

**Categorical Exclusion Documentation Format for Actions Other Than Hazardous Fuels
and Fire Rehabilitation Actions**

NEPA # DOI-BLM-AZ-P020-2013-0028-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: *Lower Sonoran Field Office (LSFO)*

Lease/Serial/Case File No: *AZA-36409*

Proposed Action Title/Type: *New R/W Authorization for Access, Dirt Road Maintenance of (Cherry Flats Rd) for Construction*

Location of Proposed Action: *G&SRM T. 1 N, R. 15 E., Sec 31, NE¼NE¼*

Description of Proposed Action: *Gila County Public Work submitted a 299 application for maintenance for a portion of Cherry Flats Rd which crosses through a portion of BLM land.*

The length of the north leg is 1214 feet and the length of the south leg 481 feet. Total length to be maintained is approximately 1695 ft. approximate width of the current road varies, the proposed new R/W will total 60 feet in width, being 30 feet on each side of the center line. There would be no hazardous material produce, transported or stored within the proposed area.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name *Lower Sonoran Record of Decision and Approved RMP*

Date Approved/Amended: *9/1/2012*

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

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):

The Lower Sonoran Record of Decision and Approved RMP allows, (LR-1.3.3) propose minor linear and nonlinear LUAs will continue to be authorized on an as needed case-by-case basis in area outside of LUA Avoidance and Exclusion area.

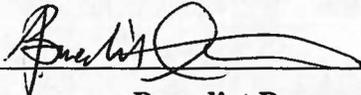
C: Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 Departmental Manual (DM) 11.9: BLM NEPA Handbook H1790-1 (E-16) Acquisition of easements for an existing road or issuance of leases, permits, or rights-of-way for the use of existing facilities, improvements, or sites for the same or similar purposes.

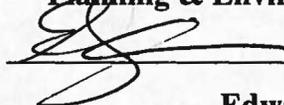
This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 11.9 apply.

I considered a review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations. I have determined that the project is in conformance with the land and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

Review: *We have determined that the proposal is in accordance with the categorical exclusion criteria and that it would not involve any significant environmental effects (see Attachment 1). Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review.*

Prepared by:  9/3/13
Benedict Parsons
Project Lead

Reviewed by: _____
Leah Baker
Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Approved by:  9/3/13
Edward Kender
Acting Manager

Contact Person

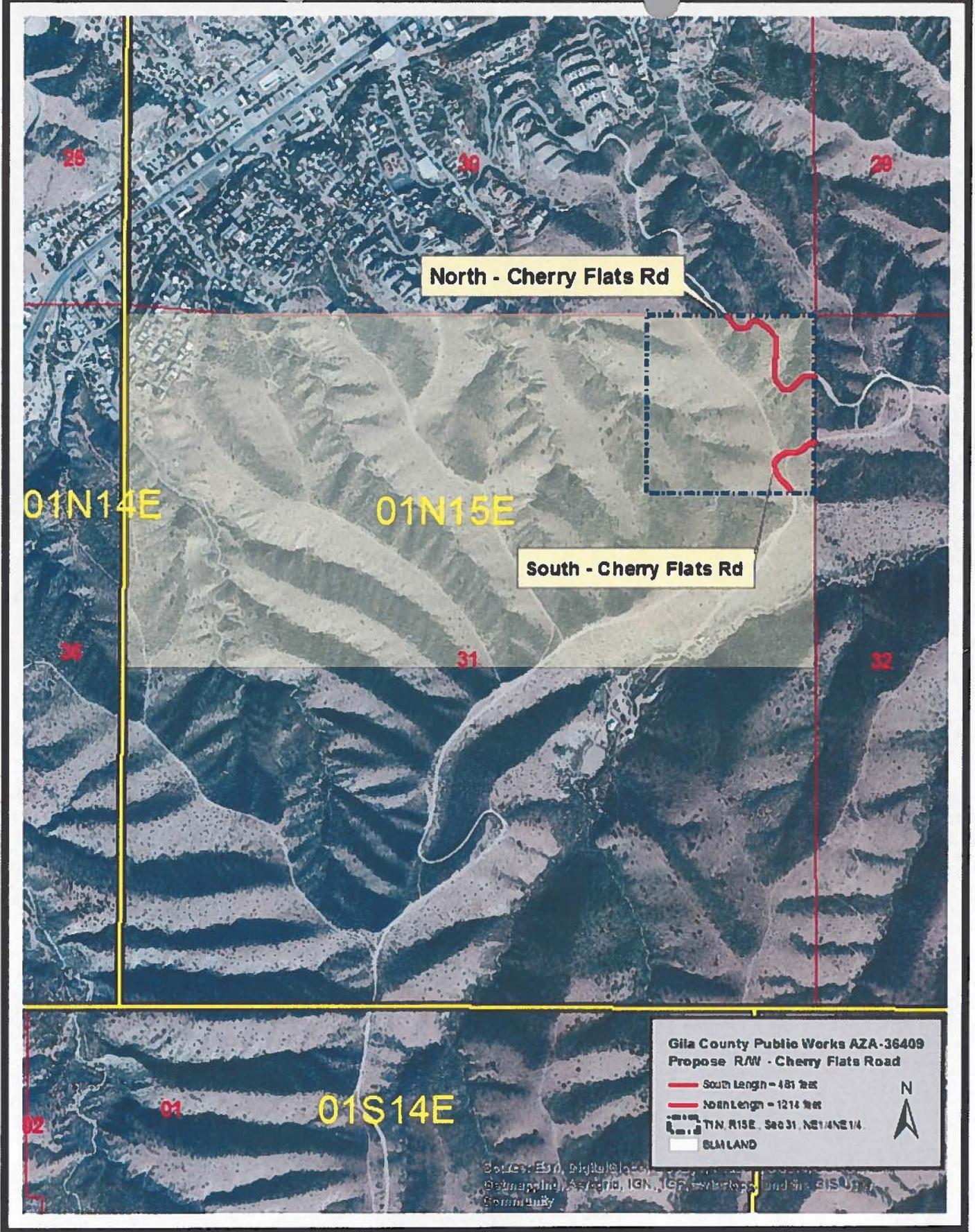
For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:
Leah Baker 623-580-5656 or Ben Parsons 623-580-5637

BLM Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances¹
Attachment 1

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) apply. The project would:		
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety		
Yes	No	Rationale: N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness or wilderness study 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 (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		
Yes	No	Rationale: N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]?		
Yes	No	Rationale: N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		
Yes	No	Rationale: N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5. Establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects?		
Yes	No	Rationale: N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		
Yes	No	Rationale: N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7. 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?		

¹ If an action has any of these impacts, you must conduct NEPA analysis.

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: N/A
8. 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 <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: N/A
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: N/A
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: N/A
11. 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)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: N/A
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)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: N/A



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for the use of the data for purposes not intended by the BLM.

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Miles



Proj. # BLM-200-17-98
Case # AZA-36409
Date: December 12, 2013

COMMENT DOCUMENT WORKSHEET

I, Cheryl Blanchard, in review of the above-noted Proposed Action, have the following comments:

It is understood that Gila County Public Works department has applied for a right-of-way for access, operation, road maintenance of an existing bladed dirt road. The legal location of the subject road is in T. 1 N., R. 15 E., Section 31, NE ¼ NE ¼. This road provides access from the town of Miami to public lands south of town. This road is smooth and seems to be well maintained as it is bladed and wide enough for two vehicles to pass with plenty of space to spare.

On December 10, 2013, I performed a field inventory along the two subject segments of Cherry Flats Road. Walking was difficult, due to the topographic relief in the area as well as the thickness of scrubby vegetation. I walked many areas out to about 80 feet from the edge of the bladed road. The slope at several places along this road exceeds 70 degrees. The areas that exhibited extreme slope and loose material were visually inspected from the edge of the roadbed.

A great deal of modern trash was observed in the downslope areas, due to recent dumping activities. One ravine contained several large pieces of furniture and at least 20 tires. A great deal of modern era, broken beer bottles were observed along long stretches of this road.

No artifacts or cultural features were observed along this road. Therefore, no impacts to any significant cultural resources are anticipated as a result of this action.

Recommendations:

- Clearance Not Recommended
- Unconditional Clearance Recommended
- Clearance Recommended with the Following Stipulations
 - Standard Stipulations

Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the Bureau of Land Management authorized officer. The holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values.

Specialized Stipulation(s) as Follows:

Signature



Decision
Attachment 2

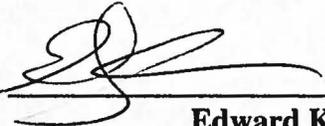
Project Description:

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Decision: Based on a review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to approve the action as proposed, with the following stipulations (if applicable).

Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 401 West Washington Street, Suite 404, Phoenix Arizona 85003, not later than 15 days after filing the document with the Authorized Officer and/or IBLA.

Approved By: _____



Edward Kender
Acting Manager

Date: _____

9/3/13