

Notice of Exemption

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

From:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Region 4
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710



Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Project Title: North Carrizo Prescribed Fire

Project Location: The project is located at the Cooper and Section 35 Units of the North Carrizo Ecological Reserve, San Luis Obispo County:

Township 30S Range 18E Sections 5, Mount Diablo Range

Township 29S Range 18E Sections 33, Mount Diablo Range

Township 29S Range 18E Sections 34, Mount Diablo Range

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, with the assistance of Cal Fire, plans to apply prescribed fire on approximately 800 acres of the Cooper and Section 35 Units of the North Carrizo Ecological Reserve to achieve ecological restoration and noxious weed reduction goals to reduce fuel loading to minimize wildfire risk. The prescribed burn areas are the grasslands east and west of the Carrisa Plains Elementary School, comprised of two separate burn units, each of which have an infestation of Yellow starthistle, a noxious rangeland weed. The two burn plots will be monitored for yellow starthistle vegetative cover pre and post burn and monitoring will be repeated for several years. Control lines would be created by mowing 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, to reduce the cover of yellow starthistle, a noxious rangeland weed, 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: Craig Fiehler, Environmental Scientist, (661) 335-2380, Craig.Fiehler@wildlife.ca.gov

DocuSigned by:

Signature: _____ **Date:** 4/18/2025
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 Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____