

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

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Project Lead: Dan Erbes

Field Office: Sierra Front Field Office

Lead Office: Sierra Front Field Office

Case File/Project Number: N-91585

Applicable Categorical Exclusion (cite section): Categorical Exclusion Reference 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4, F(9) Solid Minerals: "Digging of exploratory trenches for mineral materials, except in riparian areas."

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2013-0002-CX

Project Name: NDOT Silver Springs Mineral Material Exploration Permit

Project Description: NDOT proposes to sample mineral materials (sand, gravel and bedrock) to find a material source for the USA Parkway project. The sampling sites are located in T18N, R24E, sec. 22 SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, and 28 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Lyon County, Nevada. The sampling method will involve excavating trenches with a track-mounted excavator. Typical trenches are 20 ft long 2 ft wide, and up to 25 ft deep. The test pits will be backfilled immediately after samples are collected.

Is the project located within preliminary general habitat for sage-grouse? Yes No

Is the project located within preliminary priority habitat for sage-grouse? Yes No

Applicant Name: Nevada Department of Transportation

Project Location (include Township/Range, County):

Sec. 22 SESE, S2NESE, and Sec. 28 NENE, T. 18 N., R. 24 E., MDBM, Lyon County, NV

BLM Acres for the Project Area: 0.75 Acre

Land Use Plan Conformance (cite reference/page number): Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001), MIN-1.

Name of Plan: NV – Carson City RMP.

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:

<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? (project lead/P&EC)		X
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? (wildlife biologist, hydrologist, outdoor recreation planner, archeologist)		X
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (project lead/P&EC)		X
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (project lead/P&EC)		X
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? (project lead/P&EC)		X
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		X
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? (archeologist)		X
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 biologist, botanist)		X
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (project lead/P&EC)		X
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? (project lead/P&EC)		X
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)? (archeologist)		X
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)? (botanist)		X

SPECIALISTS' REVIEW: During ID Team consideration of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

Realty Specialist: Perry Wickham PW or Erik Pignata EP

Outdoor Recreation Planner: Arthur Callan AC

Hydrologist: Niki Cutler NC

Archaeologist: Jim Carter JC or Rachel Crews RC

Wildlife Biologist: Pilar Ziegler PZ

Botanist: Dean Tonenna DT

Planning & Environmental Coordinator: Brian Buttazoni BB

Range Management Specialist: Katrina Leavitt KL or Ryan Leary RL or Kathryn Dyer KD

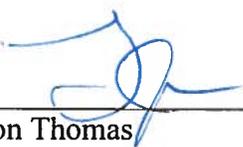
Wild Horse and Burro Specialist: John Axtell JA

Geologist: Dan Erbes DE

Forester: Coreen Francis CF

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.

Approved by:



Leon Thomas
Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office

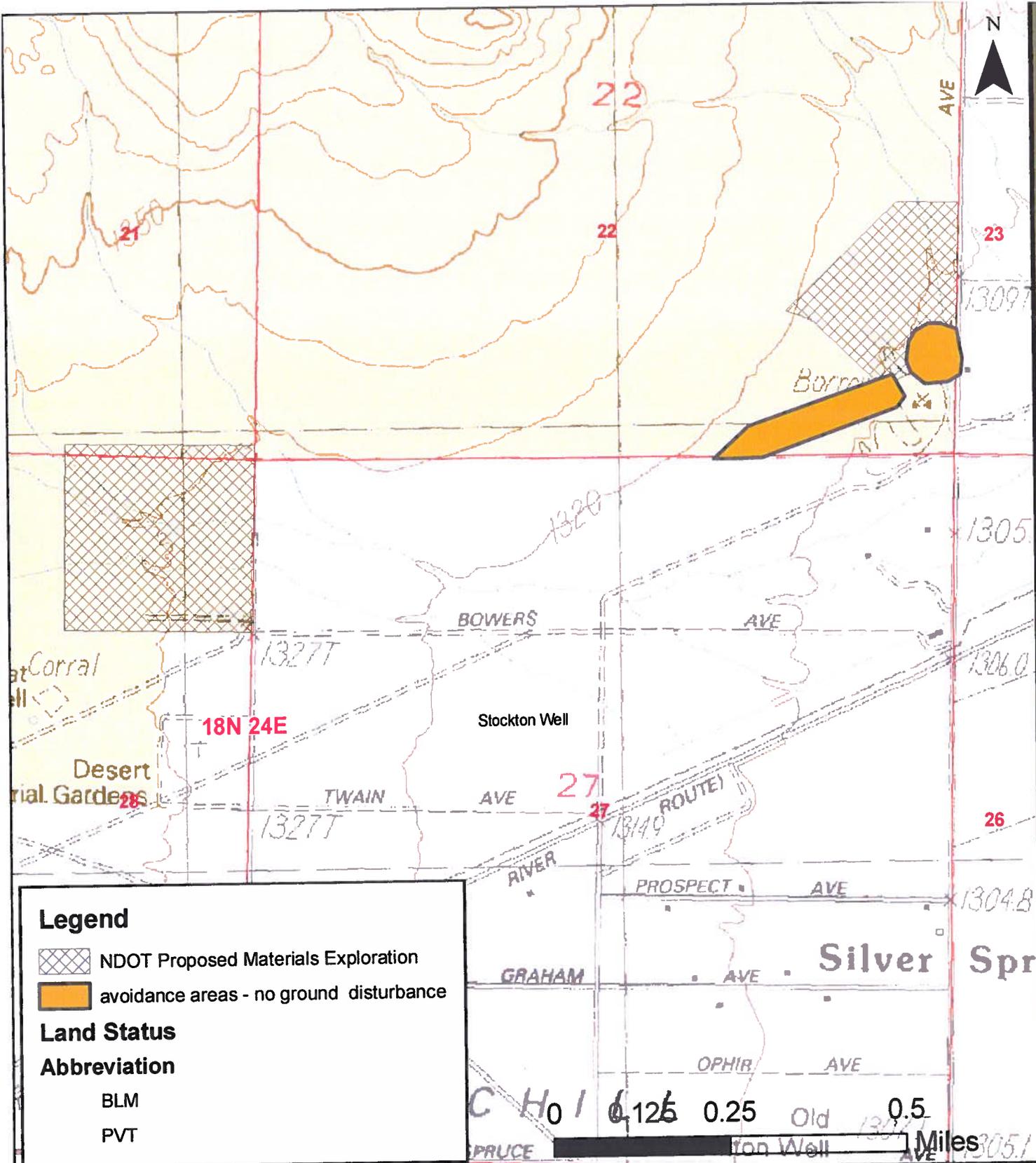
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(date)

Special Stipulations for Mineral Material Exploration Permit No. N-91585

Nevada Department of Transportation
within T. 18 N., R. 24 E., secs. 22 and 28

1. This authorization expires after 90 days. BLM may extend that authorization for an additional 90 days if an extension is deemed necessary.
2. You must submit your sampling and testing findings to BLM pursuant to 43 CFR 3601.30(b).
3. A qualified archaeologist shall be on-site during work at the eastern materials pit (T18N, R24E Section 22 SE ¼) to ensure avoidance of impacts to cultural resources shown on the attached sensitive resource avoidance map. The archaeologist shall obtain a fieldwork authorization from this office before any ground disturbance begins.
4. When previously undiscovered antiquities or other objects of historic or scientific interest including but not limited to historic or prehistoric ruins, vertebrate fossils, rock art (such as pictographs) or artifacts are discovered in the performance of this permit, the item(s) or condition(s) will be left intact and immediately brought to the attention of the authorized office of the BLM.
5. Surface damage done by equipment during trench excavation will be reclaimed by filling in any ruts and recontouring the ground to its near original shape.
6. Permittee is responsible for avoiding impacts to sub-surface or above ground utilities.
7. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony (as defined at 43 CFR 10.20). And, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.
8. Permittee shall notify BLM when excavation activities are to take place.
9. Permittee is responsible for disposing of any debris generated from these activities in accordance with state and federal regulations.
10. The operator shall be responsible for all costs of any wildfire resulting from its operations and practices.
11. The operator will be responsible for controlling all noxious weeds and other undesirable invading species. All equipment must be washed prior to and between excavation sites to minimize the potential for spreading noxious weeds and other undesirable invading species.



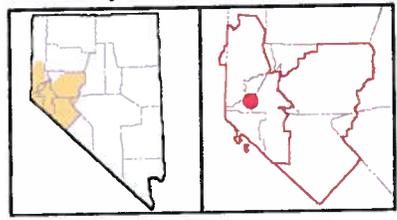
Legend

- NDOT Proposed Materials Exploration
- avoidance areas - no ground disturbance

Land Status Abbreviation

- BLM
- PVT

Carson City District Project Area



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.

Materials Exploration Pits associated with the NDOT USA Parkway project

Sensitive resource avoidance map

Stockton Well, NV USGS 7.5' quadrangle
1:12,000 Scale



Map Produced by:
R.Crews on
November 6, 2012

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