

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: Strengthening Forest Resilience and Reducing Fuels on 200 Acres in Shasta-Trinity National Forest - SNC 1394

Project Location – Specific: The project is approximately 23 miles east-northeast of McCloud, CA, east of Bear Mountain, and south of Hambone Butte.

Project Location - City: East-northeast of McCloud, CA

Project Location - County: Siskiyou

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Forest Resilience and Fuel Reduction Project would result in increased wildfire resilience and road access safety, which is of particular interest to the Pit River tribe and Modoc Nation as the project is adjacent to and 6 miles from significant tribal cultural sites including Medicine Lake and Glass Mountain. The California Deer Association would implement fuel reduction treatments, including the implementation of natural fuel breaks and a minimum of 200 acres of fuel management zones (FMZs) along a minimum of 3 miles of USDA Forest Service roads. The treatments would improve road and safety access for firefighters, tribes, the public, and a neighboring community's egress route. Additionally, the project would complement future phases of prescribed fire application every 5-7 years on a larger 13,200-acre treatment landscape.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Deer Association

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 treatments on 3 miles of USFS roads to reduce the risk of wildfire and increase wildfire resilience. 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 December 14, 2020.

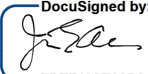
Lead Agency

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.