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 516 DM 11.9, Section A. Fish and Wildlife, Number 5: Routine augmentations, such as fish stocking, providing no new species are introduced.

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2013-0005-CX

Project Name: Desert Bighorn Sheep Augmentation

Project Description: The Nevada Department of Wildlife intends to release approximately 15-45 desert bighorn sheep in order to augment an existing herd within the Excelsior Mountains sometime between October 2012 and October 2017. There is adequate water, forage, and escape cover near the release site and within the Excelsior Mountain Range to support the additional Big horn sheep. There are no conflicts with domestic sheep grazing in the Excelsior Mountains. The sheep are captured by NDOW at an appropriate area elsewhere and are brought to the release site in a trailer using established roads (See Map).

Applicant Name: NDOW

Project Location: T05N R33E

BLM Acres for the Project Area: 0

Land Use Plan Conformance: WLD-7: Proposed introductions, transplants, augmentations, and reestablishment for both floral and faunal species shall follow BLM Manual 1745, and any other additional Nevada State Office guidelines.

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)

If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.	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)		SMC AS DW
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)		PMZ
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (PEC)		PMZ
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)		PMZ
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (PEC)		PMZ
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)		SMC
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)		AS
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)		SMC
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? ((PEC)		PMZ
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)		SMC
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, Steve Kramer: 10/09/2012
Public Health and Safety/Grazing/Noxious Weeds, Jill Devaurs: 10-9-12
Recreation/Wilderness/VRM/LWC, Dan Westermeyer:
Wildlife/T&E (BLM Sensitive Species), John Wilson: 10-9-12
Archeology, Susan McCabe: 10/4/12 Ap C. 1.
Water Quality, Gabe Venegas:
Soils, Jill Devaurs/Linda Appel/Chelsy Simerson:

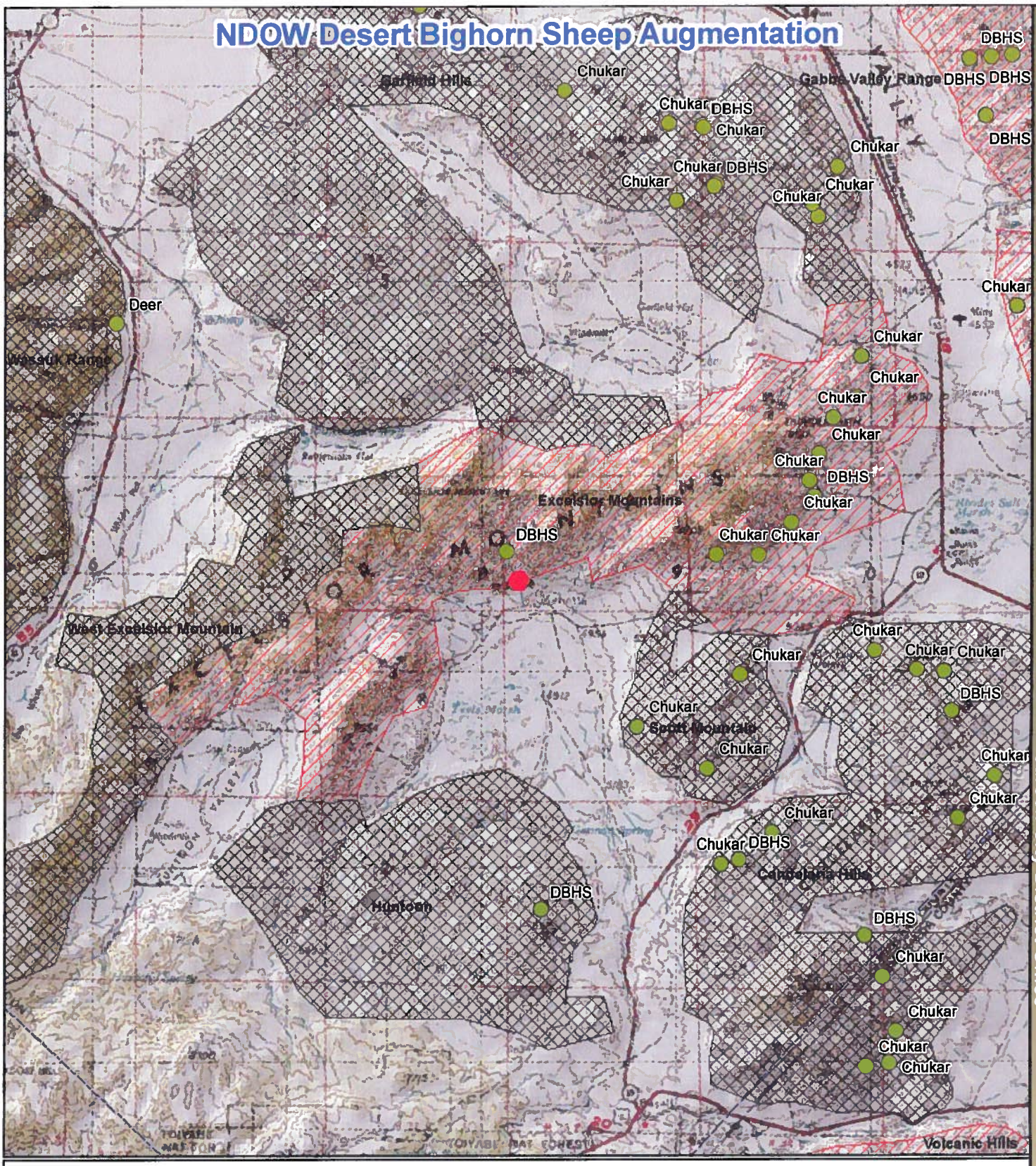
CONCLUSION: Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS. A categorical exclusion is not subject to protest or appeal.

Approved by:

10/10/12
(date)

Teresa J. Knutson
Field Manager
Stillwater Field Office

NDOW Desert Bighorn Sheep Augmentation



BLM

Carson City District Office

Legend

- Bighorn Sheep Release Site
- Wildlife Water Developments
- CCDO Boundary

Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat

Occupancy

- Occupied
- Potential

1:272,251

N

0 1 2 4 Miles

Carson City District Office and County Boundaries

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District Office
5665 Morgan Mill Rd.
Carson City, NV. 89701
(775) 885-6000

Map Produced by: John Wilson
10/04/2012

No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data