

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 Plumas

520 Main Street, Room 102

Quincy, CA 95971

Project Title: Phase II Lakes Basin Forest Health (SNC 1232)

Project

Applicant: Plumas County Fire Safe Council

Project Location - Specific:

National Forest lands directly adjacent to the communities of Graeagle and Smith Creek Ranch, 70 miles Southeast of Quincy

Project Location - City: Graeagle

Project Location - County: Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide \$999,997 in funding for forest thinning and fuel reduction treatments (hand thinning and hand and/or grapple piling) on up to 1,016.7 acres of federal land within the Plumas National Forest. The treatments would enhance forest health, promote ecosystem resiliency in the event of wildfire, improve watershed condition, and provide water supply protection in the Frazier Creek watershed of the Middle Fork Feather River. This proposal is the second phase of a Sierra Nevada Conservancy funded project and will provide complete implementation of the comprehensive 5,463 acre project to enhance ecosystem resiliency and watershed protection in the Lakes Basin Recreation Area.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Plumas County Fire Safe Council

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:

[X] 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 up to 1,016.7 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: Jamie Sammut

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4688

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: 3/6/2020

Title: Deputy Executive Officer

[] Signed by Applicant [X] Signed by Lead Agency:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Date received for filing at OPR:

MAR 10 2020