

**United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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**Categorical Exclusion Not Established By Statute  
DOI-BLM-UT-0030-0029-CX**

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**May 2016**

**Cattle Guard Replacement at Willow Tank**

***Location:*** Hole-in-the-Rock Road at Willow Tank

***Applicant/Address:*** *Grand Staircase – Escalante National Monument*

***Location:*** Salt Lake Meridian  
Township 39S, Range 7E, Section 27 SE1/4

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Grand Staircase – Escalante National Monument  
669 South Highway 89A  
Kanab, UT 84741  
(435) 644-1200  
(435) 644-1250



**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FORMAT WHEN USING  
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS NOT ESTABLISHED BY STATUTE**

**A. Background**

BLM Office: Grand Staircase – Escalante National Monument

Lease/Serial/Case File No: N/A

Proposed Action Title/Type: Cattle Guard Replacement and fencing

Location of Proposed Action: Hole-in-the-Rock Road north Willow Tank

Description of Proposed Action: BLM will replace the cattle guard along the HITR near Willow Tank. This cattle guard replacement is needed in support for the implementation of the Dance Hall Rock Parking Lot project. The current cattle guard is placed at the top of a hill and the down slope side is very steep creating a dramatic drop off. For the Dance Hall project this cattle guard needs to be moved 50 feet to the north and replaced so the belly-dump trucks can drive across the guard without becoming high centered. The relocation will allow large construction vehicles to access DHR while keeping the cattle in the proper grazing allotment. A short section of fencing will need to be rebuilt to meet up with the new location of the cattle guard.

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

Land Use Plan Name: Grand Staircase – Escalante National Monument Date

Approved/Amended: February 2000

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions): (list).

Cattle Guard placement and replacement is not mentioned in the Monument Management Plan (MMP). Page 40 – 43 of the MMP addresses Livestock Grazing prescriptions. When considering livestock and transportation management it is impossible to manage these two elements without cattle guards. Since a cattle guard exists on site and is proposed for replacement, GSENM considers these standard operations to manage uses on the Monument.

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

- TRAN-7      With the exception of those segments listed below, open routes may be maintained within the disturbed travel surface area as of the date of this Plan; no widening, passing lanes, or other travel surface upgrades could occur. Deviations from the current maintenance levels will be allowed as follows (subject to Wilderness Study Area Interim Management Policy, BLM Manual H-3550-1):
- Hole-in-the-Rock Road: Allow stabilization of washout prone areas, primarily along the southeastern end, to prevent erosion and sediment loading in drainages.

FENCE-1 Fences may be used in certain circumstances to protect Monument resources, to manage visitor use, and to manage livestock, consistent with the Proclamation. They will be designed and constructed in accordance with visual resource management objectives and the Monument Facilities Master Plan (see the Visual Resource Management section for related decisions).

**C. Compliance with NEPA**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 43 CFR Part 46.210 and 516 DM 11.9, t].

Departmental Categorical Exclusions (43 CFR Part 46.210):

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).

BLM Categorical Exclusions (516 DM 11.9, t):

G. Transportation

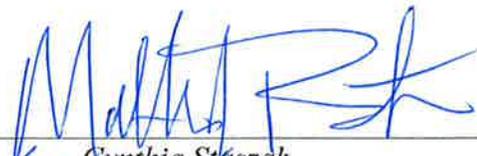
2. Installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, water bars, gates, or cattle guards on/or adjacent to roads and trails identified in any land use or transportation plan, or eligible for incorporation in such plan.

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 Part 46.215 apply.

I considered this project general maintenance and update pursuant to the GSENM Travel Management Plan. This project is considered to have limited context and intensity (e.g., limited size and magnitude).

**D: Signature**

Authorizing Official:

  
Cynthia Staszak  
FOE Monument Manager

Date:

5/11/14

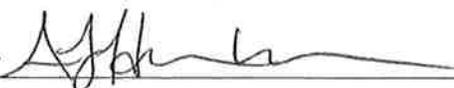
**Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Jabe Beal, Outdoor Recreation Planner, 669 South Highway 89A, Kanab, Utah 84714, (435) 826-5601.

### Categorical Exclusion Review Record

Resource	Yes/No*	Assigned Specialist Signature	Date
Air Quality (Bybee)	No	/s/ J.Bybee	5/2/2016
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (Beal)	No	/s/ J. Beal	20160425
Cultural Resources (Zweifel)	No	/s/ M. Zweifel	05/02/2016
Environmental Justice	No	/s/ A. Hughes	04/29/2016
Farm Lands (prime or unique)	No	/s/ A. Hughes	04/29/2016
Floodplains (Bradshaw)	No	/s/ K. Bradshaw	5/2/2016
Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds (Brinkerhoff)	No	/s/R.Brinkerhoff	5/2/16
Migratory Birds (Tolbert)	No	/s/ T. Tolbert	5/11/16
Native American Religious Concerns (Zweifel)	No	/s/ M. Zweifel	05/02/2016
Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Species (Tolbert)	No	/s/T. Tolbert	5/11/16
Wastes (hazardous or solid) (Pierson)	No	/s/ B.Pierson	5/9/16
Water Quality (drinking or ground) (Bradshaw)	No	/s/ K. Bradshaw	5/2/2016
Wetlands / Riparian Zones (Brinkerhoff)	No	/s/R.Brinkerhoff	5/2/16
Wild and Scenic Rivers (Gale)	No	/s/LGale	05/5/16
Wilderness (Gale)	No	s/LGale	05/5/16
Other:			

\*Extraordinary Circumstances apply.

Environmental Coordinator 

Date: 5/11/2016

## Extraordinary Circumstance to Categorical Exclusions

### Exceptions to Categorical Exclusion Documentation

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) apply. The project would:

<b>Extraordinary Circumstances</b>		
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> <i>This project is considered standard and routine maintenance along open routes of travel within GSENM. BLM and Garfield County will work in cooperation to perform the maintenance along the roadway. Both agencies will work together to ensure the road is managed during the work being conducted. Public health and safety is not considered an issue during the implementation of this project.</i>
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.		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> <i>No. This project will occur in a National Monument; however the cattle guard to be replaced is in an open road in the TMP. The fence line will run adjacent to the road No new impacts outside those that already exist are expected.</i>
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102 (2) (E)].		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> <i>No controversial issues have been identified. The cattle guard exists adjacent to a long time water development. The installation and moving of the cattle guard is not expected to be controversial. The movement of the cattle guard is expected to improve access and minimize road maintenance issues. Fencing along the road and at the cattle guard currently exists. The fence will be rerouted to meet up with the new location while maintaining the allotment boundaries.</i>
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> <i>Uncertain or potentially significant environmental effects have not been identified for this project.</i>
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		

**Extraordinary Circumstances**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> <i>This action is connected to the Dance Hall Rock Parking Lot Development project, Z:\NEPA\CXs DNAs EAs and EISs\2013\DOI-BLM-UT-0300-2013-003-EA_Dance Hall Rock. The Decision record was signed on January 20, 2015. The cattle guard replacement was not a foreseeable connected action to Dance Hall Rock and was identified during contract preparation. The cattle guard replacement is necessary to address an access issue to Dance Hall Rock. This action is not setting precedent for future actions.</i>
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6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> <i>This project is not in direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.</i>
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7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> <i>Cultural resource records at the BLM office and SHPO report no sites at this location. Sites are indicated nearby but this project does not have the potential to adversely affect those cultural resource sites.</i>
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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.

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> <i>Impacts to Threatened and Endangered Species are not expected. A clearance for migratory birds will be conducted prior to construction starting. If nesting birds are encountered the project will be stopped and rescheduled after the bird breeding season is complete. Consultation has not been conducted with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the impacts are not expected to "take" any listed species or threaten their habitats.</i>
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9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> <i>BLM will not violate any Federal laws, or State, local or tribal laws while implementing this action.</i>
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10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> <i>Such populations are not present nor will they receive disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects. Health or environmental statutes would not be compromised.</i>
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**Extraordinary Circumstances**

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).

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> <i>This project is taking place within and immediately adjacent to a road. Access will not be limited to locations except during the installation of the cattle guard. The road will not be closed during the installation of the cattle guard. A pass gate is currently on site and will allow single lane access for vehicles traveling along the road. No Native American sites are located at the proposed cattle guard location.</i>
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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).

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> <i>Contract Stipulations address noxious and invasive species and requires that all equipment be washed prior to entering the Monument. In addition, the site??</i>
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