

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

DOI-BLM-NM-A020-2016-0015-DNA

Merriman Playa Core Samples 2016

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Albuquerque District Office
Socorro Field Office
901 S. HWY 85
Socorro, NM 87801
Phone: (575) 835-0412
FAX: (575) 835-0223



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

OFFICE: Socorro Field Office, 901 S. Highway 85, Socorro NM, 87801

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-NM-A020-2016-0015-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER:

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Merriman Playa Core Samples 2016

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Township 4 South, Range 4 East
Township 5 South, Range 4 East
Township 8 South, Range 1 East

APPLICANT (if any): Chris Merriman, University of New Mexico (UNM)

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

The proposed action is to implement collection of core soil samples in up to 5 playas (small dry lake beds) and 1 arroyo bottom for scientific research. In the arroyo bottom, samples would be collected with a truck mounted Giddings coring rig. The playa locations would be cored by hand with a bucket auger. Each core is approximately 10 centimeters in diameter. Up to 5 cores may be collected in each playa. Stipulations are attached.

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

LUP Name	<u>Socorro Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision</u>
Date Approved	August 2010 (BLM-NM-PL-10-03-1617)
Other Document	<u>The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 <i>As Amended</i></u>
Date Approved	October 2001
Other Document	<u>National Environmental Policy Act Handbook H-1790-1</u>
Date Approved	January 2008

**List applicable LUPs (for example, resource management plans; activity, project, management, or program plans; or applicable amendments thereto)*

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

Page 8 of the Socorro Resource Management Plan it states “within the capability of the Planning Area’s natural and cultural resources, provide tourism, recreational, educational, and research opportunities”.

Page 54 of the Socorro Resource Management Plan addresses the Mockingbird Gap Proprietary ACEC in which some of the locations are located. The following management decisions apply: Decision 5 “Apply Cultural Resource Use Category A: Scientific Use” and Decision 6 “Research, study, and protect cultural resources sites”.

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

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

- DOI-BLM-NM-A020-2015-0036-EA - Chris Merriman Playa Core Samples

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

- N/A

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 the same. Locations are geographically identical or near prior locations. The proposal is a minor extension of the previous project to gather more research data, by the same proponent.

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, the alternatives are adequate.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, 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 action is essentially the same and the previous EA is recent. The extension was reviewed by the Interdisciplinary Team. No new issues were identified.

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

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

Yes

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource/Agency Represented</u>
Mark Matthews	Field Manager	
Carlos Coontz	Planner	NEPA Coordinator, ACEC, Environmental Justice, Soil/Water/Air
Kevin Carson	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Visual, Wilderness, Caves & Karst
Brenda Wilkinson	Archaeologist	Cultural, Paleontology, Tribal
Jeff Fassett	Project Manager	Engineering and Operations, Weeds
Lann Moore	Fuels Specialist	Fire and Fuels, Forestry
Virginia Alguire	Realty Specialist	Hazmat, Lands/Realty, Minerals
Chris Hill	Recreation Planner	Recreation
Denny Apachito	Wildlife Biologist	T&E/Migratory, Wildlife
Bethany Rosales	NRS – Range	Vegetation and Grazing

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 (If you found that one or more of these criteria is not met, you will not be able to check this box.)

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.

B.J. Wilkins
Signature of Project Lead

3-21-2016
Date

C.H. [Signature]
Signature of NEPA Coordinator

21 March 2016
Date

Mark Malott
Signature of the Responsible Official

3/21/16
Date

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.

Stipulations
IT4RM-A020-2016-0015-DNA
Chris Merriman Playa Core Samples

1. If Paleontological resources are found during the implementation of the proposed project, the proponent or any of his agents would: (a) stop work immediately at that site if significant fossil resources are discovered; (b) contact the appropriate BLM representative, typically the project inspector, as soon as possible; and (c) make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the official BLM representative.
2. The holder(s) shall comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations existing or hereafter enacted or promulgated. In any event, the applicant shall comply with the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601, et seq.) with regard to any toxic substances that are used. Additionally, any release of toxic substances (leaks, spills, etc.) in excess of the reportable quantity established by 40 CFR, Part 117 shall be reported as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, Section 102b. A copy of any report required or requested by any Federal agency or State government as a result of a reportable release or spill of any toxic substances shall be furnished to the authorized officer concurrent with the filing of the reports to the involved Federal agency or State government. (No oil changes, refueling or hazardous materials permitted in the project area)
3. Prior to fieldwork, call centralized buried utilities notification "Call Before You dig" number at 811, or 1-800-321-2537.
4. The applicant must notify the BLM – SFO 2 weeks prior to fieldwork so that a raptor survey can be performed in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.
5. To prevent weed seed from being introduced by construction equipment, the equipment must be cleaned by air blasting or power washing prior to entering the project area if soils or vegetative materials are present on the equipment.
6. Any off-road access must be inspected on foot by an archaeologist prior to use. If archaeological sites are identified, they must be avoided. In the event that any previously undiscovered cultural resources are encountered during the implementation of the action, disturbance of the resources will be halted immediately and the Field Archaeologist shall be consulted.
7. Access is only permitted during periods of dry soil conditions.
8. Livestock grazing allottees shall first be notified of the action and access. If fences are encountered and have to be crossed with equipment for access without getting to a gate, then the fences shall be restored to the original condition.
9. During times of potential dry fuels with risk of wild fire, shovel and fire extinguisher will be available to and carried by the project applicant.
10. Follow all Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified in the 2010 Socorro Resource Management Plan, Appendix C.