

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

FIELD OFFICE: Stillwater Field Office, Carson City District

NEPA NUMBER: DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2014-0025-DNA

CASEFILE PROJECT NUMBER: *n/a*

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Geothermal leasing of approximately 40 acres.

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Preliminary parcel nominations within the BLM Carson City District for the September 10, 2014 Competitive Geothermal Lease Sale (see attached map)

NV-09-14-003 40.000 Acres
T.0220N, R.0350E, 21 MDM, NV
Sec. 018 SWNE;
Churchill County
Carson City District

APPLICANT: Stillwater Field Office, CCDO, BLM

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The BLM is proposing to lease one parcel covering approximately 40 acres of public land for geothermal exploration and development in Churchill County, Nevada, on September 10, 2014. Lease issuance alone does not authorize any ground disturbing activities to explore for or develop geothermal resources beyond casual use without site-specific approval for the intended operation. Such approval would require a separate site-specific environmental analysis.

Leasing geothermal resources by the BLM vests with the lessee a non-exclusive right to future exploration and an exclusive right to produce and use the geothermal resources within the lease area subject to existing laws, regulations, formal orders, and the terms, conditions, and stipulations in or attached to the lease form or included as conditions of approval in permits. Lease issuance alone does not authorize any ground disturbing activities to explore for or develop geothermal resources without site specific approval for the intended operation. Such approval would be subject to further environmental analysis under the NEPA.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: **Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan**

Date Approved: May 9, 2001

The proposed action is consistent with the applicable land use plan because it is clearly consistent with the following land use plan decisions, objectives, terms, conditions:

Objective 1: Encourage development of energy and mineral resources in a timely manner to meet national, regional and local needs consistent with the objectives for other public land uses.

Objective 2: Oil, gas, and geothermal exploration and production upon BLM land are conducted through leases with the Bureau and are subject to terms and stipulations to comply with all applicable federal and state laws pertaining to various considerations for sanitation, water quality, wildlife, safety, and reclamation. Stipulations may be site specific and are derived from the environmental analysis process.

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States, FES 08-44.

The parcel is also covered under the following document: Fluid Mineral Leasing within Six Areas on the Carson City District, DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2014-0013-EA.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

The proposed action is within the project area analyzed in the 2014 EA and the 2008 PEIS. It is identical to an PEIS alternative analyzed therein: "In accordance with the Energy Policy Act (EPA) of 2005 (Public Law 109-58, August 8, 2005), the BLM and the FS are proposing to make geothermal leasing decisions on pending lease applications submitted prior to January 1, 2005 and to facilitate geothermal leasing decisions on other existing and future lease applications and nominations." By regulation, lands within a WSA are not available for mineral leasing.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes, environmental concerns, interests and resource values have not changed at all since the completion of the 2014 EA or the 2008 PEIS. The preferred action alternative analyzed in those documents is still appropriate since the environmental constraints of geothermal leasing have not changed: “approximately 118 million acres of public land would be allocated as open and 79 million acres of NFS land would be legally open to geothermal leasing for direct and indirect use subject to existing laws, regulations, formal orders, stipulations attached to the lease form, and the terms and conditions of the standard lease form. The authorized officer retains the discretion to issue leases with stipulations that impose moderate to major constraints on use of surface of any leases in order to mitigate the impacts to other land uses or resource objectives as defined in the guiding resource management plan.”

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, range- land health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, and updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes, the anticipated impacts to the resources have not changed. The proposed action will not have any adverse effect on the human health or environment. Any changes to lists of sensitive or endangered species would be addressed in a site specific environmental analysis should any future activity be proposed.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes, the 2014 EA and 2008 PEIS analyzed cumulative impacts on relevant resources. The cumulative impacts to public lands resulting from geothermal leasing would remain unchanged from those analyzed in the 2014 EA and the 2008 PEIS. Lease issuance alone does not authorize any ground disturbing activities to explore for or develop geothermal resources without site specific approval for the intended operation. Such approval would be subject to further NEPA and the attached stipulations.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes, geothermal leasing was analyzed in the 2014 EA and the 2008 PEIS which describes the public involvement. Consultation with other agencies and interested parties was conducted for that document. Notification was provided Churchill County Commissioners regarding the upcoming lease offerings within their jurisdiction. The Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribes will be notified via letter of the proposed leasing action.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource/Agency Represented</u>
Dan Westermeyer	Recreation Planner	BLM Carson City District DW 8/13/14
Jason Wright	Archaeologist	BLM Carson City District JW 8/12/14
Linda Appel	Rangeland Management Specialist	BLM Carson City District La 7/28/14
Chris Kula	Wildlife Biologist	BLM Carson City District CK 7/28/14
Matt Simons	Realty Specialist	BLM Carson City District MS 7/29/14

Note: Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

Conclusion

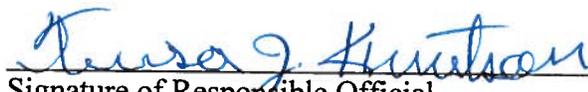
Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.



Signature of Project Lead



Signature of NEPA Coordinator



Signature of Responsible Official

Date 8/13/2014

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

**CARSON CITY DISTRICT
GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES LEASING
DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2014-00xx-DNA**

GEOTHERMAL LEASE STIPULATIONS

The following lease stipulations have been developed as mitigating measures for geothermal leasing and other reasonably foreseeable development activities with regard to geothermal exploration and development within the Carson City Field Office.

Standard Stipulations for All Leases in Carson City Field Office

The following mitigating measures are to be included as special stipulations on all geothermal leases issued in the Carson City Field Office Management area. The lessee shall comply with the following special conditions and stipulations unless they are modified by mutual agreement of the Lessee and the Authorized Officer (AO):

Native American Consultation

All development activities proposed under the authority of this lease are subject to the requirement for Native American consultation prior to BLM authorizing the activity. Depending on the nature of the lease developments being proposed and the resources of concerns to tribes potentially affected, Native American consultation and resulting mitigation measures to avoid significant impacts may extend time frames for processing authorizations for development activities, as well as, change in the ways in which developments are implemented.

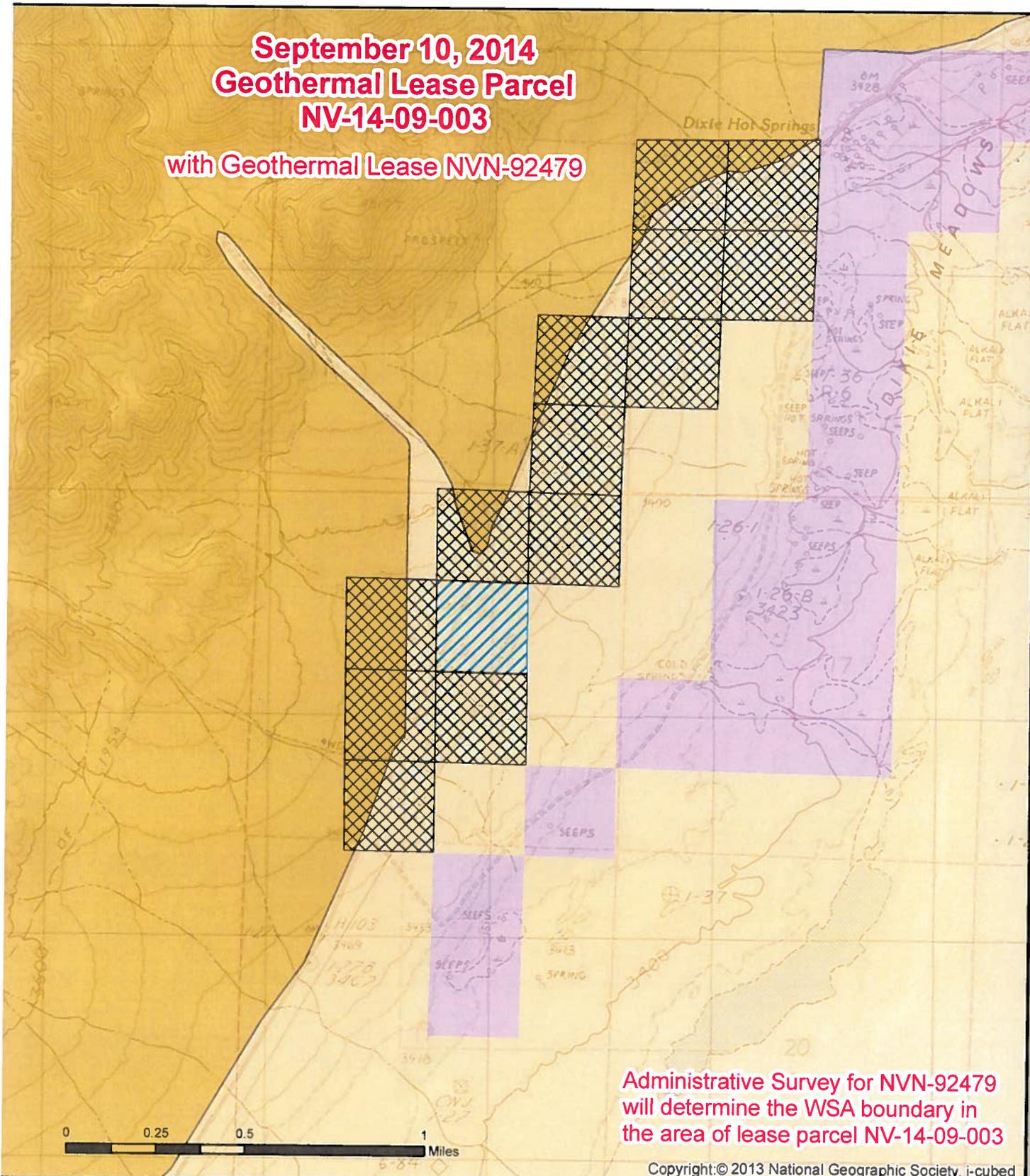
Riparian Areas

No surface occupancy within 500 feet (horizontal measurement) of any surface water bodies, riparian areas, wetlands, playas or 100-year floodplains to protect the integrity of these resources (as delineated by the presence of riparian vegetation and not actual water). Exceptions to this restriction may be considered on a case-by-case basis if the BLM determines at least one of the following conditions apply: 1) additional development is proposed in an area where current development has shown no adverse impacts, 2) suitable off-site mitigation will be provided if habitat loss is expected, or 3) BLM determines development proposed under any plan of operations ensures adequate protection of the resources.

Endangered Species

The lease area may now or hereafter contain plants, animals, or their habitats determined to be threatened, endangered, or other special status species. BLM may recommend modifications to exploration and development proposals to further its conservation and management objective to avoid BLM-approved activity that will contribute to a need to list such a species or their habitat. BLM may require modifications to or disapprove proposed activity that is likely to result in jeopardy to the continued existence of a proposed or listed threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modifications of a designated or proposed critical habitat. BLM will not approve any ground-disturbing activity that may affect any such species or critical habitat until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531, as amended, including completion of any required procedure for conference or consultation.

September 10, 2014
Geothermal Lease Parcel
NV-14-09-003
with Geothermal Lease NVN-92479

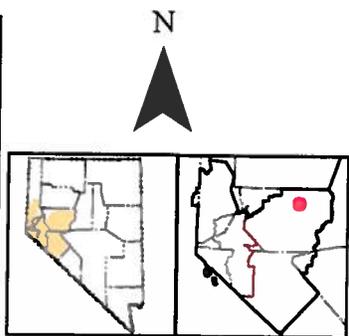


Administrative Survey for NVN-92479
will determine the WSA boundary in
the area of lease parcel NV-14-09-003

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Carson City District Office

Legend		Land Status	
	GeoLeaseParcelNV-14-09-003		FS
	GeoLeaseNVN-92479		FWS
	BLM Wilderness Study Area		NPS
			NVST
			PK
			PVT
			WTR
			BIA
			BLM
			BR
			DOD
			DOE



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