

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: California Department of Fish and Game
4665 Lampson Avenue, Suite J
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in Compliance with Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code.

PROJECT TITLE: Capturing Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Within Portions of the Ansel Adams, Hoover, John Muir, Golden Trout, and South Sierra Wilderness Areas

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 2011101029

LEAD AGENCY: California Department of Fish and Game ("CDFG")

CONTACT: Alexandra Few, Environmental Scientist, (760) 872-3159

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: Not Applicable

CONTACT :

PROJECT LOCATION: The project is located on the Inyo National Forest in Inyo and Mono counties.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)) in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is proposing to capture federally endangered Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis sierra*) on the Inyo National Forest to conduct population monitoring, research, and translocations. These activities are being proposed primarily to facilitate meeting the goals of the Recovery Plan for Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep (hereafter, Recovery Plan; USFWS 2007).

The project activities, including helicopter-supported capture of bighorn sheep with net-guns, would be conducted primarily in wilderness areas on the Inyo National Forest. Bighorn sheep would be remotely monitored using Very High Frequency (VHF) radio-transmitters and Geographic Positioning System (GPS) collars. Results from these projects would directly aid in planning and implementing actions identified as necessary to enable the recovery of this endangered species.

This is to advise that CDFG, acting as a lead agency under CEQA, has approved the project described above on 9/14/12, and has made the following determinations regarding the project described above:

1. **The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.**
2. **An Environmental Assessment was prepared for this project in lieu of a mitigated negative declaration pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Copies of the document have been examined at the lead agency (see above).**
3. **Mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval of the project.**
4. **A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this project.**

5. No environmental filing fees are being submitted, as the Department of Fish and Game is undertaking the project (Fish and Game Code, Section 711.4).

The final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the General Public at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=35211> or Inyo National Forest, Supervisor's Office, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514.

Signature:  Date: 9/14/12
Title: Regional Manager, Inland Deserts Region, Department of Fish and Game

Date received for filing at OPR: