

**Categorical Exclusion Documentation**  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District  
Border Field Office  
1103 North Fancher Road  
Spokane Valley, Washington 99212

**A. Background**

*BLM Office:* Border Field Office

*Lease/Serial/Case File No.:* WAOR 61081

*NEPA Log Number:* DOI-BLM-ORWA-W030-2016-0006

*Proposed Action Title:* Edward Jordan Road Access ROW Renewal

*Location of Proposed Action:* See Exhibit A Map

Willamette Meridian, Stevens County, Washington

T. 37 N., R. 39 E., sec. 10, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The area described contains approximately .41 acres.

*Proposed Action:*

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to renew a right-of-way grant re-authorizing Edward Jordan to operate and maintain a road to his property. Mr. Edward Jordan submitted an application requesting to renew a right-of-way authorization for road access across public lands in Stevens County, Washington.

The right-of-way is approximately 590 feet long and 30 feet wide for a total of .41 acres. No new rights will be issued or new ground disturbance approved as a result of this administrative action. The terms of the grant will be 30 years and will expire on December 31, 2045.

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

*Land Use Plan Name:* Spokane Resource Management Plan (RMP)

*Date Approved/Amended:* Approved 1987/Amended 1992

The proposed action is in conformance with the Spokane RMP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s): Keep public lands open for exploration/development of mineral resources, rights-of-way, access, and other public purposes with consideration to mitigate designated resource concerns (BLM 1987, p.12).



### **C. Compliance with NEPA**

The proposed action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. The proposed action is a kind of action that has been determined to fit within a category of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have significant effect on the human environment. The proposed action falls within category of actions at 516 DM 11.9.E (9) Renewals and assignment of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.

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 43 CFR 46.215 apply, as described below:

- a. The proposed action would not have significant impacts on public health or safety. The renewal of this right-of-way will have no new or significant impacts on health or public safety. The road was in existence prior to the original right-of-way approval in 2005. No additional ground disturbance will be approved as a result of this action.
- b. 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. There will be no new ground disturbance as a result of this renewal of road access and there will be no significant impacts on natural resources and unique geographic characteristics.
- c. 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 approval of this right-of-way renewal would not have any environmental effects that are highly controversial or involve unresolved conflicts. The effects of issuing a right-of-way to authorize operation and maintenance of an existing road are well understood.
- d. The proposed action would not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. The effects of issuing a right-of-way to authorize operation and maintenance of an existing road are well understood. There will be no highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks associated with the renewal of this right-of-way.
- e. 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. Issuing a right-of-way for continued operation and maintenance of an existing road for access would not set a precedent for any future action.
- f. The proposed action would not have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. The renewal of this road access authorization for an existing road does not have a direct relationship to actions with individually

insignificant but cumulatively significant effects. Operation and maintenance of the road would result in a continuation of impacts that have been ongoing prior to 2005 when the road access authorization was original issued. No new or additional impacts that would result in cumulatively significant impacts are predicted to occur as a result of continued operations.

g. 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. Approving of this right-of-way renewal will entail no new rights or additional ground disturbance as a result of this action.

h. The proposed action would not have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, under the Endangered Species, or have significant impacts on designated critical habitat for these species. The proposed action would not have any new significant impacts to endangered, threatened, or proposed species or designated critical habitat. The proposed action would not change the amount or suitability of wildlife habitat in the project area as this is an existing right-of-way and no new activities are being proposed or permitted.

i. 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. The right-of-way grant will include stipulations for the protection of the environment.

j. The proposed action would not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

k. 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). There are no identified sacred, ceremonial, or religious Indian sites within the area of the proposed action.

l. 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). The right-of-way grant will include standard stipulations that address the control of noxious weeds and invasive plant species.

#### **D. Signature**

/s/ Lindsey Babcock  
Lindsey Babcock  
Field Manager

1/25/2016  
Date

### E. Contact Person & Reviewers

For additional information concerning this Categorical Review, contact Heidi Lee Honner, Realty Specialist, (509) 536-1216.

<b>Reviewers</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Date</b>
Jason Lowe	Wildlife, Special Status Wildlife	JL	1/22/2016
Kim Frymire	Botany, Special Status Plants	KF	1/21/2016
Anne Boyd	Historic/Cultural	AB	1/22/2016
Heidi Lee Honner	Lands and Realty	HLH	9/10/2015

**Note:** A separate decision document has been prepared for the action covered by this CX.