

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: Slate Creek Road Hazard Tree Project – SNC 1386

Project Location – Specific: The project is located on National Forest Service (NFS) lands near Lamoine, CA in Shasta County, approximately 8 miles north of Lakehead and west of Interstate 5.

Project Location - City: Lamoine, CA

Project Location - County: Shasta

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project purpose is to reduce fuels and trees killed during the 2018 Delta Fire in an up to 450-foot buffer along Slate Creek Road (Forest Road 36N20) from the NFS boundary (east end) to the South Fork Slate Creek diversion spur (36N20E; west end). The project would include approximately 145 acres of treatment along 2.6 miles of Slate Road. This project would increase the safety of road users; preserve emergency ingress/egress on the main route that connects Interstate 5 (Shasta County) and State Route 3 (Trinity County); maintain safe access past private inholdings, hydroelectric facilities, and transmission lines; and secure access into popular hunting areas for National Forest visitors. The project would implement prescribed fire and connect to adjacent fuel reduction projects that have been completed by private residential owners, Pacific Power, Sierra Pacific Industries, Shasta Cascade Timberlands, and the California Department of Transportation, increasing the total number of acres treated and reducing the fuel available to future wildfires. The larger USFS project includes felling hazard trees on approximately 4,263 acres along 79 miles of road and treating activity created fuels with hand, mechanical, and prescribed fire treatments. SNC may support some of these additional treatments as funding allows.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: Statutory Exemption, 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 for fuel reduction along Slate Creek Road (Forest Road 36N20) on federal land within the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The actions to be undertaken by this project were reviewed in their entirety pursuant to NEPA and a Decision Memo with supporting Categorical Exclusion were prepared. The Decision Memo for the project was signed by the Shasta-Trinity National Forest on June 6, 2019.

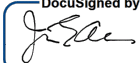
Lead Agency

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.