



**U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form**



Program or Field Office: Office of Legacy Management

Project Title and I.D. No.: Invasive species removal and reclamation in Gold Eagle Mining, Inc., lease tract C-SR-13. Uranium Leasing Program. LM No. 34-11.

Location: San Miguel County, Colorado

Proposed Action or Project Description:

Tamarisk proliferation has compromised species diversity, contributed to salinity and sedimentation problems, and reduced water availability for other plants and aquatic life. Multiple agencies and private groups have developed a comprehensive program to eradicate it and other invasive species along the Dolores River between McPhee Dam and the Colorado River.

DOE proposes to allow Gold Eagle Mining, Inc., (GEMI) to exchange royalties due on three lease tracts for in-kind service. Employees of or contractors to GEMI would remove tamarisk and other invasive species along a 3.5-mile segment of the Dolores River that traverses one of their lease tracts. Mechanical (e.g., shears) or manual means (e.g., chain saws or brush clippers) would be used to either remove branches or stems of trees or to remove entire trees. Other nonnative invasive species would also be targeted for removal. Immediately after branches or stems of the tamarisk are cut, a Colorado-licensed pesticide applicator would use hand application methods to treat the cut surfaces. Disturbed areas would be reclaimed and seeded with a mixture approved by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for use along the Dolores River.

Removing the tamarisk and other invasive species would improve habitat for listed and sensitive fish species potentially present in the Dolores River, which is a tributary to the Colorado River.

Short-term and minor impacts associated with these activities would include fugitive dust generation, elevated noise levels, and surface disturbance.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.20: Small-scale activities undertaken to protect, restore, or improve fish and wildlife habitat.

B1.3 (k): Erosion control and soil stabilization measures (such as reseeding and revegetation).

*For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, see Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021.

This action would not threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including DOE and/or Executive Orders; require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include such categorically excluded facilities; disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; or adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B.(4)) of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021). Furthermore, there are no extraordinary circumstances related to this action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the action; this action is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 of 10 CFR 1021.211.

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer:

Tracy A. Ribeiro

Date Determined:

08/24/11

Comments: