

NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX)
Safford Field Office

NEPA #: DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-0009-CX

Serial/Case File No. AZA-35610

Proposed Action Title/Type: Amendment of a existing right-of-way (ROW) to change the size of their communication building to be installed on public land.

Location of Proposed Action (include name of 7.5 topographic map):

Gila and Salt River Meridian
T. 6 S., R. 30 E., sec. 30, SE¹/₄NE¹/₄NW¹/₄.

7.5 minute series topographic map is Guthrie

Description of Proposed Action: The BLM received an application from Greenlee County to amend authorization AZA-35610 for a communication facility on Guthrie Peak. The original grant was for the installation of a tower, 10 ft. x 12 ft. communication building, propane tank and generator. Greenlee County has requested to amend the building size to a 12 ft. x 25 ft. building. The new building size will accommodate Greenlee County and AT&T. AT&T is currently in another facility on Guthrie Peak, which no longer meets their requirements. Greenlee County has agreed to AT&T becoming a tenant in their facility.

The current authorization was authorized on December 20, 2012. The area of the authorization is approximately 36 ft. wide by 75 ft. in length. There will not be any disturbance outside of the current authorization. This area was evaluated under EA number DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-2012-0044.

ACCESS: From the intersection of US Highway 70 and US Highway 191, travel north approximately 9.1 miles to an unnamed natural surface road on the left (north) side of the highway. Follow this road for approximately 3.8 miles to the communication site.

LAND STATUS IN THE AREA: Lands surrounding the area is BLM.

OTHER USES IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA: The area has several authorized communication site users on Guthrie Peak.

The term of the grant will be for 30 years per FLPMA sec. 504 (b) [43 USC 1764] which states "Each right-of-way or permit granted, issued, or renewed pursuant to this section shall be limited to a reasonable term in light of all circumstances concerning the project."

Applicant (if any): Greenlee County Board of Supervisors

PART I: PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW. The proposed action conforms with the Safford District Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Record of Decision approved September 1992 and July 1994. According to page 22 of the RMP, "Rights-of-way, leases and permits will be considered on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with the decisions of this Resource Management Plan."

The proposed action also conforms to the existing Guthrie Peak Communications Site Plan, Part I – Introduction: Requests for new communication site facilities may be authorized at the discretion of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Authorized Officer through the issuance of new Communications Use Leases, or in some cases, by the issuance of additional ROW grants. Additionally, in Part I – Introduction, G - Goals and Objectives of Site Management Plan, 4: Help fulfill the public need for adequate communications sites.

The proposed action has been reviewed and determined to be in conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3).

Specialist Signature

Date

PROGRAM CONSULTATION & COORDINATION/CX CHECKLIST
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SAFFORD FIELD OFFICE

PART II: CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

NEPA #: DOI-BLM-G010-2013-009-CX

ASSIGNMENT AND REVIEW

Subactivity: 2860
Case/Project No.: AZA-35610

Project Name: Greenlee County Comm Site Amendment
Location (legal description): T. 6 S., R. 30 E., sec. 30, SE¼NE¼NW¼.
NLCS Unit: NA
Quad Name: Guthrie
Project Lead: Ron Peru

Draft Review: Unit Manager/Supervisor: _____ Date: _____

Technical Review:

Applies? Yes No	NAME	EXCEPTION	SIGNATURE	DATE
() ()	R.J. Estes	(1) Have Significant adverse effects on public health or safety?		
() ()		(2) Have adverse effects on such unique geographic characteristics as principal drinking water aquifers, or wetlands.		
() ()	Tom Schnell	(3) Have adverse effects on such unique geographic characteristics as parks, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, or ecologically significant or critical areas including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks.		
() ()	Dan McGrew	(4) Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, on such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners.		
() ()	Jeff Conn	(5) Have adverse effects on species listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		
() ()	Dave Arthun	(6) Contribute to the introduction, continuation existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species.		
() ()	Ron Peru	(7) Have highly controversial environmental effects		
() ()	Ron Peru	(8) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
() ()	Ron Peru	(9) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		
() ()	Ron Peru	(10) Individually Insignificant, but cumulatively significant effects.		
() ()	Ron Peru	(11) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		

Final Review:

Environmental Coordinator: _____ Date: _____

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 6, Appendix 4. E. 13 (DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-2013-0009CX). It has been reviewed to determine if any of the exceptions described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

This states: "Amendments to existing rights-of-way, such as the upgrading of existing facilities, which entail no additional disturbances outside the right-of-way boundary."

The action does not have significant adverse effects on public health and safety nor does the action adversely affect such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources, parks, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks. The action does not have highly controversial environmental effects nor have highly uncertain environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risk nor does it adversely affect a species listed or proposed to be listed on the list of endangered or threatened species. It does not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration with significant environmental effects or related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. The proposed action does not adversely affect properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment or which require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Mitigation Measures/Stipulations:

- A. Mitigation to reduce the visual contrast of the structural features will be implemented, focusing on the surface finish and color so that it blends with the surrounding area. The tower, equipment building, propane tank, and the existing microwave (dish) antennas will be painted a non-reflective covert green color from the Standard Environmental Color Chart CC-001. The new microwave (dish) antennas shall be dark grey or painted covert green. Microwave antennas will be limited to the size required to accomplish the engineering requirements of the path on which they are to operate. Dishes will be mounted as low as possible. Antennas will be purchased with or treated to have a non-reflective surface.
- B. To reduce the potential for the spread of noxious and invasive weeds from equipment contaminated with weed seed and/or biomass, the proponent and any contractors would need to thoroughly power wash and remove all vegetative material and soil before transporting equipment to the construction site to minimize the threat of spreading noxious and invasive weeds. This includes trucks, trailers, and all other machinery. The contractor, in concert with the BLM, would be responsible for weed control on disturbed areas within the limits of the right-of-way or construction site. The proponent and contractor would be responsible for consultation with the Authorized Officer and local authorities for implementing acceptable weed treatment methods. Any use of chemical treatments would abide by all safety and application guidelines as listed on the product label and Material Data Safety Sheet (MSDS). Any reclamation efforts requiring seeding would need to be done with certified, weed-free native seed.
- C. To prevent entrapment of wildlife species during the construction of the Project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches will be provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks. The ramps will be located at no greater than 100-foot intervals and will be sloped less than 45 degrees. Each morning before the start of construction and before such holes or trenches are filled, they

will be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. Any animals so discovered will be allowed to escape voluntarily (by escape ramps or temporary structures), without harassment, before construction activities resume, or removed from the trench or hole by a BLM approved biological monitor and allowed to escape unimpeded.

- D. In order to minimize the unintentional take of migratory birds the US Fish and Wildlife Service issued 12 guidelines for the siting, construction, operation and decommissioning of communication towers. Applicable recommendations not already specifically addressed within the proposed project which should be incorporated include:
- a) Security lighting for on-ground facilities and equipment will be down-shielded to keep light within the boundaries of the site.
 - b) Service personnel or researchers from the Communication Tower Working Group will be allowed access to the site to evaluate bird use, conduct dead-bird searches, to place net catchments below the towers but above the ground, and to place radar, Global Positioning System, infrared, thermal imagery, and acoustical monitoring equipment as necessary to assess and verify bird movements and to gain information on the impacts of various sizes, configurations, and lighting systems.
 - c) Towers no longer in use or determined to be obsolete should be removed within 12 months of cessation of use.

Part III: DECISION. I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed action does not conflict with major land-use-plans and will not have any major adverse impacts on other resources. Therefore, it does not represent an exception, and is categorically excluded from further environmental review. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures attached.

Authorized Official: _____ Date: _____