



# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Boggs Mountain DSF Reforestation Project		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest, Cobb, California	<b>COUNTY</b>	Lake
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Dave Loveless, Forester III, State Forests Program Manager		<b>PHONE</b>
<b>ADDRESS</b>	6105 Airport Road, Redding, CA 96002	916-716-0867	

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

BMDSF and the surrounding community was severely impacted by the 76,000 acre Valley that began on September 12, 2015. An estimated 85 to 90% of the timber resources (trees) on the forest were either killed or substantially damaged by the intensity of the fire and very little to no understory vegetation survived the fire. As a result of this fire, timber salvage operations and forest rehabilitation efforts are underway. A key objective of the rehabilitation effort is to re-establish a healthy mixed conifer/hardwood forest. Approximately 600,000 mixed conifer seedlings will be required to fully reforest BMDSF. In order to accomplish this goal, and to protect the significant investment in public funds that it represents, competing understory brush and other vegetation must be controlled in order to improve planted seedling survival. The purpose of this project is to replant the burned areas with conifer seedlings and to control competing understory vegetation on BMDSF by hand application of pesticides registered for use in California. The pesticides will be handled and applied in strict compliance with label requirements, using specific pesticides, application methods, timing and concentrations as specified on the label and in the prescription provided by a licensed Pest Control Advisor, applied by a contract crew supervised by an individual with a Qualified Applicator License, and under the supervision of CAL FIRE. The tree seedlings will be planted by hand using hoedads and planting bars, with surface debris scraped back to bare mineral soil at least one foot in diameter at each planting spot before planting the seedling.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

Categorical Exemption      Type/Section: Class 7: Maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of a natural resource.      Class 8: Maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment.

**REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT**

This project fits under portions of 14 CCR 15307 - Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources, and 15308 - Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment for the following reasons:

In the absence of forest rehabilitation, including replanting and vegetation control, the proliferation, abundance and accumulation of understory vegetation is well recognized and documented to be a major contributing factor to the potential for catastrophic wildfire by increasing the fuel loading and acting as ladder fuels. Alternatively, this rehabilitation project will assure the restoration, enhancement and protection of a natural resource and the environment, and is therefore compatible with sections 15307 and 15308 under CEQA for the following reasons:

1. Like other fuel reduction projects, this project will reduce the understory vegetation component thereby reducing the potential for catastrophic wildfire and the resulting negative impacts to the community, soil, water, recreation, aesthetics, cultural and biological resources.
2. Reducing the understory ladder fuel component will reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfire, which will reduce the potential for significant amounts of greenhouse gases to be released into the atmosphere.
3. This project will reduce the understory vegetation competition thereby significantly contributing to a successful reforestation effort and re-establishment of a healthy forest.
4. This project will re-establish a conifer forest and improve the survival, health and vigor of the forest, allowing the forest to sequester carbon from the atmosphere more rapidly and efficiently.
5. The regulatory process for this project involves procedures for protection of the environment. Those procedures include the following: (a) DPA label requirements, restrictions, procedures and warnings; (b) DPA requirements for a Pest Control Applicator recommendation, detailing what, where when and how the specific pesticides are to be used and any additional precautionary protection measures to be implemented in order to protect both people and the environment; (c) DPA requirements for a Qualified Applicators License application; (d) The Lake County Operator ID registration and Restricted Materials Permit requirements prior to the commercial application of pesticides; and (e) Use of a functional equivalent process.

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 6105 Airport Road, Redding, CA 96002.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

Governor's Office of Planning & Research  
JUL 19 2016  
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

  
Helge Eng, Deputy Director  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

7/18/16  
Date