

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

OFFICE: Eugene District

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-OR-E000-2015-0033-CX

PROJECT NAME: Badger Mountain Communication Site Plan

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Badger Mountain.
T. 17 S., R. 7 W., Sec. 35, Lots 6 and 7. Willamette Meridian

A. Description of Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The proposed action is to approve the Communication Site Management Plan for Badger Mt. The Eugene District Office, along with the Washington Office is working towards completing the Communication Site Plan for Badger Mt. This plan would be developed to document and evaluate the existing communication site and facilities.

Badger Mt. is a communication site administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Eugene District Office. It is an established site with characteristics suitable for wireless carriers, microwave, private mobile radio and other communication providers. The communication site overlooks the small communities of Noti, Veneta and Elmira. State Highway 126 runs in a generally north/south direction east of the site.

The Communication Site Management Plans would be developed to provide an outline for future development of the site in conformance with the current Eugene District land use planning document, the Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP), as amended. The site plan will be incorporated into all future new leases issued for the Badger Mt., Communication Site. The plan would also be included as a part of all existing leases and renewed leases or ROW grants as the terms of those authorizations allow. Provisions of the site plan are enforced through the terms and conditions of the ROW or lease authorization. Each lessee is expected to incorporate mandatory BLM lease and site plan requirements into any subsequent agreements with the lessee's tenants and customers. The lessee is also responsible for enforcement of said requirements involving the lessee's tenants and customers.

The Site Management Plan provides applicable guidance and adds current policy and technical standards for better management of the Communications Site. Any additional development of these sites will be addressed in a site-specific NEPA document.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP), as amended.
Date Approved: June 1995.

The 1995 Eugene District RMP, as amended, designates existing and potential communication sites as rights-of-way corridors (areas identified as the preferred locations for future right-of-way grants). The Plan also states that expansion of communications facilities on existing communication sites will be allowed and that all communication sites with approved communication site management plans would be managed according to the provisions of the plans.

When discussing the authorization of new sites, the Plan states new communication sites will be considered on a case-by-case basis. "Applications may be approved where the applicant can demonstrate that use of an existing, developed communication site would not be technically feasible; and

the proposed facility would otherwise be consistent with this RMP and would minimize damage to the environment”.

C. Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1 (1.10). This site-specific plan is administrative in nature and is Categorical Excluded from further review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516.DM 2, Appendix 1, item 1.10, which states “ – Policies, directives, regulations, and guidelines that are of an administrative, financial, legal, technical, or procedural in nature and whose environmental effects are too broad, speculative, or conjectural to lend themselves to meaningful analysis and will later be subject to the NEPA process, either collectively or case-by-case”.

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

Signature of Project Lead:

/S/ Tracy Maahs
Tracy Maahs Realty Specialist

Date: 10/7/2015

Signature of NEPA Coordinator:

/S/ Sharmila Premdas
Sharmila Premdas

Date: 10/7/2015

Signature of the Responsible Official:

/S/ Michael J. Korn
Michael J. Korn, Siuslaw Field Office Manager

Date: 10/9/2015

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this Categorical Exclusion review, contact: Tracy Maahs 541-683-6376

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES CHECKLIST

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Communication Site Plan for Badger Mt.

Review the proposed action against each of the 12 "extraordinary circumstances" listed below. Any action that is normally categorically excluded must be subjected to sufficient environmental review to determine whether it meets any of the extraordinary circumstances, in which case, further analysis and environmental documents must be prepared for the action. If the criterion does not apply, indicate "Not Applicable." Any mitigation measures (such as contract stipulations or terms and conditions on permits) necessary to ensure that the proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion should be identified at the bottom of the page.

Extraordinary Circumstances	YES	NO
<p>1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety. <u>Rationale:</u> The proposed action is administrative and would have no impacts on public health or safety.</p>		X
<p>2. 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. <u>Rationale:</u> There are no natural resources or unique geographic characteristics that would be significantly impacted by this action.</p>		X
<p>3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]. <u>Rationale:</u> There are no predicted environmental effects from the proposed action which are considered to be highly controversial nor are there unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses.</p>		X
<p>4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. <u>Rationale:</u> The communication site plans will not authorize any new uses, there will be no uncertain and significant environmental effects or risks to the environment.</p>		X
<p>5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. <u>Rationale:</u> Communication site plans are developed through the BLM. There is no evidence that this action will have potentially significant environmental effects and it would not establish a precedent or decision for future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.</p>		X
<p>6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. <u>Rationale:</u> Based on the nature of the proposed action the Eugene District did not find any resource issues of concern that would be affected by this action.</p>		X
<p>7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office. <u>Rationale:</u> There are no eligible or listed properties within the plan area.</p>		X
<p>8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, as an Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species. <u>Rationale:</u> Proposed action would have no significant impacts to species listed or proposed to be listed as an Endangered or Threatened Species, nor have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.</p>		X
<p>9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. <u>Rationale:</u> : The proposed action conforms to the direction given for the management of public lands in the Eugene District ROD/RMP, which complies with all applicable Federal, State, local and tribal laws.</p>		X
<p>10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 2898). <u>Rationale:</u> There would be no adverse effect on low income minority populations</p>		X

Extraordinary Circumstances	YES	NO
<p>11. 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). <u>Rationale:</u> The project would have no significant impact on access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sites.</p>		X
<p>12. 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). <u>Rationale:</u> The proposed action does not result in measurable changes to the current baseline of the risk, or actual introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species in or from the project area. The proposed action does not introduce any vector for spread or introduction beyond such vectors already found.</p>		X

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DECISION RECORD
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Communication Site Plans for Badger Mt.

Decision

It is my decision to implement this action as described in the categorical exclusion documentation DOI-BLM-OR-E000-2015-0033-CX.

Decision Rationale

The proposed action has been reviewed by BLM staff. The Proposed Action is in conformance with the 1995 Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (as amended). Based on the Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined that the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further analysis is required.

Administrative Remedies

Any person adversely affected by this decision may appeal it to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. If an appeal is taken, a notice of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days of this decision for transmittal to the Board. If a notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, such statement must be filed with this office and with the Board within 30 days after the notice of appeal was filed. A copy of a notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs, must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 805 SW Broadway, Suite 600, Portland, OR 97205.

Signature of the Responsible Official:

/s/ Michael J. Korn

Michael J. Korn
Siuslaw Field Office Manager

Date: 10/9/2015