



## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Forward Fuelbreak (Formerly Hazen Forward Fuelbreak) Project Number: GT-151-TGU-002		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Approximately 4 miles southeast from the community of Manton, CA along the north side of Forward Road within Portions of Sections 31 & 32 T30N-R2E MDBM	<b>COUNTY</b>	Tehama
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Adam Wyman, Forester II	<b>PHONE</b>	(530) 528-5106
<b>ADDRESS</b>	604 Antelope Blvd. Red Bluff, CA 96080		

**Project Description**

The goal of this project is to reduce hazardous fuel profiles within the Wildland/Urban Interface Defense Zone and to improve fire protection to existing timberlands within a 100 foot distance along the north side of Forward Road, a paved County Road in eastern Tehama County. Fuel treatments will be applied along a 1.5 mile segment of the road which is located in Eastern Tehama County. Specific objectives of this project are to reduce surface and ladder fuel loadings and modify fuel spacing arrangement, density and type within the project area in order to create a more fire-safe landscape. All work will be conducted by Cal Fire inmate hand crews using hand tools and chainsaws. Hand crews will create the fuel break by cutting excess conifers, brush and downed trees, and pruning the ponderosa pine leave trees. The crews will cut, pile and burn excess fuels. No broadcast burning is proposed. Leave trees will have their branches pruned up to 8' above ground level resulting in a minimum live crown cover of 50%. The project area contains no permanent or intermittent watercourse channels.

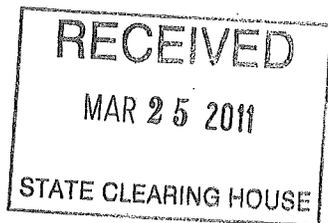
**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 (e) Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

**REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT**

Public Resources Code, Division 13, Chapter 6, Article 19, Section 15304 allows minor alteration of vegetation including fuel management activities to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation, provided the activities do not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant/animal species, or cause significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. Minimal ground disturbance is expected as all work will be done utilizing hand crews. No heavy equipment will be used on the project. A current CNDDDB search was conducted. The project as proposed will not have a negative impact upon any listed species of plant or animal with potential to be found within the project area. A current Archaeological records check was obtained and the project area was surveyed by Senior State Archaeologist. No sites were identified. Native American Inquiry letters were sent to Tribal Members on the current contact list. This project as proposed is not expected to result in a significant impact on the environment. Field review by Cal Fire staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project as documented. The Department's findings are that no significant environmental impacts would occur as a result of this project. Supporting documentation of the environmental review completed by Cal Fire is kept on file at Cal Fire's Tehama-Glenn Unit Headquarters.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**



William E. Snyder, Deputy Director 3/22/11  
Date