

**Bureau of Land Management
Winnemucca District Office
Categorical Exclusion**

[X] HRFO (1000) [] BRFO (3000) [] District ()

CX#: DOI-BLM-NV-W010-2012-0035-CX	Date: 3-28-2012
Regulatory Authority (CFR or Law): 3604	Lease / Case File / Serial #: N-92245
BLM Manual:	N-92246
Subject Function Code: 3604	
Project Lead Preliminary Review: Is the project located within a Preliminary Priority Habitat or Preliminary General Habitat? No.	

1. BLM District Office: Winnemucca District Office
2. Name of Project Lead: Daniel Atkinson
3. Project Title: Free Use Permit Authorizations for the Twin Buttes Well and North Snot Knob pits
4. Applicant: Pershing County Road Department

5. Project Description: The Pershing County Road Department (PCRD) has requested two new Free-Use Permits for the Twin Buttes Well and North Snot Knob pits. These would be new pits. The North Snot Knob pit has been tested for suitable gravel under a prospecting permit with case file number N-90814; the Twin Buttes Well pit has not had any testing, but the PCRD believes suitable material is present. The material removed from these pits would be used for the construction and maintenance of county roads. Material would be mined using a front-end loader or backhoe and hauled using semi- trucks with belly-dump trailers. The permit terms would be for 10 years from the date of issuance, not to exceed 5,000 cubic yards of material removed from each pit per year.

Project dimensions (length, width, height, depth): Approximately 450'x450' per site.
Acreage: Less than five acres of surface disturbance associated with each pit.

Will the project result in new surface disturbance? Yes X No _____

Has the project area been previously disturbed? Yes ___ No X N/A _____. If yes, what percent of the project area has been disturbed? 0%. If only part of the project area has been disturbed, indicate disturbed area on map. Describe disturbance (and attach photo of disturbed area if you have one):

6. Legal Description:
Twin Buttes Well pit: T30N, R26E, section 18, within SESENW, SWSWNE
North Snot Knob pit: T30N, R27E, section 32, within SESW

USGS 24k Quad names: Twin Buttes Well and Seven Troughs NW
100k map names: Kumiva Peak and Lovelock
Land Status: BLM X Private _____ Other

Part I: Plan Conformance Review

The proposed Action is subject to the:

- Paradise-Denio Management Framework Plan
- Sonoma-Gerlach Management Framework Plan
- Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails NCA and Associated Wilderness and Other Contiguous Lands in Nevada RMP

(The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM Manual 1617.3).

Objective M-3: Provide sand, gravel, and other mineral materials as needed for construction purposes to federal, state, local government, private industries, and individuals.

Part II: NEPA Review

Categorical Exclusion Review: This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under:

- 516 DM11.9, (BLM) F.10 - Disposal of mineral materials, such as sand, stone, gravel, pumice, cinders, and clay, in amounts not exceeding 50,000 cubic yards or disturbing more than 5 acres, except in riparian areas.

ESA and BLM Sensitive Status Species

Evaluation Criteria	Yes	No
1. Are species listed under the Endangered Species Act likely to occur in the project area? If yes, list the species in Table 1 below. Verify with USFWS or use approved list.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Are BLM NV Sensitive Species, based upon the current IM, likely to occur in the project area? If yes, list the species in the Table 1 below.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Could the proposed action result in “take” under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act? If yes, attach appropriate mitigation measures.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Table 1. Special Status Species that may occur in the project area:

ESA	BLM	Common (<i>Scientific</i>) Name	May Be Affected?	Mitigation for BLM Sensitive Species (<i>Attach ESA Section 7 Compliance to Form</i>)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nevada Oryctes <i>Oryctes nevadensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	A special status plants survey was conducted by BLM on May 28, 2013. No special status plants were identified during this survey.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Table 2 Migratory Bird Treaty Act Consideration

Potential MBTA Species w/in the Project Area Common (<i>Scientific</i>) Name	May Be Affected?	Proposed Mitigation
black-throated sparrow (<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>), Brewer's blackbird (<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>), Brewer's sparrow (<i>Spizella breweri</i>), burrowing owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>), canyon wren (<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>), gray flycatcher (<i>Empidonax wrightii</i>), green-tailed towhee (<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>), loggerhead shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>), rock wren (<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>), sage sparrow (<i>Amphispiza belli</i>), sage thrasher (<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>), western meadowlark (<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>), and vesper sparrow (<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Nesting bird surveys if disturbance takes place from March 1 through August 31.

The Proposed Action has been reviewed to determine if any exceptions described in 43 CFR 46.215 Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances apply. (See attached page)

Mitigation Measures/Remarks:

Prior to any surface disturbing activities, a special status plant survey is required for the entire disturbance area. Timing of the survey will be dependent on the habitat type and the detectability of the target species. If a special status plant is located, a protective buffer will be delineated in consultation with the authorized officer.

Permittees must strive to conduct their mining activities outside of the migratory bird nesting season which runs from March 1st through August 31st. In the event the permittee finds it can't avoid activity during this time, the permittee must at least plan ahead and clear the native vegetation in those areas outside of the nesting season to deter birds from nesting there. Vegetation must be cleared only in the footprint of the projected disturbance for that year. For example, a pit would be cleared of only several acres of previously disturbed habitat at any one time (the projected years need) instead of clearing the entire permitted area at once. Once cleared of vegetation, any material taken from the area must be within the area devoid of vegetation. The Permittee must take measures to deter weeds and native vegetation from returning to the disturbed area such as applying a BLM

approved herbicide or blading the area again as needed.

Should a need for mineral materials arise during the nesting season in an area that has not been cleared of vegetation, any authorized permit / contract holder may request approval from the BLM to initiate a pre-disturbance migratory bird nesting survey. A pre-disturbance migratory bird nesting survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within potential breeding habitat prior to any surface disturbance proposed during the avian breeding season (March 1st through August 31st). Surveys must be conducted no more than 10 days and no less than 3 days prior to initiation of disturbance. Surveys must follow established BLM standards and protocols, and should be approved by the BLM biologist prior to being implemented. If active nests are located, the BLM biologist must be notified immediately and appropriate protection measures which may include avoidance or restriction of activities will be established. If no active nests are present in the area surveyed, vegetation should be cleared within 10 days of survey completion.

Part III: DECISION: I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no other environmental analysis is required. Project authorization is subject to mitigation measures identified above.

Remarks reserved for authorized officer:

Authorized Official \S\ Derek Messmer Date: 8/7/2013
(Signature)

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities:

A person who wishes to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals must do so under 43 CFR 4.411 and must file in the office of the officer who made the decision (not the board), in writing to Ken Loda, Humboldt River Field Office, 5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445. A person served with the decision being appealed must transmit the notice of appeal in time to be filed in the office where it is required to be filed within thirty (30) days after the date of service.

The notice of appeal must give the serial number or other identification of the case and may include a statement of reasons for the appeal, a statement of standing if required by § 4.412(b), and any arguments the appellant wishes to make. Form 1842-1 provides additional information regarding filing an appeal.

No extension of time will be granted for filing a notice of appeal. If a notice of appeal is filed after the grace period provided in §4.401(a), the notice of appeal will not be considered and the case will be closed by the officer from whose decision the appeal is taken. If the appeal is filed during the grace period provided in §4.401(a) and the delay in filing is not waived, as provided in that section, the notice of appeal will not be considered and the appeal will be dismissed by the Board.

The appellant shall serve a copy of the notice of appeal and any statements of reason, written arguments, or briefs under §4.413 on each adverse party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken and on the Office of the Solicitor, Pacific Southwest Regional Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 2800 Cottage Way, Room E-2753, Sacramento, California 95825-1890. Service must be accompanied by personally serving a copy to the party or by sending the document by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address of record in the bureau, no later than 15 days after filing the document.

In addition, within thirty (30) days of receipt of this decision you have the right to file a petition for a stay together with your appeal in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 4.21. The petition must be served upon the same parties specified above.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 4.47I(c), a petition for stay, if filed, must show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied;
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits;
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted; and,
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

43 CFR 4.471 (d) provides that the appellant requesting a stay bears the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

At the conclusion of any document that a party must serve, the party or its representative must sign a written statement certifying that service has been or will be made in accordance with the applicable rules and specifying the date and manner of such service (43 CFR 4.422(c)(2)).