

Notice of Exemption

2019038345

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 Plumas
520 Main Street Room 102
Quincy, CA 95971

Project Title: Valley Creek Botanical Special Interest Area and Watershed Protection Project (SNC #1146)

Project Applicant: Plumas National Forest

Project Location - Specific:
Approximately 39°39'28.67"N and 121° 1'8.01"W

Project Location - City: La Porte, CA Project Location - County: Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide \$999,878 in funding for forest thinning treatments on 634 acres within the Plumas National Forest surrounding the remote communities of La Porte and American House. Forest conditions in the project site are overstocked, with a high level of tree mortality due to bark beetle infestation and drought. Treatments would be aimed at improving forest resiliency to pest and disease infestation, drought-induced tree mortality, and wildfire; and protecting life and property. The project would protect a portion of the Lake Oroville watershed, which provides drinking water to more than 60 million people in California. Specific treatment methods and management activities would include hand-thinning, lop and scatter, mastication, and tree planting.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: U.S. Forest Service, Plumas National Forest

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:
[X] Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)(1)

Reasons why project is exempt:
CEQA does not apply to prescribed fire, thinning, or fuel reduction projects undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the federal NEPA if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding to treat 630 acres of forest on federal lands. The proposed activities were evaluated pursuant to NEPA by the U.S. Forest Service in the Sugarloaf Hazardous Fuels Reduction Environmental Impact Statement. The Record of Decision was signed in September 2014.

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: 3/14/19 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