

**Categorical Exclusion Review**  
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
 Boise District Office  
 Four Rivers Field Office

**University of Leicester Paleomagnetic Sampling Program**

<b>CE No.:</b> DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2012-0045-CX	<b>Lease/Serial/Case File No.:</b> Not Applicable
<b>Purpose and Need for Action:</b> The University of Leicester has requested to obtain orientated rock core samples to obtain paleomagnetic and other geologic information on the igneous rock formations in the area.	
<b>Description of Proposed Action:</b> Take no more than 3 oriented core samples (less than 2.5cm in diameter and usually 10 cm long) per eruption unit. Spacing between the individual holes are outcrop dependent but usually 2 meters. They intend to use a modified "Stiehl" chain saw to which a stainless steel drill bit with copper head and diamonds is attached. Drilling fluid is water which they would carry with them in plastic containers. Access to sample sites would be via a two-track road and the rest of the way on foot. There would not be any vehicular overland travel.	
<b>Project Location:</b> NWNWNW Sec 23, T. 2S., R. 7E.. Approximately nine and one half miles north northeast of Mountain Home, Elmore County, Idaho. The site lies approximately one half mile east of Highway 20.	
<b>Applicant</b> (if any): Marc K. Reichow, Leicester University, UK.	
<b>Part I – Plan Conformance Review</b>	
<b>This proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan:</b> Kuna Management Framework Plan <b>Date Plan Approved:</b>	
The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions): Minerals Objective #4, "Provide sand, gravel, cinders, clay, bentonite, fill material, and building stone to meet the needs of local and state governments, industry, and individuals as the demand warrants."	
Remarks: Minerals Objective #4.	
<b>Part II – NEPA Review</b>	
A. Categorical Exclusion Review: This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, Departmental Categorical Exclusion: 1.6 Nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities. B. C. Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances Review: Before any non-Energy Act CX is used, you must conduct sufficient review to determine if any of the following extraordinary circumstances apply (516 DM 2, Appendix 2). If any of the extraordinary circumstances are applicable to the action being considered, either an EA or an EIS must be prepared for the action. Part 516 of the Departmental Manual	
<b>List of Extraordinary Circumstances</b>	
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	
Yes	No X
Specialist Signature/Date: <i>Fornest Griggs 8/29/2012</i>	
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> Three holes approximately one inch in diameter by five inches deep into rock would not pose a significant impact to public safety	

2. 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 (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; or ecologically significant or critical areas, or is not in compliance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.		
Yes	No	X Specialist Signature/Date: <i>Forrest Griggs 8/29/2012</i>
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> None of the listed items is expected to be impacted by this activity.		
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		
Yes	No	X Specialist Signature/Date: <i>Forrest Griggs 8/29/2012</i>
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> The proposed action would have minimal environmental effects, none controversial, and would not conflict with any other resource use.		
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
Yes	No	X Specialist Signature/Date: <i>Forrest Griggs 8/29/2012</i>
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> The proposed action is a common scientific study practice and impacts from the activities are well understood and documented.		
5. Establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		
Yes	No	X Specialist Signature/Date: <i>Forrest Griggs 8/29/2012</i>
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> The proposed action would be a one-time occurrence that does not imply or establish a precedent for any future actions.		
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
Yes	No	X Specialist Signature/Date: <i>Forrest Griggs 8/29/2012</i>
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> The proposed action would be a discrete activity with a tie to one action. Leicester University will be drilling seven similar holes on State managed lands approximately seven miles east southeast of this site. The two related actions would not, together, cause cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		
Yes	No	X Specialist Signature/Date: <i>Dean Shaw 8/28/2012</i>
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> I have evaluated this proposed project, and considered the proposed impacts to cultural resources. I have concluded that allowing this rock sampling will not impact any historic properties. I determined that the records review and the previous nearby surveys are adequate to evaluate sites and assess possible impacts anticipated from taking three rock samples.		
I determined that this project is similar to the criteria set forth under exemption # 1 as listed in the APPENDIX C "Exempted Undertakings" listed in the State Protocol Agreement between the Idaho State Director, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding the manner in which the BLM will meet its responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) as provided for in the National Programmatic Agreement (NPA) that was signed in 1998.		
Furthermore, the Standard Stipulations issued for BLM Projects also protect any cultural and paleontological resources and human remains that may be discovered during project implementation, use or maintenance.		
This project does not require additional on-the-ground cultural resource survey, additional SHPO coordination or additional Cultural Resource Management (CRM) paperwork.		
8. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		
Yes	No	X Specialist Signature/Date for Plants: <i>Mark Steiger 8/29/2012</i> Specialist Signature/Date for Wildlife: <i>Matthew McCoy 8/30/2012</i> Specialist Signature/Date for Aquatics: <i>Matthew McCoy 8/30/2012</i>

