

**Bureau of Land Management  
Winnemucca District Office  
Categorical Exclusion**

[x] HRFO (1000)                      [ ] BRFO (3000)                      [ ] District (       )

<b>CX#: DOI-BLM-NV-W010-2012-0004-CX</b>	<b>Date: 9/29/2011</b>
File Code (43 CFR) : 43 CFR 6800	Lease / Case File / Serial #:
Project Lead Preliminary Review: Is the project located within a SG 75% BBDA (Sage Grouse 75% Bird Breeding Density Area)? No	

1. BLM District Office: Winnemucca District Office
2. Name of Project Lead: Celeste Mimnaugh
3. Project Title: Desert Bighorn Augmentation – East Range
4. Applicant: Nevada Department of Wildlife
5. Project Description: Nevada Department of Wildlife plans to augment the desert bighorn population in the East Range with 20-50 animals on or around November 6, 2011 as a continuing effort to ensure adequate numbers exist for a thriving population. The animals would be hauled by trailer to an appropriate location in Inskip Canyon for the release.

Project dimensions (length, width, height, depth): N/A                      Acreage: N/A

Will the project result in new surface disturbance? Yes      No X

Has the project area been previously disturbed? Yes      No      N/A X. If yes, what percent of the project area has been disturbed?     %. If only part of the project area has been disturbed, indicate disturbed area on map. Describe disturbance (and attach photo of disturbed area if you have one):

6. Legal Description:        T. 31 N., R. 36 E., sec. 18, 16 1/4      1/4  
                                      T.      N., R.      E., sec.     ,      1/4      1/4

USGS 24k Quad name: Inskip Canyon

100k map name:

Land Status: BLM X Private      Other

**Part I: Plan Conformance Review**

The proposed Action is subject to the:

- Paradise-Denio Management Framework Plan
- Sonoma-Gerlach Management Framework Plan
- Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails NCA and Associated Wilderness and Other Contiguous Lands in Nevada RMP

*(The Proposed Action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions): WL 1.25 identifies the East Range as a potential bighorn sheep range.(43 CFR 1610.5, BLM Manual 1617.3)).*

**Part II: NEPA Review**

Categorical Exclusion Review: This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under:

- 43 CFR 46.210 DOI Implementation of NEPA of 1969, Listing of Departmental Categorical Exclusions *(formerly 516 DM2 Appendix 1)*
- 516 DM11.9, (BLM) A. Fish and Wildlife (5): “Routine augmentations, such as fish stocking, providing no new species are introduced”

**ESA and BLM Sensitive Status Species**

Evaluation Criteria	Yes	No
1. Are species listed under the Endangered Species Act likely to occur in the project area? If yes, list the species in Table 1 below. Verify with USFWS or use approved list.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
2. Are BLM NV Sensitive Species, based upon the current IM, likely to occur in the project area? If yes, list the species in the Table 1 below.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Could the proposed action result in “take” under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act? If yes, attach appropriate mitigation measures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x

**Table 1. Special Status Species that may occur in the project area:**

ESA	BLM	Common (Scientific) Name	May Be Affected?	Mitigation for BLM Sensitive Species <i>(Attach ESA Section 7 Compliance to Form)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Desert bighorn sheep	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	None needed. This action is to augment the existing population that was established under the Pershing County Bighorn Sheep Habitat Management Plan (HMP).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pygmy rabbits	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Greater Sage-grouse	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Several bat species	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

**Table 2 Migratory Bird Treaty Act Consideration**

Potential MBTA Species w/in the Project Area Common ( <i>Scientific</i> ) Name	May Be Affected?	Proposed Mitigation
Several species (see attached list)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Several raptors – including golden eagle, prairie falcon, great horned owl, red tailed hawk, burrowing owl	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

The Proposed Action has been reviewed to determine if any exceptions described in 43 CFR 46.215 Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances apply. (See attached page)

*Mitigation Measures/Remarks*

**Part III: DECISION:** I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no other environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures identified above.

Remarks reserved for authorized officer:

Authorized Official     /s\ Michael Truden     Date: 2/9/2012  
 (Signature)

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities  
 See 43 CFR 4.401(a) Part 4 for general rules relating to procedures and practice involving appeals.

**43 CFR 46.215**  
**Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances**

**CX#: DOI-BLM-NV-W010-2012-0004-CX**

- | <u>Yes</u>               | <u>No</u>                           |     |  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (a) | Have significant impacts on public health or safety  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (b) | 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 (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (c) | Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (d) | Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (e) | Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (f) | Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (g) | Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (h) | 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.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (i) | Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (j) | Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (k) | 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 (Executive Order 13007).  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (l) | Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive 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 Executive Order 13112).  |

*All of the above questions must be answered negatively before the Categorical Exclusion may be approved. This checklist is taken from 43 CFR 46.215*

Prepared By:       \s\ Celeste Mimnaugh       Date       2/9/2012