

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

Twin Falls District
Burley Field Office
15 East 200 South
Burley, ID 83318

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW SHEET
NEPA No. NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2010-0012-CX

Project Description

The Oakley Highway District has applied to maintain a short segment of an existing road across public lands. This road serves as access to the Buckhorn Ranch area and a bus turn around and is 50 feet wide by 189 feet in length, affecting approximately 0.22 acres of public lands. The Buckhorn road that located on private property is 5 miles in length.

Consideration of Extraordinary Circumstances:

This CER Sheet documents the review of the proposed action to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 46.215 applies. If any of the extraordinary circumstances apply to the proposed action, then an EA or EIS must be prepared. Any evidence or concerns that one or more of the exceptions may apply must be brought to the attention of the manager who is authorized to approve the proposed action.

1. The proposed action would not have significant impacts on public health or safety. *There is no opportunity for the proposal to impact public health and safety. The road across public lands is an existing access point for the Buckhorn Ranch area located on private land and further access to Buckhorn Canyon.*
2. The proposed action would not 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. *A careful review of the subject area has shown that none of the above concerns are present or an issue in the subject area.*
3. The proposed action would not have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)]. *The BLM has extensive experience maintaining existing roads across public lands. The impacts from authorizing a ROW grant to the Oakley Highway District to maintain this existing road are well known and negligible.*
4. The proposed action would not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. *The impacts of an existing road being granted a ROW to the Oakley Highway District to maintain would not change the existing condition or current effects on the environment in any way.*

5. The proposed action would not establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. *Proposals of this kind are evaluated on a case by case basis in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 2800. Each individual proposal and subject ROW route is evaluated based on its own merits or lack thereof.*

6. The proposed action would not have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. *This proposal is not connected to any other actions on the public lands. It is a standalone proposal that is strictly related to the applicant's access to the private lands at the Buckhorn Ranch for a school bus turn around.*

7. The proposed action would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau. *A field cultural survey completed February 25, 2010, yielded no impacts to cultural resources as a result of the Proposed Action. The Idaho SHPO has concurred with this finding. Documentation of this information is available in the case file for IDI-036676.*

8. The proposed action would not 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. *Threatened and Endangered Species surveys have been conducted by resource specialist of the Burley Field Office staff. A full clearance has been given on February 5, 2010 and reviewed March 12, 2014. In accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, this proposed project will avoid causing harm, disturbance or mortality to nesting birds or their young.*

9. The proposed action would not violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. *Relevant Federal laws such as the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the various laws regarding the protection of cultural resources would not be violated by the proposal. Complete Full Clearances provided by the Burley Field Office Wildlife, archaeology and Botony staff are available in the case file for IDI-036676.*

10. The proposed action would not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898). *There is no effect to low income or minority popultaions as a result of this action.*

11. The proposed action would not 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). *No access of any kind would be limited by the proposal.*

12. The proposed action would not 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). *A botanical inventory was conducted on*

February 8, 2010 and reviewed March 13, 2014. Dominant vegetation at this site includes Wyoming big sagebrush, gray rabbit brush, broom snakeweed, crested wheatgrass and Samberg's bluegrass. This review concluded that no sensitive plants, noxious weeds or their habitats have been located or are known to occur in this vicinity.

Participating Staff

Name of Participant	Position Title or Resource Expertise	Comments Provided (Initial One) None / Attached		Date
Jeremy Bisson	Wildlife Biologist	None		2/5/2010 3/12/2014
Scott Sayer	Botanist	None		2/8/2010 3/13/2014
L. Suzann Henrickson	Cultural Resources	None		11/15/2010
Jennifer Sonner	Realty Specialist	None		3/12/2014
Michael C. Courtney	Field Manager	None		3/14/2014