

## DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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# TREE REMOVAL INFORMATION

## STATE REGULATIONS

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) is responsible for administering Timber Harvesting Regulations conducted throughout California on all non-federal timberland. The removal of naturally occurring California native "commercial" timber species from forested lots, areas of pending new construction, and from around existing structures is included under these regulations. In Plumas County, qualifying timber species includes Ponderosa Pine, Jeffrey Pine, Sugar Pine, Western White Pine, White Fir, Red Fir, Douglas Fir, and Incense Cedar. These exemptions are free of charge from CDF and are submitted to CDF in Redding for review and approval. These exemption documents are to be used in those situations that are exempt from the requirement of a Timber Harvesting Plan. The three most commonly used exemption documents are:

### 1. Removal Of Fire Hazard Trees Within 150 Feet Of A Structure Exemption

This exemption is required for the removal of selected trees which are located up to 150 feet from around existing structures that are deemed by the landowner to be a potential hazard to any structures that have been permitted through the County Building permit process. This exemption is required only if the wood is sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded. **Licensed Forester services are not required.** A Licensed Timber Operator must be listed on the exemption and is responsible for all logging activities. Clearcutting, Shelterwood Removal and Seed Tree Removal cutting methods are not allowed. CDF has up to 5 days to approve the exemption. This exemption is valid for 1 year.

### 2. Christmas Tree: Dead, Dying, Or Diseased: Fuelwood Or Split Products Exemption

This exemption is required when removing trees that are dead or are obviously dying from insect attack or disease, or when removing fuelwood or other miscellaneous products such as Christmas trees, chips, fencing, etc. The harvest cannot exceed 10% of the volume per acre. Otherwise, a Timber Harvesting Plan is required. **Licensed Forester services are not required.** A Licensed Timber Operator must be identified on the exemption and is responsible for all logging activities. This exemption is required only if the wood is sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded. CDF has up to 5 days to approve the exemption. This exemption is valid for 1 year. This exemption is NOT required for personal firewood use.

### 3. Less Than 3 Acre Conversion Exemption

This one-time exemption is required for property owners who intend to clear for structures and other needed improvements (i.e. residences, driveways, utility lines, outbuildings, septic systems, etc) in preparation for such development. **This exemption is required whether or not the trees are sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded. This exemption must be prepared by a Registered Professional Forester** and timber operations must be conducted by a Licensed Timber Operator. The Licensed Timber Operator must have an approved copy on-site at the time of operations and has one year to complete timber operations. The landowner must submit to CDF in Redding a Work Completion Report within one month of completion of timber operations. California Licensed Timber Operators are required to possess one million dollar Liability Insurance for their work. Building contractors are ineligible to perform this work unless they are a Licensed Timber Operator. CDF has up to 15 days to approve the exemption. This exemption is valid for 1 year.

Specific terms and conditions apply to all three exemptions, including logging debris clean-up requirements and protection of wildlife, archaeological sites, water quality, and other natural resources. Before hiring an LTO, be sure to ask the LTO for proof of valid insurance or call CDF LTO Licensing at (916) 653-7211. A state filing fee is not imposed for the three forms, however, the person listed on the form as the Timber Owner will be required to pay a post-harvest yield tax, based on the board foot volume of timber removed from the parcel, to the State Board of Equalization. Small amounts of timber may be exempt from yield tax. A complete listing of these and other CDF forms and information can be found on the Internet at:

<http://www.fire.ca.gov/ResourceManagement/HarvestingForms.asp>