Project ID #635-07-014
CEQA #8022

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
1416 Ninth Street
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

PROJECT TITLE: Grasshopper Prairies Restoration and Prescribed Burn

LOCATION: Humboldt Redwoods State Park **COUNTY:** Humboldt

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: The intent of this project is to restore the numerous "prairies" located near Grasshopper Peak in Humboldt Redwoods State Park. This project will use prescribed fire and mechanical treatment to remove Douglas-fir trees which have encroached into the prairies. In addition this project provides for the long term maintenance of the prairies through the use of prescribed fire and mechanical tree removal as needed to prevent the encroachment of Douglas-fir and to reestablish the natural role of fire in the prairies. This project will take place in the area designated as Burn Block A; future burns in other burn blocks will be subject to further review under CEQA. Individual prairies will be prescribed burned between September 16 and January 31. Prescribed burns will be conducted after sufficient rainfall has fallen to ensure that fire will not spread in duff and litter in surrounding forests but prairie grasses are dry enough to carry fire with at least 1' flame length. Alternatively, in the late fall (after October 15th), when the National Weather Service predicts a 100% chance of a major precipitation producing storm within the next 24 hours and the precipitation amount is predicted to be 0.5" or more burning will be conducted before arrival of the storm. Following prescribed burning an Environmental Scientist and Park Archeologist will re-survey individual burned prairies and determine their historical boundaries. The prairies and their surrounding forest margins will be treated using either chainsaws or clearing saws to remove trees which were not killed by the prescribed burn. Follow-up prescribed burns using the prescription above will remove material or pile burning may be utilized. In some cases mechanical removal of Douglas-fir trees may occur without first implementing a prescribed burn. No trees 12" dbh or greater will be mechanically removed unless surveys are first conducted for northern spotted owls and a letter of technical assistance is obtained from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Individual trees greater than 12" dbh located in isolated stands less than 2 acres may be removed. No trees determined to be culturally significant will be removed.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: North Coast Redwoods District

EXEMPT STATUS:

☐ Declared Emergency (Section 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (Section 15269(b) and (c))
☐ Statutory Exemption (Section)
☒ Categorical Exemption
Class: 4 *Section: 15304*

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes and is included as "prescribed burns to restore native vegetation" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities, in accordance with CCR 15300.4.

CONTACT: John E. Harris
North Coast Redwoods District

PHONE NO.: (707) 445-6547 x 19
EMAIL: jharris@parks.ca.gov

Steve Horvitz
District Superintendent
North Coast Redwoods District

10/22/07
DATE

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