

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: Modoc Trails Strategy and Concepts SNC1418-RT

Project Location – Specific: Regional planning over the entire Modoc National Forest

Project Location - City: Regional planning

Project Location - County: Modoc, Lassen, Siskiyou

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding to the Modoc National Forest (MNF) for a planning effort to produce a forest-wide trails strategy, identify one to three site-specific trails, and develop proposed actions for the identified trails. The project area encompasses the entire forest (approximately 1.65 million acres), and will enhance recreation opportunities, information sharing, and partnerships in support of long-term sustainable trails system management across the MNF in portions of Modoc, Lassen, and Siskiyou counties. Specific activities include stakeholder meetings and field reconnaissance and surveys to produce a forest-wide assessment of existing trail resources, maintenance needs, priorities, and develop a high-level strategic planning tool to identify new trail opportunities for the next 20+ years of sustainable, multi-use recreation across the MNF. One to three site-specific recreation amenities will be ground-truthed and prepared for analysis, but environmental compliance analysis is not a part of this project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Modoc National Forest, USDA Forest Service

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies

Categorical Exemption: Class 6 Section 15306 Information Collection

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is Statutorily Exempt under Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies as the project only involves planning studies for possible future actions which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board has not approved, adopted, or funded; there is no legally binding effect on later activities. The project is also categorically exempt under Section 15306 Information Collection (Class 6) because it consists of basic data collection and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a disturbance to environmental resources. The proposed activities are for information gathering purposes and are part

