

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: Ishi Wilderness Fire Restoration Planning (SNC 1669).

Project Location – Specific: Approximately 34,000-acre landscape planning project located in western Lassen National Forest in eastern Tehama County within the Deer Creek, Pine Creek, and Toomes Creek watersheds. Project center approximately at -121.743 and 40.074 degrees.

Project Location - City: No communities within the planning area; nearby communities include Campbellville, Boone Docks Homestead, and Cohasset in Butte County.

Project Location - County: Tehama

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is funding Project #1669 Ishi Wilderness Fire Restoration Planning, led by the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County. The project will complete the environmental compliance documentation required to implement potential future large-scale prescribed fire within and adjacent to the Ishi Wilderness in eastern Tehama County. The 33,868-acre project is on the western edge of the Lassen National Forest and includes 16,814 acres of federally designated wilderness. The project will protect nearby communities of Campbellville and Cohasset from the threat of uncharacteristically severe wildfire, restore and maintain fire-adapted ecosystems, protect culturally significant resources, maintain water quality for downstream users, and maintain wilderness character. Specific activities to take place under the project include resources surveys and analysis for biological evaluation/assessment, invasive plant risk assessment, specialist reports, development of a draft National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice, tribal partnership meetings and field tours, and the development of cultural burn objectives. There will be no ground or resource disturbance as part of this project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Resource Conservation District of Tehama County
Kathryn Raeder, Forestry Project Specialist
2 Sutter Street, Suite D, Red Bluff, CA 96080
(530) 727-1280

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Pub. Resources Code, section 21150; CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies

Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines, Section 15306, Information Collection

Reasons why project is exempt:

The planning activities under this project are resource surveys, data analysis, and outreach and coordination meetings towards the development of a Draft NEPA Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice considering potential future prescribed fire for forest and watershed-health projects, which have not yet been approved, adopted, or funded. The planning and due diligence activities to be carried out as part of the project involve no ground or resource disturbance. The project is Statutorily Exempt under CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies as the Project only involves planning studies for possible future actions, which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Governing Board has not approved, adopted, or funded; there is no legally binding effect on later activities. The project is also Categorically Exempt under CEQA Guidelines, 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.

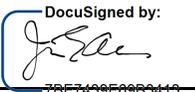
Lead Agency

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:  _____

Chief Deputy Executive Officer

Title: _____

Date: 3/7/2024 _____

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.