

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
FOUR RIVERS FIELD OFFICE

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW**

**CX No.** DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2012-0032-CX

**A. BACKGROUND**

**BLM Office:** Four Rivers Field Office

**Lease/Serial/Case File No.:** IDI-37292

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Gold Hill Reclamation and Mining, Inc.

**Location of Proposed Action:** Boise County, Idaho  
Boise Meridian  
T. 7 N., R. 4 E.,  
sec. 9; MS 2865;  
sec. 9; lots 22, 23 and 24.  
(See attached Exhibit A)

**Description of Proposed Action:**

The Proposed Action is for a right-of-way grant (*wholly within an existing right-of-way IDI-28483*) for a term of 10-years. The right-of-way (ROW) would be for the commercial use of Gold Hill Reclamation and Mining Inc. to haul ore from their operation site near the town of Quartzburg to their processing site on private lands. The existing roadway is approximately 0.38 miles in length and has a width that varies but is no greater than a 20 feet wide road surface. The grant would allow for the operation and maintenance of a length of road 2,000-feet x 12-feet wide for across federal public lands.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is authorized under Title V of the Federal Land Management and Policy Act (FLPMA) of October 21, 1976: 43 CFR § 2802 to issue a FLPMA ROW grant. This grant would be subject to the terms and conditions found at 43 CFR § 2800, as well as those stipulations that would be incorporated into the right-of-way grant if approved.

**B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE**

**Land Use Plan Name:** Cascade Resource Management Plan

**Date Approved / Amended:** July, 1988

**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):**

Lands and Realty Management under Section II of the RMP states the following:

*“Rights-of-way, under Title V of FLPMA, will be considered in the Cascade Resource Area except where specifically identified in the RMP for avoidance. (Page 43)*

**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 11.9E (12)**.

**Category Description:**

“(12) Grants of right-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed rights-of-way“

**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:* The proposed hauling action along this road would be similar and compatible to the existing use of the road. Haul trucks would be required to cover their loads as necessary to prevent dust, etc. Authorization of this action would not likely have any adverse impacts to public health or safety.

Specialist Signature/Date: */s/ Carrie Wontorcik* 6/12/2012

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**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 issuance of a road ROW wholly within an existing road ROW would not have any effect on natural resources or unique geographic characteristics such as those listed above. The previous road ROW was issued in 1991 in response to a trespass situation (commercial use without authorization) of the existing access road to the historic town site of Quartzburg, Idaho which is all privately owned.

Archeologist Signature/Date: */s/ Dean C. Shaw* 8/7/2012  
Botany Specialist Signature/Date: */s/ Mark Steiger* 6/11/2012  
Natural Resource Specialist Signature/Date: */s/ Lonnie Huter* 6/13/2012  
Riparian Specialist Signature/Date: */s/ James A. Tarter* 6/12/2012  
Realty Specialist Signature/Date: */s/ Jeremy Bluma* 6/13/2012  
Wildlife Specialist Signature/Date: */s/ Jill C. Holderman* 6/11/2012

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**3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].**

NO, does not apply.

*Comments/Explanation:* Scientific controversy or unresolved conflicts would not occur from the commercial use of hauling ore over this road. The effects are known and understood and any fugitive dust from the activities would be required to be mitigated.

Specialist Signature/Date: */s/ Jeremy Bluma* 6/13/2012

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**4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.**





**12. 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).**

NO, does not apply. *Comments/Explanation:* Noxious weeds could potentially occur from granting the proposed ROW grant for hauling. The terms, conditions, and/or stipulations of the grant would include the requirement for the grant holder to treat, monitor, and retreat as necessary, consistent with established BLM procedures, to prevent infestations from establishing and spreading in the project area. Based on BLM's experience, these terms, conditions and stipulations along with compliance site inspections allow proper mitigation of any weed introduction or spread. Thus, BLM anticipates that this would reduce the existence or spread of noxious/invasive plant species from the proposed action.

Specialist Signature/Date:                     /s/ Lonnie Huter                    6/13/2012                    

**D: SIGNATURE**

I certify that none of the Departmental exceptions (Extraordinary Circumstances) listed in the above Part II (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action; therefore, this categorical exclusion would be appropriate for this situation.

Authorizing Official: */s/ Terry A. Humphrey*                    Date: 10/12/2012

Terry A. Humphrey  
Four Rivers Field Manager

**Prepared By/Contact Person:**

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