

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

Project Title: Lower McCloud Fuels Management Project – SNC1360

Project Location – Specific: 41°6'34.01"N 122°8'49.81"W

Project Location - City: McCloud, CA; Dunsmuir, CA

Project Location - County: Shasta

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Lower McCloud Fuels Management Project will establish approximately 1,505 acres of fuel management zones within the project area and allow for application of prescribed fire to the entire 12,043-acre project area. These activities will reduce fuel loads thereby decreasing the likelihood of losing key late-successional structure and forest in the Iron Canyon Late Successional Reserve, restoring fire's natural and historic role to promote fire-related processes and ecological resiliency, improving firefighter access to employ suppression tactics, increasing public safety for people using access routes and developed recreation sites, and improving forest health to promote the long-term sustainability of late-successional habitat and watershed function.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: USDA Forest Service, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Shasta McCloud Management Unit

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 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 to conduct fuel reduction activities on 12,043 acres of federal lands within the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The actions to be undertaken by this project were reviewed in their entirety pursuant to NEPA through an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The Decision Notice and FONSI for the project was signed by the Shasta-Trinity National Forest on August 4th, 2021.

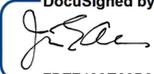
Lead Agency

Contact Person: Shannon Ciotti

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

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

DocuSigned by:

 Signature: _____ Date: 6/3/2022 Title: Chief Deputy Executive Officer
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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.