

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

**DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2016-0100-DNA
May 2016**

**STONE PIPELINE AND FENCES
RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Location: Prairie County

T. 14 N., R. 51 E., Sections 30, 31, 32

T. 13 N., R 51 E., Section 05

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Worksheet
Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

BLM Office: Miles City

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2016-0100-DNA

Case File/Project No: 2502792

RIPS Name & No: Stone Pipeline #019389; Stone Fence #019388

Proposed Action Title/Type: Stone Pipeline and Pasture Division Fences

Location/Legal Description: Prairie County, MT; T. 14 N., R. 51 E., Sections 30, 31, 32
T. 13 N., R 51 E., Section 05 (Figure 1)

A: Description of the Proposed Action:

Pat O'Neil has applied for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQUIP) and has been coordinating with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to implement conservation practices that are beneficial to public and private lands. He has requested to install a pipeline and two pasture division fences to facilitate grazing management. The proposed fences and pipeline would reduce grazing pressure on public lands, ensuring range conditions are maintained or improved.

Stone Pipeline

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would authorize the permittee to install approximately 5,400 feet of buried stock water pipeline on public lands in T. 14 N., R. 51 E., Section 30, in the Cottonwood Allotment (01288) (Figure 1). There would be one new stock tank on public lands. The pipeline would continue across private lands approximately 1,600 feet in T. 14 N., R. 51 E., Section 31. There would be one new stock tank and approximately a 15,000 gallon storage tank on private lands. The ground disturbance associated with the installation of a pipeline and stock water tanks to soils and vegetation in the allotment was recently analyzed in the Grady Pipeline Spur [DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2014-0109-EA](#), O'Neil Singleton Pipelines [DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2011-0281-EA](#), and South Cedar Grazing Transfer and Range Improvement Projects- EA DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2016-0006-EA. The pipeline would connect to a private well; water rights would be filed by BLM upon project completion, as specified in a Cooperative Range Improvement Agreement (Form 4120-6). Cultural clearances have been completed.

Stone Pasture Division Fences

The BLM would authorize the permittee to build two four-strand fences totaling approximately 2,822 feet that would be constructed to BLM standards on public lands. The two fences would also cross approximately 3,508 feet of State lands and 13,350 feet of private lands located T. 14 N., R. 51 E., Sections 30 and 31, and T. 13 N., R 51 E., Section 5 (Figure 1). Fence construction was recently analyzed in the [User Built Fences EA-DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2013-0162-EA](#).

Applicant: Pat O'Neil

County: Prairie County
DNA Originator: Christina Handy

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name* BLM 2015 Miles City Field Office Approved Resource Management Plan (ARMP)
Date Approved 2015

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

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 decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions). *This proposed action is in accordance with the BLM 2015 Miles City Field Office Approved Resource Management Plan (ARMP), The ARMP states on page 3-11, Livestock Grazing Authorization, MD LG 7 “Approximately 2,700,000 acres and an estimated 546,496 animal unit months (AUMs) are available for livestock grazing; and page 3-10, MD LG 2: “The BLM will follow the BLM’s 1997 Record of Decision for Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Final Environmental Impact Statement for Montana and North and South Dakota.”.*

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

- *BLM 2015 Miles City Field Office (ARMP)* September 2015
- *Grady Pipeline Spur* [DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2014-0109-EA](#) Approved: June 6, 2014
- *O’Neil Singleton Pipelines* [DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2011-0281-EA](#) Approved: June 9, 2012
- *O’Neil EQUIP Pipelines: Grady Pipeline, Lower Cottonwood Pipeline, and Pine Creek Pipeline* [DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2002-0287-EA](#) Approved: November 1, 2002;
- *Undem’s Sec 3&4 Pipeline* DOI-BLM-MT-020-78-9-9 Approved: October 11, 1978
- *Keltner permit Renewal/Modification and Pipeline Project* [DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2011-0274-EA](#)
- *South Cedar Grazing Transfer and Range Improvement Projects* EA- [EA DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2016-0006-EA](#)
- *User Built Fences* [User Built Fences EA-DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2013-0162-EA](#). Approved: June 3, 2016.

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation and monitoring report).

- *Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing for Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota* Approved 1997
- *NRCS Rest Rotation Grazing Plan* 2002
- *Cultural Project Number:* MT-020-16-51

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial? Yes. The proposed action is similar to that analyzed in the above referenced documents. Installing a pipeline and fences would have similar impacts that those analyzed in the EAs: [O'Neil Singleton Pipelines DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2011-0281-EA](#), [Grady Pipeline Spur DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2014-0109-EA](#), and [User Built Fences EA-DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2013-0162-EA](#).

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values? Yes. The alternatives in the existing Environmental Assessments analyzed the effects of installing pipelines, stock water tanks, and fences. The South Cedar Grazing Transfer and Range Improvement Projects EA- [EA DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2016-0006-EA](#) recently analyzed the effects of installing a pipeline in greater sage-grouse (GSG) general habitat; the range improvement would provide net conservation gain for GSG with improved wildlife habitat. These alternatives were determined to be appropriate for the current proposed action.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstance would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action? Yes. One lek is located 3.1 miles from the proposed pipeline and recent data indicates no sage-grouse have been surveyed on any of the identified leks. The project area is classified as general sage-grouse habitat, but is considered marginal sage-grouse habitat. The South Cedar Grazing Transfer and Range Improvement Projects EA- [EA DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2016-0006-EA](#) signed April 25, 2016, recently analyzed pipeline installation in the project area.

4. Are the direct, indirect and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document? Yes. The direct and indirect impact of the current proposed action is unchanged from the existing Environmental Assessment. The current proposed action is to install a pipeline and build two fences. The [O'Neil Singleton Pipelines DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2011-0281-EA](#), [Grady Pipeline Spur DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2014-0109-EA](#), [The South Cedar Grazing Transfer and Range Improvement Projects EA- EA DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2016-0006-EA](#) and [User Built Fences EA-DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2013-0162-EA](#) analyzed the site-specific impacts.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action? Yes. The public involvement and interagency review associated with the existing EA is adequate for the current proposed action per agency requirements.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	Resource Represented	Initials & Date
Kent Undlin	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife	<i>KU 5/26/16</i>
Christina Handy	Range Specialist	Range	<i>CMH 05/17/16</i>
CJ Truesdale	Archeologist	Cultural	<i>CJ 05/24/2016</i> <i>MT-020-16-51</i>
Reyer Rens	Sup. RMS	Supr.	RR 6/1/2016

/s/ **Kathy Bockness**
Environmental Coordinator

6/22/2016
Date

F. Mitigation Measures: List any applicable mitigation measures that were identified, analyzed, and approved in relevant LUPs and existing NEPA document(s). List the specific mitigation measures or identify an attachment that includes those specific mitigation measures. Document that these applicable mitigation measures must be incorporated and implemented.

Compliance with Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) would include a timing stipulation of: Construction activities would not occur between April 15 and July 15 to minimize impacts to migratory birds and sage/sharp-tailed grouse species and associated nesting activities.

CONCLUSION

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation in the above mentioned EAs fully cover the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Note: If one or more of the criteria are not met, a conclusion of conformance and/or NEPA adequacy cannot be made and this box cannot be checked

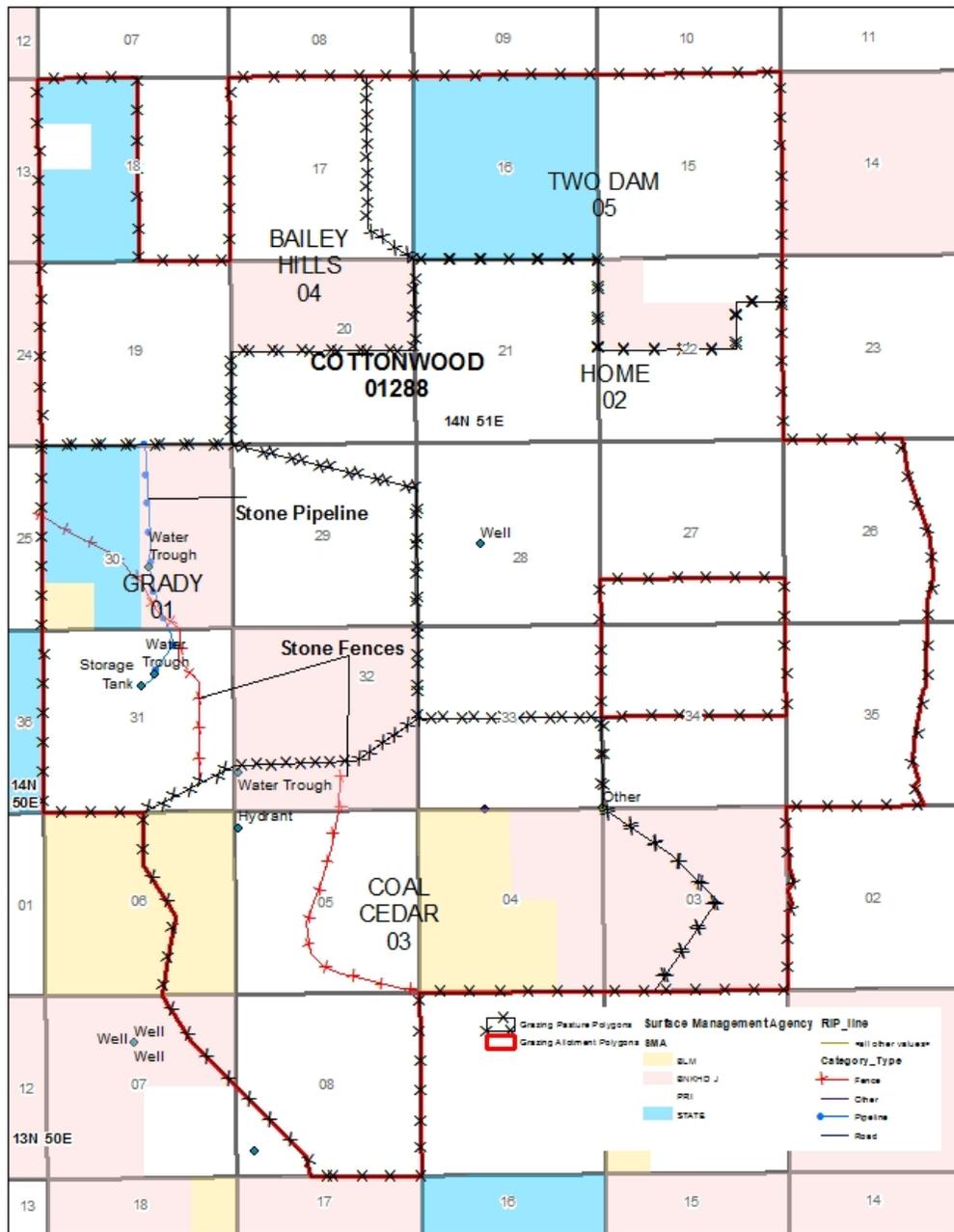
/s/ Wendy M. Warren
Wendy M. Warren
Acting Field Manager
Miles City Field Office

6/22/2016
Date

Figure 1. Cottonwood Allotment (01288) Proposed Range Improvement Projects



Proposed Stone Pipeline #019389 and Fences #019388



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MILES CITY FIELD OFFICE

CAUTION:
Land ownership data is derived from less accurate data than the 1:24000 scale base map. Therefore, land ownership may not be shown for parcels smaller than 40 acres, and land ownership lines may have plotting errors due to source data.