

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
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 St, Room 102
Quincy, CA 95971

Project Title: Valley Creek Botanical Special Interest Area and Watershed Protection Project (SNC #1146.1)
SCH 2019038345.

Project Location – Specific:

Feather River Ranger District, Plumas National Forest, South of Little Grass Valley Reservoir, from Goat Mountain in the north to community of American House in the south, surrounding the community of La Porte. The project encompasses all or portions of T. 21 N., R. 8 E., sec. 24-26; T. 21 N., R. 9 E., sec. 2, 3, 5-10, 14-22, 27-32, MDM. 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 funding for hazardous fuels reduction treatments within the Feather River Ranger District of 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; as well as protecting life and property.

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:

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 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 for fuel reduction treatments within the Feather River Ranger District of Plumas National Forest. The proposed activities were reviewed in their entirety under NEPA in the Sugarloaf Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision signed in September 2014, as well as the Devils Gap Forest Health Project analysis and Decision Memo signed in September 2018 and the Mooreville Ridge Insect and Disease Resilience Project analysis and Decision Memorandum signed in May 2020, with Supplemental Information Report and Decision Memo signed in October 2020.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Shannon Ciotti

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 906-7345

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:  Date: 10/12/2021 Title: Chief Deputy Executive Officer

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.