

**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-T030-2014-0008-CX**

**A. Background**

BLM Office: Shoshone Field Office. Lease/Serial/Case File No.: IDI-20022 and IDI-20180

Proposed Action Title/Type: Qwest Telephone Cable Rights-of-Way Renewals

Location of Proposed Action:

Boise Meridian, Idaho

T. 4 S., R. 10 E.,

sec. 34, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

T. 5 S., R. 10 E.,

sec. 3, Lot 2 and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

T. 5 S., R. 11 E.,

sec. 8, lot 2 and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

sec. 17, lot 1, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , and NE $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

sec. 21, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

sec. 22, S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ ;

sec. 23, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

sec. 26, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

T. 8 S., R. 17 E.,

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

T. 9 S., R. 17 E.,

sec. 15 E  $\frac{1}{2}$  SE  $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

sec. 22 E  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

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

**B. Proposed Action**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Shoshone Field Office of has received two right-of-way (ROW) applications from Qwest Communications DBA CenturyLink QC (Qwest) requesting the renewal of the ROW grants IDI-20022 and IDI-20180. Each of these ROW grants were initially issued to Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company in 1982. The ROW grants authorized the installation, maintenance, and operation of buried telephone lines on public lands in Jerome and Elmore Counties.

Right-of-way IDI-20022 authorizes Qwest to maintain and operate a buried telephone cable on public lands in Elmore County. The proposed right-of-way renewal encompasses a non-

contiguous area approximately 3.76 miles long and 10 feet in width. The right-of-way for the telephone line is within the right-of-way of county roads near King Hill.

Right-of-way grant IDI-20180 authorizes Qwest to maintain and operate a buried telephone cable on public lands in Jerome County. The proposed right-of-way renewal encompasses a non-contiguous area approximately 1.68 miles long and 10 to 30 feet in width. The ROW is located in three locations along the west side of Highway 93 between Twin Falls, Idaho and the intersection of Highway 93 and Highway 25.

Qwest has not requested any changes to either of these ROW grants and no major maintenance projects are anticipated within the foreseeable future. A renewal of the ROW grants would allow Qwest to continue using the identified public lands for operating and maintaining the existing telephone lines. The term of the renewed ROW grant will be 30 years at which time the grants would be terminated or reviewed for possible renewal.

### **C. Land Use Plan Conformance**

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

Date Approved/Amended: 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 the 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, licenses would be subject to applicable environmental review procedures,... BLM would include stipulations and special conditions as necessary in leases, licenses, and permits to ensure the protection and preservation of resources.” (Monument RMP, pg 25)

Land Use Plan Name: Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills Management Framework Plan (MFP)

Date Approved/Amended: June 30, 1980

The proposed action is not specifically provided for in the MFP. However, the proposed action does fall within the concept of multiple use management and is consistent with uses identified within the MFP.

### **D. Compliance with NEPA**

The proposed action is excluded from further documentation under NEPA in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 E (9) “(r)enewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.” The proposed renewal of the right-of-way for the telephone communications cable does not include any new improvements, modifications, or surface disturbance nor does it include any additional rights beyond those granted by the original authorization. Therefore, the proposed action qualifies to be processed as a categorical exclusion.

The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply. See Attachment B, Qwest Telephone Cable Right-of-Way Renewal Categorical Exclusion Review Sheet.

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 plans and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. I have decided to approve the action as proposed. Rights-of-way will be offered to Qwest to operate and maintain existing underground telephone communication lines as identified in Attachment C and Attachment D, Draft Qwest Telephone Cable Right-of-Way grants IDI-20022 and IDI-20180.

#### **E. Signature**

Authorizing Official: /s/ Elizabeth Maclean  
Name: Elizabeth Maclean  
Title: Field Manager

Date: March 7, 2014

#### **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 Telephone Cable Right-of-Way Renewal Location Maps

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

Attachment C, Draft Qwest Telephone Cable Renewed Right-of-Way, IDI-20022

Attachment D, Draft Qwest Telephone Cable Renewed Right-of-Way, IDI-20180