



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Ishi Crew Exercises	
PROJECT LOCATION	Wildland located within property owned by the Paynes Creek Sportsman Club, approximately 4 miles east of Ishi Conservation Camp near the community of Paynes Creek, CA. There is no street address: the legal description is Northeast portion of Section 1, T28N-R1E and Southeast portion of Section 36, T29N-R1E, MDBM along with adjacent administrative access in Sections 2,3,4; T28N, R1E, MDBM.	COUNTY Tehama
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)	
CONTACT	Adam Wyman, Forester II	PHONE
ADDRESS	604 Antelope Blvd. Red Bluff, CA 96080	(530) 528-5106

Project Description

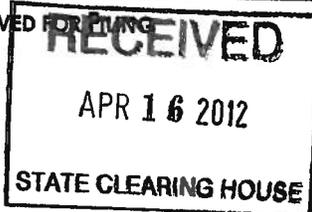
Ishi Crew Exercise: The purpose of the exercise is to evaluate fire preparedness for CAL FIRE hand crews. The exercise takes place during 4 days in May, allowing participating crews to rotate through various activities. The activities consist of crew inspections during tool up and fire shelter deployment, a 4-mile crew hike, and fireline construction. The fireline construction will clear approximately 3 acres of chaparral, in strips, distributed within a brush patch in Section 36 and Section 1. The fire line construction consists of cutting brush with chainsaws and axes, and scraping the ground to bare soil using hand tools. The project also includes the utilization of existing unpaved roads by crew busses. Areas used for crew unloading and inspections will be in existing grassy flats suitable for parking. The hiking area will be along a 4-mile route over hills and across dry watercourses. Trail construction will not be needed. There will be no soil disturbance or vegetation removal in the tool-up, inspection or hiking areas.

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 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. For this project, all work will be done by hand crews. No heavy equipment will be used on the project. No watercourses are present within the disturbance area. A current CNDDDB search was conducted, which resulted in no rare, threatened or endangered species or any species of special concern to be found within the disturbance area. The project as proposed is not expected to result in a negative impact upon any listed species of plant or animal with a potential to be found on the project area. A current Archaeological records check (I.C. W12-50 dated March 3, 2012) was obtained and reviewed by a CAL FIRE Archaeologist. An archaeological field survey was performed on March 14, 2012 and no cultural features or materials were found. Field review by CAL FIRE staff members confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department's findings are that no significant environmental impacts would occur as a result of this project. Documentation on the environmental review completed by CAL FIRE is kept on file at CAL Fire's Tehama-Glenn Unit Headquarters. This project as proposed is not expected to result in a significant impact on the environment.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



William E. Snyder, Deputy Director 4/12/12
Date