



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

2019070740

PROJECT TITLE	JDSF – Forest History to Road 408/700 Multi-Use Trail		
PROJECT LOCATION	Jackson Demonstration State Forest Fort Bragg, CA 95437	COUNTY	Mendocino
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Erik Wahl, Forester I		
ADDRESS	CALFIRE Jackson Demonstration State Forest 802 North Main Street Fort Bragg, CA 95437	PHONE	(707) 964-5674

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project includes the construction of a single-track multi-use trail within the Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF). The Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) is a 48,652-acre redwood/Douglas-fir forest located in Mendocino County between Fort Bragg and Willits and is managed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). Under the goals of JDSF’s Forest Management Plan, research and demonstration, forest restoration, watershed and ecological processes, timber management, recreation and aesthetic enjoyment, protection, and minor forest products are to be part of the general forest activities. Under the Public Resources Code public recreation is an allowable use on the Demonstration State Forest. The proposed trail will serve as a connector with existing trails on JDSF, providing opportunity for improvements to the existing trail.

Construction will utilize mechanized trail building equipment, specifically designed for the construction of single track trail. Some grooming and improvement to esthetics will be performed utilizing hand tools with crews. Removal of vegetation will include brush cutting and a few trees under 12-inch DBH. Trail construction will use rolling dips and grade reversals to ensure proper drainage and to demonstrate proper trail construction techniques that minimize the need for long-term maintenance.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4
- 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 falls under the Class IV Minor Alteration to Land (PRC § 15304) classification of Categorical Exemptions. The project will require some removal of understory vegetation, including brush removal and few trees. Any hazard tree will be felled to allow for public safety. Equipment used for trail building will construct a trail 2-4 feet wide, with minimal side cast located just below a ridge and away from watercourses or areas that can have a significant impact on slope stability. The trail does not cross any classified perineal or ephemeral watercourse. These actions fall under Class IV, Minor Alterations to Land. These areas were carefully inspected for environmental concerns. CALFIRE has determined this project will not impact the environment.

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 JDSF Offices in Fort Bragg.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUL 12 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

7/8/19

Matthew Reischman, Assistant Deputy Director Date
Resource Protection and Improvement
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection