Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: Film Permit-BBC London, Laetitia Ducom
Project Number: 12-moja-025/PEPC 41712
Project Description:

Laetitia Ducom, BBC London, is applying for a commercial filming/photography permit for a project, Wonders of Life. A crew of up to seven (7) people -- including producer, researcher, assistant producer, camera person, sound recordist, camera assistant, and presenter -- want to film scorpions at the Desert Studies Center at Zzyzx, and some filming at the Kelso Dunes. The BBC has been in contact with Rob Fulton (Desert Studies Center site manager for California State University, Fullerton) about their request. Jason Wallace, assistant site manager, has an NPS scientific research and collecting permit to operate a grid of 129 pit traps for small reptiles. The BBC crew will be working with Wallace to film scorpions that happen to get caught in the pit traps and need to be released.

They also want to do some filming at the Kelso Dunes. The presenter originally wanted to climb to the crest of the dunes, then slide down, making the dunes "sing," and to use sound equipment and an amplifier to demmonstrate how ears work. It is not clear if the BBC still intends to complete this demonstration.

The film shoot is scheduled for April 21-22. Equipment includes a camera -- either on a tripod or handlheld -- and sound equipment. As of 03/19/2012, Ms. Ducom was planning for one car, three crew, and just this equipment.

Project Locations:

Location 1

County:	San Bernardino	**State:**	CA
District:	Soda Springs & Dry Lake	**Section:**	Zzyzx
Geo. Marker:		**Other:**	

Location 2

County:	San Bernardino	**State:**	CA
District:	Kelso Dunes	**Section:**	
Geo. Marker:		**Other:**	

Mitigation(s):

- No mitigations identified.

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):

D.4 Issuance of permits for demonstrations, gathering, ceremonies, concerts, arts and crafts shows, etc., entailing only short-term or readily mitigable environmental disturbance.

Mojave National Preserve staff has completed an interdisciplinary review of the requested action. Onsite monitoring will be required during the film shoot; the park's supervisory field ranger, Kirk Gebicke, is arranging to have NPS monitors available for this request. No other comments were noted. Reviewers did not identify any potentially significant adverse impacts to the natural or cultural resources. Impairment is, therefore, not anticipated to result from implementation of the activities described above. A commercial filming/photography permit may be issued to Ms. Laetitia Ducom, BB London, without further environmental review.

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: Lawrence J. Whalen acting **Date:** 4/10/12

NPS Contact: [illegible] **Date:** 04/06/2012