

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

County Clerk
County of: Mono
74 School Street
Bridgeport, CA 93517

Project Title: Sweetwater Forest Resilience Project – SNC1375

Project Location – Specific: approximately 18,000 acres within the Sweetwater Mountains, approximately 0.65 mile north of Rock Springs Canyon on California Route 182 near Bridgeport Reservoir

Project Location - City: Bridgeport

Project Location - County: Mono

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for a comprehensive set of planning activities to prepare for a landscape-scale woodland health project that enhances pinyon-juniper resilience to drought and fire and supports the restoration of more ecologically healthy and diverse landscapes. The project would plan treatments on 18,000 acres within the Sweetwater Mountains with the aim to restore a heterogeneous vegetation mosaic to support critical ecological and cultural resources and reduce fire risk. Project planning activities would be inclusive of Indigenous ecological knowledge and community-driven priorities with the desired outcome to develop a description of shared management objectives, landscape prioritization framework, management plan, complete NEPA/CEQA surveys and monitoring, written reports and public webinar, and monitoring toolkit.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station

Exempt Status: Statutory Exemptions: Section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies)

Reasons why project is exempt: The project is Statutorily Exempt under Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies of the CEQA Guidelines. This project involves only the planning studies for possible future actions which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board has not approved, adopted, or funded. The project is also categorically exempt under CEQA Section 15306, Information Collection (Class 6) because it consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The proposed activities are for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.

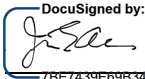
Lead Agency

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:  7BE7439E69B3413...

Date: 6/3/2022

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.