

**DECISION RECORD FOR
PARTRIDGE CREEK BRIDGE CATTLEGUARD, GATE,
FENCE REPAIRS & MODIFICATIONS**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
COEUR D'ALENE DISTRICT
COTTONWOOD FIELD OFFICE**

Proposed Action:

Partridge Creek Bridge Cattleguard, Gate, Fence Repairs and Modifications

CE Number:

ID-420-2009-CE-3888

Location of Action:

T. 24 N., R. 3 E., NE1/4, Section 19

I. Decision

It is my decision to repair and modify the current range improvements on the north and south side of Partridge Creek Bridge as shown in the CE. Implementation of this project will: 1) maintain the range improvements in good working order; and 2) contain cattle on the Partridge Creek Allotment.

I have reviewed the management framework plan for conformance and have determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the approved plan and that no further environmental analysis is required.

II. Rationale

I considered the fact that: 1) the project is on an existing gravel road; 2) that BLM installed and retained maintenance responsibility; and 3) the range improvements are in need of maintenance.

This project is in compliance with BLM's multiple use mandate for this area. Also, the Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with CFR 46.210 (f); and 516 Departmental Manual (DM) 11.9 G. [Transportation] 2; and none of the exceptions described in the Extraordinary Circumstances List apply.

<u>/s/ William Runnoe</u>	<u>November 16, 2009</u>
Cottonwood Office Field Manager	Date
Will Runnoe	
Cottonwood Field Office	
1 Butte Drive	
Cottonwood, ID 83522	

III. Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities

In accordance with Title 43 CFR Part 4, any decision of an officer of the BLM is appealable. Information on filing appeals may be found in Title 43 CFR Part 4, Subpart E. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in this office at the above address within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

Contact Person

For further information regarding this project, contact Dean Huibregtse in writing at the above address or by calling (208) 962-3784.

Attachment: Categorical Exclusion – ID-420-2009-CE-3888

Categorical Exclusion
ID-420-2009-CE-3888
Partridge Creek Bridge Cattleguard, Gates, & Fence Repairs and Modifications
U.S. Department of the Interior-Bureau of Land Management
Coeur d'Alene District-Cottonwood Field Office, Idaho

Background:

Carlson Livestock Company has authorized cattle grazing on the Partridge Creek allotment which is located on the south side of the Salmon River (see Attachment 1 for Allotment Map). BLM installed a cattleguard and fence at the north entrance to Partridge Creek Bridge in the late 1980's (see Attachment 2- Location Map/Project Map, & Attachment 3-Range Improvement photos). Carlson Livestock Company attached a temporary gate (livestock panel) on the south side of the bridge so that cattle would not be able to walk over the bridge, and access the north side of the river.

The existing cattleguard has filled in with dirt so cattle can walk across it and can access the north side of river which is not authorized for cattle grazing. The existing cattleguard was inspected, and it was determined that it was rated for light use (12 tons per axle). Since heavier vehicles cross over the cattleguard, BLM has decided to install a heavier rated guard (30 tons per axle). In addition, the existing fence and gates are in need of repairs.

Proposed Action (see Attachment 4-Site Drawings):

BLM plans to complete the following maintenance items on the north entrance to the Partridge Creek Bridge:

1. Remove the existing (8' long x 16' wide) cattleguard and install a new cattleguard (8' long x 16' wide).
2. If the existing concrete bases are cracked, they will be preplaced with 2 new 16' precast concrete bases.
3. Remove the old barbwire & woven fence, and replace them with a fence consisting of metal livestock panels with a height of 5 feet.
4. Remove the old barbwire gate, and install 1 metal livestock gate (18' long x 5').

BLM plans to modify the following item on the south entrance to the Partridge Creek Bridge:

1. Remove the old temporary gate (livestock panel) that is tied to the bridge, and replace it with a metal livestock gate (16' long x 5' high).

Location of Proposed Action:

T. 24 N., R. 3 E., NE1/4 Section 19; Idaho County, Idaho; 9 miles east of Riggins on the Salmon River road.

Land Use Plan Conformance:

Land Use Plan Name: Chief Joseph MFP 1981 & North Idaho Grazing EIS 1981

Date Approved: 1981

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):

Chief Joseph MFP:

Page 6; Rangeland Management; 2. "Manage livestock in a manner that will protect forest regeneration in timbered areas, cultural resources, and other resource values."

North Idaho Grazing EIS:

Page 2-8, Rangeland Management, Implementation and Maintenance of Range Improvements and Treatments, "Existing Range Improvements consist of 16 springs, 49 miles of fence, 23 cattleguards, 5 reservoirs, and 900 acres of land treatments."

Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with: 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 46.210 (f) which states "Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance, renovations, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity"; and with 516 Departmental Manual (DM) 11.9 G. [Transportation] 2. "Installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, water bars, gates or cattleguards 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 46.215 applies (see Attachment 5- Extraordinary Circumstances List).

I consider this action as a necessary project so that range improvements and range administration can be maintained. In addition, the permanent modification to the gate on the south side of the river will resolve the problem of cattle drifting off the allotment.

Signature:

Authorized Official: /s/ William Runnoe
Signature

November 16, 2009
Date

Name: Will Runnoe
Title: Cottonwood Field Office Manager

Contact Person:

For additional information concerning this CX review, please contact Dean Huibregtse, Rangeland Management Specialist, Cottonwood Field Office, 1 Butte Dr., Cottonwood ID, 83522, (208) 962-3784, fax (208) 962-3275, email dean_huibregtse@blm.gov

Attachments:

- 1-Allotment Map
- 2-Location/Project Map
- 3-Existing Range Improvement Photos
- 4-Site Drawings
- 5-Extraordinary Circumstances List
- 6-Cultural Resource Evaluation
- 7-Clearance an Analysis for Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, Candidate, and BLM Sensitive Species

Categorical Exclusion
Evaluation and Documentation of Extraordinary Circumstances
Partridge Creek Bridge Cattleguard, Gates, Fence Repairs and Modifications
ID-420-2009-CE-3888
43 CFR 46.210 (f)
& 516 DM 11.9 G (Transportation)

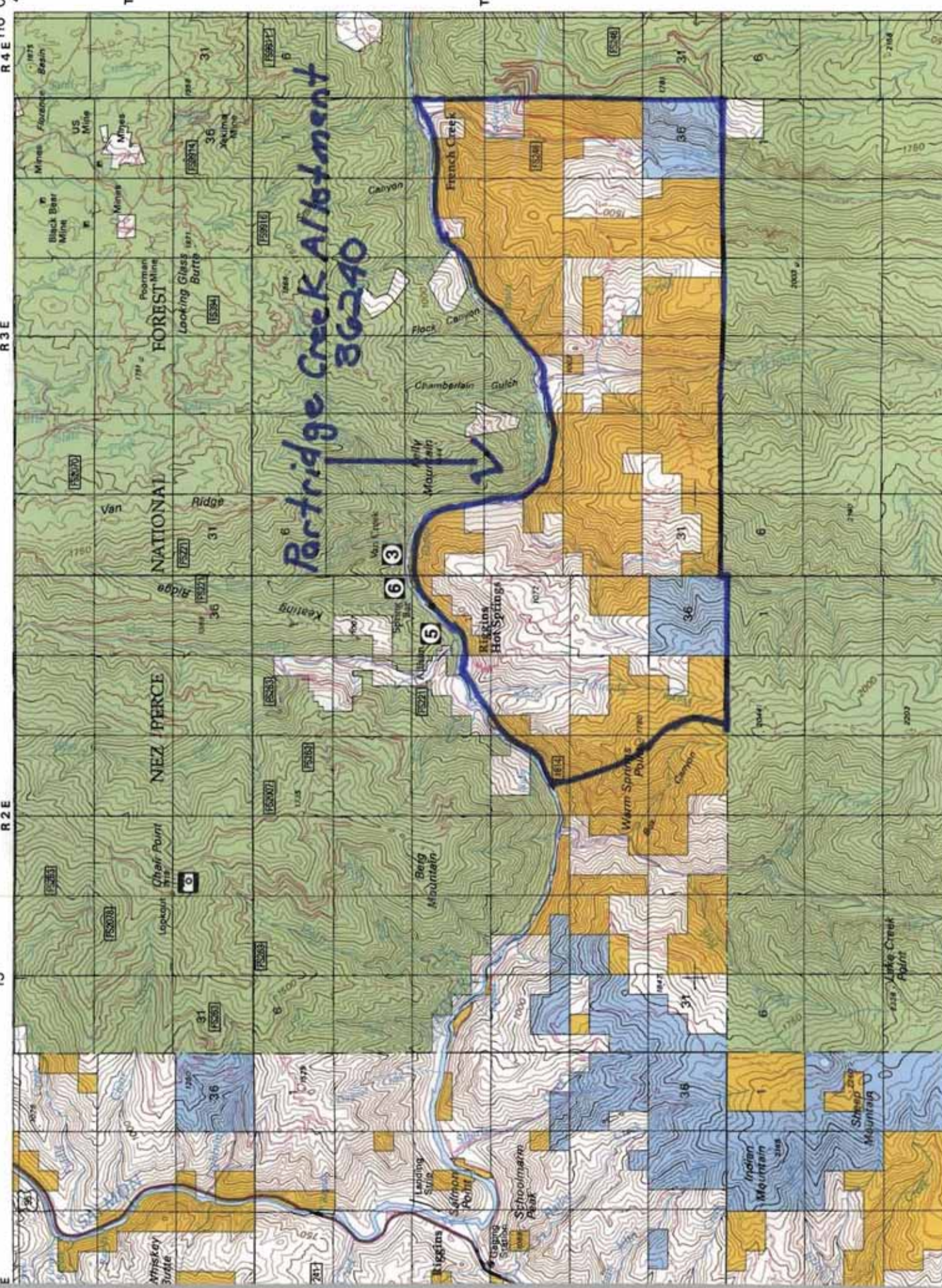
Extraordinary circumstances do not exist for the proposed action described within the categorical exclusion. The extraordinary circumstances were evaluated and those findings are documented in the following form.

The proposed categorical exclusion action will:	Yes	No	Rationale (if needed)
Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X	
Have significant impacts on such natural resources and 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.		X	The project is adjacent to the Lower Salmon river which is eligible and proposed for Wild & Scenic designation. However, the project is only maintaining what was already on site when the river was proposed for designation. Therefore maintain the project in the same degree and manner will not impact the Salmon River's proposed designation.
Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2) (E)).		X	The Partridge Creek Bridge has public access, and during maintenance public access will not be hindered; and after maintenance the public will continue to have access.
Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X	The maintenance of this project on an existing road does not have uncertain or significant environmental affects or involve any environmental risks.
Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X	This project can be removed and the ground re-contoured if livestock drift is longer an issue.
Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulative significant environmental effects.		X	There are no direct relationships with other actions.
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.		X	This project will not impact listed or eligible for listing on the National Register.
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.		X	This project does not impact listed or proposed to be listed species or their designated habitat.
Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X	This project does not violate any federal, state, local, or tribal law.
Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X	This project does not have any effect on low income or minority populations.

The proposed categorical exclusion action will:	Yes	No	Rationale (if needed)
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).		X	The bridge will continue to have public access.
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).		X	The county road and the localized area will continue to be treated for noxious weeds.

30 X 60 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

15' R 4 E 116° 00' 45" 30' T 25 N



Portridge Creek Abolment
36240



T 25 N

T 24 N

15'

R 2 E

R 3 E

R 4 E

116° 00' 45" 30'

NATIONAL FOREST

NEZ PERCE

Van Tipes

Keating

Chair Point

Whiskey Butte

Riggins

Black Bear Mine

US Mine

Mines

Roosevelt Mine

Looking Glass

Burke

French Creek

Flock Canyon

Chamberlain Gulch

Riggins Hot Springs

Warm Springs

3

5

6

31

36

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Partridge Creek Bridge Cattleguard,
Gates & Fence Repair & Modifications
T. 24 N., R. 3E., Section 15, NE 1/4

Partridge Creek Bridge

