

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST FOR NEPA COMPLIANCE

Part I. Proposed Action (*Insert a brief description of the proposed action (approximately 4-5 sentences).*)

Part II. Categorical Exclusion Identifier (*Cite applicable categorical exclusion identifier that applies from either 516 DM 1, Appendix 2 (e.g. 516 DM 1 (B)(8)) or 43 CFR 46.210 or that has been previously adopted from another Federal agency or that is proposed for a categorical exclusion determination adoption).*

Name of the agency or bureau that originally established the categorical exclusion proposed for application (*Provide the name (without use of abbreviations or acronyms) of the Federal agency or bureau that originally established the categorical exclusion (e.g. Fish and Wildlife Service)).*

Part III. Categorical Exclusion Justification (*Insert a brief justification of why the categorical exclusion can be potentially applied for the proposed action (approximately 1-3 sentences).*)

A categorical exclusion should be identified and cited before completing the remainder of the checklist. If a categorical exclusion cannot be identified or the proposal cannot meet the qualifying criteria in the categorical exclusion, an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement must be prepared.)

Part IV. Extraordinary Circumstances Evaluation (43 CFR 46.215):

Select (x) yes or no to assess if any extraordinary circumstances apply.

Additional explanatory text may be added below each extraordinary circumstance.

Yes No

- a. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.
- 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; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- c. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown risks.

Yes No

- d. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.
- e. Have a direct relationship to other actions that implicate potentially significant environmental effects.
- f. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.
- g. 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 No

- h. Significantly 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.

- i. Contribute to potentially significant effects resulting from the introduction, continued, existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or from other actions that promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act).

(If any of the above extraordinary circumstances are selected "Yes" (x) or if any extraordinary circumstances exist of the agency or bureau that originally established a categorical exclusion, an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement must be prepared.)

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) NEPA Implementing Regulations (43 CFR 46), and the DOI Handbook of NEPA Implementing Procedures (516 DM 1):

- The proposed action is covered by one or more DOI, bureau, or adopted categorical exclusions as provided by 43 CFR 46.210 or 516 DM 1, Appendix 2 and no extraordinary circumstances in 43 CFR 46.215 (a)-(i) apply. No further NEPA documentation will therefore be prepared (If applicable, attach any additional required environmental or cultural compliance documentation associated with the categorical exclusion).
- An extraordinary circumstance could exist for the proposed action and either an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement must be prepared.

Service signature approval:

Signature _____ Date: _____

Title _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Title _____