

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

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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**Project Creator:** Dan Westermeyer, ORP

**Field Office:** Stillwater

**Lead Office:** Stillwater

**Case File/Project Number:** N/A

**Applicable Categorical Exclusion**

516 DM 11.9, Appendix 4.G.2: Installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, waterbars, gates or cattleguards on/or adjacent to roads and trails identified in any land use or transportation plan or eligible for incorporation in such plan.

516 DM 11.9, Appendix 4.G.4: Placement of recreational, special designation or information signs, visitor registers, kiosks, and portable sanitation devices.

**NEPA Number:** DOI-BLM-NV-C010\_2012-0034-CX

**Project Name:** Hidden Cave/Grimes Point Trails maintenance and interpretive sign upgrades

**Project Description:**

The proposed action will consist of basic maintenance of the Hidden Cave and Grimes Point Interpretive Trails, closure of several unauthorized social trails that threaten cultural integrity, and installation of a new kiosk, visitor register, trail marker posts and the removal of old interpretive posts and signs.

To prevent further trail degradation and removal of potential public safety hazards, the Hidden Cave and Grimes Point Interpretive Trails will undergo basic trail maintenance work to improve surface water flow and address user impacts. Work will include reestablishing erosion control features through reinforcement of failed water bars; diversion channels, tread repair, and tread height adjustments in areas that have been eroded. Several unauthorized social trails, including new trails created to short-cut switchbacks, will be camouflaged using loose adjacent material and signed to discourage continued use. A new interpretive kiosk and visitor register will be installed near the parking lot at Hidden Cave in an area that has been previously disturbed by the parking lot construction and an old road bed. Old degraded wooden 4x4 numbered marker posts along the trail that are used in conjunction with the interpretive brochure will be removed and

replaced with new, metal 4x4 posts. An existing interpretive panel and old wooden visitor register located at the southwest end of the parking lot will be removed.

Based upon the findings of the BLM archaeologist, the rim of an old vault toilet in-ground tank located along the interpretive trail may be removed. Work would entail excavating a 3 inch wide trench around the rim of the fiberglass tank using a Pulaski hand tool, cutting the rim several inches below ground level, and then replacing the soil back in the trench. This area was previously disturbed during installation of the tank so no new disturbance would be occurring.

Work will be completed by a small hand crew using hand tools and may include the use of volunteers for additional manpower. No vegetation will be removed and rehabilitation disturbance will be restricted to existing trails or disturbed areas. A BLM archaeologist will be present for during sign replacement or installation and during trail work as deemed necessary by the archaeologist.

**Applicant Name:** Bureau of Land Management, Stillwater Field Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701

**Project Location:**

**BLM Acres for the Project Area:** Less than 1 acre total.

**Land Use Plan Conformance:** Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001) The proposed action described below is consistent with National Policy regarding cultural resources (BLM Manual 8100 Cultural Resource Management 12/06/89) in that “the BLM manages cultural resources under its jurisdiction or control according to their relative importance, protecting against inadvertent loss, destruction, or impairment and accommodating the uses determined appropriate through planning and public participation.” Under the Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan the desired outcomes are that “cultural and paleontological resources will be protected to the maximum extent practical, consistent with other resource values” and “the objective . . . is to manage cultural resources for public benefit” (pg. CUL-1).

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

**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)

**Stillwater Field Office**

<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 LA CF JW
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 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)		
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 JW
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:

**Stillwater Field Office**

Planning Environmental Coordinator, Steve Kramer: *SKM 02/13/2012*  
Public Health and Safety/Grazing/Noxious Weeds, Jill Devaurs: *JD 2-13-12*  
Recreation/Wilderness/VRM/LWC, Dan Westermeyer: *DW 2/13/12*  
Wildlife/T&E (BLM Sensitive Species), John Wilson: *JW 2-13-12*  
Archeology, Susan McCabe: *SM 2/7/12 APC, 12+13/AP F, H, 2*  
Water Quality, Gabe Venegas: *GV 2-22-12*  
Soils, Jill Devaurs/Linda Appel/Chelsy Simerson: *la 12/27/12*

**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

*3/13/2012*  
(date)