NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE	Rancho Hills Fuels Reduction Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	The project areas are located approximately seven miles north of the city of Weed in the Rancho Hills subdivision directly adjacent to Lake Shastina. Legal Description: Portions of Sections 25, 26, 35, & 36, T43N, R5W, MDBM	**COUNTY**	Siskiyou
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT **ADDRESS**	Mike Rosan, Forester I, CALFIRE Siskiyou Unit HQ (SKU) 1809 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097	**PHONE**	Off. 530-842-3516 Cell 530-598-2607

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project shall consist of two treatment area (6 acres and 8 acres) approximately 0.5 miles apart. The treatment areas are characterized by dense stands of western juniper 20 to 60 years of age with sparse occurrences of rabbitbrush and grass species in the understory. The areas also contain several large volcanic rock outcrops and an abundance of large boulders throughout. The elevation ranges from 2400 – 2700 feet, and slopes range from 5% to 40%. There are no watercourses within either of the treatment area, but the largest of the two treatment areas is located directly adjacent to Lake Shastina. Treatment will not be conducted within 150 feet of the high water mark of Lake Shastina.

The proposed treatment is designed to decrease potential fire danger by reducing the continuity of fuels. Treatment activities will involve thinning the western juniper stands to achieve a fairly even spacing of 30 to 40 feet. Hand crews will be utilized to cut, drag and chip vegetation onsite. Chips will be broadcast back into the treatment areas or utilized by residents for mulch. The residual trees will be pruned to a height of five to six feet, but no more than 50% of each crown will be removed.

No healthy, matures or scenic trees will be removed.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- [x] 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 CAL FIRE Siskiyou Unit Headquarters in Yreka.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

RECEIVED
JUL 29 2013
STATE CLEARING HOUSE

William E. Snyder 7/23/13

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