

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Grant Program

SNC ID Number: 1131

Applicant: Stanislaus National Forest

Project Title: Rim Fire Invasive Plant Control and Eradication

Project Category: One

SNC Subregion: South Central

County(ies): Tuolumne

Funding Amount Requested: \$332,400

Funding Amount Recommended: \$332,400

Total Project Cost: \$1,972,950

Final Score: 83.00

PROJECT SCOPE / DESCRIPTION

The Rim Fire Invasive Plant Control and Eradication Project (Project) is a Category One Project covering 1,823 acres within the Rim Fire footprint on Stanislaus National Forest land within Tuolumne County and near the community of Buck Meadows. The Stanislaus National Forest (SNF) will remove known invasive weed populations, survey adjacent acres for any invasive plant spreading, and work to eradicate these known populations before they can spread and cause further damage to the local ecosystem.

Developed collaboratively with the SNF and the Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions forest collaborative (YSS), the Project will work from invasive plant surveys completed post Rim Fire and will specifically target 187 known invasive plant sites. SNF Botanists will conduct annual surveys through and on adjacent acreages around these 187 sites to flag invasive plant migration. Crews led by SNF botanists will use targeted herbicide treatments to eradicate these various invasive plants. SNF botanists will also monitor these sites post treatment to verify eradication. This cycle of surveying, treating, and post monitoring will occur for three years throughout the life of the grant to ensure eradication of these species.

This project is occurring alongside multiple restoration efforts within the Rim Fire footprint. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) funded Rim Fire Restoration Project, awarded to Tuolumne River Trust of YSS, restoring multiple springs, meadows, stream crossings, and over 200 acres of deer migration habitat. YSS was also able to secure a

large-scale wildlife habitat improvement grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board to be implemented within the Rim Fire footprint.

The Stanislaus National Forest is a federal land management agency under the U.S. Department of Agriculture with a mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of our nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Stanislaus National Forest has been a longtime partner with the SNC and has been working with multiple forest collaboratives throughout the South-Central Subregion to implement forest restoration projects.

Project partners include the Tuolumne County Department of Agriculture, the Greater Valley Conservation Corps, and the California Invasive Plants Council (Cal IPC). Both Tuolumne County and Cal IPC have been working with the SNF for many years on these types of projects and will serve in advisory roles, assisting the SNF on mapping invasive plant populations and timing of treatment for maximum effectiveness. The Greater Valley Conservation Corps will implement the targeted herbicide treatment under supervision of SNF botanists.

The Project supports multiple goals of the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program and Propositions 1 and 68. The Project improves upper watershed ecosystem health by eradicating invasive plant species and allowing native species to repopulate, assisting in reducing fire hazard and stabilizing soil and reducing downstream sedimentation. The Project lies within the Tuolumne River watershed. Downstream of the Project is Don Pedro Reservoir which provides municipal and irrigation water to millions of Californians in the San Joaquin Valley, the Sacramento Delta, and through the State Water Project.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

PROJECT TASKS / DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
SNC Progress Reports	Every 6 months
Invasive Plant Surveys	April – August 2019 March – August 2020 March – August 2021
Invasive Plant Treatment	April – August 2019 March – August 2020 March – August 2021
Invasive Plant Monitoring	July – October 2019 July – October 2020 July – October 2021
SNC Final Report	December 2021
Estimated Project Completion Date	January 1, 2022

PROJECT COSTS

BUDGET CATEGORIES	SNC FUNDING
Project Costs:	
Project Management/Reporting	\$67,000
Botanists/Weed Crews	\$230,500
Materials	\$3,900
Administrative:	
Administrative Costs	\$31,000
TOTAL:	\$332,400

PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT / OPPOSITION

SUPPORT:

- Tuolumne County Department of Agriculture

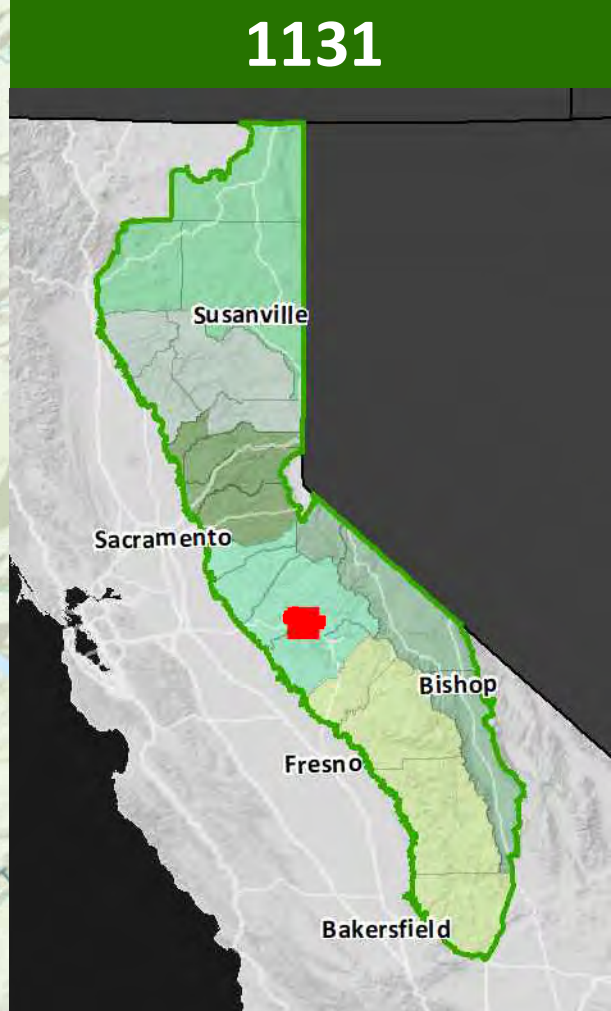
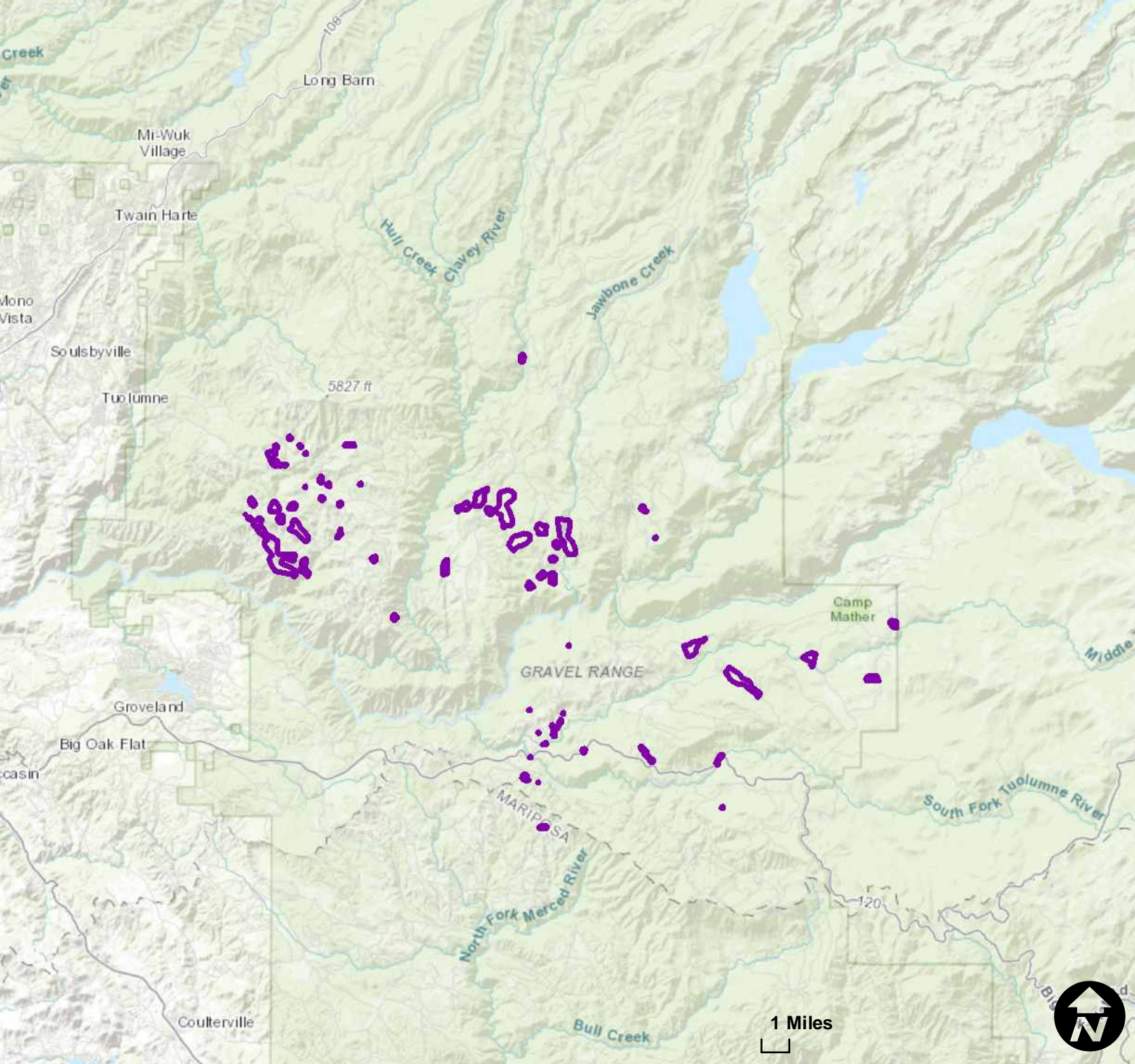
OPPOSITION:









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PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

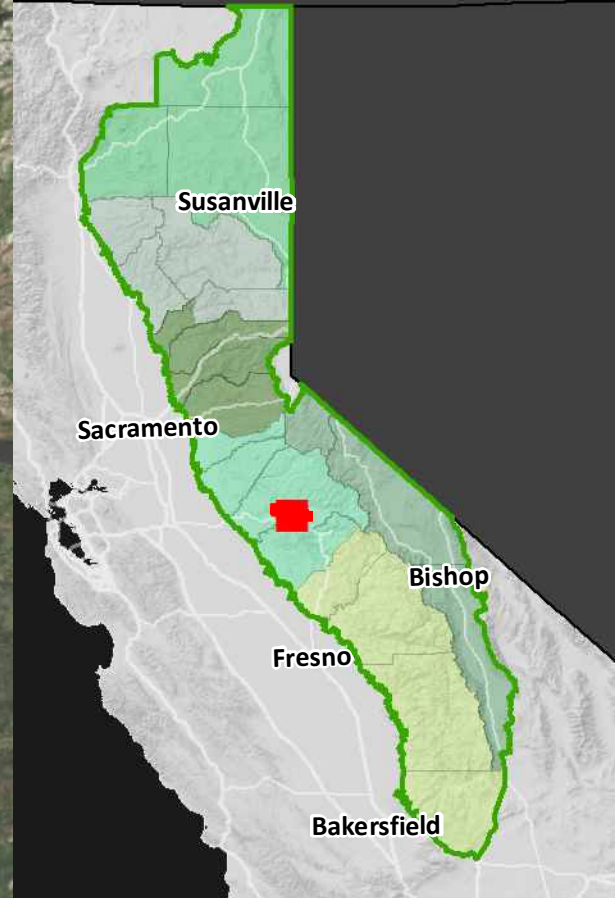
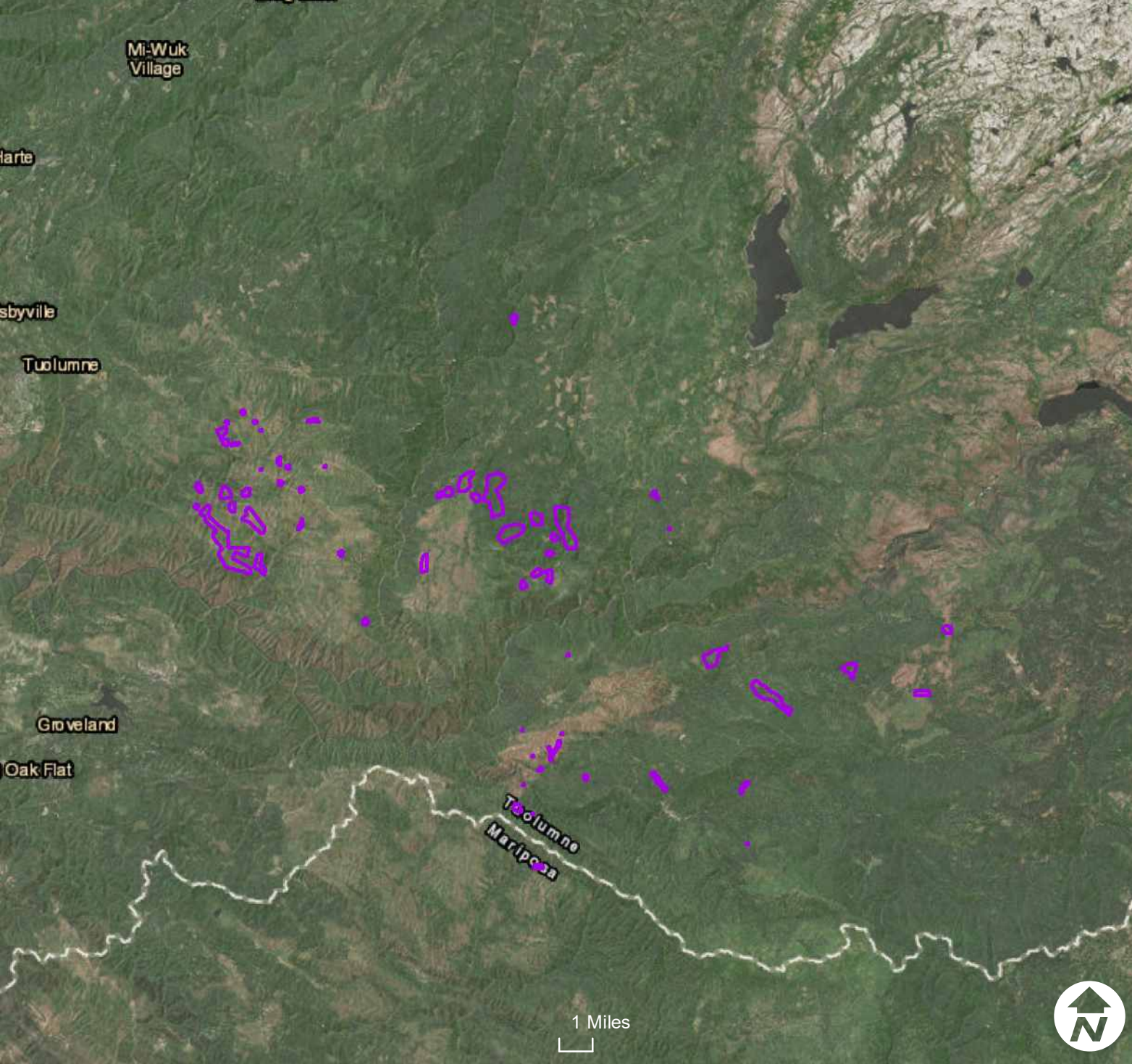
There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to identify one to three project specific Performance Measures in their application. Please note, Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified before the grant agreement is executed.









- Acres of Land Improved or Restored



-  Project Location
-  Project Boundary
-  North Subregion
-  North Central Subregion
-  Central Subregion
-  East Subregion
-  South Central Subregion
-  South Subregion

Rim Fire Invasive Plant Control and Eradication Stanislaus NF



-  Project Location
-  Project Boundary
-  North Subregion
-  North Central Subregion
-  Central Subregion
-  East Subregion
-  South Central Subregion
-  South Subregion

Rim Fire Invasive Plant Control and Eradication
Stanislaus NF

CEQA Documentation

SNC #: 1131

Project Title: Rim Fire Invasive Plant Control and Eradication

Applicant: USDA Forest Service, Stanislaus National Forest

CEQA:

The project is Exempt under Executive Order B-23-13 for Rim Fire Recovery.

- **Notice of Exemption:** See Below

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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

(Address)

County Clerk / County of Tuolumne

2 South Green Street

Sonora, CA 95370

Project Title: Rim Fire Invasive Plant Control and Eradication (SNC #1131)

Project Applicant: Stanislaus National Forest

Project Location – Specific:

Treatment areas centered at approximately 37°55'25.54"N and 120° 3'34.92"W

Project Location - City: Groveland, CA

Project Location - County: Tuolumne

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide \$332,400 in funding for noxious weed treatment control and eradication efforts on approximately 5,714 acres, and noxious weed surveys on an additional 1,823 acres adjacent to known infestations. All work would occur within the portion of the Stanislaus National Forest that was affected by the 2013 Rim Fire. Noxious weeds would be treated using an integrated weed management approach and would include the following techniques: fire wilting, grazing, grubbing, hand pulling, and herbicide application. Treatments would help manage the adverse effects of such plants on ecosystem structure, composition, and function. Because noxious weeds are often fire-adapted, water-intensive, and can outcompete native plant species, areas affected by fire can be easily colonized by monocultures of noxious weeds, which exacerbates fire severity, frequency, and intensity. Treatments that would be funded by this project would assist in reducing fire risk.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Stanislaus National Forest, USDA Forest Service Region 5

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: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Pursuant to Executive Order B-23-13 a CEQA waiver has been provided relative to the implementation of the Federal Phase I Restoration Plan for the Rim Fire, which was analyzed in the Rim Fire Reforestation Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Record of Decision (ROD) prepared by the Stanislaus National Forest and signed on August 17, 2016. The proposed activities are within the scope of Rim Fire Reforestation EIS and ROD. Such activities are exempt from CEQA pursuant to Executive Order (EO) B-23-13. Project activities include only those specifically identified in the EIS ROD (page 8).

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: _____

Date: _____

Title: _____

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Reference: Sections 21108, 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.