



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Yreka Community-BLM Protection Fuels Reduction - Good Neighbor Authority		
PROJECT LOCATION	Township 45N, Range 07W, Sections 3,10, 11 and 21. East of Hawkinsville and Yreka, CA.	COUNTY	Siskiyou
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Siskiyou Unit		
CONTACT	Kristine Cloward	PHONE	(530) 598-2693
ADDRESS	1809 Fairlane Road, Yreka CA 96097		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE will implement and maintain up to 173 acres of linear fuel breaks on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands near Yreka and Hawkinsville in Siskiyou County, consistent with the NEPA decision listed below. The project is intended to reduce wildfire risk to firefighters, residents, and natural resources by creating defensible space along roads and nearby homes. Fuel breaks will be constructed up to 200 feet in width from roadsides and property boundaries. Implementation methods will include the use of wheeled or tracked mastication equipment, hand cutting using power saws, piling using equipment or hand crews, chipping of cut material on-site, and burning of piles on-site. Vegetation to be removed or modified will be standing or fallen dead vegetation, selective thinning of live shrubs and trees less than 8 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) and mowing or weed-eating ground fuels. Fuel breaks will generally be designed to achieve approximately 30-foot stem spacing, subject to site-specific conditions. Treatment width, configuration, and methods may vary based on slope, access constraints, riparian buffer requirements, cultural resource avoidance areas, and other site-specific considerations. Access to the project sites would use established roads and trails; no new permanent construction would be allowed.

Under 16 UCS 2113a, the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) enables CAL FIRE to use its standard procedures, policies, and contracting mechanisms to accomplish authorized restoration work on federal lands and adjacent private lands included in the associated NEPA analysis. For this project, work will be consistent with the "Good Neighbor Authority Agreement; Statewide Framework" signed 6/15/2023.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section:
- 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

The proposed project is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with the provisions in Public Resources Code 4799.05(d)(1). It states: "Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) does not apply to prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel reduction projects, or to related activities included in the project description, undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the federal National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 4321 et seq.) if either of the following is satisfied: (A) The primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. (B) A state or local agency is undertaking those projects pursuant to the federal Good Neighbor Authority (Public Law 113-79) 1 or a stewardship agreement with the federal government entered pursuant to Public Law 113-79." All work coordinated in conjunction with the Redding BLM Field Office Staff are included in the *Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) DOI-BLM-CA-N060-2020-0028-DNA Yreka Community Protection Fuels Reduction* NEPA decision. This decision can be found here: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/Documents/?id=2ed210bf-a7f2-f011-8407-001dd803d067&spid=3c73426e-a8f2-f011-8407-001dd803dca7>. The Good Neighbor Authority Agreement is kept on file at the Sacramento Headquarters Office at 715 P St. Sacramento, CA 95814.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Signed by: George Morris III 3/9/2026
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George Morris III – Northern Region Chief Date
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection