

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Cottonwood Field Office  
1 Butte Drive  
Cottonwood, ID, 83522

## **DECISION RECORD**

East Fork John Day Emergency Rehabilitation Project  
DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2013-0016-CX

### **1. Background**

The BLM is proposing to conduct emergency rehabilitation activities in the East Fork John Day Creek as a result of recent flood and debris torrents that occurred in the drainage. The 2012 Sheep Fire resulted in a large amount of the John Day Creek drainage experiencing moderate and high severity burning, which has made the drainage vulnerable to landslides, flash flooding, and debris torrents.

On August 1, 2013, a severe storm event resulted in landslides and debris torrents within the East Fork John Day Creek drainage and other sub-watersheds in the John Day Creek drainage. A half arch, 10 foot diameter culvert, located at stream mile 0.45 in the East Fork of John Day Creek has the inlet 95 percent plugged up with rubble and debris and approximately 150 feet upstream from this culvert/road crossing is a very large log and debris jam. The BLM proposes to remove debris upstream of an existing road crossing culvert in the East Fork John Day Creek to reduce potential risks of washing out road crossing from future high flow events and causing additional environmental damage.

### **2. Decision**

It is my decision to authorize the removal of instream debris upstream from a road/culvert stream crossing in the East Fork John Day Creek, located at stream mile 0.45 (T. 26 N., R. 2 E., Sec. 21: NW1/4SW1/4 – see attached map). This includes removal of the debris from the inlet of the culvert and channel for approximately 30 to 50 feet upstream of the culvert and to selectively remove material from a log and debris jam located approximately 150 feet upstream from culvert. Material removed from the stream channel would be placed in upslope locations above mean high water where it cannot re-enter stream. Excavation is limited to pre-flood/debris torrent channel and streambank contours and slopes. As needed in areas of soil and vegetation disturbance; erosion and sediment control measures would be implemented and would include: mulching (certified weed seed free), sediment fences, sediment traps, and seeding with desired species.

The project will be implemented 15 days or later after the signature date of this decision record and is expected to be one to two days in duration.

### **3. Authority**

The need for this project is indirectly a result of wildland fire and associated increased risks for high run-off, landslides and debris torrents. Therefore, this decision is made in accordance with authority and requirements identified in 43 CFR 5003.

### **4. Rationale**

The proposed action is in conformance with the Cottonwood RMP and is a type of action that the BLM has determined does not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. The action is needed to prevent additional damage to existing roads and stream crossing, and reduce long term adverse erosion and sediment delivery to East Fork John Day Creek.

### **5. Coordination and Consultation**

This project was coordinated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Idaho Department of Water Resources, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and private land owner. A scoping notice was sent to the Nez Perce Tribe notifying them about the proposed project. The Nez Perce Tribe had no comments and did not identify any issues regarding the proposed project.

### **6. Protest and Appeal**

The decision to implement this project may be protested under 43 CFR 5003 - Administrative Remedies. As outlined in 43 CFR 5003 (a) and (b), protests of a forest management decision may be made within 15 days of the publication date of the decision notice and shall contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision. Publication of this decision record on the BLM internet ePlanning site will initiate this protest period. Therefore, a protest must be filed (in person, or by mail before close of business (4:15 p.m.), October 2, 2013, at the address in the letterhead above.

Regulations do not authorize acceptance of the BLM of protests in any form other than a signed, paper document that is delivered to the physical address of the BLM office within the 15-day period. Therefore, e-mail, verbal, or facsimile protests will not be accepted.

### **7. Signature**

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Will Runnoe  
Field Manager

9/17/13 \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### **Attachments:**

- (1) Categorical Exclusion Documentation
- (2) Project Area Map

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
*Cottonwood Field Office*  
*1 Butte Dr. Cottonwood Idaho 83522*

## **Categorical Exclusion Documentation**

East Fork John Day Creek Emergency Rehabilitation Project  
DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2013-0016-CX

### **1. Description of the Proposed Action**

The BLM is proposing to conduct emergency rehabilitation activities in the East Fork John Day Creek as a result of recent flood and debris torrents that occurred in the drainage. The 2012 Sheep Fire resulted in a large amount of the John Day Creek drainage experiencing moderate and high severity burning, which has made the drainage vulnerable to landslides, flash flooding, and debris torrents. On August 1, 2013, a severe storm event resulted in landslides and debris torrents within the East Fork John Day Creek drainage and other sub-watersheds in the John Day Creek drainage. The BLM proposes to remove debris upstream of an existing road crossing culvert in the East Fork John Day Creek to reduce potential risks of washing out road crossing from future high flow events and causing additional environmental damage.

A half arch, 10 foot diameter culvert, located at stream mile 0.45 in the East Fork of John Day Creek has the inlet 95 percent plugged up with rubble and debris and approximately 150 feet upstream from this culvert/road crossing is a very large log and debris jam. The BLM proposes to remove the debris from the inlet of the culvert and channel for approximately 30 to 50 feet upstream of the culvert and to selectively remove logs from the upstream log jam. Material removed from the stream channel would be placed in upslope locations above mean high water where it cannot re-enter stream. Excavation is limited to pre-flood/debris torrent channel and streambank contours and slopes. As needed in areas of soil and vegetation disturbance; erosion and sediment control measures would be implemented and would include: mulching (certified weed seed free), sediment fences, sediment traps, and seeding with desired species.

The project is expected to occur during early fall 2013 and is expected to be one to two days in duration. The BLM has a non-exclusive easement on the East Fork John Day main road and the road going upstream from the culvert. The project area is approximately five air miles northeast of Lucile, Idaho.

### **2. Location**

Idaho County, Idaho. Boise Meridian T. 26 N., R. 2 E., sec. 21, NW1/4SW1/4.

### **3. Land Use Plan Conformance**

In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), this proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with the Cottonwood Resource Management Plan (RMP), approved December 21, 2009. It is consistent with the following decisions from the RMP:

Objective AF-1.3-Manage aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitats to provide diverse and healthy conditions for aquatic species.

Action AF-1.3.1-Activities within RCAs (riparian conservation areas) will be designed to minimize or avoid adverse impacts on the riparian and aquatic habitats through implementation of specific standards and guides in the Aquatic and Riparian Management Strategy (Appendix D, Aquatic and Riparian Management Strategy).

Objective WF-1.4—Determine appropriate response, rehabilitation actions, and fuels treatment type based on resource values to be protected and values at risk identified in the RMP, through the fire planning process and documented in the fire management plan.

Action WF-1.4.3—Use rehabilitation and emergency stabilization to mitigate the adverse effects of fire on the soil, vegetation, and water resources in a cost-effective manner.

#### **4. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under NEPA in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 .I. (1). “Planned actions in response to wildfires, floods, weather events, earthquakes, or landslips that threaten public health or safety, property, and/or natural and cultural resources, and that are necessary to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover to a management-approved condition as a result of the event. Such activities shall be limited to: repair and installation of essential erosion control structures; replacement or repair of existing culverts, roads, trails, fences, and minor facilities; construction of protection fences; planting, seeding, and mulching; and removal of hazard trees, rocks, soil, and other mobile debris from, on, or along roads, trails, campgrounds, and watercourses.” Application of this categorical exclusion 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 516 DM 2, Appendix C, exist.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Will Runnoe  
Field Manager

9/17/13 \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

#### **Contact Person**

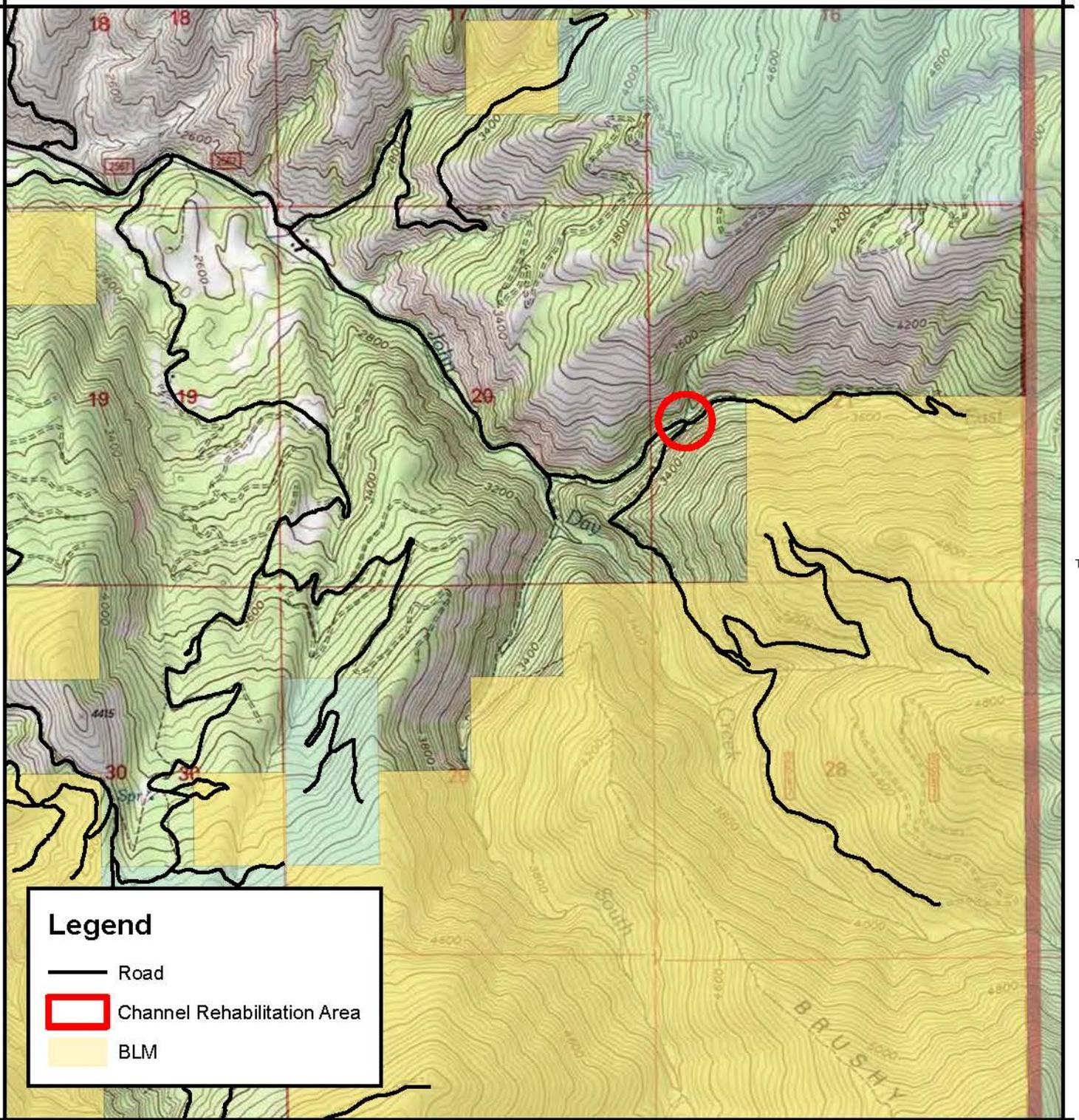
For additional information concerning this Categorical Exclusion review, contact Craig Johnson, Biologist, at (208) 962-3688 or cajohnson@blm.gov

# East Fork John Day Creek Channel Rehabilitation

R 2 E

T 26 N

T 26 N



R 2 E



Map Created: 9/3/2013

The surface management status ("land ownership") should be used as a general guide only. Official land records, located at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other offices, should be checked for up-to-date information concerning any specific tract of land.

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Data displayed in UTM Zone 11N, NAD83

