

**Notice of Exemption**

**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 MonoAnnex I74 School St.P.O. Box 237Bridgeport, CA 93517**Project Title:** June Mountain Fuels Reduction and Keystone System Restoration Project, Phase II (SNC 1227)**Project****Applicant:** California Trout**Project Location – Specific:**Within the June Mountain Ski Area in Mono County, Center of project area is 37.745554°N / 119.070546°W**Project Location - City:** 2.5 mi S of Town of June Lake **Project Location - County:** Mono**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide \$458,673 in funding for forest thinning and fuel reduction treatments on 214 acres of federal land within the Inyo National Forest including mechanical and hand thinning and pile burning. The treatments would enhance forest health by removal of mountain pine beetle-killed lodgepole pine and candidate-threatened whitebark pine, promote ecosystem resiliency in the event of wildfire, improve watershed condition, and provide water supply protection in the surrounding areas.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** California Trout**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:**

The California Environmental Quality Act 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 National Environmental Policy Act (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 214 acres of federal land within the Inyo National Forest. The proposed activities were reviewed in their entirety under NEPA in the June Mountain Vegetation Management 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 June 6, 2012. In 2020, the US Forest Service reviewed the EA/FONSI and certified that the NEPA analysis adequately addresses current site conditions and project impacts.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jamie SammutArea Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 217-6913**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  NoSignature: Date: 3/6/2020Title: Deputy Executive Officer

Governor's Office of Planning &amp; Research

 Signed by Applicant  Signed by Lead Agency:

Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAR 10 2020**