

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

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL

CX Number: DOI-BLM-OR-B070-2012-0037-CX
File Code (Project/Serial Numbers): 710525, 710448, 711164,
710524, 715328, 710517, 710518, 715829, 711165, 711162, 711222.
Preparer: Autumn Toelle, Rangeland Management Specialist
Title of Proposed Action: Ruby Springs Cattleguard Cleaning

Date: June 12, 2012
Applicant: Grazing permittee

Description of Proposed Action and Project Design Elements: Clean twelve cattleguards located in existing fencelines along the Moon Hill Road and the Ruby Loop Road. Overtime the movement of soil results in the pits below the cattleguards filling in. Once the pits are filled, and dirt is packed between the bars on the cattleguard, livestock are able and willing to walk across them, making them ineffective barriers. By maintaining and cleaning these cattleguards, livestock will not be able to cross them, making them effective barriers and decreasing problems of livestock entering areas where they are not authorized to be.

Legal Description (attach Location Map):

Dell Witzel Cattleguard: T.30S., R.32E., Section 10 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ (Krumbo Allotment #6008)
Moon Hill Cattleguard: T.31S., R.32.75E., Section 12 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ (Ruby Springs Allotment #6007)
Moon Hill Road Cattleguard #1: T.29S., R.32E., Section 27 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ (Krumbo Allotment #6008)
Moon Hill Road Cattleguard #2: T.30S., R.32E., Section 3 NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ (Krumbo Allotment #6008)
Moon Hill Road Cattleguard #3: T.30S., R.32E., Section 22 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ (Ruby Springs Allotment #6007)
Moon Hill Road Cattleguard #4: T.30S., R.32E., Section 36 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ (Ruby Springs Allotment #6007)
Moon Hill Cattleguard #5: T.31S., R.32.75E., Section 24 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ (Ruby Springs Allotment #6007)
Olofson Cattleguard: T.29S., R.32E., Section 27 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ (Krumbo Allotment #6008)
Ruby Spring Loop Cattleguard #2: T.30S., R.33E., Section 32 SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ (Ruby Springs Allotment #6007)
Ruby Spring Loop Cattleguard #3: T.30S., R.33E., Section 19 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ (Ruby Springs Allotment #6007)
Ruby Spring Loop Cattleguard #4: T.30S., R.32E., Section 2 NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ (Ruby Springs Allotment #6007)
Ruby Spring Loop Cattleguard #5: T.29S., R.32E., Section 34 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ (Krumbo Allotment #6008)

B. Conformance with Land Use Plan (LUP) (name): 2005 Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area Record of Decisions and Resource Management Plans

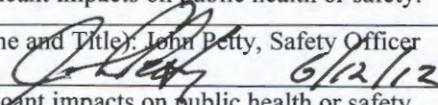
The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (*objectives, terms, and conditions*):

Projects and maintenance of existing and newly-constructed facilities will occur; however, the level of maintenance could vary based on annual funding. Normally, routine operation and maintenance actions are categorically excluded from NEPA analysis... Such activities could include, but are not limited to, routine maintenance of existing...cattleguards... These types of actions are part of implementation of the RMP and should not require further analysis to implement" RMP-15.

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 such things as....maintenance..."

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:	 6/12/12
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.

Migratory Birds

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Matt Obradovich, District Biologist

Signature and Date: *Matt Obradovich* 6/12/12

Rationale: Project location are small (<0.1 acres each) and would occur in previously disturbed areas. Migratory birds may avoid or flush from the immediate area of activity, but this disturbance would be temporary (generally less than a day for each cattleguard).

Historic and Cultural Resources

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

Signature and Date: *Scott Thomas* 6-12-12

Rationale: No cultural resources are known to occur in the proposed project area.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Areas

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Caryn Meinicke, Natural Resource Specialist-Botany

Signature and Date: *Caryn Meinicke* 6-12-12

Rationale: No impacts to RNA's or ACEC's will occur as a result of this project.

Water Resources/Flood Plains

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

Signature and Date: *Daryl Bingham* 12 JUNE 2012

Rationale: Disturbance would be small and confined to small, previously disturbed areas. No new significant impacts would occur as a result of this project.

Soils, Biological Soil Crust, Prime Farmlands

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Caryn Meinicke, Natural Resource Specialist-Botany

Signature and Date: *Caryn Meinicke* 6-12-12

Rationale: No significant impacts to these resources will occur as a result of this proposal.

Recreation/ Visual Resources

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Eric Haakenson, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Signature and Date: *Eric Haakenson* 6-12-12

Rationale: No significant impacts to Recreation or Visual Resources since the cattleguards are already installed.

Wilderness/Wild and Scenic River Resources

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Eric Haakenson, Outdoor Recreation Specialist

Signature and Date: *Eric Haakenson* 6-12-12

Rationale: The proposed project is not in a wilderness area, WSA or WSR.

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* 6/13/12

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* 6/13/12

Rationale: There are no known highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks. Maintenance of cattleguards is a common practice in rangeland management to control movement of livestock.

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* 6/13/12

Rationale: No precedent for future actions or decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects would occur as maintenance of cattleguards is a common practice in rangeland management.

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> 6/13/12
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> 6-12-12
Rationale: No National Register eligible or listed properties are located within the proposed projects area(s).	
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): Matt Obradovich, District Biologist	
Signature and Date:	<i>Matt Obradovich</i> 6/12/12
Rationale: There are no known federally listed threatened or endangered species, or designated Critical Habitat at or near the project sites.	
Endangered or Threatened Species-Aquatic	
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Daryl Bingham, Natural Resources Specialist-Riparian	
Signature and Date:	<i>Daryl Bingham</i> 12 JUNE 2012
Rationale: There are no known federally listed threatened or endangered aquatic species or Critical Habitat at or near the project sites.	
Endangered or Threatened Species-Flora	
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Caryn Meinicke, Natural Resource Specialist-Botany	
Signature and Date:	<i>Caryn Meinicke</i> 6-12-12
Rationale: No T&E species of flora or associated Critical Habitat 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:	<i>Rhonda Karges</i> 6/13/12
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> 6/13/12
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> 6-12-12
Rationale: No Indian sacred sites or access to Indian 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> 6/13/2012
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):

Specialist (Print Name and Title): *Autumn Tullis*, Rangeland Management Specialist

Signature: *Autumn Tullis* Date: 6-12-12

RMP conformance and CX review confirmation:

Signature:

Shonda Kargo

Date:

6/13/12

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):

Andrew Steers Field Manager

Signature:

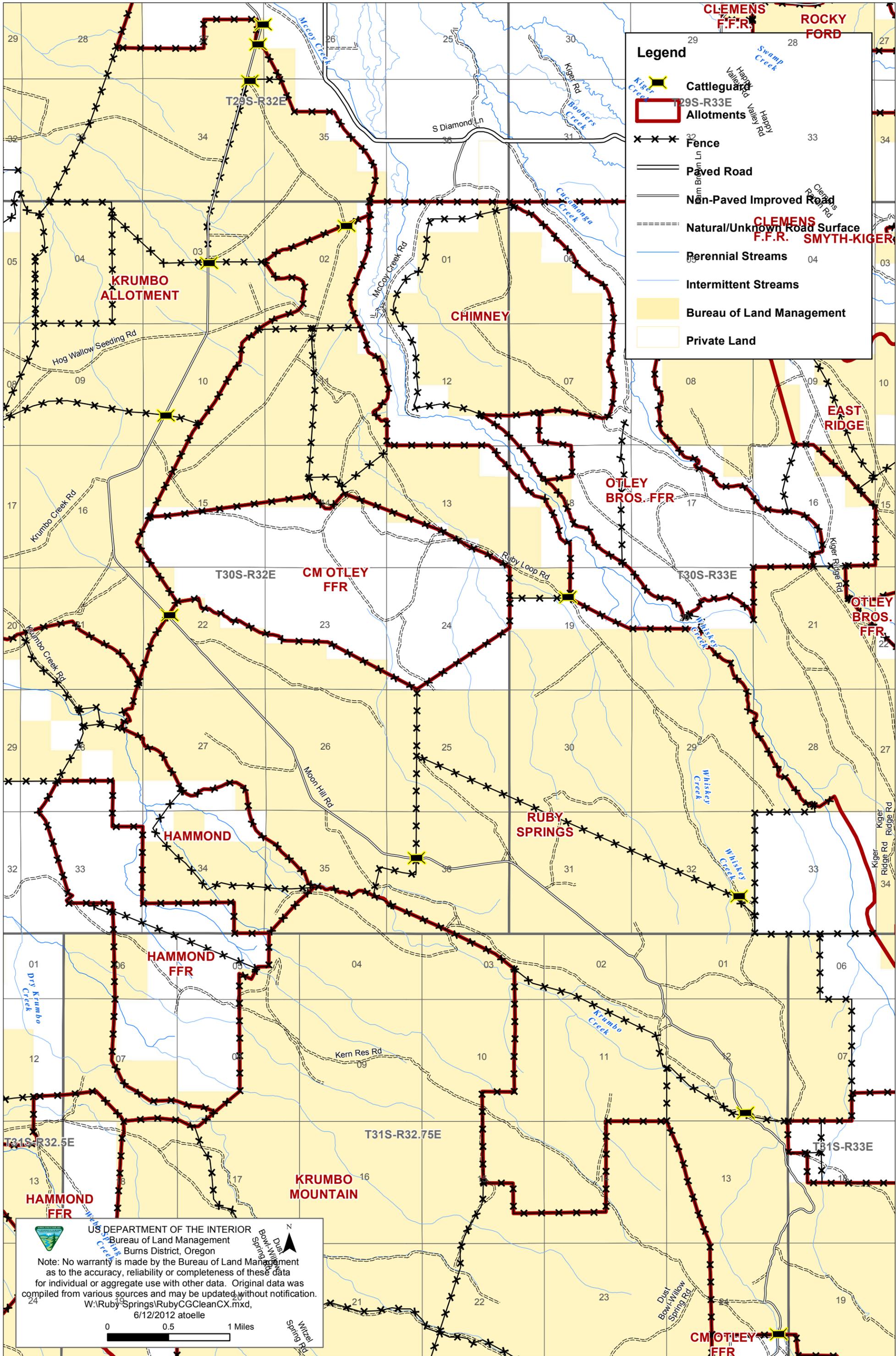
Shonda Kargo

Date:

6/13/12

Note: A separate decision document may be prepared for the action covered by this Categorical Exclusion following program-specific guidance.

Ruby Springs Cattleguard Cleaning CX Map



Legend

- Cattleguard
- Allotments
- Fence
- Paved Road
- Non-Paved Improved Road
- Natural/Unknown Road Surface
- Perennial Streams
- Intermittent Streams
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private Land

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

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.

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