

**Finding of No Significant
Impact: Hays Canyon
Free-Use Permit
Renewal: DOI-BLM-CA-
N070-2012-0200-EA**

**USDI Bureau of Land Management- Surprise
Valley Field Office
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Chapter 1. Finding of No Significant Impact

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1.1. Hays Canyon Free-Use Permit Renewal

DOI-BLM-CA-N070-2012-0200-EA

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts brought forward through the Environmental Assessment, DOI-BLM-CA-N070-2012-0200-EA, I have determined to not choose the proposed action and select Alternative 1 with the mitigation measures described below. This Alternative will not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment and an environmental impact statement is not required.

1.2. Proposed Action

The proposed action is to issue a Free-Use Permit to Modoc County for the exclusive use of the Hays Canyon Gravel Pit on BLM lands in T. 40N., R. 17 E., section 15, NE1/4SW1/4. The Free-Use Permit would allow the county to mine and extract material from the Hays Canyon pit on 10 acres for 10-year term. Hays canyon is currently operated by the BLM as a community pit. Modoc County has held a free use permit for the past 20 years. An exclusive Free-Use permit for the county would restrict the public from using the community pit. The community pit would then be closed upon issuance of the exclusive Free-Use Permit.

Future mining operation in the pit is scheduled for 25 years. Total projected extraction is 100,000 yards over the next 25 years. All hauling will occur on County maintained roads. The mining plan is to continually remove material from stockpiles located within the pit boundaries. Replenishment of the stockpiles will occur throughout the year as needed, generally between the months of April and November. The pits will be mined by processing material from the walls of the pit, generally working in a north and easterly direction. Excavation at this pit will remain at least 75 feet from the intermittent drainage that lies to the southeast of the pit. Prior to disturbance of any new surface, topsoil will be removed and stored on-site. As excavation continues, the sides of the pits will be sloped at not greater than 3:1 horizontal to vertical.

The material will be processed by excavating the material in place in the pit, and when necessary, passing it through a portable crusher and screen to produce road base gravel or chips, after which it will be stockpiled. There will be no explosives used at this pit.

1.3. Selected Alternative 1

In addition to the Free-Use permit being renewed as described in the Proposed Action, the Hays Canyon Pit would remain designated as a community pit. Modoc County would not have exclusive use to the pit. Members of the general public or businesses would be able to purchase gravel from the pit.

1.4. Mitigation Measures:

Mitigation Measures: Air Quality

Modoc County shall reduce dust emissions at Hays Canyon gravel pit by incorporating the use of a water truck in the mining plan. A water truck and operator shall be kept on site during all dry-weather mining activity. Extraction areas and stockpiles of dust producing materials shall be

kept damp via regular watering to reduce fugitive dust emissions. Wetting of dirt and gravel haul roads will reduce dust production during episodes of dry weather hauling operations.

Mitigation Measures: Cultural

Should any cultural or paleontological resources be encountered during mining activities, work shall be suspended and the BLM cultural resources specialist shall be immediately notified. At that time, BLM will coordinate any necessary investigations to determine the significance of the find. The BLM shall then coordinate with the County to implement any mitigation deemed necessary for protection of the cultural resources.

1.5. Signatures:

Recommended by: Dan Ryan

Dan Ryan	12/07/2011
Lands and Mineral Specialist	

Approved by: Allen Bollschweiler

Allen Bollschweiler	Date of signature
Surprise Field Office Manager	