

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

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL

CX Number: DOI-BLM-OR-B050-2013-0008-CX

Date: 1/8/2013

File Code (Project/Serial Number):

Preparer: Rachel Beaubien

Applicant:

Title of Proposed Action: Horton Mill waterhole/reservoir cleanout/maintenance.

Description of Proposed Action and Project Design Elements (if applicable): The proposed action is to reconstruct (clean out and/or repair) existing waterholes/reservoirs located within the Horton Mill Allotment, Three Rivers Resource Area, Burns District. There are eight existing waterholes/reservoirs documented in the Burns District Geographical Information System (GIS) database coverage as existing range improvements in the allotment. These waterholes/reservoirs have filled with silt over the years reducing the water storage capacities for these facilities. Silt would be removed from and be placed adjacent to waterholes and on the fill area for reservoirs or used to repair others. Waterholes are often dry for most of the year in their current state. Bentonite may also be added to leaking waterholes. Burns District BLM or the grazing permittee would maintain these water sources. A cost share may be used for waterholes needing bentonite; BLM would purchase the bentonite and the permittee would apply it if a cost share was applied. All activity will occur within the original area of disturbance when the project was established. The Proposed Action includes maintaining these water sources by cleaning or reconstructing them using heavy equipment. All equipment used for working on these waterholes/reservoirs would be cleaned prior to being transported to the site to reduce the likelihood of noxious weed introduction. These disturbed sites would be monitored closely for 2 years post-cleanout. Any noxious weeds found would be treated using the most appropriate methods available.

Legal Description (attach Location Map):

Horton Mill Allotment

Appling Walters Pasture		
Lost Sheep Reservoir	#715007	T22S R29E Sec 21
Upper Willow Reservoir #2	#711315	T22S R29E Sec 28
Shoeffler Reservoir Pasture		
Chipping Reservoir	#710600	T22S R29E Sec 9
Panel Spring Reservoir	#710604	T22S R29E Sec 8
Shepherd Spring Reservoir	#710603	T22S R29E Sec 5
Shoeffler Reservoir	#008584	T22S R29E Sec 16
Skull Creek Spray Reservoir	#711498	T22S R29E Sec 15
Horton Mill Seeding Pasture		
Horton Mill Reservoir	#714139	T22S R29E Sec 7

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

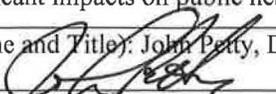
Date Approved/Amended: September, 1992

The proposed action is in conformance with the Three Rivers Resource Management Plan (RMP), September 1992, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the goals and objectives on page 2-36 of the RMP; Appendix 12 – Standard Procedures and Design Elements for Range Improvements (Appendices -179); and as outlined above under the proposed action.

DOI Categorical Exclusion Reference (516 DM 2, Appendix 1):

1.7- "Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance, renovations, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity (e.g., limited size and magnitude or short-term effects.)"

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*:

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION	
2.1	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.
Specialist (Print Name and Title): John Petty, District Safety Officer	
Signature and Date:  1/15/13	
Rationale: No significant impacts on public health or safety.	

<p>2.2 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); flood plains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.</p>
<p><u>Migratory Birds</u> Specialist (Print Name and Title): Nick Miller, Wildlife Biologist Signature and Date: <i>Nick Miller</i> 1/15/2013</p>
<p>Rationale: Migratory birds drink and bath at these reservoirs when water is available, and may forage adjacent to reservoirs throughout the year. No new habitat would be disturbed because maintenance work would be limited to previously disturbed areas (existing reservoirs). Work would also be temporary, occurring over a relatively short period (less than a couple of days per site). Reservoirs would be dry during the maintenance work, so few birds would be in the area. Birds in the immediate vicinity of the reservoirs may flush during project work, but birds would likely return as soon as maintenance is complete. Few birds are likely to nest in the immediate area adjacent to reservoirs due to the limited vegetative cover relative to the surrounding area. Temporary maintenance activities would not affect populations.</p>
<p><u>Historic and Cultural Resources</u> Specialist (Print Name and Title): Scott Thomas, District Archeologist Signature and Date: <i>Scott Thomas</i> 1-17-13</p>
<p>Rationale: No Historic or cultural resources will be affected by this project.</p>
<p><u>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Areas</u> Specialist (Print Name and Title): Caryn Meinicke, Botany Signature and Date: <i>Caryn Meinicke</i> 1-15-13</p>
<p>Rationale: No impacts to RNA's or ACECs will occur as a result of this proposal.</p>
<p><u>Water Resources/Flood Plains</u> Specialist (Print Name and Title): Lindsay Davies, Fish Biologist Signature and Date: <i>Lindsay Davies</i> 1-15-13</p>
<p>Rationale: There will be no additional impacts to water resources as a result of the proposed action.</p>
<p><u>Soils, Biological Soil Crust, Prime Farmlands</u> Specialist (Print Name and Title): Caryn Meinicke, Botany Signature and Date: <i>Caryn Meinicke</i> 1-15-13</p>
<p>Rationale: No significant impacts to these resources will occur as a result of this proposal.</p>
<p><u>Recreation/ Visual Resources</u> Specialist (Print Name and Title): John Behea, Recreation Planner Signature and Date: <i>John Behea</i> 1-17-13</p>
<p>Rationale: No significant impacts to Recreation or Visual Resources.</p>
<p><u>Wilderness/Wild and Scenic River Resources</u> Specialist (Print Name and Title): Thomas Wilcox, Wilderness Specialist Signature and Date: <i>Thomas Wilcox</i> 1-17-13</p>
<p>Rationale: There is no wilderness, WSA, or WSR.</p>
<p>2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].</p>
<p>Specialist (Print Name and Title): Holly Orr, Planning and Environmental Coordinator Signature and Date: <i>Holly Orr</i> 1-22-13</p>
<p>Rationale: There are no known highly controversial environmental effects or unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.</p>
<p>2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.</p>
<p>Specialist (Print Name and Title): Holly Orr, Planning and Environmental Coordinator Signature and Date: <i>Holly Orr</i> 1-22-13</p>
<p>Rationale: There are no known highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects of unique or unknown environmental risks. Waterhole cleanout/maintenance is a common practice.</p>
<p>2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.</p>
<p>Specialist (Print Name and Title): Holly Orr, Planning and Environmental Coordinator Signature and Date: <i>Holly Orr</i> 1-22-13</p>
<p>Rationale: No precedent for future actions or decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental</p>

effects would occur as waterhole cleanout/maintenance is a common practice.	
2.6	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Holly Orr, Planning and Environmental Coordinator	
Signature and Date: <i>Holly Orr</i> 1-22-13	
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 of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Scott Thomas, District Archeologist	
Signature and Date: <i>Scott Thomas</i> 1-10-13	
Rationale: No eligible or listed properties are located in the project area.	
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): Nick Miller, Wildlife Biologist	
Signature and Date: <i>Nick Miller</i> 1/15/2013	
Rationale: There are no known Threatened or Endangered species or Designated Critical Habitat in the area around these reservoirs, and none would be affected off-site by the reservoir maintenance activity. Greater sage-grouse are a candidate species for listing and occur near the project area. The short duration of the work along with the work occurring in the area of existing disturbance (the reservoir site) would make disturbance impacts on sage-grouse negligible. Sage-grouse should benefit from the proposal as water availability into the late summer and fall will increase.	
<u>Endangered or Threatened Species-Aquatic</u>	
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Lindsay Davies, Fish Biologist	
Signature and Date: <i>Lindsay Davies</i> 1-15-2013	
Rationale: There are no Threatened or Endangered Species or Critical habitat within the project area or its watershed. The proposed action would have no effect on aquatic T&E species.	
<u>Endangered or Threatened Species-Flora</u>	
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Caryn Meinicke, Botany	
Signature and Date: <i>Caryn Meinicke</i> 1.15.13	
Rationale: No T&E species of flora or associated Critical Habitat are present. <i>or special status flora species</i>	
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): Holly Orr, Planning and Environmental Coordinator	
Signature and Date: <i>Holly Orr</i> 1-22-13	
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): Holly Orr, Planning and Environmental Coordinator	
Signature and Date: <i>Holly Orr</i> 1-22-13	
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 Archeologist	
Signature and Date: <i>Scott Thomas</i> 1-10-13	
Rationale: No Indian sacred sites or access to sacred sites will 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).
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Lesley Richman, District Weed Coordinator	
Signature and Date: <i>Lesley Richman</i> 1-15-2013	
Rationale: Noxious weeds are known to be present in and in close proximity to this area. Treatments are on-going. 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): **NONE**

RMP conformance and CX review confirmation:

Specialist (Print Name and Title): **Holly Orr, AEC**

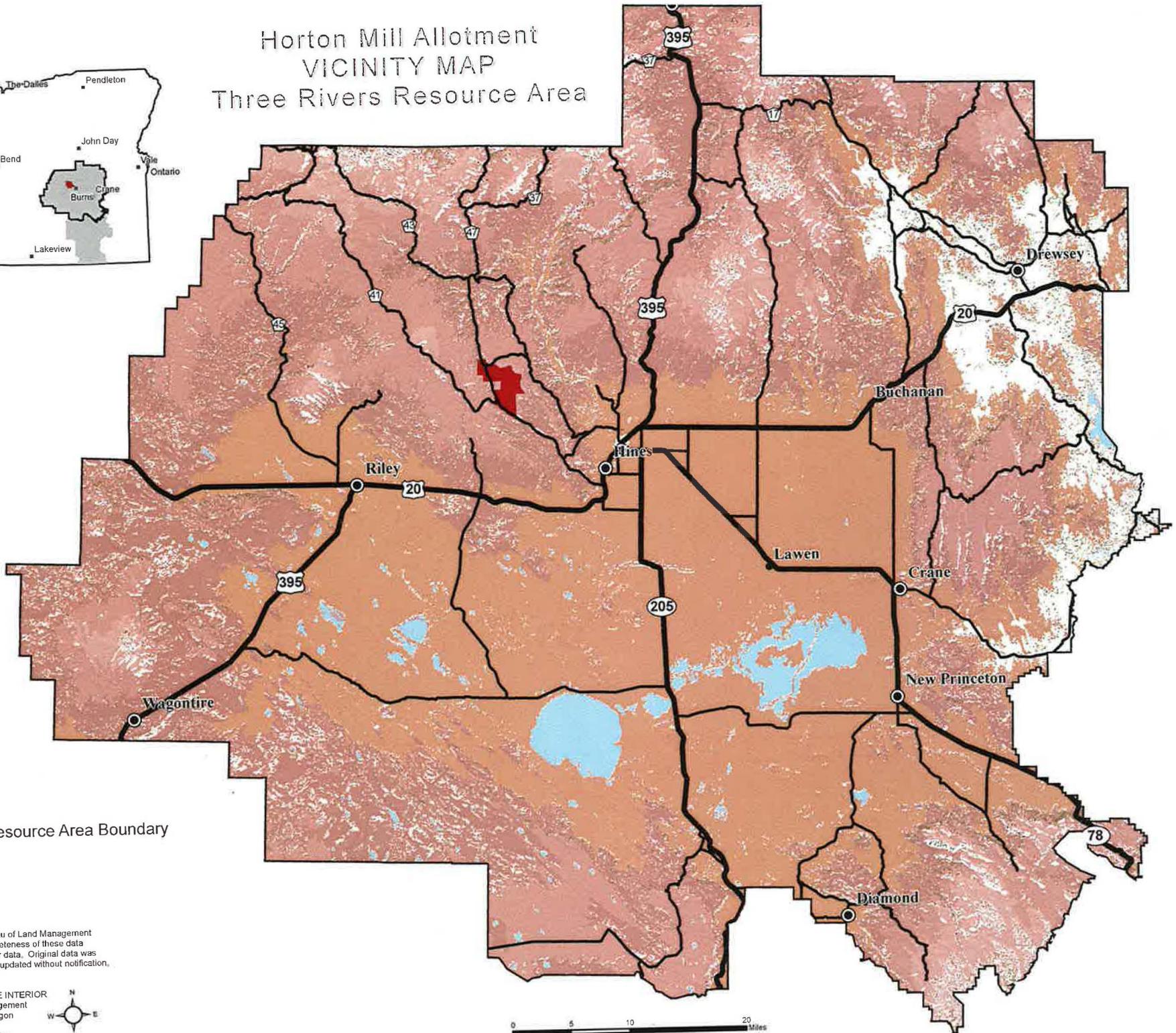
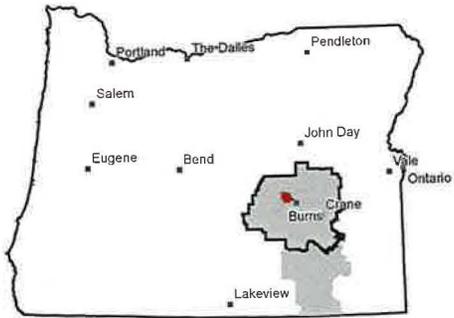
Signature: **Holly Orr** Date: **1-22-13**

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 R.A. Field Manager**

Signature: **Richard Roy** Date: **1/25/13**

Horton Mill Allotment VICINITY MAP Three Rivers Resource Area



Legend

- Allotment
- Three Rivers Resource Area Boundary

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.



US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Burns District, Oregon



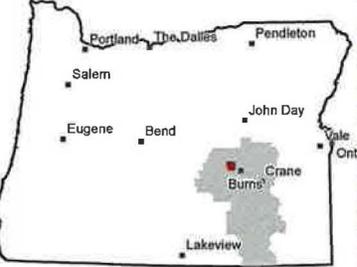
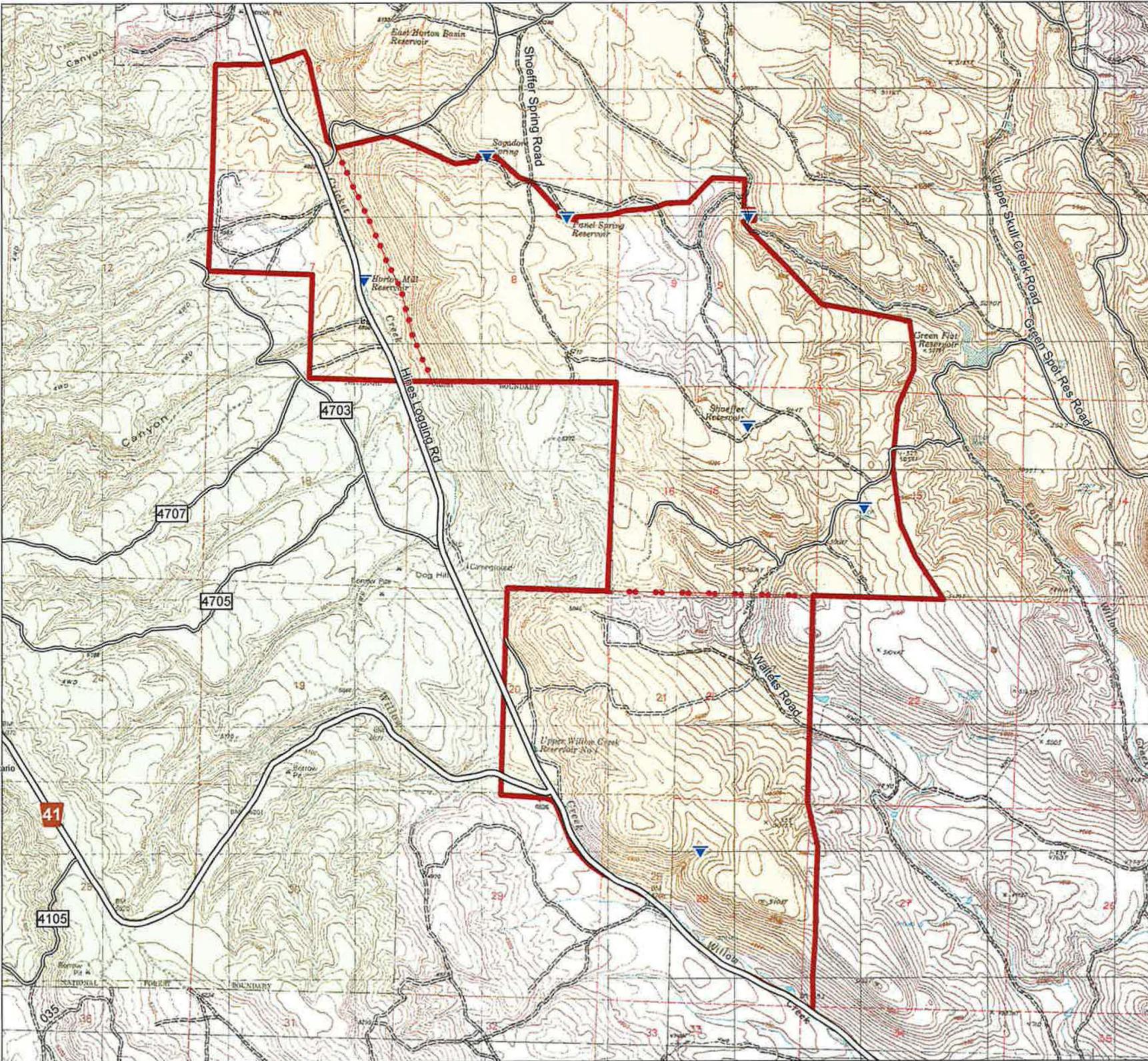
/workarea/rbeaubien
01/18/2013



Horton Mill Allotment Waterholes-Reservoirs

Proposed Projects Highlighted In Yellow

-  Pastures
-  Allotments
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  U.S. Forest Service
-  Private/Unknown
-  Reservoir



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.

