

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

Project Title: Upper Trinity River Watershed Recreation Improvement Plan (SNC1918-RT)

Project Location – Specific: Trinity Alps Wilderness, Trinity, Lake, and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands in the Trinity River watershed. Coordinates: 41° 1'5.17"N, 122°42'11.37"W

Project Location - City: Near the
communities of Lewiston, Trinity Center,
Coffee Creek, Mt. Shasta, Etna, and
Weaverville

Project Location - County: Trinity

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to the Watershed Research and Training Center to develop the Upper Trinity River Watershed Recreation Improvement Plan. The plan would identify, evaluate, and make recommendations for the highest-priority needs and improvements in three geographic areas: the Trinity Alps Wilderness, Trinity Lake, and 7,633 acres of recently acquired United States Forest Service (USFS) land in the Trinity River watershed. These geographic areas encompass approximately 300,000 acres in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, managed by USFS. Recreation sites to be evaluated in the plan include existing and potential new trails, trailheads, undeveloped campsites, developed campgrounds, day-use areas, boat ramps, and USFS roads, resulting in a catalogue of needed upgrades; a plan for sustainable and economically beneficial recreation development; and identification of eight design concepts. Plan goals include prioritizing deferred maintenance and modernization needs, identifying and prioritizing opportunities to address recreation-related impacts to habitat and water quality, developing sustainable management guidelines for overused recreation sites, creating shovel-ready upgrade designs, and conducting National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance to move capital improvement projects toward implementation. No construction or ground-disturbing activities would be authorized under this action.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

The Watershed Research and Training Center
Josh Smith, Watershed Stewardship Program Director
98 Clinic Ave, Hayfork, CA 96041
530-515-1364
josh@thewatershedcenter.com

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 (California Code of Regulations, Title 14) and Pub. Resources Code, Section 21102

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is statutorily exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15262, which applies to feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions. The project would grant funding for the preparation of the Upper Trinity River Watershed Recreation Improvement Plan, which would identify, evaluate, and make recommendations for the highest-priority needs and improvements within the upper Trinity River watershed. The plan would identify potential future projects, including shovel-ready design concepts, but does not approve, fund, or commit SNC or any other agency to the implementation of any specific project. Any future actions identified in the plan that may result in physical environmental effects would be subject to separate environmental review under NEPA and/or CEQA prior to approval. The SNC reviewed the project and concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to resources.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Andy Fristensky

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530 823-4670

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...

Title: Executive Officer

Date: 6/4/2026

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.