

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-091358

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-C010-2012-0070-CX

Project Name: Navy Dixie Valley Geophysical Survey

Project Description: The US Navy Geothermal Program Office is proposing to conduct geophysical surveys in southern Dixie Valley. The proposed action consists of a 2-D seismic survey and an MT survey. The seismic survey would involve the placement of geophones into the ground up to 1 foot deep and up to 200 feet apart along the proposed transects (see map). Cables would be laid across the surface to connect the geophones with a data logger. A low impact vibrator truck equipped with large balloon tires to minimize impacts would be used to generate the energy source. The vibrator trucks run in series spaced up to 100 feet along the seismic transects. Up to three vibrator trucks may be driven at a time down the seismic transects. Seismic energy is generated through a plate attached to the trucks that is lowered to the ground, vibrated for about 30 seconds approximately every 30 feet. The plate may leave a temporary ¼ inch depression in the earth. No vibrator trucks will enter the WSA except along cherry-stemmed roads. In that case trucks will be limited to the existing disturbance of the cherry-stemmed roads.

The MT survey would be conducted using three cylindrical magnetic sensors that are three feet in length and would be buried up to one foot oriented N-S, E-W, and one vertically in the ground as shallow as possible. Two additional electrical sensors would be buried no deeper than one foot. The total surface disturbance per site would be less than one meter diameter.

Applicant Name: US Navy Geothermal Program Office

Project Location: southern Dixie Valley

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)		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
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)		J
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)		ADP
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, Angelica Rose: *AR 8/20/12*
- Public Health and Safety/Grazing/Noxious Weeds, Jill Devaurs: *JD 8-20-12*
- Recreation/Wilderness/VRM/LWC, Dan Westermeyer: *DW 8/20/12*
- Wildlife/T&E (BLM Sensitive Species), John Wilson: *JW 8-23-12*
- Archeology, Jason Wright: *JW 8/21/12*
- Soils, Jill Devaurs/Linda Appel/Chelsy Simerson: *LA 8/23/12*

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.

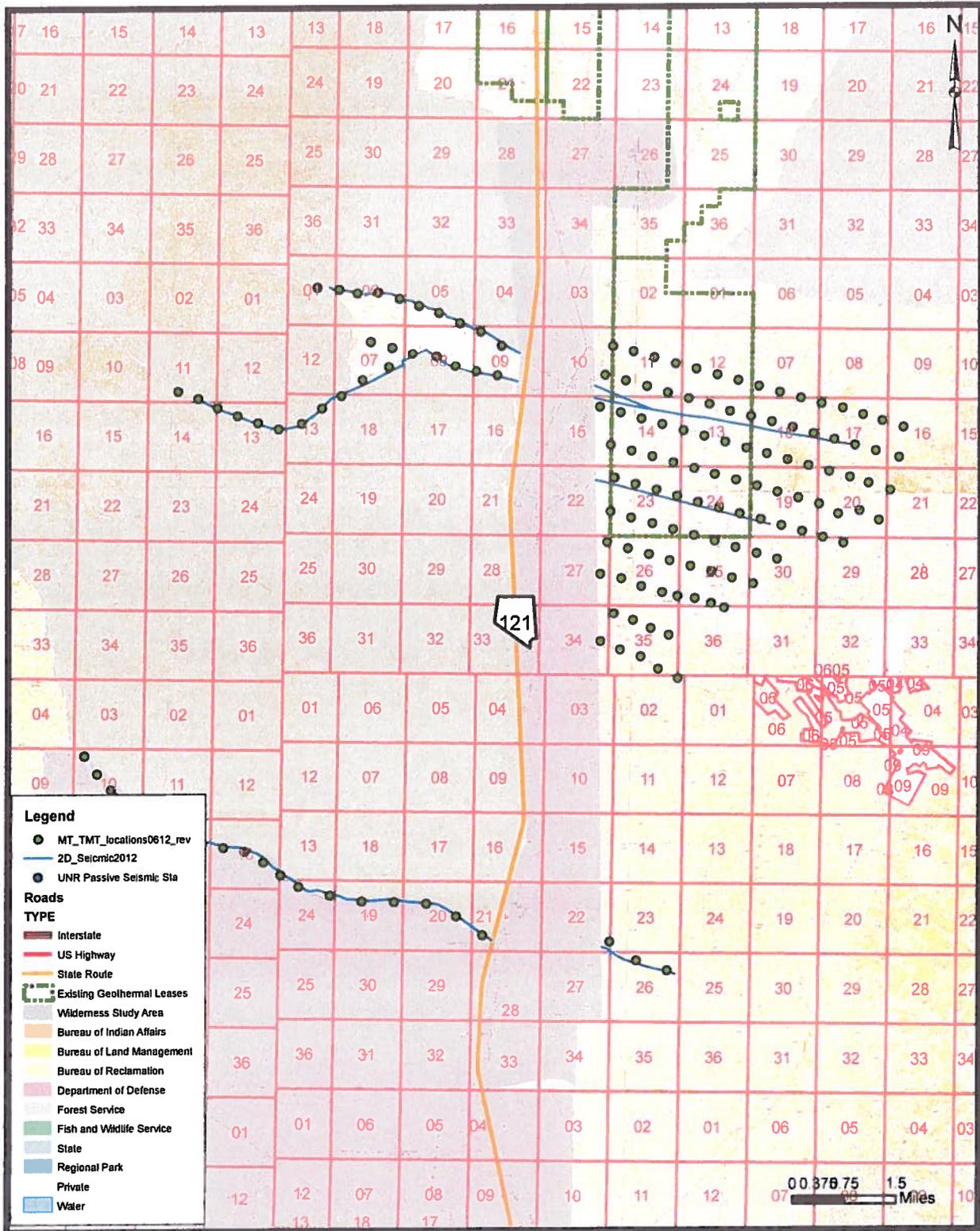
Approved by:

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

8/23/2012

(date)

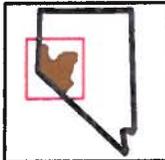
Navy Geophysical Survey



Carson City District
Field Offices
Location Map



Nevada BLM
Carson City District
Location Map



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