

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management



Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed action title: Regenerative Grazing Study with the University of Wyoming

Program or field office: Office of Legacy Management (LM)

LM Categorical Exclusion Evaluation no.: LM 04-26

Location(s) (LM site name or city, county, state): Shirley Basin South, Wyoming, Disposal Site

Proposed Action Description

The Office of Legacy Management (LM) is proposing to continue a regenerative grazing study at the Shirley Basin South site (SBS) and surrounding properties in partnership with the University of Wyoming. The original three year project to study the impacts of regenerative grazing practices was initiated by LM in summer 2020. LM has requested that the regenerative grazing study extend to include May 2026 through April 2029, and likely beyond. The study would evaluate grazing actions that occur in areas at the LM site and at the Shirley Basin North Site owned by the Pathfinder Mines Corporation and adjacent Bureau of Land Management lands. The study would be performed by the University of Wyoming with LM contractor oversight and would investigate soil carbon levels in relation to historic and current land use, rangeland condition, diversity in introduced ecological species, and impacts of grazing. The proposed action may include site visits to other grazed LM sites to conduct visual comparisons. These actions would contribute to the long-term stewardship and beneficial reuse of the site and to LM goals.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied

B3.1 – Site characterization and environmental monitoring

For the DOE procedures regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations Part 1021.102 (10 CFR 1021.102) and Appendix B to 10 CFR 1021, and also Section 5.4 (Applying one or more categorical exclusions to a proposal) and Appendixes B and C to DOE’s National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025).

Requirements and guidance in 10 CFR 1021.102 and DOE’s NEPA Implementing Procedures: (see full text in regulation and in implementing procedures)

- The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR 1021 or Appendix B and C to DOE’s NEPA implementing procedures.
To fit within the classes of actions listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR 1021, or Appendix B of DOE’s NEPA implementing procedures, a proposal must satisfy the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of actions in Appendix B of both 10 CFR 1021 and DOE’s NEPA procedures.
- There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. DOE or an applicant may modify the proposal to avoid reasonably foreseeable adverse significant effects such that the categorical exclusion would apply.
- The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

[Note: For proposals that fit within the categorical exclusions listed in Appendix C to DOE’s NEPA Implementing Procedures, see DOE’s notice of adoption for the subject Appendix C categorical exclusion for additional considerations. DOE notices of adoption for other agency categorical exclusions may be found on DOE’s Section 109: Adopting Categorical Exclusions webpage.]

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA compliance officer, I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other requirements and guidance set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

JENNIFER
O'BRIEN

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Date: 2026.04.07 16:17:37
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NEPA Compliance Officer
Select "Lock document after signing" upon signature.

Date determined