

**Notice of Exemption**

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:** Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**Wildlife Conservation Board**  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 99244-2090

**County Clerk (County of):** N/A

**Attention:** Kurt Malchow

**Project Title:** Wildlife Habitat and Community Resilience on Working Lands- Roots #18

**Project Applicant:** Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

**Project Location – Specific: APN(s)**

Project site is a ranch in Lassen County with Sagebrush Steppe and Pine Woodlands at 5500 ft elevation.

APNs: 041-020-45-11, 041-020-48-11, 041-020-43-11, 041-020-46-11, 041-030-24-11, 041-030-24-11, 041-070-25-11

**Project Location – City:** N/A- North of Susanville, CA; East of Termo, CA

**Project Location – County:** Lassen

**CEQA Region:** Unincorporated

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Benefits of Project:**

This project is in partnership with NRCS's Sage Grouse Initiative. Due to inflation, costs have risen leaving NRCS financial assistance deficient in covering project costs. The project consists of improving spring areas for wildlife and installing a livestock watering system to distribute livestock grazing impacts away from critical Sage Grouse brood rearing habitat in other meadow and spring areas on the property. The Hannah spring portion of the project involves re-vamping an existing spring development to supply water for two-500 gallon wildlife guzzlers. The spring will be fenced to allow improvement of the small wetland habitat. The guzzlers should provide clean water to wildlife year-round. The Horse Meadow Spring portion of the project currently flows water into a dirt tank/stock water pond. Horse Meadow spring will be fenced, and the pond area will be graded and planted back to meadow species. The overflow water will be piped to a livestock trough with a float. The livestock water portion of the project will involve installing livestock pipeline, a solar pump, tanks, and troughs, to place livestock watering facilities strategically in uplands to improve Sage-Grouse brooding rearing habitat.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** Department of Fish and Wildlife, WCB

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project:** Rebecca J. Fris, Deputy Executive Director, WCB

**Exempt Status: (Check One)**

- Ministerial (Sec. 15268):
- Declared Emergency [Sec. 15269 (a)]:
- Emergency Project [Sec. 15269 (b) and (c)]:
- Categorical Exemption. State Section number and type: Section 15304: minor land alterations to land
- Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:
- Other:

**Reasons why this project is exempt:**

WCB has determined that the objectives of enhancement and restoration of wildlife and pollinator habitat, and the implementation activities as designed for this project, will result in minor alterations to land and vegetation, and therefore fit within the CCR Section 15304 exemptions.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Rebecca J. Fris

**Area Code/Telephone Extension:** (916) 212-5637

**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, (by this notice)  No

**Signature:** 

**Title:** Deputy Executive Director

**Date:** 5/16/2024

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

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

**SCH #:**  
**Posted Date:**  
**Date Received for Filing at OPR:**