

Notice of Exemption

Form D

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

County Clerk
County of Nevada
100 Courthouse Square
Downieville, CA 95936

(Address)

Project Title: Sagehen Forest Project - pushing the larger landscape into resiliency through fire (SNC 1056)

Project Location - Specific:

The project is located in Sierra and Nevada Counties; in the Tahoe National Forest and centered at approximately 39° 27'53.75"N and 120° 15'23.19"W.

Project Location - City: Between Truckee and Loyalton Project Location - County: Sierra and Nevada Counties

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide \$1,000,000 in funding to the UC Regents - UC Berkeley - Sagehen Creek Field Station for broadcast burning and pile burning on 1,100 to 4,906 acres of lands in the Tahoe National Forest. These prescribed burning treatments will increase water resources for the ecosystem and downstream water users and enhance key reproductive and foraging habitat for wildlife. Restructuring the forest through low-intensity landscape level burning benefits wildlife and human communities and increases forest resiliency and resistance to destructive wildfire, climate change, and disease and insect infestation.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: UC Regents - UC Berkeley - Sagehen Creek Field Station

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 federal NEPA if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. SNC would provide funding to treat 1,100 to 4,906 acres of forest through broadcast and pile burning on federal land in the Tahoe National Forest. The project activities in these areas have been analyzed by the U.S. Forest Service, including surveys and analysis of biological resources and cultural and archaeological resources. Those evaluations found that the project would not result in a significant adverse effect. NEPA Environmental Assessments and a Categorical Exclusion were prepared for various elements of the project.

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: [Signature] Date: 6/7/19 Title: Deputy Executive Officer

- Signed by Lead Agency
Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Revised 2005

JUN 11 2019

STATE OF CALIFORNIA