

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

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL

A. Background

Categorical Exclusion (CX) Number: DOI-BLM-OR-B060-2015-0040-CX

Date: 06/18/2015

Case File/Serial Number or Name:

Preparer/Title: Nick Miller/Wildlife Biologist

Applicant: Bureau of Land Management - Burns District & Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

Title of Proposed Action: Tule Springs Allotment Guzzler Maintenance

Description of Proposed Action and Project Design Elements (if applicable): The Proposal is to perform maintenance on six wildlife guzzlers (Tule Springs Bighorn Guzzler, Sand Gap Guzzlers #1, #2, #3, #4, and Black Point Bighorn Guzzler) within the Tule Springs Allotment. Maintenance of the six guzzlers would include: replacement or repair of water catchment aprons, replacement or repair of existing water storage tanks, replacement or repair of existing drinkers, replacement or repair of existing plumbing materials, and maintenance of livestock enclosure fences. The maintenance treatments outlined above are all encompassing for all the guzzlers. Not all guzzlers will need all of the aforementioned maintenance treatments. Where water storage tanks and drinkers are replaced their will be a limited amount of ground disturbance to remove the old tanks and/or drinkers. Old tanks and drinkers will be dug up and hauled off site, and new tanks and drinkers will be installed either by hand tools or a backhoe. Ground disturbing activities will be limited to the footprint of the existing guzzler complex. All guzzler maintenance will be completed within the next 3-7 years, when funding and labor allow.

Legal Description (attach location map):

Tule Springs Bighorn Guzzler – T36S R34E Sec. 26 NE

Sand Gap Guzzler # 1 – T37S R34E Sec. 07 SE

Sand Gap Guzzler # 2 – T37S R34E Sec. 20 NW

Sand Gap Guzzler # 3 – T37S R34E Sec. 19 SE

Sand Gap Guzzler # 4 – T37S R34E Sec. 29 SW

Black Point Big Horn Guzzler – T38S R35E Sec. 25 NW

B. Conformance with Land Use Plan (LUP) Andrews Management Unit Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP)

Date Approved/Amended: August 2005

Conformance with Land Use Plan (LUP):

The proposed action is in conformance with the Andrews Resource Management Plan (RMP), August 2005, as amended by the Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMP Amendment (ARMPA), September 2015, because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s) (*objectives, terms, and conditions*): Andrews Management Unit ROD/RMP:

Special Status Species – Objective 5: (AMU RMP - 34) “Maintain, restore, or improve bighorn sheep habitat and allow for maintenance or further expansion of bighorn sheep populations as defined by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in *Oregon’s Bighorn Sheep Management Plan*.”

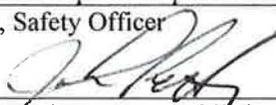
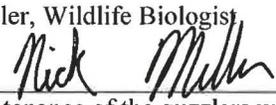
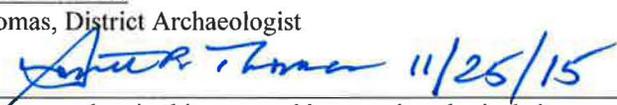
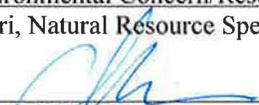
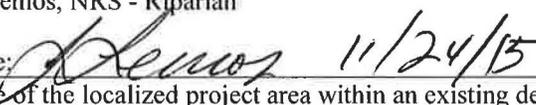
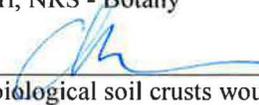
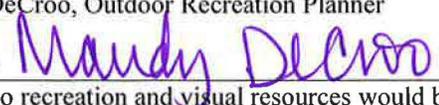
(AMU RMP – 15) Project and maintenance of existing and newly-constructed facilities will occur; however the level of maintenance could vary based on annual funding. Normally, routine operation and maintenance actions are categorically excluded from NEPA analysis. Such activities include water control structures and wildlife structures.

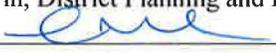
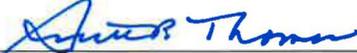
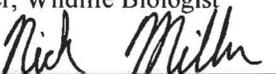
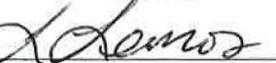
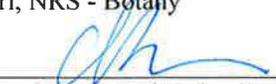
C. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (of 1969) (NEPA)

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) CX Reference (516 DM 11.9): N/A

Department of the Interior (DOI) CX Reference (516 DM 2, Appendix 1): 1.7 "Routine and continuing government business, including such things as maintenance and replacement activities having limited context and intensity (e.g. limited size and magnitude or short term effects).

Screening for Exceptions: The following extraordinary circumstances (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) may apply to individual actions within the categorical exceptions. The indicated specialist recommends the proposed action does *not*:

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION	
2.1	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.
Specialist: John Petty, Safety Officer	
Signature and Date:  11/30/15	
Rationale: No Significant impacts on public health or safety.	
2.2	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); flood plains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
<u>Migratory Birds</u>	
Specialist: Nick Miller, Wildlife Biologist	
Signature and Date:  11/24/15	
Rationale: The maintenance of the guzzlers will provide limited short-term disturbance to migratory birds when maintenance work is being carried out. The maintained guzzlers will provide a reliable water source for migratory birds in area where water is scarce.	
<u>Historic and Cultural Resources</u>	
Specialist: Scott Thomas, District Archaeologist	
Signature and Date:  11/25/15	
Rationale: Two of the guzzlers in this proposal have archaeological sites nearby. Sand Gap Guzzler #3 and Black Point Big Horn Guzzler are within 125 to 75 yards of sites. Heavy equipment, if used for maintenance activities, should be kept away from the site locations. If the proponents would like to have the sites flagged prior to maintenance activities, they can coordinate with the District Archaeologist. Because all of the maintenance activities would occur within the current development footprints, historic and cultural resources should not be affected.	
<u>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Areas</u>	
Specialist: Caryn Burri, Natural Resource Specialist (NRS) - Botany	
Signature and Date:  11/30/15	
Rationale: There are no ACEC/RNAs within the proposed projects areas.	
<u>Water Resources/Flood Plains</u>	
Specialist: Jarod Lemos, NRS - Riparian	
Signature and Date:  11/24/15	
Rationale: Because of the localized project area within an existing development, water resources and flood plains are not expected to be affected.	
<u>Soils, Biological Soil Crust, Prime Farmlands</u>	
Specialist: Caryn Burri, NRS - Botany	
Signature and Date:  11/30/15	
Rationale: Soils and biological soil crusts would not be impacted as all the work planned for the guzzler maintenance would occur within the original disturbed project area. There are no prime farmlands within the proposed project area.	
<u>Recreation/Visual Resources</u>	
Specialist: Mandy DeCroo, Outdoor Recreation Planner	
Signature and Date:  12/1/15	
Rationale: Impacts to recreation and visual resources would be limited to initial disturbance only. All existing guzzlers are in VRM Class II and III areas where the objective is to retain and partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The proposed maintenance would not affect the texture, line, and color, of the land as dictated by Visual Resource Management (VRM) rating.	
<u>Wilderness/Wild and Scenic River Resources</u>	
Specialist: Tom Wilcox, Wilderness Specialist	
Signature and Date:  11/30/2015	
Rationale: There is no Wilderness, Wild & Scenic Rivers, Wilderness Study Areas, or Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in the areas where the projects will take place.	

<p>2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].</p> <p>Specialist: Emily Erwin, District Planning and Environmental Coordinator</p> <p>Signature and Date:  12/1/15</p> <p>Rationale: There are no highly controversial environmental effects or unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. The guzzlers are existing features on the landscape. The action is to perform routine and continuing maintenance on existing facilities.</p>
<p>2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.</p> <p>Specialist: Emily Erwin, District Planning and Environmental Coordinator</p> <p>Signature and Date:  12/1/15</p> <p>Rationale: There are no known highly uncertain or potentially significant environment effects or unique or unknown environmental risks. The guzzlers are existing features on the landscape. The action is to perform routine and continuing maintenance on existing facilities.</p>
<p>2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.</p> <p>Specialist: Emily Erwin, District Planning and Environmental Coordinator</p> <p>Signature and Date:  12/1/15</p> <p>Rationale: Implementation would not set precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. The guzzlers are existing features on the landscape. The action is to perform routine and continuing maintenance on existing facilities.</p>
<p>2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.</p> <p>Specialist: Emily Erwin, District Planning and Environmental Coordinator</p> <p>Signature and Date:  12/1/15</p> <p>Rationale: Implementation does not have any known direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulative significant environmental effects. The guzzlers are existing features on the landscape. The action is to perform routine and continuing maintenance on existing facilities.</p>
<p>2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.</p> <p>Specialist: Scott Thomas, District Archaeologist</p> <p>Signature and Date:  11/25/15</p> <p>Rationale: Two of the guzzlers in this proposal have potentially eligible National Register properties nearby. Sand Gap Guzzler #3 and Black Point Big Horn Guzzler are within 125 to 75 yards of archaeological sites. Heavy equipment, if used for maintenance activities, should be kept away from the site locations. If the proponents would like to have the sites flagged prior to maintenance activities, they can coordinate with the District Archaeologist. Because all of the maintenance activities would occur with the current development footprints, National Register eligible properties should not be affected.</p>
<p>2.8 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.</p> <p><u>Endangered or Threatened Species-Fauna</u> Specialist: Nick Miller, Wildlife Biologist</p> <p>Signature and Date:  11/24/15</p> <p>Rationale: There are no known federally listed Threatened or Endangered fauna species in the area of this project so there are no effects to listed species. The maintenance of the guzzlers will benefit bighorn populations in the area by providing a reliable water source.</p>
<p><u>Endangered or Threatened Species-Aquatic</u> Specialist: Jarod Lemos, NRS - Riparian</p> <p>Signature and Date:  11/24/15</p> <p>Rationale: There are no known aquatic T&E species or their habitat within the proposed project areas; therefore, there would be no effect to Aquatic T&E species or their habitat.</p>
<p><u>Endangered or Threatened Species-Flora</u> Specialist: Caryn Burri, NRS - Botany</p> <p>Signature and Date:  11/30/15</p> <p>Rationale: There are no documented Federally listed T & E plant species, or designated critical habitat, within the proposed project area. Within 0.04 miles of the #3 Sand Gap Guzzler, there is a 22 acre site of <i>Symphoricarpos longiflorus</i> (desert snowberry). This is an Oregon Biodiversity Information Center (ORBIC) List 2 species. List 2 means that a species is imperiled because of rarity or</p>

, because other factors demonstrably make it very vulnerable to extinction (extirpation), typically with 6-20 occurrences. Because all disturbances would occur in an already disturbed area, there is no threat of trending this species towards listing during this project.

2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

Specialist: Emily Erwin, District Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Signature and Date:  12/1/15

Rationale: Implementation would not violate any known law or regulation imposed for the protection of the environment. The guzzlers are existing features on the landscape. The action is to perform routine and continuing maintenance on existing facilities.

2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

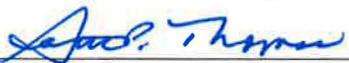
Specialist: Emily Erwin, District Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Signature and Date:  12/1/15

Rationale: Implementation would not have a disproportionately high or adverse effect on low income or minority populations as such populations do not exist within the project area.

2.11 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).

Specialist: Scott Thomas, District Archaeologist

Signature and Date:  11-25-15

Rationale: Access to or integrity of Indian sacred sites would not be affected by these projects. At this time, Burns BLM has no information indicating sacred site(s) occur in this area.

2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or nonnative 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).

Specialist: Lesley Richman, District Weed Coordinator

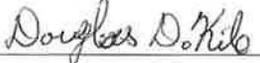
Signature and Date:  11/24/2015

Rationale: Noxious weeds are seldom documented in the areas where these guzzlers occur. The occasionally reported weeds have been treated. Any new weeds found would be treated. Weeds are currently not present in sufficient quantity to be considered a significant impact at these project locations.

D. Signatures

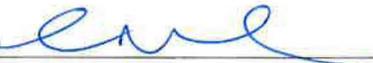
Additional review (As determined by the Authorized Officer):

Specialist: Stacey Fenton, Geographic Information Specialist

Signature:  FOR STACY FENTON Date: 12/2/2015

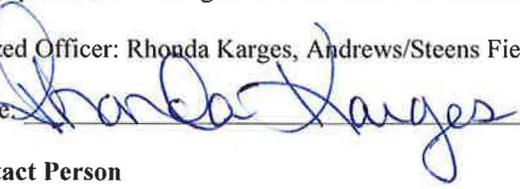
RMP conformance and CX review confirmation:

Specialist: Emily Erwin, Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Signature:  Date: 12/1/2015

Management Determination: Based upon review of this proposal, I have determined the Proposed Action is in conformance with the LUP, qualifies as a categorical exclusion and does not require further NEPA analysis.

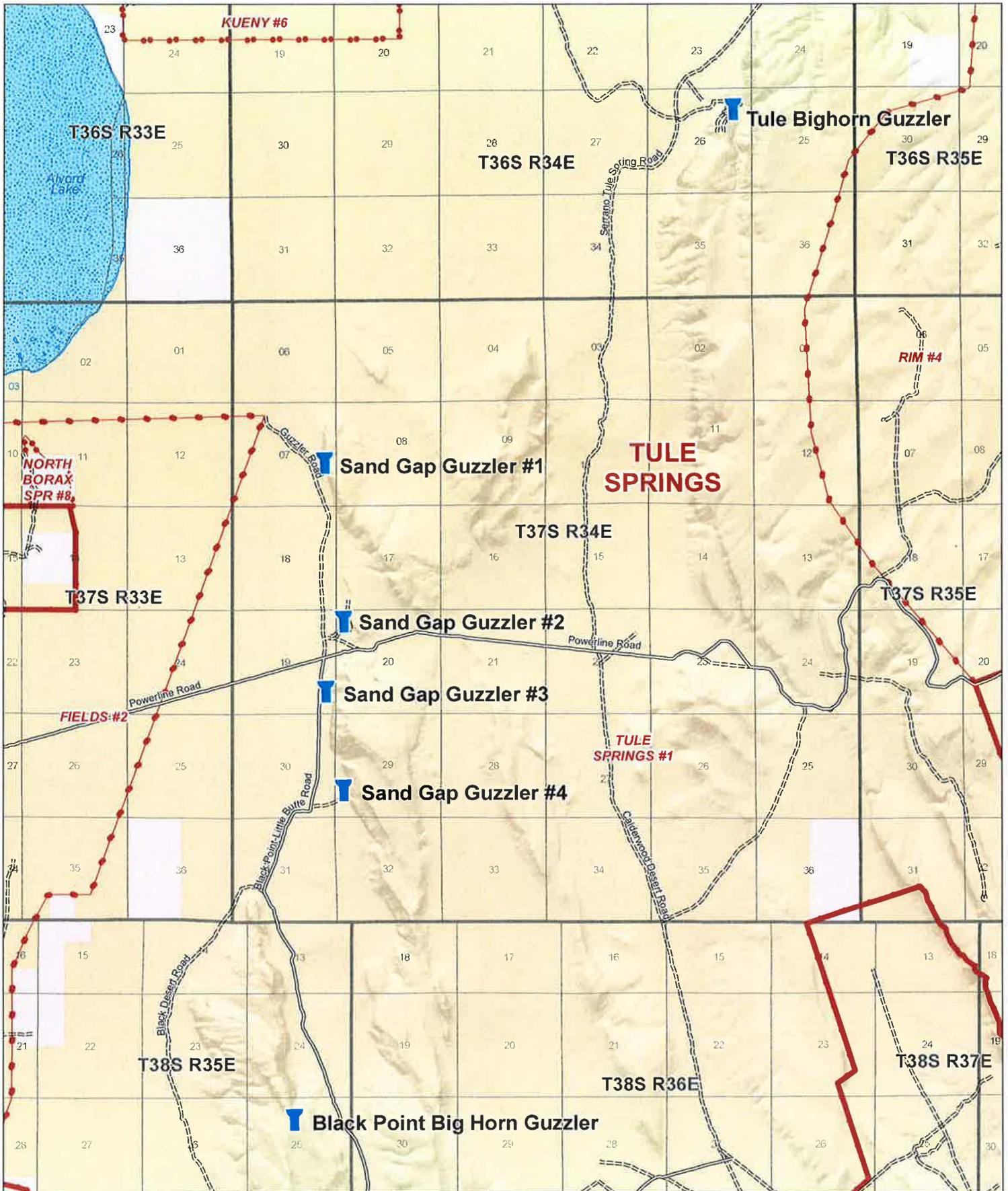
Authorized Officer: Rhonda Karges, Andrews/Steens Field Manager

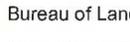
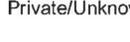
Signature:  Date: 12/2/15

E. Contact Person

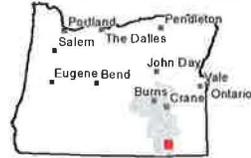
For additional information concerning this categorical exclusion review, contact the Planning and Environmental Coordinator, BLM, Burns District Office, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738, (541) 541-4400.

Tule Springs Allotment Guzzler Maintenance CX



-  Guzzler
-  Allotments
-  Pastures
-  Non-Paved Improved Road
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  Primitive/Unknown Surface
-  Private/Unknown

1 Miles




US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Burns District, Oregon

Note: No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources and may be updated without notification.
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