

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, Room 2
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
Bishop Field Office
787 N. Main Street, Suite 220
Bishop, CA 93514

Project Title: Feridell Ranch Wildfire Fuels Reduction Project

Project Location: The project will be located on the East Walker River Wildlife Area (Wildlife Area) approximately 11 miles north of the community of Bridgeport along State Route 182 in northern Mono County, State of California; the Project is located in Section 1, Township 6 North, Range 25 East MDBM, USGS Sweetwater Creek quadrangle map.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife ("CDFW") proposes to conduct a wildfire fuels reduction project on an approximately 4-acre area at the historic Feridell Ranch site on the Wildlife Area. This project will help control the spread of wildfire by reducing vegetation occurring within 100 feet of a historic ranch structure to create defensible space; thinning young pinyon pine trees and shrubs to create a mosaic of shrubs, forbs, and bare soil and reducing ladder fuels; and expanding fuel breaks on an existing road and fence line. The project will benefit wildlife including the East Walker mule deer herd by reducing the risk of habitat loss from a major fire event by eliminating continuous brush and pinyon pine fuel conditions. The work on the Wildlife Area will be completed using hand tools, chainsaws, and chippers, and completed by CDFW staff with assistance from California Conservation Corps (CCC) corpsmembers.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial:
 Declared Emergency:
 Emergency Project:
 Categorical Exemption: 14 CCR, Section 15304

Reasons why Project is exempt:

The project is *Class 4, §15304* (Minor Alterations to Land) Exempt; the Project will result in minor alterations to CDFW land and vegetation on an officially designated Wildlife Area to benefit wildlife and wildlife habitat resources. The project will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species, remove mature healthy scenic trees, or cause significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Alisa Ellsworth, CDFW, (760) 872-1173

Signature: Chris Hayes
Chris Hayes, Environmental Program Manager

Date: 4-5-19

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

APR 05 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE