Photo points should be chosen based on the feature that captures the monitoring objective, such as documenting fuel loads, wildlife features, stand density before and after the exemption project. For large scale exemption projects (ie, 100-300 acres), areas that best provide a representation of the feature to be monitored can be utilized.

It is best to take photos when light is optimal, such as in the early morning, late afternoon, or slightly overcast. Avoid taking photos when the visibility is poor such as in the rain, fog, or snow. Take photos with the sun at your back, when feasible. It is important to check each photo to determine if it is clear enough and provides enough detail to capture the feature.

For the Exemption Monitoring Data Sheet, Record the following items:

Exemption number: ie, 2-15EX-228-SIS

Photographer: Last name of inspector or biologist

Camera Type/Brand: Record whether the camera used is smart phone or digital camera and the brand (ie, Smart phone, Samsung Galaxy S5 or Digital camera, Canon Powershot S110). It is important to use the same camera for pre-project and post-project photos.

Photo Point #: Record the number of the photo point. When returning for the post-project photo, return to the same photo point number location. Additionally, mark the photo point location on a copy of the exemption map.

Pre or Post Project: Record whether the photo is capturing “Pre” or “Post” project

Location Description: Provide a brief description of the location from which the photo is being taken and provide any landmarks associated with the location; downed log, 3rd fence post, road markers, etc.

GPS Coordinates: Record GPS coordinates, preferably in decimal degrees

Heading: Provide a compass heading for the direction in which the photo was taken. Take photos straight on when feasible and avoid taking photos pointed up to the canopy or down to the ground with an azimuth greater than 30% in either direction. If this can’t be achieved, then be sure to record the azimuth.

Photo #: Record the photo number from the smart phone or digital camera

File Saved As: All digital photos shall be saved with the same naming convention that identifies the project, photo point, and project status. For example, Photo Point 3 for the above exemption (post-project) will be saved as 2-15EX228-3-Post.