

Notice of Determination

To: Office of Planning and Research <i>U.S. Mail:</i> P.O. Box 30441400 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 <i>Street Address:</i> Tenth St., Rm 113 Sacramento, CA 95814 Lead Agency, <i>if different from above</i> Public Agency: Humboldt County RCD Address: 5630 South Broadway, Eureka, CA 95503 Contact: Jill Demers, Executive Director Phone: (707)-296-3992 Email: jill@hcrd.org	From: Public Agency: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Address: P.O. Box 94426, Sacramento, CA 92444-2460 Contact: Shannon Johnson, Staff Chief Phone: (530) 338-8197 Email: shannon.johnson@fire.ca.gov Project Proponent, <i>if applicable</i> Title: Cottrell Ranch, LLC Address: P.O. Box 399, Fortuna, CA 95540 Contact: Leslie Moore, Member Phone: (707) 599-9080 Email: lmoore@saber.net
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SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resource Code.

State Clearinghouse Number: 2019012052

Project Title: The Butte Creek – Buck Mountain Project (2025-26)

Project Location: South of the unincorporated community Dinsmore, Humboldt County

Project Description: The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is providing funding to help implement vegetation treatments on State Responsibility Area (SRA) Lands south of the unincorporated community Dinsmore in Humboldt County, California. The Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (HCRCD) has prepared a Project Specific Analysis (PSA) and Addendum for the Butte Creek – Buck Mountain Project as a later activity covered by the California Vegetation Treatment Project (CalVTP) Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on June 11, 2026, which entails implementation of vegetation treatments on up to 6,414 acres; CAL FIRE is providing funding to Cottrell Ranch, LLC to implement treatments on up to 2,361 acres. The proposed treatment types (Ecological Restoration, WUI Fuel Reduction, and Fuel Break) and treatment activities (e.g., manual and mechanical treatments, prescribed burning, including both broadcast and pile burning, and herbicide application) are consistent with those evaluated in the CalVTP Program EIR and the writ of mandate issued by the Superior Court of San Diego County on November 14, 2025 in *California Chaparral Institute and Endangered Habitats League v. Board of Forestry and Fire Protection*, and pursuant to PRC §4483, and have been designed to avoid type conversion in areas where chaparral and/or coastal sage scrub plant communities may be present. Maintenance treatments would involve the same vegetation treatment types and activities used in the initial treatments. The purpose of these treatments is to promote forest and watershed health, reduce fuel load, and demonstrate efficacy of climate beneficial prescriptions.

This is to advise that CAL FIRE (☐ Lead Agency ☒ Responsible Agency) approved the above-described project on July 1, 2026, and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

1. The project will have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Program Environmental Impact Report (CalVTP Program EIR) was previously prepared (SCH# 2019012052) pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. A Project Specific Analysis (PSA) and Addendum was prepared for the Tenmile Creek Watershed Forest Health Project. This analysis determined the project is within the scope of the CalVTP Program EIR and consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(2).
4. The CalVTP Program EIR sufficiently analyzes and addresses potential environmental impacts from the project, and the project will not trigger any of the criteria requiring additional CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The project will not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of the significant environmental impacts identified in the CalVTP Program EIR.
4. Mitigation measures and standard project requirements from the CalVTP Program EIR were made a condition of the approval of the project; no new project specific mitigation measures are required.

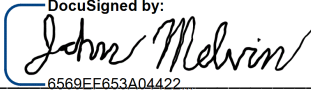
Dated Received for filing at OPR:

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21087, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

5. The implementation of applicable CalVTP Program EIR mitigation measures and standard project requirements will be monitored and reported pursuant to the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program that was adopted for this project.
6. The previous statement of overriding considerations in the CalVTP Program EIR was reaffirmed and adopted for this project by CAL FIRE.
7. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15091.

This is to certify that the Tenmile Creek Watershed Forest Health Project PSA and Addendum and record of project approval for the CalVTP Program EIR are available to the public on the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection webpage with the environmental documentation associated with individual approved CalVTP projects: <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/calvtp-homepage-and-storymap/>.

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

Date: 7/1/2026