

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management**

Socorro Field Office
901 S. HWY 85
Socorro, NM 87801

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW/DECISION

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-NM-A020-2016-0013-CX

Lease/Serial/Case File No.:

A. Background

Title of Proposed Action: Road Maintenance on the Quebradas Backcountry Byway

Location of Proposed Action: Legal Descriptions of beginning and end points:

County	Township	Range	Section	QQ
Socorro	002S	001E	030	(begin)
Socorro	004S	002E	025	(end)

See attached map of Quebradas Backcountry Byway SRMA

Applicant (if any): Internal

Description of Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to implement regular and routine road maintenance on the Quebradas Backcountry National Scenic Byway within the original disturbance. Continued road maintenance by BLM and Socorro County Road Department would inherently improve the safety, quality, and recreational experience for the public.

B. Conformance with Land Use Plan

This proposed action conforms with the Socorro Resource Management Plan (RMP) 2010, because it is specifically provided for in the land use decision(s):

Or, it is clearly consistent with the following decisions, objectives, and conditions of the RMP:

The proposed action is in compliance with the Socorro RMP, Quebradas Back County Byway Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA): “Maintain the byway open to motor vehicle use”, “Allow mineral material disposals within the buffer area contingent upon site-specific assessment of resources and mitigation as necessary”, and “Maintain existing Socorro County Road Maintenance agreement” (page 59).

C. Compliance with NEPA

This proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under NEPA in accordance with BLM NEPA Handbook 1790-1 Appendix 3 or Appendix 4

Appendix 3, 1.7, “Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance, renovations, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity” (e.g., limited size and magnitude or short-term effects).

This action does not meet any of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2.

Review for Extraordinary Circumstances	Signature	Date	Impact
Archaeologist	Brenda Wilkinson	_____	No
Biologist-Animal/TE	Denny Apachito	_____	No
Biologist-Plant/TE	Denny Apachito	_____	No

I have reviewed this proposed categorical exclusion and determined that it is appropriate for the proposed action and that none of the Categorical Exclusions Extraordinary Circumstances apply.

Signatures By Signature Date

_____	_____
Signature of Project Lead	Date
_____	_____
Signature of NEPA Coordinator	Date

D. Signature

Finding: Based upon the above review, I have determined that the proposed action (as described, including any indicated stipulations) is in conformance with the land use plan and meets criteria for the selected categorical exclusion in that none of the Extraordinary Circumstances apply. Therefore, the action is excluded from further environmental analysis and documentation.

Decision: It is my decision that since the cited CX is applicable for the proposed project and that the action conforms with the (*Socorro RMP*), I hereby authorize the proposed action.

Signature of the Responsible Official

Date

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Jeff Fassett, Project Manager, Socorro Field Office, 901 S. HWY 85 Socorro, NM 87801; 575-838-1245.

Note: A separate decision document must be prepared for the action covered by the CX.