

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Lead Agency
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project (SNC1512)

Project Location – Specific: U.S. Bureau of Land Management owned forested land on the San Juan Ridge in Nevada County, between the communities of Bridgeport and Lake City. Project center at approximately 39.19'30N/121.03'39W.

Project Location - City: Approx. 3 mi southeast of Sweetland, on the ridge between Bridgeport and Lake City.

Project Location - County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy will provide funding to the County of Nevada to work in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to conduct planning activities towards potential future fuels reduction treatments on 1,800 acres of BLM lands along the San Juan Ridge in Nevada County, between the communities of Bridgeport and Lake City. Anticipated project activities are reconnaissance-level biological surveys, a cultural resource records search and cultural resource site survey, a raptor assessment, a California Spotted Owl Assessment, and coordination with the BLM toward environmental compliance analysis for a potential future fuels reduction and forest health project. The planning activities aim to lead to actions which will reduce wildfire risk for over 44,000 residents in local communities and protect critical infrastructure and natural resources, including two State Parks, the South Yuba River watershed, Tahoe National Forest and BLM public lands.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: County of Nevada.

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies

Categorical Exemption: Section 15306 Information Collection

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is Statutorily Exempt under Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies as the project only involves planning studies for possible future actions which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board has not approved, adopted, or funded; there is no legally binding effect on later activities. The project is also categorically exempt under 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. SNC has independently reviewed the project and determined that no exception under Section 15306 applies.

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: DocuSigned by:
Angela Avery
D382EA80350B496...

Title: Executive Officer

Date: 5/30/2024

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.