

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)
COMPLIANCE RECORD FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS (CX)
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

PART I. – PROPOSED ACTION

BLM Office: Tucson Field Office **DOI-BLM-AZ-G020-** NEPA No.: 2015-0008-CX
Case File No.: AZA-25495

Proposed Action Title/Type: White Canyon Graffiti Cleanup

Applicant: BLM Wilderness Management Program

Location of Proposed Action: Public lands administered by the BLM in the White Canyon Wilderness Area; generally situated in T3S R12E Sec 14 G&SRPM, Pinal County, Arizona. The proposed action is approx. 10 miles south of Superior, as shown on Map 1- Location and Vicinity.

Description of Proposed Action: The proposed action is to remove blue paint markings (graffiti) on rocks and boulders along the bottom of White Canyon, and dispose of residue. The graffiti is the result of recent vandalism, with arrows and blazes at numerous locations along the foot path in the bottom of the Canyon. The graffiti is noticeable and attracts attention, and though visual impact is only noticeable in the immediate vicinity of the graffiti along the foot path, it defaces the natural appearance of the rocks and detracts from the naturalness of the canyon bottom and the recreational experience. The proposed action will reduce or eliminate the graffiti and its visual impact on naturalness in the Wilderness. For a detailed description of the paint removal project see Attachment A.

Part II. – PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan(s): Phoenix RMP/EIS, which incorporates by reference The Phoenix Wilderness Final EIS (BLM, Phoenix District, 1987). The White Canyon Wilderness Area (5,800 acres) was designated in furtherance of the Wilderness Act under the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-628, 11/28/1990). Actions within a wilderness are subject to current BLM Manual 6340- Management of Designated Wilderness Areas.

Decisions and page nos.: Phoenix RMP/EIS Page 15:

Date plan approved/amended: September 1989

This proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with these plans (*43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM Manual 1601.04.C.2*).

PART III. – NEPA COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION REVIEW

A. The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9

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;

And

B. Extraordinary Circumstances Review: In accordance with **43 CFR 46.215**, any action that is normally categorically excluded must be subjected to sufficient environmental review to determine if it meets any of the 12 Extraordinary Circumstances described. If any circumstance applies to the action or project, and existing NEPA documentation does not adequately address it, then further NEPA analysis is required.

IMPORTANT: Appropriate staff should review the circumstances listed in Part IV, comment and initial for concurrence. Rationale supporting the concurrence should be included in the appropriate block.

Part IV. – EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION

PREPARERS:

DATE:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Francisco Mendoza | 2/11/2015 |
| Darrell Tersey | 2/11/2015 |
| Amy Sobiech | 2/12/2015 |
| Claire Crow | 2/13/2015 |
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/s/ Amy Markstein
 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

2/13/2015
 DATE

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215(a)-(l)) apply. The project would:

(a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety.

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| Yes | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>Rationale: Proposed action will neither create or modify any hazards. Safety risks to clean up crews are mitigated by implementing risk management procedures as indicated in the proposed action.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u> fm </u></p> |
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(b) 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.

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| Yes | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>Rationale: The proposed action will remove paint makings from rocks caused by vandalism that have no historical value or significance.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u> fm </u></p> |
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(c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102 (2) (E)].

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| Yes | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>Rationale: There are no known controversial effects or unresolved conflicts involved in cleaning up the graffiti.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u> dt </u></p> |
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(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

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| Yes | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>Rationale: The proposed action has very limited scope and extent, with predictable effects and known risks related with work in remote areas and use of the chemical cleaner, which are mitigated by implementing risk management procedures.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u> dt </u></p> |
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| (e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. | | |
| Yes | No X | Rationale: The proposed action is for a specific project at a specific location, for a clean up activity of beneficial effects to naturalness. It will not establish a precedent for future actions or decisions with potentially significant environmental effects. <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u> fm </u></p> |
| (f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. | | |
| Yes | No X | Rationale: The proposed action project and issue specific, with an intentional beneficial effect to restore the area's naturalness; it is not related to any other actions with individually or cumulatively significant environmental effects. <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u> fm </u></p> |
| (g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau. | | |
| Yes | No X | Rationale: The proposed action is non-surface disturbing, and there are no known properties listed, or eligible for listing in the project area. <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u> fm </u></p> |
| (h) 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 X | Rationale: The proposed action is for small scale, short duration temporary occupancy related to cleaning graffiti, and the associated disturbance will not alter the habitat or its components for any species, listed, or proposed for listing. <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u> dt </u></p> |

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| (i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. | | |
| Yes | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Rationale: The proposed action will mitigate illegal vandalism on public lands in the Wilderness Area, and will not violate any any laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. Preparer's Initials <u> fm </u> |
| (j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898). | | |
| Yes | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Rationale: The proposed action will not have any discernible effect on low income or minority populations. Preparer's Initials <u> fm </u> |
| (k) 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Rationale: The proposed action does not involve any access limitations; there are no known sacred sites in the project area. Preparer's Initials <u> fm </u> |
| (l) 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Rationale: The proposed action will not introduce, or continue existing, or spread noxious weeds or non-native invasive plants. There are no known infestations in the project area. Preparer's Initials <u> dt </u> |

PART V. –COMPLIANCE REVIEW CONCLUSION

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 further environmental analysis is required.

MITIGATION MEASURES/OTHER REMARKS: A Minimum Requirements analysis is not required for this action because it does not involve temporary roads; use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats; landing of aircraft; use of other forms of mechanical transport; structures; of installations. All litter and trash will be packed out. No surface disturbance or vegetation removal will be done.

/s/ Bruce Sillitoe, Acting Field Manager

2/13/2015

APPROVING OFFICIAL: _____ DATE: _____

TITLE: _____

Note: The signed conclusion on this compliance record is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. A separate decision to implement the action should be prepared in accordance with program specific guidance.