maintain an average depth under 18 inches, arranged to maximize soil contact, kept away from the base of retained trees, prohibited within 100 feet of

structures, and material greater than 10 inches DBH will be limbed and sectioned; stump height will not exceed five inches on the upslope side. Burn piles will not exceed 4x4, will contain only clean vegetative material, will not be placed within tree driplines, will be covered with waxed paper, and will be burned only in compliance with applicable CAL FIRE residential or general burn permits.

**Exempt Status:** (check one)

☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304, Class 4

☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: General Rule exemption, Guidelines section 15061(b)(3)

☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)

☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))

☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The proposed project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15304. Pursuant to Section 15304, Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations of vegetation that do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. The project involves the removal of small-diameter understory trees and brush species to reduce the vertical and horizontal continuity of forest fuels. The trees being removed are in a suppressed state or damaged and are not considered healthy. The project includes a range of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to assure no significant adverse environmental impacts would occur.

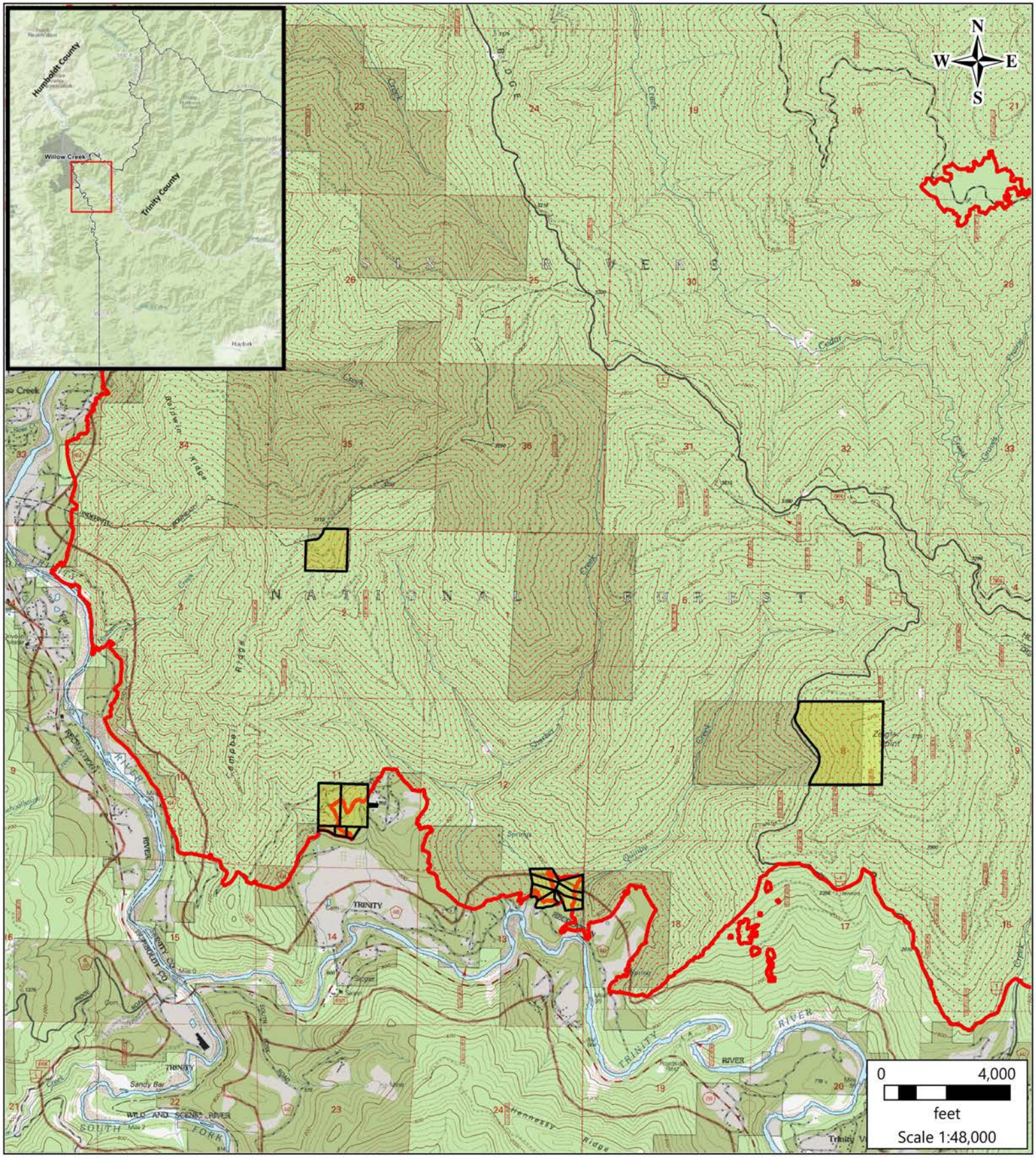
Review by Trinity County Resource Conservation District staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. No significant adverse effects were identified during the evaluation process. Therefore, the General Rule exemption also would apply.

**Date Received / Posted Through**

Kelly D Sheen Digitally signed by Kelly D Sheen
Date: 2026.01.29 14:19:08 -08'00'

Kelly Sheen Date
Executive Director
Trinity County Resource Conservation District

# Willow Creek Post-Fire Disaster Recovery Project
## Notice of Exemption - Trinity County Project Area Overview




**Legend**

- Notice of Exemption Parcels
- USDA Six Rivers Lightning Complex Wildfire Perimeter

Total Treatment Area: 270.30 Acres


TCRCD

Notice of Exemption
Trinity County Resource Conservation District
Post Office Box 1450 · 30 Horseshoe Lane · Weaverville, CA 96093-1450