



# **Navigating the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Excess Vegetation Removal (Grazing) Permit Process**

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**Presentation for Board of Forestry RMAC**

**5/19/23**



# Main Objective of Grazing on CDFW Lands:

Achieve habitat and conservation goals



Reduce invasive  
species cover



Create habitat for  
species that  
prefer short grass



Manage fine fuels to  
reduce severity of  
potential wildfires

# Limitations

- 5 years
- Insurance requirements
- Infrastructure – variable depending on property



# Partnership

- Responsible land stewardship
- Try to find win-wins
- Reasonable compromise
  - We must keep our management requirements as a priority
  - Understand that operators need to turn a profit



# Where grazing happens on CDFW Land

**Region 1**  
~46,200 acres

**Region 2**  
~25,000 acres

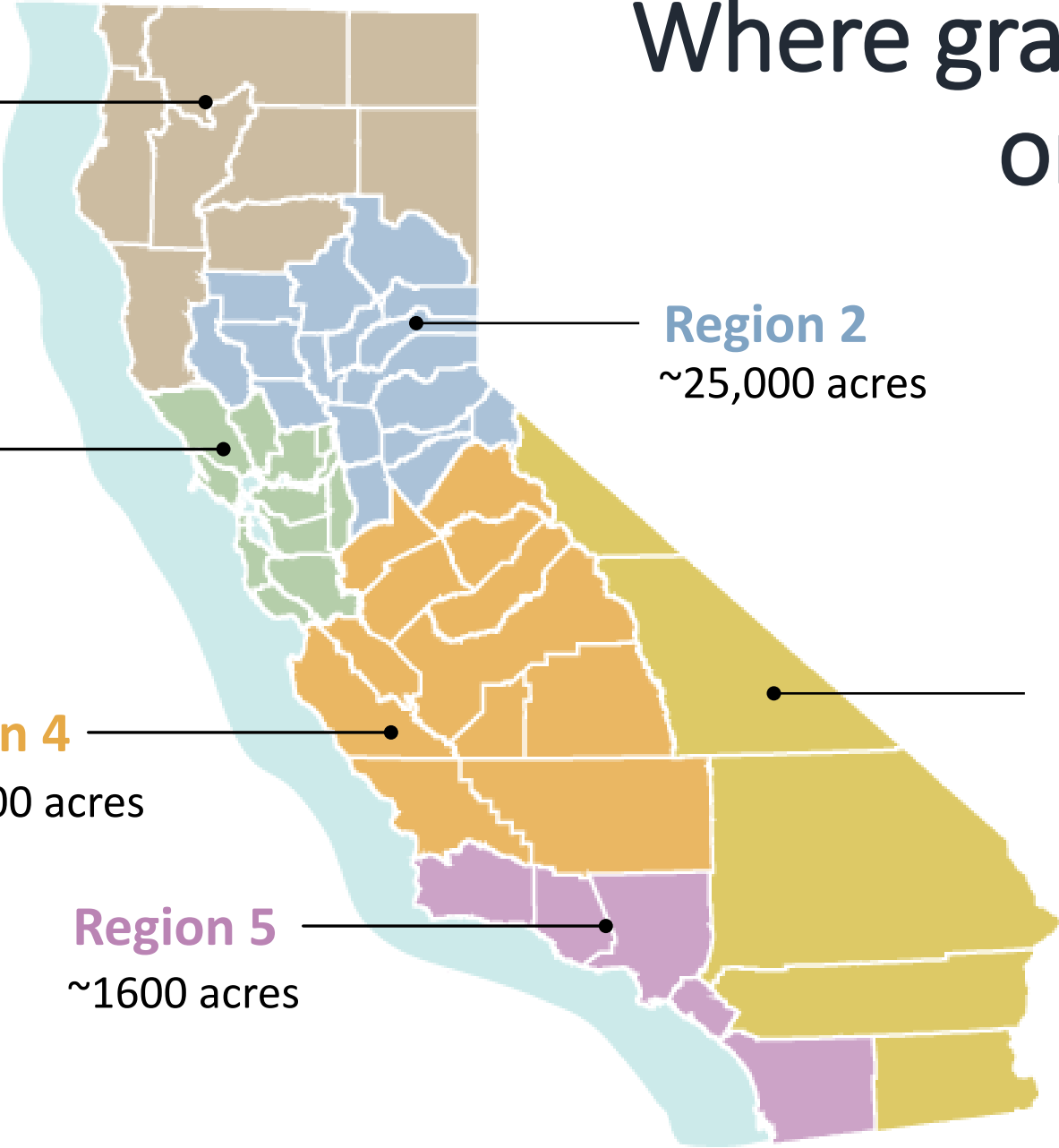
**Region 3**  
~11,600 acres

~96,000 acres  
across the state

**Region 4**  
~10,400 acres

**Region 6**  
~1100 acres

**Region 5**  
~1600 acres







# Why we decide to graze certain properties

- Property goal
  - Why it was purchased
  - Management goals
- Infrastructure & Access
- Capacity





**The Process:**  
Permit for Excess Vegetation Disposal



# Developing the Permit

- Use the property's Land Management Plan and/or Grazing Management Plan to guide the development of a **Site Operation Plan**





# Developing the Permit

- Use the property's Land Management Plan and/or Grazing Management Plan to guide the development of a **Site Operation Plan**
  - Property background (biological, infrastructure, public use)
  - Description of management goals
  - Sensitive Resources
  - Grazing prescription
    - AUM
    - Grazing targets (RDM, stubble height, etc.)
    - On and off dates



# Key Parts of a Permit

- 1) Excess Vegetation Disposal Permit
- 2) Maps (Exhibit A)
- 3) Site Operation Plan (Exhibit B)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
PERMIT FOR EXCESS VEGETATION DISPOSAL  
(FISH AND GAME CODE SECTION 1010)  
(DFW 557 (REV. 7/2/18))

PERMIT GOVERNS PREMISES LOCATED AT:  
[Property Name]  
[Location]  
DGS File No.: [ ]  
CDFW Permit No.: [ ]

AGENCY: Department of Fish and Wildlife  
PERMITTEE: [Full Name]

THIS PERMIT, dated [ ] for reference purposes only, is made by and between the State of California, acting by and through its Department of Fish and Wildlife, hereinafter referred to as STATE, as authorized by Fish and Game Code Section 1010, and [ ] hereinafter referred to as PERMITTEE.

STATE and PERMITTEE hereby agree as follows:

DESCRIPTION 1. STATE hereby permits [ ] and PERMITTEE hereby accepts, a non-exclusive right to use, improve, and maintain [ ] acres of real property situated in the State of California, hereinafter referred to as Premises, as outlined on the map attached as Exhibit "A" and more particularly described on Exhibit "A.1." The Premises are a part of the real property under the jurisdiction of STATE common law (Ecological Reserve) (State Property). STATE may relocate all or part of the Premises as provided in Section 1010.1.

USE 2. PERMITTEE agrees to use the Premises only for the removal of excess vegetation by grazing of livestock. PERMITTEE shall conduct its operations on the Premises only as defined in the Operations Plan attached as Exhibit "B" [Add if applicable]: and consistent with the Land Management Plan for the State Property available from the STATE Representative identified in Section 15 or online at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Lands/Planning>.

[Add if applicable: PERMITTEE acknowledges that the State Property, including the Premises, is open to public use. Public uses of the Premises may include, without limitation, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, photography, education and research. STATE shall not be liable or responsible for any injury (including death) to persons, including PERMITTEE, its agents and employees, or damage to or loss of livestock, equipment or other property, including property of PERMITTEE and third parties, caused by any person on the Premises, including members of the public. PERMITTEE understands that such possibility of using the Premises and hereby waives any claims arising from such use.

Land Use Agreements: Site Operations Plan (Exhibit B) Guide  
December 13, 2013

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**Elements to include when creating a Site Operations Plan (Exhibit B)**

**Site description:** Location, purpose of acquisition and management and general habitat types on property pertinent to a grazing/agricultural program. Describe any current grazing/agricultural activities or historic practices if appropriate. Describe any conditions specific to the site (e.g. public use needs, lead-free restrictions within condor habitat, organic crops on site or adjacent). Include any information that would be relative to a grazing/agricultural program. Information here may also be used in the RFP or IFB process. Describe specific units or parcels to be grazed or cropped as indicated in the grazing permit/agricultural lease template. Note: "Exhibit A" is a general map of the area showing allotments to be grazed or units to be cropped. "Exhibit A.1" is the legal description of the specific "Premises" for grazing/agricultural activity. Legal descriptions are critical (including for potential trespass issues). Individual allotments that comprise separate bids may exist separately within the same parcel but must be described in sufficient detail to locate the boundaries of each allotment. If needed, Exhibit A-1 may also include a detailed map depicting allotments and clearly defined "Premises" boundaries.

This section may also include information regarding water availability for a successful grazing/agricultural program, fencing, water, holdovers, etc. Describe their availability on site or if there is a need for the operator to provide them. See templates for roles/responsibilities of the Department and permittee.

**Habitat objectives and/or species goals:** Species goals may be general guidance, emphasizing desired effects. May be derived from the land management plan, acquisition documents and/or grazing plan if available. This section may contain general elements of a grazing plan or the need to develop with RCD, other agency (s) if applicable or with the grazing operator(s).

Annual revisions to grazing plans may be based on site conditions, responses to grazing activity, soil or water issues, and operational issues. This allows grazing activity to "adapt" to changes in the environment or habitat.

**Describe how to meet habitat goals: What/How Many:** Determine type of livestock/number of AUJMs (if known pre-bid). When start/end grazing period. Where: location if more detail needed from "site description" section; include appropriate information for wildlife-friendly agriculture.

**Monitoring requirements/adaptive grazing needs:** Requirements for monitoring: photo/GPS stations, RDM and/or specific metrics based on habitat goals. Monitoring based on performance measures if known. Define roles and responsibilities for monitoring. The operator may become integral to achieving habitat goals and assist with developing annual grazing prescriptions.

**Contact information:** Phone numbers, email and mailing addresses of site manager(s), grazing operator, RCD representative or other partner (if appropriate). Identify livestock brands if appropriate. Describe meeting and reporting requirements to discuss grazing program, specifically how it is fulfilling habitat goals, and adjust accordingly as part of an adaptive grazing program. Determine how often communication will take place; other emergency notification requirements for escaped/diseased livestock (e.g., 24 or 48 hour response from operator required for an emergency situation).

<sup>1</sup> The Site Operations Plan may not supersede any grazing permit or agricultural lease requirements, but may provide additional detail specific to a Department property as part of the RFP or IFB bid process.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Business Management Branch

1 of 1

**Exhibit A - Map Figure 1**  
Location Overview

This map is for general reference purposes only.  
Map: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, 7/2014



# Key Parts of a Permit

- 1) Excess Vegetation Disposal Permit
- 2) Maps (Exhibit A)
- 3) Site Operation Plan (Exhibit B)

Once finalized and approved, we open it up for bidding/proposals

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA - DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**PERMIT FOR EXCESS VEGETATION DISPOSAL**  
(FISH AND GAME CODE SECTION 1010)  
(DFW 557 (REV. 7/2/18))

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**DESCRIPTION**

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2. PERMITTEE agrees to use the Premises only for the removal of excess vegetation by grazing of livestock. PERMITTEE shall conduct its operations on the Premises only as defined in the Operations Plan attached as Exhibit "B" [add if applicable] and consistent with the Land Management Plan for the State Property available from the STATE Representative identified in Section 15 or online at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Lands/Planning>.

[Add if applicable: PERMITTEE acknowledges that the State Property, including the Premises, is open to public use. Public uses of the Premises may include, without limitation, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, photography, education and research. STATE shall not be liable or responsible for any injury (including death) to persons, including PERMITTEE, its agents and employees, or damage to or loss of livestock, equipment or other property, including property of PERMITTEE and third parties, caused by any person on the Premises, including members of the public. PERMITTEE understands that such possibility of using the Premises and hereby waives any claims arising from such use.

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**Exhibit A - Map Figure 1**  
**Location Overview**

Map showing the location of the permit area in California, highlighting the Eureka area and the Pacific Ocean. Key locations marked include Arcata, Eureka, Fortuna, Mad River Slough Wildlife Area, Humboldt Bay, and Fay Slough Wildlife Area. The map also shows the Eel River Wildlife Area, Cock Robin Island Unit, and Salt River Inlet.

**Land Use Agreements: Site Operations Plan (Exhibit B) Guide**  
December 13, 2013

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<sup>1</sup> The Site Operations Plan may not supersede any grazing permit or agricultural lease requirements, but may provide additional detail specific to a Department property as part of the RFP or IFB bid process.

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1 of 1

# Finding Grazing Opportunities on CDFW Land



[caleprocure.ca.gov](http://caleprocure.ca.gov)

A screenshot of the California State Government Marketplace website. The header is dark blue with the Cal eProcure logo on the left and navigation links: Home, Resources, Quick Links, and Help. On the right of the header is a "Login/Register" link with an external icon. The main content area features a cityscape background at sunset. The text "California State Government Marketplace" is prominently displayed in white, with the subtitle "Your home for California's State Procurement and Certification Programs" below it. At the bottom, there is a white search box containing the text "California State Contracts Register (CSCR)" and "Search Bid Opportunities", with a dark blue button labeled "START SEARCH" to the right.



# Finding Grazing Opportunities on CDFW Land



caleprocure.ca.gov



Register to sign up for email notifications!

A dark blue callout bubble with a yellow border and a yellow star icon. A yellow arrow points from the bubble to the "Login/Register" button in the website screenshot above.



Home

Resources ▾

Quick Links ▾

Help ▾

→ Login/Register

# California State Government Marketplace

Your home for California's State Procurement and Certification Programs

California State Contracts Register (CSCR)

Search Bid Opportunities

🔍 START SEARCH



Click "Start Search"



Enter 3600 into  
Department

# Event Search

California State Contracts Register

Event Name	Event ID	Department	Event Status
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> 	<input type="text" value="Posted"/> 
<input type="button" value="Clear Criteria"/>	<input type="button" value="Advanced Search Criteria"/>	<input type="button" value="Search"/>	

Look for “Vegetation Disposal” or “Grazing”

Clear Criteria

Advanced Search Criteria

Search

EVENTS

Showing Results 1-50 of 77

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Event ID	Event Name	Department Name	End Date	Status
000000893	<b>P2015401 - ESER Permit for Excess Vegetation Disposal</b>	Department of Fish & Wildlife	04/26/2016 5:00PM PDT	Event Completed
000001003	<b>P2016101</b>	Department of Fish &	05/16/2016	Event



# Event Details

Event : 0000000893



## P2015401 - ESER Permit for Excess Vegetation Disposal

### Details

Event ID	Dept:
0000000893	Department of Fish & Wildlife
Format/Type:	Event Version
Sell Event / RFx	3
Published Date	Event End Date:
03/24/2016 8:19AM PDT	04/26/2016 5:00PM PDT

#### Description:

Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve (ESER) Permit for Excess Vegetation Disposal (Grazing)

For full description, please refer to IFB #P2015401.

[View Event Package](#)

[View Vendor Ads](#)

### Contact Information

**Miriam Rodriguez**

Phone:

Email: [miriam.rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:miriam.rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov)

### Pre Bid Conference (N/A)

Mandatory: Non Mandatory

Date:

Time:

Location:

Comments:

# Event Details

Click "View Event Package"

Event : 0000000893

## P2015401 - ESER Permit for Excess Vegetation Disposal

### Details

Event ID	Dept:
0000000893	Department of Fish & Wildlife
Format/Type:	Event Version
Sell Event / RFx	3
Published Date	Event End Date:
03/24/2016 8:19AM PDT	04/26/2016 5:00PM PDT

#### Description:

Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve (ESER) Permit for Excess Vegetation Disposal (Grazing)

For full description, please refer to IFB #P2015401.

[View Event Package](#)

[View Vendor Ads](#)

### Contact Information

**Miriam Rodriguez**

Phone:

Email: [miriam.rodriquez@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:miriam.rodriquez@wildlife.ca.gov)

### Pre Bid Conference (N/A)

Mandatory: Non Mandatory

Date:

Time:

Location:

Comments:



# Comments and Attachments

Event ID

0000000893

Event Name

P2015401 - ESER Permit for Excess Vegetation Disposal

## View Attachments

Viewing attachments 1-2 of 2

Read carefully to understand permit requirements and provisions

Attached File

Attachment Description

Download

Sample\_Permit\_for\_Excess\_Vegetation\_Disposal\_(DFW\_587).pdf



P2015401\_Grazing\_IFB\_FINAL\_v3.pdf



[Return](#)

# Comments and Attachments

Event ID

0000000893

Event Name

P2015401 - ESER Permit for Excess Vegetation Disposal

## View Attachments

Viewing attachments 1-2 of 2

Attached File

Site specific information and application information for the Permit. Two processes: Invitation for Bid (IFB) or a Request for Proposal (RFP)

Sample\_Permit\_for\_Excess\_Vegetation\_Disposal\_(DFW\_557).pdf



P2015401\_Grazing\_IFB\_FINAL\_v3.pdf



[Return](#)



## Invitation for Bid (IFB)

- Awarded based on highest bid only
- Generally used for smaller areas with fewer sensitive resources

## Request for Proposal (RFP)

- Awarded based on both responses to questions about management practices and bid
- Answers scored by panel of CDFW staff

## Both

- Must meet the minimum bidder requirements listed in permit
- Must attend site visit

# Tips for Being a Highly Rated RFP Applicant

- Explain how you meet the minimum qualifications described
- Read the Site Operation Plan to better understand habitat management objectives and challenges
- Attend the Site Visit
- Answer all RFP questions thoroughly:



# Tips for Being a Highly Rated RFP Applicant

- Explain how you meet the minimum qualifications described
- Read the SOP to better understand habitat management objectives and challenges
- Attend the Site Visit
- Answer all RFP questions thoroughly:

# Tips for Being a Highly Rated RFP Applicant

- Answer all RFP questions thoroughly:
  - ✓ Address all parts of the questions
  - ✓ Use best management practices
  - ✓ Provide examples of using the technique successfully in the past
  - ✓ Only commit to practices that you will be able to implement – your answers will be integrated into the final SOP of the permit



# Resources

- Instructions for finding grazing opportunities (Under “Permits”):  
<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Lands>
- Contact information for general questions about our grazing program:  
[Julea.Shaw@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Julea.Shaw@wildlife.ca.gov)
- For questions about individual permits, please use contact information provided on the posted RFP or IFB





**Thank you!**

**Questions?**