

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

County Clerk
County of: Tulare
221 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, California 93291
Fresno
2220 Tulare St
Fresno, CA 93721

Project Title: Grant Grove Big Stump Ecological Restoration Project, Phase Two

Project Location – Specific:

Four treatment areas centered at approximately 36°43'9.18"N and 118°57'35.55"W; 36°43'14.95"N and 118°55'49.85"W; 36°43'45.84"N and 118°56'49.47"W; and 36°45'7.16"N and 118°56'25.51"W.

Project Location - City: Wilsonia, CA

Project Location - County: Tulare, Fresno

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for hazardous fuels reduction treatments on at least 2,034 acres of National Park land within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, 60 miles east of Fresno. The goal of the project is to implement fuel reduction treatments to protect special-status species including giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) groves, enhance forest habitat resiliency, improve visitor and employee safety, and protect cultural resource values. The fuel reduction treatments would involve site preparation and thinning/clearing followed by broadcast burning. Thinning and clearing activities would be implemented by piling dead and downed woody material and clearing of 20-foot-wide paths to facilitate fire line construction. Following thinning and clearing, National Parks and U.S. Forest Service fire crews would implement broadcast burn treatments.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Great Basin Institute

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 on approximately 2,034 acres of National Park land. The proposed activities were reviewed in their entirety under NEPA in the Park Ridge Prescribed Burn Categorical Exclusion (CE), Tower Prescribed Burn CE, Big Stump East Fire Restoration CE, and the Pan Point Prescribed Burn CE, all of which were signed in September 2021.

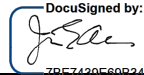
Lead Agency

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: 12/9/2021 Title: Chief Deputy Executive Officer

Signed by Lead Agency: **Yes**

Signed by Applicant: No

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date received for filing at OPR: _____