Notice of Determination

To:			From:		
	Office of Planning and Research	<i>Street Address</i> 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113 Sacramento, CA 95814	Public Agency Address:		Sierra Nevada Conservancy
	<i>U.S. Mail:</i> P.O. Box 3044				11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
	Sacramento, CA 95812-3044		Contact:		Auburn, CA 95603
			Phone	(530) 823-4689	
	County Clerk		Lead Agency (if different from above):		
	County of:		Feather River Resource Conservation District		
	Address:		Address:	Address: 159 Lawrence Street, Quincy, CA 95971 Contact: Brad Graevs	
			Contact:		
			Phone:	(530) 283-7513	
SU	BJECT: Filing of Notice of D	etermination in compl	iance wit	h Sectio	n 21108 or 21152 of the Public

Resource Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghous	se):	2019029109
--	------	------------

Project Title:	Genesee Valley	Watershed	Improvement	Project (SNC	1082)
----------------	----------------	-----------	-------------	--------------	-------

Project Applicant: Plumas Audubon Society

Project Location (include county): The project area is located between 4 and 11 miles east of Taylorsville. CA and geographically divided into three separate areas or "project units": Genesee Woods, Heart K Northwest, and Heart K Southeast. The respective legal location of each of these areas is: Township 25N Range 11 E Sect. 5-8; Township 25 N Range 11 E Sect. 2-3 and Township 26 N Range 11 E Sect. 34-35; Township 25 N Range 11 E Sect. 1, 11-12. USGS 7.5 guads Genesee and Taylorsville, Mount Diablo Base Meridian (MDBM),

Project Description:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide \$506,714 to the Plumas Audubon Society (PAS) for the Genesee Valley Watershed Improvement project (project). This project is a collaborative effort between the Plumas Audubon Society (PAS), the Feather River Resource Conservation District (FRRCD) and U.S. Forest Service aimed at reducing the risk of high-severity wildfire as well as taking steps toward restoring watershed and forest health through hand-thinning, hand piling, pile burning and broadcast burning of approximately 879 acres of forested National Forest and adjacent private land. The purpose of the project is to reduce fuel loading within the project area to the point that fuels would burn at low to moderate severity during future wildfires. This reduction of fuel loads would help to reduce the threat of future wildfires from burning at high severity, therefore potentially protecting residents adjacent to the project area, protecting the watershed from degradation, and improving habitat values including late seral forest. Reintroducing fire to the landscape through controlled broadcast burning will also ensure that these areas are protected from high-severity wildfire for longer periods of time post-implementation and creates the opportunity to manage fuel loads with regular fire return intervals into the future. This project is a continuation of a 33,000-acre stewardship strategy which encompasses Genesee and Franks Valleys, the Wheeler Peak Unit of Mud Lake Research Natural Area, and adjacent areas.

Project activities would include forest hand thinning, hand piling, pile burning, and prescribed broadcast burning. Thinning of small diameter trees under 10 inches DBH, clearing ladder fuels, hand piling, and pile burning will take place in the Genesee Woods project unit (506 acres). Broadcast burning will take place on the two Heart K project units (134 acres NE; 239 acres SE) as a followup to previous thinning and pile-burning. Underburning is planned to be utilized where topographic features and project design allow. No forest products will be removed during this project. This project may also use either hand pulling and/or intensive grazing of noxious weeds in an effort to control weed populations on the project footprint.

The entire project area and all proposed activities were evaluated in the final Genesee Valley Watershed Improvement Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) adopted on May 13, 2019 (SCH# 2019029109). All mitigation measures specified in the IS/MND to minimize impacts related to biological resources and cultural resources will be implemented by FRRCD and through contractual obligations with its contractor. SNC has reviewed the IS/MND prepared by FRRCD and has independently determined that the project would not result in significant adverse environmental impacts.

This is to advise that the	Sierra Nevada	Conservancy	has approved the above	
	(Lead Agency or 🖾 Responsible Agency)		
Described project on		and has made the following determinations regarding	the above described project.	
	(date)	-		

1. The project [will x will not] have a significant effect on the environment.

2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project to the provisions of CEQA.

- 3. Mitigation Measures [X] were I were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
- 4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring pan [X] was [] was not] adopted for this project.
- 5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [was 🛛 was not] adopted for this project.
- 6. Findings [X were V were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the Negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy, 11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205, Auburn, CA 95603

Signature	e (Public Agency)	0	13cm	Title:	Deputy Specificer
Date:	6/7	119)	Date Received for filing at OPR:	Governor's Office of Planning & Research
	1			-	JUNE 11 2019

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference Section: 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Revised 2011