

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION STATEMENT

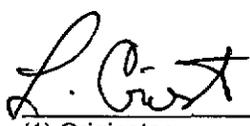
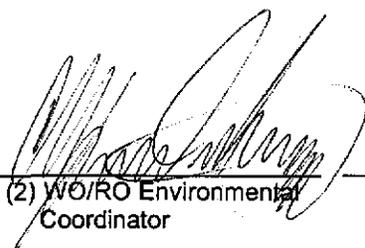
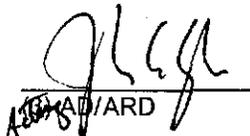
Within the spirit and intent of the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and other statutes, orders, and policies that protect fish and wildlife resources, I have established the following administrative record and determined that the action of (describe action):

Check One:

- is a categorical exclusion as provided by 51 6 DM 2, Appendix 1 and 516 DM 6, Appendix 1. No further NEPA documentation will therefore be made.
- is found not to have significant environmental effects as determined by the attached environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.
- is found to have significant effects and, therefore, further consideration of this action will require a notice of intent to be published in the Federal Register announcing the decision to prepare an EIS.
- is not approved because of unacceptable environmental damage, or violation of Fish and Wildlife Service mandates, policy, regulations, or procedures.
- is an emergency action within the context of 40 CFR 1506.11. Only those actions necessary to control the immediate impacts of the emergency will be taken. Other related actions remain subject to NEPA review.

Other supporting documents (list):

Signature Approval:

 _____ (1) Originator	<u>2/3/05</u> Date	 _____ (2) W/O/RO Environmental Coordinator	<u>9/15/05</u> Date
 _____ AD/ARD	<u>9/16/05</u> Date	 _____ (4) Director/Regional Director	<u>9/19/05</u> Date

ACTING

NEPA COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

State: Utah Federal Financial Assistance Grant/Agreement/Amendment Number:

Grant/Project Name: UTAH PRAIRIE DOG HABITAT SAFE HARBOR AGREEMENT TO RESTORE UTAH PRAIRIE DOG HABITAT ON PRIVATE LAND IN SOUTHWESTERN UTAH

This proposal is; is not completely covered by categorical exclusion C6 in 516 DM 2, Appendix ; and/or ~~516 DM 6, Appendix 1, Section 1.4 C.(1)~~ Site DMS Section 516 DM 8.5 C.(1).
 check (✓) one) (Review proposed activities. An appropriate categorical exclusion must be identified before completing the remainder of the Checklist. If a categorical exclusion cannot be identified, or the proposal cannot meet the qualifying criteria in the categorical exclusion, or an extraordinary circumstance applies (see below), an EA must be prepared.)

Extraordinary Circumstances:

Will This Proposal (check (✓) yes or no for each item below):

Yes No

- 1. Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety.
 The proposed action will have no adverse effects on public health or safety.
- 2. Have significant adverse effects 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 (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas under Federal ownership or jurisdiction.
 The proposed action is on private land that has been grazed and farmed for many years. Therefore there will be no significant adverse effects on unique geographic characteristics, 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 (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas under Federal ownership or jurisdiction. The land has been previously farmed and grazed and therefore it is unlikely that any historical or cultural resources will be affected. However, before any ground disturbance commences, a clearance will be performed by an archeologist.
- 3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].
 The proposed action is not highly controversial.
- 4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.
 The proposed action has no potentially significant environmental effects or unknown risks.
- 5. Have a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.
 The proposed action does have the potential to lead to additional actions of translocation of Utah prairie dogs (UPD) to private land. However, the landowner will be permitted under a safe harbor permit, to remove the animals at the end of the term of the permit. This action will not have a significant environmental effect.
- 6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.
 The proposed action does not have a direct relationship with other actions which individually or cumulatively could have significant environmental effects.
- 7. Have significant adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office, the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, or a consulting party under 36 CFR 800.
 The proposed project is located on private land which has been farmed and grazed throughout the past 50 years. Therefore it is unlikely to have adverse effect properties listed or eligible for listing on the National historic register, the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. However, prior to any ground disturbing activities, a clearance by an archeologist will occur.
- 8. Have significant adverse effects on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.
 If successful, the proposed project will result in an additional colony of Utah prairie dogs within the Paunsaugant recovery area.
- 9. Have the possibility of violating a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

The proposed project will not violate any Federal, State or tribal law.

10. Have the possibility for a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

The proposed project is located in rural Utah and will potentially have a positive impact on the local rancher.

11. Have the possibility to 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).

The proposed project will not limit access to any tribal lands or sacred sites.

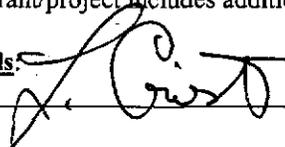
12. Have the possibility to significantly contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).

The proposed project will not promote or contribute to the spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species. In fact, the proposed project will result in increased native grasses and forbs which will benefit both Utah prairie dogs and cattle.

(If any of the above extraordinary circumstances receive a Yes No check (✓), an EA must be prepared.)

Yes No This grant/project includes additional information supporting the Checklist.

Concurrences/Approvals:

Project Leader: 

Date: 2/3/05

State Authority Concurrence: _____

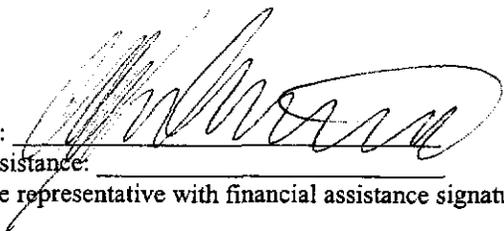
Date: _____

(with financial assistance signature authority, if applicable)

Within the spirit and intent of the Council of Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other statutes, orders, and policies that protect fish and wildlife resources, I have established the following administrative record and have determined that the grant/agreement/amendment:

- is a categorical exclusion as provided by 516 DM 6, Appendix 1 and/or 516 DM 2, Appendix 1. No further NEPA documentation will therefore be made.
- is not completely covered by the categorical exclusion as provided by 516 DM 6, Appendix 1 and/or 516 DM 2, Appendix 1. An EA must be prepared.

Service signature approval:

RO or WO Environmental Coordinator: 

Date: 9/15/05

Staff Specialist, Division of Federal Assistance: _____

Date: _____

(or authorized Service representative with financial assistance signature authority)

NOTICE

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501et seq.), please be advised that:

1. The gathering of information from potential grant recipients is authorized by The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347). NEPA requires that a number of items be considered prior to any activity under a grant.
2. The submission of requested information is required for entities competing for federal assistance grants. This completed checklist is a record that these NEPA issues were considered prior to commencing grant activity.
3. You are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.
4. This information collection has been approved by OMB and assigned clearance number 1018-0110.
5. *The requested information may be subject to disclosure under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).*

The public reporting burden for the information collected on this form is 30 minutes. This burden estimate includes time for reviewing instructions, gathering data, and completing and reviewing form. Comments on this form should be mailed to the Information Collection Officer, Mail Stop 222, Arlington Square, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, DC 20240. Thank you.