

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

Dixie Mine Bat Gate DOI-BLM-AZ-P020-2010-029-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: Lower Sonoran Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: N/A

Proposed Action Title/Type: Dixie Mine Bat Gate

Location of Proposed Action: T. 2 S., R. 8 W., NW¼NE ¼ of section 12, G&SRM, Maricopa County, Arizona.

Description of Proposed Action: The Arizona Game & Fish Dept., on behalf of the BLM , would design, fabricate and install a bat gate on one abandoned mine shaft (AZ2S8W12003) located on public lands at the Dixie Mine, along Agua Caliente Road. The bat gate would enhance public safety by preventing humans from entering the potentially hazardous mine shaft, as well as protect the bats living inside from unnecessary and potentially harmful human contact. The Dixie Mine site is located at:

<u>AMSCM identifier</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>	<u>UTM coordinates (NAD 83)</u>
AZ2S8W12003	33.273566	-113.02717	12S 311201E 3683448N

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name: Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) Date Approved/Amended: June 1988

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

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):

The Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS), approved June 1988, states on page 12: “Private industry is encouraged to explore and develop federal minerals to satisfy national and local needs. This policy provides for economically and environmentally sound exploration, extraction, and reclamation practices. Public lands are open and available for mineral exploration and development unless withdrawn or administratively restricted. Mineral development may occur along with other resource uses. Locatable Minerals. Exploration and development in the RMP/EIS area would continue to be administered in accordance with existing surface and mineral management regulations (43 CFR 3809 and CFR 3802).

C: Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, Appendix 4, J (8) – Installation of minor devices to protect human life, (e.g., grates across mines), and, Appendix 4, J (10) -- Removal of structures and materials of no historical value, such as abandoned automobiles, fences, and buildings, including those built in trespass and reclamation of the site when little or no surface disturbance is involved.

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 DM2 apply.

I considered the following when reviewing the proposed project:

- The act of installing a bat gate on the open mine shaft will have a positive effect on public health & safety, particularly given that the site is located in a high-use recreation area, and is easily accessible via Agua Caliente Road by any passenger or recreational vehicle.
- According to an LR2000 Mining Claim Geo Report run on October 22, 2010, there are no active mining claims onsite.
- Cultural clearances have been completed for the site. No historic features would be impacted by the proposed bat gate. Standard stipulations apply, along with the following special stipulation: “During the bat gate installation work, the contractor will carefully avoid all historic features and structures. An environmental monitor shall ensure that the work is carried out away from all historic features.”
- No T&E habitat or species are present in this area, according to wildlife surveys completed by biologists from BLM and the Arizona Game & Fish Dept. Installing a bat gate on the open mine shaft will protect the bats living inside from unnecessary and potentially harmful human contact.

D: Signature

Authorizing Official: _____ Date: 10/29/2010
(Signature)

Name: Emily Garber
Title: Field Manager, Lower Sonoran Field Office

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Mining Engineer Matt Plis, Phoenix District Office, 21605 N. 7th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85027, 623-580-5500

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

Approval and Decision

Compliance and assignment of responsibility: Matt Plis, Environmental Engineer

Monitoring and assignment of responsibility: Roy Draper, Surface Protection Specialist

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: _____ **Date:** 10/22/2010

Matt Plis
Environmental Engineer

Reviewed by: _____ **Date:** 10/28/2010

Leah Baker
Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Reviewed by: _____ **Date:** 10/29/2010

Emily Garber
Field Manager

Project Description: Arizona Game & Fish Dept. (AZGFD) would install a bat gate on an open abandoned mine shaft (AZ2S8W12003) on public land at the Dixie Mine site along Agua Caliente Road. Site was surveyed for wildlife by AZGFD in April 2008, who subsequently recommended the installation of the bat gate. Site surveyed for cultural resources by BLM Archaeologist Cheryl Blanchard in October 2008. Bat gate would enhance public safety by preventing humans from entering the potentially hazardous mine shaft, as well as protect the bats living inside from unnecessary and potentially harmful human contact.

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 stipulation: During backfilling work, the contractor will carefully avoid all historic features and structures. An environmental monitor shall ensure that the work is carried out away from all historic features.

Approved By: _____ **Date:** 10/29/2010

Emily Garber
Field Manager