

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 REVIEW SHEET  
NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2014-0006-CX

**A. Project Description**

*BLM Office:* Shoshone Field Office.

*Proposed Action Title/Type:* Gooding Canal Bridge Replacement (RIP #374154)

*Location of Proposed Action:* Boise Meridian, Lincoln County, Idaho; Camp 1 Allotment and Star Lake Allotment  
T. 7 South, R. 19 East, Section 18

*Description of Proposed Action:* The action is to replace the Gooding Canal Bridge that was constructed over the Milner-Gooding Canal, which is the boundary between the Camp 1 Allotment and the Star Lake Allotment. The original bridge is 60 feet long and 14 feet wide and was originally built in 1941 and then repaired in 1977. Currently the bridge is in need of replacement. This bridge is utilized by many groups and individuals such as the canal company, realty permit holders, livestock permittees, BLM employees including wildland fire personnel, recreationalists and hunters. It is also essential for the movement of livestock through allotments in order to accomplish management goals.

Under this action, the bridge would be replaced and all old materials would be removed by the contractor. The equipment needed to replace the bridge would stay within the footprint of the original project and would be completed while the canal is dry. Essentially, this replacement would be very similar to replacing a cattleguard and the same equipment would be used to complete the improvement with the addition of an excavator. The project would be completed over the course of a week but could be longer due to weather delays or more time needed to precisely fit the structural design on scene.

**B. Consideration of Extraordinary Circumstances**

This Categorical Exclusion Review Sheet documents the review of the proposed action to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances described in CFR 46.215 *Categorical exclusions: Extraordinary circumstances* apply. If any of the extraordinary circumstances apply to the proposed action, then an EA or EIS must be prepared. Any evidence or concerns that one or more of the exceptions may apply must be brought to the attention of the manager who is authorized to approve the proposed action.

*1. The proposed action would not have any significant impacts on public health or safety.*

The replacement of the Gooding Canal Bridge would not have any significant impacts on public health or safety. The replacement will be completed over the course of a week and the area will be properly barricaded, marked and closed so as to avoid incident. This bridge is small in scale and will essentially be the same type of activity as a cattleguard replacement, especially since the canal will be dry at the time of the work. It should also be noted that the same equipment used for replacing cattleguards would be used for replacing this bridge.

*2. The proposed action would not have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness 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; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.*

The action of replacing the Gooding Canal Bridge, which is the boundary between the Camp 1 Allotment and Star Lake Allotment, does not have the potential to impact unique geographic characteristics such as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; Wilderness Study Areas; national natural landmarks; prime farmlands; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas. Replacing the Gooding Canal Bridge also does not have the potential to impact sole or principal drinking water aquifers; wetlands or floodplains because the work will be done when the canal is dry.

*3. The proposed action would not have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].*

This action is considered a standard operating procedure along with road maintenance in the Monument RMP. It is also an action that is described in CFR 43 §46.210(f) as *routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance, renovations, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity (e.g., limited size and magnitude or short-term effects)*. Due to those reasons, this action is not highly controversial, nor are the effects of the action expected to generate future controversy.

*4. The proposed action would not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.*

The action of replacing the Camp I Bridge would not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. The action would not involve any physical changes to the environment and would greatly improve the safe travels along this route for many individuals, State and Federal workers and businesses.

*5. The proposed action would not establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.*

The proposed action is not connected to another action that would require further environmental analysis and would not set a precedent for future actions that would normally require environmental analysis.

*6. The proposed action would not have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.*

The proposed action does not have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

*7. The proposed action would not 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.*

The action of replacing the bridge would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office. While this action does involve ground disturbance, the new bridge would be constructed in the footprint of the original bridge and there would be no new impacts to listed or eligible National Register properties.

*8. The proposed action would not 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.*

There are no known federally listed Endangered or Threatened Species nor is there any designated critical habitat within the two allotments. The greater sage-grouse, a federally listed Candidate Species, have not been known to occupy the Camp I and Star Lake Allotments and there are not any known sage-grouse leks located in close proximity to the project area. These allotments are considered to be preliminary general habitat for sage-grouse and currently, the area is not used by sage-grouse in winter due to lack of sage-brush and cover. Overall, the action of replacing the bridge would not affect the greater sage-grouse or its habitat beyond current levels. Especially since the project will be conducted during late fall or early winter.

9. *The proposed action would not violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.*

The action of replacing the old Gooding Canal Bridge with a new bridge does comply with applicable Federal, State, and local laws. There are no tribal laws affecting the allotments.

10. *The proposed action would not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).*

The proposed action would not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898). The effect would be the same for the general population in the area.

11. *The proposed action would not 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).*

This action would not 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.

12. *The proposed action would not 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).*

There currently are Idaho State Department of Agriculture designated noxious weeds within the Camp 1 and Star Lake allotment boundaries. These weeds include Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*) and diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*). They exist primarily along roads, riparian areas, and disturbed areas. The proposed action would not result in the introduction or contribute to the continued existence or spread of weedy plants beyond the current level. There are no ground-disturbing activities or route creation being authorized under this action.

### C. Consultation and Preparation

Name of Participant	Position Title	Initials	Date
Joanna Tjaden	Rangeland Management Specialist	JPT	3/11/14
James D. Barnum	Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist	JDB	3/11/14