

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Twin Falls District
Shoshone Field Office
400 West F Street
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2013-0026-CX**

A. Background

BLM Office: Shoshone Field Office. Lease/Serial/Case File No.: IDI-37448

Proposed Action Title/Type: Qwest Fiber Optic Right-of-Way

Location of Proposed Action:

Boise Meridian, Idaho

T. 6 S., R. 17 E.,

sec. 2, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

sec. 10, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$;

sec. 15, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, and
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$;

sec. 22, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

sec. 27, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

sec. 34, W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$.

T. 7 S., R. 17 E.,

sec. 2, lot 3 and E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

sec. 11, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

(For further detail refer to Attachment A, Location Map)

B. Proposed Action

The Shoshone Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received a right-of-way application from Qwest Corporation DBA CenturyLink QC (Qwest) for a new right-of-way grant that would authorize the installation, operation and maintenance of a buried fiber optic cable. The fiber optic cable is proposed to be located on approximately 8.04 acres of public lands in Lincoln and Jerome Counties. The right-of-way corridor would encompass a contiguous area approximately 6.63 miles (35,013 feet) long and 10 feet wide and would be located on the west side of Highway 93 between the Jerome 700 North Road and the City of Shoshone. The proposed term for the right-of-way is 30 years, at which time the right-of-way would be terminated or re-authorized.

C. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Monument Resource Management Plan (RMP)

Date Approved: April 22, 1985

The proposed action is not specifically provided for in the RMP: however it does fall within the concept of multiple use management. “For the Monument RMP, a variety of resource uses are allowed. Production and use of commodity resources and commercial use authorization would occur, while protecting fragile resources and habitat, preserving natural systems and cultural values, and allowing for non-consumptive resource uses.”(Monument RMP, pg. 5) “The public lands would be managed under principles of multiple use and sustained yield as required by FLPMA. Any valid occupancy, and development of the public lands, including but not limited to, those requiring rights-of-way, leases, and licenses would be subject to applicable environmental review procedures,...BLM would include stipulations and special conditions necessary in leases, license, and permits to ensure the protection and preservation of resources.” (Monument RMP, pg. 25)

D. Compliance with NEPA

The proposed action is excluded from further documentation under NEPA in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 E (12) “(g)rants of right-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed rights-of-way.” The proposed right-of-way for the installation, operation, and maintenance of a fiber optic cable is wholly within the highway right-of-way. The fiber optic cable is compatible with uses occurring as part of the highway right-of-way. Therefore, the proposed action qualifies to be processed as a categorical exclusion.

Based on my review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the applicable land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. I have decided to approve the action as proposed. A right-of-way will be offered to Qwest to install, operate, and maintain a fiber optic cable on public land in Lincoln and Jerome Counties. See Attachment C, Draft Qwest Fiber Optic Right-of-Way, IDI-37448.

E. Signature

Authorizing Official: /s/ Elizabeth Maclean Date: 12/9/2013

Name: Elizabeth Maclean

Title: Field Manager

F. Contact

For additional information concerning this Categorical Exclusion, contact Kasey Prestwich, Realty Specialist, at 732-7204 or at 400 West F Street, Shoshone, Idaho 83352.

G. Attachments

Attachment A, Qwest Fiber Optic Right-of-Way Renewal Location Map

Attachment B, Qwest Fiber Optic Right-of-Way Renewal Categorical Exclusion Review Sheet

Attachment C, Draft Qwest Fiber Optic Right-of-Way, IDI-37448