

# Notice of Exemption

## Appendix E

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Sonoma

585 Fiscal Drive #103F

Santa Rosa, CA 95403

**From:** (Public Agency): Gold Ridge RCD

2776 Sullivan Road

Sebastopol, CA 95472

(Address)

Project Title: LandSmart Grazing Program for Community Resilience at Site ZG

Project Applicant: Gold Ridge RCD

Project Location - Specific:

2155 Bohemian Highway

Project Location - City: Occidental

Project Location - County: Sonoma

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed project will utilize contracted prescribed herbivory crews to reduce vegetation fuels on the property. The Project site includes a total of approximately 5 acres of mixed conifer and hardwood forest landscape. A mixture of prescribed herbivory, hand work, and adaptive management will be employed in the project area.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);

Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));

Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15304 Minor Alterations to Land

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

Fuel management activities within 30 feet of structures to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation, provided that the activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. This exemption shall apply to fuel management activities within 100 feet of a structure if the public agency having fire protection responsibility for the area has determined that 100 feet of fuel clearance is required due to extra hazardous fire conditions.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: William Hart

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 707-823-5244 x 15

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.

2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes  No

Signature:  Date: 11 April 2023 Title: Project Manager

Signed by Lead Agency  Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_



**Date:** April 11, 2023

**From:** William Hart, Project Manager [William@goldridgercd.org](mailto:William@goldridgercd.org)

**Project Title:** LandSmart Grazing Program for Community Resilience at Site ZG

**Project Applicant:** Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District

**Project Location:** 2155 Bohemian Highway

**Project Location – City:** Occidental

**Project Location – County:** Sonoma

**Description of the Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:** The proposed project will utilize contracted prescribed herbivory crews to reduce vegetation fuels on the Site ZG property. The Project site includes a total of approximately five (5) acres of mixed conifer and hardwood forest landscape.

A mixture of prescribed herbivory and adaptive management will be employed in the project area. The removal of this woody vegetation is necessary to improve overall health and vigor of the project area. Shrubs and vines that are considered invasive, or undesirable will be removed. Target nonnative shrubs shall be cut flush with the ground surface, resulting in a stump that is no more than two inches in height. No grubbing of root systems or any other type of soil disturbance shall occur as part of these activities. Miscellaneous debris can be left on the ground as long as it does not impact the growth of native vegetation and/or does not impact land management. Grazer is encouraged to employ adaptive management via monitoring of the project area.

- Prescribed herbivory (also known as “targeted grazing” [ASI 2006, Macon 2019]) is the use of domestic livestock to accomplish specific and measurable vegetation management objectives. Those would include things like removing biomass (fine fuel loads), reducing populations of specific plant species, slowing the re-establishment of shrubs on burned or mechanically thinned sites, and improving plant community structure for wildlife habitat values.
- Hand work is defined as the physical act of felling and removing targeted trees, by hand and on foot only, i.e., without the aid of any type of vehicle.
- Adaptive management means effectiveness or validation monitoring after application of a treatment performed to the extent feasible, recognizing fiscal constraints, the need for ongoing access to property, and staff availability.

Prepared For: Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District,  
Prepared on: 4/2/2023

