

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CE)**

**PROJECT NAME:** Timbered Dome Sinkhole Fence  
**PROJECT LEAD:** Deena Teel  
**CE NUMBER:** DOI-BLM-ID-I010-2014-0041-CX  
**Date of Preparation:** September 17, 2014

### **PROPOSED ACTION:**

On September 3, 2014, a member of the public reported a sinkhole that is large enough for a person, ATV, or animal to fall into it. The sinkhole is located on a two-track road, and its dimensions are approximately 5 ft. wide x 5 ft. long x 50 ft. deep. This poses a potentially serious public safety risk, resulting in the need to construct a four-wire barbed-wire fence (approx. 50 ft. x 50 ft.) around it. The fence would enclose a portion of the existing two-track road which terminates less than 0.1 mile south of the sinkhole. The only ground-disturbing activity would entail the placement of approximately 20 metal fence posts.

The sinkhole is located approximately 12 miles west of Arco, Idaho in Butte County. It is approximately 0.1 mile north of Timbered Dome Creek within the Latham Hollow BLM Allotment. The legal description is as follows: T. 4 N., R. 24 E., Section 36 SENE, B.M., Idaho (see Exhibit A).

### **CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION:**

A description of the proposed action was posted on September 16, 2014 to the online NEPA register. This is available to members of the public through the BLM Upper Snake Field Office (USFO) webpage.

### **FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION:**

The proposed action is categorically excluded as outlined in 516 DM 11.9 J (8) and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 46.215 apply. This exclusion states that installation of minor devices to protect human life (e.g., grates across mines) may be excluded from further environmental review.

I recommend that a fence be constructed (approx. 50 ft. x 50 ft.) around the sinkhole area to prevent humans and animals from inadvertently falling into it (see Exhibit A).

### **DECISION AND RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION:**

It is my decision to authorize the construction of a four-wire barbed-wire fence (approx. 50 ft. x 50 ft.) around a sinkhole in Butte County, Idaho which poses a potentially serious public safety risk. Construction of the fence will cause no significant environmental disturbance. The subject action qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion and meets the criteria contained in 516 DM 11.9 J (8). None of the exceptions found in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

### **LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE STATEMENT:**

The proposed action is in conformance with the Big Lost Management Framework Plan (1982).

**APPEALS INFORMATION:**

Appeal procedures may be found at 43 CFR Part 4. Any person/party whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR Part 4 in person or in writing. The appeal shall clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant considers the final decision to be in error, and it must be filed within 30 days following the decision.

Appeals should be submitted to Jeremy Casterson, Upper Snake Field Manager, at 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401.

/s/ Deena Teel

Preparer: Deena Teel

Date: 9/17/2014

/s/ Marissa Guenther

NEPA Reviewer: Marissa Guenther

Date: 9/17/2014

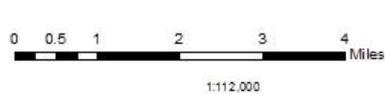
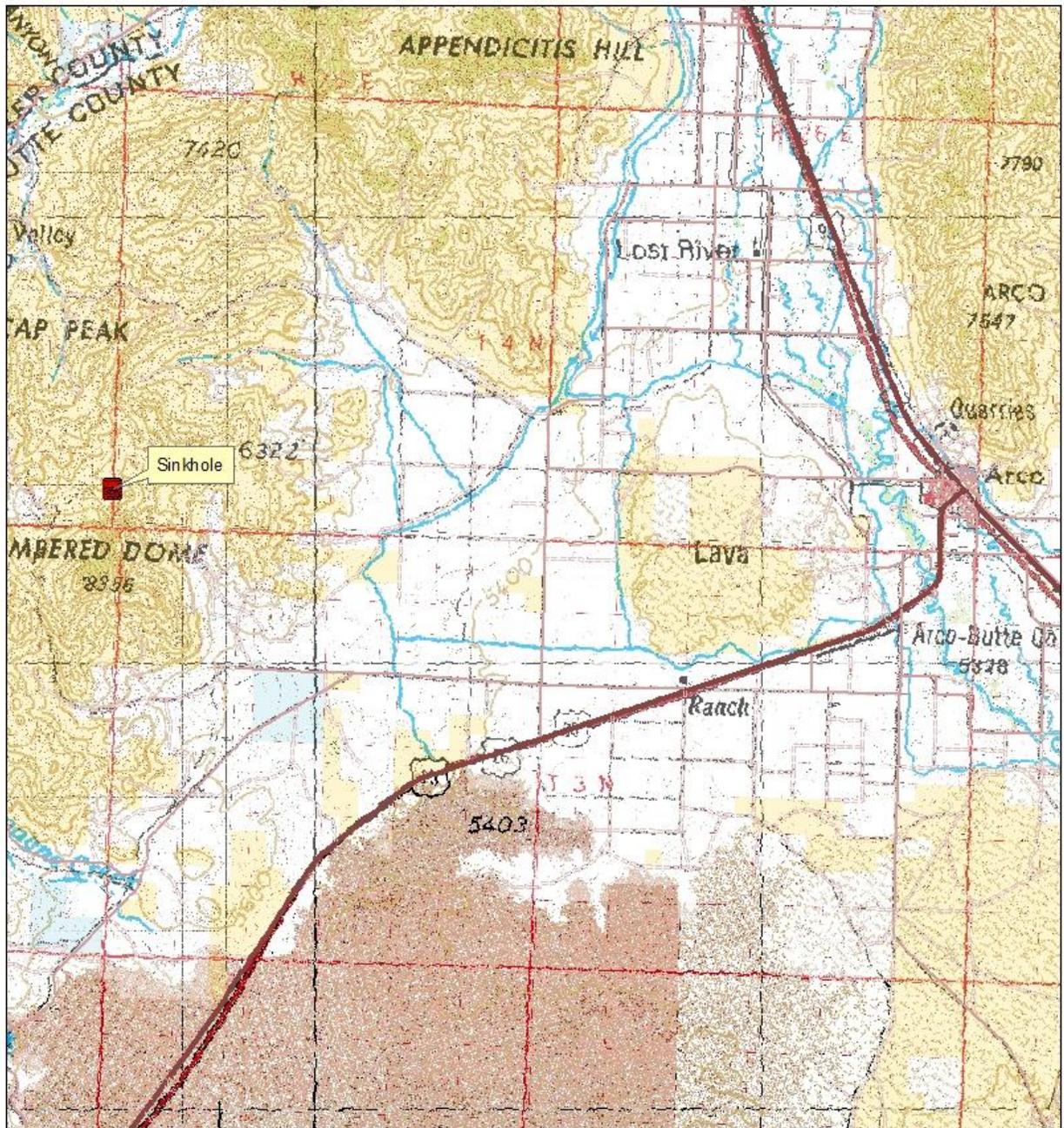
/s/ Rebecca Lazdauskas

Acting Field Manager: Rebecca Lazdauskas

Date: 9/17/2014

**DOI-BLM-ID-1010-2014-0041-CX  
Timbered Dome Sinkhole Fence**

EXHIBIT A  
T. 4 N., R. 24 E., Section 36 SENE, B.M., Idaho



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for use of the data for purposes not intended by BLM.

**DRAFT**



## Extraordinary Circumstances Requiring Preparation of an EA or EIS

(43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 46.215) The action described in categorical exclusion # DOI-BLM-ID-I010-2014-0041-CX has been reviewed to determine that none of the extraordinary circumstances listed below pertain to the proposed action.

<u>DM</u> #	<u>Extraordinary Circumstance</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1	Have significant impacts on public health or safety. <i>The proposed action would have no significant impacts on health or safety of the public.</i>		X
2	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. <i>No wilderness, wilderness study areas or wild and scenic rivers are present near the project area. The proposed action would not impede opportunities for recreation. This project is not located within an Area of Critical Concern (ACEC) or Research Natural Area (RNA). No significant impacts to riparian-wetland areas would occur. Although migratory birds are present within the project area, no significant impacts to migratory birds would be expected. No known historic or cultural resources are located within the project area. This action is exempted per Stipulation V.A.1., Appendix C of the 2014 State Protocol agreement between BLM and Idaho State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO).</i>		X
3	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)]. <i>The proposed action would not have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. No known highly controversial or potentially significant environmental effects are expected to result from this project. Action would not impact water quality or stream channels and floodplains.</i>		X
4	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. <i>The proposed action would not impact water quality or stream channels and floodplains. No known highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks are expected to result from the proposed action.</i>		X
5	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. <i>The proposed action would not establish a precedent for future actions.</i>		X
6	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. <i>The proposed action would not have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. No cumulatively significant effects are anticipated to occur. No cumulatively</i>		X

<u>DM</u> #	<u>Extraordinary Circumstance</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
	<i>significant effects are anticipated for the stream channel/floodplain.</i>		
7	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. <i>As there are no known historic properties listed or eligible for listing on the NRHP located in the project area, the proposed action would have no significant impacts.</i>		X
8	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. <i>As there are no T&amp;E or Proposed species, or critical habitat present within the project area, no significant impacts to these species would be expected.</i>		X
9	Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. <i>The proposed action would not violate any federal law or state, local, or tribal laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. No cumulatively significant effects are anticipated.</i>		X
10	Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898). <i>The proposed action would have no adverse effect on low income or minority populations.</i>		X
11	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). <i>There are no sacred sites known to occur in the project area. Furthermore, the proposed action would not limit access to Indian sacred sites on Federal lands or impact traditional resource use in the area.</i>		X
12	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). <i>The proposed action would not contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species.</i>		X