

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: Siskiyou County Clerk-Registrar
Office
311 Fourth Street, Room 201
Yreka, CA 96067

Project Title: Medicine Lake Volcano Forest and Fire Restoration (SNC1536)

Project Location – Specific: Medicine Lake on Modoc National Forest, approximately 35 miles northeast of McCloud and 38 miles northwest of Canby. Primary campground in Project area is at 41.58584, -121.58557.

Project Location - City: 35 mi east of McCloud.

Project Location - County: Siskiyou

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the Pit Resource Conservation District to partner with Modoc National Forest (MNF) to improve forest resilience by increasing spatial and age-class heterogeneity within and among lodgepole pine-dominated stands. Most of the lodgepole pine stands within the Project are overly dense and highly susceptible to mountain pine beetle (MPB). The overall Project goal is to reduce the likelihood of a widespread MPB outbreak and tree mortality that could lead to a stand-replacing fire. The Project will mechanically thin approximately 4,100 acres. Within these acres of thinning, fuelbreaks will be developed on approximately 350 acres, and surface fuels will be reduced on approximately 200 acres. The Project will protect the entire Medicine Lake caldera, a culturally important landscape to the Pit River Tribes, Klamath Tribes and Modoc Nation, as well as Forest Service recreational infrastructure.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Pit Resource Conservation District

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 Modoc National Forest. The proposed activities were reviewed in their entirety under NEPA by Modoc National Forest. All Project activities were analyzed in the Medicine Lake Caldera Vegetation Treatment Project Environmental Assessment; the Final Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact was signed on January 29, 2019.

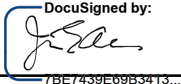
Lead Agency

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:  Date: 3/2/2023 Title: Chief Deputy Executive Officer

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.