



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE Old Bretz Fuel Break

PROJECT LOCATION T10S, R24E, Sections 12, 13, and 14, MDBM
 T10S, R25E, Section 7, MDBM. **COUNTY** Fresno
 Shaver Lake, California 7.5-minute quadrangle

LEAD AGENCY California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Old Bretz project is located approximately 3 miles south of Shaver Lake, CA at 5400' elevation, adjacent to Highway 168 near the community of Pine Ridge, and can be accessed from Wild Iris Ln. This new 47-acre roadside clearance and fuel break project will create safe ingress and egress corridors, 200 feet on both sides of the road. The scope of this fuels reduction project is to remove the dead hazard trees, thin the understory, remove the brush creating a shaded fuel break, and future maintenance of the fuel break. This project will be the final piece to tie existing CAL FIRE and USFS projects together for a complete network of fuel breaks adjacent to the communities of Shaver Lake and Pine Ridge. This project will not only enhance forest health but provide a fuel break that will reduce the impacts of fire to the housing developments of Cressman, Apple Ridge, Meadow Ridge and Old Bretz Mill in the Shaver Lake Community. Currently this location contains gaps of untreated forest however, completing this project will make these fuel breaks continuous throughout the area. Fuels consist of conifers that have nearly 80% mortality due to bug kill and approximately 50% has already fallen creating ground fuels. The main ground and ladder fuels consist of 6-10 ft manzanita, live oak, buck brush, and dense stands of small conifers. All work will be done by mastication, chipping, chainsaws, and pruning with some hand work and pile/burn. The project will remove 50% or more of brush. Dead and dying trees will be felled, trees less than eight inches at breast height maybe removed or thinned, and trees greater than 8 inches may be pruned at least six to eight feet above the ground reducing the fuel ladders.

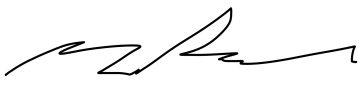
EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 15304, 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

This project fits into a Class 4 Categorical Exemption to CEQA (15304 minor alterations to land). Field review by a CAL FIRE Unit Environmental Scientist and Registered Professional Forester 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 following approval and implementation of this project. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE Fresno-Kings Unit Headquarters at 210 South Academy Avenue, Sanger, CA 93657.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING


 Matthew Reischman, Assistant Deputy Director Date 4/24/2020
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection