

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

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

---

**Project Lead: Joel Hartmann**

**Field Office: Sierra Front**

**Lead Office: Sierra Front**

**Case File/Project Number:**

**Applicable Categorical Exclusion** (cite section): Categorical Exclusion Reference 516 DM 11.5: F(10) "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 five acres, except in riparian areas."

**NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2014-0009-CX**

**Project Name: Sand Hills Boulder Sale**

**Project Description:** Operator intends to collect approximately 1,000 tons (650 cubic yards) of boulders from the surface along existing roads delineated on the attached map under a negotiated sale pursuant to 43 CFR 3600. The area lies in the Southern Sand Hills, five miles south of Red Rock and two miles east of Peterson Mountains California. The work will be accomplished with a flatbed crane truck and is anticipated to result in minimal surface disturbance that will be reclaimed contemporaneous with the boulder collection activity. The collection will occur throughout a 5-year period during the dry season. A portion of the project area is located within the Sand Hills Critical Deer Range which is closed to motorized uses between December 1 and April 30 each year.

Does the project include new surface disturbing activities? Yes No

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

Is the project located within proposed critical habitat for the bi-state sage-grouse? Yes No

**Applicant Name: John Willey**

**Project Location (include Township/Range, County):** T23N R18E, Sec. 25-27, 35-36 Washoe County.

**BLM Acres for the Project Area:** Less than 5 acres

**Land Use Plan Conformance** (cite reference/page number): Min-5, Administrative Actions, 1. "Continue to provide mineral material commodities to the using public."

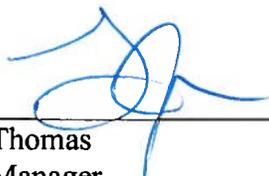
**Name of Plan:** NV – Carson City RMP.

**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>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety? (project lead/P&EC)		<b>X</b>
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)		<b>X</b>
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)		<b>X</b>
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (project lead/P&EC)		<b>X</b>
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)		<b>X</b>
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		<b>X</b>
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)		<b>X</b>
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)		<b>X</b>
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)		<b>X</b>
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? (project lead/P&EC)		<b>X</b>
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)		<b>X</b>
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)		<b>X</b>

**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

4-3-14

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)