

**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
Proposed Action Title/Type: **Holbrook Enclosure Fence Modification**
CX Log #: DOI-BLM-OR-L040-2014-023-CX
Project Location: W.M. T41S R15E Sec 6 NW (See attached maps 1 and 2).

A. BACKGROUND

The Holbrook enclosure is located in the Bear Valley Allotment (00876) within Klamath County, Oregon. It is approximately 24 air miles southeast of Bonanza, Oregon.

Description of Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to remove about 300 feet of existing fence and install about 300 feet of new fence nearby. The new fence will be built at a wider angle to provide better and safer access to the Holbrook Spring water trough for livestock and wildlife (see Figure 1). The new fence design will be the same as the current four-strand wire fence, with the top three wires barbed and the bottom wire smooth. For the first 150 feet, there will also be metal cow panels (galvanized welded wire mesh 50" x 16 feet) wired to the fence to add strength to the segment closest to the water trough area. This will help prevent the cows from crowding in and pushing through the fence, as they have done in the past.

The second 150-foot segment will be a four-wire fence without any additional panels. Metal "T" posts will be used. The spacing will be approximately 16 feet between posts. Additional posts may be added increase strength in high stress segments. Metal "T" posts that are removed from the existing fence will be re-used if they are in good condition.

The new section of fence will start at an existing rock crib near the Holbrook Spring water trough and will run for about 306 feet total length where it will connect with the existing fence. The proposed new fence line is flagged with lime green flagging on trees and wooden laths. The new fence will use up to three trees for stress panels (wooden boards and fence wrapped around a living tree) to act as a solid anchor point along the fence. The fence wire spacing will be four wires with the bottom wire 16-18 inches off the ground. The sequence of the remaining three wires above will be 6 inches, 6 inches, and 12 inches; the maximum height of the fence (ground to top wire) will be 42 inches. For further fence design specifications see Appendix B. Any old fencing that cannot be reused will be collected and taken away for metal recycling in Klamath Falls.

The Bureau of Land Management is currently responsible for the maintenance of the Holbrook enclosure fence. The proposed fence modification work will be done by BLM personnel. The BLM will provide the materials and continue to maintain the Holbrook enclosure fence.

Purpose and Need for the Project:

The purpose of the proposed action is to adjust the existing enclosure fence to accommodate safe livestock and wildlife access to the existing Holbrook Spring livestock water trough. The need for the fence modification was triggered earlier this year, in early June 2014, when the private land owner (JWTR) fenced their private land in and around Holbrook Spring and Holbrook enclosure. This resulted in a narrowing of the access for livestock to reach the Holbrook Spring water trough which is on private JWTR land, but for which the BLM has an easement agreement to allow BLM permittee's livestock to access and use water from the Holbrook Spring trough. Current access to the

watering area has a bottle neck and can be a trap when large numbers of animals try to access it at the same time. Large numbers of livestock crowded into the small watering area has resulted in damage to the fence and, in some cases, livestock have pushed over the fence and gained access into the Holbrook enclosure. The Holbrook enclosure was built to completely exclude livestock from the riparian area that originates from Holbrook Spring. The Holbrook Spring water trough has been an available water source for BLM permitted livestock in the southwest corner of the Bear Valley Allotment for a long time. Livestock and wildlife on the Bear Valley Allotment will benefit from improved access to the water trough.

B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

Land Use Plan Name: Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: June 1995

The proposed project has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with one or more of the following BLM plans, programmatic environmental analyses or policies:

- Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary (KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS), approved June 1995. Refer to: page H-11 of Appendix H; page 62, Grazing Management, Objectives; page 62, Grazing Management, Land Use Allocations; and page 62-63, Grazing Management, Management Actions/Direction.
- Standards for Land Health for Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the States of Oregon and Washington (1998)

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, A.2. Minor modification of water developments to improve or facilitate wildlife use (e.g., modify enclosure fence, install flood valve, or reduce ramp access angle).

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.

CX Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation		
Will the proposed categorical exclusion action:	YES	NO
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
Rationale: The action would not cause any public health or safety risks.		
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: No significant impacts are expected on any of these resources.		
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
Rationale: No highly controversial environmental effects or unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources were identified. The action would allow for continued use of the Holbrook Spring water troughs by livestock and wildlife and not cause significant additional environmental impacts. Improved fencing should reduce the incidents of livestock getting into the Holbrook enclosure which would improve the condition of the riparian area within the enclosure.		
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
Rationale: No highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown		

environmental risks were identified by resource specialists. The action would allow for continued use of the Holbrook Spring water trough by livestock and wildlife.		
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: BLM resource specialists have determined that this will not establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects, because this is a minor and routine action. The action would allow for continued use of the Holbrook Spring water trough by livestock and wildlife.		
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: No direct relationships to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects were identified by resource specialists. The action would allow for continued use of the Holbrook Spring water trough by livestock and wildlife.		
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: This is a modification of an existing fence and will not have any impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.		
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: There are no proposed or listed species, or designated critical habitat within the project area or that would be affected from the proposed project.		
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
Rationale: The project involves modification of an existing fence. BLM resource specialists have reviewed the project and concluded that the project will 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: Review of the project area location shows no disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority 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: BLM archaeologists have determined that the project will 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.		
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: BLM Weed Mitigation Measures listed in Appendix A will be followed.		

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.

D. 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			SGH 08/13/2014
SS Plants			JC 7/24/2014
Cultural Resources	SAH 8/18/2014		

Consultation	Is Completed	Will Be Completed	Is Not Needed
SS Animal Consultation*			SGH 08/13/2014
Botanical Consultation			JC 7/24/2014
Cultural Consultation			SAH 8/18/2014
*(SS = Special Status)			

E. CONTACT PERSON

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact: Jannice Cutler, Klamath Falls Resource Area, 2795 Anderson Avenue, Building 25, Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603-7891 or telephone: 541-883-6916

Determination for Holbrook Fence Enclosure

DOI-BLM-OR-L040-2014-023-CX

I have determined that it is appropriate to proceed with the Proposed Action as described in the Holbrook Fence Enclosure Categorical Exclusion 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, as specified, 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: /s/ Richard White
(Signature)

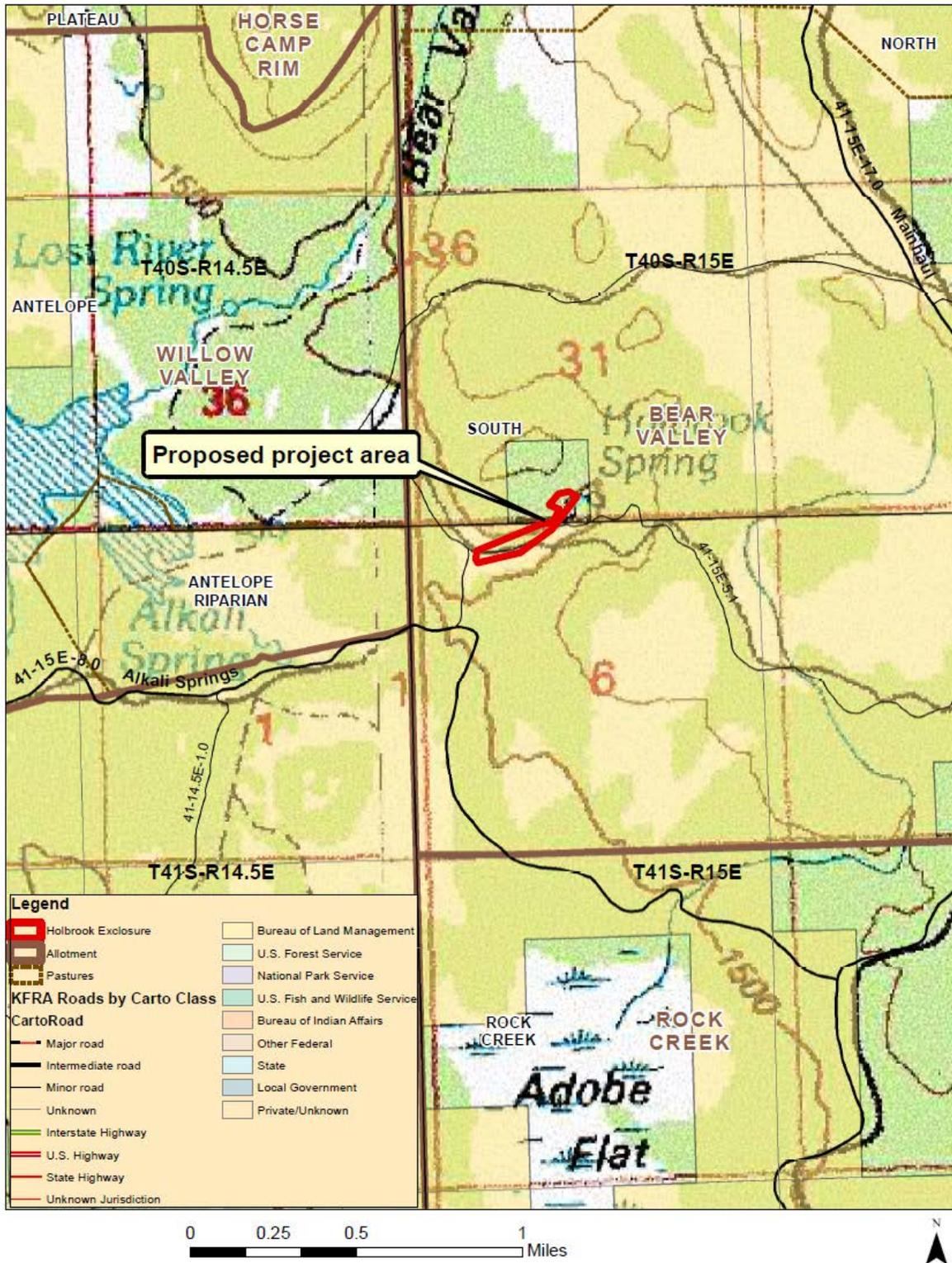
Date: 9/02/2014

Name: Richard White

Title: Field Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area

Map 1- Location Map

Bear Valley Allotment Holbrook Exclosure T41S R15E sec 6 NW



Map 2-Location Map

Bear Valley Allotment Holbrook Exclosure T41S R15E sec 6 NW

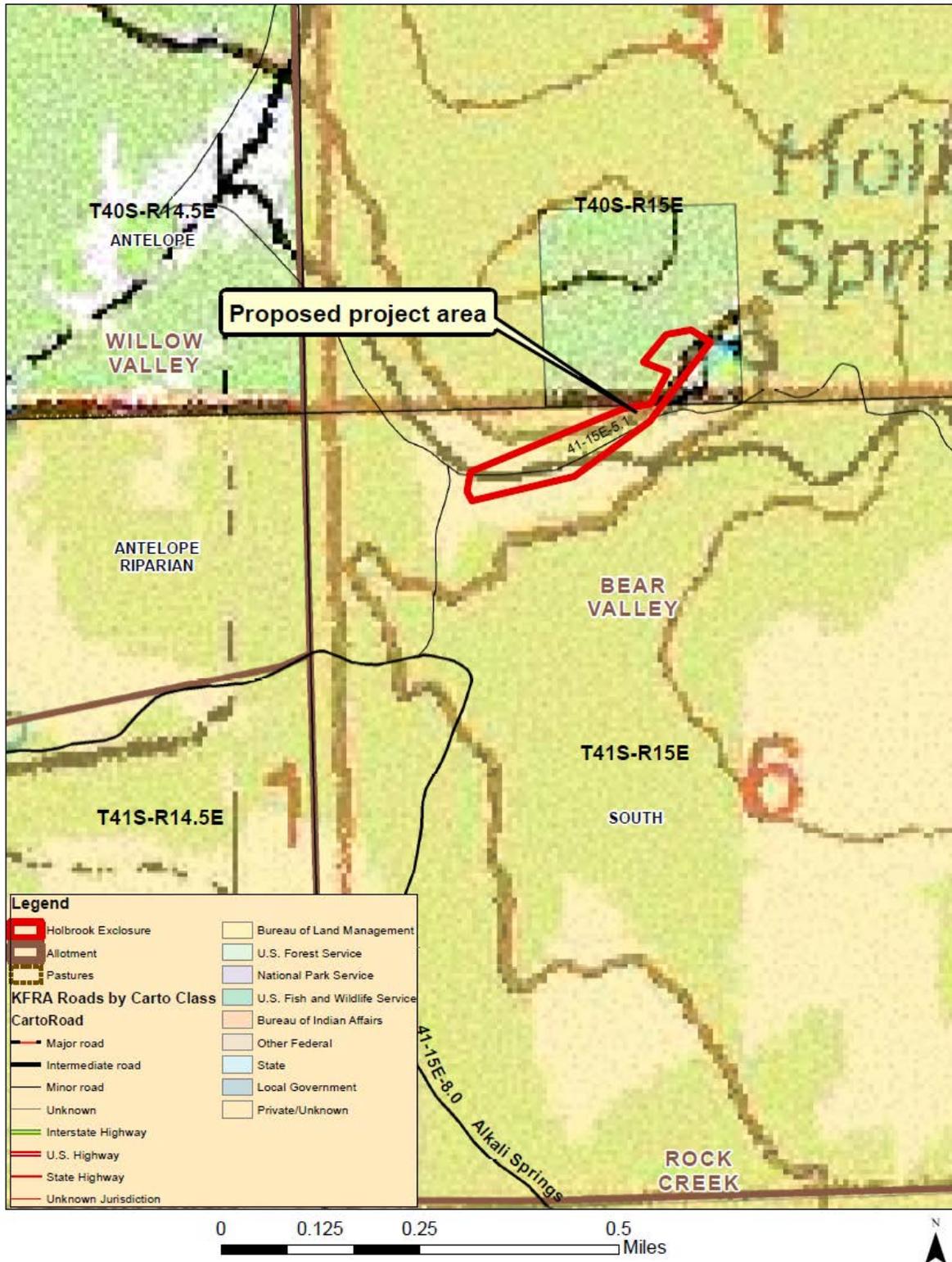
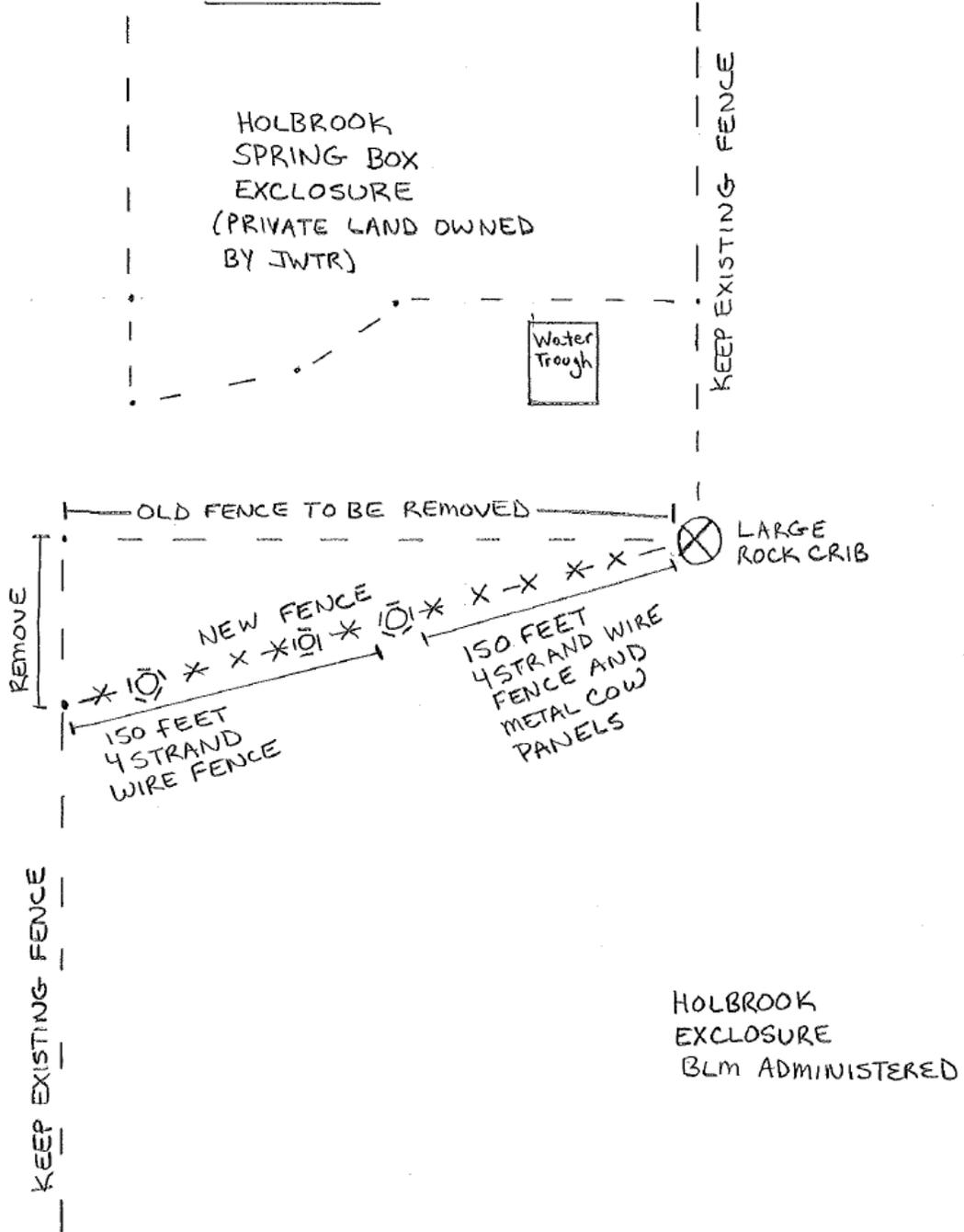


FIGURE 1 HOLBROOK FENCE



Waterproof Paper.com

NOT TO SCALE

J. CUTLER 7/24/2014

⊙ = TREE USED AS FENCE POST
 STRESS PANELS = WOODEN
 BOARDS AND WIRE WRAPPED
 AROUND THE TREE.

APPENDIX A – PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES

Conditions of Approval to Protect Cultural Values

1. 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 a to proper mitigation measure that are made by the authorized officer (BLM).
2. 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. 95-96; 93 Stat. 721; 16 U.S.C. 470ee as amended), and/or other federal laws and regulations.

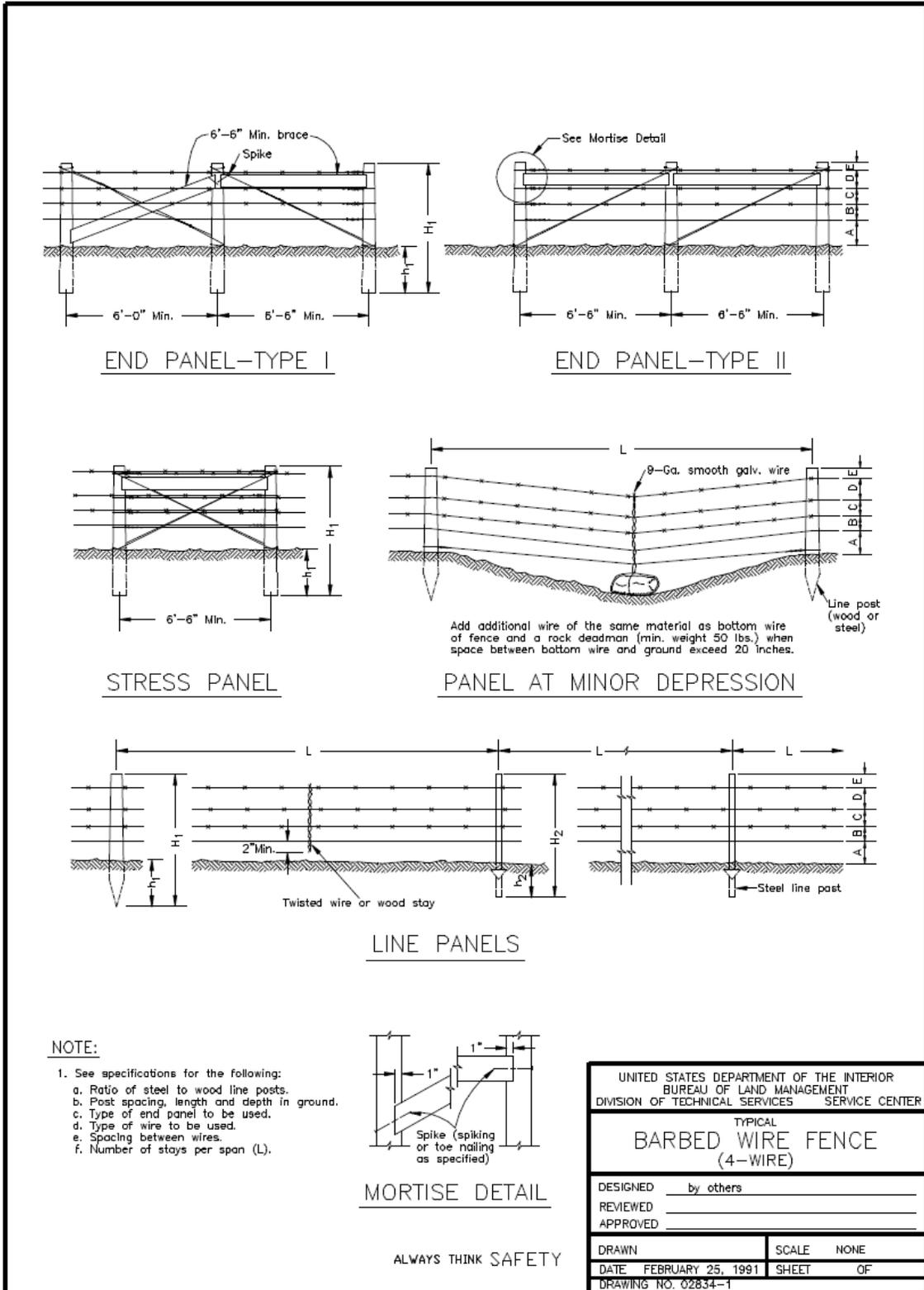
Weeds

- 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.

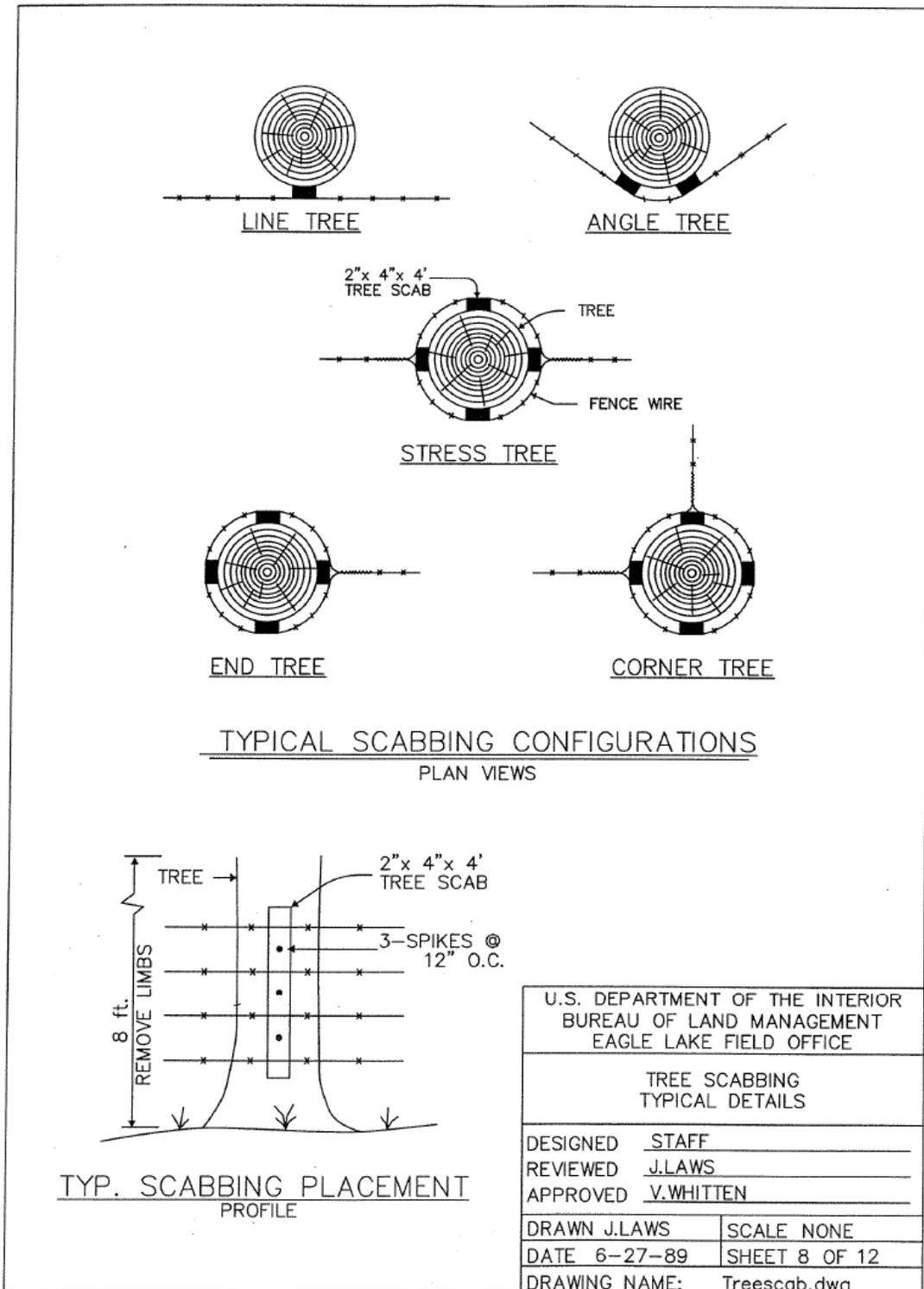
Fence Design Specifications

- Fences will be designed to prevent the passage of livestock without stopping the movement of wildlife.
- The fence spacing will be four wire with the bottom wire 16-18 inches off the ground with the sequence of the remaining three wires above this being 6 inches, 6 inches, and 12 inches; the maximum height of the fence (ground to top wire) will be 42 inches.
- The bottom wire on all fencing will be two-strand smooth wire, not barbed, to facilitate antelope crossings.
- 16 foot spacing between posts with at least two wooden or metal fence stays in between posts.
- Brace posts, tree scabs, and/or rock jacks (rock cribs) will be constructed to enhance fence integrity with one at least every 0.25 mile.
- Brushing and tree limb removal will be limited to only that necessary for surveying, placement, and construction of a fence.
- See design drawings below for 4 wire fence design and tree scab and stress panel design.

Typical 4 wire fence design.



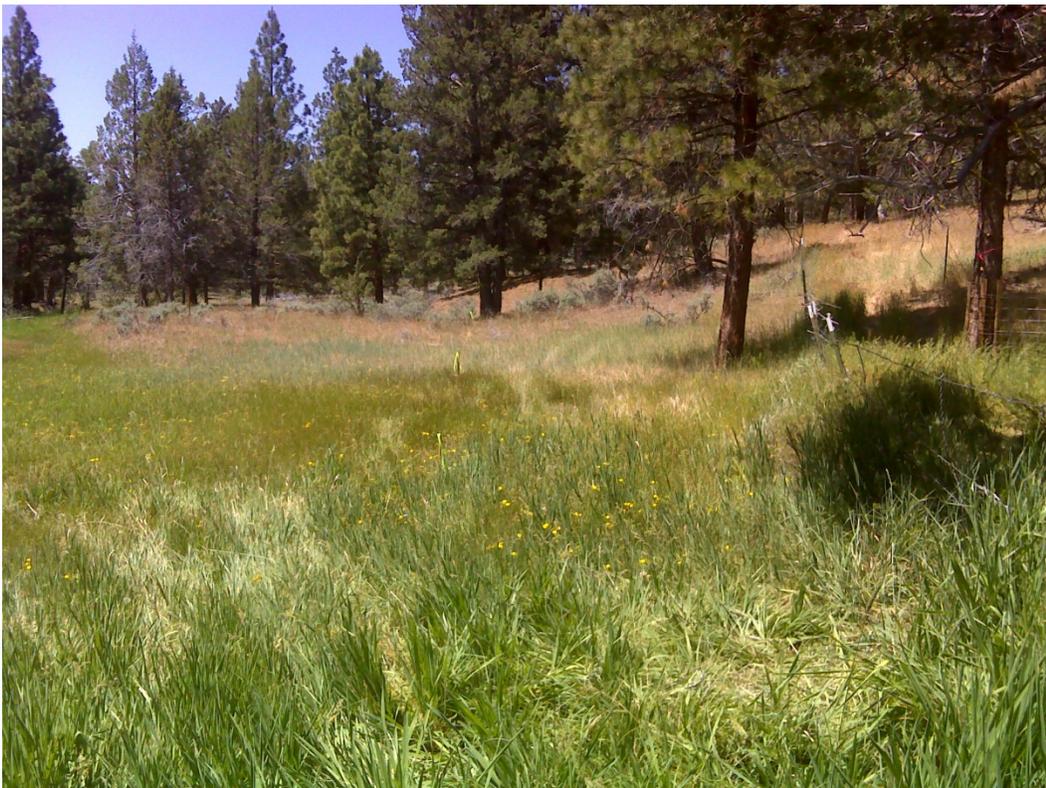
Tree scab and stress panel design.



APPENDIX B- HOLBROOK ENCLOSURE FENCE MODIFICATION PHOTOS



Start the new fence at the rock crib.



The new fence will head west-southwest until it joins up with existing fence.



The new fence will tie into the existing fence about here.