

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



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

PROJECT TITLE	MEU Wildland Dozer Operations Training		
PROJECT LOCATION	Approximately 4-miles NE of Willits, California Address: Wheelbarrow Ranch, Willits, CA 95490 Legal Description: T19N, R13W, Sections 18, 19 & 20; MDB & M	COUNTY	Mendocino
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Louis Sciocchetti, Forester II	PHONE	707-961-1494 (Office)
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit 17501 North Highway 101 Willis, CA 95490	PHONE	707-391-6750 (Cellular)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project consists of the use of CAL FIRE bulldozers operating on privately owned timberland & rangeland for the purpose of proficiency training. The project area totals approximately 198 acres in five units, with dozers operating on approximately 10-15% (approximately 30 acre will be treated) of the project area. Dozer operations will simulate fire line construction, safety zone construction, brush clearing/piling & fire line suppression repair. Dozers will also operate blades-up for the purpose of training seasonal firefighters how to perform safely on the fire line when in close proximity to heavy equipment. Dozers will operate on existing ranch roads, tractor roads or else on gentle to moderately sloping terrain located along ridgetops and not near any waterways. The project will be implemented during 2016. This project will allow new and re-certifying CAL FIRE dozer operators the opportunity to practice the safe operation of dozers on varied terrain.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption** Type/Section: Class 4; 15304(a) Minor Alteration 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 proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) was searched and no rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species were identified on the project site that will be negatively impacted by this project. 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

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
JUN 14 2016
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE


Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date 6/13/16
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection