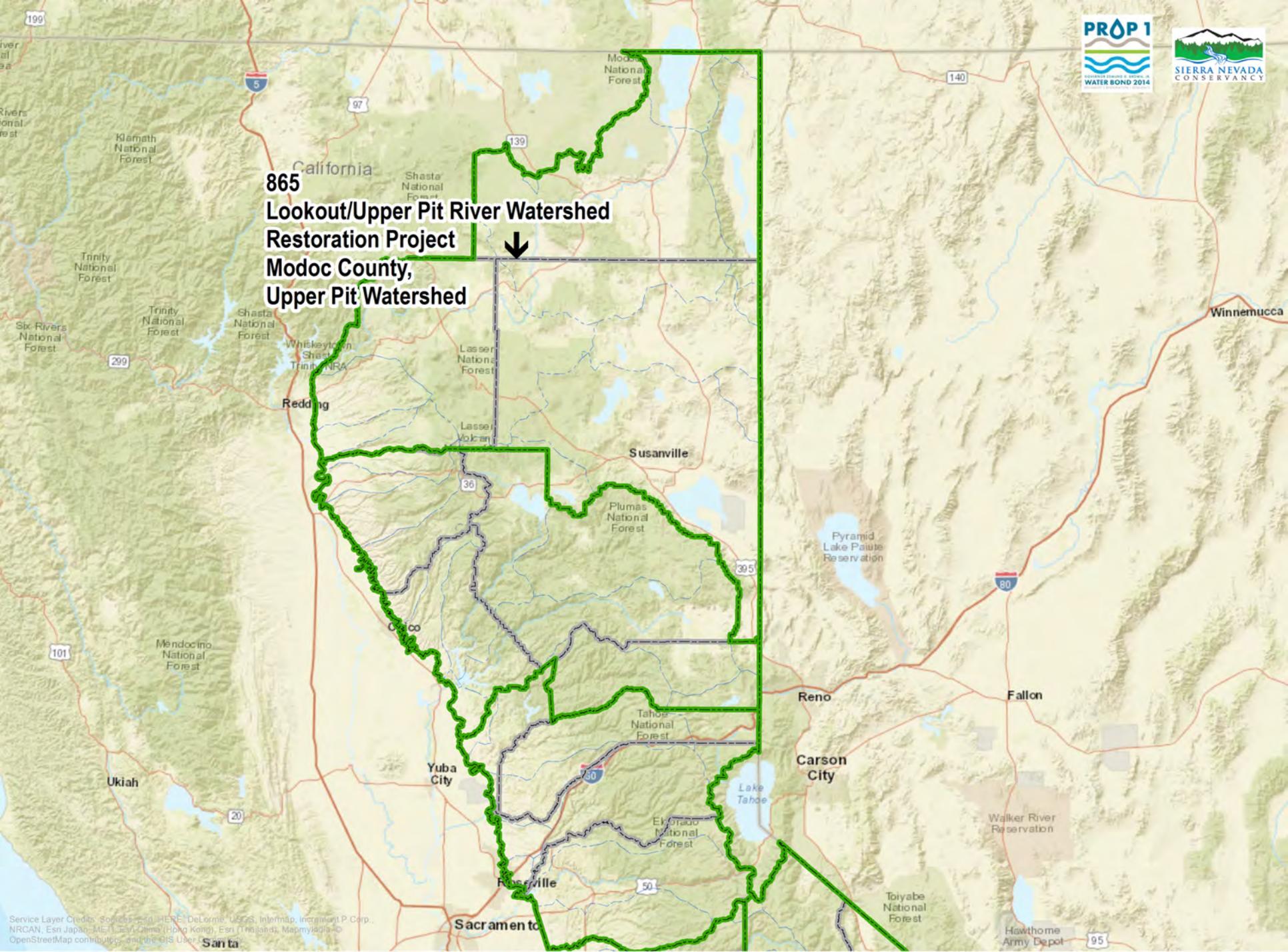




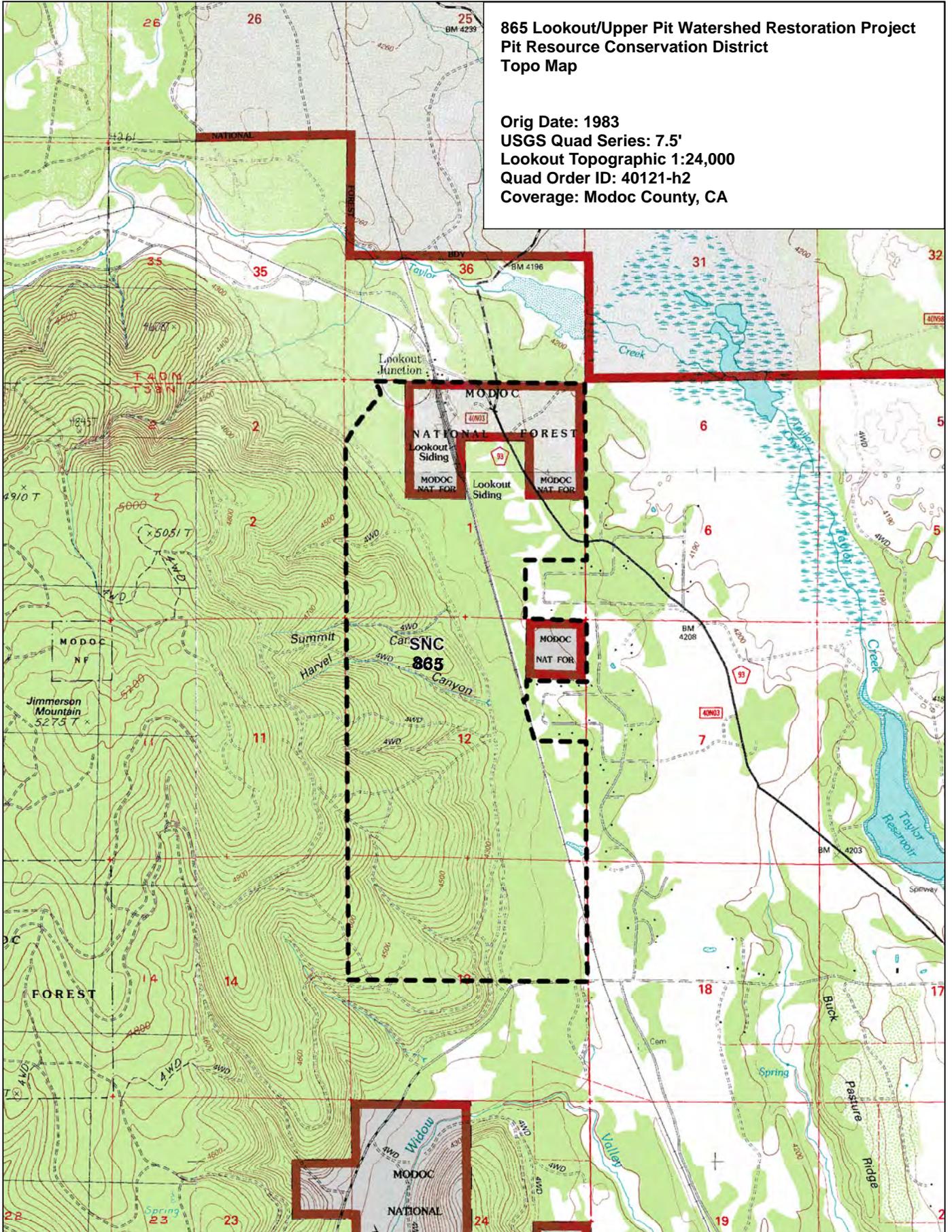
865
Lookout/Upper Pit River Watershed
Restoration Project
Modoc County,
Upper Pit Watershed



Service Layer Credits: Source: HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment LP Corp., NRCAN, Esri, Japac, MEI, Swisstopo, IGN, Esri, China (Hong Kong), Swisstopo, Esri, Thailand, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

865 Lookout/Upper Pit Watershed Restoration Project
Pit Resource Conservation District
Topo Map

Orig Date: 1983
USGS Quad Series: 7.5'
Lookout Topographic 1:24,000
Quad Order ID: 40121-h2
Coverage: Modoc County, CA



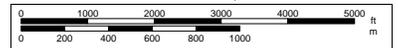
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Scale 1 : 34,375



1" = 2,864.6 ft Data Zoom 13-0

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1)**

Applicant: Pit Resource Conservation District

Project Title: Lookout/Upper Pit Watershed Restoration Project

Subregion: North

County: Modoc

SNC Funding: \$500,000

Total Project Cost: \$1,070,000

Application Number: 865

Final Score: 85.5

PROJECT SCOPE

Located near the rural community of Lookout in northeastern California's Modoc County, the project site is approximately 60 miles southwest of Alturas. Located primarily in the Harvel Canyon Planning Watershed, the watershed feeds Taylor Creek and Widow Valley Creek. Both creeks flow into the Pit River which is the largest contributor to Lake Shasta. Important water sources for agricultural use in the area, they also provide critical sources of water for wildlife, domestic use, power generation, and recreation. Also of significance, area residents rely extensively on groundwater from the Big Valley groundwater basin (recently named a priority basin) for irrigation and domestic use. Vegetation management within the project area and throughout the Upper Pit River Watershed will positively impact water availability for human use, including ground water recharge.

The purpose of the Lookout/Upper Pit Watershed Restoration Project is to improve forest health, protect and enhance the local water supply, and protect the community of Lookout from wildfire. The project will conduct biomass thinning treatments on 900 acres of overstocked, fuel-laden forests of mixed conifers, along with mastication of brush that will continue landscape-scale watershed restoration treatments and provide protection to the community.

This phase of treatment connects with previously completed work within a 6,000+ acre project area. In 2012, 1,900 acres of landscape-scale fuel treatments were accomplished along the Burlington Northern Railroad corridor to the south and within Lookout Ranchettes. The work was funded by SNC, the Western States Foresters/Western WWUI program, and the California Fire Safe Council. Furthermore, companion/partner-funded work will leverage this SNC project site with an additional

947 acres of watershed restoration work to the north, west, and south of the SNC project area, bringing the current phase of forest health work to 1,847 acres. This project provides \$570,000 in matching funds from the California Fire Safe Council, Western States Foresters, W. M. Beaty and Associates, and CAL FIRE.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Setup Pre-treatment Monitoring Transects	July 2016
Prepare Bid Documents	July 2016
Project Layout	July 2016
Bid Solicitation & Award	August 2016
Project Treatments/Implementation	August – November 2016
Post Treatment Monitoring of Transects	January 2017
Sign Development and installation	November 2017
Six-Month Progress Reports	Feb 28, 2017 August 31, 2017
Final Request for Payment Final Report and Performance Measures	February 28, 2018

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	
Project Management, Travel	\$46,000
Biomass Utilization and Mastication Treatments	\$422,000
Monitoring	\$5,500
Reporting/Performance Measures, Sign Dev/Installation	\$4,750
Invoicing, Billing, Bookkeeping	\$4,000
Administrative**	
Administrative Costs	\$17,750
GRAND TOTAL	\$500,000

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings, and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year. Direct expenses should also include costs directly attributable to the project such as performance measure reporting, project management, billing, signs, etc.

** Administrative: Shared expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct costs. Examples of administrative costs include the costs of operating/maintaining facilities, general expenses, general administration, etc.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Pit River Tribe
 - Modoc County Board of Supervisors
 - Lassen County Board of Supervisors
 - Big Valley Water Users Association
 - Kramer Ranch
 - Brian Dahle, Assembly Member, 1st District
 - Modoc National Forest, Big Valley Ranger District
 - Bureau of Land Management, Applegate Field Office
 - CAL FIRE, Lassen Modoc Plumas Unit
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Honey Lake Power Company

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include one to three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of Land Improved or Restored

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

County Clerk

County of: Modoc

108 E. Modoc Street

Altruas, CA 96101

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

(Address)

Project Title: Upper Pit/Lookout Watershed Restoration Project

Project Applicant: Pit Resource Conservation District

Project Location - Specific:

Directly west, and adjacent to, the Lookout Ranchettes subdivision in southwest Modoc County.
(N41.23667, W121.22745)

Project Location - City: _____ Project Location - County: Modoc

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Thinning of small trees and brush to reduce wildfire risk on approximately 1,000 acres of private land using mechanical and hand treatments (see attached).

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Pit Resource Conservation District

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: 15304, class 4, Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project would result in minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation associated with forestry management activities on 900 acres, including canopy thinning and brush clearing, that would improve the health and fire-resistance of this forested area while including protections for sensitive species and biological resources, and best management practices to protect water quality (see attached).

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Patrick Eidman 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.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
CEQA Guidelines, Article 19, Section 15304

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Grant Application Number 865
Upper Pit/Lookout Watershed Restoration Project

Description of Activities

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding to the Pit Resource Conservation District (PRCD) for site improvement/restoration activities on approximately 900 acres. The PRCD would use contractors to perform a forest restoration project within, and west of, the community known as Lookout Ranchettes on private property in Modoc County. The project would involve the removal of small and suppressed trees, and the mastication of brush. It is anticipated that mechanical equipment would be used, with possible follow-up hand treatments.

This project is a continuation of the Lookout & Kramer Ranch Watershed Restoration Project that was completed successfully in 2013. Forestry operations would be conducted under exemptions issued by the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection. The project meets the requirements set forth in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (Section 1038[iii][b]), and is exempt from the requirement to prepare a Timber Harvest Plan. The completed work would restore the forest and watershed and also serve as a shaded fuel break that would help protect the community of Lookout Ranchettes from wildfires emanating from the west of the community. PRCD and Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc. would monitor the project. The project includes environmental protection measures that would be implemented to avoid adverse environmental impacts.

Reasons Why the Project is Exempt

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a categorical exemption provides for an exemption from CEQA environmental documentation requirements for a class of projects determined not to have a significant effect on the environment. Categorical Exemptions are addressed in Article 19 of the CEQA Guidelines, where a list of 32 classes of projects has been identified. Projects falling within one of these classes of projects are generally exempt from the provisions of CEQA.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15304: Minor Alterations to Land

The Lookout/Upper Pit Watershed Restoration Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. The minor land alterations for forest restoration include biomass thinning and mastication with mechanical equipment and hand treatment; none of the proposed activities would result in significant adverse impacts.

No Exceptions to a Categorical Exemption

There are six exceptions to categorical exemptions, defined in the CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. Generally, a categorical exemption does not apply if a project would occur in certain specified sensitive environments, would affect scenic resources within an official state scenic highway, or would be located on a designated hazardous waste site. In addition, a categorical exemption would not apply if the project causes substantial adverse changes in the significance of a historical resource or would be considered significant within the cumulative context. Table 1 identifies the exceptions from CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 and includes a brief rationale as to why each exception does not apply to the Lookout/Upper Pit Watershed Restoration Project.

Table 1

Categorical Exemption Exceptions (CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2)	
Exception	Applicability
<p>(a) Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.</p>	<p>The project is not located in an environment that is particularly sensitive to the types of forest management activities proposed. The project work does not involve activities in or adjacent to streams or waterbodies, nor would project work occur on areas known to contain hazardous substances. The project activities would not occur in locations that contain known significant cultural or biological resources. There are no environmental resources of hazardous or critical concern mapped on the site that would preclude qualification of the project for a Class 4 exemption.</p>
<p>(b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.</p>	<p>The forest management activities would not adversely affect environmental resources, and would, therefore, not contribute to any cumulative environmental impact in relation to other restoration projects in the region. The project would result in beneficial effects to the region's forests, creeks, watersheds, associated lands, and adjacent neighborhoods by providing natural resource management and protection.</p>
<p>(c) Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.</p>	<p>As summarized below, the site project would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.</p> <p>Aesthetics. The project includes tree thinning activities associated with management of forestry resources. The proposed biomass thinning to a 40-50% crown closure and mastication of brush would not substantially change the visual character of the project site, and would improve the long-term health and appearance of the area.</p> <p>Agriculture/Forestry. The project would not result in a change in a direct change in land use or involve other changes to the environment that could result in conversion of the forest land.</p> <p>Air Quality/Greenhouse Gases. The project activities would result in nominal fugitive dust, particulate, and mobile source emissions. Mobile source emissions would be limited to those associated with vehicle trips to/from the project sites, and use of mechanized equipment for forest management activities (i.e., chainsaws, chipper, and masticator). Activities that emit fugitive dust and particulate (i.e., smoke) would be conducted in</p>

compliance with a permit from the Air Quality Management District, which would require measures to minimize emissions. Nearby sensitive receptors would not be exposed to substantial pollutant concentrations. The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the region's applicable air quality plan and would not violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation.

Biological Resources. The project includes resource protection and avoidance practices that would avoid adverse effects on biological resources.

W.M.Beaty personnel performed an assessment of potential sensitive plants and wildlife species in the area, and identified one plant as requiring surveys in potential habitat prior to operations. This assessment included a search of the California Natural Diversity Database- for all quads within three miles of the project area, a search of the company GIS database, and consideration of past experiences in the area.

The assessment identified long haired star tulip (rare plant rank 1B.2) as a sensitive plant species that could potentially be affected by operations. No operations would occur near meadow margins (where the species may occur) unless botanical surveys are first undertaken in these areas. Any plants which are discovered would be flagged and avoided such that direct impacts to individual plants do not occur and immediately surrounding habitat conditions do not change.

The assessment also identified the northern goshawk (state Species of Special Concern) as a species which nested in the project area previously. Sandhill Cranes (state Threatened) were also identified by the W. M. Beaty company biologist as having the potential to occur within approximately 0.25 mile of the northeast edge of the project area (although no known suitable habitat for the species occurs within the project area). W.M. Beaty staff made numerous site visits to the project area and observed no evidence of the species. If evidence of these species is detected during project operations, work would stop and the occupied habitat would be avoided following standards practices implemented in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Cultural Resources see section f, below.

	<p>Geology, Soils, Hydrology, and Water Quality. The forestry activities would not expose people or structures to loss, injury, or death due to seismic activity or unstable soils. Similarly, activities would not have an impact on the amount of topsoil or organic material contained in soils. There would be no tractor or heavy equipment operations on slopes greater than 50%, and no construction of new tractor roads on slopes greater than 40%. No heavy equipment operations would occur within the standard width of a watercourse, except for maintenance of roads and drainage facilities or structures.</p> <p>Treatment activities would incorporate temporary BMPs and design criteria to minimize the potential for soil loss, erosion, and sedimentation to waterways, thereby protecting water quality in the short-term. Long-term erosion and sedimentation to waterways would be greatly reduced as a result of the project activities, resulting in a beneficial impact to water quality in the long-term.</p> <p>Hazards/Hazardous Materials. The project is not located on a known hazardous material site. Potentially hazardous materials used would include petroleum products required for the operation of machinery. These activities would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.</p> <p>Noise. Forestry activities would generate temporary noise. However, based on the remote location of the project area, the project would not expose sensitive receptors to noise impacts.</p> <p>Transportation. There would be limited additional trips on local roadways and forestry access roads during project implementation. The vehicles would not block traffic and no traffic substantial traffic delays would occur.</p> <p>Other CEQA Issues. The project would have no effect on land use, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, or utilities and service systems.</p>
<p>(d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a</p>	<p>There are no officially designated state scenic highways in Modoc County.</p>

<p>highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.</p>	
<p>(e) Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.</p>	<p>The project is not located on a hazardous waste site contained on a list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.</p>
<p>(f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.</p>	<p>The project would not affect historic or cultural resources. A Registered Professional Forester with a current "Archaeological Training for Resource Professionals" certificate assessed the area for cultural resources. This assessment included a search of the September 2014 ownership wide records check (which includes the project area), a search of previous surveys in the area, a consideration of previous experience in the area, and a discussion with other company staff regarding existing and potential sites in the area.</p> <p>Within the project area, multiple historic railroad grades exist; however, field observation and past experience in the area shows that they have been converted to modern roads and no intact segments exist. Never-the-less, field personnel would remain vigilant for any unmapped railroad grades, or other previously unknown cultural resource sites during all aspects of the project.</p> <p>SNC used information from the Native American Heritage Commission and a map of ancestral tribal territories that was prepared for the CA Water Plan to identify tribal groups that may have information on cultural resources within the project area. The SNC contacted potentially knowledgeable tribal groups to solicit information on tribal resources potentially affected by the project. Potentially affected tribal groups did not identify tribal resources within the project area.</p>