



State of California
 The Natural Resources Agency
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE: Las Posadas Demonstration State Forest- Fuel Reduction Utilizing Goats

PROJECT LOCATION: Las Posadas Demonstration State Forest
 Portions of Sections 4 and 9, T8N, R5W, MDBM **COUNTY** Napa

LEAD AGENCY: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

CONTACT ADDRESS: Chris A. Vallerga, Fire Captain
 CAL FIRE Sonoma-Lake Napa Unit Headquarters **PHONE** (707) 967-1424
 1199 Big Tree Road, Saint Helena, CA, 94574

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is located within Las Posadas Demonstration State Forest which is a 796 acre mixed conifer forest owned and managed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). The purpose of this project is to utilize goats for browsing/grazing to accomplish vegetation reduction for fire suppression in the North West portion of the forest. By using goats, fuels reduction will be accomplished with greatly reduced environmental impacts when considering other treatment options such as mechanical means of fuel reduction involving mowing and mastication. This project will also demonstrate grazing as a tool for fire hazard reduction, as well as, compare grazing with other fuel reduction methods that have been used on the forest in the past, specifically, hand removal of vegetation by fire crews and mastication.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption** Type/Section: 14 CCR 15304(e) Class 4 – Minor Alteration 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

This project fits within the description for a Class 4 Categorical Exemption authorized in the CEQA Guidelines involving minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. Specifically, subsection 14 CCR 15304(e) authorizes temporary use of land resulting in no permanent environmental effects. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest, 500 Forestry Road, Cobb CA 95426, Attention: Environmental Coordinator.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

William E. Snyder 8/30/11

William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

