

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
 NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION NEVADA FIELD OFFICE
 NEPA ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION CHECKLIST**

NV-2017-029

FOLLOW ATTACHED PROCEDURES FOR COMPLETING CHECKLIST		Date 5/2/2017
A. Project/Activity Title (Attach a brief description of proposed project) USGS Vegetation, Small Mammal, and Reptile Studies		Anticipated Start Date Ongoing

Project Location NSS, Various Areas	Proposed By (if other than NNSA/NFO) US Geological Survey
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NNSA/NFO Line Management Organization	NNSA/NFO Project/Program Manager
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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS: If any phase of the project/activity involves any of the following considerations, check yes and explain in project description. See NFO-16A for consideration guidelines and examples.

CONSIDERATION	YES	NO	UNK	CONSIDERATION	YES	NO	UNK
WASTE				AIR EMISSIONS			
1. Non-Rad Solid Waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Chemical Release	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Hazardous Waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Dust/Particulate Matter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Low-Level Rad Waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Explosives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Mixed Waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Diesel Generators	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. TRU/Mixed TRU Waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Open Burning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Wastewater (domestic/industrial)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS				SITE LOCATION/OTHER			
1. Petroleum/Fuel Storage/Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Environmental Restoration Site (CAU)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Underground Storage Tanks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Excavation/Land Surface Disturbance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Aboveground Storage Tanks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Off Road Travel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. PCBs/Asbestos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Biological/Tortoise Resource Area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Pesticides/Herbicides	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Cultural/Historic Resource Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Radioactive Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Change in Existing Drainage Pattern	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Biological Materials/Simulants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Impact to Environmental Monitoring System	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Beryllium	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Unexploded Ordnance Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Chemical Storage/Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Use of Explosives/Firearms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Radiation Controlled Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				11. Drinking Water System Involvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DO NOT TYPE OR WRITE BELOW THIS LINE. FOR NEPA COMPLIANCE OFFICER USE ONLY.

B. Is the project/activity included in the final NNS SWEIS and the ROD or other NEPA document?
 Yes (complete Sections C, D, and F) No (complete Sections D, E, and F)

C. This project/activity is included in the NNS SWEIS/ROD (or other NEPA document) under the following section and page number:

D. Does the proposed project/activity require any local, state, or federal permits or notifications? Yes No

E. If, based on the project description and the preliminary environmental considerations noted above, the proposed action fits within a class of action listed in Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021, write in the space below the paragraph number and short title from the appropriate table of contents of Subpart D, Appendix B, C, or D, for a CX, EA, or EIS. If the proposed action does not fit within any class of action, write "Not Listed" below.
 10 CFR 1021, B3.3 Research related to conservation of fish, wildlife, and cultural resources

F. NEPA COMPLIANCE OFFICER DETERMINATION OR RECOMMENDATION:
 I have determined that the proposed action as described in Item A has been adequately analyzed and meets the requirements for categorical exclusion under the citation in Item E. No further analysis or documentation is required pursuant to NEPA. Any changes or additions to this proposed action will require additional NEPA review.

<p align="center">_____ NNSA/NFO NEPA Compliance Officer</p>	<p><u>5/8/2017</u> Date</p>
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Project Description:

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is the sole science agency for the U.S. Department of the Interior. Its mission is to provide reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life.

At the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) biologists would continue to work with the common garden experiment that is designed to improve restoration methodologies for native desert species on a former equipment yard in Jackass Flats. This project is in collaboration between the USGS, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service, and would be used to identify plants that would perform well in restoration programs, determine if there are deleterious genetic effects from planting species from one area to another, and predict how native species would respond to climate change. This project would also aid in the development of seed transfer zones for native desert species used in restoration.

Ecological research and monitoring would be conducted from permanent study plots established in the 1960s located in various Areas of the NNSS as well as several locations that extend off-site. Ecological data would be collected in order to evaluate changes in vegetation, desert tortoise interactions, rodent species diversity, reptile genetics (including desert tortoises) and dust deposits within the Mojave and Great Basin Desert ecosystems on the NNSS.

This work would not affect natural or cultural resources. There are no surface or below surface disturbances involved. All sites in this project would be accessed on established roads that have been used for over 50 years.

Environmental Considerations:

Site Location/Other

S-4: Biological/Tortoise Resource Area

Research would be conducted within pens that were established decades ago for desert tortoise research at the NNSS. The research would involve attaching data loggers to desert tortoises that were placed there for the research project. All the necessary state and federal Scientific Collection Permits required for the work have been obtained. Research would comply with all requirements of the permits.