

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

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Project Creator: John Wilson

Field Office: Stillwater

Lead Office: Stillwater

Case File/Project Number: N/A

Applicable Categorical Exclusion The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, Section: A. Fish and Wildlife. Number 3: Construction of perches, nesting platforms, islands, and similar structures for wildlife use.

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2012-0045-CX

Project Name: Wildlife Water Developments for Big Game Species

Project Description: The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) intends to build 14 new big game wildlife water developments and replace 1 small game wildlife water development with a big game one for a total of 15 in Churchill, Lyon, and Mineral Counties (See Map). Each of these guzzlers will have up to a 7,500 gallon storage capacity with a 2,000 square foot apron piped to a self-leveling drinker inside a pipe rail fence. Total disturbance for each would be approximately .33 acres and access would be via existing two track roads. Materials would be sling loaded in by helicopter prior to construction. Ground disturbance would consist of vegetation removal and tanks being dug a few inches under the surface and leveled along with placement of apron and fence construction. NDOW would like to build these new guzzlers to provide reliable and perennial water for the established desert bighorn sheep populations as well as in designated potential habitat areas.

Applicant Name: NDOW

Project Location: Also See Map

Water Development	Township	Range	Section	Qtr.	Qtr.	County	7.5 Quad Map Name
Candelaria Mine Pad Giroux	3N	34E	8	SE	SW	Mineral	Belleville

Water Development	Township	Range	Section	Qtr.	Qtr.	County	7.5 Quad Map Name
Candelaria Town Site	4N	35E	16	SW	SW	Mineral	Candelaria
Cocoon Bills Canyon	15N	31.5E	11	SW	SW	Churchill	Fourmile Canyon
Eastside	3N	33E	20			Mineral	Basalt
Excelsior Marietta	5N	33E	30	NE	NW	Mineral	Moho Mountain
Gabbs Rhyolite	9N	34E	19	NE	NE	Mineral	Mount Ferguson
Gabbs Wash	12N	35E	1	NE	SE	Nye	Downeyville
Garfield Kinkaid	8N	32E	28	SE	SE	Mineral	Kinkaid
Garfield Mable	7N	33E	13	NE	SE	Mineral	Black Dyke Mtn.
Garfield Mable S.	7N	34E	30	SE	NW	Mineral	Black Dyke Mtn.
Miller Mt.	3N	34E	25	NE	NW	Mineral	Miller Mountain
Monte Cristo Mt. Anna - Black Dot	13N	34E	2	SW	NE	Mineral	Broken Hills
Monte Cristo Mt. Annie - Blush	13N	34E	23	NW	NE	Nye	Mount Annie NE
Sand Springs BG	15N	32E	32	SE	NW	Churchill	Rawhide
Sand Springs Gote Flat	15N	32E	5	SW	SE	Churchill	Fourmile Canyon

BLM Acres for the Project Area: < 5 acres

Land Use Plan Conformance: #4 WLD-2: Maintain and improve wildlife habitat, including riparian/stream habitats, and reduce habitat conflicts while providing for other appropriate resource uses. #9, WLD-8: Big game guzzlers will be fenced to exclude domestic livestock and wild horses.

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)

<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)		gd
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)		sm la
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)		Mz
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (PEC)		Mz
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)		Mz
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (PEC)		Mz
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)		sm
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)		Mz
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)		sm Mz
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? ((PEC)		Mz
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)		sm
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)		gd

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: *[Signature]* 4/2/2012
- Public Health and Safety/Grazing/Noxious Weeds, Jill Devaurs: *JD* 4-2-12
- Recreation/Wilderness/VRM/LWC, Dan Westermeyer:
- Wildlife/T&E (BLM Sensitive Species), John Wilson: *JW* 4-2-12
- Archeology, Susan McCabe: *[Signature]* 4/2/12
- Water Quality, Gabe Venegas: *la* 4/2/12 *JD* 4-2-12
- Soils, Jill Devaurs/Linda Appel/Chelsy Simerson: *JD* 4-2-12 *la* 4/2/12

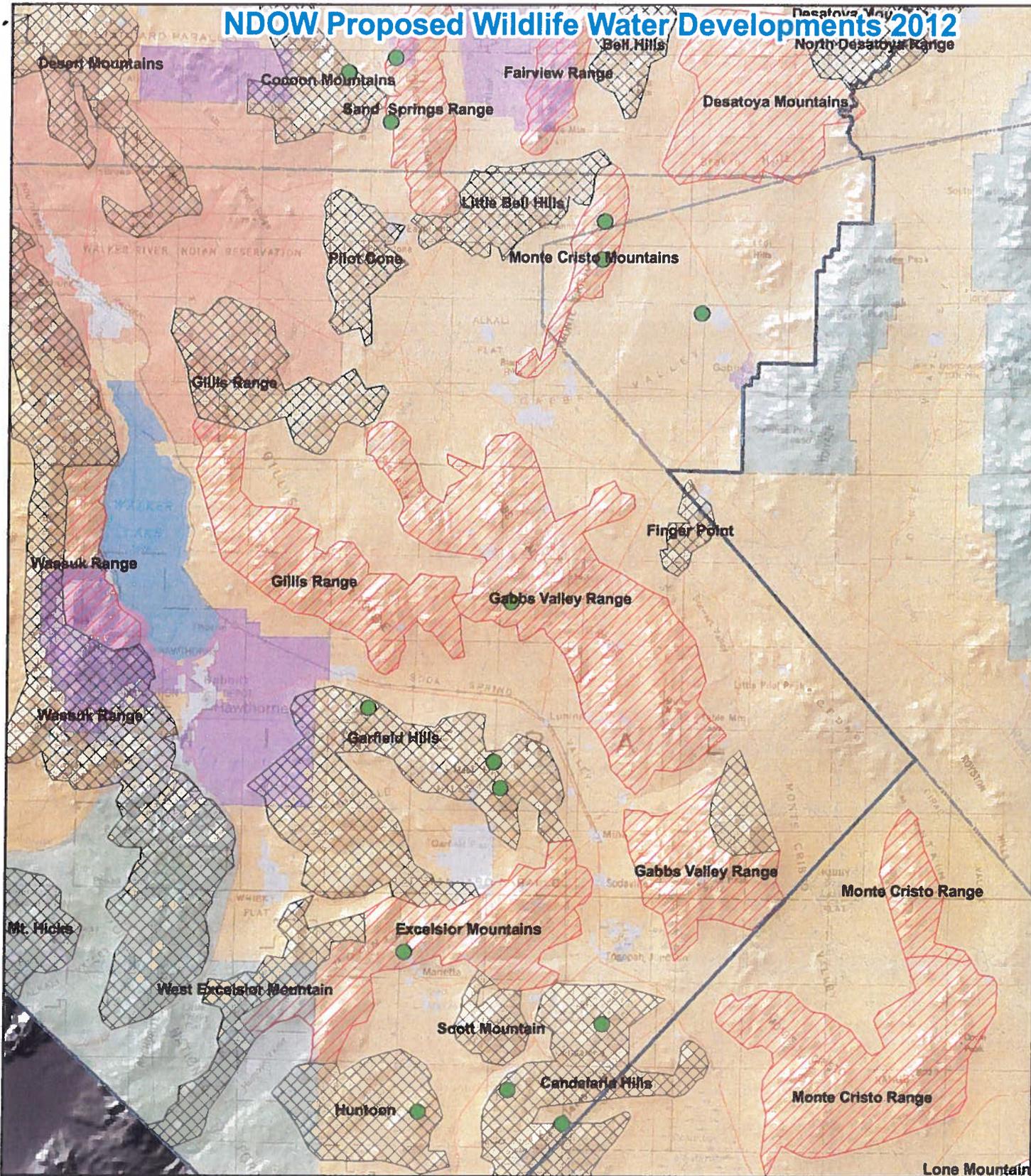
CONCLUSION: Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS. A categorical exclusion is not subject to protest or appeal.

Approved by:

Teresa J. Knutson
Teresa J. Knutson
Field Manager
Stillwater Field Office

4/3/2012
(date)

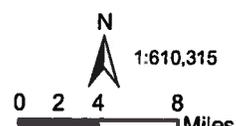
NDOW Proposed Wildlife Water Developments 2012



Carson City District Office

Legend

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| ● Wildlife Water Developments | LandOwner |
| Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat Occupancy | Bureau of Indian Affairs |
| ☑ Occupied | Bureau of Land Management |
| ☒ Potential | Bureau of Reclamation |
| ⬮ CCDO Boundary | Department of Defense |
| | Department of Energy |
| | Forest Service |
| | Fish and Wildlife Service |
| | National Parks Service |
| | Nevada State Lands |
| | Park |
| | Private |



Carson City District Office and County Boundaries



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 Bureau of Land Management
 Carson City District Office
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 Carson City, NV 89701
 (775) 885-6000

Map Produced by: John Wilson
 03/27/2012

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