

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: Modoc County Clerk Office
108 E. Modoc Street
Alturas, CA 96101

Project Title: Improving Forest Resilience on Modoc National Forest (SNC1555)

Project Location – Specific: Bald Mountain area of the Warner Mountain Ranger District of the Modoc National Forest in Modoc County. Approximately 4 mi west of Lake City and 15 mi northeast of Alturas. Treatment area center at approximately 41.675902, 1120.288473.

Project Location - City: 4 mi west of Lake City

Project Location - County: Modoc

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the California Deer Association to partner with Modoc National Forest (MNF) to implement conifer thinning, fuels reduction, and the creation of fuels management zones in the Warner Mountain Ranger District. Fire intolerant species have encroached into the Project area and 90% of stands are overly dense and at risk of disease and high-intensity wildfire. Project treatments include 338 acres of conifer thinning and fuels reduction in conifer stands, 337 acres of conifer thinning and fuels reduction in aspen stands, and 165 acres of fuels management zone creation along existing roadways.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Deer Association

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 on federal lands in Modoc National Forest. The proposed activities were reviewed in their entirety under NEPA by Modoc National Forest in the *Bald Mountain*

Ecological Restoration Environmental Assessment, with a Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact signed on February 2, 2022.

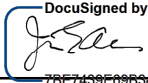
Lead Agency

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.