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# PRESS RELEASE

## PRESCRIBED BURN SCHEDULED AT LAKE MATHEWS

RELEASE DATE:

**PERRIS, CA-** From June 2<sup>nd</sup> through June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, CAL FIRE / Riverside County Fire Department, in cooperation with Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency, and Metropolitan Water District, will be conducting a vegetation management prescribed burn at Lake Mathews.

The prescribed burn at Lake Mathews accomplishes the goal of rehabilitating the burrowing owl and Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR) habitat through eradication of invasive, non-native grasses and weed species. This allows mammal species to find food and make homes. Through a collaboration of agencies, along with previous year's successful prescribed burns and goals, the SKR has been down-listed from "endangered" to "threatened".

Drift smoke may be visible from nearby communities but will disperse quickly and is not expected to be a health hazard. Burning operations typically begin after 6:00 A.M. and conclude by 1:00 P.M. the same day. The burning operation will only occur on permissive burn days as determined by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD).

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