

Return to:

Yolo County Resource Conservation District

221 West Court

Woodland, CA 95695

Filed in County Clerk's Office

Jesse Salinas
Yolo County - Clerk/Recorder

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By camry, Deputy



Notice of Exemption

Posting Number of Days: 30

Project Title: Rangeland Demonstration Burin in Yolo County

E-mail address: nichols@yolorcd.org

POSTED APR 25 2023 TO _____

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

From: Yolo County Resource Conservation
District
221 W. Court Street Suite 1
Woodland, CA 95695

County Clerk
County of: Yolo
325 Court Street
Woodland, CA 95695

Project Title: Rangeland Demonstration Burn in Yolo County

Project Applicant: Yolo County Resource Conservation District (Yolo County RCD)

Project Location- City: Capay

Project Location- County: Yolo

Project Location- Specific: T11N R02W Section 27, 28, 33, and 34 MDPM; Bird Valley
USGS 7.5' Quad

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project is an approximately 31-acre prescribed fire to be implemented by the Yolo County Resource Conservation District. This prescribed burn is funded by CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Grant to the Yolo County RCD, with the primary goal to provide education and training to landowners in high wildfire risk areas of Yolo County to use prescribed fire as a land management tool. Prescribed fire decreases fuel continuity, reduces the probability of catastrophic wildfires, and promotes a healthy ecosystem. The proposed prescribed burn would be led by a California Certified Burn Boss and would serve as a demonstration training burn for members of the Yolo Prescribed Burn Association to learn how to safely and effectively use prescribed burning for hazardous fuels management, invasive weed control, and for the benefit of the ecosystem.

The management objectives for the proposed prescribed burn are invasive species control, improved forage for rangeland, and wildfire prevention. The proposed project would take place on rangeland for cattle impacted by yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) and barbed goatgrass (*Aegilops triuncialis*). Yellow starthistle and barbed goatgrass are both unpalatable to cattle and can cause injury to grazing animals. These two invasive weeds are winter annuals that degrade livestock grazing and wildlife habitat through their aggressive and dense growth. To properly control goatgrass, a subsequent burn the following season will be needed.

The proposed project benefits private landowners, suppression resources, and the ecological integrity of the state's rangeland. This project was approved by Yolo County RCD on July 1, 2022.

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Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Yolo County RCD

Name of Person or Agency Carrying out Project: Yolo County RCD

Exempt Status:

- 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: Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemptions

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project is a low-intensity prescribed burn to improve rangeland by removing invasive weeds, with a broader goal of improving community wildfire resiliency through raised awareness and training about prescribed burning as a land management tool. The site is located at the base of the eastern ridge that forms the Capay Valley. The proposed unit is located in agricultural rangeland in rural Yolo County historically categorized as oak savannah and grassland. The burn plan, prepared by a California Certified Burn Boss, will identify hazard mitigation tactics and ensure the conservation of ecological and cultural resources. To define the perimeter of the burn, site preparation for the project may include mowing or box scraping with a tractor along existing two-track roads depending on vegetation conditions. Under the specified prescription, the burn will have low velocity and minimal heat resulting in the combustion of fine fuels only. The project will not result in taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or result in significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. Given the size and nature of the project, it is consistent with the Class 4 Exemption under CEQA.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Heather Nichols

Telephone: 530-661-1688

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 or No

Signature: 
Heather Nichols
 Signed by Lead Agency


Date: 4/24/2023

Title: Exec. Director

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: _____

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RANGELAND DEMONSTRATION BURN IN YOLO COUNTY

Specific Location: T11N R02W Section 27, 28, 33, and 34 MOPM; Bird Valley USGS 7.5' Quad

 Burn unit

0 2,500 5,000 10,000 Feet



Source: Earthstar Geographics, County of Yolo, Yolo County, California State Parks, Civil, FERC, Geomatics, SafeGraph, GeoTechniques, Inc., METI/NOAA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USDA

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