

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

Diamond Joe Reference Area Enclosures NEPA Number DOI- BLM-AZ-C010-2012-30-CX

A. Background

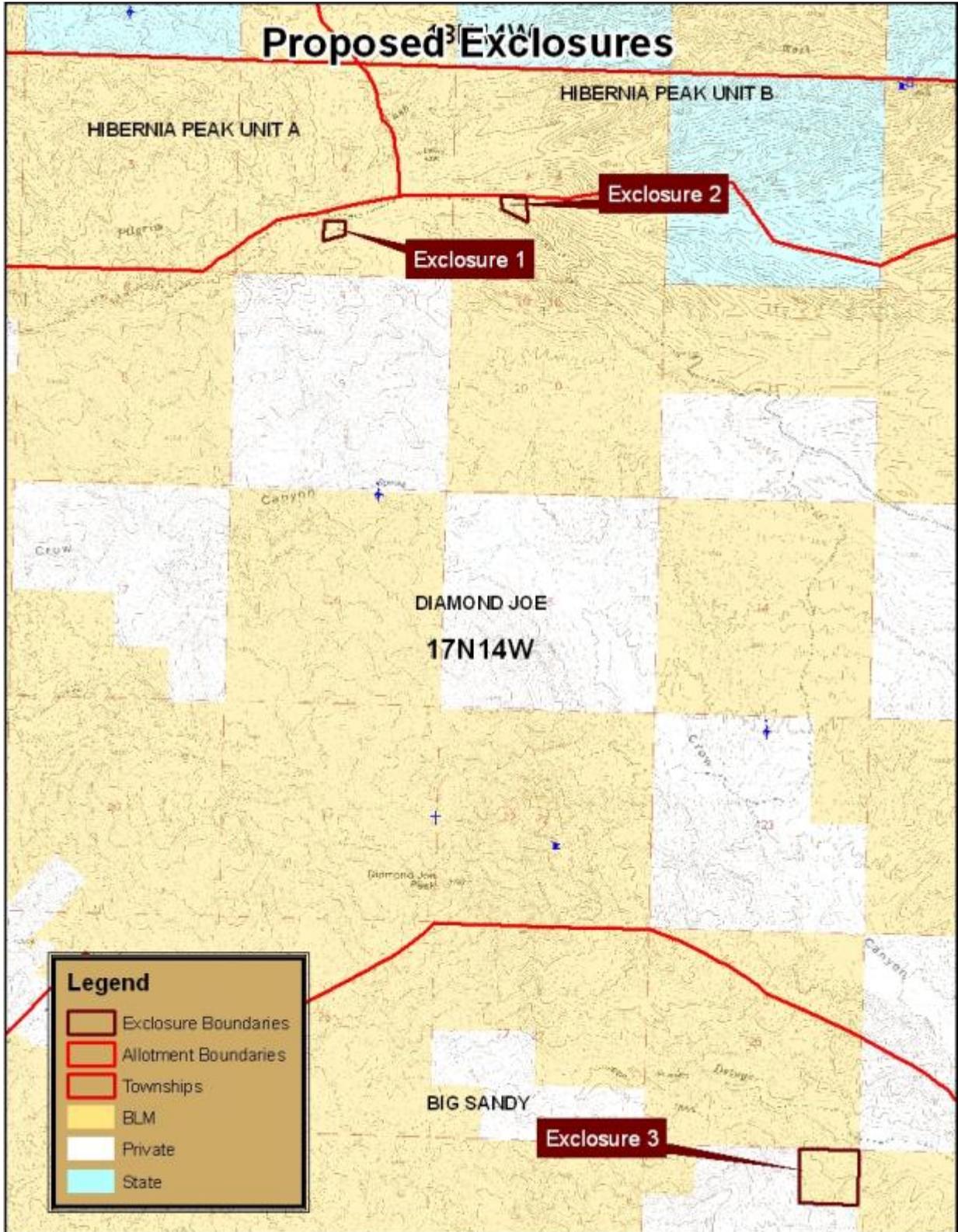
BLM Office: Kingman Field Office Lease/Serial/Case File No.:

Proposed Action Title/Type: Diamond Joe Reference Area Enclosures

Location of Proposed Action: Township 17 North, Range 14 West, Section 3, 4, and 35.

Description of Proposed Action: The BLM would build two approximately 5 acre enclosures and one 40 acre enclosure to exclude livestock and provide control areas for rangeland monitoring. Monitoring sites would be set up inside and outside the enclosures to monitor plant community dynamics and the impact of livestock grazing over time. The two enclosures would be on different soil types which correlate to existing monitoring sites within the Kingman field office. The fences would be 4 strands barbed and smooth wire and would conform to BLM fence guidelines for excluding livestock and facilitating wildlife movement. T-posts would be 16-25 ft apart with 2-4 stays in between. Fence would be 42 inches tall and have 3 strands of barbed wire with a bottom smooth wire. Wires would be 16, 23, 30, and 42 inches off the ground respectively. Vegetation obstructing the fence path would be trimmed back to allow construction of the fence and space on either side for the builders to walk and carry supplies and equipment. Off road ATV travel to haul fencing supplies and unroll wire would be permitted on enclosure 3 only. Any tracks would be raked out within 100 feet of existing roads to reduce route proliferation. Most of the vegetation that would be trimmed back consists of shrubs that would quickly grow back. Construction would take place outside of the migratory bird breeding season (March 15 - September 15) or a biologist would survey the fence lines prior to construction and ensure that no active nests would be destroyed.

Map 1. Location of Proposed Exclosures.



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 following LUP decision(s):

- GM-41/I Increase forage production and ensure long-term stability of public lands livestock operators (RMP page 461).
- GM-46/V Integrated habitat monitoring would be initiated to determine forage allocations necessary to support a thriving natural ecological balance among all ungulates. Available forage would be allocated for each species (RMP page 563).

C. Compliance with NEPA:

1. The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, [**CX. J. Other 7. Construction of small protective enclosures, including those to protect reservoirs and springs and those to protect small study 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 (See Attachment 1), and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 apply.

I considered the exclosures and determined that the only impact to the upland vegetation would be the loss of a few individual shrubs to make a path for the fence line. Most of the cut shrubs would grow back fairly quickly. The site was inventoried for archeological resources and no resources would be impacted by the implementation of this proposed action as stated in the compliance reports from July 2010 and March of 2012.

D. Signature

Authorizing Official: / s / Ruben A. Sanchez Date: 6/21/2012
(Signature)

Name: Ruben A. Sánchez
Title: Kingman Field Office Manager

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:
Ammon Wilhelm
Wildlife Biologist
Kingman Field Office
928-718-3758

Note: A separate decision document must be prepared for the action covered by the CX. See Attachment 2.

Attachment 1: Extraordinary Circumstances Review

Extraordinary Circumstances	Comment (Yes or No with supporting Rationale)
1. Have significant effects on public health or safety.	No
2. 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.	No – the project does not occur within any of these types of resources.
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	No
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	No
5. Establishes a precedent for future action or represents a decision in principle about future actions with significant environmental effects.	No
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	No
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	No – Cultural Resource inspections indicated that no cultural resources would be affected by this project.
8. 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.	No – there are no threatened or endangered species that occur within the project area.
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	No
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	No
11. 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).	No
12. 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).	No

Diamond Joe Study Exlosures

Approval and Decision Attachment 2

Compliance and assignment of responsibility: Range Program

Monitoring and assignment of responsibility: Range Program

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 / Ammon Wilhelm **Date:** 6/21/2012

Ammon Wilhelm Wildlife Biologist

Reviewed by: / s / Ramone B. McCoy **Date:** 6/21/2012

NEPA Coordinator

Reviewed by: / s / Don McClure **Date:** 6/21/2012

Don McClure
Supervisor

Project Description: Description of Proposed Action: The BLM would build two approximately 5 acre exclosures and one 40 acre exclosure to exclude livestock and provide control areas for rangeland monitoring. Monitoring sites would be set up inside and outside the exclosures to monitor plant community dynamics and the impact of livestock grazing over time. The two exclosures would be on different soil types which correlate to existing monitoring sites within the Kingman field office. The fences would be 4 strands barbed and smooth wire and would conform to BLM fence guidelines for excluding livestock and facilitating wildlife movement. T-posts would be 16-25 ft apart with 2-4 stays in between. Fence would be 42 inches tall and have 3 strands of barbed wire with a bottom smooth wire. Wires would be 16, 23, 30, and 42 inches off the ground respectively. Vegetation obstructing the fence path would be trimmed back to allow construction of the fence and space on either side for the builders to walk and carry supplies and equipment. Off road ATV travel to haul fencing supplies and unroll wire would be permitted on exclosure 3 only. Any tracks would be raked out within 100 feet of existing roads to reduce route proliferation. Most of the vegetation that would be trimmed back consists of shrubs that would quickly grow back. Construction would take place outside of the migratory bird breeding season (March 15 - September 15) or a biologist would survey the fence lines prior to construction and ensure that no active nests would be destroyed.

Decision: Based on a review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to approve the action as proposed, with the following stipulations (if applicable).

Approved By: / s / Ruben A. Sanchez **Date:** 6/21/2012
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Field Manager, Kingman Field Office