

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)
COMPLIANCE RECORD FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS (CX)
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

PART I. – PROPOSED ACTION

BLM Office: Tucson Field Office
2016-0019-CX

NEPA No.: DOI-BLM-AZ-G020-

Case File No.: AZA-036971

Proposed Action Title/Type: LCNCA filming permit

Applicant: New Zealand Natural History TV

Location of Proposed Action: Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona: Township 19 S. Range 17 E. Section 20 NE¹/₄NE¹/₄, Lat.: 31.772424, Long.: -110.627594.

Description of Proposed Action: Issuance of a film permit to New Zealand Natural History TV who propose to film in the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, around the prairie dog release site, to capture video of wildlife found in that area. Filming is proposed to take one day and occur at the end of May, 2016. Filming would be with hand-held or tripod-mounted cameras only, using a crew of two people. There would be no additional props, no use of generators, no explosives or pyrotechnics, and no aircraft used in the project. The film crew would use one vehicle and would travel only on designated roads to the site.

Part II. – PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan(s): The Las Cienegas NCA Resource Management Plan (LCNCA RMP)

Decisions and page nos.: Page 16. "BLM will continue to consider other new land use authorizations (rights-of-way, leases, permits, easements) including non-major lineal utilities on a case by case basis with stipulations attached to any permits or leases to ensure consistency with the plan's goals and objectives."

Date plan approved/amended: July 2003

This proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with these plans (*43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM Manual 1601.04.C.2*).

PART III. – NEPA COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION REVIEW

A. The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 E (19); Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations for such uses as storage sites, apiary sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition.

;

And

B. Extraordinary Circumstances Review: In accordance with 43 CFR 46.215, any action that is normally categorically excluded must be subjected to sufficient environmental review to determine if it meets any of the 12 Extraordinary Circumstances described. If any circumstance applies to the action or project, and existing NEPA documentation does not adequately address it, then further NEPA analysis is required.

IMPORTANT: Appropriate staff should review the circumstances listed in Part IV, comment and initial for concurrence. Rationale supporting the concurrence should be included in the appropriate block.

Part IV. – EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION

PREPARERS:

DATE:

Leslie Uhr, Realty Specialist (detail)	LU, 5/17/2016
Linda Dunlavey, Realty Specialist	LD, 5/18/2016
Amy Sobiech, Archeologist	AS, 5/17/2016
Heather Swanson, Natural Resource Specialist	HS, 5/17/2016

Amy Markstein /s/ Amy Markstein
 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

May 20, 2016
 DATE

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215(a)-(l)) apply. The project would:

(a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety.

Yes	No	<p>Rationale: No significant impacts on public health and safety would result from the proposed action because the activity is routine in nature, similar to casual use commonly occurring in the area, and because of the minimal impacting nature of the proposal.</p>
	x	
Preparer's Initials <u>LU</u>		

(b) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

Yes	No	<p>Rationale: Minimal impact filming proposed under this authorization would not have significant impacts on national monument, park or recreation lands, on wilderness areas, or on wild and scenic rivers. Designated routes would be used for access by vehicles similar to casual use along designated routes and there would be no props, aircraft, lighting equipment or animals used for filming. The project area is outside designated wilderness, and outside any eligible or suitable wild and scenic river corridors.</p>
	x	
Preparer's Initials <u>HS</u>		

(c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102 (2) (E)].

Yes	No	<p>Rationale: There are no controversial environmental effects or unresolved alternative uses of resources because the proposed action is a routine activity essentially no different than casual use that commonly occurs in the area and because of the minimal impacting nature of the proposed action.</p>
	x	
Preparer's Initials <u>HS</u>		

(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Rationale: The proposed action will not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>HS</u></p>
(e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Rationale: The proposed action will not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effect because each film permit request is assessed individually.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>LU</u></p>
(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Rationale: The proposed action will not have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects because action is a routine activity essentially no different than casual use that commonly occurs in the area and because of the minimal impacting nature of the proposed action.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>LU</u></p>
(g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Rationale: The proposed action will not have a significant impact on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau because action is a routine activity essentially no different than casual use that commonly occurs in the area and because of the minimal impacting nature of the proposed action. The proposed action must be in accordance with the attached stipulations. This proposed action has been cleared by the Tucson Field Office Archaeologist.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>AS</u></p>

<p>(h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.</p>		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Rationale: The proposed action will not have a significant impact on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for any species. The proposed action is within the Las Cienegas NCA and no additional disturbance will be made. The proposed action has been cleared by the Tucson Field Office Natural Resource Specialist.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>HS</u></p>
<p>(i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.</p>		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Rationale: No laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment would be violated.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>LU</u></p>
<p>(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).</p>		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Rationale: The effect from the proposed project, if any, would be equal to all populations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>LU</u></p>
<p>(k) 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).</p>		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Rationale: The proposed action will not 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 because the project is located within the LCNCA and no additional disturbance will be made.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>AS</u></p>

(l) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).

Yes	No x	Rationale: The proposed action will not contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species. <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>HS</u></p>
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PART V. –COMPLIANCE REVIEW CONCLUSION

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record, and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required.

MITIGATION MEASURES/OTHER REMARKS: See attached stipulations.

APPROVING OFFICIAL: /s/ Melissa Warren DATE: May 25, 2016

TITLE: Field Office Manager

Note: The signed conclusion on this compliance record is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. A separate decision to implement the action should be prepared in accordance with program specific guidance.