

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

**DOI-BLM-AZ-P010-2012-019-CX  
Nuisance Javelina Relocation**

**A. Background**

BLM Office: *Hassayampa Field Office (HFO)*

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

Proposed Action Title/Type: **Relocation of nuisance Javelina**

Location of Proposed Action: **Harquahala Mountains**

Description of Proposed Action: The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) is in the process of amending their statewide list of approved release sites for nuisance javelina to include locations within the Hassayampa Field Office. AGFD has begun to experience javelina conflicts at homes/neighborhoods adjacent to traditional habitat as well as depredation issues in nontraditional habitat. AGFD believes that these releases present the opportunity to not only resolve the human conflict issue but also to strengthen populations in areas such as the Harquahala Mountains. In this action, two release sites in the Harquahala Mountains will be added to the AGFD approved release sites, and nuisance javelina will be released at these sites occasionally as the need arises. One release site is at an unnamed dirt tank in Brown's Canyon Wash (T5N R9W Section 6). The other release site is at AGFD wildlife water catchment #596 (T6N R11W Section 33).

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name: **Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan**

Date Approved/Amended: **4/22/2010**

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

**WF-15.** The area contains suitable habitat for relocating and releasing individual animals and release of rehabilitated wildlife. These types of wildlife releases are not intended to establish new populations but are appropriate in areas of suitable habitat. Wildlife species that can be released include but are not limited to black bears; mountain lions; burrowing owls; and other raptors, reptiles, and game species.

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):

**C: Compliance with NEPA:**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 Departmental Manual (DM) 11.9:

**A - 6. Relocation of nuisance or depredating wildlife, providing the relocation does not introduce new species into the ecosystem.**

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 DM 11.9 apply.

I considered: The remoteness of the release sites, the suitability of the habitat in the vicinity of the release sites, and the expertise of the AGFD in carrying out these activities to determine that there is no potential for significant impacts to the human environment.

**D: Signature**

**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 (see Attachment 1). Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review.*

**Prepared by:** \_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
**Codey Carter, Wildlife Biologist**  
**Project Lead**

**Reviewed by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Insert Name of P&EC**  
**Planning & Environmental Coordinator**

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
**Elroy Masters**  
**Acting Field Manager**

**Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:  
**Codey Carter 623-580-5678**

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

BLM Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances<sup>1</sup>  
**Attachment 1**

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) apply. The project would:		
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> The release sites are in remote areas containing suitable habitat and the AGFD has a lot of experience in wildlife releases.
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness or wilderness study 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 (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> These release sites are near the Harquahala Wilderness area, but not within it. The sites are within the Harquahala Mountains ACEC but will not have a significant impact since the release is a simple, short duration action that will utilize existing roads.
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]?		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> Javelina is a common game species that presently occupies the area.
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> Releases of nuisance wildlife is a common activity that takes place throughout the state.
5. Establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects?		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> This action does not establish a precedent with potentially significant environmental effects. It involves a state wildlife agency carrying out its routine wildlife management duties.
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> No such cumulative impacts relationship exists with other actions.
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing, on the		

<sup>1</sup> If an action has any of these impacts, you must conduct NEPA analysis.

National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the Bureau or office?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> No such properties exist near the release sites.
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?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> No suitable habitat for threatened and endangered species, or critical habitat, occurs at or near the release sites.
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> No such laws will be violated by carrying out this action.
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> No adverse effects will be imposed on low income or minority populations as a result of this action.
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)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> No such access limitations will occur as a result of this action.
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)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> This action will not introduce or spread weeds into the area.

**Decision**  
**Attachment 2**

**Project Description:**

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) is in the process of amending their statewide list of approved release sites for nuisance javelina to include locations within the Hassayampa Field Office. AGFD has begun to experience javelina conflicts at homes/neighborhoods adjacent to traditional habitat as well as depredation issues in nontraditional habitat. AGFD believes that these releases present the opportunity to not only resolve the human conflict issue but also to strengthen populations in areas such as the Harquahala Mountains. In this action, two release sites in the Harquahala Mountains will be added to the AGFD approved release sites, and nuisance javelina will be released at these sites occasionally as the need arises. One release site is at an unnamed dirt tank in Brown's Canyon Wash (T5N R9W Section 6). The other release site is at AGFD wildlife water catchment #596 (T6N R11W Section 33).

**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).

**Appeal Opportunities:**

The decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. Public notification of this decision will be considered to have occurred on December 22, 2010. Within 30 days of this decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at 21605 North 7th Avenue, Phoenix Arizona, 85027. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

If you wish to file a petition for stay pursuant to 43 CFR Part 4.21(b), the petition for stay should accompany your notice of appeal and shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
3. The likelihood of irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is not granted,
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If a petition for stay is submitted with the notice of appeal, a copy of the notice of appeal and petition for stay must be served on each party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken, and with the IBLA at the same time it is filed with the Authorized Officer. A copy of the notice of appeal, any statement of reasons and all pertinent documents must be served on each adverse party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken to: Field

Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 401 West Washington Street, Suite 404, Phoenix Arizona 85003, not later than 15 days after filing the document with the Authorized Officer and/or IBLA.

**Approved By:** \_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_02/14/2012\_\_\_

**Elroy Masters**  
**Acting Field Manager**