

Categorical Exclusion

Cottonwood Canyon Cattleguard

Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Elko District, Wells Field Office

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Chapter 1. Categorical Exclusion Worksheet

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A. Background

NEPA ID No: DOI-BLM-NV-E030-2015-0006-CX

BLM Office: NV – Wells Field Office – LLNVE02000

Prepared by: Daniel Zvirzdin

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: n/a

Type of Action (Subject Code): 4120

Location of Proposed Action: Currie Allotment

Legal Description:MDM, T. 28 N, R. 63E Sec. 17

Applicant: n/a

Description of Proposed Action: The Elko BLM would provide and install 1 cattleguard in Cottonwood Canyon pasture within the Currie Allotment. The permittee will perform annual maintenance on the cattleguard.

Increased hunting and recreation pressure in the Cottonwood Canyon area in recent years has created a problem with gates being left open. The BLM proposes to install a cattleguard to prevent gates being left open at the wrong time, maintain public access, improve pasture and rangeland management, and meet resource objectives.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Wells Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: 7/16/1985

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with Departmental Categorical Exclusion pursuant to 516 DM 2, Appendix 1.

Transportation

1. Incorporation of eligible roads and trails in any transportation plan when no new construction or upgrading is needed.
2. Installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, waterbars, gates, or cattleguards on/or adjacent to roads and trails identified in any land use or transportation plan, or eligible for incorporation in such plan.
3. Temporary closure of roads and trails.
4. Placement of recreational, special designation, or information signs, visitor registers, kiosks, and portable sanitation devices.

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. Conclusion and Signature

Based upon this review, I have determined that the Proposed Action, as described, is in conformance with the land use plan and meets the criteria for the selected CX. There is no potential for significant impacts. Therefore, the action is excluded from further environmental analysis and documentation.

s/s

Jeffery Kitchens
Manager, Wells Field Office

2/27/2015

Contact Information

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

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Chapter 2. Screening for Extraordinary Circumstances

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Each of the following questions must be answered negatively, with concurrence from all resource specialists participating on the interdisciplinary team (IDT), before this CX may be approved (516 DM).

Table 2.1. Screening for Extraordinary Circumstances

Resource Concerns	Yes	No
1. Will this project have significant adverse effects on public health or safety?		X
2. Will this project adversely affect such unique geographic characteristics as: (a) historic or cultural resources; (b) park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers; (c) sole or principal drinking water aquifers; (d) prime farmlands, wetlands, flood plains, or (e) ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department of the Interior's National Register of Natural Landmarks?		(a) X (b) X (c) X (d) X (e) X
3. Will this project have highly controversial environmental effects?		X
4. Will this project have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		X
5. Will this project establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		X
6. Will this project be related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?		X
7. Will this project have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?		X
8. Will this project have adverse effects on species listed or proposed for listing on the Threatened or Endangered Species List, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		X
9. Will this project require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act?		X
10. Will this project threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		X
11. Will this project 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— Sacred Sites)		X
12. Will this project contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species?		X

Table 2.2. Reviewer Comments and Concurrence

Resource	Specialist Name	Comments	Initials	Date
AFM- Non-Renewables	Elizabeth Puentes	—	s/s	02/27/2015
AFM- Renewables	Bryan Mulligan	—	s/s	02/27/2015
Air/Hydrology/Soils	Mark Dean	No concerns	s/s	12/16/2014
Archeology/Cultural Resources	Norm Henrikson	OK, protocol CX #13 and probably surveyed	s/s	12/16/2014
Lands and Realty	Maria Morales	No concerns	s/s	12/16/2014
Native American Concerns	Fuell	—	s/s	02/27/2015
NEPA	Terri Dobis	No concerns	s/s	02/23/2015
Range Management/Grazing	Daniel Zvirzdin	No concerns	s/s	02/27/2015
Recreation	Kristine Dedolph	No concerns	s/s	12/16/2014

Weeds	Sam Cisney	Clean equipment prior to arrival on site to prevent weed introduction; if needed, use weed free fill/construction materials	s/s	12/16/2014
Wild Horses & Burros	Bruce Thompson	No concerns	s/s	12/16/2014
Wildlife	Cameron Collins	No concerns in present location	s/s	12/16/2014