

Notice of Exemption

2019068042

Form D

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

County Clerk
County of Nevada
100 Courthouse Square
Downieville, CA 95936

(Address)

Project Title: 'Inimim Forest Restoration Project - Phase One (SNC 1053)

Project Location - Specific:

The project is located in Nevada County; U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-owned land in the 'Inimim Forest and centered at approximately 39°22'15.47"N and 120°59'45.54"W.

Project Location - City: East of North San Juan Project Location - County: Nevada County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide \$300,000 in funding to the Yuba Watershed Institute for forest and watershed improvements on 402 acres of federal land in the 'Inimim Forest. The treatments used to implement these improvements include stand thinning, removal of beetle-killed trees, reduction of fuels, creation and maintenance of roadside fuel breaks, and prescribed fire. These treatments will reduce the risk of wildfire and increase forest ecosystem resilience.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Yuba Watershed Institute

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. SNC would provide funding to for fuel reduction on 402 acres of federal lands managed by BLM. The project activities in these areas have been analyzed by BLM pursuant to NEPA. NEPA analysis found that the project would not result in a significant adverse effect. NEPA Environmental Assessments and Finding of No Significant Impacts were prepared for the various elements of the project.

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: [Signature] Date: 6/7/19 Title: Deputy Executive Officer

- Signed by Lead Agency
Signed by Applicant

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

JUN 11 2019

Revised 2005

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE