

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

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

Corral Creek Gates

Office: Cottonwood Field Office

NEPA Register No. DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2012-0019-CX

Subject Code/Case File No.:

Location: Nez Perce County, Idaho; Corral Creek

Boise Meridian, T. 31 N., R. 4 W., section(s) 7 and 18

Description of the Proposed Action

The BLM, Cottonwood Field Office, is planning to install metal gates in the late summer of 2012 on two roads in the Corral Creek drainage of the Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area to restrict unauthorized vehicle access for wildlife security and habitat protection (see attached map). The proposed gates would be on the North Bench Road (section 7) and Rydemski Road (section 18). A treated wooden fence post would be planted on each side of the road at a place adequate to prevent vehicle use of the road and a metal gate such as a tube gate will be mounted on one post. The post on the other side of the road will be positioned so the gate swings shut against it. Chains and locks will be affixed to both posts to prevent opening and non-authorized use of the road. If necessary a small length of fence may need to be constructed adjacent to the gate posts to complete the barrier against the road bank. The required fencing is estimated to be no more than 10-15 feet in length and a maximum of three additional wooden posts or metal t-posts, with wood poles or wire fencing. A short post would be partially buried to support the free end of the gate in its open position as well as adjacent to the gatepost for the gate to rest upon in its closed position. Signage would be placed where appropriate to advise the public of the gates and road use restrictions.

Land Use Plan Conformance

The proposed action conforms to the Cottonwood Resource Management Plan, as it was approved in December 2009. The RMP designated the two roads as travel routes that are "Closed to All Motorized Vehicle Travel Yearlong" (RMP Action TM-1.2.1, page 45 and Appendix O, Map 5). The action is further consistent with the identification of the Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area as a priority emphasis area for managing roads to maintain or improve wildlife security when possible (Action WS-1.6.6, p. 27). The project has been planned in coordination with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, consistent with an agreement for management of the area.

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, G(2). This CX is for “installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, waterbars, gates, or cattleguards on/or adjacent to roads and trails identified in any land use or transportation plan, or eligible for incorporation in such plan.”

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, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 exist. In reviewing the proposed action, I considered that the installation of the gates would result in minor disturbance to the existing roads and has been designed to require minimal maintenance toward preventing unauthorized use of the closed roads.

Signature

Authorizing Official: signed by
Will Runnoe, Field Manager

Date: 9/7/2012

Contact: For additional information, contact Lynn Danly, Natural Resource Specialist, 208-962-3797.

**Categorical Exclusion Documentation -- Extraordinary Circumstances Review
Corral Creek Gates**

NEPA Register No: DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2012-0019-CX

CX Reference No: 516 DM 11.9, G(2)

<i>The following must be answered negatively before the CX may be approved</i> (43 CFR 46.215)	No	Reviewer
<i>Will this project</i> have significant adverse effects on public health or safety?	X	LD
<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	JC
sole or principal drinking water aquifers;	X	CAJ
prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988);	X	LD
or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department of the Interior's National Register of Natural Landmarks?	X	LD CAJ
<i>Will this project</i> have highly controversial environmental effects (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	X	LD
<i>Will this project</i> have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	X	LD
<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	LW
<i>Will this project</i> be related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?	X	LD
<i>Will this project</i> have adverse affects 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	CAJ
<i>Will this project</i> have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations? (Executive Order 12898 -- Environmental Justice)	X	LD
<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	LD

Reviewers and Comments

Specialist	Name	Comment	Date
Natural Resource Spec.	Lynn Danly	Project Lead, existing road on a weed control project area, no additional weed issues.	09/04/12
Outdoor Rec Planner	Judy Culver		
Biologist	Craig Johnson	TES Clearance and Memo	07/30/12
Archeologist	David Sisson	Cultural Clearance Memo	09/04/12
NEPA Coordinator	Lorrie West	LUP Conformance & applicable CX confirmation	09/06/12