

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Coeur d'Alene District, Idaho

Categorical Exclusion Documentation
and
Decision

Elk City Mill Site Lease Renewal and Assignment

Office: Cottonwood Field Office

NEPA Register No. DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2012-0016-CX

Subject Code/Case File No.: IDI-17381 and IDI-37284

Location: Idaho County, Idaho; Elk City

Boise Meridian

T. 29 N., R. 8 E.,

sec. 33, lots 5, 13 and 14, (Green Future LLC.)

sec. 33, N1/2 SW1/4 NE1/4 SW1/4, N1/2 SE1/4 NW1/4 SW1/4. (Idaho County)

Description of the Proposed Action

The BLM is evaluating a request from Green Future, LLC and the Idaho County Commissioners to assign an existing land use permit from Shearer Lumber to the subject parties. Green Future, LLC and the Idaho County Commissioners have requested that Shearer Lumber's existing lease (IDI-17381) be split into two separate leases with the modified IDI-17381 being assigned to Green Future, LLC and the 'new' lease (IDI-37284) being assigned to Idaho County. Both leases would be 'renewed' for 3 years. The location of the proposed action is generally known as the Elk City Mill Site located on HWY 14, approximately 1.5 air miles west of Elk City. (See map provided.)

Shearer Lumber's main office building and a small part of their storage yard are located within the approximate 10 acre portion of IDI-17381 on the **north side** of the South Fork of the Clearwater River. The application requests that Green Future, LLC acquire this portion of the old lease for the purpose of office space for on-site crews and minimal storing of core samples from exploration drilling in the existing building. No processing and/or milling of any materials would be conducted on site; and, no new structures would be constructed.

Shearer Lumber had sub-leased the other 10 acres (approximate) of IDI-17381 located on the **south side** of the South Fork of the Clearwater River to Idaho County for the purposes of housing a road department facility. This portion of the old lease would be split off and become a new lease assigned to Idaho County to be utilized in the same way as the existing purposes. The only exception would be that a small lean-to would be added to the existing building in order for the road department to protect materials and resources needed for road maintenance and improvements.

Land Use Plan Conformance

This proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with the Cottonwood Resource Management Plan (RMP), approved December 21, 2009. It is consistent with the following decision from the RMP:

Objective LR-1.2 – Consider all requests for Right-of-Way, Land Use Permits and Leases. Page 49.

Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The proposed action is excluded from further documentation under NEPA in accordance with the BLM categorical exclusion (CX) established in 516 DM 11.9 E. 9: “Renewals and assignments of leases, permits or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.” Application of this CX is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed (attachment), and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 exist.

Conclusion

In reviewing the proposed action, I considered that the project would meet the needs of the public through Special Use Permits with no or minimal impact to natural resources. The project has been designed to incorporate design features that are common for 2920 Leases. The proposal has little or no impacts on natural resources, and therefore does not warrant further review through an EA or EIS.

Decision

It is my decision to proceed with renewing and assigning Special Use Permits IDI-17381 to Green Future LLC. and IDI-37284 to Idaho County Commissioners for a term of 3 years.

Authorizing Official: Signed by Will Runnoe Date: 05/18/2012
Will Runnoe, Field Manager

Contact: For additional information, contact Jeff Cartwright, Realty Specialist, at (208) 962-3680.

Administrative Review Procedures

This decision may be appealed under the regulations found at 43 CFR Part 4. In accordance with the right-of-way regulations found at 43 CFR 2801.10(a) and (b), all BLM right-of-way decisions remain in effect pending appeal unless the Secretary of the Interior rules otherwise, or as noted in this part. A petition for a stay of a BLM decision under this part of the regulations may be filed with the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Department of Interior.

**Categorical Exclusion Documentation -- Extraordinary Circumstances Review
Elk City Mill Site Lease Renewal and Assignment**

NEPA Register No: DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2012-0016-CX

CX Reference No: 516 DM 11.9 E. 9

	NO	INITIAL
<i>Will this project</i> have significant adverse effects on public health or safety?	X	JSC SS
<i>Will this project</i> adversely affect such unique geographic characteristics as:		
historic or cultural resources;	X	DS
park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers;	X	JSC
sole or principal drinking water aquifers;	X	CAJ
prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988);	X	CAJ
or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department of the Interior's National Register of Natural Landmarks?	X	JSC
<i>Will this project</i> have highly controversial environmental effects (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	X	LSW
<i>Will this project</i> have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	X	JSC SS
<i>Will this project</i> establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	X	JSC
<i>Will this project</i> be related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?	X	LSW
<i>Will this project</i> have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?	X	DS
<i>Will this project</i> have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Threatened or Endangered Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species?	X	CAJ
<i>Will this project</i> threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	X	JSC
<i>Will this project</i> have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations? (Executive Order 12898 -- Environmental Justice)	X	JSC
<i>Will this project</i> 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 – Sacred Sites)	X	DS
<i>Will this project</i> 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, Executive Order 13112)	X	LDanly

Reviewers and Comments

Specialist	Name	Comment	Date
Realty	Jeff Cartwright	Project Lead; Cost Recovery Paid	4/30/12
Mining	Scott Sanner	Proposed Comparable to Existing	5/15/12
Archeologist	Dave Sisson	DS No Concerns	5/2/12
Biologist	Craig Johnson	CAJ See Clearance Form and Memo	5/11/12
Natural Resource Specialist	Lynn Danly	Existing Authorization, no weed issues	4/30/12
NEPA Coordinator	Lorrie West	LUP Conformance & Applicable CX Confirmation	5/17/17