

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION

CX No. DOI-BLM-ID-B011-2012-0005-CX

A. BACKGROUND

BLM Office: Four Rivers Field Office and Morely Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey/NCA

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: IDI-37196

Proposed Action Title/Type: Grand View PV Solar One, LLC Access Road ROW

Location of Proposed Action: T. 4 S, R. 4 E, Section 31: E2NE,
(See attached map Exhibit A, dated December 13, 2011)

Description of Proposed Action: Grand View PV Solar One, LLC (Grand View Solar) submitted an application for a right-of-way (ROW) for an access road across the above described public lands. The existing road is under a current ROW authorization to the J.R. Simplot Company (dba GrandView Farms). Grand View Solar is constructing a solar farm on private lands owned by the Simplot Company and needs legal access across public lands to reach their construction site. Because this is a commercial purpose, Grand View Solar is required to acquire its own ROW on the road. The ROW would be approximately 800 feet long by 20 feet wide for a total of 0.04 acres. The grant would be issued for a period of 30 years and would be subject to the terms and conditions set out in 43 CFR 2800, as well as those stipulations attached as Exhibit B, dated December 13, 2011.

This right-of-way would be authorized under Title V of the Federal Land Management and Policy Act (October 21, 1976; 43 CFR 2800) which allows BLM to authorize (ROWs) for this type of land use.

The ROW would be used to provide sole access to private property where an approximately 160-acre photovoltaic solar generation facility would be constructed. The photovoltaic facility would be a closed system and would not use water for electrical generation. Water would be used for the periodic cleaning of the cells. Grand View Solar has not acquired any water rights for this project. An existing powerline on the western boundary of the private property would be used to transmit electricity generated by the facility. Vehicle use would increase over current levels during the construction phase, but would return to current use levels when construction is completed.

B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

Land Use Plan Name: Snake River Birds of Prey NCA RMP Dated: September 30, 2008

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions): Chapter 2 – Management Objectives and Management Actions 2.11

Lands and Realty of the Resource Management Plan (RMP) states, "All lands and realty proposals undergo site-specific NEPA analysis, and must be compatible with the purposes for which the NCA was established." There are many uses of this type authorized in the NCA; therefore, this ROW is not an incompatible use for the area.

C: COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA:

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 1.9 E (12).

Category Description:

Grants of rights-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed rights-of-way.

Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances Review: Before any non-Energy Act CX is used, you must conduct sufficient review to determine if any of the following extraordinary circumstances apply (516 DM 2, Appendix 2). If any of the extraordinary circumstances are applicable to the action being considered, either an EA or an EIS must be prepared for the action. Part 516 of the Departmental Manual (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) states that extraordinary circumstances exist for individual actions within CXs which may: (Mark applicable answer for each item. If "yes", prepare an EA/EIS and append this form to it.)

The following list of Extraordinary Circumstances (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) were considered:

1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.

NO, does not apply

Comments/Explanation: There would be no impacts on public health or safety as the road is an existing road that has been used for many years to access private farm ground and is currently under a right-of-way to the private property owner. There would be no impacts to public safety from the indirect effect of building a photovoltaic solar generation facility on the associated private land because access would be controlled by Grand View Solar and the private land owner.

Specialist Signature/Date:

/s/Kelley Moore 12/12/11

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; or ecologically significant or critical areas, or is not in compliance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

NO, does not apply

Comments/Explanation: The proposed ROW occurs in the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA), established to provide nesting and foraging habitat for resident and migratory birds of prey. It would be granted on an existing road that

