BLM

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

Categorical Exclusion

Independence Valley Gravel Pit

PREPARING OFFICE

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Wells Field Office
3900 E. Idaho St.
Elko, NV USA
(775)753–0200

Categorical Exclusion
Independence Valley Gravel Pit

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

This page intentionally
left blank

Table of Contents

1. Categorical Exclusion Worksheet 1

2. Screening for Extraordinary Circumstances 3

This page intentionally
left blank

List of Tables

Table 2.1. Screening for Extraordinary Circumstances 5
Table 2.2. Reviewer Comments and Concurrence 6

This page intentionally
left blank

Chapter 1. Categorical Exclusion Worksheet

Independence Valley Gravel Pit

This page intentionally
left blank

A. Background

NEPA ID No: DOI-BLM-NV-E030-2015-0022-CX

BLM Office: NV - Wells FO

LLNVE03000

Prepared by: Aili Gordon

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: NVN-094246

Type of Action (Subject Code): 3600

Location of Proposed Action: Elko County, Independence Valley, Mount Diablo Meridian, Township 37 North, Range 64 East, Section 14, NE1/4NW1/4NW1/4SW1/4

Applicant: Paul Bottari

Description of Proposed Action: Multiple permits have been issued out of the Independence Valley Gravel Pit over the past several years in an area of existing disturbance. Although multiple permits have been issued from the site, it has never been designated as a community use site. To streamline future permit issuance, it is proposed to designate the Independence Valley Gravel Pit as a community pit, with no more than 5 acres of disturbance or 50,000 cubic yards of gravel removed. The boundary of the 5 acre disturbance would be marked on the ground with carsonite posts. Only removal of gravel within that boundary will be authorized. The initial sale at this gravel pit would be for 250 cubic yards. Additional volumes, not to exceed 50,000 cubic yards, may be removed in the future from the Independence Valley Gravel Pit. This information will be tracked in the case file.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: NV - Wells RMP

Date Approved/Amended: July 16, 1985

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

In the Wells Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (ROD), the Minerals and Energy Program Objectives listed on Page 25, provides that "*The public lands will be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation's needs for domestic sources of minerals*." As a standard operating procedure, the ROD prescribes that "*Time-of-day and/or time-of-year restrictions will be placed on construction activities associated with transmission and utility facilities and leasable and saleable mineral exploration and/or development that are in the immediate vicinity or would cross crucial sage grouse, crucial deer and pronghorn antelope winter habitats, antelope kidding areas, or raptor nesting areas.*"

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

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions) : N/A

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.

F. Solid Minerals

10. Disposal of mineral materials, such as sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, cinders, and clay, in amounts not exceeding 50,000 cubic yards or disturbing more than 5 acres, except in riparian areas.

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/ Melanie A. Peterson *8/26/15*

Melanie A. Peterson Date
Field Manager, Wells Field Office

Contact Information

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:
Aili Gordon
Geologist
Wells Field Office
3900 E. Idaho St.
Elko, NV 89801
(775) 753–0356
agordon@blm.gov

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

Chapter 2. Screening for Extraordinary Circumstances

Independence Valley Gravel Pit

This page intentionally
left blank

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	Bryan Mulligan	No concerns	*/s/ GWA for B. Mulligan*	8/24/15
AFM- Renewables	Melanie Mirati	No concerns	*/s/ MM*	8/25/15
Archaeology & Cultural Resources	Wes Allen	No concerns	*/s/ GWA*	8/24/15
Environmental Justice	Terri Dobis	No concerns	*/s/ TKD*	8/24/15
Hazardous Materials	Harley Gordon	No concerns	*/s/ HG*	8/24/15
Lands and Realty	Virginia Morales	No concerns	*/s/ MVM*	8/24/15
NEPA	Terri Dobis	No concerns	*/s/ TKD*	8/24/15
Range Management/ Grazing	Jeff Moore	No harassing livestock or altering range improvements.	*/s/ JDM*	8/24/15
Recreation	Kristine Dedolph	No concerns	*/s/ KMD*	8/24/15
Weeds	Sam Cisney	Ensure vehicles, equipment and trailers are free of plant parts and weed seeds prior to on-site arrival to reduce the potential for noxious weed and non-native, invasive plant species introductions and spread.	*/s/ SC*	8/26/15
Wildlife	Kelly Michelsen	See email from 8/12/15	*/s/ KDM*	8/24/15