

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Lead Agency
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

To: Nevada County Clerk-Recorder
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 210
Nevada City, CA 95959

Project Title: 'Inimim Forest Restoration Project – Phase 3 Amendment (SNC1507.1) (SCH 2023030169)

Project Location – Specific: Bureau of Land Management property on the San Juan Ridge in Nevada County, about four miles north of Nevada City and 3.5 miles east of the community of North San Juan, in the South Yuba River watershed. Project center at approximately 39.343766, -121.012278.

Project Location - City: Approximately
3.5 miles east of North San Juan

Project Location - County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) awarded grant 1507 to the Yuba Watershed Institute, and filed a Notice of Exemption pursuant to Public Resources Code 4799.05(d)(1) (SCH2023030169) in March 2023. The SNC would amend grant agreement 1507 to update the project description to authorize approximately 253 acres of biomass harvest where potentially merchantable logs will be decked for future sale or disposal by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The focus is to manage ponderosa pines in two plantation sites and to remove small trees up to about 18 inches in diameter using a feller-buncher or similar equipment. Over the larger site, select trees up to 30 inches will be harvested to attain desired forest-structure goals. Slash, surface fuels, and unmerchantable material will be masticated, chipped, or piled for later burning by the BLM following the harvest. All project work is on the BLM's 'Inimim Forest, and was analyzed and authorized under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of the project is to improve landscape-level forest resilience to wildfire, drought, and bark beetles, and to improve safety for residents and fire personnel in the event of a wildfire.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Yuba Watershed Institute

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Pub. Resources Code, section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1)

Reasons why project is exempt:

CEQA does not apply to prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel-reduction projects, or to related activities included in the project description, undertaken, in whole or in part, 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 SNC would provide funding to conduct fuel-reduction activities on federal lands on BLM’s ‘Inimim Forest. The proposed activities were reviewed in their entirety under NEPA in the ‘Inimim Forest Restoration Project Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The final Decision Record for the EA/FONSI was signed by the BLM on January 2, 2020.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mary Akens

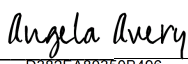
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-450-5177

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 __

Signature:

Title: _____

DocuSigned by:

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Date: _____ 12/13/2024

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.