



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Mt Howell Lookout Maintenance		
	700 Mt Howell Rd, Colfax CA 95713		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	SE ¼, NE ¼, Section 16, T14N, R09E, MDBM Colfax USGS 7.5' Quadrangle	<b>COUNTY</b>	Placer
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Steve Garcia		
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**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Mt Howell Lookout encompasses 38 acres owned by the State of California and functions as a seasonal fire prevention lookout for western Placer County. This project will allow for maintenance and upkeep of the surrounding landscape and facilities and will focus on brush cutting, fireline construction, limited broadcast burning and hazard tree removal within an area of extreme wildfire risk due to dense, overgrown vegetation and scotch broom invasion. Broadcast burning will not exceed 2 acres per calendar year. All tree falling will be non-commercial and involve live trees limited to < 6" and dead or hazard trees with RPF approval. Generated slash and brush will be lopped, chipped, piled and burned. Dozer operations will be limited to the original road prism and within 100' of existing structures.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 1, 4 and 7
  - 14CCR§15301 (c), (h) Existing Facilities
  - 14 CCR§15304, Minor Alterations to Land
  - 14CCR§15307, Actions by Regulatory Agencies for the Protection of Natural Resources
- 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**

**14CCR§15304, *Minor Alteration to Land.*** The project involves the maintenance and removal of vegetation and trees to facilitate CAL FIRE lookout operations.

**14CCR§15301(c), *Existing Facilities:*** maintenance of existing landscaping and native growth. Project implementation will help maintain existing native vegetation and promote a healthier fire resistant landscape.

**14CCR§15307, *Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources:*** The project will facilitate fire lookout operations and help prevent wild fire.

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 NEU Headquarters in Auburn.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**



William E. Snyder, Deputy Director      Date 3/22/11  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection