

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

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**DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2016-0117-CX**

**July 14, 2016**

**Willow Creek Temporary Water Tanks**

*Location:*

**Carter County, MT  
T. 9 S. R. 59 E., Section 6**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Miles City Field Office  
111 Garryowen Road  
Miles City, MT 59301  
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
*Miles City Field Office*  
*111 Garryowen Road*  
*Miles City, Montana 59301*

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

**A. Background**

BLM Office: Miles City Field Office RIPS No:

NEPA Number (if applicable): DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2016-0117-CX

Proposed Action Title/Type: Willow Cr. Temporary Water Tanks/Range Improvement

Location of Proposed Action: Carter County - Township 9 S Range 59 E Section 6,

Description of Proposed Action: The proposed action is to authorize two temporary 1,000 gallon water tanks to be placed on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered public lands for no longer than one month. The temporary tank will be placed adjacent to Montana Highway 212, Seven miles northwest of Alzada MT and water will be hauled by truck to site. The selected location is in a previously disturbed site from highway reconstruction.

This project is located in Township 9S, Range 59 E., Section 6, in the Southern portion of the Willow Cr Allotment (10419) (Figure 1). The permittee will haul water as needed to water tanks for less than three weeks. The tanks will be emptied and removed before the end of July.

A temporary water source is needed for the Southeast Summer Pasture as all other water sources in the area have dried up. The normal watering location for this pasture is a stock water reservoir .25 miles to the west of the proposed site. Access to the next nearest water source has been excluded by reclamation fence from bentonite mining. There would be no new ground disturbance with this proposed project.

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

Land Use Plan Name: Miles City Field Office ARMP, ROD

Date Approved/Amended: September, 2015

Other document\*\* Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing for Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota, approved in 1997

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: Compliance with NEPA:**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9D (2) for the “placement and use of temporary (not to exceed one month) portable corrals and water troughs, providing no new road construction is needed”.

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, as documented below, none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 apply.

<b>Extraordinary Circumstances</b>		
<b>The project would:</b>		
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> <i>The project would not have significant impacts on public health and safety. JDD 7/7/2016</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> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> <i>Impacts would not be significant as the proposed action is to place temporary tanks for less than one month and haul water. There are no Wilderness Study Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Monuments, and other areas with special designation involved with this proposal. The proposed action would not occur in a floodplain or wetland area. The act of authorizing temporary tanks would not affect migratory birds. AJD 07/08/2016</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> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> <i>No controversial environmental effects or unresolved conflicts. JDD 07/07/2016</i>
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> <i>No highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks. JDD 07/07/2016</i>
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> <i>This action is not connected to another action that would require further environmental analysis nor will it set a precedent for future actions that would normally require environmental analysis. JDD 07/07/2016</i>
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 action does not have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. JDD 07/07/2016</i>
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.		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b> <b>X</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> <i>BLM and SHPO records indicate the area has been inventoried for cultural resources and no cultural resources were located (see BLM Cultural Resources Report MT-020-16-131). BLM has determined additional inventory is not necessary and project would have no effect to historic properties. Geologically, the project is in the Belle Fourche Shale. The Belle Fourche Shale has a PFYC rating of 3a in the Miles City Field Office. The formation is not expected to yield scientifically important paleontological resources. DM 07/11/106</i>
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>Habitat does not exist for threatened or endangered species in the project area. This project will not have any effect to Sensitive Species, including Sage grouse (in RHMA), as there will be no new disturbance and is an area that does not provide habitat for these species. AJD 07/08/2016</i>
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>No laws are being violated by this action. JDD 07/07/2016</i>
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>Does not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations. JDD 07/07/2016</i>
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>The proposed action would not limit use or access to public lands. The Ethnographic Overview of Southeast Montana does not list any sites of</i>

		<i>concern to Native American groups with historic ties to the area DM 07/11/16</i>
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>The proposed action will not contribute to the introduction or spread of noxious weeds BSW 7-8-2016</i>

\_\_\_\_\_  
Environmental Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I considered this proposed action for the above ground pipeline. It does not cause any significant impacts. Use of this CX is appropriate.

**Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities**

This decision is not subject to administrative appeal.

**D: Signature**

Todd Yeager  
Field Manager  
Miles City Field Office

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Contact Person**

J. Dean Dolatta  
Rangeland Management Specialist  
Miles City Field Office, Miles City, Montana  
406-233-2835

Figure 1:



# Willow Cr. Allotment #10419



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, ICF, Swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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MILES CITY FIELD OFFICE



Legend	
	Allotment Boundary
	Allotment Fence
	County Road
	BLM
	STATE
	Hwy 212

**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.  
Created by: J. Dean Dolotta Date: 7/8/2016