

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: Boca/Hobart Forest Health and Meadow Habitat Restoration (SNC 1678).

Project Location – Specific: Approximately 2,800-acre planning project located in Tahoe National Forest in Nevada County, between Boca and Prosser reservoirs, about 5 miles northeast of the town of Truckee. Project center approximately at -120.132 and 39.404 degrees.

Project Location - City: Approximately five miles northeast of Truckee.

Project Location - County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) will provide funding to the Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC) for project #1678 Boca/Hobart Forest Health and Meadow Habitat Restoration project. The project is a 2,800-acre forest health planning project on Tahoe National Forest (TNF) lands in Nevada County. The project is west of Boca Reservoir and north of Prosser Reservoir in the Middle Truckee River watershed, approximately five miles northeast of the town of Truckee. The TRWC, in partnership with TNF, would conduct planning activities that could result in potential future forest-health treatments to enhance ecological function and reduce the risk of fire, drought mortality, and other unplanned disturbances. The project would conduct baseline wildlife, vegetation, aquatic, and cultural surveys to determine the presence of any sensitive species or resources and would also include a comprehensive stand inventory, detailed prescription treatments, and proposed actions. In addition, the project would complete design plans and environmental compliance documents for a meadow habitat restoration component. The proposed project has been identified as a priority area by the Middle Truckee River Watershed Forest Health Partnership and has received other funding that will support some of the planning activities. The SNC's funding would be allocated to completion of baseline surveys, report development and prescription treatment plans, a draft National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) decision, and draft design documents. 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:

Truckee River Watershed Council
Eben Swain, Project Director
PO Box 8568, Truckee, CA 96162
(530) 550-8760

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 planning and design towards the development of a Draft NEPA decision considering potential future 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.