



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Decision Memorandum on Action and for Application of Departmental Categorical Exclusion for Riparian Fencing Projects in Grant Range

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Ely District Office
Ely, NV

Description of Proposed Action and the Purpose and Need for the Action:

Propose to construct two small riparian fences around two spring sources in the Grant Range in T 5, R 59 E, Sec 07 & 6 N, R 59 E, Sec 31 MDM (see attached map). The two fenced areas will be between one and two acres in size. The fences would be built to BLM specifications (i.e., 42 inches high with three strands of barbed wire and a smooth bottom wire). Wildlife passes would be installed to allow deer and elk to cross the fence without getting entangled. The purpose of the fences are to improve the riparian habitat associated with them. Water would be available outside the fenced area for livestock, wild horses and wildlife at both springs.

Plan Conformance:

Proposed action is consistent with the all bureau standards and incorporates appropriate guidelines for specific required and desired conditions relevant to project activities.

The proposed action is in conformance with the BLM Egan Management Framework Plan (1983) and is consistent with all applicable federal, state, and local laws. The proposed action also complies with policies and plans including:

- BLM Interim Migratory Bird Conservation Policy (IM 2008-050, 01/23/2008) (Supersedes the 2001 Ely District Migratory Bird Policy);

The proposed action will follow all recommendations and stipulations set forth in project specific Risk Assessment for Noxious and Invasive Weeds and Cultural Resources Inventory Needs Assessment.

Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act:

Proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 Categorical Exclusions, J. Other.

This Categorical Exclusion states:

- 1) (J. Other) Construction of small protective enclosures, including those to protect reservoirs and springs and those to protect small study areas.

The proposed action meets the requirements of the Categorical Exclusions because:

- It will not be conducted in Wilderness areas or Wilderness Study Areas.
- It will not include the use of herbicides, pesticides, biological treatments.
- It will not include the construction or use of new temporary roads or the construction of new permanent roads or other new permanent infrastructure.
- It remains within the original project footprint and purpose.

The application of the categorical exclusions is appropriate to this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects which may significantly affect the environment. These extraordinary circumstances are contained in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2.

No pertinent situations for potential significant effects were raised in the design of this proposed action.

Decision and Rationale on Action

My decision is to implement the proposed action, as described in the project's categorical exclusion documents and associated maps. These actions are necessary to meet the need for improvement of the riparian areas as described in the proposal. Riparian areas are an important component of the habitat in these areas. In addition, I have reviewed the plan conformance statement and determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required.

Jeffrey A. Weeks
Field Manager
Egan Field Office

Date

Categorical Exclusion Documentation Format for Actions Other Than Hazardous Fuels and Fire Rehabilitation Actions

A. Background

BLM Office: Ely District Office Lease/Serial/Case File No.: NV-043-08-010

Proposed Action Title/Type: Grant Range Riparian Fences

Location of Proposed Action: Horse Spring and South Horse Spring

Description of Proposed Action: Construct two small riparian fences around two spring sources in the Grant Range in T 5, R 59 E, Sec 07 & 6 N, R 59 E, Sec 31 MDM (see attached map). The two fenced areas would be between one and two acres in size. The fences would be built to BLM specifications (i.e., 42 inches high with three strands of barbed wire and a smooth bottom wire). Wildlife passes would be installed to allow deer and elk to cross the fence without getting entangled. The purpose of the fences is to protect the spring source from grazing and trampling by cattle. Water would be available outside the fenced area for cattle at both springs.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Egan Resource Area Record of Decision (ROD) for the Egan Resource Management Plan Date Approved/Amended: February 3, 1987

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s): "Management Decisions / Riparian Areas (a.2) Where management objectives are not being obtained through application of management practices, fencing will be considered".(Pg. 13)

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 Chapter 11.5 8/14/2007 J 9 "Construction of small protective enclosures, including those to protect reservoirs and springs and those to protect small study areas".

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 516 DM2 apply.

I considered the size of the fences to be installed and the availability of water outside of the proposed area. The actions of livestock have caused deterioration of the riparian habitat of these two springs and the fences will help to alleviate this, providing habitat for a variety of wildlife species.

D: Signature

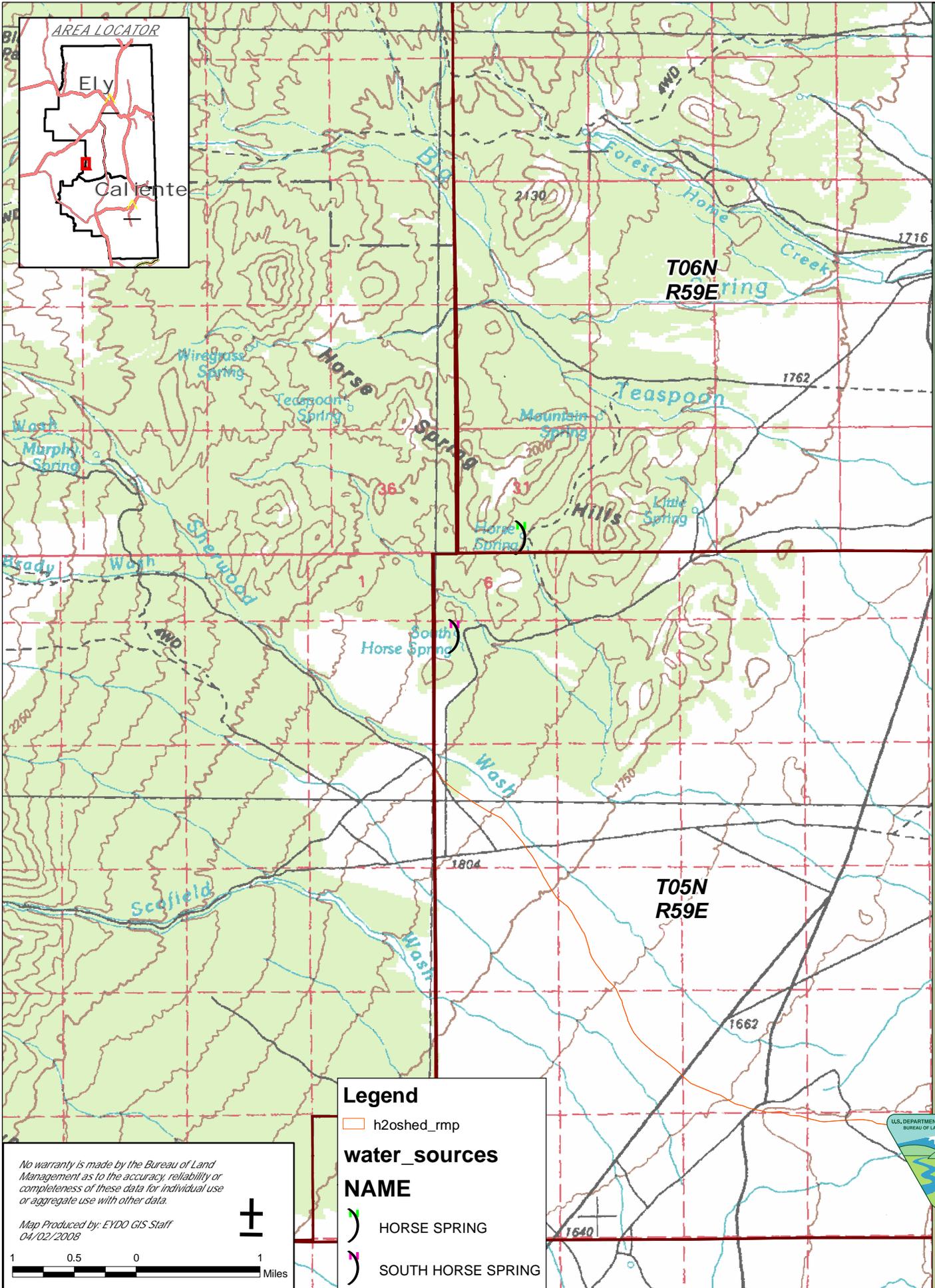
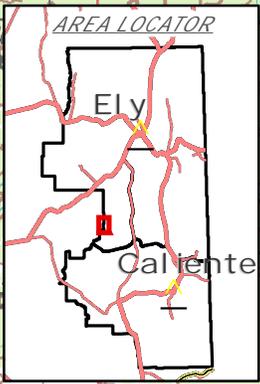
Authorizing Official: _____
(Signature)

Date: _____

Name: Jeffrey A. Weeks
Title: Field Manager
Egan Field office

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact
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Legend

- h2oshed_rmp
- water_sources**
- NAME**
- HORSE SPRING
- SOUTH HORSE SPRING

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map Produced by: EYDO GIS Staff
04/02/2008

