

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District Office

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Project Creator: Ken Nelson, Realty Specialist

Field Office: Sierra Front

Lead Office: Sierra Front

Case File/Project Number: NVN 089973 – Right-of-Way Reservation

Applicable Categorical Exclusion (cite section): 516 DM 11.5: Appendix 5.4: H.(3) - “installation of and/or operation of small monitoring devices such as wells, particulate dust counters and automatic air or water samplers.”

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-2011-C020-0517-CX

Project Name: Eagle Ridge Precipitation Gage

Project Description: The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has applied to install a precipitation gage located near the Eagle Ridge Communication Site north of the Tallapoosa Mine. The instrument is attached to a 24 in. rectangular base and supported by 3 anchor cables extending about 5 ft. from the base. The gage is about 6 ft. high, 12 in. in diameter, beige in color, with a wind baffle attached to the top. Hand tools would be utilized to install the gage. All tools and equipment would be carried by hand from an existing road to the site. The site is located about 200 yds. from the road at an out-of-sight location in order to minimize vandalism. The gage would be visited about twice a year to record total precipitation. USGS has requested a twenty year term for the right-of-way reservation.

Applicant Name: U.S. Geological Survey

Project Location(s): T. 19 N., R 24 E., Sec. 28, SE¼NE¼SE¼ (within).

BLM Acres for the Project Area: Approximate 15 ft. by 15 ft. site (0.005 ac.)

Land Use Plan Conformance (cite reference/page number): Page LND-7 states “non-bureau initiated realty proposals would be considered where analysis indicates they are beneficial to the public”.

Name of Plan: NV – Carson City CRMP.

Screening of Extraordinary Circumstances: The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (43 CFR 46.215). The BLM has considered the following criteria:

(Specialist review: initial in appropriate box)

<i>If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.</i>	YES	NO
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety?		KN
2. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (EO 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		ADC NC ZC PZ
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]?		KN
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		KN
5. Would the Proposed Action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		KN
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?		KN
7. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP as determined by the bureau or office?		SC
8. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the list of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		PZ DT
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		KN
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)?		KN
11. Would the Proposed Action limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007)?		SC
12. Would the Proposed Action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112)?		DT

SPECIALISTS' REVIEW:

During ID Team review of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

Arthur Callan, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Niki Cutler, Hydrologist

James Carter, Lead Archaeologist

Pilar Ziegler, Wildlife Biologist/BLM Sensitive Species - Wildlife

Dean Tonenna, Botanist - Natural Resource Specialist/BLM Sensitive Species - Plants

Brian Buttazoni, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

CONCLUSION: Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS. A categorical exclusion is not subject to protest or appeal.

Approved by:



James W. Schroeder
Acting Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office



Date



Looking south at proposed site.

USGS Stockton-W I
7.5 minute Quad

W 119.28904
N 39.48134
NAD 83

Precipitation
Gage

Radio
Facility

Ruby Lane

2067

x20827

21

22

x17687

x19567

182765

Prospect x

2104.9

28

x18967

27

x20567

x19367

33

x19057

34

18487 x

Ro

x18867

Prospect x

17667 x

Precipitation
Gage

0.1 miles from Ruby Lane,
stop, follow yellow flagging
on foot ~600 ft up low hill
to northwest, toward radio
tower seen in distance.

Side road 6.8
miles from US 50,
marked with
yellow flagging

Ruby Lane





United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carson City District – Sierra Front Field Office
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, Nevada 89701-1448
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html

In Reply Refer To:
NVN 089973
2800 (NVC0200)

SEP 27 2011

John Sciacca, Director NWSC
US Geological Survey – WRD
2730 N. Deer Run Road
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Mr. Sciacca,

Enclosed are two copies of an unsigned right-of-way (ROW) grant (BLM Form 2800-14) for your precipitation gage at the Eagle Ridge Communication site north of the Tallapoosa Mine (Lyon County), serial number NVN 089973. Please review the document and if it meets with your approval, sign and date both copies and return them to the address shown above. Upon our receipt of the signed documents, we will issue the ROW grant, absent any other unresolved issues.

Please be aware that you may not conduct any activities related to your ROW project on public lands until you have received an authorized grant from this office.

If you have any questions, please contact Cory Gardner, Land Law Examiner at (775) 885-6020.

Sincerely,

James W. Schroeder
Acting Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office

Enclosures