

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

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Project Creator: Erik Pignata

Field Office: Stillwater

Lead Office: Stillwater

Case File/Project Number: NVN 090401 (supersedes NVN 022134)

Applicable Categorical Exclusion

516 DM 11.5; Appendix 4 – 151, E. Realty, #9. “Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.”

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-2012-C010-0024-CX

Project Name: Mineral County Sheriff Pilot Peak Renewal

Project Description:

The Mineral County Sheriff’s Department has applied for a renewal of their communications facilities and access road located up from Telephone Canyon and at Pilot Peak, Mineral County, Nevada, due east of Sodaville, Nevada. The 50 foot wide access road portion of this authorization starts where the road begins to head up the wall of the canyon through switchbacks to the communications site at the peak. Power is supplied to the site via solar panels.

These facilities are within the larger right-of-way held by Nevada Division of State Lands at the same locale. Many local government entities use this location for public works-type communication activities (private radio bands, repeaters, etc.).

This would be a standard FLPMA 20-year renewal. No new facilities are being authorized; it is simply a continuance of their current rights. A special stipulation is being added to the communications use lease – see below.

Under current policy, communication use leases are not “renewable.” Therefore, this authorization has been reserialized under NVN 090401. However, nothing but the serial number and the special stipulation will change.

Applicant Name: Mineral County Sheriff's Department

Project Location: Pilot Peak, Nevada

Exhibit map attached.

Mount Diablo Meridian

T. 6 N., R. 36 E.,
sec. 28, S½, unsurveyed;
sec. 29, E½, unsurveyed;
sec. 32, N½NE¼, unsurveyed.
(within)

BLM Acres for the Project Area: 15.27

Land Use Plan Conformance:

LND-7, #6: "Exchanges and minor non-Bureau initiated realty proposals will be considered where analysis indicates they are beneficial to the public."

Name of Plan: Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001)

Cultural Needs:

Under the State Protocol Agreement, finalized October 26, 2009, pg. 11, Part A. 2, states undertakings exempt from inventory and review are listed in Appendix C, Categorical Exemptions.

The action proposed in this document falls under Appendix C, pg. 38, #7 –

"Renewing existing rights-of-ways characterized by complete surface disturbance (roads, pipelines, power lines, communication sites, etc.) when no new surface disturbance is authorized."

Special Stipulations:

The following special stipulation will be added to those found in the lease agreement –

a. The holder shall contact the BLM and obtain approval from the authorized officer before beginning any activity that is a substantial deviation from this grant or that will cause new surface disturbance.

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? (Range-Jill Devaurs) | | JD |
| 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? (Archeology, Recreation, Wilderness, Wildlife, Range by allotment, Water Quality) | | JW G DC |
| 3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (PEC) | | JW |
| 4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (PEC) | | JW |
| 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? (PEC) | | JW |
| 6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (PEC) | | JW |
| 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? (Archeology) | | JW |
| 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) | | JW |
| 9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (PEC and Archeology) | | JW JW |
| 10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? ((PEC) | | JW |
| 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)? (Archeology) | | JW |
| 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)? (Range-Jill Devaurs) | | JD |

SPECIALISTS' REVIEW:

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

- Planning Environmental Coordinator, Steve Kramer: *SK 01/17/2012*
- Public Health and Safety/Grazing/Noxious Weeds, Jill Devaurs: *JD 1-17-12*
- Recreation/Wilderness/VRM/LWC, Dan Westermeyer: *DW 1/17/12*
- Wildlife/T&E (BLM Sensitive Species), John Wilson: *JW 1-17-12*
- Archeology, Susan McCabe: *JASON WRIGAT, JRW 1-17-12*
- Water Quality, Gabe Venegas:
- Soils, Jill Devaurs/Linda Appel/Chelsy Simerson: *JD 1-17-12*

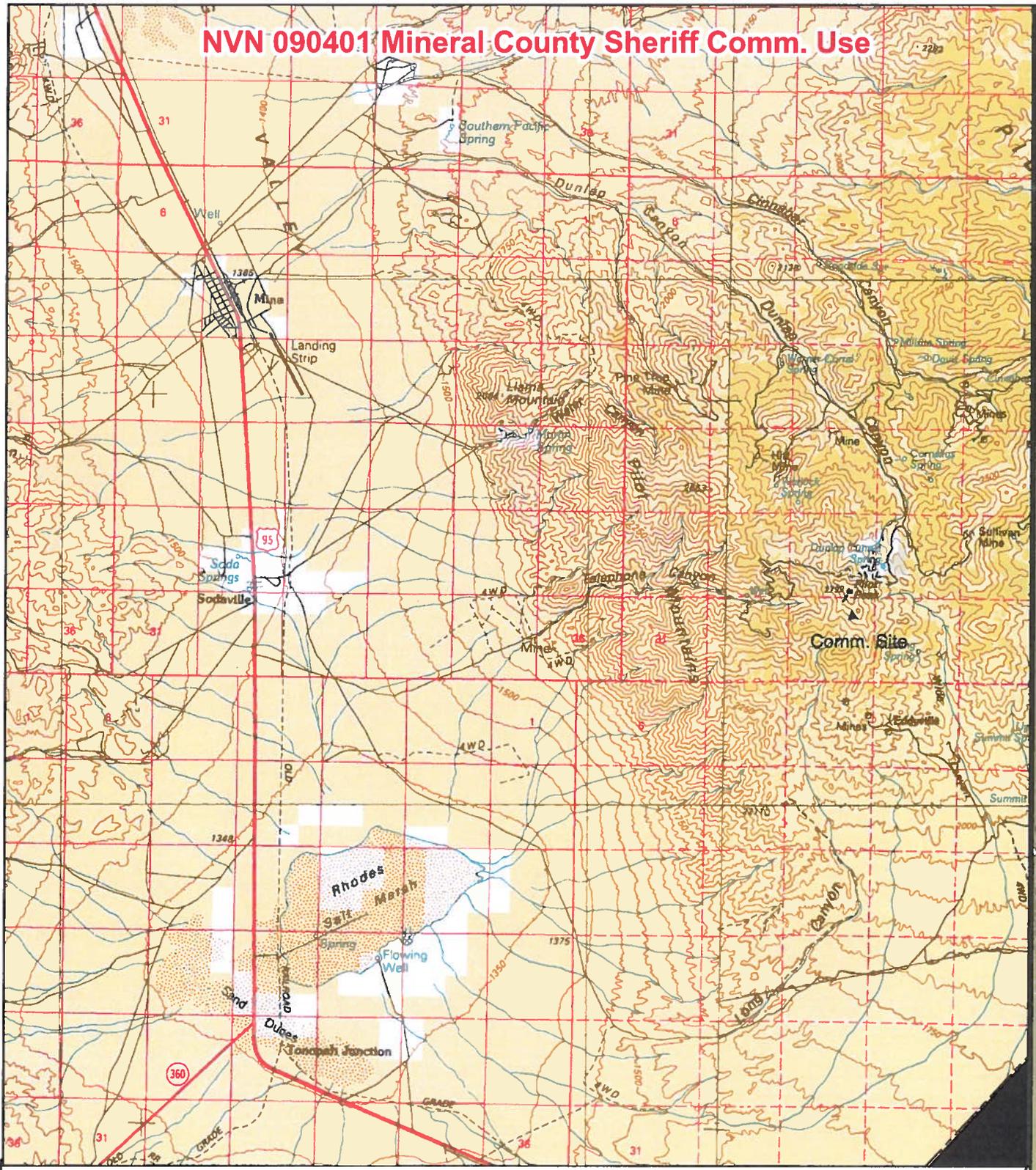
CONCLUSION: Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS. A categorical exclusion is not subject to protest or appeal.

Approved by:

Teresa J. Knutson *02/07/2012*
Teresa J. Knutson (date)
Field Manager
Stillwater Field Office

NVN 090401 Mineral County Sheriff Comm. Use

BLM



Carson City District Office



Exhibit B - Overview Map

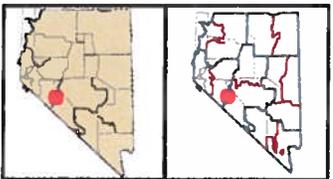


United States Department of the Interior
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5665 Morgan Mill Rd.
Carson City, NV. 89701
(775) 885-6000

Map Produced by: Erik Pignata
01/05/2012 AD

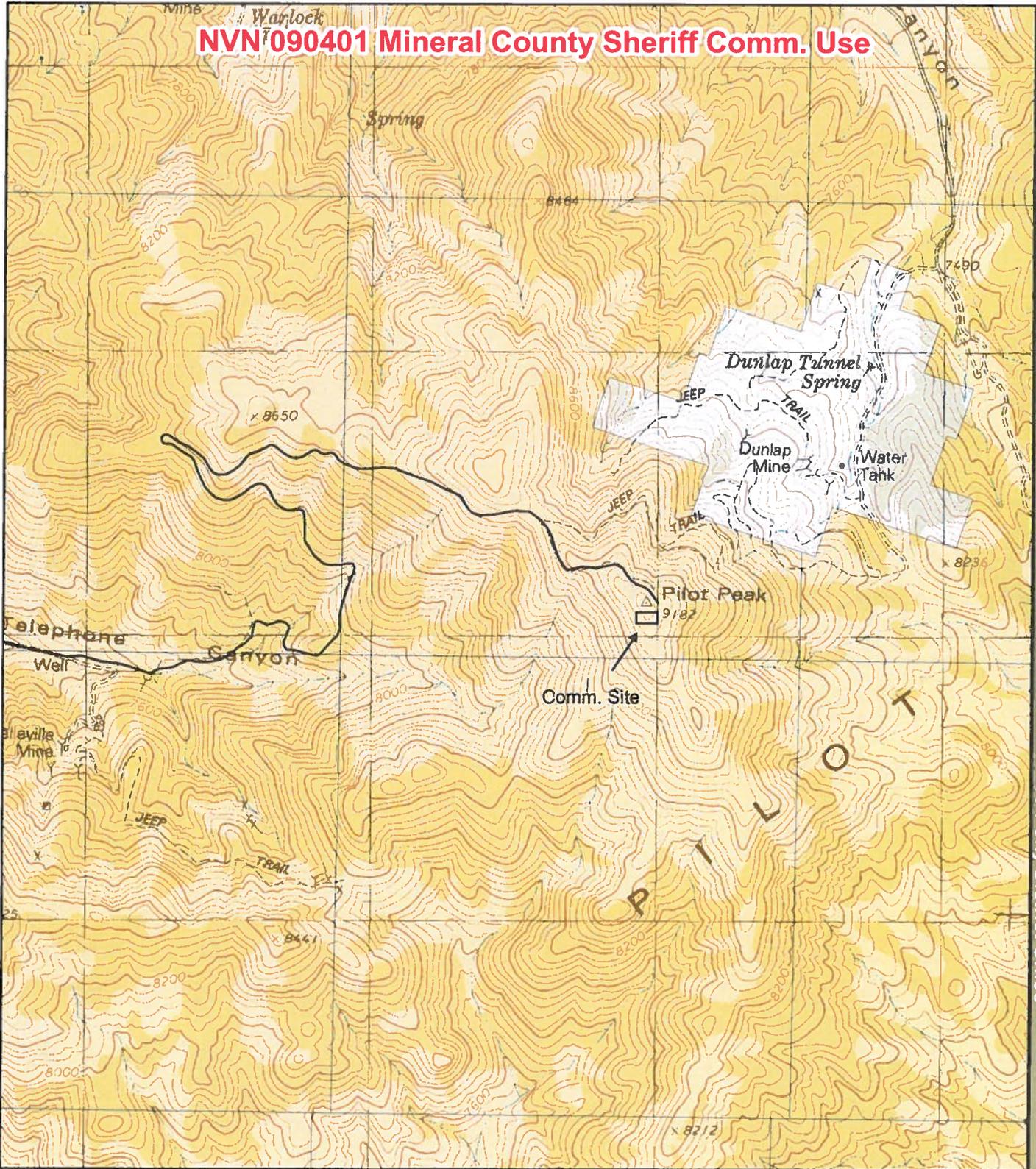
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

| Legend | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Bureau of Land Management | Water |
| Private | |



NVN 090401 Mineral County Sheriff Comm. Use

BLM



Carson City District Office

Exhibit A

T. 6 N., R. 36 E., secs. 28, 29, and 32, unsurveyed.



| Legend | |
|--------|---------------------------|
| | Bureau of Land Management |
| | Water |
| | Private |
| | Access Road |



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