

**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-T030-2014-0003-CX**

**A. Background**

BLM Office: Shoshone Field Office. Lease/Serial/Case File No.: IDI-37518  
Proposed Action Title/Type: Water Recharge Right-of-Way  
Location of Proposed Action:

Boise Meridian, Idaho

T. 5 S., R. 15 E.,

sec. 26, NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, and NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> ;  
sec. 27, N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
sec. 28, SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>.

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

**B. Proposed Action**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Shoshone Field Office received an application from the City of Gooding on April 16, 2013, for the use of an existing flood diversion channel as a water recharge site. The recharge site is needed to support proposed updates to the City's water system. The City would use surface irrigation water to recharge the aquifer and would be allowed to use additional ground water from their well system. Only the recharge portion of the City's proposed updates would be located on public lands.

The City would use an existing diversion and flood control channel located on private land about 4.5 miles east of Gooding. The existing diversion and flood control channel were constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers and have been utilized in connection with right-of-way grant IDI-0-3306 since 1952. The man made channel runs northwest from the Little Wood River approximately 0.7 miles where it joins a natural channel created in the basalt flows. The majority (all but 0.2 miles) of the natural basalt channel is located on public land and is approximately 2.8 miles long with varying widths. It is in this portion of the channel that recharge of the aquifer is planned. The total area of the recharge site right-of-way on public lands is approximately 51.5 acres.

The maximum diversion rate from the Little Wood River to the recharge area will be 7.21 cubic feet per second (cfs). The water will be diverted March 15<sup>th</sup> through November 15<sup>th</sup>. The water diverted is equal to the decreed water right the City holds for surface irrigation. The total volume of recharge during each irrigation season will be a minimum of 1,846 acre-feet and may be as much as 2,600 acre-feet.

The area being proposed for the City's recharge site right-of-way is the same area that the City has been using for flood control since 1909 and is associated with right-of-way grant IDI-3306, issued in 1953. The proposed right-of-way for water recharge would not require any additional development on public lands.

### **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 falls 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 site is within the City of Gooding's right-of-way used to divert flood water. The area has been used regularly to divert water during spring flooding events. The use of the area as a recharge site is compatible with the current authorized use.

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 the City of Gooding to use public lands for a recharge site in Gooding County. See Attachment C, Draft Recharge Right-of-Way, IDI-37518.

### **E. Signature**

Authorizing Official: /s/ Codie Martin

Date: 10/30/2014

Name: Codie Martin

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, Right-of-Way Location Map

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

Attachment C, Draft Right-of-Way, IDI-37518