

To: Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
 1400 10th Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814

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

To: Nevada County Clerk-Recorder
 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 210
 Nevada City, CA 95959

Project Title: Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project, Phase One (SNC1817)

Project Location – Specific: Bureau of Land Management lands approximately three miles north of Nevada City, on the South Rim of the South Yuba River Canyon, along the following roadways around Round Mountain: Hudson Way, Merrimas Way, Rock Creek Road, and Moonlight Trail. Treatment center at approximately -121.002, 39.317 degrees.

Project Location - City: 3 mi north of Nevada City

Project Location - County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to the Yuba Watershed Institute (YWI) to partner with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to implement fuels-reduction treatments on 152 acres. The purpose of the project is to establish and maintain a continuous 400-ft-wide ridgetop shaded fuel break system to reduce wildfire intensity, protect ingress/egress, and safeguard nearby communities around Nevada City and the South Yuba River canyon. Treatments on BLM lands include hand-thinning and mechanical treatments. Approximately 75 acres will be hand-thinned and chipped, with chips to be hauled off the site. Shrubs and trees would be hand-cut with chainsaws. Residual trees would be limbed up, retaining at least 1/3 of live crown. Cut material would be disposed of using a tow-behind chipper or tracked chipper. Approximately 64 acres will be mechanically masticated or hand-thinned and chipped, using a tow-behind chipper or tracked chipper with chips dispersed on site. Whenever feasible or warranted by resource concerns, equipment that minimizes ground disturbance would be used. Thirteen acres will be hand-thinned and piled for future burning. Shrubs and trees would be hand-cut with chainsaws. Residual trees would be limbed up retaining at least 1/3 of live crown. Cut material would be lopped and scattered, placed in piles and disposed of through prescribed pile burning or left as a wildlife pile.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:
 Yuba Watershed Institute
 PO Box 2198, Nevada City, CA 95959

Chris Friedel, Executive Director
530-955-1822
chris@yubawatershedinstitute.org

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. The SNC has authorized/approved the use of the funding for the YWI to partner with BLM to conduct fuels-reduction treatments on BLM forestlands. The project was reviewed in its entirety in the BLM's *Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Environmental Assessment with Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record* signed on January 14, 2025.

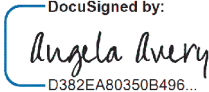
Lead Agency

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:  DocuSigned by:
Angela Avery
D382EA80350B496...

Title: Executive Officer

Date: 3/5/2026

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.