BLM

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Categorical Exclusion

Ivanhoe AML District Closures

PREPARING OFFICE

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Tuscarora Field Office
3900 E. Idaho St.
Elko, NV USA
753.753.0200

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Ivanhoe AML District Closures

Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Elko District, Tuscarora Field Office

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Chapter 1. Categorical Exclusion Worksheet

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A. Background

NEPA ID No: DOI-BLM-NV-E020–2015–0023–CX

BLM Office: Tuscarora Field Office

LLNVE0200

Prepared by: Nycole Burton

Lease/Serial/Case File No.:

Type of Action (Subject Code):

Location of Proposed Action: MDM, T.38N., R. 47E., Sections 23,25, T.38N., R.48E., Sections 17,32,33,T.37N., R.48E., Section 4, and T.37N., R.47E., Section 26.

Applicant:

Description of Proposed Action: The BLM is proposing to close 31 historic mining adits, declines, and shafts in Northeast Elko County, NV. The project would consist of closing openings by either foaming the openings closed with a poly-urethane mixture, by placing steel gating over the openings, or by backfilling (see project maps and Chapter 3 for details). The work would be scheduled to begin August 2015.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Elko Resource Management Plan (RMP)

Date Approved/Amended: 1987

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

Elko RMP Record of Decision, signed in 1987, page 35:

"Minerals Objective: Maintain public lands open for exploration, development, and production of mineral resources while mitigating conflicts with wildlife, wild horses, recreation, and wilderness resources."

Closures of Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) addresses the unsafe conditions left by historic mining activities; these unsafe conditions conflict with other uses of public lands.

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with BLM Categorical Exclusion pursuant to 516 DM 11.9.

J. Other: #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.

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, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

D. Conclusion and Signature

Based upon this review, I have determined that the Proposed Action, as described, is in conformance with the land use plan and meets the criteria for the selected CX. There is no potential for significant impacts. Therefore, the action is excluded from further environmental analysis and documentation.

/s/ Richard E. Adams 5/15/2015

Richard E. Adams Date
Manager, Tuscarora Field Office

Contact Information

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:
Nycole Burton
Wildlife Biologist
Tuscarora Field Office
3900 E. Idaho St.
Elko, NV 89801
(775) 753–0350
nburton@blm.gov

* NOTE A separate decision document must be prepared for the action covered by the CX.

Chapter 2. Screening for Extraordinary Circumstances

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Each of the following questions must be answered negatively, with concurrence from all resource specialists participating on the interdisciplinary team (IDT), before this CX may be approved (516 DM).

Table 2.1. Screening for Extraordinary Circumstances

Resource Concerns	Yes	No
1. Will this project have significant adverse effects on public health or safety?		X
2. Will this project adversely affect such unique geographic characteristics as: (a) historic or cultural resources; (b) park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers; (c) sole or principal drinking water aquifers; (d) prime farmlands, wetlands, flood plains, or (e) ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department of the Interior's National Register of Natural Landmarks?		(a) X (b) X (c) X (d) X (e) X
3. Will this project have highly controversial environmental effects?		X
4. Will this project have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		X
5. Will this project establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		X
6. Will this project be related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?		X
7. Will this project have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?		X
8. Will this project have adverse effects on species listed or proposed for listing on the Threatened or Endangered Species List, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		X
9. Will this project require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management),Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act?		X
10. Will this project threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		X
11. Will this project 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— Sacred Sites)		X
12. Will this project 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?		X

Table 2.2. Reviewer Comments and Concurrence

Resource	Specialist Name	Comments	Initials	Date
AFM- Non-Renewables	Deb McFarlane	No Comments	/s/ DNM	5/14/2015
Air/Hydrology/Soils	John Daniel	No Issue	/s/ JD	4/22/2015
Archaeology	Tom Milter		/s/ TM	4/22/2015
Cultural Resources	Rich Adkins	See page attached	/s/ RA	5/4/2015
Environmental Justice	Terri Dobis	No Issue	/s/ TKD	5/13/2015
Health and Safety	Tom Schmidt		/s/ TS	4/22/2015
Native American Concerns	Rich Adkins	See page attached	/s/ RA	5/4/2015
NEPA	Terri Dobis	No Issue	/s/ TKD	5/13/2015
Range Management/ Grazing	Jerrie Bertola	None	/s/ JB	5/8/2015
Recreation	Jason Dobis	See comment below	/s/ JJD	5/13/2015
Weeds	Sam Cisney	See comments below	/s/ SC	5/5/2015
Wildlife	Nycole Burton	None	/s/ NB	5/14/2015

Weeds comments: ensure equipment is cleaned prior to onsite arrival to prevent weed introductions.

Recreation: Public health and safety outweighs the need to wait for updated LWC surveys.

LWCs	
NV-EK-02–502	19,962 acres
NV-EK-02–578	47,689 acres
NV-EK-02–505	24,704 acres
NV-EK-02–497	17,727 acres

Chapter 3. Support Documentation

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Ivanhoe Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Closures Support Documentation

Starting in April of 2014, the BLM and the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) surveyed the Ivanhoe AML District near the site of Waterston's Hollister project for safety hazards related to historic mining operations. The goal was to ascertain the potential of each opening as habitat for bat species and also its relative danger to recreationists, other public land users, and residents in the vicinity. As part of this process, eight (8) hazards were surveyed internally by NDOW to discern the potential of the opening for quality bat habitat.

The findings and recommendations for addressing the thirty-one (31) hazards identified during the Ivanhoe AML District surveys are as follows: Four (4) of the hazards in the area were determined to be bat species habitat and would be closed by the construction of a bat gate. Three (3) of the hazards would be closed using foam in order to protect significant archeological resources. Twenty-five (25) of the hazards were found to be neither bat habitat or have cultural resources and would be permanently closed by backfilling with waste rock, tailings, or other material adjacent to the hazards.

Hazards that would be closed by bat gates or foam would require material to be transported to the site. Hazards that would be closed by backfilling would not need to have material be brought in from off-site, but would be closed by material either at or near the site.

These closures would address the safety concerns of all recreationists, mining personnel, tribal community members, and any other public land users that utilize the area.

Table 3.1. Hazard Attribute Table

Number	ID	Type	Easting	Northing	Land Status	Closure Recommendation
1	EL 751	Adit	534853	4557993	BLM	Doze
2	EL 750	Adit/Decline	534852	4558006	BLM	Doze
3	EL 778	Shaft	531924	4554375	BLM	Doze
4	EL 777	Adit	531886	4554841	BLM	Doze
5	EL 757	Adit	531909	4554643	BLM	Doze
6	EL 753	Adit	531922	4554310	BLM	Doze
7	EL 758	Stope	531926	4554309	BLM	Gate
8	EL 759	Shaft	532488	4554370	BLM	Gate
9	EL 740	Stope	532503	4554398	BLM	Doze
10	EL 760	Shaft	532497	4554392	BLM	Gate
11	EL 747	Shaft	536912	4552334	BLM	Foam
12	EL 745,746	Shafts	536945	4552356	BLM	Foam
13	EL 744	Stope	536949	4552377	BLM	Hard
14	EL 326	Decline	531396	4544785	BLM	Doze
15	EL 741,742,743	Adits	537075	4551567	BLM	Doze
16	EL 748	Adit	536446	4552155	BLM	Doze
17	EL 749	Adit	536460	4552172	BLM	Doze
18	EL 752	Shaft	530274	4555815	BLM	Doze
19	EL 754	Shaft	535749	4552605	BLM	Foam
20	EL 755	Adit	531878	4554891	BLM	Hard
21	EL 756	Adit	531904	4554634	BLM	Gate
22	EL 761	Decline	532512	4554400	BLM	Doze
23	EL 762	Adit	532547	4554431	BLM	Doze
24	EL 763	Adit	532540	4554412	BLM	Doze
25	EL 764	Shaft	536071	4552626	BLM	Hard
26	EL 765	Prospects	531357	4544810	BLM	Doze
27	EL 324	Stope	531377	4544786	BLM	Doze
28	EL 322	Adit	531319	4544664	BLM	Doze
29	EL 329	Adit	531337	4544666	BLM	Doze
30	EL 738	Adit	530274	4555814	BLM	Doze
31	EL 739	Adit	531871	4554674	BLM	Doze