

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

BLM Office: Lakeview District, Klamath Falls Resource Area Lease or Serial #: OROR 67757
Proposed Action Title/Type: **ODOT-State Radio Project-Hamaker Geotechnical Investigation**
NEPA Log #: DOI-BLM-OR-L040-2013-23-CX
Project Location: W.M. (Meridian 33), T40S., R7E., SEC 22, SE NE.

A. Background

Description of Proposed Action:

The Oregon Department of Transportation has applied for an amendment to their existing Communication Site located on Hamaker Mountain (OROR 35853). A State radio project will be co-locating in the ODOT facility and requires these upgrades. This current application is for a right-of-way (ROW) to perform geotechnical investigations in connection with that amendment.

ODOT owns and maintains a microwave and two-way radio site on Hamaker Mountain. ODOT has requested to amend and renew the current ODOT right-of-way grant for the existing facility. The requested amendments include removal of the existing ODOT 40-foot tower and foundation, and replacement with a new 100-foot tower and approximately 20' x 20' x 9' concrete foundation in the same location. ODOT also plans to install a new 10' x 14' equipment only shelter on the east end of the tower. The proposed construction requires geotechnical analysis.

The proposal is to explore subsurface conditions by excavating one or two test pits near the proposed tower location and near the equipment shelter as access permits.

The test pits will be excavated by a subcontracted excavation contractor using a track-mounted hydraulic excavator, comparable in size to a John Deere 120C and Caterpillar 215B. This exploration will be performed when there is no snow or ice on the road, typically from April through October.

Colluvium and relatively shallow bedrock is anticipated at this site. The expected depth of the test pit is less than 20 feet below grade, though the final excavation depth will depend on the material encountered in the field, and the mechanical limits of the excavation equipment. The test pits will be terminated where shallow bedrock is encountered. The estimated disturbance area is 4 feet by 12 feet.

A geotechnical representative from Adapt will be on site to continuously observe the pit excavation, log sub-surface conditions, and obtain representative soil samples, if needed. After each test pit is logged, the excavator operator will backfill with the excavated material and tamp the surface using the excavator bucket. The use of imported fill is not anticipated.

Equipment used in the implementation will be washed prior to entry to public lands and if noxious weeds are discovered during implementation, Adapt will consult with the Klamath Falls Resource Area botanist.

A BLM archaeologist will be present to monitor ground disturbing activities.

There will be no visual impacts from this geotechnical testing.

Purpose and Need for the Project:

The purpose of the proposed action is for BLM to grant a short term Right-of-Way for Geotechnical Testing that is necessary for the Hamaker communications site upgrade to accommodate co-location of the State Radio Project.

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): (Refer to page 66) “Continue to make BLM-administered lands available for needed rights-of-way where consistent with local comprehensive plans, Oregon statewide planning goals and rules, and the exclusion and avoidance areas identified in this Resource Management Plan.

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, Appendix 4, ***(J) 3. Conducting preliminary hazardous materials assessments and site investigations, site characterization studies and environmental monitoring. Included are siting, construction, installation and or operation of small monitoring devices such as wells, particulate dust counters and automatic air or water samples.***

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 following documentation describes whether or not the extraordinary circumstances apply to the project:

CX Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation		
Will the proposed categorical exclusion action:	YES	NO
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety. Rationale: No significant impacts expected.		X
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. Rationale: No unique features present		X
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]. Rationale: No highly controversial environmental effects or unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources are expected [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. Rationale: No highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks are expected.		X
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. Rationale: Will not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X

Rationale: No direct relationship 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.		X
Rationale: The area has previous survey, no known sites are present, however, a BLM archaeologist will be present during ground disturbing activities.		
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 significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or no significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
Rationale: Does not violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
Rationale: Does not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		
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: Does not 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).		
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: Refer to Exhibit A (attached) ROW project design features (PDFs) and best management practices (BMPs).		

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, or impact RMP exclusion and avoidance areas.

Surveys and Consultation

Surveys and/or consultation are not 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):

Surveys	Are Completed	Will Be Completed	Are Not Needed
SS* Animals			MDB 4/16/2013
SS* Plants			JLF 4/11/13
Cultural Resources	BMB 4/19/2013		
ROWs or Cadastral			DB 4/3/2013
Consultation	Is Completed	Will Be Completed	Is Not Needed
SS* Animal Consultation			MDB 4/16/2013
Botanical Consultation			JLF 4/11/13
Cultural Consultation			BMB 4/19/2013
*(SS = Special Status)			

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

Debora Boudreau, Realty Specialist, Klamath Falls Resource Area, 2795 Anderson Avenue, Building 25, Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603-7891 or telephone: 541-885-4150 or email dboudreau@blm.gov

EXHIBIT B – MAP

ODOT Hamaker Comm Site Amendment OR35853



EXHIBIT A
Project Design Features (PDFs) and Best Management Practices (BMPs)

During construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of the project, the grantee must agree to the following PDFs and BMPs:

1. To the extent practicable, comply with all existing and subsequently enacted, issued, or amended Federal laws and regulations and state laws and regulations applicable to the authorized use.
2. Rebuild and repair roads, fences, and established trails destroyed or damaged by the project and or use by ROW holder.
3. Build and maintain suitable crossings for existing roads and significant trails that intersect the project.
4. Do everything reasonable to prevent and suppress wildfires on or in the immediate vicinity of the right-of-way area.
5. Not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment during any phase of the project because of race, creed, color, sex, or national origin. You must also require subcontractors not to discriminate.
6. Pay monitoring fees and rent described in 43 CFR Sec. 2805.16 of this subpart and subpart 2806 of this part.
7. If BLM requires, you must obtain, and/or certify that you have obtained, a surety bond or other acceptable security to cover any losses, damages, or injury to human health, the environment, and property in connection with your use and occupancy of the right-of-way, including terminating the grant, and to secure all obligations imposed by the grant and applicable laws and regulations. If you plan to use hazardous materials in the operation of your grant, you must provide a bond that covers liability for damages or injuries resulting from releases or discharges of hazardous materials. BLM may require a bond, an increase or decrease in the value of an existing bond, or other acceptable security at any time during the term of the grant.
8. Assume full liability if third parties are injured or damages occur to property on or near the right-of-way (see 43 CFR Sec. 2807.12 of this part).
9. Comply with project-specific terms, conditions, and stipulations.
10. Restore, re-vegetate, and curtail erosion or conduct any other rehabilitation measure BLM determines necessary.
11. Ensure that activities in connection with the grant comply with air and water quality standards or related facility citing standards contained in applicable Federal or state law or regulations.
12. Control or prevent damage to scenic, aesthetic, cultural, and environmental values, including fish and wildlife habitat; public and private property; and public health and safety;

13. Ensure that you construct, operate, maintain, and terminate the facilities on the lands in the right-of-way in a manner consistent with the grant.
14. Notify the Authorized Officer of any maintenance or repairs prior to taking any action on the rights-of-way.
15. When the state standards are more stringent than Federal standards, comply with state standards for public health and safety, environmental protection, and citing, constructing, operating, and maintaining any facilities and improvements on the right-of-way.
16. Grant BLM an equivalent authorization for an access road across your land if BLM determines the reciprocal authorization is needed in the public interest, and the authorization BLM issues to you is also for road access.
17. Immediately notify all Federal, state, tribal and local agencies of any release or discharge of hazardous material reportable to such entity under applicable law. You must also notify BLM at the same time, and send BLM a copy of any written notification you prepared.
18. Not dispose of or store hazardous material on your right-of-way, except as provided by the terms, conditions, and stipulations of your grant.
19. Certify your compliance with all requirements of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. 11001 et seq., when you receive, assign, renew, amend, or terminate your grant.
20. Control and remove any release or discharge of hazardous material on or near the right-of-way arising in connection with your use and occupancy of the right-of-way, whether or not the release or discharge is authorized under the grant. You must also remediate and restore lands and resources affected by the release or discharge to BLM's satisfaction and to the satisfaction of any other Federal, state, tribal, or local agency having jurisdiction over the land, resource, or hazardous material.
21. Comply with all liability and indemnification provisions and stipulations in the grant.
22. As BLM directs, provide diagrams or maps showing the location of any constructed facility.
23. Comply with all other stipulations that BLM may require.
24. Conditions of Approval to Protect Cultural Values

If subsurface cultural resources are unearthed during operations, activity in the vicinity of the cultural resource will cease and a BLM representative notified immediately. Pursuant to 43 C.F.R. 10.4 the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, the project leader/operator/permittee/etc. must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer. The holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures that are made by the authorized officer (BLM).

The project leader/operator/permittee/etc. is responsible for informing all persons associated with this project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing Native American Indian shrines, historic and prehistoric archaeology sites, or for collecting artifacts of any kind, including historic items and/or arrowheads from Federal lands pursuant to the 1906 American Antiquities Act (P.L. 59-209; 34 Stat. 225; 16 U.S.C. 432, 433), the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (P.L. 96-95; 93 Stat. 721; 16 U.S.C. 470ee as amended), and/or other federal laws.

A BLM archaeologist will be present during ground disturbing activities.

25. Wildlife

If it is necessary for construction activities to take place during the bird nesting season (May 15 through August 15), a pre-construction site survey by a qualified Biologist would be required. If it is determined that nesting birds are present, a buffer zone (100 feet is recommended for migratory birds) would be established and maintained until the young birds have fledged.

Raptor Nests

For Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles use the Fish and Wildlife Service Bald Eagle Management guidelines. Seasonal restriction period would occur from Jan 1- August 31. These guidelines can be found at the following web site:
<http://www.fws.gov/pacific/eagle/NationalBaldEagleManagementGuidelines.pdf>

For all other raptors use the latest information of the critical nesting period for the raptor species and implement seasonal restrictions from human caused disturbance that may result in nest failure or abandonment.

26. The Lessee or Right-of-Way (ROW) Holder shall post the lease or ROW Serial Number on all structures authorized by the lease or grant where practical.

27. Weeds

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.

28. During the closure period (winter and spring), user will only use the road when it is frozen or dry and will not use the road wet conditions. If the road is damaged by holder, holder will be required to pay for road maintenance and/or make adequate repairs to road surface and drainage features. This is necessary to keep roads in satisfactory condition, prevent excessive erosion, and to protect the road from winter and spring road use damage. Except in

emergency situations, grantor may suspend the use of roads during periods when the forests are closed by lawful authority. Grantor may also suspend the use of such roads when, due to weather conditions, unrestricted use would cause excessive damage to the roads.

29. You are required to contact the Authorized Officer in the event of a name change or address change.
30. You are required to contact the Authorized Officer in writing 180 days prior to the expiration of this grant for renewal or relinquishment procedures.
31. Right-of-Way area shall be free of debris and vegetation will be kept clear of the building and propane tank within a 30 foot radius.

**Determination for
ODOT State Radio Project - Hamaker Geotechnical Testing
ROW # OROR 67757
DOI-BLM-OR-L040-2013-023-CX**

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

Rationale

The Proposed Action has been reviewed by the Klamath Falls Resource Area staff and appropriate project design features (PDFs) and best management practices (BMPs), as specified in Exhibit A, will be incorporated into the proposal. The Proposed Action would not create adverse environmental effects, 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.

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: Donald J. Holmstrom
(Signature)

Date: 4/26/2013

Name: Donald J. Holmstrom

Title: Field Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area