



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	The Watershed Research Training Center, "Southern Trinity Fire Resiliency Project" – USFS Pilot		
PROJECT LOCATION	South Fork Management Unit, Humboldt Meridian: T2N, R7E, Sec. 1-5, 9-12, 14-16, 22-26, and 36; T2N, R8E, Sec. 7, 8, 17, 18, 20, 21, 28, 30-33; T3N, R7E, Sec. 32-35. Mount Diablo Meridian: T31N, R12W, Sec. 18-21, and 28-30.	COUNTY	Trinity
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
LEAD AGENCY CONTACT	Shannon Johnson, Staff Chief PO Box 94426, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460 shannon.johnson@fire.ca.gov	PHONE	530-338-8197
PROJECT PROPONENT	The Watershed Research Training Center		
PROJECT PROPONENT CONTACT	Randi Paris, Forestry and Fuels Program Director Box 356 98 Clinic Avenue, Hayfork, CA 96041 randi@thewatershedcenter.com	PHONE	530-628-4206

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE is providing funding to The Watershed Research Training Center to implement treatments that include manual thinning, burning, and roadside chipping which are intended to reduce wildfire hazards along two strategically selected National Forest System Roads and the plantations found adjacent to these roads in Humboldt County. These activities will improve forest health, protect late successional forest, and help develop safe ingress and egress routes for residents, members of the public, and firefighters during a wildfire event.

EXEMPTION STATUS

☒ Statutory Exemption (state code section): Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)(1)

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

CEQA does not apply to fuel reduction, reforestation, & habitat restoration projects undertaken, in whole or in part, 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. The proposed project was reviewed under the Trinity County Collaborative – Roads and Plantations Pilot Project NEPA Final EA (March 2022) and DN-FONSI, signed May 18, 2022. NEPA coverage for this project is 4,000 acres, with initial treatments at 100 acres.

The NEPA record of project approval is available to the General Public at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r05/shasta-trinity/projects/46043>

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

John Melvin
John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director
Resource Management
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

9/28/2026

Date