



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Fort Jones Fuel Reduction Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	East of HWY 3 adjacent to Fort Jones. Portions of Section 01, Township 43N, Range 09W, Section 36, Township 44N, Range 09W, and Section 02, Township 43N, Range 09W, MDBM	COUNTY	Siskiyou
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT ADDRESS	Kristine Cloward, Environmental Scientist, CALFIRE/SKU 1809 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097	PHONE	(530) 598-2693

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project includes treatment of hazardous fuels on 325 acres of private land within and around the town of Fort Jones in Siskiyou County, including areas adjacent to State Route 3. The project includes establishment of a shaded fuel break up to 500 feet in width along a ridgeline complex on the east side of Fort Jones, as well as fuel reduction within densely vegetated areas extending from the eastern edge of Fort Jones up to the slope break. The project will reduce hazardous surface, ladder and crown fuels to improve ingress and egress for emergency responders, facilitate homeowner evacuations, and provide anchor points for wildfire suppression activities. Treatments will include thinning and removal of brush and trees less than 10 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) to achieve approximately 30-foot spacing between trees. Remaining trees will be limbed to approximately 8 to 12 feet above the ground, as appropriate. Dead, dying, diseased, or hazard trees of any size may also be removed. Treatments will be conducted using manual and mechanical methods including chainsaws, masticators, chippers, and machine piling. Removed vegetation will be chipped, masticated, or hand piled and burned. Following initial treatment, broadcast burning may be conducted. Existing roads, trails, and dozer lines within the project area will be used as control lines to the greatest extent possible. Where necessary, a dozer may be used to construct or reestablish control lines. Water bars or other drainage features will be installed as necessary to minimize erosion. Following initial treatments, maintenance activities will be conducted as needed to maintain desired vegetation conditions within the project area.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class 4 §15304(b), Minor Alterations to Land
- ☐ 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 meets the requirements of CEQA Article 19 Class 4, Categorical Exemption "Minor Alterations of Land" (§15304, Public Resources Code). 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/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, populations and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/ traffic, utilities and service systems, or to wildfire. No exceptions apply (Section 15300.2) which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE Siskiyou Unit Headquarters located at 1809 Fairlane Road in Yreka, CA 96097.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Signed by:

George Morris III

3/26/2026

George Morris III – Northern Region Chief

Date

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection