

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Lead Agency
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

To: Tulare County Clerk/Recorder
221 South Mooney Blvd. Rm. 105
Visalia, CA 93291

To: Fresno County Recorder
1250 Van Ness Ave
Fresno, CA 93721

Project Title: Grant Grove Big Stump Ecological Restoration Project, Phase Two – Amendment 1 (SNC#1282.1) (SCH 2021120239)

Project Location – Specific: Three treatment areas in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. 1) Grant Grove, approximately 1 mi northwest of Wilsonia, in Fresno County. 2) Sequoia Creek, approximately 0.9 mi west of Wilsonia, in Tulare County. 3) Sequoia Creek, approximately 3 mi west of Mineral King, directly south of Silver City, in Tulare County.

Project Location - City: Near Wilsonia,
Mineral King

Project Location - County: Tulare,
Fresno

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would amend grant agreement 1282 with the Great Basin Institute (GBI) to shift the use of grant funds from three previously approved treatment areas to three alternate treatment areas. This amendment would approve preparation for and implementation of approximately 50 acres of pile burning and 500 acres of prescribed under burning in the Grant Grove area, approximately 940 acres of prescribed underburning in the Deer Creek area, and 20 acres of pile burning in the Sequoia Creek area. Units would be thinned and cleared for hazardous fuels reduction and landscape considerations, treated with hand-thinning, piling, and prescribed fire. These activities have been analyzed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). All work would be implemented under the guidance of the U.S. National Park Service, consistent with NEPA documents governing the activities.

In August 2022, SNC entered into grant agreement 1232 with GBI to reduce excess fuels in multiple locations throughout Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The project had been analyzed under NEPA, and SNC filed Notices of Exemption pursuant to Public Resources Code 4799.05(d)(1) under SCH 2021120239.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Great Basin Institute
Jerry Keir, Consultant
16750 Mt Rose Hwy
Reno, NV 89511
775-674-5475
jkeir@thegreatbasininstitute.org

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Public Resources Code, Section 4799.05, subd. (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 NEPA if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is amending its grant agreement and would provide funding for approximately 1,500 acres of fuel reduction treatments in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The proposed activities were reviewed in their entirety under NEPA as documented in the October 2022 *Decision Memorandum to Support Emergency Activities for Fuels Reduction Efforts to Protect Sequoia Groves in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks from the Devastating Effects of High-Intensity Fire*, the March 2025 update to the *Letter of Compliance Completion approval of Emergency Fuels Reduction within SEKI Sequoia Groves (PEPC:111910)*, and the July 2023 *Letter of Compliance Completion Superintendent Approval of Grant Grove Fuels Treatment (PEPC: 116606)*.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mary Akens

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-450-5177

If filed by applicant: N/A

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:  D382EA80350B496...

Executive Officer

Title: _____

Date: 7/21/2025

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

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

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