



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE Soap Creek Fuelbreak Maintenance

PROJECT LOCATION 4 miles east of Yreka on the top of Soap Creek Ridge and .5 miles north of the Forest Mountain summit on Highway 3. Soap Creek Ridge is the highest point between Yreka and Scott Valley. **COUNTY** Siskiyou

Legal Description: Portions of Sections 1 & 2, T44N, R8W, MDBM, and Portions of Section 35, T45N, R8W, MDBM

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

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project shall consist of vegetation removal with hand crews as a means to maintain an existing shaded fuelbreak originally established by CAL FIRE in the early 1960s.

The project area is 1.75 miles in length and 200 feet in width or 100 feet on each side of the Soap Creek Ridgeline. The project area is 42 acres in size, and 42 acres shall be treated. Treatment shall entail pruning trees to a height of 8 to 10 feet, removing brush species, thinning understory trees which are 8" DBH or less, and removing existing ground fuels between 1" and 5" in diameter. All of the woody material generated by maintenance activity shall be piled and burned. The project may also entail removal of an invasive plant (Dyer's Woad) if present.

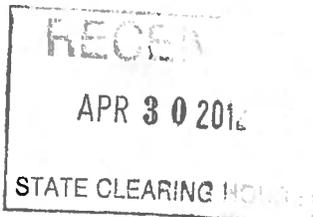
EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 Pursuant to §15304, minor alterations of vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.
- 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



William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date 4/26/12
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection