

Notice of Exemption



To:
Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, California 95812-3044

From:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710

Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Project Title: American Unit Prescribed Fire

Project Location: The project is located at the American Unit of the Carrizo Plain Ecological Reserve, Township 31S Range 19E Sections 16 and 27, Mount Diablo Range.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), with the assistance of Cal Fire, plans to apply prescribed fire on approximately 625 acres of the American Unit of the Carrizo Plain Ecological Reserve to achieve ecological restoration and enhancement goals and to reduce fuel loading to minimize wildfire risk. The prescribed burn area is the grasslands east of Sprague Hill Road, comprised of two separate burn units, one larger management burn at 507 acres and a smaller experimental burn of 125 acres. Both units will be monitored before and after the burn using high resolution drone imagery. The experimental burn and a control plot are being monitored for changes in plant composition, using a statistically robust baseline survey that will be repeated for several years. Control lines would be created by mowing and using wet lines as well as tying into existing features that function as fuel breaks, such as the existing roads.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 7; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15307 and 757(7)(D). Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources.

Reasons why project is exempt: This project is a regulatory agency action for protection of natural resources, specifically to encourage forb production for elk and pronghorn and to increase relative cover of native plants. Title 14, Section 757(7)(D) specifically includes controlled burning for habitat productivity as an exempt activity for CDFW. None of the exceptions in Section 15300.2 apply.

CDFW Contact Person: Brandon Swanson, Unit Biologist at (805) 594-6175

DocuSigned by:

 Signature: _____ Date: 5/1/2024
FA83F09FE08945A...
 Julie A. Vance
 Regional Manager, Central Region

Date received for filing at OPR: _____