

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

**CX Number:** DOI-BLM-OR-B060-2010-0018-CX

**Date:** February 17, 2010

**File Code (Project/Serial Number):**

**Preparer:** Jeremy Sisneros

**Title of Proposed Action:** Fields Administrative Site Water Storage

**Description of Proposed Action:** The proposed action would be construction of a 14'x 14'x 6" steel reinforced concrete pad and installation of a 10,000-gallon water tank within the boundaries of the Fields Administrative Site. The dimensions of the tank are 12'(d) x 13'(h). Implementation of this action would provide a water source for use in wildland firefighting as there are no substantial water sources near the communities of Fields and Andrews. Additionally, the strategic placement of large water tanks was identified in the Harney County Community Wildfire Protection Plan as a community protection benefit. There is presently a well and pump located roughly 250 feet to the northeast of the bunkhouse building. Water is pumped from a well to an overhead fill spout for fire engine utilization. However, the well does not provide sufficient gallons per minute to be effective in emergency situations. The proposed site would be directly adjacent to the existing pump and spout. This specific location was chosen due to its close proximity to the well and pump, relative ease of construction, lack of sensitive plant species and heritage sites, and accessibility. Construction would be completed by Burns District BLM employees and would likely require the use of a backhoe for foundation excavation. Other vehicles that might be used would include standard 4x4 pickup trucks and possibly a cement truck. Disturbance on the site would be minimal, as the pad should not need much excavation and already experiences heavy traffic. Construction may occur as soon as funding is available, but should be when conditions are dry to avoid resource damage. In order to avoid contamination of the existing water system, a backflow device will be installed at the location of the tank if such a device is not already present.

**Legal Description:** T.38S., R.34E. Section 24, NE1/4NW1/4

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

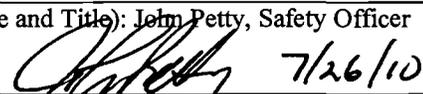
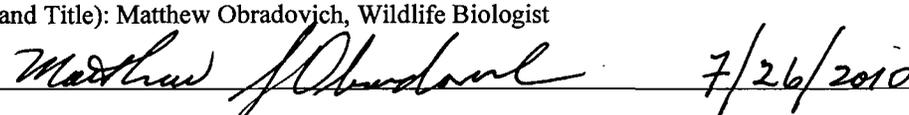
The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s):

Andrews Management Unit ROD/RMP August 2005, overall LUP goals, page RMP-12, "Reduce threats to public health, safety and property". Page RMP-57, "Goal 1 – Provide an appropriate management response to all wildland fires emphasizing firefighter and public safety" and "Objective 1. Implement appropriate fire suppression actions in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)... Pursue cooperative management agreements with private landowners to cooperatively manage wildland fire."

**BLM Categorical Exclusion Reference (516 DM, Chapter 11):**

**DOI Categorical Exclusion Reference (516 DM 2, Appendix 1):** 1.7 "Routine and continuing government business, including...administrative, operations, maintenance, renovations 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:  7/26/10	
Rationale: No impacts to 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): Matthew Obradovjch, Wildlife Biologist	
Signature and Date:  7/26/2010	

Rationale: The proximity of the proposed action to existing disturbance at the Fields Administrative site would not affect migratory bird habitat. This site is bare ground and does not support much vegetation. Trees near the site which provide most of the migratory bird habitat would not be affected by this action.

Historic and Cultural Resources

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

Signature and Date: *Scott Thomas* 7/30/10

Rationale: No cultural resources sites would be affected by the proposed project.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Areas

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Doug Linn, Botanist

Signature and Date: *Doug Linn* 7/26/10

Rationale: No RNAs or ACECs are present.

Water Resources/Flood Plains

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Daryl Bingham, Fish Biologist

Signature and Date: *Daryl Bingham* 29 JULY 2010

Rationale: The project would not affect water resources and flood plains are not present in the project area.

Soils, Biological Soil Crust, Prime Farmlands

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Doug Linn, Botanist

Signature and Date: *Doug Linn* 7/26/10

Rationale: No significant effects are anticipated at the locations in question.

Recreation/ Visual Resources

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

Signature and Date: *Michael Kelly* 7-28-10

Rationale: Recreation: The project location is an administrative site that consists of buildings, a parking lot and is in close proximity to Fields, Oregon. Since the site is an administrative site, relatively no recreation occurs at this location. As a result, no additional impact to recreation is foreseen from the installation of a water tank.

Visual Resource management: This site is classified VRM 3. The objective of VRM 3 is to "partially retain the existing character of the landscape." The addition of a water tank to an existing administrative site will not detract from the current visual contrast quality. In addition, the tank will be black in color to blend into the background resulting in less visual impact. No additional visual resource impact is foreseen as a result of the installation of the water tank.

Wilderness/Wild and Scenic River Resources

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

Signature and Date: *Eric Haakenson* 07/20/10

Rationale: There is no wilderness, WSAs or WSRs present.

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* 7/26/10

Rationale: There are no known highly controversial environmental effects or unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

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* 7/26/10

Rationale: There are no known highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks.

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* 7/26/10

Rationale: No precedent for future action or decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects would occur.

**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: *Rhonda Karges* 7/26/10

Rationale: There are no known direct relationships to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

**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: *Scott Thomas* 7/30/10

Rationale: No National Register eligible or listed property would be affected by the proposed 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.

Endangered or Threatened Species-Fauna

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Matthew Obradovich, Wildlife Biologist

Signature and Date: *Matthew Obradovich* 7/26/2010

Rationale: There are no known federally listed Endangered, Threatened, or proposed species or Critical habitat at or near this site.

Endangered or Threatened Species-Aquatic

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Daryl Bingham, Natural Resource Specialist/Riparian

Signature and Date: *Daryl Bingham* 29 July 2010

Rationale: There are no Threatened or Endangered aquatic species present in the project area.

Endangered or Threatened Species-Flora

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Doug Linn, Botanist

Signature and Date: *Doug Linn* 7/26/10

Rationale: No T&E species of flora are present.

**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: *Rhonda Karges* 7/26/10

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: *Rhonda Karges* 7/26/10

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: *Scott Thomas* 7/30/10

Rationale: No cultural resources sites would be affected by the proposed project.

**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).

Rationale: Noxious weeds are known to be present in and in close proximity to this location. Treatments are on-going. The weeds are not present in sufficient quantity to be considered a significant impact at this time.

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Lesley Richman, District Weed Coordinator

Signature and Date: *Lesley Richman* 7/28/10

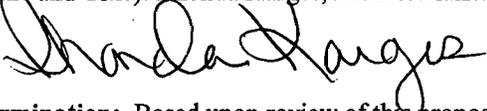
Rationale:

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

**RMP conformance and CX review confirmation:**

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

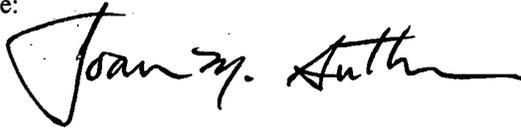
Signature and Date:

 7/26/10

**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): Joan Suther, Andrews Resource Area Field Manager

Signature and Date:

 7/30/10

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with regulations contained in 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 4 and Form 1842-1. If an appeal is filed, your notice of appeal should be mailed to the Burns District Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738, within 30 days of receipt of the decision. The appellant has the burden of showing the decision appealed is in error.

A copy of the appeal, statement of reasons, and all other supporting documents should also be sent to the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 805 SW Broadway, Portland, Oregon 97205. If the notice of appeal did not include a statement of reasons for the appeal, it must be sent to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, 801 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia 22203. It is suggested appeals be sent certified mail, return receipt requested.

***Request for Stay***

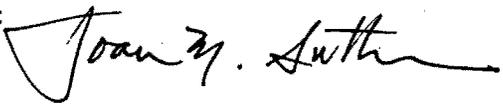
Should you wish to file a motion for stay pending the outcome of an appeal of this decision, you must show sufficient justification based on the following standards under 43 CFR 4.21:

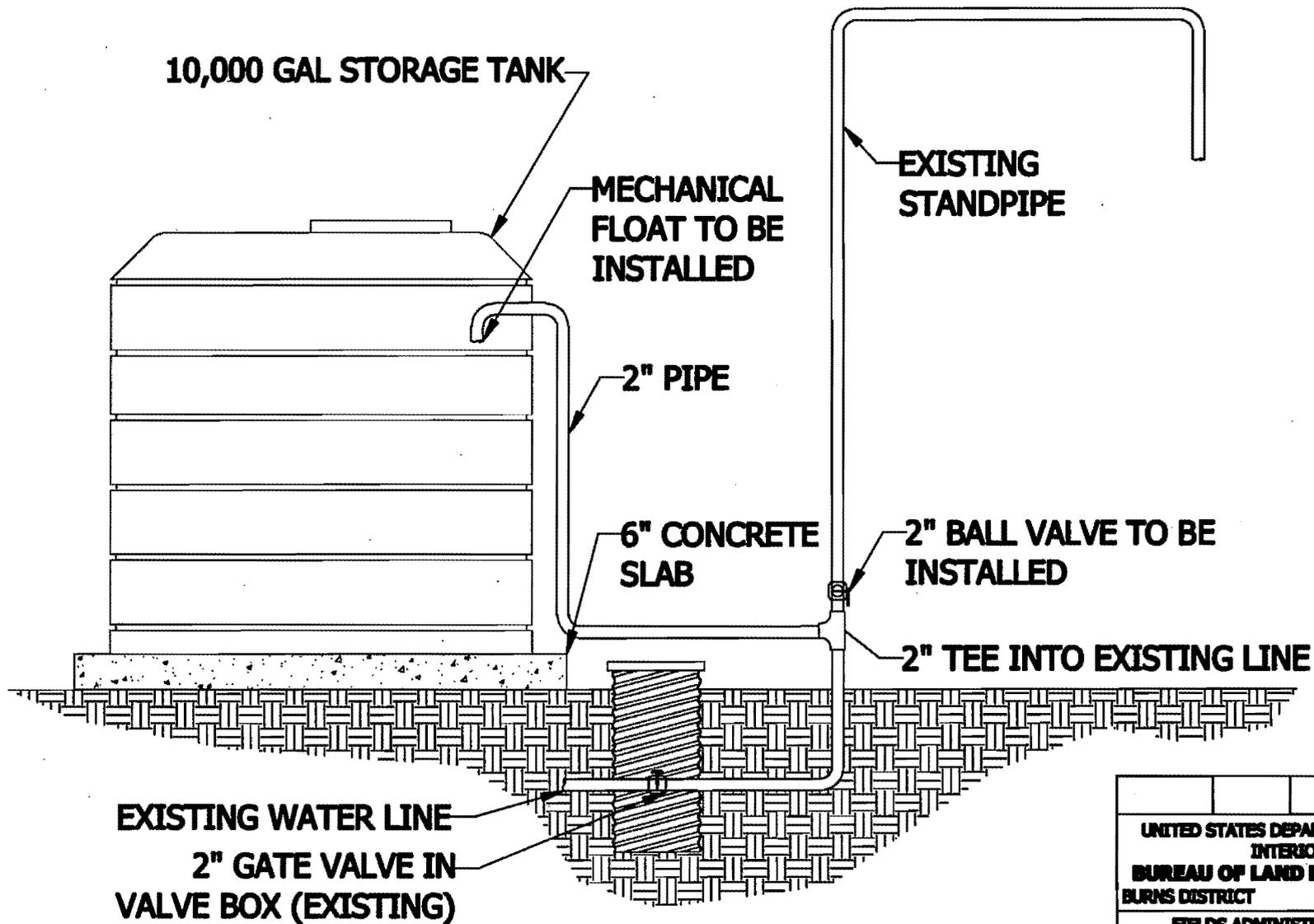
- The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
- The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
- The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted.
- Whether or not the public interest favors granting the stay.

As noted above, the motion for stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer.

Authorized Officer (Print Name and Title): Joan Suther, Andrews Resource Area Field Manager

Signature and Date:

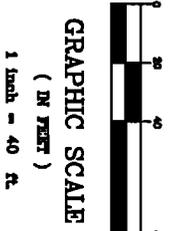
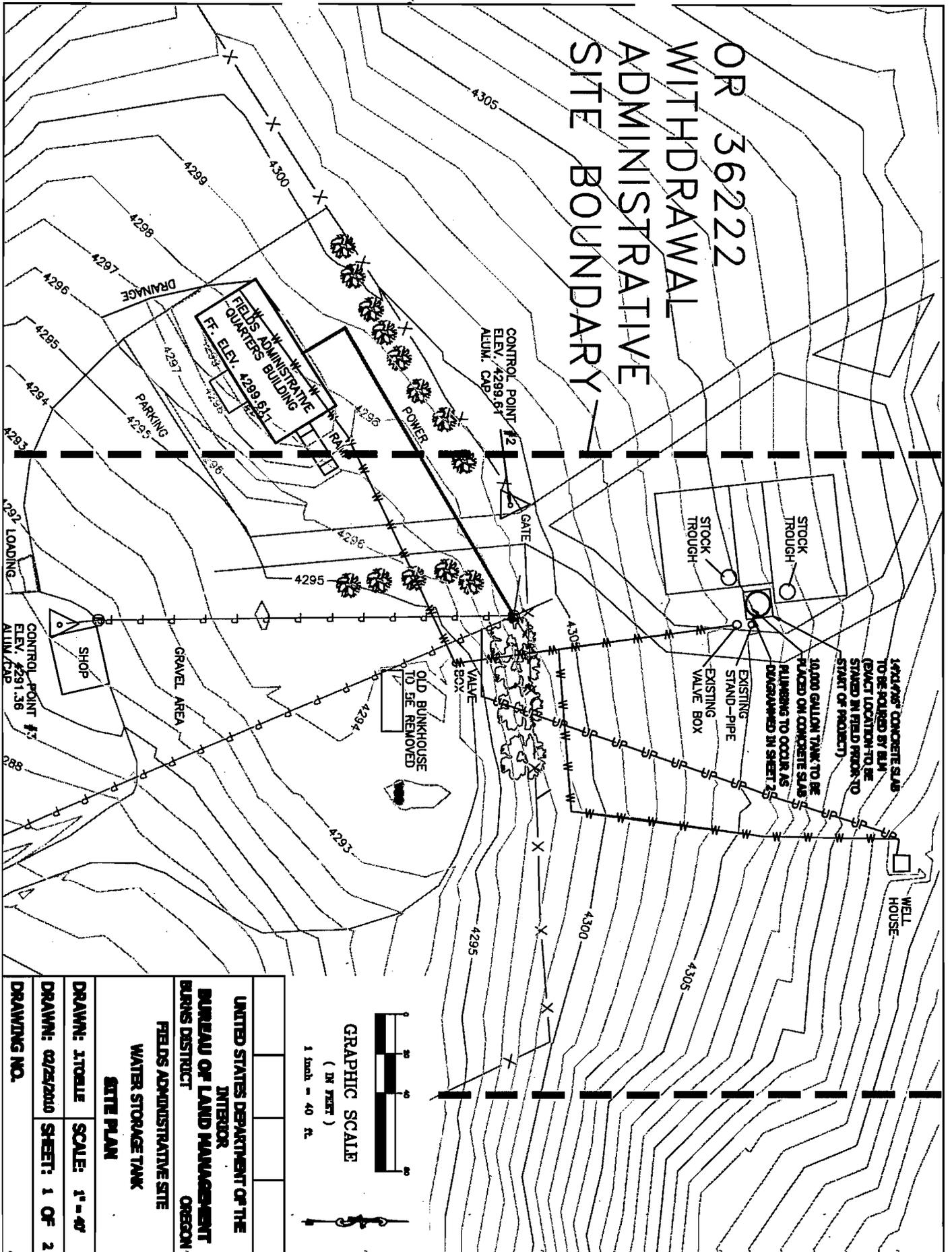
 7/30/10



**NOT TO SCALE**

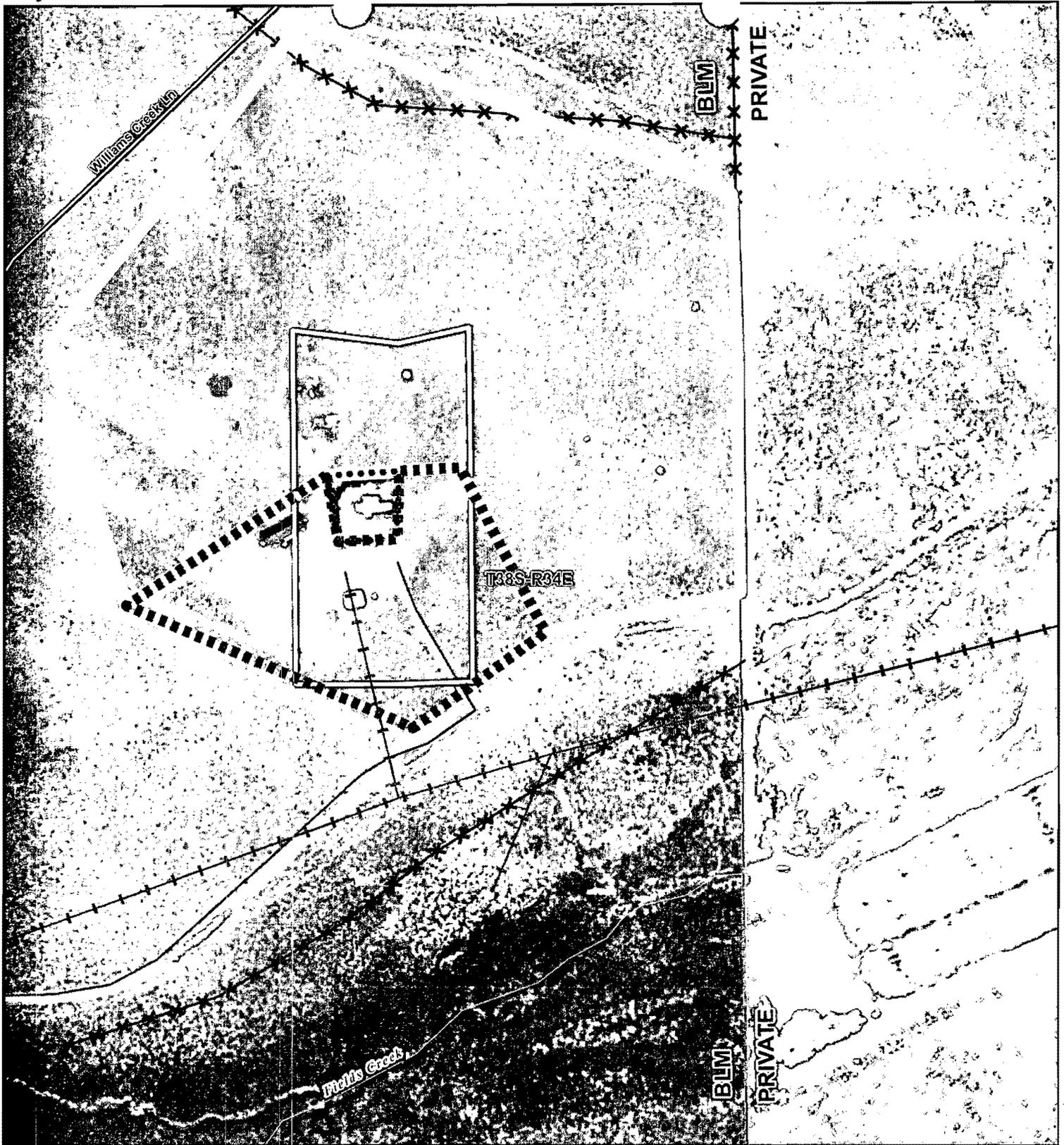
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT	
BURNS DISTRICT	OREGON
FIELDS ADMINISTRATIVE SITE	
WATER STORAGE TANK	
<b>CONCEPTUAL PLUMBING DIAGRAM</b>	
DRAWN: J.TOELE	SCALE: N/A
DRAWN: 02/25/2010	SHEET: 2 OF 2
DRAWING NO.	

# OR 36222 WITHDRAWAL ADMINISTRATIVE SITE BOUNDARY



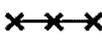
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE  
INTERIOR  
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**  
BURNS DISTRICT OREGON  
FIELDS ADMINISTRATIVE SITE  
WATER STORAGE TANK  
SITE PLAN

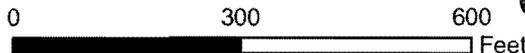
DRAWN: LITOBLE	SCALE: 1" = 40'
DRAWN: 02/25/2010	SHEET: 1 OF 2
DRAWING NO.	



**Fields Administrative Site EA**

- Fields Administrative Withdrawal
- Fields Admin Site
-  FIELDS ADMIN
-  FIELDS ADMIN-PASTURE
-  FIELDS ADMIN-TRAILER

-  Power Line
-  Fence
- Summer 2005 Aerial Imagery



**N**  
 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. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification. Ownership boundaries are accurate to within plus or minus 200 feet. Make local inquiry of road conditions in remote areas. Some roads are impassable following severe weather. Roads shown may not be all existing roads. Always seek private landowner permission before using or crossing their lands.