

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

**CX Number:** DOI-BLM-OR-BO50-2012-0006-CX  
**File Code (Project/Serial Number):** 714271  
**Preparer:** Lindsay Davies  
**Title of Proposed Action:** Diatomite Well Trough Replacement.

**Date:** October 18, 2011

**Applicant:** 

Replace the troughs (2) providing water to the North Pasture in the Wheeler Basin Allotment at Diatomite Well.

**Description of Proposed Action:**

The purpose of the proposed action is to maintain existing range improvements to continue appropriate livestock grazing management in the Wheeler Basin Allotment (#5564).

Two troughs at the Diatomite Well, which supply water for the North Pasture of Wheeler Basin Allotment, have numerous leaks and need to be replaced. Troughs will be rectangular and hold approximately 1300 gallons. They will be replaced outside of nesting season for affected bird species. Construction/installation period would be one week or less. A backhoe or similar type equipment will be used for removal and installation of troughs.

This CX does not permit new surface disturbance or create any new projects, it simply maintains existing range improvements.

**Legal Description:**

Diatomite Well Troughs (2) – UTM: 397814.7 x 4848308

See attached Maps.

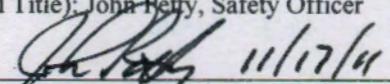
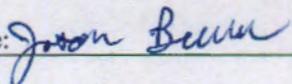
**B. Conformance with Land Use Plan (LUP):**

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s):

Three Rivers Resource Management Plan ROD/RMP September 1992, Grazing Management (GM 1.3) page 2-36 and Appendix 12 Standard Procedures and Design Elements for Range Improvements (Appendices – 179).

**DOI Categorical Exclusion Reference (516 DM 2, Appendix 1):** 1.7 “Routine and continuing government business, including...maintenance...and replacement activities...”

**Screening for Exceptions:** The following extraordinary circumstances (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) may apply to individual actions within the categorical exceptions. The indicated specialist recommends the proposed action does *not*:

<b>CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.
Specialist (Print Name and Title): John Petty, Safety Officer	
Signature and Date:  11/17/11	
Rationale: No significant impacts on public health or safety.	
<b>2.2</b>	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); flood plains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
<u>Migratory Birds</u>	
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Jason Brewer, Wildlife Biologist	
Signature and Date:  11-17-11	

Rationale: The troughs are existing developments, so replacement would not create a new disturbance in the area. Replacement of the troughs may improve the quality of migratory bird habitat in the area by providing sources of water. Equipment and personnel required to replace the troughs may alter bird behavior and cause temporary (during active construction) displacement of birds from the immediate area. The disturbance would lessen as the distance from the trough increases, and birds would return to the area once construction is completed. Wildlife escape ramps would be installed to help minimize the risk of drowning for migratory birds.

Historic and Cultural Resources

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Scott Thomas, District Archaeologist

Signature and Date: *Scott Thomas* 11-17-11

Rationale: No historic or cultural resources will be affected by this action.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Areas

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Caryn Meinicke, Botanist

Signature and Date: *Caryn Meinicke* 11-17-11

Rationale: There are no ACEC/RNAs within the proposed project area.

Water Resources/Flood Plains

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Lisa Grant, Natural Resource Specialist - Riparian

Signature and Date: *Lisa Grant* 11-16-11

Rationale: The proposed trough replacement would have no effect to water resources.

Soils, Biological Soil Crust, Prime Farmlands

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Caryn Meinicke, Botanist

Signature and Date: *Caryn Meinicke* 11-17-11

Rationale: Trough replacement will occur in an existing disturbed area where soils are currently compacted and it is unlikely for BSCs to exist, therefore impacts will be negligible. There are no prime farmlands within the propose project area.

Recreation/ Visual Resources

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Mike Kelly, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Signature and Date: *Mike Kelly* 11-18-11

Rationale: No significant impacts to recreation or visual resources are anticipated.

Wilderness/Wild and Scenic River Resources

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Eric Haakenson, Wilderness Specialist

Signature and Date: *Eric Haakenson* 11-18-11

Rationale: No impacts to wilderness, WSAs, WSRs or Lands with Wilderness Characteristics are anticipated.

2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges, Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Signature and Date: *Rhonda Karges* 11/17/11

Rationale: There are no known highly controversial environmental effects or unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. Implementation consists of replacing existing features on the landscape.

2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges, Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Signature and Date: *Rhonda Karges* 11/17/11

Rationale: There are no known highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks. Implementation consists of replacing existing features on the landscape.

2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges, Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Signature and Date: *Rhonda Karges* 11/17/11

Rationale: No precedent for future actions or decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects would occur as replacement activities are on-going BLM management and the troughs exist on the landscape.

2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental

effects.
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges, Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Signature and Date: <i>Rhonda Karges</i> 11/17/11
Rationale: There are no known direct relationships to other actions, with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. Implementation consists of replacing existing features on the landscape.
2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register (NR) of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Scott Thomas, District Archaeologist
Signature and Date: <i>Scott Thomas</i> 11-17-11
Rationale: No NR eligible or listed historic properties would be affected by this project.
2.8 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.
<u>Endangered or Threatened Species-Fauna</u>
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Jason Brewer, Wildlife Biologist
Signature and Date: <i>Jason Brewer</i> 11-17-11
Rationale: There are no federally listed species or Critical Habitat present in the area of disturbance.
<u>Endangered or Threatened Species-Aquatic</u>
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Lisa Grant, Natural Resource Specialist - Riparian
Signature and Date: <i>Lisa Grant</i> 11-16-11
Rationale: There are no federally listed species or Critical Habitat in the vicinity of the proposed action.
<u>Endangered or Threatened Species-Flora</u>
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Caryn Meinicke, Botanist
Signature and Date: <i>Caryn Meinicke</i> 11-17-11
Rationale: No T&E or Special Status flora species or critical habitat within the project area.
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges, Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Signature and Date: <i>Rhonda Karges</i> 11/17/11
Rationale: No known law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment would be violated.
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges, Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Signature and Date: <i>Rhonda Karges</i> 11/17/11
Rationale: Implementation would not result in a disproportionately adverse effect on minority or economically disadvantaged populations as such populations do not occur in or near the project area.
2.11 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).
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Scott Thomas, District Archaeologist
Signature and Date: <i>Scott Thomas</i> 11-17-11
Rationale: Access to and use of sacred sites would not be affected by this action.
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or nonnative 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).
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Lesley Richman, District Weed Coordinator

Signature and Date: *Debra Richman* 11/17/11

Rationale: Noxious weeds are known to be present in this area. Treatments are on-going and will occur as timely as possible upon discovery. Following our Standard Design Elements of ensuring all equipment is cleaned prior to being transported to the project location will minimize the opportunities for introducing weed seeds or plant parts. The weeds are not present in sufficient quantity to be considered a significant impact at this time.

**Additional review** (As determined by the Authorized Officer):

**RMP conformance and CX review confirmation:**

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges, District Planning/Environmental Coordinator

Signature and Date:

*Rhonda Karges* 11/17/11

**Management Determination:** Based upon review of this proposal, I have determined the Proposed Action is in conformance with the LUP, qualifies as a categorical exclusion and does not require further NEPA analysis.

Authorized Officer (Print Name and Title): Richard Roy, Three Rivers Resource Area Field Manager

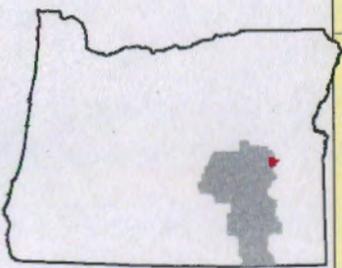
Signature and Date:

*Richard Roy* 11/23/2011

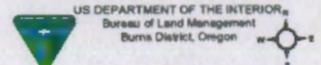
**Decision:** It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action as described above.

# Map A Diatomite Well TROUGH REPLACEMENT

-  TROUGH
-  WELL
-  Pastures
-  Allotments
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  Private/Unknown



Note: No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources and may be updated without notification.



11/16/2011 grant  
allotment.creek.maps\WheelerBasin\DiatomiteWellTroughReplace.mxd

