

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Twin Falls District
Shoshone Field Office
400 West F Street
Shoshone, ID. 83352

Categorical Exclusion

NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2015-0002-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: Shoshone Field Office. Lease/Serial/Case File No.: N/A

Proposed Action Title/Type: County Line and Cottonwood Recreation Facility Removal

Location of Proposed Action: County Line: Boise Meridian, Range 15 East, Township 2 South, Section 34. The general location is 0.2 miles north of the Gooding/Camas County line along Highway 46.

Cottonwood: Boise Meridian, Range 17 East, Township 2 South, Section 13 The general location is 5 miles west of Highway 75 on the West Magic road.

Description of Proposed Action: This project is for the removal of recreation facilities at County Line and Cottonwood sites. Facilities at County Line include one vault toilet, pavilion/shade shelter, 2 picnic tables, 4 BBQ grills and stairs. The existing parking area will be left in place. Facilities at Cottonwood consist of one vault toilet and kiosk. Top soil will be used to fill areas of disturbance and seeded with native seed mix appropriate for that area.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Bennett Hills and Timmerman Hills 1980 Management Framework Plan
Date Approved/Amended: June 1980.

The proposed action is in conformance with the Bennett Hills and Timmerman Hills MFP. The MFP encourages the BLM to pursue recreation use with the North Side Snow Riders Club to address recreation use at County Line. The BLM Shoshone Field Office has worked with the North Side Snow Riders Snowmobile Club and community members that use the area and determined that they are not interested in pursuing a Recreation and Public Purpose Lease for the area. The area is primarily used during the winter for sledding; therefore a portable toilet will be placed at the parking area during that season of use to service visitors. Additional facilities may be considered in the parking area in the future.

Land Use Plan Name: Magic 1980 Management Framework Plan
Date Approved/Amended: June 1980.

The recreation facilities at Cottonwood are not mentioned in the Magic MFP or the 1984 Magic Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP). However the proposed action is consistent with addressing changes to visitor use patterns and health and safety issues associated with the facilities. Historically visitors used the area for parking and unloading snowmobiles to access Magic Reservoir for ice fishing. For the past several years, ice fishing on Magic is accessed through the communities of West and East Magic. The vault toilet at Cottonwood is now primarily used as a rest area facility and is no longer associated with a recreation need. The facilities are frequently vandalized and have become cost prohibitive to maintain.

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with the 516 DM 11.9 J (10) which states: "Removal of structures and materials of no historical value, such as abandoned automobiles, fences, and buildings, including those built in trespass and reclamation of the site when little or no surface disturbance is involved".

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

D. Signature

Authorizing Official:  Date: 11/21/14
Name: Codie Martin
Title: Shoshone Field Manager

E. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact John Kurtz, Outdoor Recreation Planner, at (208)732-7296 or at 400 West F Street, Shoshone, Idaho 83352.