

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



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

**From:**  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Northern Region  
619 Second Street  
Eureka, California 95501

*Street Address:*  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project Title:** Ocean Ranch Unit Pilot Project

**Project Location:** The project to be completed is located within the Eel River watershed on the Ocean Ranch Unit (ORU) of the Eel River Wildlife Area, County of Humboldt, State of California. The Assessor's Parcel Number is 308-051-001-000; Latitude 40.6938 N Longitude -124.2779 W and located solely on State of California property.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) intends to implement a small-scale pilot project to test the efficacy of treating European beach grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) in the spring and late summer/fall using prescribed burning and herbicide. European beach grass (EBG) is an invasive non-native species in California and is dominant in the ORU dune ecosystem. Two 10-meter x 10-meter experimental plots have been established; within each plot the vegetation community has been quantified (e.g. % cover). The area effected by this experiment is 200 meters square (or 2,152 square feet). No special status species are present in either plot, confirmed by the CDFW and U.S. Fish and Wildlife ecologists. One plot will be prescribed burned by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) in March/April 2020, the second plot will be prescribed burned in August 2020. After each plot is burned, the re-growth of EBG will be quantified, the first plot will then be treated with herbicide three/four months later and the second plot will be treated with herbicide in the following month or two. The efficacy of EBG control will be evaluated for both the early season and late season treatments into Spring 2021.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife with assistance from the CAL FIRE

**Exempt Status:**

- Statutory Exemption. State code number
- Categorical Exemption. Type – 6; California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15306  
(INFORMATION COLLECTION).

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The CDFW with the assistance of CAL FIRE will conduct the prescribed burns; CAL FIRE is highly qualified to conduct prescribed burns and will lead the effort. CDFW's Integrated Pest Management Coordinator will implement the herbicide application in each plot following all label requirements as well as any applicable State or Federal laws. Scientists from the CDFW and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who are qualified to assess potential impacts to Threatened and Endangered species, as well as California Rare Plant Ranked species, have located the plots where no special status species are present. The pilot project is being conducted to inform the greater Ocean Ranch Restoration Project through data collection/research and experimental management and will not constitute a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource, consistent with Categorical Exemption 15306, Information Collection.

**CDFW Contact Person:** Michael van Hattem, Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist,  
Michael.vanHattem@wildlife.ca.gov

*Signature:*

*Date:*

3/11/20

Curt Babcock, Environmental Program Manager

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAR 11 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE