

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

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Project Creator: Edward Klimasauskas

Field Office: Stillwater

Lead Office: Stillwater

Case File/Project Number: NVN-091337

Applicable Categorical Exclusion

Categorical Exclusion Reference 516 DM 11.9:

B. (6) Approval of Notices of Intent to conduct geophysical exploration of oil, gas, or geothermal, pursuant to 43 CFR 3150 or 3250, when no temporary or new road construction is proposed.

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2012-0066-CX

Project Name: UNR Soda Lake Passive Seismic Survey

Project Description: The University of Nevada Reno (UNR) is proposing to conduct a passive seismic survey on lands managed by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) as well as private land owners in the Soda Lake area near Fallon, Nevada. The survey would involve placing geophones in the ground either by stepping them in or digging holes no more than one foot diameter and one foot deep. Data loggers would be placed on the surface near the sensors to collect data. Access would be via existing roads and dirt tracks in the project area. No new road construction would occur. BLM, in consultation with BOR, would permit only sites that would be placed on public land. UNR has contacted private land owners in the area to obtain necessary permissions for sites on private land.

Applicant Name: University of Nevada, Reno

Project Location: Soda Lake

BLM Acres for the Project Area: <1

Land Use Plan Conformance: MIN-1; 1) Encourage development of energy and mineral resources in a timely manner to meet national, regional and local needs consistent with the objectives for other public lands uses.

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)		g du
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)		mu du
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (PEC)		mu du
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)		mu du
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (PEC)		mu du
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)		mu
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)		g
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)		mu du
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? ((PEC)		mu du
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)		mu
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, Angelica Rose: *AR 7/9/12*
- Public Health and Safety/Grazing/Noxious Weeds, Jill Devaurs: *JD 7-9-12*
- Recreation/Wilderness/VRM/LWC, Dan Westermeyer: *DW 7-9-12*
- Wildlife/T&E (BLM Sensitive Species), John Wilson: *JW 7-9-12*
- Archeology, Jason Wright: *JW 7-9-12*
- Soils, Jill Devaurs/Linda Appel/Chelsy Simerson: *JD 7-9-12*

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.

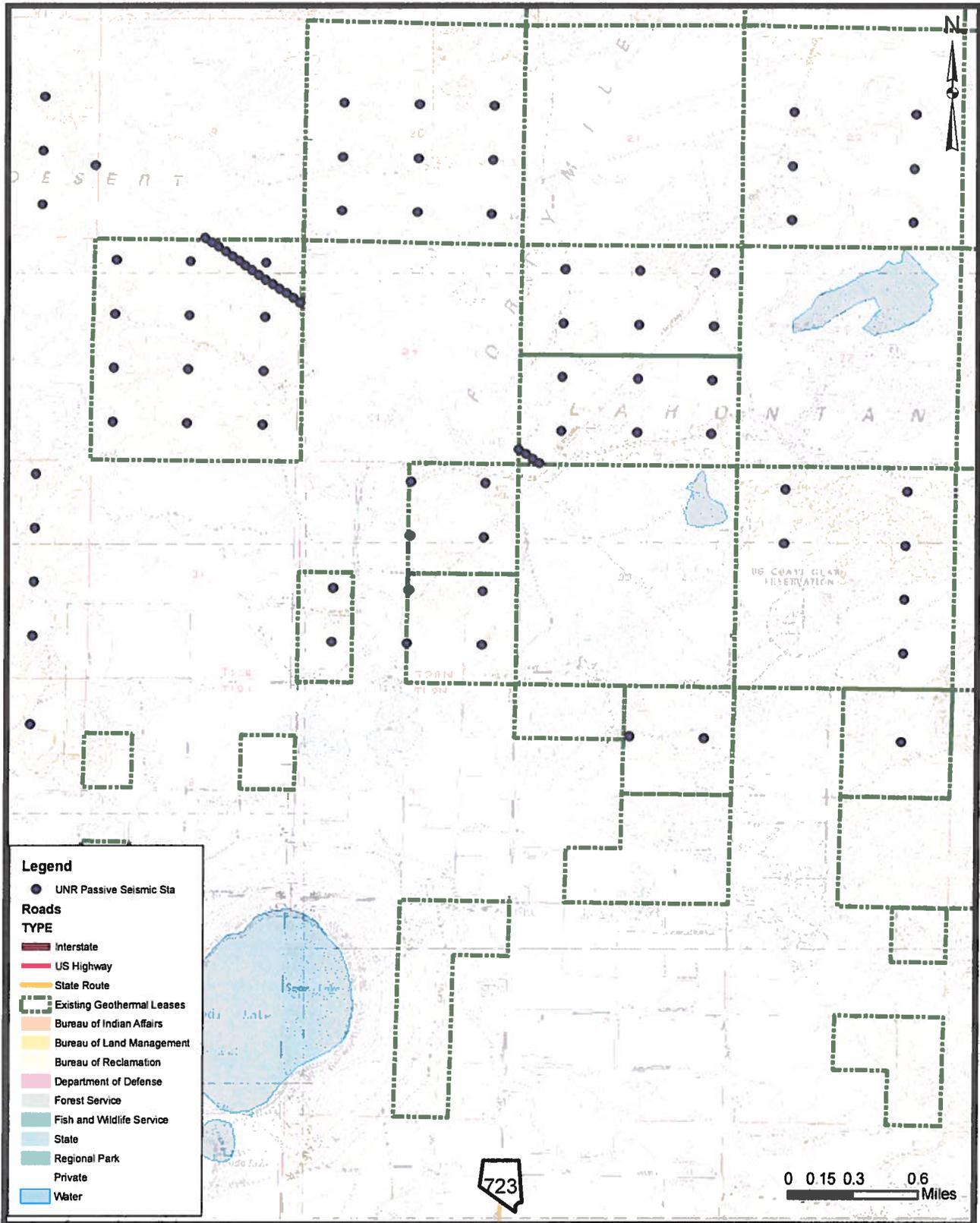
Approved by:

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

8/14/2012

(date)

UNR Geophysical Survey



Legend

- UNR Passive Seismic Sta
- Roads**
- TYPE**
- Interstate
- US Highway
- State Route
- Existing Geothermal Leases
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- Forest Service
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- State
- Regional Park
- Private
- Water



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