

**RECORD OF PLAN CONFORMANCE AND  
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DOCUMENTATION for  
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS NOT ESTABLISHED BY STATUTE  
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

**A. BACKGROUND**

BLM Office: Lakeview District, Klamath Falls Resource Area Lease or Serial #: NA  
Proposed Action Title/Type: **Round Valley Gate** (Installation of steel tube gate with rock wing fences on existing road for existing seasonal closure.)  
CX Log #: DOI-BLM-OR-L040-2011-002 Project Location: T40S, R14 1/2 E, Sect. 4, NE ¼ of NE ¼

**Description of Proposed Action:**

Install a steel pipe gate consisting of two concrete filled steel posts set in the ground, a steel cross pipe on hinges hung on one post, a lock box on the other post, and a smaller concrete filled steel post set in the ground such that the gate can be locked in the open position as well as the closed position. Additionally, up to 40 large rocks generally in the 2.0 to 2.5 foot diameter size class will be removed from the existing recently disturbed road-edge berm and placed in lines, as a fence, extending outward from the posts extending up to 200 feet from the posts. The purpose of the rock fences is to prevent vehicles from driving around the new gate when the gate is closed. These rocks will be placed by a small rubber tracked Bobcat loader with a grapple bucket. Rocks will be spaced approximately 6 feet apart and standing live trees will be incorporated into the spacing where possible. Rocks will be picked up and placed, not pushed or pulled along the ground surface. Although the gate will be visible from the CCC Road intersection, a sign will be posted at the intersection with wording similar to "Road Closed to Motorized Vehicles Ahead".

**Purpose and Need for the Project:**

The purpose of the proposed action is to allow a recently improved road to be seasonally closed in order to comply with the Resource Management Plan (RMP) and the cooperative deer winter range seasonal vehicle closure. This road was an existing road into the seasonal vehicle closure area, but was in such poor condition that it appeared it was rarely if ever traveled on during the closure period. The road was recently bladed and straightened in order to allow chip truck passage as part of a BLM project. The improved road would likely be inviting to the public and installation of the gate and rock wing fences is intended to keep potential violators out of the seasonal vehicle closure area during the closure period. The gate will be reopened each spring at the end of the closure period.

**B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE**

Land Use Plan Name: Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan  
Date Approved/Amended: June 1995

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

This project is intended to allow the physical closure, seasonally (Nov. 1 to April15), of an area already legally and administratively closed to vehicles seasonally by the Record of Decision for the 1995 Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan (1995 RMP ROD pg. 51-52), and Federal Register (Vol. 63, No.113, pg. 32244-32245). This seasonal vehicle closure was established to protect a variety of resource values including natural surface roads, riparian /watershed, and wildlife habitat. This document is NOT intended to revisit the RMP decision to close the area seasonally to vehicles, but rather to address the work necessary to make the area physically closed to vehicles.

**C. COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, H-1790-1 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY HANDBOOK, APPENDIX 4, Category G, Transportation 2-*"Installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, waterbars, gates or cattleguards on/or adjacent to roads and trails identified in any land use or transportation plan or eligible for inclusion in such a plan"*.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 apply. The proposed action will:

| <b>CX Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation</b>  |            |           |
|--|------------|-----------|
| <b>The proposed categorical exclusion action will:</b>   | <b>YES</b> | <b>NO</b> |
| 2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.   |            | X         |
| Rationale: No impact on public health or safety. Gate will be marked with bright reflective DOT tape in order to warn drivers.   |            |           |
| 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); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas. |            | X         |
| Rationale: This gate location is not within or adjacent to any of these special land designations or special management areas.   |            |           |
| 2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].   |            | X         |
| Rationale: The gate installation physically closes an area already legally closed, and implements an earlier decision to seasonally close area to vehicles.  |            |           |
| 2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.  |            | X         |
| Rationale: The effects of gate installation are known.   |            |           |
| 2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.  |            | X         |
| Rationale: No new significant effect with this gate, and gate installation is not a new procedure. No precedent will be set with this project.   |            |           |
| 2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.  |            | X         |
| Rationale: This gate project would not result in any significant cumulative effects. This gate closes an area already legally closed.  |            |           |
| 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.  |            | X         |
| Rationale: The area has been previously inventoried and there are no known sites. No historical places/properties would be affected.   |            |           |
| 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.   |            | X         |
| Rationale: No ESA species would be affected by this gate. There are none present in the area.  |            |           |
| 2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.  |            | X         |
| Rationale: No laws prohibit this gate installation.  |            |           |
| 2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).  |            | X         |
| Rationale: This gate installation does not adversely affect any populations.   |            |           |
| 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).   |            | X         |
| Rationale: This gate installation allows the physical closure of an area already legally closed. No new restrictions on Indian uses would result from this gate installation.  |            |           |
| 2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native 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).   |            | X         |
| Rationale: Ground disturbance will be negligible as a result of this gate installation. Gate posts will be set in the previously disturbed earth on the road bed. Rock wing fences will not disturb soil or encourage weed spread.   |            |           |

The proposed action would not meet any of the above extraordinary circumstances, or fail to comply with Executive Order 13212 (Actions to Expedite Energy-Related Projects) – to avoid direct or indirect adverse impact on energy development, production, supply, and/or distribution.

**Surveys and Consultation**

Surveys and/or consultation may be needed for special status plants and animals, for cultural resources, and other resources as necessary (appropriate fields are Initialed and Dated by responsible resource specialist):

| <b>Surveys</b>          | <b>Are Completed</b> | <b>Will Be Completed</b> | <b>Are Not Needed</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| SS Animals              |                      |                          | X MDB 10/18/10        |
| SS Plants               |                      |                          |                       |
| Cultural Resources      | BMB 10/18/10         |                          |                       |
| <b>Consultation</b>     | <b>Is Completed</b>  | <b>Will Be Completed</b> | <b>Is Not Needed</b>  |
| SS Animal Consultation* |                      |                          | X MDB 10/18/10        |
| Botanical Consultation  |                      |                          |                       |
| Cultural Consultation   |                      |                          | BMB 10/18/10          |
| *(SS = Special Status)  |                      |                          |                       |

**E. SIGNATURE**

Authorizing Official: /s/ Donald J. Holmstrom Date: 10/25/10  
 (Signature)

Name: Donald J. Holmstrom  
 Title: Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area

**Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

Matt Broyles or Don Hoffheins, Klamath Falls Resource Area, 2795 Anderson Avenue, Building 25, Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603-7891 or telephone: 541-883-6916

## **APPENDIX A – WEED MITIGATION MEASURES**

All vehicles and equipment will be cleaned off prior to operating on BLM lands. Removal of all dirt, grease, and plant parts that may carry noxious weed seeds or vegetative parts is required and may be accomplished with a pressure hose.

High concentrations of noxious weeds in the immediate area of mechanical operations shall be mowed to ground level prior to the start of project activities.

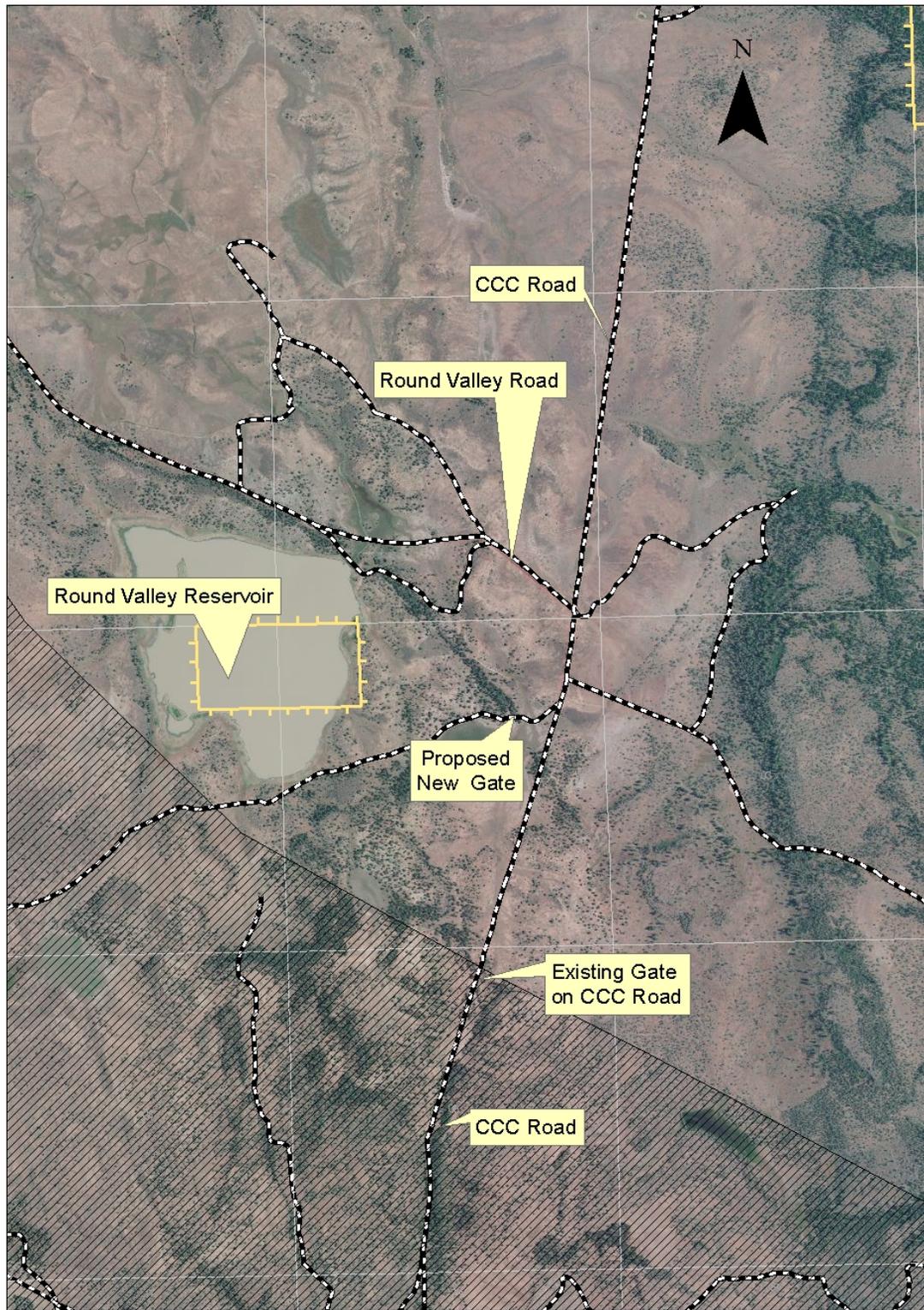
All equipment and vehicles operating off of main roads shall be cleaned off prior to leaving the job site when the job site includes noxious weed populations. Removal of all dirt, grease, and plant parts that may carry noxious weed seeds or vegetative parts is required and may be accomplished with a pressure hose.

## **APPENDIX B – SOILS QUALITY PDFS AND BMPS**

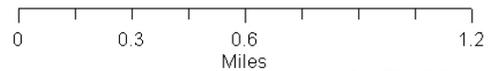
Soil Quality PDFs and BMPs (BMPs are from KFRA RMP Page D-11)

- Limit detrimental soil conditions to less than 20 percent of the total acreage within the activity area. Use current soil quality indicators to monitor soil impacts. Sites where the 20 percent standard is exceeded will require treatment, such as ripping, backblading or seeding.
- Limit mechanical operations to soil moistures below 20 percent at a six inch depth. Even lower soil moisture levels are preferable on fragile soils.

# LOCATION OF PROPOSED NEW GATE ONCCC-DOG HOLLOW TIE ROAD



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Created Date: 9/10/2010 09:57:57 AM

**Determination for the Round Valley Gate**  
**DOI-BLM-OR-L040-2011-002-CX**

I have determined that it is appropriate to proceed with the Proposed Action as described and shown on the attached map(s).

**Rationale**

The proposed action has been reviewed by Klamath Falls Resource Area staff and appropriate Project Design Features, as specified, will be incorporated into the proposal. The proposed action would not create adverse environmental effects, meet any of the extraordinary circumstances, or fail to comply with Executive Order 13212 (Actions to Expedite Energy-Related Projects) – to avoid direct or indirect adverse impact on energy development, production, supply, and/or distribution.

Based on the attached NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further environmental analysis is required.

**Signature**

Authorizing Official: /s/ Donald J. Holmstrom  
(Signature)

10/25/10  
(Date)

Name: Donald J. Holmstrom

Title: Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area