

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

Categorical Exclusion

**New Rye Patch Stone Collection
DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0023-CX**

PREPARING OFFICE

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management



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Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

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Chapter 1. Categorical Exclusion Worksheet

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Chapter 1: Categorical Exclusion Worksheet

A. Background

BLM Office: Vernal Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No.:

Proposed Action Title/Type: Application for the Contract Sale of Stone (surface stone collection)

Location of Proposed Action: T11S, R14E, Sec 13/E/2 NE/4, SLB Meridian, Duchesne County, UT

Description of Proposed Action: This document represents a request for a 300 ton surface stone collection permit (Form 3600-9) to be fulfilled over 5 years. The requested site has been permitted for stone collection in the past and is in an area open for stone collection.

The stone collection site would be accessed by using an ATV connected to a small trailer. No access roads will be built for this project, and as a result, stone gathering would only be conducted when the ground is dry so no ruts would be created. Disturbed ground would be raked out and re-contoured at the end of the stone gathering season each year.

Stones lying on the surface will be collected by hand. No digging or excavation will take place at the site. No stone collection activities will take place within 100 feet of the canyon rim or within any canyons.

No water will be used for this project. The applicant would clean up spills of fuel, lubricants, or antifreeze from vehicles used for stone collection and, this waste would be disposed of properly (less than 10,000 gallons of chemicals listed under SARA, 1986 and less than TPQ of chemicals listed in 40CFR 355 would be used in association with this project).

The applicant would abide by any timing restrictions for wildlife or avoid areas of any sensitive plants identified by BLM specialists.

The permitted area will be inspected annually and at the end the 5 year term of the permit. If necessary, reclamation would be required if damages occur, such as ruts.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: ROD approved in 2008

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

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) : The proposed action is consistent with the decisions of the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (ROD 2008). The ROD allows the development of mineral operations for salable minerals (page 97), and 389,788 acres have been set apart for mineral material disposal with standard and special stipulations (page 100). The proposed off road travel would not conflict with the limited OHV designation because it would be

a formally permitted activity and all appropriate resource clearances have been conducted. The project would not conflict with other decisions throughout the plan.

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The action described above generally does not require the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS), as it has been found to not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. The applicable Categorical Exclusion reference is in 516 DM 2, Appendix 1 (or 516 DM 11.5 F (10)). This reference states, "Disposal of mineral materials such as sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, cinders, and clay, in amounts not exceeding 50,000 cubic yards or disturbing more than 5 acres, except in riparian areas."

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, or 516 DM 11.9,

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, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

I considered the extraordinary circumstances as documented in the Extraordinary Circumstances Worksheet.

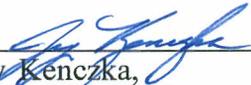
D. Categorical Exclusion Review Record

Resource	Yes/No*	Assigned Specialist Signature	Date
Air Quality	No	Stephanie Howard	11/21/13
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	No	Dan Gilfillan	11/25/13
Cultural Resources	No	Cameron Cox	3/6/2014
Environmental Justice	No	Stephanie Howard	11/21/13
Farm Lands (prime or unique)	No	Stephanie Howard	11/21/13
Floodplains	No	Elizabeth Gamber	11/20/13
Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds	No	Jessi Brunson	12/6/13
Migratory Birds	No	Brandon McDonald	11/26/13
Native American Religious Concerns	No	Cameron Cox	3/6/2014
Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Species	No	Brandon McDonald	11/26/13
	No	Jessi Brunson	3/6/14
Wastes (hazardous or solid)	No	Elizabeth Gamber	11/20/13
Water Quality (surface/ground)	No	Elizabeth Gamber	11/20/13
Wetlands / Riparian Zones	No	Elizabeth Gamber	11/20/13
Wild and Scenic Rivers	No	Dan Gilfillan	11/25/13
Wilderness	No	Dan Gilfillan	11/25/13
Other:			

* Extraordinary Circumstances apply.

E. Approval and Contact Information

,


Jerry Kenczka,
Assistant Field Manager

MAR 13 2014
Date

Contact Person

Stephanie Howard

Vernal Field Office
170 South 500 East
Vernal, UT 84078

435-781-4469 or showard@blm.gov

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Chapter 2. Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation

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Chapter 2. Laboratory Chromatography
Documentation

2.1. Categorical Exclusion Rationale

CX Number:	DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0023-CX
Date:	
Lease/Case File/ Serial Number:	
Regulatory Authority (CFR or Law):	

The following block would be inside instruction tags and not be printed or visible in the final document

NEPA Guidance: Answers to the Extraordinary Circumstances questions below will affect the level of NEPA required for this project. If any of the extraordinary circumstances are applicable to the action being considered, either an EA or EIS must be prepared for the action.

Section 1.1 Impacts on Public Health and Safety

1. Does the proposed action have significant impacts on public health and safety?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Stephanie Howard, Environmental Coordinator

Rationale: Public health and safety would not be affected by this action. The proponent will abide by all safety procedures for proper use of their equipment as required by law.

Section 1.2 Impacts on Natural Resources or Unique Geographic Characteristics

2. Does 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 or wilderness study 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 (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Dan Gilfillan, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Cameron Cox, Archeologist

Rationale: No developed recreation sites/trails or Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) exist within the project area. Limited recreational use in the area. Recreational use of off highway vehicles (OHVs) is restricted to existing roads and trails. The permitted use of OHVs for stone collection would not be subject to this restriction. No wilderness, wilderness study areas, wild and scenic rivers, areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC) or national monuments exist within the project area. The project area falls within VRM-4 and has previously been surveyed (Gate 1 Inventory Unit — 2/29/12) and found not to contain wilderness character. The proposed action does not have significant impacts on historic or cultural resources.

Section 1.3 Level of Controversy

3. Does the proposed action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Elizabeth Gamber, Geologist

Rationale: There is no controversy or unresolved conflicts over environmental effects of hand gathering stone that lies on the surface. The project would not have highly controversial

environmental effects, nor would there be any underlying unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of the available resources.

Section 1.4 Highly Uncertain or Unique or Unknown Environmental Risks

4. Does the proposed action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Elizabeth Gamber, Geologist

Rationale: The consequences of this action can be fully anticipated, and are not potentially significant. There are no circumstances that can't be predicted.

Section 1.5 Precedent Setting

5. Does the proposed action establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Stephanie Howard, Environmental Coordinator

Rationale: The proposed action does not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. Activities such as this have been analyzed and approved by the Vernal RMP.

Section 1.6 Cumulatively Significant Effects

6. Does the proposed action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Stephanie Howard, Environmental Coordinator

Rationale: The proposed action does not have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. This is a stand alone project which is not dependent on any other projects for implementation, should approval be granted. Conversely no other projects will be affected by the approval or disapproval of this project.

Section 1.7 Impacts on Cultural Properties

7. Does the proposed action 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	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Cameron Cox, Archaeologist

Rationale: Cultural inventories located no cultural resources eligible for inclusion into the National Register of Historic Places.

Section 1.8 Impacts on Federally Listed Species or Critical Habitat

Chapter 2 Extraordinary Circumstances

Documentation

Section 1.4 Highly Uncertain or Unique or Unknown

Environmental Risks

8. Does 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?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	The project area is at least 5 miles away from the nearest known Graham's beardtongue (<i>Penstemon grahamii</i>) locations, but is on the extreme western edge of the known habitat. A habitat assessment conducted in the project area on March 6, 2014, found no suitable habitat present. No sensitive species were found. This project will have no impact on Graham's beardtongue or associated sensitive species.
	X	Brandon McDonald, Wildlife Biologist

Rationale: In review of district files and field reviews there are no threatened or endangered species within the project. In addition, there is no Critical Habitat designated for threatened and endangered species.

Section 1.9 Compliance With Laws

9. Does the proposed action violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Stephanie Howard, Environmental Coordinator

Rationale: No environmental laws, whether Federal, State, local, or tribal, would be violated by implementation of this project.

Section 1.10 Environmental Justice

10. Does the proposed action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Stephanie Howard, Environmental Coordinator

Rationale: No low income or minority populations are present in the project area or would be otherwise disproportionately adversely affected by implementation or denial of the proposed project.

Section 1.11 Indian Sacred Sites

11. Does 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 (Executive Order 13007)?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Cameron Cox, Archaeologist:

Rationale: No Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) are identified within the APE. The proposed project will not hinder access or use of Native American religious sites.

Section 1.12 Noxious and Non-Native Invasive Species

12. Does the proposed action 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)?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Jessi Brunson, Botanist

Rationale: The proposed action does not contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species.

Section 1.2 Preparer Information

Elizabeth Gamber/Geologist _____ 3/11/2014 _____
PREPARER/TITLE **DATE**

 *AFM Lands + Minerals*
AUTHORIZED OFFICER//TITLE

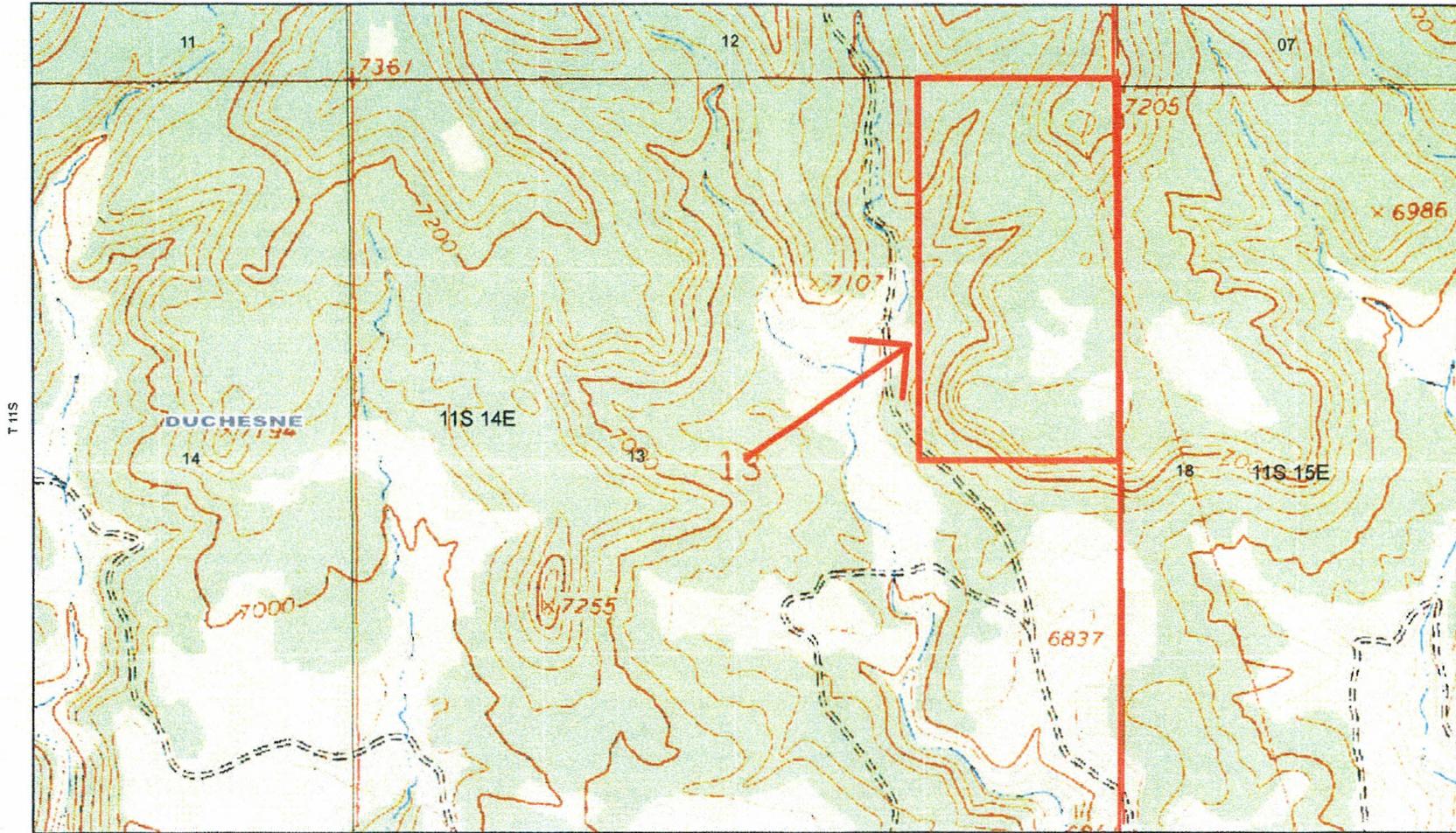
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November 14, 2013

New Rye Patch Stone Collection Permit

R 14E

R 15E

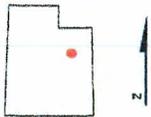


T.11S

DUCHESNE

11S 14E

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Salt Lake Meridian
T.11S., R.14E.,
sec. 13, E 1/2 NE 1/4.

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