

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



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

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Bishop and Pine Creek Fuels Reduction		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Townships 6-8S, Ranges 30-31E	<b>COUNTY</b>	Inyo
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) San Bernardino-Inyo-Mono Unit		
<b>CONTACT</b>	David Haas, Unit Forester		
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**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The primary purpose of this project is to provide defensible space to help protect structures and developments and provide safety for visitors and residents in the Bishop Creek and Pine Creek drainages in the event of a wildfire. An additional objective is to improve and protect the ecological health of the vegetation in the project area. The project should allow managers more flexibility to meet resource objectives to improve and maintain ecological health using wildfire away from the developed recreation areas and communities once they are buffered by a zone of sparser fuels. Defensible space and fuelbreaks are not intended to stop a fire, but to help reduce the fire intensity and provide a safer location for fire suppression forces to defend structures and control a fire if needed. Methods used will depend on vegetation types, terrain and the overall setting, including distance to homes or other development. The different methods that will be used are mowing, hand cutting, thinning, limbing, removal of dead and down, fuelwood collection, piling and burning, chipping, and seeding/planting native species.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption      Type and Section: Class
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):      Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)(1)
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(4); 15269(c))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

**REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT**

The California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to prescribed fire, thinning, or fuel reduction projects undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. CAL FIRE will commit staffing and associated internal funding to the implementation of this project. All proposed activities are included in the Inyo National Forest’s Decision Memo for the Bishop and Pine Creek Fuels Reduction Project signed January 23, 2018. The Decision Memo and associated documents are available for public review on the Inyo National Forest’s Proposed Projects Archive website or United States Forest Service’s Pinyon Public website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r05/inyo/projects/archive/42921>

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

DocuSigned by:  
  
 Mike Van Loben Sels, Southern Region Chief      Date  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection