

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: West Lassen Headwaters Landscape Restoration Project (SNC1548)

Project Location – Specific: Landscape of 111,000 acres of public lands on Lassen National Forest and Lassen National Park in Tehama and Plumas counties, near the communities of Mineral and Mill Creek. Project center at approximately 40.19'17N / 121.27'21W.

Project Location - City: Landscape of public lands surrounding Mill Creek

Project Location - County: Tehama, Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, in coordination with the South Lassen Watershed Group, to complete planning and environmental compliance on approximately 99,128 acres of National Forest system lands and 11,887 acres of Lassen Volcanic National Park. The purpose of the project is to identify and plan for activities that will restore ecological resilience to the landscape in diverse habitats, ranging from oak woodland to high-elevation conifer forest. Activities considered through the planning effort will include forest health treatments, meadow restoration, and prescribed fire. Plans for restoration actions will be prioritized in proximity to communities, and along strategic fire management features. Roughly half of this landscape is located within the wildland-urban interface.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sierra Institute for Community and Environment

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies

Categorical Exemption: 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 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 of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.

SNC has independently reviewed the project and determined that no exception under Section 15306 applies.

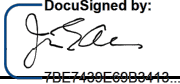
Lead Agency

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.