

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Governor's Office of Land Use and
Innovation
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: Modoc County Clerk
108 E Modoc Street
Alturas, CA 96101

Project Title: AB2551 Watershed Coordinator and Forest Health Grant – Modoc Resource Conservation District (SNC959.1-RFFCP) – Fort Bidwell FY 2024 North Timber Harvest Maintenance project (SCH2024050377)

Project Location – Specific: Fort Bidwell Reservation.

Project Location - City: Fort Bidwell
Reservation

Project Location - County: Modoc

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has authorized/approved the Modoc Resource Conservation District to use SNC grant funds to work with the Fort Bidwell Tribe to conduct fuels reduction treatments on three units within the Fort Bidwell Indian Reservation. Treatment activity will consist of thinning, hand piling, and pile burning at least 80% of trees and shrubs with diameters at breast-height up to 6 inches within the project area. Chainsaws and any necessary hand tools will be used to thin the vegetation. Hand piles will be 4 feet by 4 feet by 4 feet and spaced at a minimum of 10 feet apart. The Project is intended to reduce wildfire risk, maintain and improve fuel breaks, and support long-term resource management goals consistent with the Tribe's Forest Management Plan. It will meet three fire management goals and provisions in the Forest Management Plan which are to: 1. Promote the Tribe's desire for immediate and long-term management of their timber resources, 2. Continue to maintain and upgrade the fuel breaks around the reservation area, and 3. Reduce fuel loading to acceptable levels.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:
Modoc Resource Conservation District
Lani Cockrell, Executive Director
221 W 8th Street, Alturas, CA 96101
530-233-4317

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Pub. Resources Code, section 4799.05, subd.(d)(1)

Reasons why project is exempt: Public Resources Code, section 4799.05 statutorily exempts from CEQA projects for prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel-reduction projects, or to related activities included in the project description, undertaken, in whole or in part, 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. Sierra Nevada Conservancy has authorized/approved the use of the funding for the Modoc Resource Conservation District to work in partnership with the Fort Bidwell Tribe to conduct fuels reduction treatments on the Fort Bidwell Indian Reservation, tribal trust lands held by and with oversight provided by the BIA. The Project was reviewed in its entirety under NEPA by the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region, in the TR-4432.b-P5 52518T Fort Bidwell FY 2024 North Timber Harvest Maintenance project Categorical Exclusion signed by the Regional Director on August 25, 2025.

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: Angela Avery

Title: Executive Officer

Date: 9/9/2025

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.