



CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department

Also proudly serving the Cities of Oroville, Biggs, Gridley, and the Town of Paradise

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Duty PIO
530-521-8265

RELEASE DATE: Thursday,
June 11, 2025

UPDATE: CAL FIRE to burn grasslands around Thermalito

Butte County- Update: The Thermalito Grasslands prescribed burn is scheduled to continue Thursday, June 12. As referenced on the map, CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department will burn units 1, 2, and 3. The targeted 142 acres will bring the total size of the project to just over 400 acres. We will also be completing a 14 acre burn on the southwest side of the Oroville Airport in order to remove flammable vegetation and invasive plant species. Units 4, 5, and Rabe Road were completed May 23. See the original news release below.

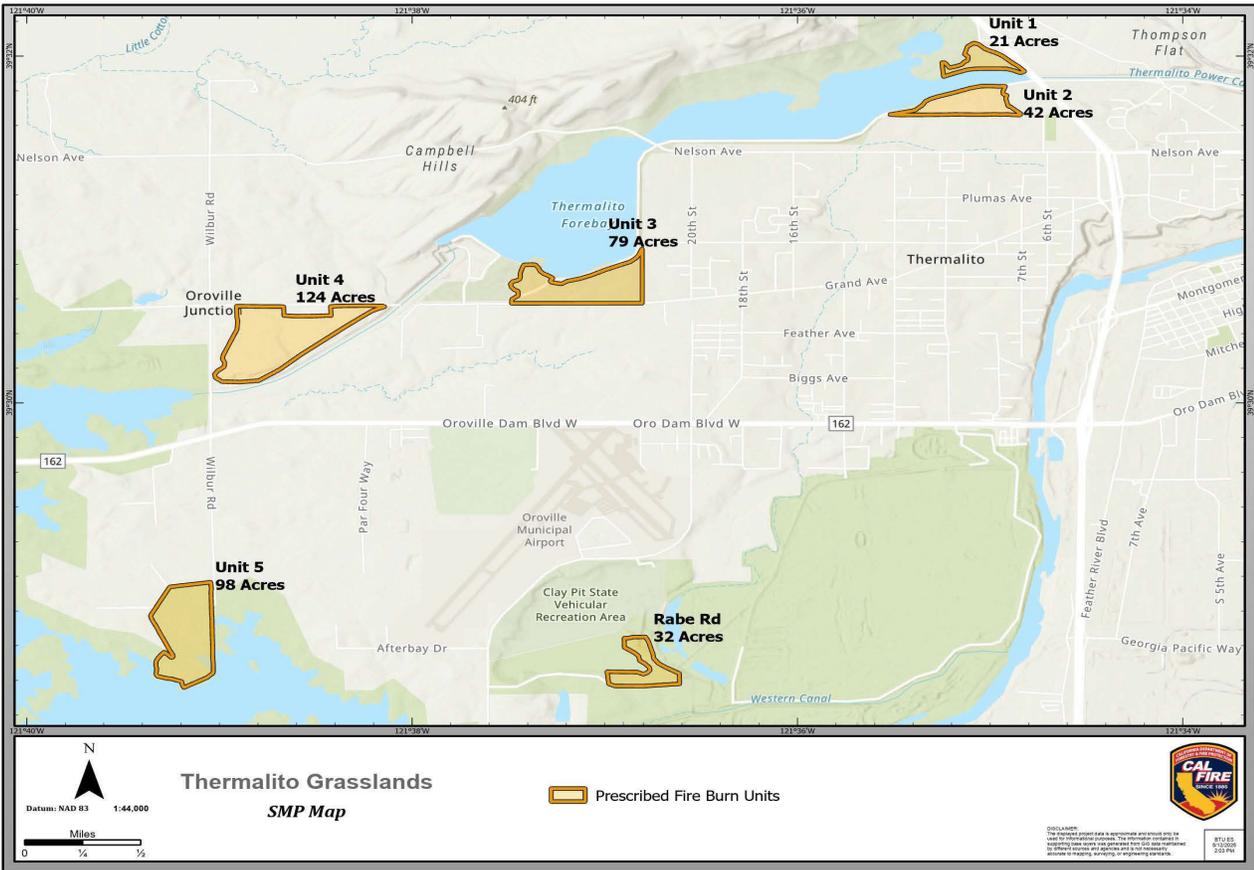
For the fifth straight year, CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department will conduct a series of prescribed burns around the Thermalito Forebay and Afterbay. This project is being done in cooperation with California State Parks, the California Department of Water Resources, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The targeted three-week window for this project is from May 23- June 15, with anticipation of starting on May 23. This window allows us to take advantage of the ideal weather to achieve our fuel management objectives.

The Thermalito Grasslands Vegetation Management Project (VMP) was first conducted in 2021. To combat invasive species like yellow star thistle, it is important to burn the same area multiple years in a row. When completed during the right stage in the star thistle's growth cycle, the control burns eradicate the current crop and reduce the spread of seeds. The area has seen a significant decline in the volume of star thistle since the project began. The VMP will also allow the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to continue their post-fire study on vernal pool habitat.

"This vegetation management project has multiple benefits for our agencies and the people of Butte County," says Battalion Chief Jason Dyer. "It is important for research, removes flammable vegetation around the shooting range, and gives our firefighters valuable fire training."

The attached map shows the basic acreage and locations of the six separate burn areas. Unit 1: approximately 25 acres near the North Forebay Aquatic Center. Unit 2: approximately 40 acres west of the Nelson Sports Complex. Unit 3: approximately 80 acres near South Forebay and Grand Avenue. Unit 4: approximately 125 acres off Wilbur Road and Tres Vias Road. Unit 5: approximately 100 acres off of South Rabe rd. at the Afterbay. Shooting Range: approximately 30 acres off of Rabe rd. around the shooting range.

CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department is proud to partner with the DWR, State Parks, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife to help make Butte County a safer, healthier place. Visit www.bereadybutte.com for defensible space and home hardening tips.



Calculated Burn Area:
14 Acres