

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 - 67465 Elkhorn Ranch LLC

Project Applicant: Amy Rouse

Project Location - Specific:

APN: 011-900-4800, 011-900-4900, 033-120-4500; T24N, R16W Sections 9, 10, 15, 16; T22N, R14W Section 17

Project Location - City: Laytonville Project Location - County: Mendocino

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Approximately 15.5 acres will be treated for forest health and wildfire risk across 4 treatment units, plus a 25-acre reforestation treatment in a 5th unit. Project objective is to improve forest health, reduce wildfire risk, and improve hardwood forest conditions. Units 1-4, totaling 15.5 acres, will focus on thinning and fuel reduction treatments to improve forest health and increase wildfire resilience. Treatments will prioritize retention and protection of deciduous oaks. Trees and brush located beneath deciduous oak driplines or within 20 feet of the dripline will be thinned to reduce competition and support oak vigor. The majority of trees targeted for removal will be Douglas-fir ≤ 8 inches DBH. Resulting slash will be piled and burned. Desired future conditions for Units 1-4 include improved spacing among residual trees, reduced Douglas-fir dominance, increased vigor of retained deciduous oaks, and reduced horizontal and vertical fuel continuity across the stand. Reforestation will occur within Unit 5, which encompasses approximately 25 acres on APN 033-120-4500 (40-acre parcel). This unit will focus on establishing and promoting a new cohort of hardwoods. A total of 12 MacNab cypress will be planted, and approximately 30 existing deciduous oak seedlings will be caged to protect against herbivory and support successful recruitment. Desired future conditions for unit 5 include expansion of hardwood forest conditions, variable spacing among trees, and establishment of a young cohort of deciduous oaks to serve as the next age class.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Amy Rouse

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 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. These experts have attested that the activities proposed in this project will only have the potential for impacts that are, at most, less than significant to the environment, with adequate measures provided to avoid sensitive environmental resources. 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. Project-specific analysis is on file at the Resource Conservation District.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Ned Formaker Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (707) 472-9970

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: 04/03/2026 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:

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Revised 2011

POSTED FROM 4/13/2026 TO 5/14/2026

Forest Health and Fuel Reduction Units





Client: Rouse

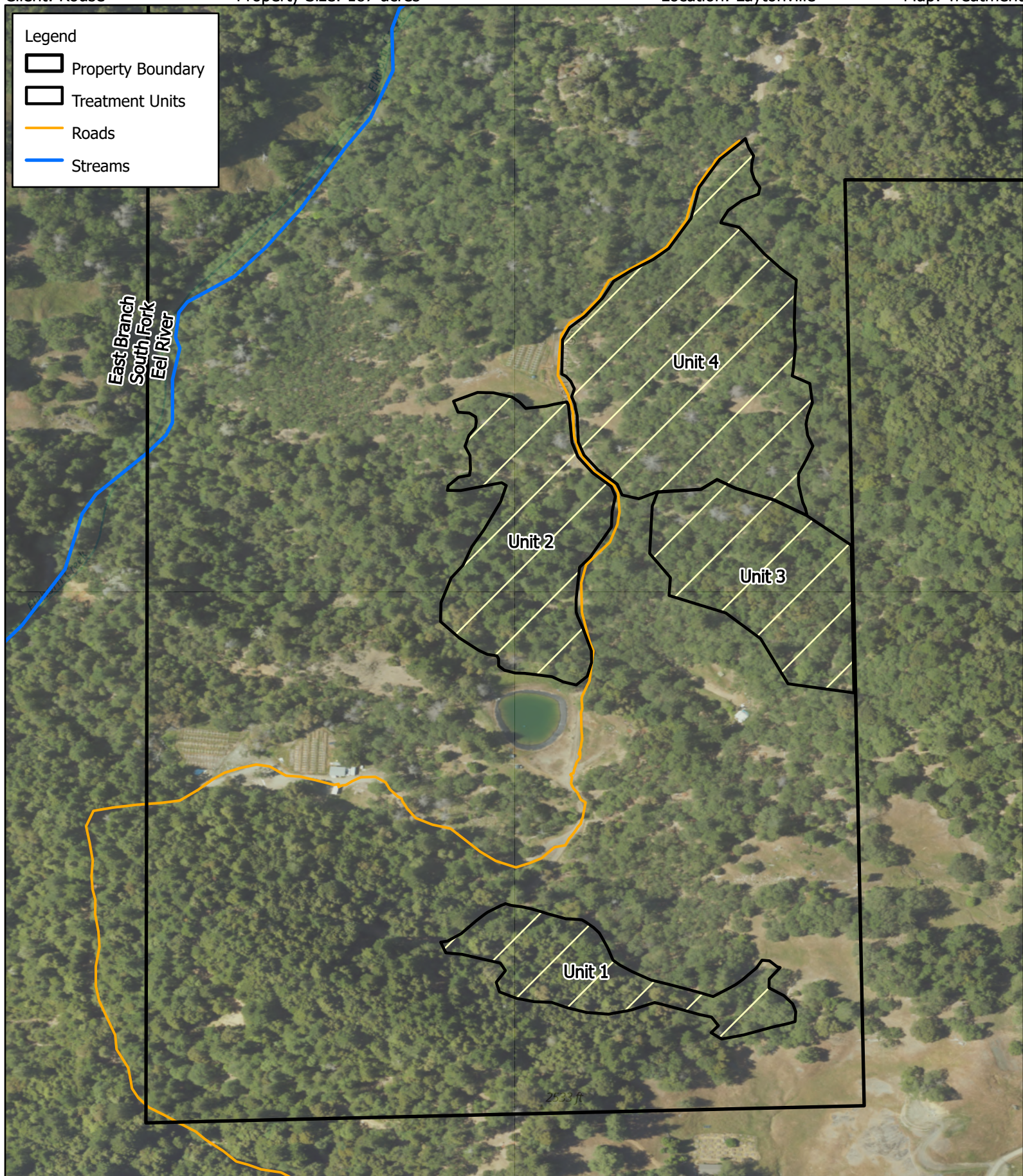
Property Size: 187 acres

Location: Laytonville

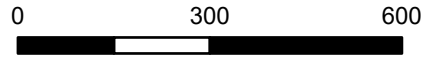
Map: Treatment

Legend

-  Property Boundary
-  Treatment Units
-  Roads
-  Streams



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.



Scale is 1:3,600

Feet
1 inch = 300 feet

April 3rd, 2026



Reforestation Units





Client: Rouse

Property Size: 40 acres

Location: Laytonville

Map: Treatment

Legend

-  Property Boundary
-  Treatment Units
-  Roads
-  Streams

