

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

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Project Lead: J. Hufnagle

Field Office: Sierra Front

Lead Office: Sierra Front

Case File/Project Number: NVN 060566 ROW Amendment

Applicable Categorical Exclusion (cite section): *516 DM 11.9 E. Realty (19)* Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorization for such uses as storage sites, apiary sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition.

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-2011-C020-0010-CX

Project Name: Polar Express Temporary Parking

Project Description: The State of Nevada Commission for the Reconstruction of the V&T Railway (V&T Railway) has requested a short-term amendment to ROW NVN 060566 to allow for overflow vehicle parking by employees and volunteers on public land adjacent to the Eastgate Siding. The request is associated with a special event called the Polar Express which is based on the Christmas book by the same name. The nation-wide event involves pajama-clad passengers boarding trains bound for the "North Pole". The one hour round-trip journey departs from and returns to the Eastgate Siding in Carson City at various times between November 23 and December 18, 2011. V&T Railway proposes vehicle parking on previously cleared and graded public lands formerly used for an airport runway. A temporary parking area 250 feet by 60 feet adjoining the existing V&T ROW is proposed to accommodate up to 20 vehicles during event hours (3:00 pm – 10:00 pm). Access to the temporary parking area would be from Flint Drive in eastern Carson City, over an existing previously graded road across public and private land. All vehicle use would be confined to the existing runway and roadway. Snow removal, if required would also be limited to the previously disturbed portions of the road and runway.

Applicant Name: State of Nevada Commission for the Reconstruction of the V&T Railway

Project Location: Flint Drive- Eastgate Siding – Carson City, Nevada
T. 15 N., R 20 E., section 1, Lot 2 of the NE¼.
T 16 N., R 20 E., section 36, SE¼SE¼.

BLM Acres for the Project Area: Access: 1300 feet by 15 feet
Parking area: 250 feet by 60 feet
Total acreage: 0.79 acres

Land Use Plan Conformance (cite reference/page number):): Lands and Realty Administrative Actions 3. All applicants for right-of-way grants, whether or not they are within corridors, are subject to standard approval procedures as outlined in the right-of-way regulations (43 CFR 2802)/ROW-4

Name of Plan: NV – Carson City RMP.

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? (project lead/P&EC)		JH
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? (wildlife biologist, hydrologist, outdoor recreation planner, archeologist)		JH JC nc AS
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (project lead/P&EC)		JH
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (project lead/P&EC)		JH
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? (project lead/P&EC)		JH
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		JH
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? (archeologist)		JC
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? (wildlife biologist, botanist)		BT AS
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (project lead/P&EC)		JH
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? (project lead/P&EC)		JH
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)? (archeologist)		JC
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)? (botanist)		BT

SPECIALISTS' REVIEW: During ID Team consideration of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

Jo Ann Hufnagle, Realty Specialist
Arthur Callan, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Niki Cutler, Hydrologist
Steve Christy, Archaeologist
Pilar Ziegler, Wildlife Biologist/BLM Sensitive Species - Wildlife
Dean Tonenna, Botanist - Natural Resource Specialist/BLM Sensitive Species - Plants
Brian Buttazoni, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Although BLM Sensitive Species is not described in one of the 12 extraordinary circumstances question, review of the applicability of this CX has taken them into consideration.

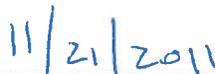
CONCLUSION: Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS. A categorical exclusion is not subject to protest or appeal.

DECISION: It is my decision to implement the action, as described, and approve the ROW amendment for temporary parking from November 23, 2011 through December 18, 2011.

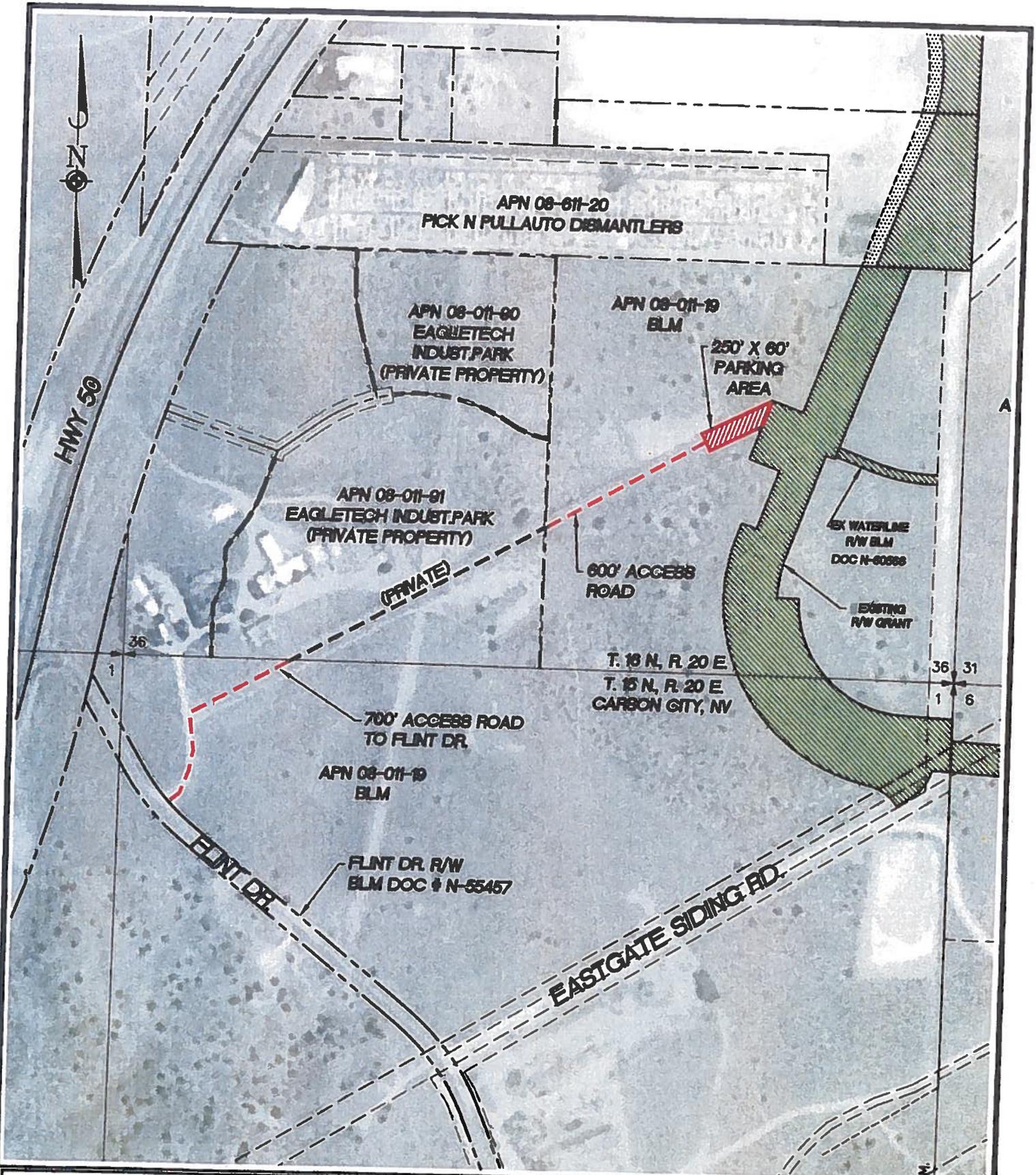
Approved by:



Bryan Hockett
Acting Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office



(date)



NCR-VTRR PROPOSED TEMP. PARKING AREA AND ACCESS ROUTE

PROJ. MGR.: K.L.D.
 DRAWN BY: J.A.M.
 DATE: 11/01/11
 SCALE: 1" = 400'



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