

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



State of California  
 The Natural Resources Agency  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

**PROJECT TITLE** The Nature Conservancy, “2020 CAL FIRE Forest Resilience Project, Tahoe Central Sierra Initiative” - Tahoe National Forest (USFS)

**PROJECT LOCATION** Tahoe National Forest **COUNTY** Sierra and Yuba

**LEAD AGENCY** California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

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 Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

CAL FIRE would provide funding to The Nature Conservancy to conduct forest health treatments to reduce the potential of uncharacteristic high-severity wildfire and to improve forest health, resistance, and resilience on Tahoe National Forest lands in Sierra and Yuba counties. Treatment activities include manual thinning and piling, broadcast burning, and piling burning. These treatments will reduce wildfire risks to local resources and community members, promote native plant and wildlife species, and improve forest resiliency.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class
- Statutory Exemption (state code section): Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)(1)
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

**REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT**

CEQA does not apply to fuel reduction, reforestation, & habitat restoration projects undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the NEPA, if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The proposed project was reviewed in its entirety under the Tahoe National Forest Camp Project NEPA Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact signed May 6, 2013; Plum Project NEPA Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact signed November 28, 2011; and Trapper Project Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact signed December 16, 2020. Combined NEPA coverage for these projects are 23,289 acres, with initial treatments up to 900 acres.

The NEPA record of project approval is available to the General Public at:  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/tahoe/landmanagement/projects>

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

DocuSigned by:  John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director Resource Management California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	1/21/2025 _____ Date
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