

**Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**

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FIELD OFFICE: Stillwater Field Office, Carson City District

NEPA NUMBER: DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2011-0531-DNA

CASEFILE PROJECT NUMBER:

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Geothermal Leasing of approximately 15,528 acres.

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Preliminary list of lease parcel nominations

NV-12-01-001    2440.000 Acres  
T.0260N, R.0180E, 21 MDM, NV  
Sec. 012 S2;  
    013 ALL;  
    023 N2,NESW,N2SE,SESE;  
    024 ALL;  
    027 SENE,S2;

Washoe County  
Carson City DO  
N-89871  
Formerly Lease No.

NV-12-01-002    3355.800 Acres  
T.0260N, R.0190E, 21 MDM, NV  
Sec. 007 PROT ALL;  
    008 SE;  
    008 PROT W2;  
    017 NE;  
    017 PROT W2;  
    018 LOTS 3-4;  
    018 PROT E2,NW;  
    020 SENE,W2NE,SWSE,E2SE;  
    021 ALL;  
    029 E2;

Washoe County  
Carson City DO  
N-89872  
Formerly Lease No.

NV-12-01-004    2868.570 Acres  
T.0200N, R.0230E, 21 MDM, NV  
Sec. 002 LOTS 1-4;  
    002 S2N2,S2;  
    004 LOTS 1-4;  
    004 S2N2,S2;  
T.0210N, R.0230E, 21 MDM, NV  
Sec. 026 LOTS 1-16;  
    034 LOTS 1-16;  
    036 LOTS 1-7;

Washoe County  
Carson City DO  
N-87063  
Previous Parcel No. NV-10-05-005  
Formerly Lease No.

NV-12-01-005 1261.220 Acres  
T.0200N, R.0230E, 21 MDM, NV  
Sec. 010 ALL;  
016 LOTS 1-4;  
016 N2,N2S2;

Washoe County  
Carson City DO  
N-89896  
Formerly Lease No.

NV-12-01-006 1700.010 Acres  
T.0200N, R.0230E, 21 MDM, NV  
Sec. 011 S2NESW,SENWSW,S2S2;  
011 NESE,S2NWSE;  
012 LOTS 1-4;  
012 W2E2,W2;  
014 LOTS 1-4;  
014 S2NE,NW,N2SW,NWSE;  
015 LOTS 2-4;  
015 N2SE;  
022 NENE,E2NWNE,W2NENW,NWNW;

Washoe County  
Carson City DO  
N-87085  
Previous PARCEL NO. NV-11-05-006  
Formerly Lease No.

NV-12-01-007 602.840 Acres  
T.0200N, R.0240E, 21 MDM, NV  
Sec. 006 LOTS 12-26;

Washoe County  
Carson City DO  
N-89893  
Formerly Lease No.

NV-12-01-016 939.538 Acres  
T.0240N, R.0350E, 21 MDM, NV  
Sec. 024 E2, EXCL ME PATS;  
025 ALL, EXCL ME PATS;

Churchill County  
Carson City DO  
N-088903  
Previous Parcel No. NV-11-03-027  
Formerly Lease No.

NV-12-01-023 1600.000 Acres  
T.0240N, R.0360E, 21 MDM, NV  
Sec. 024 S2;  
025 ALL;

026 ALL;  
Churchill County  
Carson City DO  
N-89895  
Formerly Lease No.

NV-12-01-027 760.000 Acres  
T.0210N, R.0380E, 21 MDM, NV  
Sec. 013 W2NE,SENW,SW,NWSE;  
022 S2NE,SENW;  
023 NE,S2NW,NWSW;  
024 NWNW;

Churchill County  
Carson City DO  
N-89440  
Within WSA pending resurvey  
Formerly Lease No.

APPLICANT: Stillwater Field Office, CCDO, BLM

#### **A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures**

The BLM is proposing to lease 9 parcels covering approximately 15,528 acres of public land for geothermal exploration and development in Washoe and Churchill Counties, Nevada, on January 24, 2012. Lease issuance alone does not authorize any ground disturbing activities to explore for or develop geothermal resources beyond casual use without site-specific approval for the intended operation. Such approval would require a separate site-specific environmental analysis.

Leasing geothermal resources by the BLM vests with the lessee a non-exclusive right to future exploration and an exclusive right to produce and use the geothermal resources within the lease area subject to existing laws, regulations, formal orders, and the terms, conditions, and stipulations in or attached to the lease form or included as conditions of approval in permits. Lease issuance alone does not authorize any ground disturbing activities to explore for or develop geothermal resources without site specific approval for the intended operation. Such approval would be subject to further NEPA.

#### **B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

LUP Name: **Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan**  
Date Approved: May 9, 2001

The proposed action is consistent with the applicable land use plan because it is clearly consistent with the following land use plan decisions, objectives, terms, conditions:

**Objective 1:** Encourage development of energy and mineral resources in a timely manner to meet national, regional and local needs consistent with the objectives for other public land uses.

**Objective 2:** Oil, gas, and geothermal exploration and production upon BLM land are conducted through leases with the Bureau and are subject to terms and stipulations to comply with all

applicable federal and state laws pertaining to various considerations for sanitation, water quality, wildlife, safety, and reclamation. Stipulations may be site specific and are derived from the environmental analysis process.

**C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States, FES 08-44.

Parcel NV-12-01-027 is also covered under the following document: Fluid Mineral Leasing within Six Areas on the Carson City District, DOI-BLM-NV-C030-2009-0003-EA.

**D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

**1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

The proposed action is within the project area analyzed in the 2008 PEIS and is identical to an alternative analyzed therein: "In accordance with the Energy Policy Act (EPAct) of 2005 (Public Law 109-58, August 8, 2005), the BLM and the FS are proposing to make geothermal leasing decisions on pending lease applications submitted prior to January 1, 2005 and to facilitate geothermal leasing decisions on other existing and future lease applications and nominations."

**2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?**

Yes, environmental concerns, interests and resource values have not changed at all since the completion of the 2008 PEIS. The preferred action alternative analyzed in the 2008 PEIS is still appropriate since the environmental constraints of geothermal leasing have not changed: "approximately 118 million acres of public land would be allocated as open and 79 million acres of NSF land would be legally open to geothermal leasing for direct and indirect use subject to existing laws, regulations, formal orders, stipulations attached to the lease form, and the terms and conditions of the standard lease form. The authorized officer retains the discretion to issue leases with stipulations that impose moderate to major constraints on use of surface of any leases in order to mitigate the impacts to other land uses or resource objectives as defined in the guiding resource management plan."

**3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, range- land health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, and updated**

lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes, the anticipated impacts to the resources have not changed. The proposed action will not have any adverse effect on the human health or environment. Any changes to lists of sensitive or endangered species would be addressed in a site specific environmental analysis should any future activity be proposed.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes, the 2008 PEIS analyzed cumulative impacts on relevant resources. The cumulative impacts to public lands resulting from geothermal leasing would remain unchanged from those analyzed in the 2008 PEIS. Lease issuance alone does not authorize any ground disturbing activities to explore for or develop geothermal resources without site specific approval for the intended operation. Such approval would be subject to further NEPA.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes, geothermal leasing was analyzed in the 2008 PEIS which describes the public involvement. Consultation with other agencies and interested parties was conducted for that document. Letters were sent to Washoe and Churchill County Commissioners regarding the upcoming lease offerings within their jurisdiction. The Washoe, Reno/Sparks Indian Colony, Pyramid Lake Paiute, and Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribes will be notified via letter of the proposed leasing action.

**E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted**

Name	Title	Resource/Agency Represented
Linda Appel	Rangeland Management Specialist	BLM Carson City District <i>la 9/19/11</i>
John Axtell	Wild Horse and Burro Specialist	BLM Carson City District <i>la</i>
Ed Klimasauskas	Geologist	BLM Carson City District <i>la 9/19/11</i>
Jill Devaurs	Rangeland Management Specialist	BLM Carson City District <i>JD 9-26-11</i>
Erik Pignata	Realty Specialist	BLM Carson City District <i>EP 9/19/11</i>
Dave Schroeder	Natural Resource Specialist	BLM Carson City District <i>DS 9/29/11</i>
Gabriel Venegas	Hydrologist	BLM Carson City District <i>GV 9/19/11</i>
Dan Westermeyer	Recreation Planner	BLM Carson City District <i>DW 9/19/11</i>
John Wilson	Wildlife Biologist	BLM Carson City District <i>JW 9/19-11</i>
Jason Wright	Archaeologist	BLM Carson City District <i>JPW 9/20/11</i>

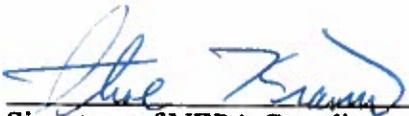
Note: Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

*SEE ATTACHED MEMO TO TERRI*

**Conclusion**

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

 9/19/2011  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Project Lead

 9/26/2011  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of NEPA Coordinator

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Responsible Official

Date 09/27/2011  
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Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.