

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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

To: *Placer County Clerk-Recorder*
2954 Richardson Drive
Auburn, CA 95603

To: *El Dorado County Recorder-Clerk*
360 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Project Title: King Fire Restoration Project (SNC 933.4) (SCH 2019090254)

Project Applicant: US Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest
Joseph Stout, Forest Supervisor
100 Forni Road Placerville, CA 95667
530-303-2412

Project Location – Specific: The project area is located in the central Sierra Nevada mountain range north of Pollock Pines, California and east of Foresthill, California. Centered near 38°57'36.5" 120°31'17.6"W.

Project Location - City:
North of Pollock Pines

Project Location - County:
Placer, El Dorado

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy will provide funding to the U.S. Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest, to complete forest fuel reduction activities in areas affected by the 2014 King Fire. This project will include forest fuel reduction, including the management of shrubs and dead trees. Project treatments will involve initial fuel reduction activities on approximately 3,600 acres, including skidding and piling of large and small material. The secondary treatments on these acres will include shrub control and biomass removal on approximately 1,900 acres. The project activities now include a minimum of 56 acres of treatments in the Cold Springs Units, which was not initially planned as part of the project under SNC's previous SCH 2019090254 NOE for this project, filed in September 2015. These activities will reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire and support forest restoration on the Eldorado National Forest, promoting forest health and resiliency during future wildfire events.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)

Reasons why project is exempt:

CEQA does not apply to prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel reduction projects, or to related activities included in the project description, undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the federal National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 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 conduct fuel reduction activities on federal lands in Eldorado National Forest. The proposed activities were reviewed in their entirety under NEPA by Eldorado National Forest and the King Fire Restoration Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared for the project in August of 2015. The Record of Decision (ENF45952) was signed on September 2, 2015. An additional Decision Memo (ENF61604) for fuel reduction treatments on the Cold Springs Units portion of the project was signed on April 25, 2022.


Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mary Akens

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-450-5177

If filed by applicant: N/A

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: 6/2/2023 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.