

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

To: Mono County Clerk-Recorder Office
74 N. School Street, Annex 1
Bridgeport, CA 93517

To: Madera County Clerk-Recorder
Office
200 W. 4th Street
Madera, CA 93637

Project Title: Reds Meadow II - ESCCRP (SNC1532)

Project Location – Specific: Two sites on Inyo National Forest, one site about 4.5 miles west of the Town of Mammoth Lakes along Minaret Rd, Minaret Summit Rd, Reds Meadow Rd, and one site about 3 miles southeast of the Town of Mammoth Lakes near Sherwin Creek Campground along Sherwin and Mammoth Creeks. Project centers at approximately 37.651309, -119.074287 and 37.632109, -1118.935756.

Project Location - City: Approx. 4.5 mi west and 3 mi southeast of the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Project Location - County: Mono, Madera

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the Whitebark Institute of Interdisciplinary Environmental Sciences to partner with Inyo National Forest (INF) to conduct forest restoration thinning and pile burning on approximately 1,538 acres of INF lands that surround the town of Mammoth Lakes, including areas around the headwaters of the Middle Fork San Joaquin River, as well as Sherwin Creek, a tributary to the Owens River. The Project will significantly improve both forest resilience and public safety along the single ingress/egress access route used by more than 150,000 annual visitors to Reds Meadow Valley and Devils Postpile National Monument.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Whitebark Institute of Interdisciplinary Environmental Sciences

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Public 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 the federal National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 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 to conduct fuel reduction activities on federal lands in Inyo National Forest. The proposed activities were reviewed in their entirety under NEPA by Inyo National Forest. The Reds Meadow units were analyzed in the Reds Meadow Hazardous Fuels Reduction analysis; the Final Decision Notice was signed on May 27, 2020. The Sherwin to Scenic units were analyzed in the Sherwin-Scenic Loop Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project analysis; the Final Decision Notice was signed March 20, 2013.

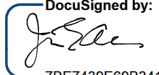
Lead Agency

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 ___

DocuSigned by:

 Signature: _____ Date: 3/2/2023 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.