



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Observatory Hill Fuels Reduction Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	The project is located approximately ½ mile west of the city of Weed.		COUNTY Siskiyou
	Legal Description: Section 10 & 11, T41N, R5W, MDBM		
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Mike Rosan, Forester I,		PHONE Off. 530-842-3516 Cell 530-598-2607
ADDRESS	CALFIRE Siskiyou Unit HQ (SKU) 1809 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project consists of two separate units characterized by dense stands of manzanita of various age classes with highly scattered Ponderosa pine and black oak throughout. Slopes range from 10% to 40%. The East Unit is 13 acres in size and is located approximately 800 feet east of the West Unit which is 47 acres in size. There are no watercourses or unique habitat types located within the project boundaries.

The project will entail the use of hand crews to cut, pile and burn all existing brush species within the project areas. In addition to fuels reduction, the project will serve as an area for fire crews to train in the construction of fire lines. This will be accomplished by treating the project area by cutting successive 10-foot wide strips. Within the simulated fire line approximately 4-foot wide areas will be cleared to bare mineral soil. The majority of the fire lines will be constructed on the contour of the slope, but where fire lines are constructed up and down hill, waterbreaks will be installed as necessary for erosion control. All tree species shall be retained. Mature and sapling size trees shall be pruned to a height of 8 to 10 feet as necessary.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: **Class 4** **Pursuant to §15304, 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

This project fits within the above-listed Categorical Exemption listed in the CEQA Guidelines. 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 CALFIRE Siskiyou Unit Headquarters in Yreka, Attention Environmental Coordinator.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

RECEIVED

JAN 14 2013

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

<i>William E. Snyder</i>	1/9/13
William E. Snyder, Deputy Director	Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	