Docusign Envelope ID: 463E1FEE-2FB1-8937-804C-523904AC60A4

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE	Community Protection – Central and West Slope Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	Portions of the Beckwourth, Feather River and Mt. Hough Ranger Districts in the Plumas National Forest	**COUNTY**	Plumas
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Glen Schall, Cal Fire Lassen-Modoc Unit Forester	**PHONE**	(530) 310-2208
ADDRESS	697-345 Highway 36, Susanville, CA 96130		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Community Protection – Central and West Slope Project is a U.S. Forest Service vegetation management project encompassing approximately 217,721 acres within the Plumas National Forest. CAL FIRE's involvement is anticipated to include implementation of vegetation treatments and prescribed fire to support efforts to reduce wildfire risk to State Responsibility Area (SRA) communities and critical infrastructure, improve wildfire resilience in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) and support community protection and suppression efforts. Project activities include manual and mechanical treatments and prescribed fire. Equipment that could be used for treatments may include chainsaws, harvesters, forwarders, skid steers, excavators, dozers, loaders, tow chippers, tracked chippers, masticators, feller/bunchers, rubber-tired skidders, as well as tractor-trailer equipment transporters. Methods for applying fire would include ground ignition using a drip torch or similar method, aerial ignition using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or helicopters, or a combination of both. Fire will only be used under specific weather and fuel conditions, and in accordance with regulations and notification outlined in the Environmental Assessment. Project implementation by CAL FIRE will be conducted in accordance with the U.S.F.S. Environmental Assessment and applicable project design features, mitigation measures, and approval conditions.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☐ Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class
- ☒ Statutory Exemption (state code section): PRC §4799.05(d)(4) – Projects on federal lands reviewed under NEPA
- ☐ 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 PRC §4799.05(d)(4). It is a CAL FIRE project on 217,721 acres of federal lands that have been analyzed under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). 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 NEPA if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. Project design features relevant to the proposed action as listed in the Environmental Assessment Community Protection – Central and West Slope Project, dated June 2025 and signed July 2025, will be implemented.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Signed by:
George Morris III
28E8C5BCF01E4BC...

7/29/2026

George Morris III, Northern Region Chief Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection