



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Wildland Fire Chainsaw Training		
PROJECT LOCATION	Approximately 8-miles northeast of the city of Ft. Bragg Portion Sec. 12, T19N, R17W; MDB & M Portion Secs. 15, 16, 18; T19N, R16W; MDB & M	COUNTY	Mendocino
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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ADDRESS	CAL FIRE 802 N. Main St. Ft. Bragg, CA 95437	PHONE	(Office) 707-391-6750 (Cellular)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project consists of felling selected trees by CAL FIRE personnel for the purpose of obtaining wildland fire chainsaw skills and proficiency under simulated fireline conditions. The trees are located on privately-owned timberland. Trees to be felled consist primarily of tanoak, with some softwood (conifer) included, less than 14-in. diameter breast height. The project area totals approximately 35 acres in four different units. The project will involve less than 20% of the tree canopy within the project area and will be implemented over a multi-year time frame. The project will allow new and re-certifying CAL FIRE personnel the opportunity to practice tactical application of chain saws in brushing, limbing, bucking and falling for fireline construction and mop-up operations. Felled trees will be left on site. Slash generated as a result of falling activity will be lopped for fire hazard reduction.

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

The minor soil and vegetation disturbance resulting from this project is compatible with land use practices and values associated with a wildland setting. The CNDDDB has been searched for the following nine USGS-7.5"quads: Inglenook, Ft. Bragg, Mendocino, Dutchmans Knoll, Noyo Hill, Mathison Peak, Sherwood Peak, Northspur & Comptche. The search did not identify any rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species that will be negatively impacted by this project. A site survey has been made of the area by a trained archaeological surveyor. The CAL FIRE Area Archaeologist has been consulted and has determined that this project is exempt from further archaeological review. 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 Mendocino Unit, Resource Management, 17501 N. Highway 101, Willits, CA 95490, Attn. Environmental Coordinator.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date 3/2/11
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection