

**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: Ironwood Forest National Monument
2015-0011-CX

NEPA No.: DOI-BLM-AZ-G020-

Case File No.: AZA 36724

Proposed Action Title/Type: BBC's One Planet Documentary Film Permit

Applicant: British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)

Location of Proposed Action: Ironwood Forest National Monument

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant is requesting a filming permit to film a segment of their One Planet documentary within the Ironwood Forest National Monument. The filming will capture various native vegetation and the desert landscape aimed to capture the low flying point of view of a Harris Hawk. The filming will have minimal impacts to the environment and not cause ground surface disturbance or vegetation damage. The filming methods will be by two methods a standard hand held digital camera, a hand held Movi M10 gyro digital-stabilized camera and typical filming equipment such as tripods. There will be no use of running tracks or octocopters with this permit. Still camera shots will be used to capture still and timelapse filming. The MOVI will capture low level scenes while walking with very little shake.

The filming crew will consist of 6 people, 2 vehicles and two cameras. The permit is requested for 2 days around May 7th through May 11th, with the dates adjusted as needed. The filming will occur within the boundaries of the IFNM; the exact filming areas are not defined at this time but will be determined prior or at the time of the issuance of the permit. TFO and IFNM staff will assist the company in finding suitable filming locations. All vehicular travel will stay on existing roads and trails. There will be off road foot traffic occurring while filming when there is a need to go off road and trail. No wildlife will be harassed or injured by the filming activities, nor will there be any removal of vegetation or new ground disturbance as a result of the filming activities.

Part II. – PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan(s): Ironwood Forest National Monument Resource Management Plan (2013).

Decisions and page nos.: Page 77, LR-008: Avoidance and Exclusion Area, 3: Land use authorizations for permits and easements will be considered on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the protection of the Monument objects.

Date plan approved/amended: February 2013

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 E. Realty 19: Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizaion,...;

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:

Susan Bernal	5/5/15
Amy Sobiech	5/5/15
Darrel Tersey	5/5/15

/s/ Amy Markstein _____
 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

5/6/15 _____
 DATE

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215(a)-(1)) apply. The project would:

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

Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Rationale: The proposed action will not cause significant impacts to public health or safety. The activities of the proposed action do not pose any threat to public health or safety. The project is contained to minimal land use and in a remote setting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u> sdb </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.

Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Rationale: The proposed action will not have significant impacts on any natural resources, unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; national monuments and any other features as stated in item "b".</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u> dt </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)].

Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Rationale: The proposed action or its activities being minimal in nature should not cause any conflicts or highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of resources.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u> sdb </u></p>
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(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Rationale: The proposed action does not have or involve any features that will have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u> sdb </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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: The proposed action does not pose significant environmental effects and will not set a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. The proposed action is a common permit request accepted by the BLM. Preparer's Initials <u> sdb </u>
(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: The proposed action does not have a direct relationship to other actions with insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. There are no other actions existing that would cause it to have a direct relationship and cumulatively significant environmental effects. Preparer's Initials <u> sdb </u>
(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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: The proposed action does not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the Bureau. The proposed action has been cleared by an Archaeologist on April 28, 2015. Preparer's Initials <u> as </u>
(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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: The proposed action does not have significant impacts on species listed or proposed for listing on the list of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species. The proposed action has been cleared on May 5, 2015 by a Natural Resource Specialist for any impacts to Endangered or Threatened Species and their Critical Habitat. Preparer's Initials <u> dt </u>

<p>(i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.</p>		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Rationale: The proposed action has minimal environmental impacts and does not violate federal law, or a state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. The applicant is required to comply with all laws under the permit.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u> sdb </u></p>
<p>(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).</p>		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Rationale: The proposed action does not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898). The proposed action is located in a remote setting far from any populated areas.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u> sdb </u></p>
<p>(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).</p>		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Rationale: The proposed action has been culturally cleared on April 28, 2015 and does not 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 style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u> as </u></p>
<p>(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).</p>		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Rationale: The proposed action and its activities does not 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 introductions, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112). All vehicular travel will be contained to existing roads which are also open and used by the general public.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u> dt </u></p>

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: See attached for permit stipulations and mitigation measures.

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.