

**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 REVIEW SHEET**

**NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2012-0030-CX**

**A. Project Description**

The Shoshone Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received a right-of-way application from Red Bridge Farms, LLC to use and maintain an existing dirt roadway on public lands in Jerome County, Idaho. The proposed right-of-way would authorize the use of a roadway on public lands for a term of 30 years, at which time the authorization could be terminated or re-authorized. The existing roadway is approximately 675 feet long and 35 feet wide and has a gravel surface. The right-of-way grant will authorize the road to be maintained in its current condition using standard practices; however, no changes to the roads profile or location is authorized under this grant.

**B. Consideration of Extraordinary Circumstances**

This Categorical Exclusion Review Sheet documents the review of the proposed action to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 apply. If any of the extraordinary circumstances apply to the proposed action, then an EA or EIS must be prepared. Any evidence or concerns that one or more of the exceptions may apply must be brought to the attention of the manager who is authorized to approve the proposed action.

1. The proposed action would not have any significant impacts on public health or safety.

The use and maintenance of this access road would not have any significant impacts on public health and safety. The right-of-way would contain terms, conditions and stipulations that would require Red Bridge Farms to comply with applicable Federal, State and County Standards. The authorized officer has the ability to suspend or terminate in whole or in part the right-of-way grant if unforeseen conditions arise which result in the approved terms and conditions being inadequate to protect the public health and safety or to protect the environment.

2. The proposed action would not 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; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

There are no natural resources and 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; national monuments; or other ecologically significant or critical areas have been identified within the area impacted by the proposed action.

A cultural resource review and survey was conducted for the project area on July 12, 2012. The review revealed no previously recorded sites within the project area and no new sites were discovered during the field inventory. It was determined with concurrence from the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) that there would be no effect to National Register listed or eligible cultural resources.

A review of special status wildlife species was completed September 10, 2012 and included a review of migratory birds. The result of the review was a full clearance that identified the project would not adversely impact the identified special status species or their habitat. The special status wildlife species assessment is in the decision record and is available upon request.

The Red Bridge Farms access road was surveyed on August 24, 2012 for potential habitat/occurrences of Picabo milkvetch (*Astragalus oniciformis*). No habitat was found during the field survey and it was determined that granting the right-of-way would not impact any special status plant habitat. The special status plant species assessment is located in the decision record and is available upon request.

3. The proposed action would not have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].

The proposed action is in conformance with the Monument Resource Management Plan (RMP), approved in 1985. The RMP established the land use allocation and goals for the affected public land; as such, there are no unresolved conflict regarding other uses of these resources.

4. The proposed action would not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

The proposed action does not involve highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. Through the review of biological and cultural survey reports and discussions within interdisciplinary meetings no effects have been identified that may involve highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

5. The proposed action would not establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

The proposed action is not connected to another action that would require further environmental analysis and would not set a precedent for future actions that would normally require environmental analysis.

6. The proposed action would not have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

The proposed action does not have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

7. The proposed action would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.

A cultural resource review and survey was conducted for the project area on July 12, 2012. The review revealed no previously recorded sites within the project area and no new sites were discovered during the field inventory. It was determined with concurrence from the SHPO that there would be no effect to National Register listed or eligible cultural resources.

8. The proposed action would not have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated critical habitat for these species.

A review of special status wildlife species was completed September 10, 2012 and included a review of migratory birds. The result of the review was a full clearance that identified the project would not adversely impact the identified special status species or their habitat. The special status wildlife species assessment is in the decision record and is available upon request.

9. The proposed action would not violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

The BLM issues right-of-way grants accordance with Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the BLM regulations at 43 CFR 2800. Under these regulations the right-of-way grant would specify that all applicable Federal, State and local laws be adhered to. The BLM has the ability to suspend and/or terminate the right-of-way if a Federal, State or local laws is violated. There are no tribal laws in effect for the project area.

10. The proposed action would not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

The proposed action would not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898). The effect would be the same as for the general population in the general area.

11. The proposed action would not limit access to ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).

No restrictions on accessing this area would result from granting the proposed right-of-way.

12. The proposed action would not 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 right-of-way grant would contain stipulations that would require Red Bridge Farms to be responsible for weed control on the disturbed areas within the limits of the right-of-way.

### **C. Consultation and Preparation**

Resource surveys and review of the potential impacts of the proposed action was completed by the following:

Kasey Prestwich, Realty Specialist/Project Lead  
Gary Wright, Wildlife Biologist  
Lisa Cresswell, Archeologist/Shoshone Field Office NEPA Coordinator  
Danelle Nance, Natural Resource Specialist