Checklist for Interdisciplinary Review of Categorical Exclusions

Document Title: Discovery Park Outdoor Classrom	
Document Number: DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-2015-0019-CX	**Case File Number: NA**
Preparer Name and Title: Jeff Conn, Natural Resource Specialist	
Date Scoping Initiated: 2/18/2014	**Date Scoping Closed:**

Thomas J. Schnell, AFM For Non-Renewable Resources

Biologist Assigned: Jeff Conn

Acting AFM For Renewable Resources

NEPA Coordinator Assigned

Scott C. Cooke, SFO Field Manager

Critical Elements & Other Issues	Specialist	Affected		Comments		Document Review Signature	Date
		Yes	No	Yes	No		
1. NRHPP/Cultural	Dan McGrew		X		X		2/23/15
2. T&E Species	Jeff Conn		X		X		2/23/15
3. Floodplains/Wetlands	Lann Moore		X		X		2/19/15
4. Invasive Species	Doug Whitbeck		X		X		2/23/15
5. NEPA Map	Sharisse Fisher		X		X		2/23/15

Attachments: _____

Planning and Environmental Coordinator: _____ Date: 2/23/15

_____ Date: 2/23/15

Assistant Field Manager – Reviewed/Recommended

NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX)
Safford Field Office

NEPA #: DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-2015------CX

Serial/Case File No. NA

Proposed Action Title/Type: Discovery Park Outdoor Classroom

Location of Proposed Action (include name of 7.5 topographic map): T7S R26E Section 30; Safford

Description of Proposed Action:
The BLM will work with Eastern Arizona College Discovery Park Campus, Gila Watershed Partnership, USFWS, and other partners to develop and install outdoor classroom activities and environmental and cultural informational signage relevant to the Gila Valley at the 182 acre Discovery Park. Projects will include progeny test sites, including a Pollinator Garden (3 acres) which will emphasize local native pollinator relationships, water harvesting, and low-water use plants, with information kiosks and signs. Additional areas will include ethnobotany and cultural history of the Gila Valley and will build on the existing pit-house display and may include the installation of a field house and wickiup as well as ethnobotanical plants (2 acre area). Coppice and production fields of native plants may occupy up to 6.5 acres. Plant materials from throughout the park will be used as a source of seeds and cuttings for restoration projects within the Gila Valley, Arizona. Throughout Discovery Park, existing trails may be improved or enhanced, shaded rest and gathering areas built, native flora augmented, and informational signage added. Projects will begin in 2015 and may be ongoing throughout the life of Discovery Park.

Applicant (if any): BLM Safford Field Office

PART I: PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW. This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan: Safford District Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Record of Decision approved September 1992 and July 1994.

The proposed action has been reviewed and determined to be in conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3).

PL10 Provide opportunities for education and interpretation. RMP page 47.
RR20 The public education program will be amplified. UG page 4-2.
RP09 Provide environmental education materials to schools and other publics relating to riparian management. RMP page 20.
RP24 Develop an environmental education program for schools and the public for riparian management. RMP page 33.

Specialist Signature Date 2/18/2015

PROGRAM CONSULTATION & COORDINATION/CX CHECKLIST
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SAFFORD FIELD OFFICE

PART II: CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW NEPA #: _____

ASSIGNMENT AND REVIEW

Subactivity: 1010
Case/Project No.: NA

Project Name: Discovery Park Outdoor Classroom
Location (legal description): T 7 N, R 26 E, Sec. 30
NLCS Unit: NA
Quad Name: Safford
Project Lead: Jeff Conn

Draft Review: Unit Manager/Supervisor: Lann Moore Date: 2/23/15
Technical Review:

Applies? Yes	No	NAME	EXCEPTION	SIGNATURE	DATE
( )	(X)	R.J. Estes	(1) Have Significant adverse effects on public health or safety?	Lann Moore	2/19/15
( )	(X)	Lann Moore	(2) Have adverse effects on such unique geographic characteristics as principal drinking water aquifers, or wetlands.	Lann Moore	2/19/15
( )	(X)	Todd Murdock	(3) Have adverse effects on such unique geographic characteristics as parks, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, or ecologically significant or critical areas including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks.	Todd Mur	2/19/15
( )	(X)	Dan McGrew	(4) Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, on such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners.	Dan McGrew	2/23/15
( )	(X)	Jeff Conn	(5) Have adverse effects on species listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	Jeff Conn	2/23/15
( )	(✓)	~~Dave~~ Doug Whitfield ~~Arthun~~	(6) Contribute to the introduction, continuation existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species.	D Whitfield	2/23/15
( )	(X)	Lann Moore	(7) Have highly controversial environmental effects	Lann Moore	2/19/15
( )	(X)	Lann Moore	(8) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	Lann Moore	2/19/15
( )	(X)	Lann Moore	(9) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	Lann Moore	2/19/15
( )	(X)	Lann Moore	(10) Individually Insignificant, but cumulatively significant effects.	Lann Moore	2/19/15
( )	(X)	Jason Martin	(11) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.	J Martin	2/23/15

Final Review:

Environmental Coordinator: Lann Moore Date: 2/23/15

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the Environmental Policy Act in accordance with 516 DM 11, 11.9:

C. 1. Forestry - Land cultivation and silvicultural activities (excluding herbicide application) in forest tree nurseries, seed orchards, and progeny test sites.

G. 4. Transportation - Placement of recreational, special designation, or information signs, visitor registers, kiosks, and portable sanitation devices.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. It has been reviewed to determine if any of the exceptions described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

The action does not have significant adverse effects on public health and safety nor does the action adversely affect such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources, parks, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks. The action does not have highly controversial environmental effects nor have highly uncertain environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risk nor does it adversely affect a species listed or proposed to be listed on the list of endangered or threatened species. It does not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration with significant environmental effects or related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. The proposed action does not adversely affect properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment or which require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Mitigation Measures/Stipulations:

1. Archaeology

A. Any archaeological or historical artifacts or remains, or vertebrate fossils discovered during construction, maintenance and use shall be left intact and undisturbed; all work in the area shall stop immediately and the Assistant Field Manager for Non-Renewable Resources shall be notified immediately. Commencement of operations shall be allowed upon clearance by the Assistant Field Manager.

B. An additional cultural and paleontological resource survey may be required in the event that the project location is changed or additional surface disturbing operations are added to the project after the initial survey. Any such survey would have to be completed prior to commencement of operations.

C. If in connection with operations under this authorization, any human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects of cultural patrimony as defined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (P.L. 101-601; Stat. 3048; U.S.C. 3001) are discovered, the permittee shall stop operations in the immediate area of the discovery, protect the remains and objects, and immediately notify the Assistant Field Manager for Non-Renewable Resources of the discovery. The permittee shall continue to protect the immediate area of the discovery until notified by the Assistant Field Manager that operations may resume.

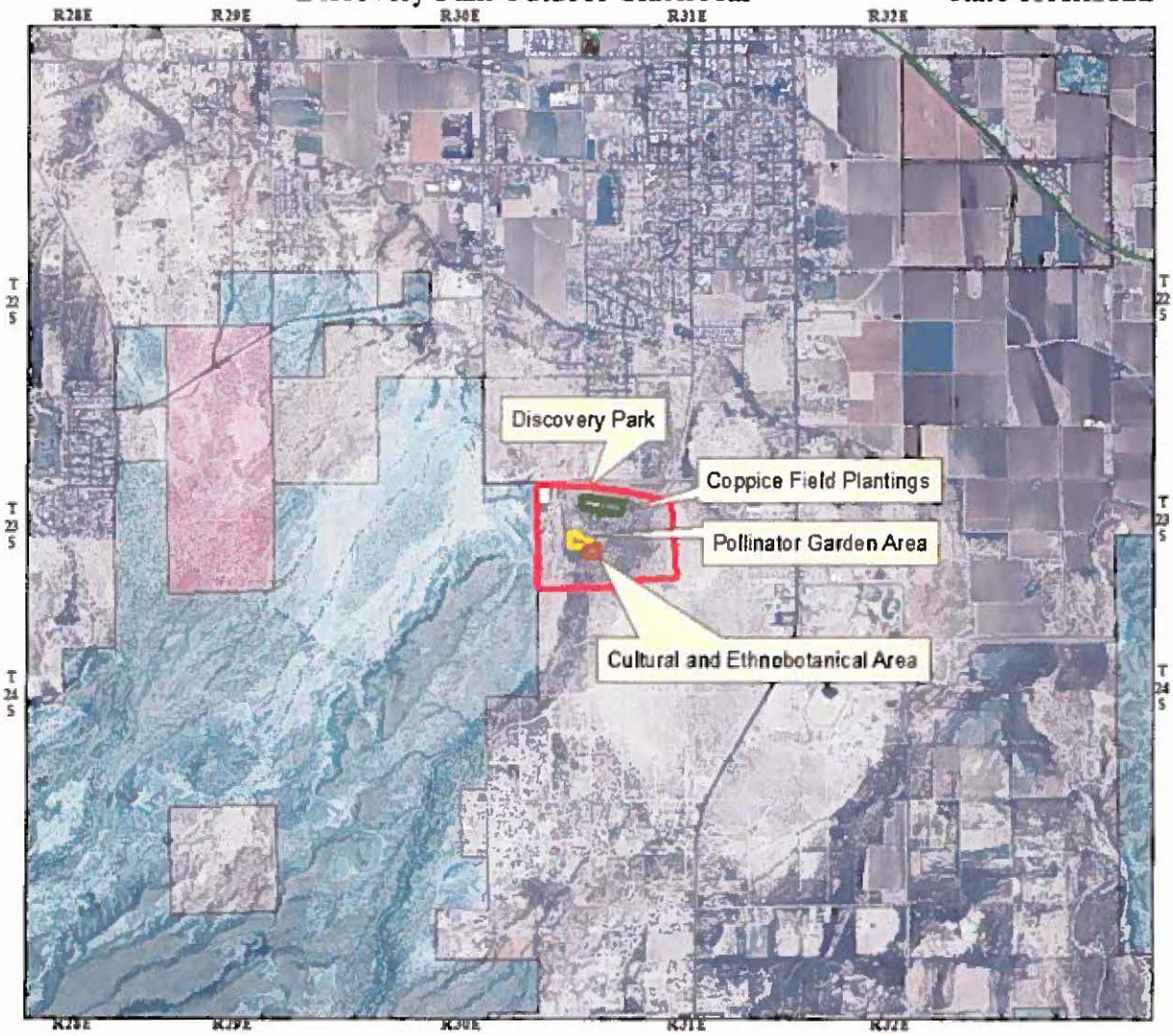
2. Weeds. No noxious or invasive weeds will be planted. All equipment brought in will be free of soil and organic matter to minimize the potential introduction of weeds.

Part III: DECISION. I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed action does not conflict with major land-use-plans and will not have any major adverse impacts on other resources. Therefore, it does not represent an exception, and is categorically excluded from further environmental review. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures attached.

Authorized Official: Scott Cooke Date: 2/24/15

Discovery Park Outdoor Classroom

State of Arizona



Legend

- Private Lands
- State Lands
- State Wildlife Area
- City, State, County Parks
- County Lands
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- National Forest Lands (USFS)
- National Park Service (NPS)
- USFW Service, National Wildlife Refuges
- Indian Lands or Reservations

1 = 45,805

0 .015 .03 .045 .06 Miles

0 .02 .04 .06 .08 KM

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United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Arizona State Office
Land Status updated as of August 2010
Map created on Aug 22, 2011

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