

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: Cartago Rare Plant Protection Fence

Project Location: The project will be located on the 218-acre Cartago Wildlife Area (Wildlife Area) in Inyo County, State of California; the Project is located in Section 31, Township 18 North, Range 37 East MDBM, USGS Olancha Quadrangle map.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife ("CDFW") proposes to install up to 2,640 feet (0.5 miles) of temporary electric fence to protect sensitive alkali meadow habitats and associated rare and listed plant species from unauthorized livestock grazing on the Wildlife Area. The fence would be constructed to form an enclosure around the rare plant habitat using steel t-posts and fiberglass rods suspending a wildlife friendly design fence consisting of 2-strands of poly-wire with the lower strand not lower than 16 inches and the upper strand not higher than 42 inches. The fence would only be erected during the time that livestock are present on neighboring public and private grazing leases, which may occur at various dates throughout the calendar year. It is critical that the native plant populations be protected from grazing, particularly during flowering, seed development, and seed dispersal to ensure successful annual reproduction, and to improve the efficacy of invasive plant management efforts at the site.

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 and 15333

Reasons why Project is exempt:

The project is *Class 4, §15304* (Minor Alterations to Land) Exempt; the Project is a minor alteration to the condition of land, water and vegetation on an existing officially designated wildlife management area (Wildlife Area) which will result in the improvement of habitat for fish and wildlife resources.

The project is *Class 33, §15333* (Small Habitat Restoration Projects) Exempt; the Project is less than five acres in size and designed to restore, enhance and protect habitat for fish, plants, and wildlife.

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

Signature: 
Chris Hayes, Environmental Program Manager

Date: 2-27-20
Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: FEB 28 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE