

RECORD OF PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION

CX Log #: DOI-BLM-OR-V000-2016-0010

CE Exemption category: 516 DM 11.9, G. Transportation, (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. Also, 516 DM 11.9, I. Emergency Stabilization, planned actions in response to wildfires, floods, weather events, earthquakes, or landslips that threaten public health or safety, property, and/or natural and cultural resources, and that are necessary to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover to a management-approved condition as a result of the event.

BLM Office: Vale District Bureau of Land Management, 100 Oregon Street, Vale, Oregon 97918
Phone #: 541-473-3144

BACKGROUND

Project Name: Dago Gulch Emergency Road Repair

Applicant: Vale District BLM, MFO

Location of Proposed Action: T. 26 S., R 45 E., Section 30, E½NW¼

An intense rain storm localized in the vicinity of Leslie and Dago Gulches occurred during mid-October 2015. The precipitation from this storm caused erosional damage to roads in both gulches. BLM has completed repairs to the Leslie Gulch Road; however the Dago Gulch Road requires repair on private land. The Dago Gulch Road begins on BLM-managed land and continues south onto private land. Eroded rock, gravel, and sand from Dago Gulch were transported downstream toward and into Leslie Gulch. It is proposed that the Dago Gulch Road repair will be a cooperative effort with the land owner, Greeley Land and Cattle, LLC (Greeley). This road provides reliable access to areas south of Leslie Gulch for fire suppression.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:

The Dago Gulch Road was eroded in two places (see attached maps) that would best be repaired by installing lengths and diameters of culvert capable of handling future precipitation discharge events. The goal will be to minimize or eliminate future erosional events that both damage special status plant locations and prevent vehicular access for administrative purposes. The two road wash-outs will be repaired by installing 50 feet of 36-inch galvanized steel culvert in the northern wash and 40 feet of 24-inch culvert in the southernmost wash. Rock material adjacent to the eroded drainages, within the existing disturbance area, will be used as fill material for the culverts. BLM will use a track-mounted dozer (D-3) with a backhoe attachment and a rubber-tired backhoe (Case 580). Greeley will use a D-3 from the private land to the south to assist in covering the culverts with rock material once the culverts have been set in place. Duration of the project is planned for three days.

Greeley has agreed to provide BLM with an easement for access through private land for administrative purposes such as monitoring of Wilderness Study Areas, monitoring of *Monardella angustifolia*, a rare narrow endemic, perennial forb species, and continued work on fire rehabilitation projects. Again, the road needs to be a reliable access route for fire suppression activities.

PLAN CONFORMANCE

All actions approved or authorized by the BLM must conform to the existing land use plan where one exists (43 CFR 1610.5-3, 516 DM 11.9). Although it is not a NEPA requirement, the BLM includes within all its NEPA documents a statement about the conformance of the proposed action and alternatives with the existing land use plan. The BLM's planning regulations state that the term

“conformity” or “conformance” means that “... a resource management action shall be specifically provided for in the plan, or if not specifically mentioned, shall be clearly consistent with the terms, conditions, and decisions of the approved plan or amendment” (43 CFR 1601.0-5(b)).

The proposed action is also in conformance with the management objectives of the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan (SEORMP, Sept. 2002), *General Planning Criteria*, cited on page 9 of the RMP. The proposed action conforms to the program-specific objective of the SEORMP cited on page 106, Human Use and Values, Manage public land and pursue partnerships to provide social and economic benefits to local residents, businesses, visitors, and future generations. This project will be completed with the cooperation of the land owner to allow administrative access to isolated areas of BLM-managed land only accessible by crossing the private land. BLM administrative access will be allowed for fire suppression, special-status vegetation monitoring, Wilderness Study Area monitoring, and monitoring of Emergency Stabilization & Rehabilitation projects associated with the 2015 Leslie Gulch fire. Culvert installation and hardening of the upstream entrance to the culvert is in conformance with Appendix O, Best Management Practices, Road Design and Maintenance, pages O-1 through O-4.

The proposed action is also in conformance with the Required Design Features within the Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement (June, 2015), Appendix C Required Design Features and Best Management Practices, page C-3. The action is also in compliance with the Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment and Record of Decision (September, 2015), Required Design Features, page I-24.

DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS: EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

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 circumstances described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, and listed below apply.

Yes	No	Extraordinary Circumstances	Reviewer (Specialist and/or FM Initials in each box)	Date
	√	1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		
	√	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.		
	√	3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		
	√	4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
	√	5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent		

Yes	No	Extraordinary Circumstances	Reviewer (Specialist and/or FM Initials in each box)	Date
		a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		
	√	6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
	√	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.		
	√	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.	SF-plants	12-16-15
	√	9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or Tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		
	√	10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		
	√	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).		
	√	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).	ls	12-15-2015

DOCUMENTATION OF RECOMMENDED MITIGATION

For any item(s) above checked "Yes", proposed mitigating measures for those items are listed below. If the extraordinary circumstances cannot be mitigated, the criteria required for a CE are not met and BLM must prepare an EA or EIS.

Item No.	Can Be Mitigated	Cannot Be Mitigated	Mitigation Measures	Reviewer	Date

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with the Departmental Manual Categorical Exclusions list, sections of which are cited and quoted above. The proposed action has also been reviewed in

relation to the above listed 12 Extraordinary Circumstances in accordance with the Departmental Manual, and none of these circumstances apply.

The following is the current language of the Wyden Amendment, Section 124 of PL 104-204, as modified by Section 136 of PL 105-277:

1. WATERSHED RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT AGREEMENTS

(a) In General.-- For fiscal year 1997 and each fiscal year thereafter, appropriations for the Bureau of Land Management may be used by the Secretary of the Interior for the purpose of entering into cooperative agreements with the heads of other Federal agencies, tribal, State, and local governments, private and nonprofit entities, and landowners for the protection, restoration and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat and other resources on public or private land and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat and other resources on public or private land and the reduction of risk from natural disaster where public safety is threatened that benefit those resources on public land within the watershed.

Decision Record

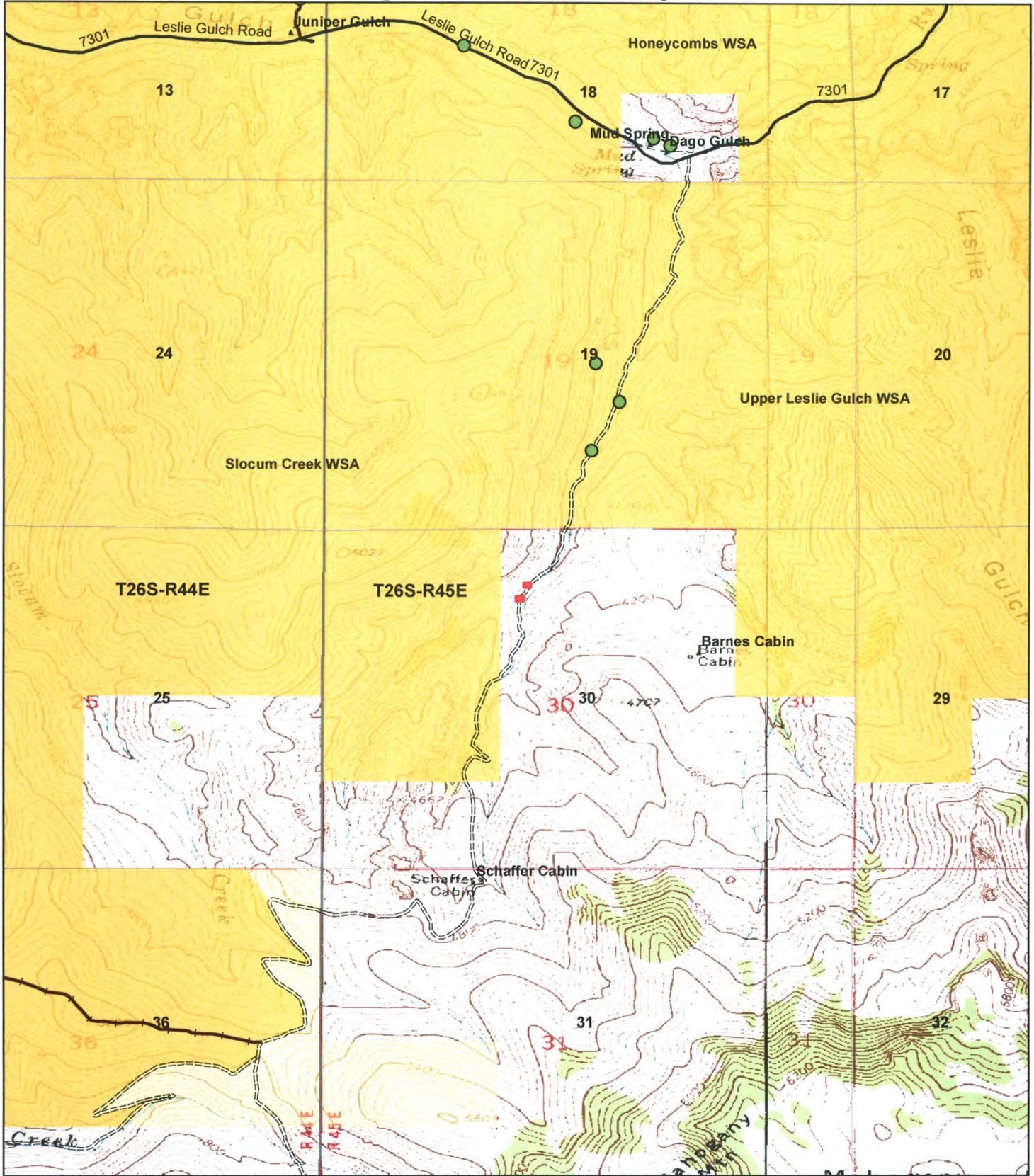
Based on the enclosed Categorical Exclusion Documentation, DOI-BLM-OR- V000-2016-0010, I have determined that the proposed action to install the culverts and repair the Dago Gulch Road involves no significant impacts to the human environment and requires no further environmental analysis. It is my decision to authorize this action as proposed. For additional information concerning this project, contact Project Lead, Vern Pritchard, Vale District Office, 100 Oregon Street, Vale, Oregon, 97918. Phone (541) 473-3144.

Jonathan Watfall SMRS 12/15/2015
Prepared By: Title Date

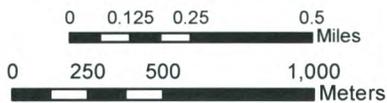
Bonnie Gandy P/EC 12/14/2015
Reviewed By: Title Date

[Signature] Field Manager 12/16/15
Authorizing Official Title Date

Dago Gulch Road Repair



- Legend**
- M. Angustifolia Sites
 - Unimproved Routes
 - Low Maintenance
 - Medium Maintenance
 - Primary Routes
 - Road Repair Area
 - Wilderness Study Area
 - Bureau of Land Management Private



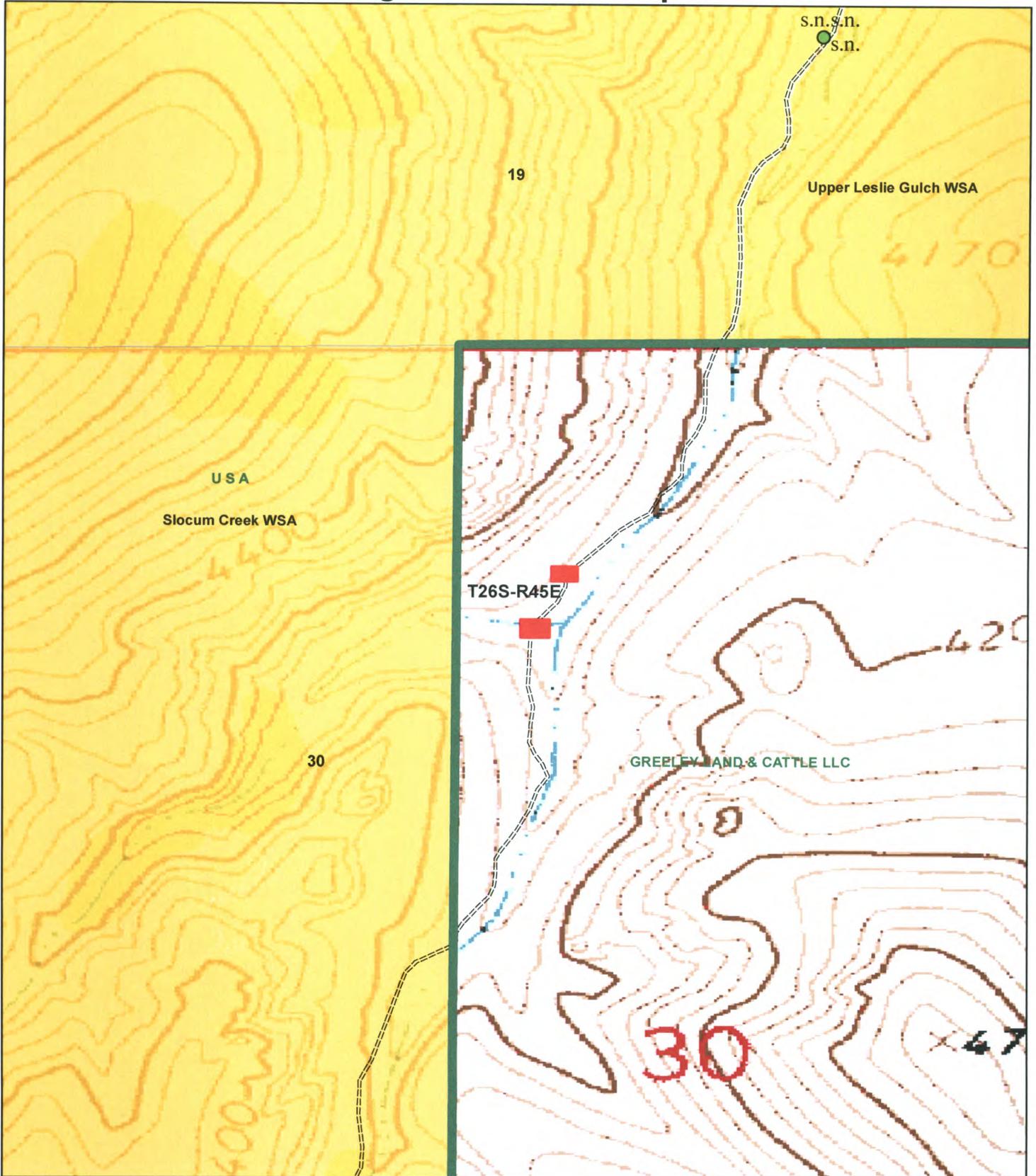
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management



Vale District
December 15, 2015

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Dago Gulch Road Repair



- Legend**
- M. Angustifolia Sites
 - Unimproved Routes
 - Low Maintenance
 - Medium Maintenance
 - Primary Routes
 - Road Repair Area
 - Taxlot
 - Wilderness Study Area
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Private

0 0.03 0.06 0.12 Miles

0 62.5 125 250 Meters



U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management



Vale District

December 15, 2015

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