

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

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL

CX Number: DOI-BLM-OR-B050-2013-0017-CX

Date: 01/29/2013

File Code: 4100

Project File: Juniper Ridge Allotment File #7016

Preparer: Richard Knox

Applicant: BLM/Allotment Permittee

Title of Proposed Action: Juniper Ridge Allotment Reservoirs Clean Out/Maintenance

Description of Proposed Action and Project Design Elements (if applicable):

The proposed action would be to clean out and/or repair existing reservoirs located within Juniper Ridge Allotment, Three Rivers Resource Area, Burns District. These reservoirs have filled with silt over the years reducing the water storage capacities for these facilities. Silt would be removed (as described below) and placed on the sides or dams of the reservoirs or the material will be used to repair other reservoirs. All activity will occur within the original area of disturbance where the project was established. The permittee and/or BLM would be responsible for cleaning out reservoirs that are dry for most of the year due to being silted in.

All equipment (excavator or dozer) would be cleaned prior to beginning work on these reservoirs to minimize opportunities for spread of weeds by seeds or other plant parts; work would be completed on each reservoir within three days with one to two people. These reservoirs will be monitored closely for two years post-clean out for noxious weeds. Any weeds found will be treated using the most appropriate methods. Reservoir maintenance is limited to the existing footprint of the reservoirs original disturbed area normally 200' x 200' and consists of less than three days of work to clean the silt out of the bottom of a reservoir. All activities described having limited context and intensity (e.g. limited size and magnitude or short term effects).

Legal Description (attach Location Map):

Juniper Ridge Allotment

North Pasture

E. End Waterhole	#715801	T24S R26E Sec 12
Silver Creek Pasture Reservoir	#710652	T24S R26E Sec 12
Shields Lake Waterhole	#710934	T24S R26E Sec 01
Island Waterhole	#715797	T24S R26E Sec 02
Rock Mound Waterhole	#715715	T24S R26E Sec 02
Silver Creek Pasture Reservoir	#710654	T24S R22E Sec 02

South Pasture

Silver Creek Pasture Reservoir	# 710664	T23S R26E Sec 31
Rubbed Juniper	# 715716	T24S R26E Sec 5
Silver Creek Pasture Reservoir	#710591	T24S R26E Sec 20
Rabbit Basin Reservoir	#715805	T24S R26E Sec 29
Squaw Lake Reservoir	#710478	T24S R26E Sec 33
Stockpile Waterhole	#715694	T25S R26E Sec 4
Cloudy Waterhole	#712685	T24S R26E Sec 27
Rain Drop Waterhole	#715693	T24S R26E Sec 31
Juniper Ridge Well PL	#009447	T24S R26E Sec 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) (*objectives, terms, and conditions*):

- Three Rivers ROD/RMP September 1992, Grazing Management Program Objective and Rationale, GM 1.3, page 2-36. Utilize rangeland improvements, as needed, to support achievement of multiple-use management objectives for each allotment as shown in Appendix 9 and Map RM-3. Range improvements will be constrained by Standard and Procedures and design elements shown in Appendix 12.

BLM Categorical Exclusion Reference (516 DM, Chapter 11): None

DOI Categorical Exclusion Reference (516 DM 2, Appendix 1): 1.7 "Routine and continuing government business, including such things as maintenance 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, Safety Officer
Signature and Date:	<i>John Petty</i> 1/29/13
Rationale: No significant impacts on public health or safety.	
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.
<u>Migratory Birds</u>	
Specialist (Print Name and Title):	Nick Miller, Wildlife Biologist
Signature and Date:	<i>Nick Miller</i> 01/29/2013
Rationale: Migratory birds drink and bath at these reservoirs during the spring and early summer 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 week per site). Reservoirs would be dry during the maintenance work, so few birds would be in the immediate 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.	
<u>Historic and Cultural Resources</u>	
Specialist (Print Name and Title):	Scott Thomas, District Archaeologist
Signature and Date:	<i>Scott Thomas</i> 1-29-13
Rationale: As long as the clean-out equipment stays within the original footprint of reservoir construction, no historic or cultural resources would be affected by this project.	
<u>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Areas</u>	
Specialist (Print Name and Title):	Caryn Meinicke, NRS - Botany
Signature and Date:	<i>Caryn Meinicke</i> 1-29-13
Rationale: There are no ACEC/RNAs within the proposed project areas.	
<u>Water Resources/Flood Plains</u>	
Specialist (Print Name and Title):	Lindsay Davies, Natural Resource Specialist/Riparian
Signature and Date:	<i>Lindsay Davies</i> 1-29-13
Rationale: There will be no additional impacts to water resources as a result of the proposed action.	
<u>Soils, Biological Soil Crust, Prime Farmlands</u>	
Specialist (Print Name and Title):	Caryn Meinicke, NRS - Botany
Signature and Date:	<i>Caryn Meinicke</i> 1-29-13
Rationale: Because all maintenance will take place within currently disturbed areas, impacts to soils and biological soil crusts will be negligible. Any travel off road will minimally impact soils and biological soil crusts with evidence of off road travel dissipating within two growing seasons. There are no prime farmlands within the proposed project areas.	
<u>Recreation/ Visual Resources</u>	
Specialist (Print Name and Title):	John P. Bethea, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Signature and Date:	<i>John P. Bethea</i> 1-29-13
Rationale: Juniper Ridge Allotment Reservoirs Clean Out/Maintenance is mostly located in VRM Class II, the objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. Some reservoirs are located in VRM Class III which requires any changes to the landscape character to be moderate. Cleaning out and repairing the existing reservoirs will be short term and have no significant impacts on recreation or visual resources.	
<u>Wilderness/Wild and Scenic River Resources</u>	
Specialist (Print Name and Title):	Tom Wilcox, Wilderness Specialist
Signature and Date:	<i>Tom Wilcox</i> 1-29-13
Rationale: In September 2007, the BLM Burns District received a citizens proposed wilderness study area for the proposed project area. In 2012 a BLM Interdisciplinary (ID) Team found the area did not have any wilderness, WSA, WSR or Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in the project area.	
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): Holly Orr, District Planning and Environmental Coordinator Signature and Date: <i>Holly Orr</i> 01/25/2013
Rationale: There are no highly controversial environmental effects or unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. The reservoirs are existing features on the landscape. The action is to perform routine and continuing maintenance on existing facilities.
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Holly Orr, District Planning and Environmental Coordinator Signature and Date: <i>Holly Orr</i> 01/25/2013
Rationale: There are no known highly uncertain or potentially significant environment effects or unique or unknown environmental risks. The reservoirs are existing features on the landscape. The action is to perform routine and continuing maintenance on existing facilities.
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): Holly Orr, District Planning and Environmental Coordinator Signature and Date: <i>Holly Orr</i> 01/25/2013
Rationale: Implementation would not set precedence for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. The BLM routinely performs reservoir maintenance and these reservoirs currently 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): Holly Orr, District Planning and Environmental Coordinator Signature and Date: <i>Holly Orr</i> 01/25/2013
Rationale: Implementation does not have any known direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulative significant environmental effects. The reservoirs are existing features on the landscape. The action is to perform routine and continuing maintenance on existing facilities.
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 Archaeologist Signature and Date: <i>Scott Thomas</i> 1-29-13
Rationale: See Historic and Cultural Resources
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> 01/29/2013
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.
<u>Endangered or Threatened Species-Aquatic</u> Specialist (Print Name and Title): Lindsay Davies, Natural Resource Specialist - Riparian Signature and Date: <i>Lindsay Davies</i> 1-29-2013
Rationale: There are no known Endangered or Threatened Species or their Critical Habitat in the vicinity of the project area that would be affected by the implementation 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> 1-29-13
Rationale: There are no T & E or Special Status flora species or designated critical habitat within the proposed 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): Holly Orr, District Planning and Environmental Coordinator Signature and Date: <i>Holly Orr</i> 01/25/2013
Rationale: Implementation would not violate any known law or regulation imposed for the protection of the environment. The reservoirs are existing features on the landscape. The action is to perform routine and continuing maintenance on existing facilities.
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, District Planning and Environmental Coordinator Signature and Date: <i>Holly Orr</i> 01/25/2013
Rationale: Implementation would not have a disproportionately high or adverse effect on low income or minority populations as such populations do not exist within 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: <u>Amelia 1-29-13</u>
Rationale: Access to or integrity of Indian sacred sites would not be affected by this 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: <u>Lesley Richman 1/29/2013</u>
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, District Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Signature: Holly Orr Date: 1/30/13

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 Resource Area Manager

Signature: Richard Roy Date: 1/30/13

