



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	South Dunsmuir Fuel Break Project		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	The project is located within and south of the city of Dunsmuir		<b>COUNTY</b> Siskiyou
	Legal Description: Section 25 & 36, T38N, R4W, MDBM		
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Mike Rosan, Forester I,		<b>PHONE</b> Off. 530-842-3516 Cell 530-598-2607
<b>ADDRESS</b>	CALFIRE Siskiyou Unit HQ (SKU) 1809 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097		

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project will entail installation of a narrow (10 – 60 feet) shaded fuel break directly adjacent to Interstate 5 within a 22 acre portion of the Caltrans right-of-way and Siskiyou County property.

The project area is characterized by a very dense, all aged, mixed conifer stand comprised of Douglas fir, incense cedar, Ponderosa pine, sugar pine, white fir and highly scattered hardwoods throughout. A majority of the project area contains a mature overstory with younger conifers of various age classes in the understory. The remaining areas are differentiated by very dense, sub-merchantable (sapling) stands with no overstory. The understory throughout the project area is highly variable. Some areas are characterized by little to no understory vegetation while other areas contain conifer seedlings, scattered brush species with a dense carpet of annual and perennial plants. Topography is also highly variable with slopes ranging from 2 to 50 percent slope. The project area contains two short stream segments which emerge from freeway box culverts and cross the project area at right angles. The streams do not contain fish species and would be defined as Class II watercourses pursuant to the Forest Practice Rules.

The project will involve the use of hand crews to thin all trees less than 10 inches DBH, removing all snags, pruning all residual trees to a height of 6 to 8 feet, remove all brush species and existing ground fuels between 3" and 5" in diameter. All of the vegetation removed will be chipped and broadcast back into the treatment area. Trees will be evenly thinned to achieve a fairly even spacing of 10 to 20 feet apart. Leave trees shall be marked or otherwise designated by the project manager prior to or during treatment activities, and only healthy trees shall be retained.

- 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

MAY 21 2013

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

\_\_\_\_\_  
 William E. Snyder, Deputy Director      Date  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection      5/20/13