

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

Project Title: Reducing Wildfire Risks on Inyo Craters Landscape (SNC1571)

Project Location – Specific: Approximately 3 miles north of the Town of Mammoth Lakes on the west side of Mammoth Scenic Loop Rd. Treatment area center at approximately 37.679892, -119.001120.

Project Location - City: 3 mi north of the Town of Mammoth Lakes

Project Location - County: Mono

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the California Deer Association to partner with Inyo National Forest (INF) to treat approximately 385 acres of Mammoth Ranger District INF lands to remove hazardous fuels to improve forest health, reduce the spread of bark beetle and the risk of catastrophic wildfire, and remove hazard trees to improve visitor safety and access. Treatments in Inyo Craters will focus on dead trees within 100 feet of roads, surrounding trailheads, and campsites. Methods will consist of hand and mechanical removal, decking, and piling of dead trees, many of which will be made available for public fuelwood cutting. Inyo Craters has been impacted by bark beetle in recent years, resulting in very high mortality rates of lodgepole and Jeffrey pine throughout the project area. This has created a buildup of hazardous fuels and a major threat to public safety from hazard trees in a popular recreation area.

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 hazardous fuel reduction on federal lands in Inyo National Forest. The proposed

activities were reviewed in their entirety under NEPA by Inyo National Forest in the *Inyo Craters Area Bark Beetle Mortality Hazard Abatement Project Decision Memo* signed on March 7, 2022.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mary Akens

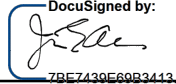
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-450-5177

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.