

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 090699

Applicable Categorical Exclusion

516 DM 11.5; Appendix 4 – 154, J. Other, #3: “Conducting preliminary hazardous materials assessments and site investigations, site characterization studies and environmental monitoring. Included are siting, construction, and installation and/or operation of small monitoring devices such as wells, particulate dust counters and automatic air or water samples.”

Also see #9, same section: “Construction of small protective enclosures, including those to protect reservoirs and springs and those to protect small study areas.”

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-2012-C010-0026-CX

Project Name: Cherry Valley RAWS Station

Project Description:

There are nearly 2,200 interagency Remote Automated Weather Stations strategically located throughout the United States. These stations monitor the weather and provide weather data that assists land management agencies with a variety of projects such as monitoring air quality, rating fire danger, and providing information for research applications. Most stations are placed in locations where they can monitor fire danger. RAWS units collect, store, and forward data to a computer system at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho. The data is automatically forwarded to several other computer systems including the Weather Information Management System and the Western Regional Climate Center in Reno, Nevada. Fire managers use this data to predict fire behavior and monitor fuels; resource managers use the data to monitor environmental conditions.

Currently, the Carson City District does not have a RAWS covering the eastern mountain ranges. This RAWS will be located in the Cherry Valley area of the Clan Alpine mountain range. Data collected will be used to more accurately predict fire behavior and fire danger for the northeast

portion of the Carson City District. The station footprint would be approximately 30 feet by 30 feet with a fence to protect the station built to BLM specifications. The site selected is grass and low sagebrush; minimal vegetation will be disturbed setting up the station.

This application will be processed as a standard FLPMA right-of-way for 30 years. The RAWS equipment itself is being moved from the Bridgeport Ranger District (H-T National Forest) to the Carson City District. This is expected to happen around June of 2012. The station would be used remotely year-round, indefinitely.

Applicant Name: BLM

Project Location: Cherry Valley, Clan Alpine Range

Mount Diablo Meridian

T. 20 N., R. 36 E.,
sec. 21, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.
(within)

Exhibit map attached.

BLM Acres for the Project Area: .021 acres

Land Use Plan Conformance:

ROW-5, #6: "The Bureau will approve the location of all rights-of-way prior to construction through an analysis of the proposed action in an environmental assessment unless the proposal is categorically excluded . . ."

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

Cultural Needs:

A CRINA for this project was submitted to the cultural specialist on January 13, 2012.

Special Stipulations:

The following special stipulation will be added to the grant –

- 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)		JD DW
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)		JD
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (PEC)		JD
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)		JD
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (PEC)		JD
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)		JD
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)		JD
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)		JD
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? ((PEC)		JD
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)		JD
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*
- Public Health and Safety/Grazing/Noxious Weeds, Jill Devaurs: *JD 2-7-12*
- * Recreation/Wilderness/VRM/LWC, Dan Westermeyer: *DW 2-21-12*
- Wildlife/T&E (BLM Sensitive Species), John Wilson: *JW 2-6-12*
- Archeology, Jason Wright: *JW 2/7/12*
- Water Quality, vacant: *JA 2/22/12*
- Soils, Jill Devaurs/Linda Appel/Chelsy Simerson: *JA 2/6/12*

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
Teresa J. Knutson
Field Manager
Stillwater Field Office

2/23/2012
(date)

* MUST stay on east side of road to remain outside of USA.

NVN 090699 BLM Cherry Valley RAWS

BLM



New RAWS Location → 21

20N 36E



Exhibit A



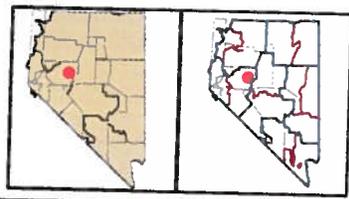
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District Office
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Map Produced by: Cory Gardner
01/12/2012

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

	New RAWS		Section		Private
	Bureau of Land Management		Water		



Carson City District Office