NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: [ ] Office of Planning & Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

[X] County Clerk
County of Plumas

FROM: Plumas County
Planning and Building Services
555 Main Street
Quincy, CA 95971
(530) 283-7011

Project Title: Plumas County OHV Project (Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program) Grant Application for Ground Operations maintenance. Plumas County OHV Project features 79 miles of motorized trails, ATV routes and 4x4, and an approximate 10- acre motocross track with staging area.

Project Applicant: Plumas County Facility Services

Project Location: The Project is located within Plumas National Forest (PNF), in Plumas County, California. The motorized trail network proposed for the Plumas County OHV Project area is located between Spanish Creek to the west, Grizzly Ridge to the north, Mt. Fillmore to the south and Nelson Creek to the east. Plumas County OHV Project encompasses all or portions of: T22N, R11E sections 7, 8, 9, 17, 18, 20, 21, 28, 29. T22N, R10E sections 27, 28, 29, 33, 34. T24N, R9E sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. T25N, R9E sections 28, 29, 20, 31, 32, 33. T25N, R9E sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14. T25N, R10E sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35. T24N, R10E sections 3, 4, 5, 6.

MT. Hough District - Singletrack: Mt. Hough, Berry Creek, North Tollgate, Indian Falls Ridge, Clear Creek, Keddie, Berry Creek Tie, Chandler, 9M34, 9M35, 8M19. ATV: Grizzly Ridge, Fireline, Upper Cashman Creek, Bell Hill, Cashman Ridge, Lower Cashman Creek, Clear Creek, 10M23 Connector, 10M29, 9M40. 4x4: 10M21B, 10M30, 10M23, 10M20, 10M21, Jump Off, Tie / 25N12YB, Taylor Creek, Extension, Cashman Overlook, 9M61, 9M29, 9M42A, 9M42B, 9M46, 9M47.

Feather River District - Singletrack: MT. Fillmore / 10M06. 4x4: 10M51 Wild Cherry, 10M50 Marshmellow2.31, 10M50b Jam Up, 10E05 Table Rock.

Beckwourth District - Singletrack: 10M08 / Nelson Creek Trail.

Description of Project: The Plumas County OHV Project consists of maintenance activities on approximately 79 miles OHV trails and roads located on the PNF. Plumas County Facility Services Department is partnering with PNF (land manager) and Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship (SBTS) (501c3 non-profit), to continue maintenance on the PNF's Mt. Hough Ranger District, Beckwourth Ranger District, and Feather River Ranger District.

Maintenance will be performed by SBTS under contract.

Project coordination and grant administration will be done by Plumas County Facility Services Department.

Project monitoring will be carried-out by PNF and Plumas County Facility Services Department.

In order to manage, control, and measure the Project's success, Project coordinators will plan work assignments, equipment use and manage costs. PNF has developed strict standards to protect resources within the PNF and resource specialists are involved in OHV management. Routine soil monitoring surveys will be performed in accordance with the 2008 Soil Standards. Trails provide opportunities for varied levels of riding difficulty. Trails are heavily used by the public and require on-going maintenance in order to protect the watershed and soil, and to ensure the trails are sustainable and safe.

Forest Service EM-7720-103 specifications adapted to local conditions will guide trail maintenance. Trail maintenance follows minimum design parameter guidelines for motorized trails identified in Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 2309.18.

Trail maintenance activities include:

1. Brushing - Removal of excess vegetation from within the trail corridor. This will be accomplished using hand crews with chain saws and pruning shears, and Pulaskis for removing root wads. The area has seen extensive logging and has experienced both wildfires and controlled burns, stimulating rapid growth of Manzanita and brush. This expeditious growth requires on-going brushing and root wad removal to ensure the trails are safe with open sight lines.
2. Grooming - Filling small ruts developed in the trail tread and removing slough material. Grooming is accomplished using hand crews with scraping tools, and in more severe cases, a mini excavator is used. While the Mount Hough Trail System is a newly designated OHV area, it has become extremely popular with the recreating public and receives heavy use from both motorized and non-motorized users.
3. Tread Armoring - Tread armoring is performed to protect from soil loss in areas where the grade is either too steep to sustain wheeled traffic or in low spots that develop puddles. Native rock is used in all tread armoring and requires the following tools and equipment: hand digging tools, mini excavator, Griphoist, Magnum Buster with charges, Pionjar rock drill and motorized wheelbarrow for rock transport. Proper tread armoring takes a considerable amount of time for a hand crew to perform; requiring large rocks (sometimes weighing in excess of 300 pounds) to be gathered, transported and perfectly placed.
4. Volunteer Opportunities - Volunteer workdays will be offered throughout the season and provide opportunities for the public to learn about and participate in the Project and to learn Tread Lightly techniques and proper trail etiquette. Volunteers help maintain the tread and perform brushing. Volunteer workdays have drawn as many as 100 volunteers to a single outing and have averaged 34 volunteers per event. Workdays allow all user groups to work together and get to know one another's recreational needs and concerns. SBTS is a multi-use organization and has a long history of leading volunteer work crews safely and effectively on a wide range of trail projects on private, county, state and federal lands.
5. Vehicle barriers - Repair and installation of signs and barriers to prevent OHV use off the trail system. Large rocks and logs will be used to keep users on the trail. Signs (recycled materials) will be replaced as needed. Several previously installed trail signs have been shot at, run over and otherwise destroyed by the public, leaving key trail intersections unmarked.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Plumas County (Plumas County will administer the grant funds)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Plumas County Facility Services Department

Exempt Status (Check one)

[ ] No possible significant environmental effect [Sec. 21082.2; 15061(b)(3)];
[ ] Ministerial [Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268];
[X] Categorical Exemption. Sec.15301(c) Class 1
[ ] Statutory Exemptions. State Code Number:

Reason why Project is exempt: This Project consists of the maintenance of existing recreational trails.

7/28/2022 — Tracey Ferguson
Date — Tracey Ferguson, Planning Director

07/28/2022 — [signature] / Deputy
Date Filed — Marcy DeMartile, County Clerk/Deputy

Certificate of Posting

I hereby certify that from 07/29/2022 to 08/30/2022 (30 days), I posted a copy of this Notice of Exemption in the Office of the umas County Clerk.

By [signature] / Carlos R Feliciano / Deputy Date: 07/28/2022
MARCY DeMARTILE, County Clerk/Deputy

Receipt # 32-07282022-014
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