

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

Havasu Travel Management Area Ramada Kiosk and Visitor Registration Box Installation

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2014-24-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: Lake Havasu Field Office (C030)

Proposed Action Title/Type: Havasu Travel Management Area Ramada Kiosk and Visitor Register Box Installation

Location of Proposed Action: Mohave County, Arizona T14N R 19W Section 29

Description of Proposed Action:

Install a ramada kiosk and visitor registration box at a motorized trailhead on public lands approximately .15 miles northeast of Paso De Oro Dr., Lake Havasu City, Arizona in response to a request received from the Havasu 4 Wheelers. Installation of both structures is anticipated to take no more than eight hours and is scheduled to occur between March 15 and May 15, 2014. No new habitat disturbance would occur as a result of the Proposed Action.

The ramada kiosk would be used to provide interpretive information related to “Leave No Trace” ethics to discourage illegal dumping, encourage safe recreational shooting practices, and would display route designation maps for the Havasu Travel Management Area. A local Off-Highway Vehicle organization, the Havasu 4 Wheelers, would assist the BLM in the installation of both the ramada kiosk and visitor registration box; additionally, they would assist in collecting visitor registration logs, monitoring the structures for vandalism, as well as maintenance. On the day of installation, all heavy equipment operation and heavy lifting would be conducted by BLM personnel.

Subsequent to installation, if monitoring efforts indicate that the ramada kiosk is not affected by vandalism, the BLM may pursue panel additions to the structure as funds become available.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name: *Lake Havasu Field Office Resource Management Plan*

Date Approved/Amended: May, 2007

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

RR-27 Travelers, both motorized and non-motorized, will be able to visit this scenic backdrop to Lake Havasu on a clearly marked trail network. They are able to engage in

sustainable personal discovery and experience while protecting critical resources located in the area.

RR-33 Visitors will recognize enhanced recreation experience and enjoyment while protecting resources. Management will be more custodial in nature in order to realize environmentally sound public land depended recreational opportunities.

Travel Management Plan (TMP) Name: *Havasu Travel Management Plan*
Date Approved/Amended: September, 2014

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

F4 Crossman Peak RMZ. A Three Panel Information Kiosk will be installed at entrance points. Information will include a map of the area, local interpretive information, emergency contact information, area rules of use, and recreation etiquette.

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 2.3 required that before any action described in the list of categorical exclusions is used, the exceptions must be reviewed for applicability in each case. The proposed action cannot be categorically excluded if one of more of the exceptions apply, thus requiring either an environmental assessment of environmental impact statement.

The proposed action qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion pursuant to 516 DM 11.5.G(2): Installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, waterbars, gates, or cattleguards on/or adjacent to roads and trails identified in any land use or transportation plan, or eligible for incorporation in such plan.

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), and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 apply.

D. Signature

Authorizing Official: /s/ Kimber Liebhauser Authenticated: Amanda Date: 3/14/2014
(Signature)

Name: Kimber Liebhauser

Title: Field Manager, Lake Havasu Field Office

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Amanda Deeds, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Lake Havasu Field Office, 2610 Sweetwater Ave., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406.

Note: A separate decision document must be prepared for the action covered by the CX. See Attachment 1.

Attachment 1

Extraordinary Circumstances Review

Extraordinary Circumstances	Comment (Yes or No with supporting Rationale)
1. Have significant effects on public health or safety.	No Rationale: There will be a mandatory safety briefing the morning of the installation. All installation participants are under a current volunteer agreement and will be asked if they have any medical conditions that may affect their ability to complete the task; tasks will be distributed based on volunteer health responses.
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 Rationale: No off route travel would be authorized and minimal ground disturbance will take place; therefore adverse effects to natural and historic resources are not anticipated.
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	No Rationale: No known controversial environmental effects or unresolved conflicts are known to exist within the project area.
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	No Rationale: No unique environmental risks are known to exist.
5. Establishes a precedent for future action or represents a decision in principle about future actions with significant environmental effects.	No Rationale: The proposed kiosk and visitor register location is directly off of a route that is currently open to motorized vehicle travel. Kiosks and visitor registers are located throughout LHFO lands and are placed based on need. This kiosk and visitor register location was requested by the Havasu 4 Wheelers due to its close proximity to a popular trash dumping and shooting area. The decision to fulfill this public request does not establish a precedent for future actions and requests for additional signage will continue to be handled on a case by case basis.

<p>6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.</p>	<p>No Rationale: No cumulatively significant environmental effects are anticipated. Project area will continue to be open for motorized and non-motorized recreation.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>No Rationale: No listed or eligible National Register of Historic Places properties are known to exist within the project area.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>No Rationale: No listed or Threatened or Endangered Species are known to exist within the project area. No Critical Habitat is known to exist within the project area.</p>
<p>9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.</p>	<p>No Rationale: The proposed project will not violate any applicable law. The event proponent will be held to all applicable laws as well as the stipulations presented within this analysis.</p>
<p>10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).</p>	<p>No Rationale: The proposed action is located in an unpopulated, unincorporated area.</p>
<p>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).</p>	<p>No Rationale: No Indian sacred sites are known to exist within the project area.</p>
<p>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).</p>	<p>No Rationale: No off-route travel would be authorized; therefore this proposed project is not anticipated to contribute to the introduction or spread of noxious weeds.</p>

Attachment 2

Approval and Decision

Compliance and assignment of responsibility Recreation

Monitoring and assignment of responsibility: Recreation

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/ Amanda Deeds Authenticated: Amanda **Date:** 3/13/2014

Amanda Deeds, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Project Lead

Reviewed by: /s/ David Daniels Authenticated: Amanda **Date:** 6/17/2014

David Daniels
Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Reviewed by: /s/ Jayson Barangan Authenticated: Amanda **Date:** 3/13/2014

Jayson Barangan
Assistant Field Manager

Project Description:

Install a ramada kiosk and visitor registration box at a motorized trailhead on public lands approximately .15 miles northeast of Paso De Oro Dr., Lake Havasu City, Arizona in response to a request received from the Havasu 4 Wheelers. Installation of both structures is anticipated to take no more than eight hours and is scheduled to occur between March 15 and May 15, 2014. No new habitat disturbance would occur as a result of the Proposed Action.

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Subsequent to installation, if monitoring efforts indicate that the ramada kiosk is not affected by vandalism, the BLM may pursue panel additions to the structure as funds become available.

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.

Approved By: /s/ Amanda Deeds Authenticated: Amanda
Kimber Liebhauser
Field Manager, Lake Havasu Field Office

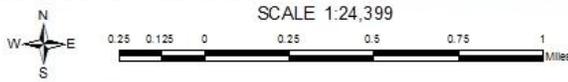
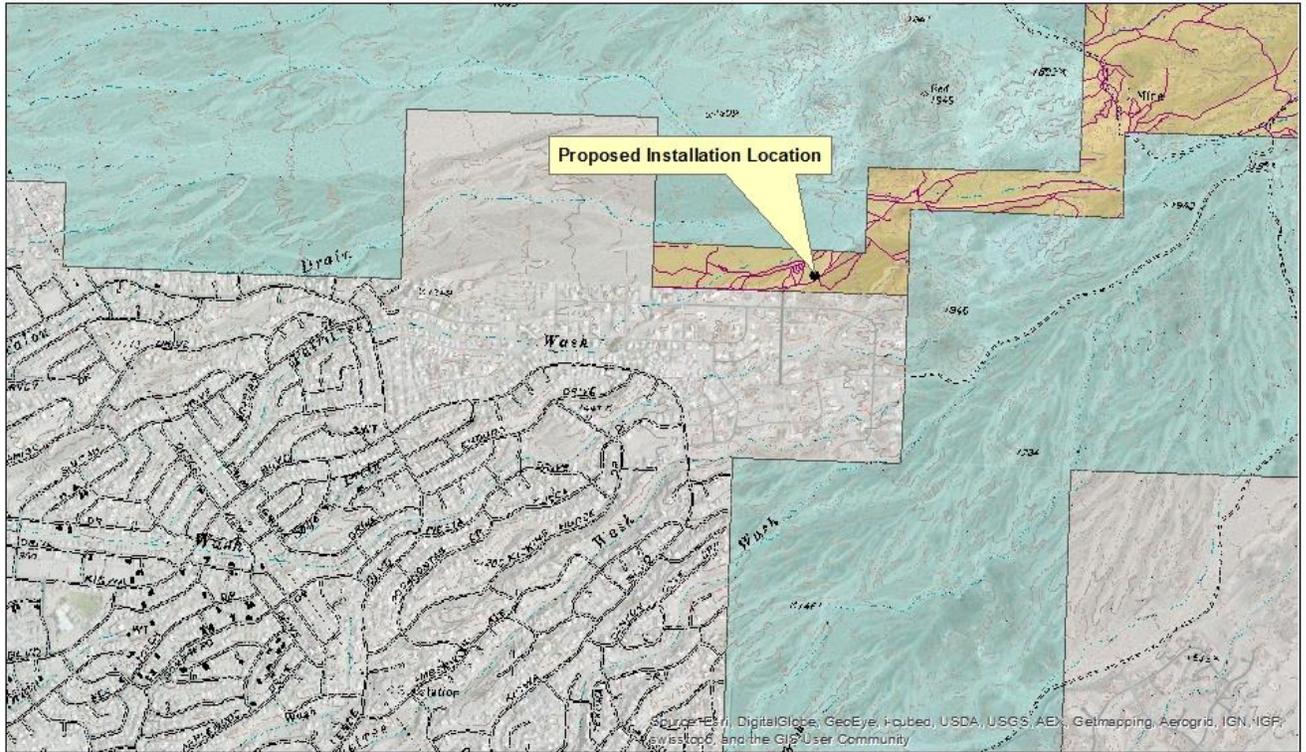
Date: 3/14/2014

Exhibits:

- 1) **Map**
- 2) **Stipulations**
- 3) **Guidelines for Handling Sonoran Desert Tortoises Encountered on Development Projects**

Exhibit 1. Map

Havasu 4 Wheeler Visitor Register and Kiosk Location



Legend

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Private Lands | Bureau of Land Management (BLM) | BLM Wilderness Area | BLM National Monument |
| State Lands | National Forest Lands (USFS) | Forest Service Wilderness Area | National Conservation Area |
| State Wildlife Area | National Park Service (NPS) | NPS Wilderness Area | Military Reservations/Corps of Engineers |
| City, State, County Parks | USFW Service, National Wildlife Refuges | USFW Service Wilderness Area | Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) |
| County Lands | Indian Lands or Reservations | | |

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) makes no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy or completeness of this map. The map does not address encroachments or questions of location, boundary, and area, which an accurate survey may disclose. This map is intended and is to be used as an illustration only. The map is merely representational, and the data from which it was derived are not binding on the BLM and may be revised at any time in the future. The BLM shall not be liable under any circumstances for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, or consequential damages with regard to any claim by any user or any third party on account of or arising from the use of this map or the data from which it was derived.

United States Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management
 Arizona State Office
 Land Status updated as of November 2012
 Map Prepared: 3/11/2014



Document Path: T:\AZ\Kingman_FO\gis\workspace\New_Folder\Havasu 4 Wheeler Kiosk.mxd

Exhibit 2. Special Stipulations

General

1. Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly principles would be followed. All remaining construction debris will be removed from the site immediately after project completion.
2. Construction efforts would utilize existing, motorized routes only. No off-route travel will be authorized.

Cultural

3. Installation participants shall comply with all State and Federal laws relating to prehistoric or historic archaeological sites or artifacts. Actions other than those explicitly approved by the Bureau of Land Management which result in impacts upon archaeological resources, shall be subject to the judicial proceedings of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. As property of the United States, no person may, without authorization, excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface any historic or prehistoric site, artifact, or object of antiquity located on public lands.
4. The collection of artifacts or disturbance of archaeological resources on Federal Lands is prohibited and is prosecutable under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Disturbance of human graves are also prohibited. Actions other than those explicitly approved by the Bureau of Land Management, which result in impacts upon archaeological or historical resources, shall be subject to the provisions of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 as amended and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The permittee will immediately bring to the attention of the Authorized Officer any archaeological or historical resources encountered during permitted operations and maintain the integrity of such resources pending subsequent investigation.
5. Special collection of artifacts (either historic or prehistoric) or fossils, by permittee or participants on or near any designated route is prohibited. The definition of an artifact is anything over 50 years old that has been made, used or modified by a human. Permittee is required to inform all participants that collecting artifacts, theft or vandalism of any cultural property is a violation of the above mentioned Federal and/or State laws.

Wildlife

6. Care shall be taken not to disturb or destroy tortoises or their burrows. Handling, collecting, damaging, or destroying desert tortoises are prohibited by Arizona State Law. During construction, special care should be given to watch for and avoid any desert tortoise that may be present on site.
7. Care shall be taken not to disturb or destroy desert tortoises or their burrows. Handling, collecting, damaging, or destroying desert tortoises are prohibited by Arizona State Statute. Any sightings of desert tortoise shall be immediately reported to the LHFO, Wildlife Biologist at (928) 505-1200. If a desert tortoise is endangered by any activity that activity shall cease until the desert tortoise moves out of harm's way on its own accord or is moved following the attached guidelines "Guidelines for Handling Sonoran Desert Tortoises Encountered on Development Projects."
8. State protected plant species shall not be disturbed, damaged, or destroyed without prior authorization from the BLM. The taking of any threatened or endangered plant or animal is prohibited. All wildlife and

migratory birds shall be observed from a distance. Any injured wildlife shall be reported to the Arizona Game & Fish Dept. at (928)342-0091. Harassment of wildlife, wild horses or burros, or destruction of private and public improvements such as fences and gates is prohibited. All gates along the course are to be left as found.

9. Installation participants will be prohibited from approaching bighorn sheep on foot or by vehicle.

Exhibit 3. Guidelines for Handling Sonoran Desert Tortoises Encountered on Development Projects Arizona Game and Fish Department Revised October 23, 2007

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) has developed the following guidelines to reduce potential impacts to desert tortoises, and to promote the continued existence of tortoises throughout the state. These guidelines apply to short-term and/or small-scale projects, depending on the number of affected tortoises and specific type of project.

The Sonoran population of desert tortoises occurs south and east of the Colorado River. Tortoises encountered in the open should be moved out of harm's way to adjacent appropriate habitat. If an occupied burrow is determined to be in jeopardy of destruction, the tortoise should be relocated to the nearest appropriate alternate burrow or other appropriate shelter, as determined by a qualified biologist. Tortoises should be moved less than 48 hours in advance of the habitat disturbance so they do not return to the area in the interim. Tortoises should be moved quickly, kept in an upright position parallel to the ground at all times, and placed in the shade. Separate disposable gloves should be worn for each tortoise handled to avoid potential transfer of disease between tortoises. Tortoises must not be moved if the ambient air temperature exceeds 40° Celsius (105° Fahrenheit) unless an alternate burrow is available or the tortoise is in imminent danger.

A tortoise may be moved up to one-half mile, but no further than necessary from its original location. If a release site, or alternate burrow, is unavailable within this distance, and ambient air temperature exceeds 40° Celsius (105° Fahrenheit), the Department should be contacted to place the tortoise into a Department-regulated desert tortoise adoption program. Tortoises salvaged from projects which result in substantial permanent habitat loss (e.g. housing and highway projects), or those requiring removal during long-term (longer than one week) construction projects, will also be placed in desert tortoise adoption programs. Managers of projects likely to affect desert tortoises should obtain a scientific collecting permit from the Department to facilitate temporary possession of tortoises. Likewise, if large numbers of tortoises (>5) are expected to be displaced by a project, the project manager should contact the Department for guidance and/or assistance.

Please keep in mind the following points:

- These guidelines do not apply to the Mojave population of desert tortoises (north and west of the Colorado River). Mojave desert tortoises are specifically protected under the Endangered Species Act, as administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- These guidelines are subject to revision at the discretion of the Department. We recommend that the Department be contacted during the planning stages of any project that may affect desert tortoises.
- Take, possession, or harassment of wild desert tortoises is prohibited by state law. Unless specifically authorized by the Department, or as noted above, project personnel should avoid disturbing any tortoise.