

Notice of Exemption

2019038337

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

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

(Address)

County Clerk / County of Plumas

520 Main Street, Room 102

Quincy, CA 95971

Sierra

100 Courthouse Square, Room 11

Downieville, CA 95936

Project Title: Lakes Basin (SNC #1088)

Project Applicant: Plumas National Forest

Project Location - Specific:

Treatments centered at approximately 39°43'11.49"N and 120°39'16.98"W

Project Location - City: Johnsville, CA

Project Location - County: Plumas and Sierra

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide \$995,995 in funding for forest thinning and fuel reduction treatments (hand thinning and hand and/or grapple piling) on 1,030 acres of federal land within the Plumas National Forest. The treatments would enhance forest health, promote ecosystem resiliency in the event of wildfire, and improve watershed condition and provide water supply protection in the Lakes Basin Recreation Area. The project would geographically connect to a larger 5,463-acre area undergoing stewardship timber sales and prescribed fire projects to provide a comprehensive forest health strategy in the area.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Plumas National Forest

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:
Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)(1)

Reasons why project is exempt:

CEQA does not apply to prescribed fire, thinning, or fuel reduction projects undertaken 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 Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for fuel reduction on 1,030 acres of federal land within the Plumas National Forest. The proposed activities were reviewed in their entirety under NEPA in the Lakes Basin Project Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The final Decision Notice for the EA/FONSI was signed by the Plumas National Forest on September 27, 2018.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Shannon Ciotti

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4689

If filed by applicant:

- 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: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 3/14/19

Title: A.E.O.

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Signed by Applicant Signed by Lead Agency:

Date received for filing at OPR:

MAR 14 2019