

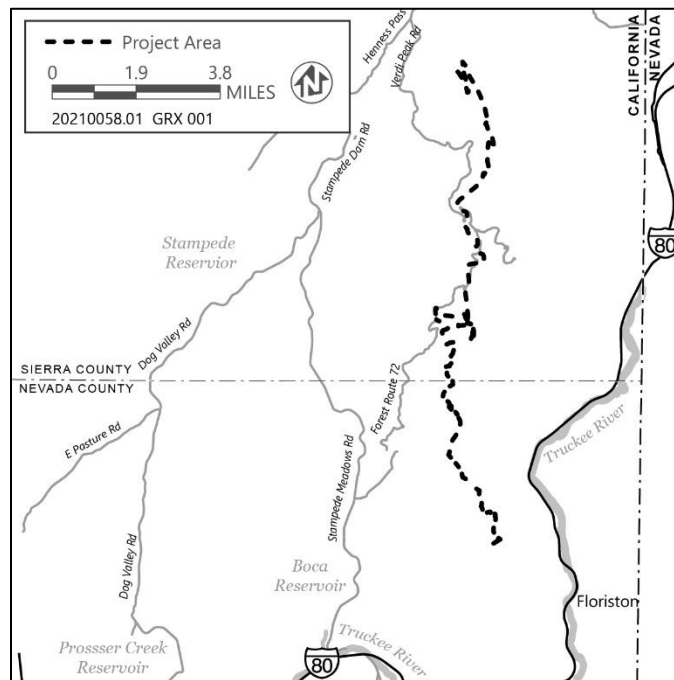
Sierra Nevada Conservancy

NOTICE OF INTENT

Release of an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Lost Sierra Route: EZ Verdi Ridge Segment Project

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has released for public review the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Lost Sierra Route: EZ Verdi Ridge Segment Project. SNC will consider providing grant funds to Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship to implement the project. The project includes a 15-mile-long single-track motorized multi-use trail designated for hiking, biking, motorcycles, e-bikes, and equestrian use. The Verdi Ridge Trail is a segment of the greater 600-mile-long Lost Sierra Route and included as part of the East Zone Connectivity and Restoration Project managed by the U.S. Forest Service. The project will improve recreation opportunities and restore watershed impacts on the forest by constructing a sustainable trail system while eliminating and rerouting existing unsustainable user-created trails. Actions are needed due to increased demand for trail riding opportunities, erosion and sedimentation, impacts to natural and cultural resources, ongoing trail maintenance requirements, poor trail drainage, fragmented trails, and public safety concerns. Furthermore, the project aims to provide world-class recreation opportunities for economically disadvantaged towns located in Sierra and Nevada County.

Project Location: The project includes a 15-mile-long segment of the Lost Sierra Route within the Tahoe National Forest in the eastern portion of Nevada and Sierra County, California (see map).



Environmental Effects: SNC has prepared an IS/MND pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Sections 15063 and 15071. SNC has studied the effects the proposed project may

have on the environment. Based on the IS, and due to mitigation measures, that have been incorporated into the project before release of the IS/MND for public review, the project would not result in significant environmental impacts. Therefore, an IS/MND is proposed for compliance with the requirements of CEQA.

Where You Come In: As lead agency under CEQA, SNC is releasing the IS/MND for public review and comments. The document is available for a 30-day public review period from April 18, 2023, to May 18, 2023.

Where to Review the Environmental Document and Provide Comments: Formal comments regarding the IS/MND may be submitted in writing via email or hand delivered to SNC any time during the public review period. Written comments regarding the scope and content of information in the IS/MND or any questions regarding the document should be submitted no later than May 18, 2023. Comments may be sent to:

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Copies of the IS/MND, and the documents referenced in the IS/MND, are available for public review during regular business hours at the office of SNC identified above.

Digital copies of the IS/Proposed ND are available online at:
<https://sierranevada.ca.gov/environmental-compliance-documentation/#sec479905>

Public Hearing: A public hearing on the proposed project is scheduled during the SNC Governing Board meeting that will begin at 9 am on June 1, 2023 in Chester, Plumas County, California. The exact location will be posted on the SNC website at <https://sierranevada.ca.gov/our-board/> no later than May 17, 2023.