

Filed in County Clerk's Office

Jesse Salinas
Yolo County - Clerk-Recorder

57-02112026-011

COUNTY RECORDER

Filing Requested by:

Yolo County Resource Conservation District

Name

221 West Court Street Suite 1

Address

Woodland, CA 95695

City, State, Zip

02/11/2026

FISH

Pages: 4

Fee: \$ 50.00

By mbraun, Deputy



Notice of Exemption

To:

Yolo County Clerk-Recorder
625 Court Street, Room B-01
Woodland, CA 95695

From:

Yolo County Resource Conservation District
221 West Court Street, Suite 1
Woodland, CA 95695
meyer@yolorcd.org

Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Prescribed Grazing on Gray Pine Ridge – Winters, CA

Project Location – Specific: 25160 Highway 128 Winters, CA 95694, APN: 030340004000

Project Location – City: Winters, CA

Project Location – County: Yolo

Description of nature and purpose of the Project:

The Yolo County Resource Conservation District is implementing a prescribed grazing project on 17 acres of private property along Highway 128 in partnership with a professional contract grazer. The RCD has developed a Prescribed Grazing Plan that will be certified by a Certified Rangeland Manager. The plan outlines stocking rate, timing and duration, and rotation for sustainable and effective prescribed grazing. The site was selected for its location on a high fire return site between Bobcat Ranch and the Positas Road community in unincorporated West Winters, a high fire hazard area, also along a roadway that is a potential ignition point in Yolo County. This site has burned twice since 2015, including in the 2020 LNU Lightning Complex.

The primary goal for the prescribed grazing project is fuels reduction and management and is part of a series of roadside vegetation reduction projects and community wildfire buffers throughout the west Winters and Capay Valley areas to protect Yolo County from catastrophic wildfire. The prescribed grazing project will consist of goats and sheep that will be rotationally grazed to consume fine fuels like dry grasses. Prescribed grazing disrupts fuel continuity that allows fire to spread rapidly. Prescribed grazing was the chosen method for this site due to the site's steep terrain, making sheep and goats ideal to traverse the terrain and consume fuels. Prescribed grazing in late spring can also control yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), which is also found on-site and is a noxious invasive weed that outcompetes native vegetation. Grazing will be done when soils are dry and firm to avoid erosion and impacts to the native understory.

In subsequent years, maintenance at the site may occur. Overgrown vegetation adjacent to the small community along Positas Road poses a risk to the region, including the town of Winters and the larger western Yolo County region. Reducing fuels in project footprint in this buffer will reduce the likelihood of catastrophic wildfire. Biological and botanical monitoring will be conducted by Yolo County Resource Conservation District.

FEB 11 2026
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Biological management tools can benefit ecosystems by reducing fuel loads, managing brush, sequestering carbon, and improving soil health. Fuels reduction reduces the likelihood of catastrophic wildfires, maintaining and restoring healthy ecosystems, and protecting human communities. Low-impact prescribed grazing benefits native plants by reducing competition from invasive species and promoting native perennial plant growth.

A Qualified Biologist with experience in conducting planning-level and species-specific surveys in the area conducted a biological reconnaissance survey at the project site. Based on the results of the biological survey, the project has been designed so it will not cause significant adverse impact to special status species with likelihood to occur near the project site, including fencing off blue elderberry shrubs (*Sambucus mexicana*) to restrict animals from grazing on the plant, which is host for the protected Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*). Botanical and biological surveys will occur a week before goats and sheep arrive on-site to confirm no special status species will be impacted by grazing.

Work may occur during nesting bird season. If work commences during nesting bird season (February 1st to September 15th) the project area will be surveyed for nesting birds by a qualified biologist, no more than one week before operations. If nesting birds are located, the RCD will develop measures that avoid impacts and are consistent with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

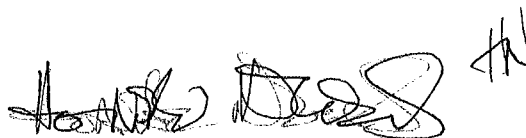
Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Yolo County Resource Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Private Contractor

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption: Class 4 § 15304 Minor Alteration of Land

Reasons the project is exempt: The project is not expected to cause ground disturbance and will occur in an overgrown grassland site, primarily consisting of invasive grasses. Work is expected to be performed by a qualified grazing contractor with biological and botanical monitoring conducted by Yolo County Resource Conservation District staff. The project will not significantly impact large trees or blue elderberry shrubs and will benefit habitat by decreasing likelihood of catastrophic fire and thinning understory vegetation which will decrease pressure from invasive weeds on native plant understory.

The project meets the requirements of Class 4 Categorical Exemption (minor alterations to land) Section 15304. Project implementation will result in alterations to the land that are best described as minor in scope, that will not significantly impact the aesthetic of the property, or biological and/or cultural resources, and that do not involve the removal of mature, scenic trees for any purpose. No exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a "Notice of Exemption" for this project. It has been concluded that no significant adverse environmental impacts would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forest resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, populations and housing, public services, recreation, transportation and traffic, or utilities and service systems.



Signature (Lead Agency):

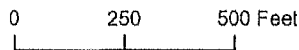
Date: 2/9/2026

Name/Title: Heather Nichols, Executive Director **Phone:** (530) 661-1688 ext. 3

Gray Pine Ridge - Winters, CA, Prescribed Grazing



Project location: 25160 Highway 128
Winters, CA 95694
APN: 030340004000





State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2026 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/26) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER: 57-02112026-011
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY YOLO COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL meyer@yolorcd.org	DATE 02/11/2026
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING YOLO		DOCUMENT NUMBER

PROJECT TITLE
 PRESCRIBED GRAZING ON GRAY PINE RIDGE - WINTERS CA

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME YOLO COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL meyer@yolorcd.org	PHONE NUMBER (530) 661-1688
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 221 WEST COURT STREET, SUITE 1	CITY WOODLAND	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 95695

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

Local Public Agency School District Other Special District State Agency Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$4,227.50	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$3,043.75	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,437.25	\$ _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exempt from fee		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Exemption (attach)		
<input type="checkbox"/> CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$ _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee		\$ _____ \$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

Cash Credit Check Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ _____ \$50.00

SIGNATURE X	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Morgan Braun, Deputy County Clerk-Recorder
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