

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Twin Falls District
Shoshone Field Office
400 West F Street
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2012-0026-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: Shoshone Field Office. Lease/Serial/Case File No.: IDI-23532

Proposed Action Title/Type: Cox Communications TV Cable Right-of-Way Renewal

Location of Proposed Action: Boise Meridian, Blaine County, Idaho; Township 4 North, Range 17 East, Section 1: A portion of Lots 2, 5, 8, Section 24: A portion of the NW¹/₄NE¹/₄, a portion of the NE¹/₄NW¹/₄, a portion of the S¹/₂NW¹/₄; Township 5 North, Range 17 East, Section 26: A portion of the NW¹/₄NW¹/₄, a portion of the SE¹/₄NW¹/₄, a portion of the E¹/₂SE¹/₄SW¹/₄; Township 4 North, Range 18 East, Section 20: A portion of the NW¹/₄SE¹/₄.

Description of Proposed Action: The Bureau of Land Management, Shoshone Field Office (BLM) has received an application from Cox Communications (Cox) to renew a right-of-way (IDI-23532) to access and authorize both overhead and underground TV cable lines across public lands in Blaine County, Idaho near the cities of Ketchum and Sun Valley. The TV cable lines provide service to residents and businesses in Blaine County. The original right-of-way was issued on March 18, 1987, for a period of 25 years.

The right-of-way is 10 feet wide and approximately 2.65 miles in length. The total area encompassed by the right-of-way is about 3.2 acres. Access to the TV cable lines would utilize existing roads with a minimal amount of cross-country travel. The application to renew the TV cable right-of-way does not include any new improvements, modifications, or surface disturbance. See Attachment A, Cox Communications TV Cable Right-of-Way Renewal Location Map.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Sun Valley Management Framework Plan (MFP)

Date Approved/Amended: 1982

The proposed action is specifically provided for in the Sun Valley Analysis Unit Lands Decisions #2 (p. SV-2), which states: "Utility rights-of-way will be allowed if consistent with county planning and zoning ordinances. All construction will be designed to be as unobtrusive as practical (i.e. buried utility lines, placement of structures, color, design, etc.)." It is also in conformance with the Big Wood Analysis Unit Lands Decision Number 2 (pp. BW-2) which states: "Allow rights-of-way for utility and transportation purposes (both public and private), provided the uses comply with all requirements of this plan. Rights-of-way applications will be examined on a case-by-case basis to determine routes, impacts, and mitigating measures."

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 11.9 E(9). 516 DM 11.9 E(9) states: “Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.” The proposed renewal of the right-of-way for the TV cable lines does not include any new improvements, modifications, or surface disturbance nor does it include any additional rights beyond those granted by the original authorization. Therefore, the proposed action qualifies to be processed as a categorical exclusion.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply. See Attachment B, Cox Communications TV Cable Right-of-Way Renewal Categorical Exclusion Review Sheet.

Based on my review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the applicable land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. I have decided to approve the action as proposed. A renewed right-of-way will be offered to Cox to operate and maintain both overhead and underground TV cable lines, including access, across public land in Blaine County, Idaho. See Attachment C, Draft Cox Communications Renewed Right-of-Way, IDI-23532.

D. Signature

Authorizing Official: /s/ Holly Hampton Acting For Date: 9/6/2012
Name: Jim Tharp
Title: Acting Field Manager

E. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this Categorical Exclusion, contact Tara Hagen, Realty Specialist, at 400 West F Street, Shoshone, Idaho; (208) 732-7205; or via email at thagen@blm.gov.

F. Attachments

Attachment A, Cox Communications TV Cable Right-of-Way Renewal Location Map
Attachment B, Cox Communications TV Cable Right-of-Way Renewal Categorical Exclusion Review Sheet.
Attachment C, Draft Cox Communications Renewed Right-of-Way, IDI-23532