



COUNTY OF YOLO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Prescribed Burn at Grasslands Regional Park

(Woodland, CA) – The Yolo County Parks and Resources Department, in partnership with the Davis Fire Department, and in consultation with the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District, California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Air Force intends to conduct a prescribed burn along the northern portion of Grasslands Regional Park and the adjacent Davis Communications Site on Wednesday, September 3 weather permitting. The goal of the burn is to remove accumulated dry vegetation in an effort to reduce the potential for arson fire, or otherwise unplanned burns on the site, as well as to remove non-native invasive vegetation in preparation for native grass seed planting. Grasslands Regional Park is located south of Davis, off County Road 104 (Mace Boulevard), immediately south of County Road 35.

Grasslands Regional Park is a unique county resource that offers opportunities for a variety of passive and active recreational uses. In addition to the park's recreational opportunities, there are several hundred acres of wildlife habitat within the park, including vernal pool complexes and grassland prairie. While the park provides wildlife habitat, a variety of non-native, invasive species including yellow starthistle, foxtail, and medusahead grass have degraded existing habitat over time.

The Yolo County Parks and Resources Department began a comprehensive habitat management program for the site in 2007 which includes a variety of management techniques. As part of this management strategy, a controlled burn is planned for a portion of the site that is currently severely degraded by the presence of non-native invasive species. This controlled burn is anticipated to reduce thatch build-up, remove non-native invasive species, and returns nutrients to the ecosystem, thus encouraging growth of native vegetation and preparing the site for native grass seeding.

The Davis Fire Department and the Yolo County Parks and Resources Department have tentatively scheduled the burn for late August or September although the actual date of the burn will be dependant on weather and air quality conditions. Extensive surveys have been conducted to ensure that no ground-nesting birds will be impacted by the burn and buffers have been established to ensure that nearby infrastructure is protected. Additional preparation for the prescribed burn includes coordination with local volunteers and other park user groups. A professional crew of trained fire practitioners will conduct the burn, with safety and smoke management as top priorities.

This prescribed burn is scheduled for September 3, weather permitting. Information pertaining to the burn and Grasslands Regional Park can be directed to Warren Westrup, Yolo County Parks and Resources Department Director, (530) 406-4800.

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