

# Categorical Exclusion Documentation Format for Actions Other Than Hazardous Fuels and Fire Rehabilitation Actions

## Bullhead City Nuisance Wild Burro Removal

DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2015-0039-CX

### A. Background

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received complaints from private land owners, business owners, and the National Park Service (NPS) pertaining to numerous wild burros within the Bullhead City limits along the Bullhead City Parkway causing damage to private property and creating a nuisance. Burros are breaking irrigation sprinkler heads, damaging vegetation, defecating in yards, and damaging private property. In addition, the burros create a public safety hazard to traveling motorists along the Bullhead City Parkway and Highway 68. There have been numerous vehicle collisions with burros over the past few years and over fourteen collisions occurred in the last year. The collisions injure and/or kill burros as well as create a safety hazard for the public driving on the road.

**BLM Office:** Lake Havasu Field Office

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Bullhead City, Nuisance Burro Removal

**Location of Proposed Action:** Bullhead City limits, Arizona

**Description of proposed action:** The BLM proposes to remove 30 nuisance burros in the Bullhead City area outside of the Black Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA), Mohave County, Arizona. See Figure 1. This removal is considered an emergency because burros are crossing highways, causing vehicle accidents, and creating a public safety hazard.

The removal would be conducted in the fall months of 2015. Bait trap sites would be located in areas where burros have created nuisance situations. Traps would be located on private land, or NPS land within existing disturbed areas. Burros will be enticed into a corral constructed with a one way gate; the animals will enter, and not be able to exit the corral. Since wild burros generally have not acquired a taste for alfalfa hay, it may take time to get them accustomed to hay and panels before initiating a bait trapping operation. Once burros begin to utilize the hay offered, a temporary corral is constructed around the bait site. The bait traps will be temporary and the area would be reclaimed by removing the corral panels, and raking up hay and manure. Individuals and agencies (including those who expressed interest in the burros) will be notified by the interested party letter.

### B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: *Kingman Resource Management Plan/EIS*

Date Approved/Amended: March 1995

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

<u>Section</u>	<u>Text (Verbatim from LUP)</u>
HB-9	Safety issues will continue to be handled as emergency/nuisance removals, receiving top priority to correct public safety concerns.

TM-3 Travel between communities within the planning area will be made safer.

Also, Standard Operating Procedures for wild burro removals on page B-47 state:

- All wild burros that are removed are made available for adoption through the Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Program.
- Wild burros would be removed as nuisance animals whenever a safety problem becomes apparent (such as burros crossing highways, burro related vehicle accidents, etc.). Removal of nuisance burros from private land is required when request in writing from the landowner. Excess wild burros would be removed from HMAs when the population exceeds the Appropriate Management Level (AML) as set by the Herd Management Area Plans.

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name: *Kingman Resource Management Plan/EIS*

Date Approved/Amended: March 1995

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

HB01/I Manage for a viable population of wild and free-roaming horses and burros to achieve, maintain a thriving, natural ecological balance in herd management areas and maintain and enhance the habitat in a desirable condition for continued multiple use (Page 55).

HB02/VIC Wild horse and burro management on public lands requires maintenance of a herd inventory, habitat monitoring and the removal and placement of excess animals to the public for adoption (Page 86)

Wild burros would be removed as nuisance animals whenever a safety problem becomes apparent (such as burros crossing highways, burro related vehicle accidents, etc.). Removal of nuisance burros from private land is required when request in writing from the landowner.

### **C. Compliance with NEPA:**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, **D. Rangeland Management, (4) Removal of wild horses or burros from private lands at the request of the landowner.**

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 (See Attachment 2), and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

I considered the plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan, and none of the exceptions described in 516 DM 2 apply, and no further environmental analysis is required.

### **D: Signature**

Authorizing Official: /s/ Jason West (acting) Authenticated by S. Ahrens Date: 8/17/15

Kimber Liebhauser  
Field Manager, Lake Havasu Field Office

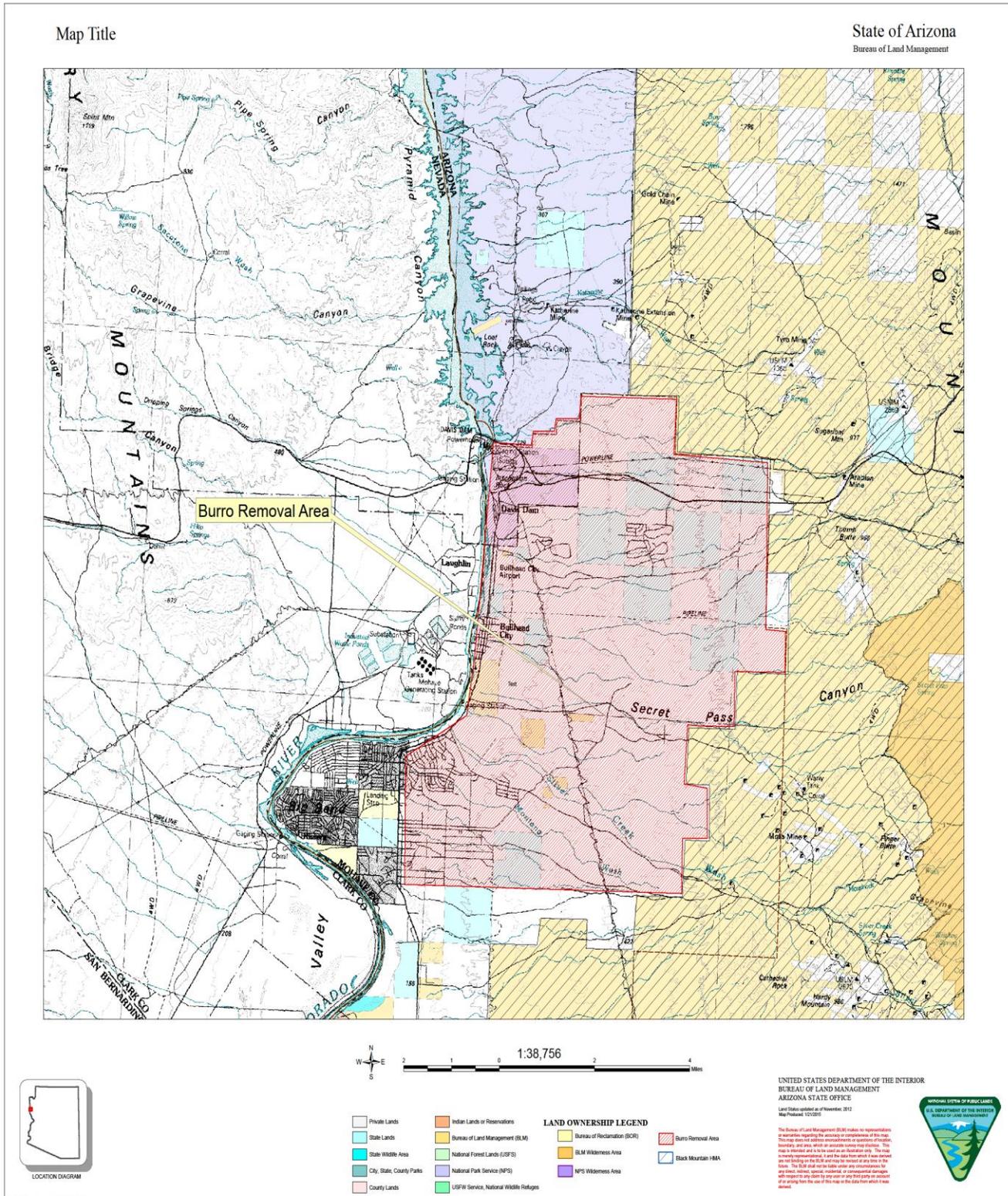
## Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Chad Benson, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist, Kingman Field Office, 2755 Mission Blvd, Kingman, AZ 86401, and 928-718-3750.

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

**Figure 1**

Map depicting area for burro removal.



## Approval and Decision

**Compliance and assignment of responsibility:** Chad Benson

**Monitoring and assignment of responsibility:** Chad Benson

**Review:** *We have determined that the proposal is in accordance with the categorical exclusion criteria and that it would not involve any significant environmental effects. Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review.*

**Prepared by:** /s/ Chad Benson on File **Date:** 8-5-2015

Chad Benson  
Kingman/Lake Havasu, Wild Horse and  
Burro Specialist - Project Lead

**Reviewed by:** /s/Sheri Ahrens (for) **Date:** 8/6/15

Amanda Dodson  
Assistant Field Manager  
Lake Havasu Field Office

**Reviewed by:** /s/Jason West (acting) Authenticated by S.Ahrens **Date:** 8/17/15

Kimber Liebhauser  
Field Manager  
Lake Havasu Field Office

## Attachment 1 – Screening for Extraordinary Circumstances

Each of the following questions must be answered with “No,” by all resource specialists participating on the interdisciplinary team before this CX may be approved (516DM).

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
Reviewers and Comments			
Resource	Specialist Name	Comment	Surname
Air/Hydrology/Soils			
Archaeology/Cultural	Signatures on file in Office	Trap sites will be placed on private property in areas approved by the land owner. The attached stipulations will apply (Attachment 3).	
Biologist Fisheries and/or Wildlife	Signatures on file in Office	There would be no affect to T&E species or critical habitat as there are no species or critical habitat in the project area.	
Public Safety/Env. Justice			
Grazing/RangeMgmt			
Lands/Realty			
Minerals/Oil/Gas			
Recreation/Visual			
Water/Sub & surface			
Weeds/Invasive/non-Native			
Wild Horse and Burro			

This project has the appropriate categorical exclusion supplied for the proposed action and with consideration by all IDT members is in conformance with NEPA and BLM regulations.

**P & EC: /s/Victoria Anne Authenticated by S. Ahrens**

**Date 8/13/15**

## **Attachment 2**

### Stipulations

1. Avoidance will be accomplished by BLM archaeologist approval of trap locations and/or project redesign.
2. Attached map shows areas to be avoided if an alternate location is desired.
3. The LHFO archaeologist must approve any and all additional trap locations that fall within the cultural resource avoidance areas to ensure avoidance of adverse effects to historic properties.

### Attachment 3

# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Kingman Field Office  
2755 Mission Boulevard  
Kingman, Arizona 86401  
www.az.blm.gov



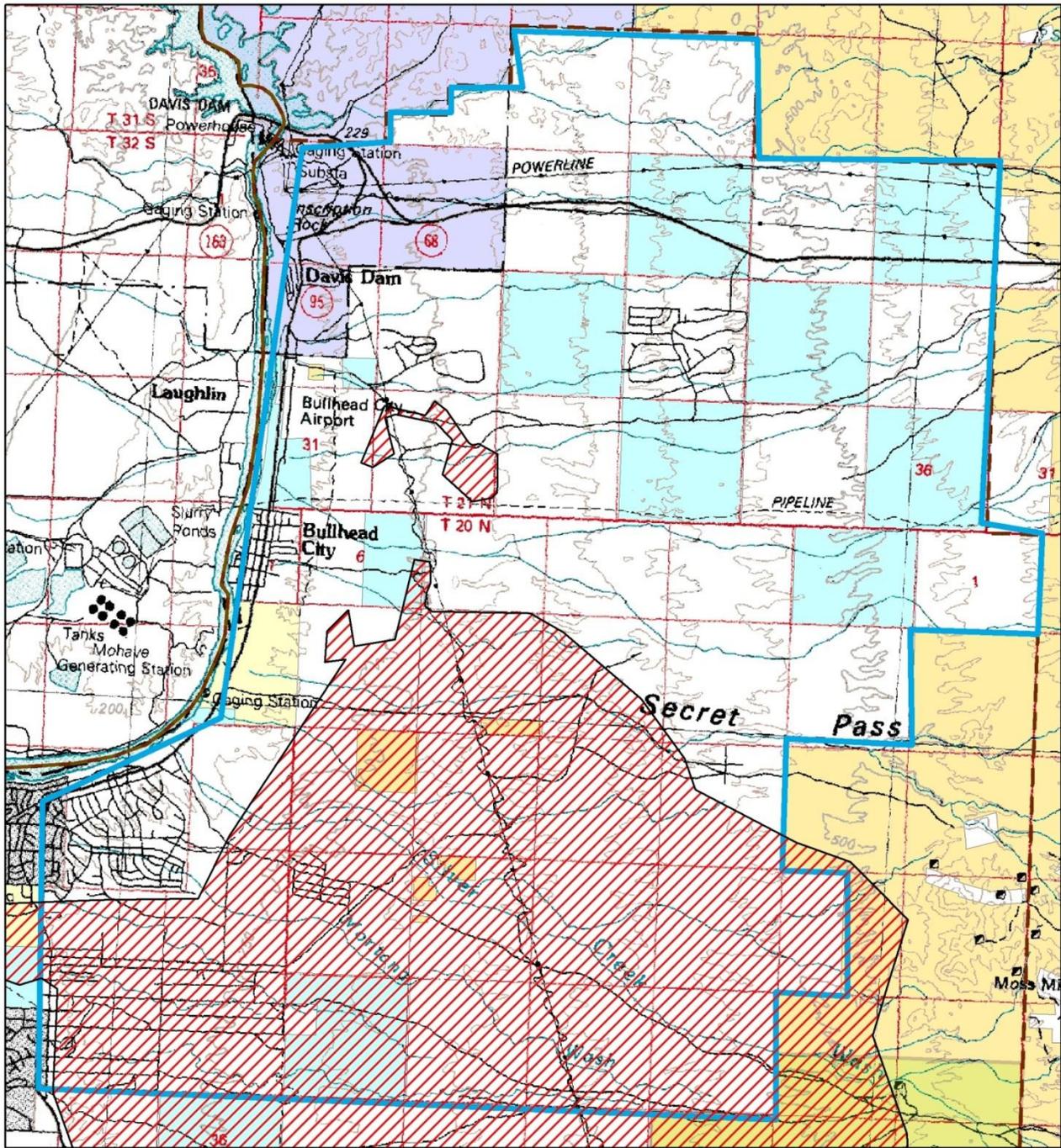
## GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING DESERT TORTOISE ENCOUNTERED ON ROADS AND VEHICLE WAYS

1. Stop your vehicle and allow the tortoise to move off the road.
2. If the tortoise is not moving, gently\*\* pick up the tortoise and move it approximately 200 feet off the road to a shaded location.
  - a. Do **not** turn the tortoise over.
  - b. Move the tortoise in the direction it was traveling. If it was crossing the road, move it in the direction it was crossing.
  - c. Keep the tortoise within 12-18 inches of the ground, move slowly so as not to cause it to become alarmed.
  - d. Release the tortoise under the shade of a bush or rock.

\*\* Tortoise store water in their bladder. If a tortoise becomes alarmed its defense is to void its bladder onto the captor. This could lead to dehydration of the tortoise and potentially to death.



# 2015 Bullhead Burro Gather #2



Lake Havasu Field Office

Map Prepared by Jennifer Frederick McGuire  
LHFO Archaeologist 7/31/2015

No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Legend	
	Cultural Avoidance Area
	Bullhead_Burro_Gather
	BLM
	BR
	NPS
	Private
	State

