

Screening Form
Low-Effect Incidental Take Permit Determination and
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
Environmental Action Statement

I. HCP Information

A. HCP Name:

B. Affected Species:

C. HCP Size (in stream miles and/or acres):

D. Brief Project Description (including minimization and mitigation plans):

The proposed HCP

The duration (term requested for permit)

The lands covered under the HCP (the HCP Permit Area)

Species occupation and baseline (including habitat that is occupied temporarily (breeding, feeding, sheltering, wintering habitat and designated Critical Habitat)

Goals and objectives for covered species

Land and benefiting management activities (including avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures)

Monitoring (include timing)

II. Does the HCP fit the following Department of Interior and Fish and Wildlife Service categorical-exclusion criteria? *The answer must be “yes” to all three questions below for a positive determination. Each response should include an explanation. If the answer is “no” to any question, the action cannot be categorically excluded, and an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement must be prepared.*

A. Are the effects of the HCP minor or negligible on federally listed, proposed, or candidate species and their habitats covered under the HCP? [516 DM 8.5(C)(2); HCP Handbook] *Consider the degree or amount of take and the impact of that take on the species. Although take may occur under project implementation, after the minimization and mitigation*

measures proposed in the HCP are done, the impacts must be so minor as to result in negligible effects to the species (516 DM 8).

B. Are the effects of the HCP minor or negligible on all other components of the human environment, including environmental values and environmental resources (e.g. air quality, geology and soils, water quality and quantity, socio-economic, cultural resources, recreation, visual resources, environmental justice, etc.), after implementation of the minimization and mitigation measures? [40 CFR 1508.14; 43CFR 46.205; HCP Handbook] *We do not consider a CatEx for these human environment factors; the Service's primary authority is to laws under their jurisdiction. If the HCP includes minimization and mitigation measures for these other components as part of their project, we can enforce compliance by requiring in the permit that permittees fully implement their HCP.*

C. Would the incremental impacts of this HCP, considered together with the impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions) *not* result, over time, in a cumulative effects to the human environment (the natural and physical environment) which would be considered significant? [40 CFR 1508.7; 43CFR 46.205; HCP Handbook]

III. Do any of the exceptions to categorical exclusions (extraordinary circumstances) listed in 43 CFR 46.215 apply to this HCP? *If the answer is "yes" to any of the questions below, the permit action cannot be categorically excluded from additional NEPA analysis, and an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement must be prepared. Each "no" response should include an explanation.*

Would implementation of the HCP:

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 (Executive Order 11990) or floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds, eagles, or other ecologically significant or critical resources?

C. Have highly controversial environmental effects (defined at 43 CFR 46.30), or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [see NEPA section 102(2)(E)]?

D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects, or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?

E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?

F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?

G. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places?

H. 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? *Consider the degree or amount of take and the impact of the take on the species. Although take may occur under project implementation, it must be so minor as to result in negligible species effects after minimization and mitigation measures have been completed. The same concept applies when considering effects to critical habitat.*

I. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law, or a requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

K. 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).

L. 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).

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION STATEMENT [This may be placed elsewhere in a case file according to Regional procedures.]

Within the spirit and intent of the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and other statues, orders, and policies that protect fish and wildlife resources, I have established the following administrative record.

Based on the information and analysis above, I determine that the proposed Incidental Take Permit for [INSERT HCP NAME] qualifies for a categorical exclusion, as defined in 40 CFR 1508.4 and in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service *Habitat Conservation Planning Handbook*. Furthermore, no extraordinary circumstances identified in 43 CFR 46.215 exist for the [INSERT HCP NAME]. Therefore, the Service's permit action for [INSERT HCP NAME] is categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation, as provided by 40 CFR 1507.3; 43 CFR 46.205; 43 CFR 46.215; 516 DM 3; 516 DM 8.5; and 550 FW 3.3C. A more extensive NEPA process is unwarranted, and no further NEPA documentation will be made.

Other supporting documents [list]:

[INSERT HCP Project Name]Habitat Conservation Plan
[INSERT name of any CEQA document or other environmental document(s) used in preparation of Sections II or III above].

Signature Approval:

[name]

Date

Field Supervisor *or as appropriate per Regional procedures*
[Field Office name]