



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: Stabilize the New Trail and American Flag Historic Mine Sites within the Mojave National Preserve

Project Number: 12-moja-023/PEPC 41468

Project Description:

This project will stabilize the deterioration of three culturally significant historic buildings at the New Trail Mine site and one historic cabin at the American Flag Mine. These buildings are currently being accessed by the public and are unsafe and unsanitary in their current condition. This project will make these sites safe for the visiting public and preserve the integrity of the structures for future generations to explore the historic mining areas of the Mojave.

The intent of this cultural cyclic maintenance project is to carry out historic preservation maintenance actions at two historic mining habitation areas with public visited/used standing structures. The historic structures present numerous safety concerns for employees and visitors as the pace of deterioration is accelerating due to critical systems such as roofs, walls, and structural elements beginning to fail allowing environmental elements to increase the rate of decay. As well, rodent populations as well as other native fauna add to the health and safety concerns for these properties creating added risk and deterioration. Onsite examination reveals heavy use by the public for shelter from the elements as well as for general recreation purposes. New Trail Magnesite (Bullion Mining District): This location has had multiple claims through time. The earliest record seems to be about 1918 when several hundred tons of ore were shipped. The site was likely under a different name at that time. The cabins on this claim are, however, associated with the New Trail Mine which is NW of the cabin site. The New Trail Mine was discovered in 1916 and had significant production from 1916 to 1919 and in later era's. The structures date to the 1916 to 1919 era. They are the only remaining wood cabins in the whole mining district.

No data is available for the history of the American Flag claim but structural elements and materials speak to a probable date of 1910-1920.

This project will result in the cleaning and structural stabilization of roofs, windows, floors and doors of these historic structures. Completion of these tasks will result in the alleviation of immediate threats to the preservation of these structures and ensure the safe and continuous use by the visiting public.

Project Location:

County, State: District, Section: Lanfair Valley, American Flag Mine
San Bernardino **Geographic Marker:** (GIS Point)
Other:0670860E, 3883120N

County, State: District, Section: Ivanpah Mountains east, New Trail Mine
San Bernardino **Geographic Marker:** (GIS Point)
Other:0637746E, 3917620N

Mitigation(s):

- All work must be photo-documented for reporting purposes as required under the NPS' Service-wide Programmatic Agreement for streamlined Section 106 review.

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):

C.4 Routine maintenance and repairs to cultural resource sites, structures, utilities and grounds under an approved Historic Structures Preservation Guide or Cyclic Maintenance Guide; or if the action would not adversely affect the cultural resource.

Mojave National Preserve staff has completed an interdisciplinary review of the proposed actions. Reviewers did not identify potentially adverse impacts the natural or cultural resources of the Preserve. Photo-documentation is required as described in the mitigation listed above. Impairment is not expected to result from the emergency stabilization of historic structures at the New Trail or American Flag Historic Mine Sites. This project may be implemented without further review under the National Environmental Policy Act.

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.

Superintendent:

Louanna J. Wheeler

Date:

5/23/12

NPS Contact:

Sanati

Date:

23 May 2012