NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE	Newton Prescribed Burn		
PROJECT LOCATION	The project area is located within the city limits of Yreka directly adjacent to the State Responsibility Area boundary. The property is privately owned by the Newton family. Legal Description: Portions of Section 3, T44N, R07W, MDB&M	**COUNTY**	Siskiyou
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT **ADDRESS**	Mike Rosan 1809 Fairlane Road Yreka, CA 96097	**PHONE**	Cell 530-598-2607

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (DESCRIBE THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES, PROJECT SITE AND ITS SURROUNDINGS, ITS LOCATION, AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING): The project area (87 acres) was historically managed for dryland crop production approximately fifty to sixty years ago. Currently, the area is unmanaged and resembles a natural meadow comprised of sage, rabbit brush, native and invasive grass species, and an array of forbs including yellow star thistle and Marlahan mustard which are both highly invasive species. The area is also comprised of highly scattered Ponderosa pine, western juniper, and buck brush which have slowly encroached the area since the last farming disturbance which entailed plowing, seeding and harvesting annually. Tree species appear to range from one to twenty-five years of age. Elevation ranges from 2,900 feet to 2,800 feet with slopes ranging from 0% to 20%. The entire project area is located on the valley floor, and soils are deep and highly developed.

The environmental setting surrounding the project boundary is a highly variable mix of oak foothill woodlands, small contiguous pine stands, residential neighborhoods, rural residential housing, grasslands, and small ranches.

Project activities will entail installation of control lines followed by prescribed burning. Control lines will be constructed by both hand crews and ground based heavy equipment. All of the control lines will be located on slopes ranging from 0% to 20% slope. Control lines constructed on slopes in excess of 5% will have waterbreaks installed as necessary to prevent erosion.

Broadcast burning or project activities which result in vegetation disturbance will only be conducted during the months of September through May, on an annual basis, as climatic conditions allow.

No healthy, mature, scenic trees will be removed pursuant to CEQA 15304.

- [x] 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. CAL FIRE 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.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
JAN 14 2019
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

1/11/19

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