

Exhibit 5-A
Format for Acquiring Agency's Authorized Officer Certification for
Conservation Easement*

I _____ [name, title of authorized officer] of _____ [name of acquiring agency] hereby certify that where the _____ property is concerned:

- 1) A representative of [name of acquiring agency] has conducted a cursory site inspection on [date(s)]. Based on that inspection, the location and general description of the property presented in this nomination package has been verified as accurate.
- 2) The property [is/is not] located within or adjacent to a "federally designated area" as that term is defined in the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act of 2000. The federally designated area is [insert name of the area.] and this information is/is not stated correctly in the nomination package.
- 3) *Explain if and how the acquisition will facilitate management efficiency of Federal lands or of a "federally designated area."*
- 4) Acquisition of a conservation easement on the property is consistent with the [*name of plan*] approved Federal land-use plan in force for the area within which the property is located.
- 5) The planned use of the property is for a conservation easement to protect significant resources [_____]. [Examples in addition to protection of the sensitive resources might be public access to other federal lands, specific recreational purposes, grazing permits while protecting the resources, etc.].
- 6) The initial assessment of the information in this nomination package and received from the land owner, indicate the property interests to be acquired (conservation easement) and resources to be protected are sufficient to satisfy the Federal acquisition objectives and, to the best of my knowledge, there are no known legal, physical, or financial issues that would prevent or unnecessarily delay Federal acquisition and management of the conservation easement.
- 7) Based on the initial site inspection and interview with the owner,
 - a. The initial assessment of potential liabilities presented in this nomination package has been verified and is accurate to the best of my knowledge;
 - b. I concur that the method employed by the nominating entity to initially assess those liabilities is appropriate; and
 - c. The likely remediation that will be needed and method of accomplishing that remediation as described in the nomination narrative appears accurate.

[If the Agency disagrees with any of the above information in the nomination package, or has additional input regarding the potential liabilities, that information should be provided under #7.]

- 8) Based on the agency's initial site inspection, review of available data, and consultation with agency resource specialists, the resource values of *[list resource values]* described in this nomination package for protection through the conservation easement appear accurate in both quality and quantity. The acquiring agency has verified claims of habitat for listed species through the following sources _____.
- 9) In the opinion of the agency, acquisition of the conservation easement is needed for the following reasons: *[List or provide a narrative describing the reasons. This response should also address the "high value" nature of the proposed acquisition if appropriate]*. These reasons are consistent with *[if appropriate, "and/or an expansion of"]* responses in the nomination package to applicable assessment questions. *[If the reasons stated in the nomination package are inaccurate, please indicate in your response.]*
- 10) *Please include one of the following regarding the owner's asking price: "The agency has reviewed the owner's asking price and [select one: (1) consulted with the Office of Valuation Services (OVS), (2) consulted with the Forest Service Appraisal Team, or (3) utilized agency staff familiar with market values in the area] and determined that a reasonable value range based on available market evidence is between \$_____ and \$_____. The agency further confirms the asking price is within the reasonable value range." [If consultation with the agency appraisal group or review of market evidence by qualified agency staff does not result in a value range, the response should explain the market evidence that led to a determination that the asking price is reasonable. If the original asking price is not reasonable, the agency may discuss its market research with the owner to determine if the owner is willing to reduce the asking price to be within the reasonable value range, or to a price that would be determined reasonable based on the market evidence. Under this circumstance if the owner is unwilling to adjust the asking price, the nomination shall not move forward because the agency cannot confirm that the asking price is reasonable.]*
- 11) The agency has attached a cost estimate sheet which estimates the total acquisition cost, including the asking price and necessary expenses of \$_____. (See Exhibit 6 below and the Excel spreadsheet form under "SNPLMA Links – Nomination Round" for Round 17 on the SNPLMA website.)
- 12) The agency has completed an initial assessment of the workload associated with establishing base line conditions and the long-term costs and workload of monitoring and managing the easement, and, either on its own or in combination with significant non-federal contributions, has the resources to manage the conservation easement if acquired. (Any non-federal management contributions should be specified.)
- 13) The agency is prepared to accept management responsibility for the conservation easement on the _____ property on the date purchase is completed.
- 14) The agency has the staffing resources or will contract the resources needed to acquire the easement within the two-year time standard timeframe if approved by the Secretary of the Interior for acquisition under the Southern Nevada Public Land Act.

15) The agency certifies that it has submitted, or will submit prior to the beginning of the public comment period, a copy of the complete nomination package to the local government jurisdiction with a cover letter requesting the local government's review and comments, if any, by the date the final comment period closes, and offering to meet with the appropriate local government official(s) regarding the nomination if desired.

By:

Date _____

Authorized Officer Name

Title [BLM District Manager, Forest Supervisor, etc.]

Name of Agency that will manage the property

Name of local agency contact person for this nomination

*When BLM is the acquiring agency, Field Offices must refer to IM No. NV-2005-062 under "Nomination for Acquisition" for guidance on evaluating lands proposed for nomination and additional information to be included in the "Acquiring Agency's Authorized Officer Certification."