

Notice of Exemption

2019038344

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

(Address)

County Clerk / County of Tuolumne

2 South Green Street

Sonora, CA 95370

Project Title: Rim Fire Invasive Plant Control and Eradication (SNC #1131)

Project Applicant: Stanislaus National Forest

Project Location - Specific:

Treatment areas centered at approximately 37°55'25.54"N and 120° 3'34.92"W

Project Location - City: Groveland, CA

Project Location - County: Tuolumne

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide \$332,400 in funding for noxious weed treatment control and eradication efforts on approximately 5,714 acres, and noxious weed surveys on an additional 1,823 acres adjacent to known infestations. All work would occur within the portion of the Stanislaus National Forest that was affected by the 2013 Rim Fire. Noxious weeds would be treated using an integrated weed management approach and would include the following techniques: fire wilting, grazing, grubbing, hand pulling, and herbicide application. Treatments would help manage the adverse effects of such plants on ecosystem structure, composition, and function. Because noxious weeds are often fire-adapted, water-intensive, and can outcompete native plant species, areas affected by fire can be easily colonized by monocultures of noxious weeds, which exacerbates fire severity, frequency, and intensity. Treatments that would be funded by this project would assist in reducing fire risk.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Stanislaus National Forest, USDA Forest Service Region 5

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

Pursuant to Executive Order B-23-13 a CEQA waiver has been provided relative to the implementation of the Federal Phase I Restoration Plan for the Rim Fire, which was analyzed in the Rim Fire Reforestation Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Record of Decision (ROD) prepared by the Stanislaus National Forest and signed on August 17, 2016. The proposed activities are within the scope of Rim Fire Reforestation EIS and ROD. Such activities are exempt from CEQA pursuant to Executive Order (EO) B-23-13. Project activities include only those specifically identified in the EIS ROD (page 8).

Lead Agency Contact Person: Shannon Ciotti

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4689

If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project: Yes No

Signature:

[Handwritten Signature]

Date:

3/17/19

Title:

A.E.O.

- Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
Date received for filing at OPR:

MAR 14 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE