

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

CX#DOI-BLM-MT-L060-2016-0001-CX

**Project Title:** Hydraulic cattle guard installation at reservoirs

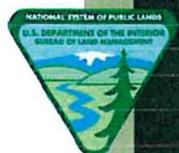
**Location:** South Fork Dry Blood Reservoir Northwest Gate  
(T 17N R26 E sxn 25 NWNW- Petroleum Co.)  
North Entrance to Holland Reservoir off Musselshell Trail  
(T 20N R 26 E sxn 15 NWNW- Fergus Co.)

**Applicant/Address:**

**Project Contact:**

**Name:** Andrew Oestreich  
**Title:** Wildlife Biologist  
**Office:** Lewistown Field Office  
**Telephone No.:** (406) 538-1900

Central Montana District Office  
920 NE Main Street  
Lewistown, MT 59457  
Phone: 406-538-1900



## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW AND APPROVAL

### A. Background

Lease/Serial/Case File No.:

Description of Proposed Action:

Removal of wire gates and installation of hydraulic cattle guards. No digging would be needed, the cattle guards sit on top of the ground so only minimal leveling surface disturbance should occur. Some minor fence modification may occur to allow for the cattle guard. Cattle guards would remove the issue of the public, using the reservoirs, leaving gates open, thus allowing cows in the enclosure.

One at: T 17N R26 E sxn 25 NWNW- Petroleum Co.- South Fork Dry Blood

Other at: T 20N R 26 E sxn 15 NWNW- Fergus Co.- Holland

### B. Land Use Plan Conformance *(select all that apply)*

- Headwaters RMP (approved in July 1984)
- West HiLine RMP (approved in September 1988 and on January 29, 1992 for the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River)
- Judith-Valley-Phillips RMP (approved on September 9, 1994)
- Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Final EIS for Montana and North and South Dakota (approved on August 7, 1997)
- Off-Highway Vehicle EIS and Proposed Plan Amendment for Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota (approved on June 18, 2003)
- Fire/Fuels Management EA/Plan Amendment for Montana and the Dakotas (approved on September 26, 2003)
- Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument Approved Resource Management Plan (approved on December 4, 2008)
- Other *(specify name/date approved)*

Conformance:

The proposed action is in conformance with the land use plan(s) selected above, which states as follows: *(If more than one plan applies, include the page no. and language from all applicable plans):*

<i>Page No.</i>	<i>Language</i>
p. 15	Approved Judith Resource Area RMP
p. 13	"BLM will maintain and enhance suitable habitat for all wildlife species." Range improvements (primarily reservoirs, fences, and land treatments) will be built to support AMP's." Regarding fish habitat implementation the decision states, "The BLM will also improve existing habitat by modifying existing high potential reservoirs." The RMP further states, "Existing fisheries reservoirs will be fenced to exclude livestock, if necessary, to improve emergent vegetation, shade and/or improve the recreational experiences."

**C. Compliance with NEPA:**

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with (select one):

43 CFR 46.210, or

516 DM 11.9

Appropriate CX Number and Text, or Paraphrase of the Text:

A. Fish and Wildlife

2. Minor modification of water developments to improve or facilitate wildlife use (e.g., modify enclosure fence, install flood valve, or reduce ramp access angle.)

The proposed action has been reviewed and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having significant effects on the environment.

Explanation of why there is no potential for significant impacts:

Cattle trespass has become an issue due to fishermen and other public using the reservoirs leaving gates open thus allowing cattle to enter the enclosure.

The cattle guards sit on top of the ground so only minimal leveling surface disturbance should occur. Some minor fence modification may occur to allow for the cattle guard.

South Fork Dry Blood has had two inventories completed with negative results: (96-MT-068-23, 10-MT-060-010). With no ground disturbance proposed this undertaking will have no effect on cultural resources.

While noxious weeds have the potential to be found in the project area the timing and season of work will limit any negative impacts from any noxious weeds encountered. No further analysis is warranted.

**D: Signature**

I considered this review and determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to approve the proposed action.

Pertinent design features, stipulations or mitigation (if applicable):

Design features:

Equipment will be clean prior to entering project areas.

Archeologist will complete NHPA Section 106 compliance for the undertaking prior to project implementation.

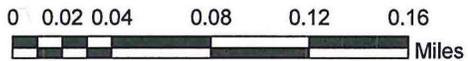
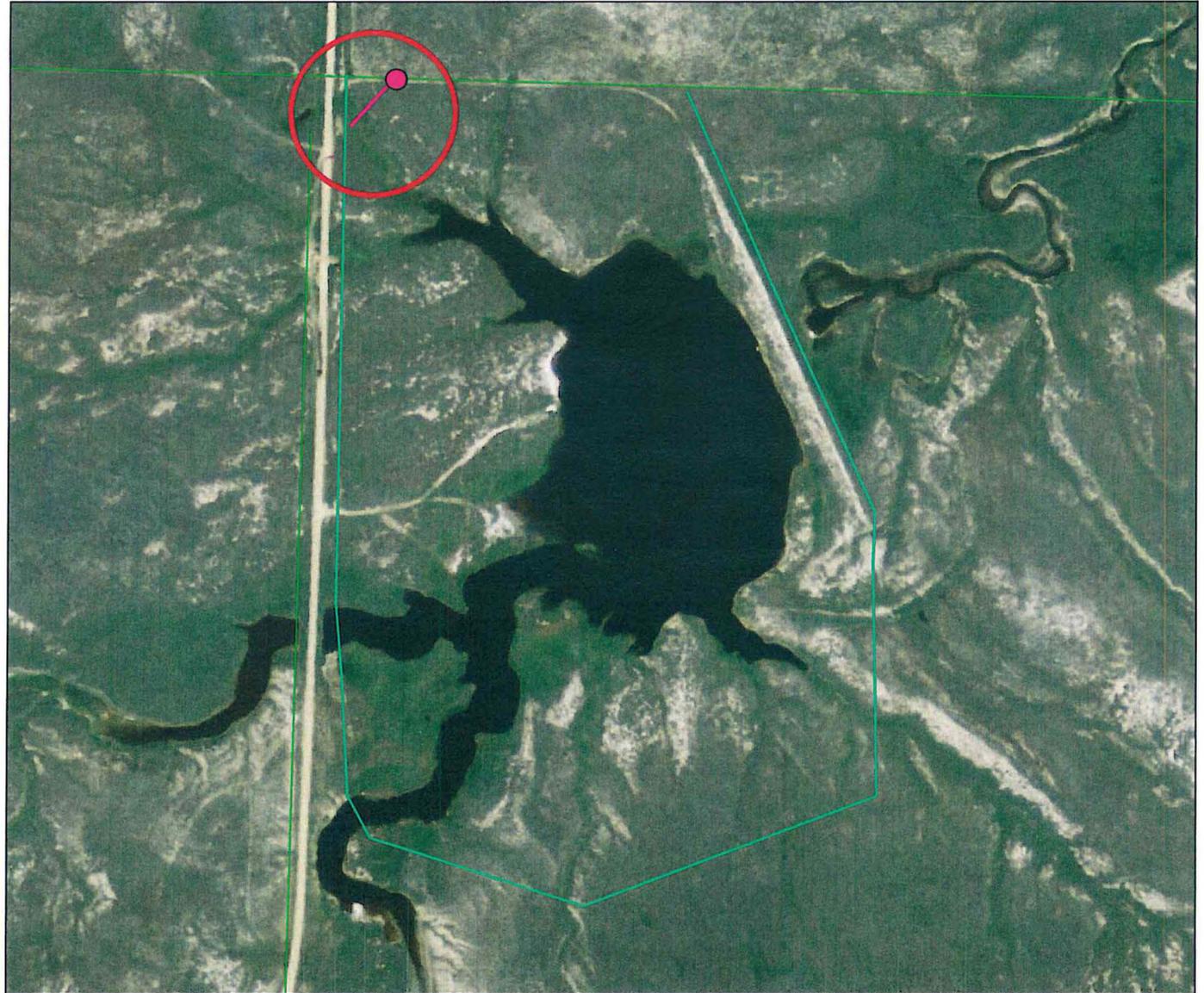
Authorizing Official: Sh Hershman Date: 10/20/15  
(Signature)

Name: Shane Hershman  
Title: Lewistown Field Manager

S. Fork Dry Blood Fence  
Modification for Cattle guard.

Cattle guard will be set on a flat spot just inside the Northwest corner. The fence line will be adjusted to accomidate the cattle guard location.

DRAFT  
10/8/2015



Holland Fence  
Modification for Cattle guard.

Cattle guard will be set  
just inside the current gate.  
The fence line will be  
adjusted to accomidate the  
cattle guard location.

DRAFT  
10/8/2015

