

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail: Street Address:
P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk
County of: _____
Address: _____

From:

Public Agency: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Address: 11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603
Contact: Jamie Sammut
Phone: (530) 823-4688

Lead Agency (if different from above):
Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
Address: 5883 East Camanche Parkway
Valley Springs, CA 95252
Contact: Karen Quidachay
Phone: (530) 295-8124

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

2019090253

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): _____

Project Title: Fore Restoration Project

Project Applicant: Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Project Location (include county):

The 490.75-acre Fore Restoration Project is located in the Calaveras Ranger District of the Stanislaus National Forest in Calaveras County, California. The project area is northeast of Arnold and southwest of the Village of Bear Valley, to the north of the North Fork Stanislaus River, and south of the Mokelumne River.

Project Description:

The 490.75-acre Fore Project is part of the larger 14,075-acre Hemlock Landscape Restoration Project, aimed at improving the ecological resilience of forested communities, resulting in a forested landscape expected to withstand catastrophic wildfire and the ecological and water quality damage potentially caused by such events. The Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMWRA) completed an Initial Study and Negative Declaration on the Hemlock Landscape Restoration Project and filed a Notice of Determination as a Lead Agency in January 2018. In 2018, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) authorized agreement #1033 with UMWRA to implement the Cabbage Patch Restoration Project, another project within the Hemlock Landscape Restoration Project. SNC is now authorizing an amendment to agreement #1033 to allow funds to be used to implement the Fore Project.

The project is in a high-priority area for fuels treatments due to dense, overstocked, homogeneous forested conditions that are susceptible to mortality from drought, pests, pathogens, and catastrophic wildfire. The project will include mechanical thinning of natural forest stands (mastication) and hand treatments, including hand piling. Hand thinning of trees less than 10 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) will be based on Forest Service descriptions of priorities for removal and desired tree spacing. Slash shall either be lopped and scattered or piled per Forest Service specifications. Plantations will be mechanically thinned to a density prescribed by Forest Service. Brush and trees less than 10 inches dbh will be masticated, removed, and/or piled and burned. Trees 10-16 inches dbh may be removed where needed to achieve fuel reduction and silvicultural objectives. The proposed project is designed in accordance with the Hemlock Landscape Restoration Project Environmental Assessment to treat forest stands at various densities as part of a landscape level fuels management program. SNC has independently reviewed the environmental documentation prepared by the lead agency and determined that the project would not result in a significant environmental impact.


This is to advise that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has approved the above
(Lead Agency or Responsible Agency)

described project on September 5, 2019 and has made the following determinations regarding the above
(date)
described project.

1. The project **will not** have a significant effect on the environment
2. A Negative Declaration **was** prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA
3. Mitigation measures **were not** a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan **was not** adopted for this project
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations **was not** adopted for this project.
6. Findings **were not** made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Negative Declaration and record of project approval is available to the General Public at:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy, 11521 Blocker Drive Suite 205, Auburn, CA 95603

Signature (Public Agency):  Title: Deputy Executive Officer
Date: 9/10/19 Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.
Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

SEP 10 2019 Revised 2011
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE