

**Categorical Exclusion Attachment – Review for Extraordinary Circumstances
Northern Lights Electric Line Renewal, IDI-29316**

NEPA Register No: DOI-BLM-ID-C010-2013-0002-CX

CX Reference: 516 DM 11.9, CX E. 9

The BLM has reviewed the proposed action and determined that none of the following extraordinary circumstances exist, as listed in the Departmental NEPA regulations (43 CFR 46.215).

(a) The proposed action does not have significant impacts on public health or safety.

Yes ___ No X

Comments/Explanation:

Specialist Name, Title: Janna Paronto, Realty Specialist Date: 01/09/2013

(b) The proposed action does 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 (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

Yes ___ No X

Comments/Explanation --Historic or cultural resources:

Specialist Name, Title: David Sisson, Archeologist Date: 11/05/2012

Yes ___ No X

Comments/Explanation – Park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks, monuments, or other ecologically significant or critical areas (ACEC or RNA):

Specialist Name, Title: Kurt Pindel, Recreation Planner Date: 01/09/2013

Yes ___ No X

Comments/Explanation – Drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains:

Specialist Name, Title: Mike Stevenson, Hydrologist Date: 12/06/2012

Yes ___ No X

Comments/Explanation – Migratory birds:

Specialist Name, Title: Carrie Hugo, Wildlife Biologist Date: 01/08/2013

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

Yes ___ No X

Comments/Explanation:

Specialist Name, Title: Janna Paronto, Realty Specialist Date: 01/09/2013

(d) The proposed action does not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

Yes ___ No X

Comments/Explanation:

Specialist Name, Title: Janna Paronto, Realty Specialist *Date:* 01/09/2013

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

Yes ___ No X

Comments/Explanation:

Specialist Name, Title: Janna Paronto, Realty Specialist *Date:* 01/09/2013

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

Yes ___ No X

Comments/Explanation:

Specialist Name, Title: Janna Paronto, Realty Specialist *Date:* 01/09/2013

(g) 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 the bureau.

Yes ___ No X

Comments/Explanation:

Specialist Name, Title: David Sisson, Archeologist *Date:* 11/05/2012

(h) 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.

Yes ___ No X

Comments/Explanation – **Plants:**

Specialist Name, Title: LeAnn Abell, Botanist *Date:* 12/10/2012

Yes ___ No X

Comments/Explanation – **Wildlife:**

Specialist Name, Title: Carrie Hugo, Wildlife Biologist *Date:* 01/08/2013

Yes ___ No X

Comments/Explanation – **Fish:**

Specialist Name, Title: Cindy Weston, Fisheries Biologist *Date:* 12/19/2012

(i) 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.

Yes ___ No X

Comments/Explanation:

Specialist Name, Title: David Sisson, Archeologist *Date:* 11/05/2012

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

Yes ___ No X

Comments/Explanation:

Specialist Name, Title: Janna Paronto, Realty Specialist *Date:* 01/09/2013

(k) The proposed action would not 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 (EO 13007).

Yes ___ No X

Comments/Explanation:

Specialist Name, Title: David Sisson, Archeologist *Date:* 11/05/2012

(l) 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 EO 13112).

Yes ___ No X

Comments/Explanation: There are no significant weed issues regarding the proposed action. The ROW is for an existing powerline to Schweitzer Mountain. The area under the powerline has a shrub component that largely excludes noxious weeds. While there are noxious weeds in adjacent areas including spotted knapweed, meadow hawkweed, and common tansy, these species are unlikely to successfully invade the project area. Isolated weed occurrences within the ROW would be treated with appropriate weed control measures by the BLM.

Specialist Name, Title: Doug Evans, NRCS

Date: 12/10/2012