Categorical Exclusion Documentation Format for Actions Other Than Hazardous Fuels and Fire Rehabilitation Actions

McConnico-Area AML Closures
DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2013-0026-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: Kingman Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: N/A

Proposed Action Title/Type: McConnico-Area AML Closures

Location of Proposed Action: Up to 20 abandoned mine workings located on public lands in T. 20 N., R. 17 W., Gila & Salt River Meridian, southwest of Kingman, Mohave County, Arizona. See attached maps.

Description of Proposed Action: The BLM would close up to 20 abandoned mine workings on public lands in the vicinity of McConnico, Mohave County, Arizona. Closing these dangerous abandoned mine workings will prevent accidental falls and the contamination of soil and groundwater by dumping of hazardous materials. BLM biologists have surveyed each working for wildlife habitat and provided a recommendation for closure based on the results. The workings will be closed using the recommended method of backfill or grate. If owls, or any other wildlife, are discovered, they will be expelled before closure. All mining claimants with claims in the area have been notified of this work. No objections to the closures were received by the BLM Kingman Field Office. All mine features are adjacent to existing roads; therefore no new roads to access the features will be necessary.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: *Kingman Resource Management Plan/EIS*
Date Approved/Amended: March 1995

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s): N/A

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):

"Hazardous Materials Management
The objective is to reduce hazards to the public and natural resources on public lands from toxic materials."

C: Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9: *Appendix 4, J (8) – Installation of minor devices to protect human life, (e.g., grates across mines), and, Appendix 4, J (10) -- Removal of structures and materials of no historical value, such as abandoned automobiles, fences, and buildings, including those built in trespass and reclamation of the site when little or no surface disturbance is involved.*

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed (See Attachment 1 - Scoping Form), and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 apply.

I considered the terms and conditions under which this would be issued and these would result in no significant impacts to the human environment.

D. Signature

Authorizing Official: ___/ s / Ruben A. Sánchez_____ Date: __06/07/2013_____
(Signature)

Name:
Title:

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Maria Troche, AML Coordinator, (928) 718-3719.

Attachment 1: Extraordinary Circumstances Review

Extraordinary Circumstances	Comment (**Yes or No with supporting Rationale)**
1. Have significant effects on public health or safety.	No. Closing abandoned mine workings will have a positive effect on public health & safety. Accidental injury or death due to falls into the openings will be eliminated. Contamination of soil and groundwater by the dumping of hazardous materials into abandoned mine shafts will be prevented.
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; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	No. The proposed action will not have significant impacts on any of the listed. Cultural clearances have been completed for the sites and no historic features would be impacted by the closing. The area is previously disturbed. Any new disturbance will be limited to the minimum necessary to backfill the holes and material for backfill will come from waste rock dumps only.
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	No. Mining claimants have been notified of the proposed closures, and no objections were made. The area is often used by the railroad and various utility companies. The proposed action will not have significant effects on their activities.
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	No. The proposed action will not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.
5. Establishes a precedent for future action or represents a decision in principle about future actions with significant environmental effects.	No. The approval of this proposed action will not set the precedent for other actions. All other closures will be evaluated individually.
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	No. This action doesn't have cumulatively significant actions in consideration of other actions in the vicinity.
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.	No. There is none of the listed in the area.
8. 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.	No T&E habitat or species are present in this area, and there is no significant habitat in the shafts to be backfilled. The feature containing burrowing owls will be fitted using a wildlife-compatible closure.
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	No. No laws or requirements would be violated.
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on	No. The action would have no impact on low

low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	income or minority populations.
11. 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 (Executive Order 13007).	No. There are no known sacred sites in the project areas.
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive 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 Executive Order 13112).	No. BLM staff will be using designated routes, and cross-country travel will not be necessary; therefore, this action will not contribute to the spread of noxious weeds or non-native species.

Approval and Decision
Attachment 2

Compliance and assignment of responsibility: Maria Troche, LLE

Monitoring and assignment of responsibility: Maria Troche, LLE

Review: *We have determined that the proposal is in accordance with the categorical exclusion criteria and that it would not involve any significant environmental effects. Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review.*

Prepared by: ___/ s / Maria Troche_____ **Date:** _06/10/2013___

Maria Troche, Land Law Examiner
Project Lead

Reviewed by: __/ s / Ramone B. McCoy_____ **Date:** _06/10/2013___

Ramone McCoy
NEPA Coordinator

Reviewed by: __/ s / Ruben A. Sánchez_____ **Date:** _06/07/2013___

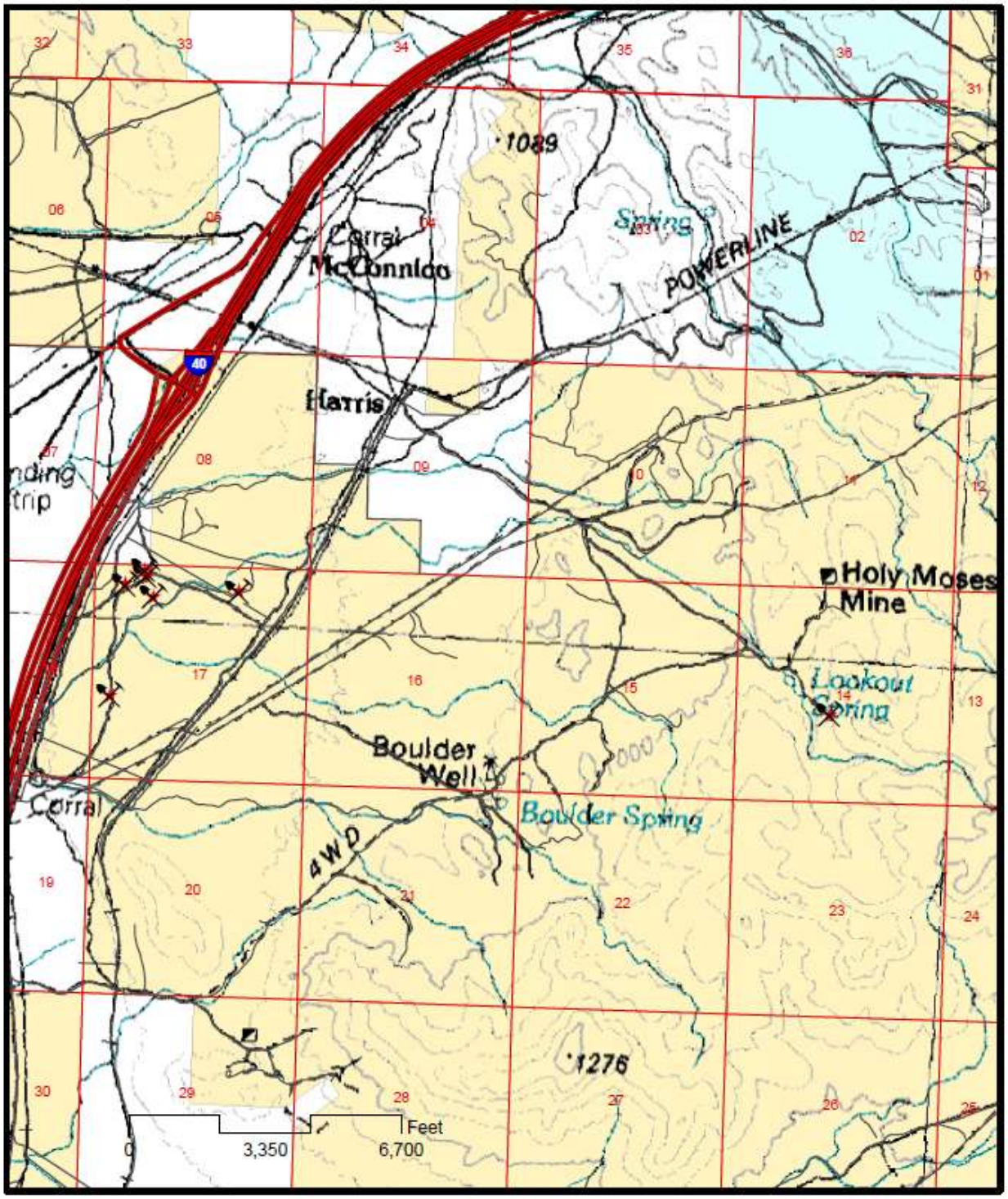
Ruben Sanchez, Field Manager
Supervisor

Project Description: Up to 20 abandoned mine workings located on public lands in T. 20 N., R. 17 W., Gila & Salt River Meridian, southwest of Kingman, Mohave County, Arizona.

Decision: Based on a review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to approve the action as proposed, with the following stipulations (if applicable).

Approved By: ___/ s / Ruben A. Sánchez_____ **Date:** __06/07/2013_____

Ruben Sanchez
Field Manager, Kingman Field Office

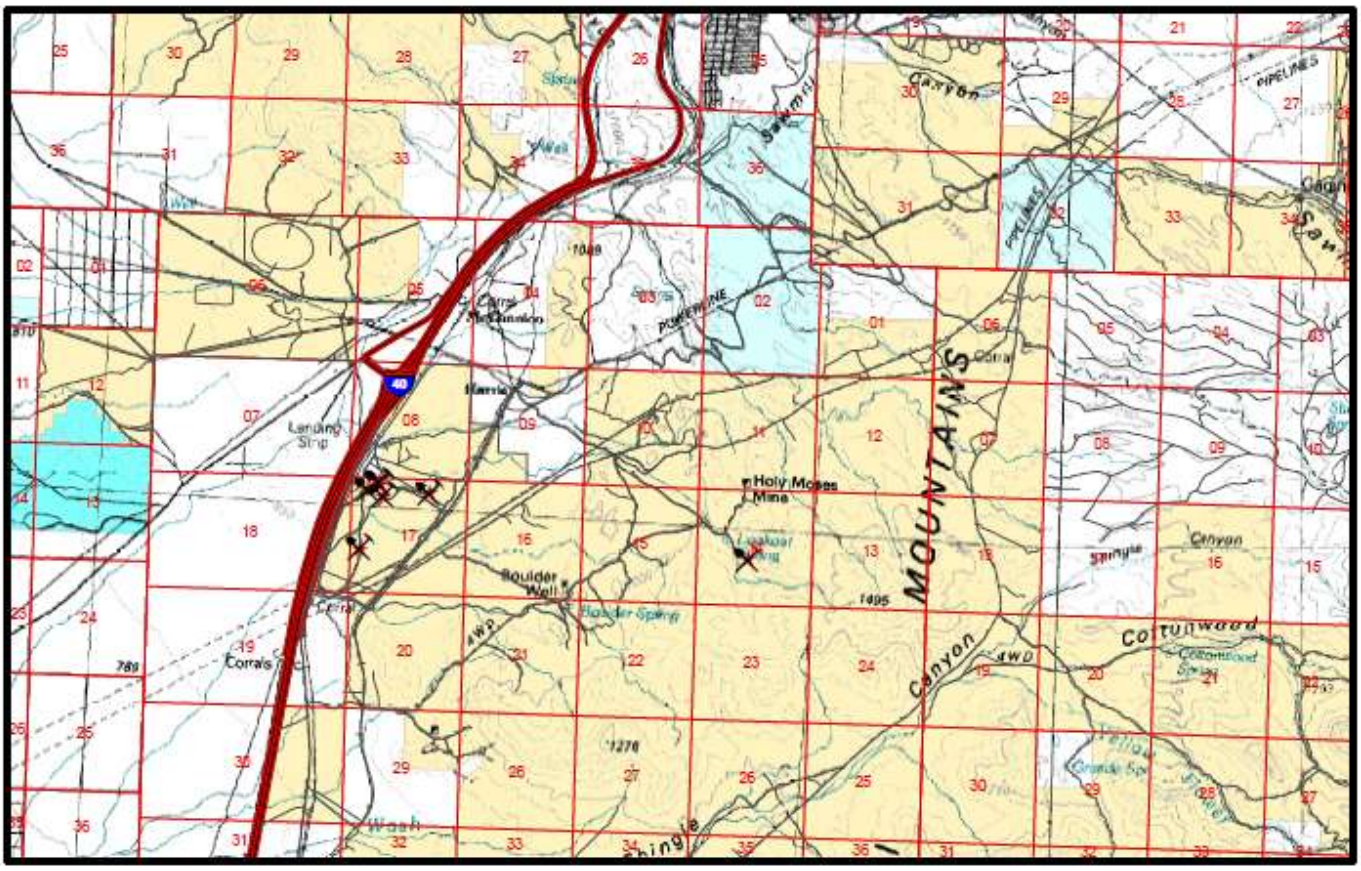


Legend

McConnico Mines

BLM

McConnico Mines
T20N R17W G&SRM



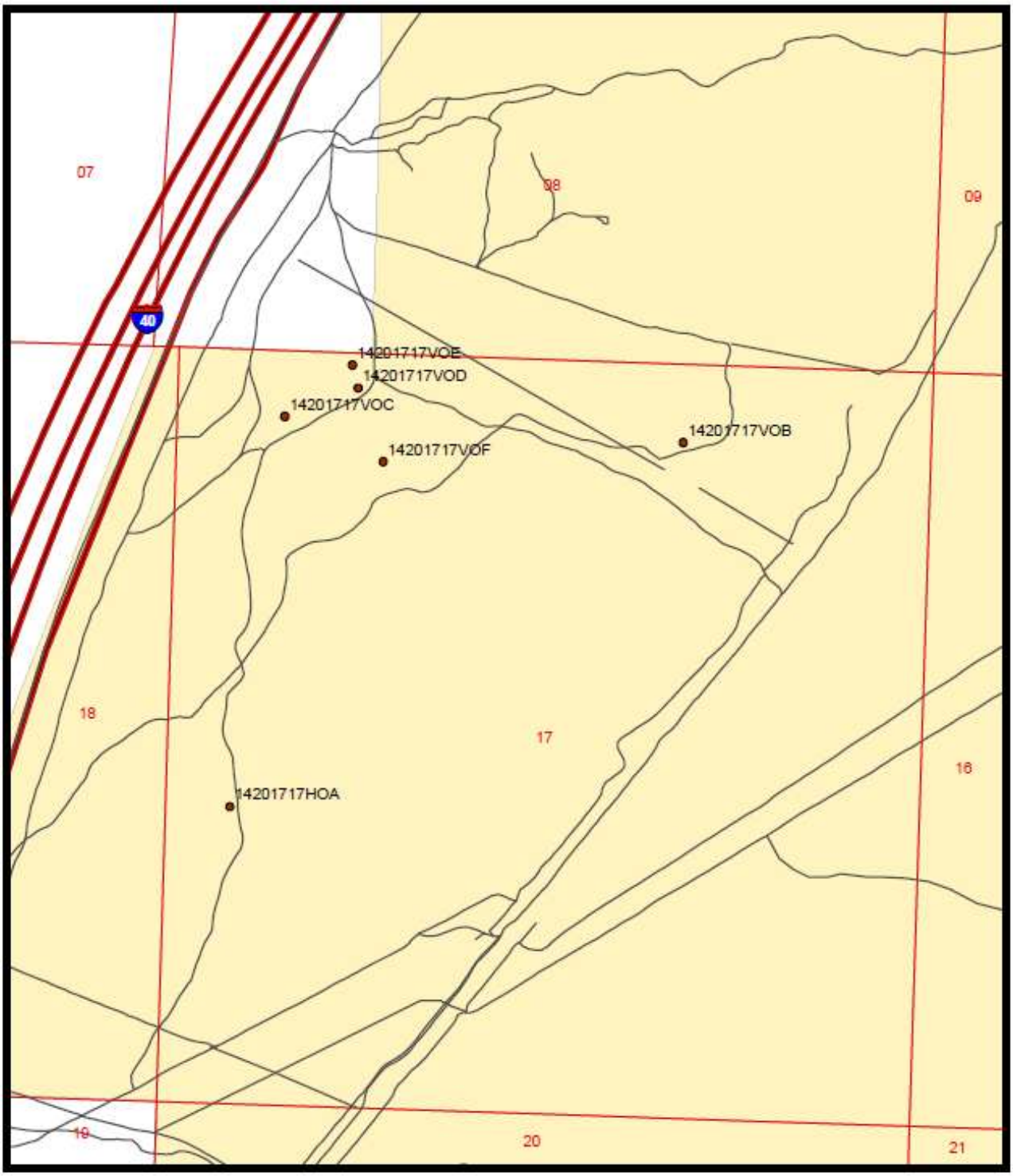
Legend

- McConnico
- BLM
- Private
- State

N W E S

0 1 2 Miles

McConnico-Area AML Backfills



Legend

- BLM
- Private
- McConnico

0 1,000 2,000 Feet

N W E S

McConnico Mines Section 17

KINGMAN FIELD OFFICE SCOPING FORM

Proposal:

DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2013-0026-CX
NEPA Document Number

S:/BLMshare:AML/NEPA/C010-2013-0026-CX (McConnico Backfills)
Document Location

Land Description:
Applicant: BLM
Authorization: N/A

INVOLVEMENT: Indicate in the left column which disciplines need to provide information into the EA.

Needed Input (X)	Discipline	Signature
	Lands	
x	Minerals	
	Range	
	Wild Horse and Burro	
	General Recreation	
x	Cultural and Paleontological Resources	/s/ Tim Watkins 06/06/2013
	Wilderness	
	Soils	
	Surface and Groundwater Quality/Water Rights	
	Air Quality	
x	Wildlife	/s/ Ammon Wilhelm 06/07/2013
x	Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals	/s/ Ammon Wilhelm 06/07/2013
x	Migratory Birds	/s/ Ammon Wilhelm 06/07/2013
	Surface Protection	
	Hazardous Materials	
	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	
	Visual Resources	
	Socio-Economics/Environmental Justice	
	General Botany/Noxious Weeds	
	Energy Policy	

Writer: / s / Maria Troche Date: 06/07/2013

Environmental Coordinator: / s / Ramone B. McCoy Date: 06/07/2013

Field Manager: / s / Ruben A. Sánchez Date: 06/07/2013