



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**PROJECT TITLE** Rush Creek Fuels Reduction and Education Project

**PROJECT LOCATION** Portions of Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, and 35 of T40N, R9E, MDBM, near the community of Rush Creek. **COUNTY** Modoc

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

**CONTACT** Ivan J. Houser, Unit Forester

**ADDRESS** CAL FIRE's Lassen-Modoc-Plumas Unit Headquarters  
697-345 Highway 36, Susanville, CA 96130 **PHONE** (530) 257-4171

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This is a fuels reduction project encompassing a total area of approximately 94 acres of privately owned lands. A two-mile shaded fuelbreak will be constructed that will be contiguous to the fuels reduction project already completed by the U.S. Forest Service on adjacent federal lands adjacent to Rush Creek Estates. CAL FIRE's inmate crews will be utilized for much of the work, which will be limited to 20 feet on each side of the main private access roads located within Rush Creek Estates. No trees over 12 inch DBH will be cut. Leave trees will be pruned removing limbs up to 10 feet from the ground. All work will be completed with use of hand labor. No equipment will be used with the exception of chain saws and a chipper. The chipper will be towed by a pick up truck. Vegetative material will be piled and chipped. Chipping will occur on existing roads or open clear areas. Chips will be hauled off from the site or spread out along the ground at various locations along the fuelbreak.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

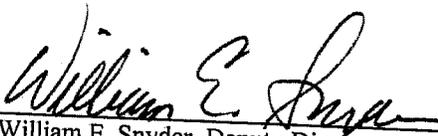
- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

### REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of the above-listed Class 4 Categorical Exemption listed in CEQA Guidelines §15304 pertaining to Minor Alterations to Land. 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's Lassen-Modoc-Plumas Unit Headquarters in Susanville, Attention Environmental Coordinator.

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

**RECEIVED**  
 SEP 14 2011  
 STATE CLEARING HOUSE

  
 William E. Snyder, Deputy Director      Date 9/14/11  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection