



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: ARRA: Surveys for Bats and Other Wildlife at AML Sites
Project ID: 09-moja-042/PEPC 26876

Project Description: Mojave National Preserve is receiving funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to implement safety installations on abandoned mine lands (AMLs). To determine the most appropriate type of installation, each site and feature must first be surveyed for bats and other wildlife that may be using these ground openings. The National Park Service and Bat Conservation International are negotiating a cooperative agreement for this survey work throughout the Service. The party who receives the contract for Mojave National Preserve will need to apply for a scientific research & collecting permit (contact: Dr. Debra Hughson, (760) 252-6105).

Bat surveys shall generally be conducted outside of the mine feature. An internal survey is not required but may be undertaken if deemed necessary by the contractor. Internal survey work shall conform to the protocol guidelines described in Sherwin, et al., 2009 Managing Abandoned Mines for Bats, Bat Conservation International, Inc. Similar guidelines are shown on page 7 of the Proceedings of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Series 4, No. 2 dated December 15, 2001.

A capture survey will not be performed unless positive identification of the myotis species present or their reproductive condition is not attainable by other reasonable means. The use of hand nets, a harp trap, and/or a mist net is authorized provided the Contractor is properly permitted for their use by each the Department of Fish and Game or other appropriate agency in each state.

Project Locations:

Location

County: San Bernardino State: CA
District: Mojave National Preserve Section:
Geo. Marker: Other:

Mitigation(s):

- All documentation of wildlife must include species encountered, dates, and locations. This information must be submitted to Neal Darby, Wildlife Biologist (760 252 6146) at the completion of these surveys.

Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):

E.5 Nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.

Mojave National Preserve staff has completed an expedited review of the proposed action. Ted Weasma, the park's mining geologist, has applied to a scientific research and collecting permit. He will be overseeing the contractors conducting surveys for bats and other wildlife. The one stipulation made during environmental review is for the contractor to provide a copy of all wildlife observations to the park's wildlife biologist (see above). No significant adverse impacts were identified; impairment is, therefore, not expected to occur from these surveys being carried out. A scientific research and collecting permit may be issued to Ted Weasma to oversee the surveys of abandoned mine lands for bats and other wildlife.

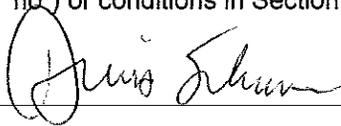
All results must be submitted to the National Park Service in an Investigator's Annual Report for each year the surveys are being carried out.

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On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances (e.g. all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Park Superintendent / Date: DENNIS SCHRAMM/

 7-9-09

NPS Contact Person:

DANETTE WOO/



Title:

Environmental Compliance Specialist

Telephone number:

(760) 252-6107