



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: Scientific Research and Collecting Permit - - Mark Ports

Project Number: 14-moja-039/PEPC 54517

Project Description:

Mark A. Ports, Professor Emeritus, Science Department, Great Basin College has applied for a scientific research and collecting permit to study the molecular and anatomical phylogenetics of a group of land snails, the Mountainsnails, that exists today on isolated mountain ranges in southern Nevada and southeastern California. In the Mojave National Preserve there exists the taxon, *Oreohelix californica*, the Clark Mountainsnail, S.S. Berry 1931. As far as is known, this species of invertebrate is endemic to Clark Mountain and is found in small colonies dependent on unique habitat components.

Mr. Ports is requesting permission to collect approximately 20 live animals and 30 shells of the Clark Mountainsnail, *Oreohelix californica*. He plans to conduct his fieldwork in the Preserve September 25-27, 2014.

Project Locations:

Location

County:	San Bernardino	State:	CA
District:	Clark Mountain	Section:	
Geo.	35.525 115.588 (GIS Point)	Other:	
Marker:			

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):

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

Explanation:

Mojave National Preserve staff has completed an expedited review of the proposed activities. Mr. Ports' fieldwork may increase our knowledge of a poorly known species. Reviewers were supportive of his efforts. They did not identify any significant adverse impacts to the natural or cultural resources of Mojave National Preserve. Impairment is not expected to result from the proposed action. A scientific research and collecting permit may be issued without further NEPA 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: Laurence J. Whalen Date: 10/22/14

NPS Contact: [Signature] Date: 18 September 2014