

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Categorical Exclusion Not Established By Statute
DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2018-0183 CX**

**September 2018
Brown's Hole Proposed Mine Feature Closures
San Juan County, Utah**

Location: Brown's Hole Mining District, San Juan County, Utah

Applicant/Address: Bureau of land Management, Moab Field Office,
82 East Dogwood Avenue, Moab, Utah 84532

Moab Field Office
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Moab, Utah 84532
Phone: 435-259-2100
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**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FORMAT WHEN USING
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS NOT ESTABLISHED BY STATUTE**

A. Background

BLM Office: Moab Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No: UTU-93402

Proposed Action Title/Type: Proposed Mine Feature Closures – Brown’s Hole mining district

Location of Proposed Action: Legal Locations in San Juan County, Utah:

Township 22 South, Range 22 East, section 33,
Township 28 South, Range 23 East sections 7, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 27, 28, 32, 33, and 34,
Township 29 South, Range 23 East, section 3.

Description of Proposed Action: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to improve public safety and reduce the risk of accidental death or injury by installing minor devices to close forty-nine Historic Mine Openings (HMOs) within the Brown’s Hole mining districts on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Moab Field Office (MFO) in San Juan County, Utah. These minor devices would be in the form of backfilling with local materials, block or stone walls, and grates. On-site construction of closures would be begin on October 4, 2018 and end November 15, 2018. Surface disturbance required for the closure of the HMOs would be limited to the immediate area of the opening. Total surface disturbance would be limited to a 600 square-foot area (approximately 0.014 acre) of temporary work space (work area) located immediately adjacent to each of the proposed HMO closures.

The following surveys were conducted to assess resource concerns prior to closure:

Winter and summer bat surveys, 2006, 2007, and 2010.

Cultural Resource surveys, 2007 and updated in 2018.

A Paleontological Survey, 2008.

An Aquatic Resource evaluation was completed in 2018 in a small area on BLM lands adjacent to private lands in section 22.

Screening Level Risk Assessment of mine waste dumps was completed by the BLM in 2017.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Moab Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP)

Date Approved: October 31, 2008

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the RMP approved in October 2008 (BLM 2008). It conforms to the ongoing management programs and actions for the RMP. One of the Goals and Objectives identified on page 63 of the RMP states "BLM will strive to ensure that human health and safety concerns on public lands remain a priority." Also, Management Decision 3 (HAZ-3) on page 63 states, "The [Abandoned Mine Lands] AML physical safety program's highest priority will be the cleaning up of those AML sites where (a) a death or injury has occurred, (b) the site is situated on or in immediate proximity to developed recreation sites and areas with high visitor use, and (c) upon

formal risk assessment, a high or extremely high risk level is indicated." It has been determined that the Proposed Action would not conflict with other decisions throughout the plan.

C. Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 Department Manual (DM) 11.9, Appendix 4, J.8 which allows for:

Installation of minor devices to protect human life (e.g., grates across mines).

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because no extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

D: Signature

Authorizing Official:  Acting for Date: 9-4-18
Christina Price, Field Manager

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact: David Pals, Geologist, Moab BLM Field Office, Moab, Utah 84532 at 453-259-2100.

Exceptions to Categorical Exclusion Documentation

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) apply. The project would:

Extraordinary Circumstances		
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: Closing abandoned mines on BLM Moab Field Office lands will not cause any adverse health or safety impacts.
2. 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); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There are no unique geographic characteristics nor any special areas in the area of operation. An archaeologist will monitor pre- and post-closure activity. The Utah State Historic Preservation Office has concurred that the Proposed Action will not result any adverse effect to NRHP-eligible resources.
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102 (2) (E)].		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: There is no controversy concerning the Proposed Action.
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: The BLM Moab Field Office has evaluated the closure methods on other sites within the Field Office. There are no unique environmental risks or uncertain effects.
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: Abandoned mine closures occur in other areas of the Moab Field Office. The action establishes no precedents for future actions.
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: The Proposed Action has no direct relationship to other actions which would result in cumulatively significant environmental effects.
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.		

Extraordinary Circumstances

Yes	No X	Rationale: The Utah SHPO has concurred with the BLM's determination of no adverse effect to historic properties as a result of the Proposed Action.
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8. 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.

Yes	No X	Rationale: The Proposed Action would not result in significant impacts to threatened and endangered species or their habitats.
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9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

Yes	No X	Rationale: The action does not violate any laws.
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10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

Yes	No X	Rationale: There are no effects on low income or minority populations
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11. 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).

Yes	No X	Rationale: There are no Indian sacred sites in the area of the Proposed Action.
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12. 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).

Yes	No X	Rationale: The activity would not introduce or spread noxious weeds or non-native invasive species.
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DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2018-143-CX
Abandoned Mine Closures
Brown's Hole Mining Districts, Utah
Categorical Exclusion Review Record

The following elements are not present in the Moab Field Office and have been removed from the checklist:
 Farmlands (Prime or Unique), Wild Horses and Burros.

Resource	Yes/No*	Assigned Specialist Signature	Date
Air Quality	No	<i>M. McLean</i>	8/14/18
Floodplains	No	<i>Robert J. Brown</i>	6-26-18
Water Quality (drinking or ground)	No	<i>D. R. R.</i>	6/26/18
Wetlands / Riparian Zones	No	<i>Robert J. Brown</i>	6-26-18
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	No	<i>K. Stevens</i>	6/26/18
Wild and Scenic Rivers	No	<i>K. Stevens</i>	6/26/18
Wilderness	No	<i>K. Stevens</i>	6-26-18
Native American Religious Concerns	No	<i>J. J.</i>	6/28/18
Cultural Resources	No	<i>J. J.</i>	6/20/18
Environmental Justice	No	<i>K. Stevens</i>	6-26-18
Wastes (hazardous or solid)	No	<i>D. R. R.</i>	6/26/18
Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Animal Species	No	<i>D. R. R.</i>	6/26/18
Migratory Birds	No	<i>D. R. R.</i>	6/26/18
Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Plant Species	No	<i>D. Walker</i>	6/26/18
Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds	No	<i>M. McLean</i>	6/26/18
Other:			

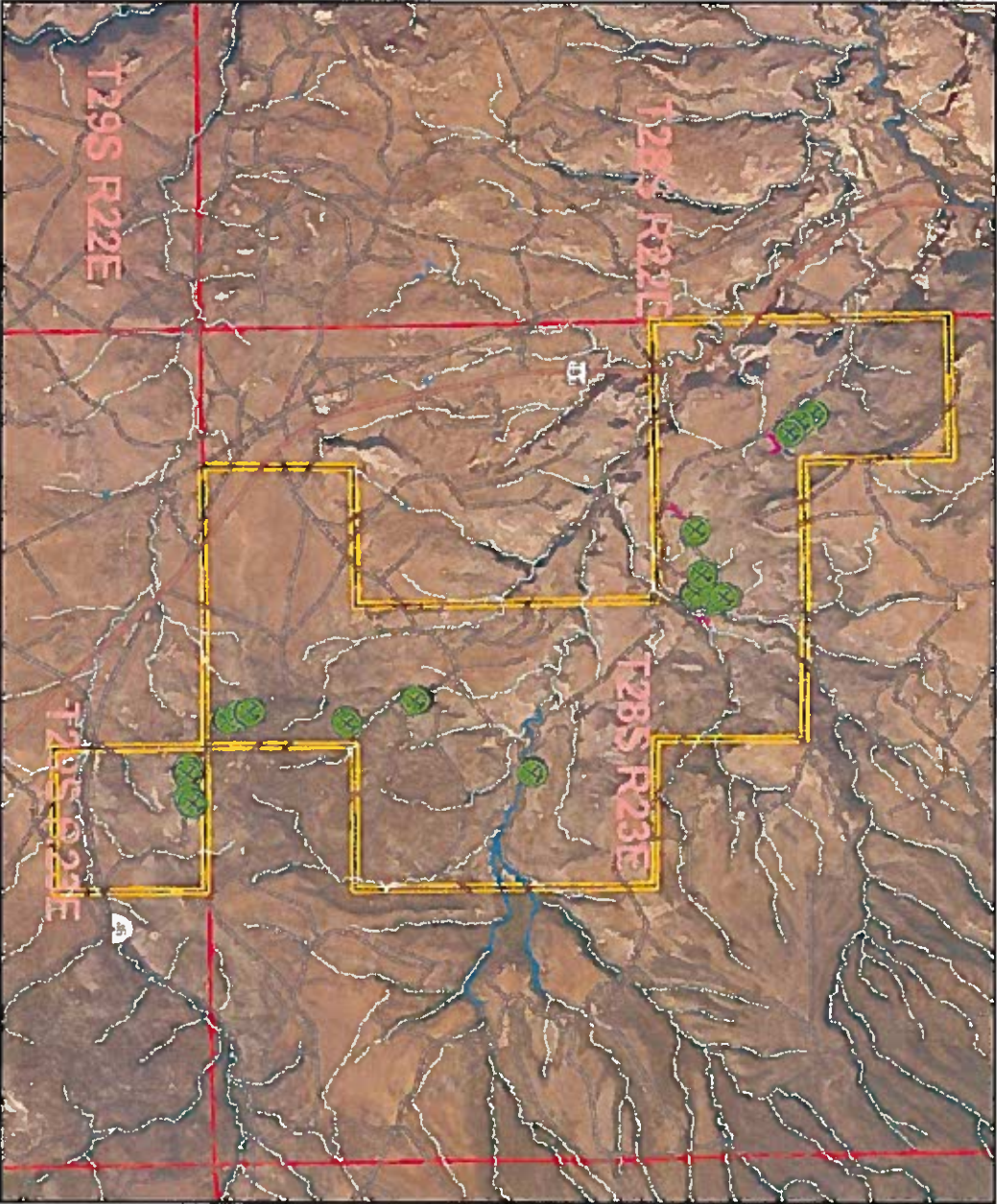
*Extraordinary Circumstances apply.

Environmental Coordinator



Date:

9-4-18



AMR/03/1910
Brown's Hole Project

June 2018

-  MINE SITES
-  SECTION TRANSFER FROM BLM TO STATE OF ARIZONA
-  SECTION TRANSFER FROM BLM TO U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
-  MINE ACCESS
-  WHEEL
-  ATV
-  FOOT
-  Stream and river banks
-  Intermittent streams
-  Shoreline
-  PER EASEMENT PLANS
-  SECTION/STATE PLAT (SECTION 1, 2, 3)
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  Private
-  Public
-  State Trust Lands
-  Other State

