

**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-T030-2014-0035-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: Shoshone Field Office. Lease/Serial/Case File No.: IDI-37766

Proposed Action Title/Type: Greenhorn Flood Mitigation

Location of Proposed Action:

Boise Meridian, Idaho
T. 3 N., R. 17 E., sec. 14, NW1/4SW1/4.

(For further detail refer to engineering diagrams, Attachment A)

B. Proposed Action

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Shoshone Field Office has received an application from Greenhorn Mesa, LLC for a right-of-way to construct and maintain a flood diversion channel on public lands in Blaine County.

The 2013 Beaver Creek Fire burned most of the vegetation on public lands located adjacent to the south side of Greenhorn Gulch subdivision. A series of rainstorms followed the fire and produced heavy precipitation that lead to flooding and debris flows within drainage channels upslope of private property. Lot 27 of the Greenhorn Subdivision, owned by Greenhorn Mesa, LLC, is located below one of the drainage channels that experienced debris flows. To protect structures on located on Lot 27 from damage a representative of Greenhorn Mesa, LLC excavated a portion of the drainage channels to divert the water and debris flows away from the structures. A portion of these excavated drainage channels were created on public lands. After the flooding events Greenhorn Mesa, LLC hired an engineering firm to investigate alternatives for stabilizing the area on and near their property to reduce the hazard to people and property. The alternatives that were provided, identified additional stabilization efforts on portions of the public lands adjacent to the property owned by Greenhorn Mesa, LLC.

Greenhorn Mesa, LLC has requested authorization in the form of a right-of-way to complete further excavation, construct a berm, and add rip rap to the drainage channel upslope of their property. The proposed action also includes reclamation of a channel diverting debris flow to the east. The channel improvements are expected to be temporary and the area will be reclaimed when slopes above the property have stabilized and the threat of additional debris flows has

lessened. If there is a need to keep the flood diversion channel and other improvements in place beyond December 31, 2019 a new long term authorization will be required.

The existing channel is approximately 2 feet deep and 4 feet wide and extends approximately 50 feet upslope from the lot 27 property line. The additional improvements have been recommended to increase the capacity of the diversion channel and provide a deposition area that reduces the risk of debris reaching the road or dwellings. The proposed dimensions of the channel are 8 feet wide at the bottom, 6 feet deep, and 26 feet wide in the top (1.5H:1V side slopes). The downhill faces of the trench would be armored with riprap to reduce the risk of erosion and breaching, particularly in the late stages of debris flows, which tend to consist mostly of water with less solids. Berm height at the corner where the flow would be deflected to the northeast is proposed to be 8.7 feet, a height needed to resist the calculated impact force. The proposed dimensions are substantially larger than the existing trench. (See the engineering report in Attachment A for additional details)

C. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Sun Valley Management Framework Plan (MFP)

Date Approved: December 14, 1981

The project location falls within the Big Wood Analysis Unit of the Sun Valley Management Framework Plan (MFP, 1981). Emergency Stabilization actions are not specifically provided for within the MFP. However, the MFP does identify goals concerning the protection of watersheds and reducing erosion. The proposed action would provide a means to reduce erosion in a localized area reducing the amount of sediment that can potentially enter nearby streams.

D. Compliance with NEPA

The proposed action is excluded from further documentation under NEPA in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 I (1) “(p)lanned actions in response to wildfires, floods, weather events, earthquakes, or landslips that threaten public health or safety, property, and/or natural and cultural resources, and that are necessary to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover to a management-approved condition as a result of the event. Such activities shall be limited to: repair and installation of essential erosion control structures; replacement or repair of existing culverts, roads, trails, fences, and minor facilities; construction of protection fences; planting, seeding, and mulching; and removal of hazard trees, rocks, soil, and other mobile debris from, on, or along roads, trails, campgrounds, and watercourses...”

Based on my review of the proposal and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the proposal is in conformance with the applicable land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

A short-term right-of-way will be prepared and offered to Greenhorn Mesa, LLC to construct and maintain the temporary flood diversion structures on public lands.

E. Signature

Authorizing Official: _____ Date: _____

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, Engineering report and diagrams

Attachment B, General Location Map

Attachment C, Categorical Exclusion Review Sheet