

Categorical Exclusion Determination and Decision Record for the Grouse Ridge Pump Chance, Wildlife and Range Improvement

DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2015-0015-CX

Description of Proposed Action

The Grouse Ridge pump chance has an existing fence in fair condition, but the gate is in disrepair and cattle enter the fenced off portion. This pump chance is the only water source for the area for cattle. Cattle are trampling the majority of the pump chance causing erosion and preventing vegetation from becoming established.

The proposal is to fence off approximately 2/3 of the Grouse Ridge pump chance with a wildlife friendly fence and harden the approach to the pump chance with crushed rock. The banks of the pond at the access point would also have rock placed for stabilization. Native species would be planted in the fenced portion of the pump chance. Cattle would have access on the hardened approach which would also allow better access for fire protection.

Project is located in the Big Butte Creek watershed. Legal description is Township 35 South, Range 3 East, Section 3 of the Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon.

Plan Conformance Review

This proposal is in conformance with objectives, land use allocations, and management direction in the 1995 *Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (1995 ROD/RMP) and any plan amendments in effect at the time this document is published. This project also conforms with the 1994 *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan)

The proposed action was designed to be consistent with the direction given for the management of public lands in the Medford District by the Oregon and California Lands Act of 1937, Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Endangered Species Act of 1973, Clean Water Act of 1987, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996), Clean Air Act of 1990 (as amended), and Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

Project Design Features

- Stop work immediately and report by telephone to the authorized BLM officer if any human remains/grave sites, cultural resources, or paleontological resources (i.e., prehistoric/historic sites or objects or vertebrate fossils) 50 years of age or older are discovered during any project. All actions in the immediate area of the discovery will be suspended until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer in consultation with a qualified cultural resources specialist to determine appropriate actions required to comply with Federal, State, or local laws.
- Require equipment that will travel off system roads to be washed prior to entry onto BLM administered lands to remove dirt and all plant parts.
- All operations will be in compliance with fire season restrictions and regulations identified by the Oregon Department of Forestry.
- Follow existing fence lines or designated flag lines to the extent possible.
- Clear out brush and/or trees that have fallen across the fence line only to the extent needed to complete the fencing project.
- Minimize ground disturbance and damage to adjacent trees.
- All trash and excess fencing materials will be picked up and disposed of properly.

- Construction of fence would be with hand tools only.
- Ensure hay, straw, and mulch are certified as free of prohibited noxious vegetative parts, seeds, or both, per 75 FR 159:51102. Straw or hay must be obtained from the BLM or purchased from growers certified by Oregon Department of Agriculture's Weed Free Forage and Mulch Program. If hay is used, it must be from native grasses only.
- Use approved rip rap, aggregate, and borrow material for rocked approach and bank stabilization. BLM material sources will be surveyed prior to use and will be free of noxious weeds. If noxious weeds are found, they will be treated before material extraction and use.
- Plant grass seed, native vegetation, or both within the same operating season to stabilize exposed soil.

Categorical Exclusion Determination

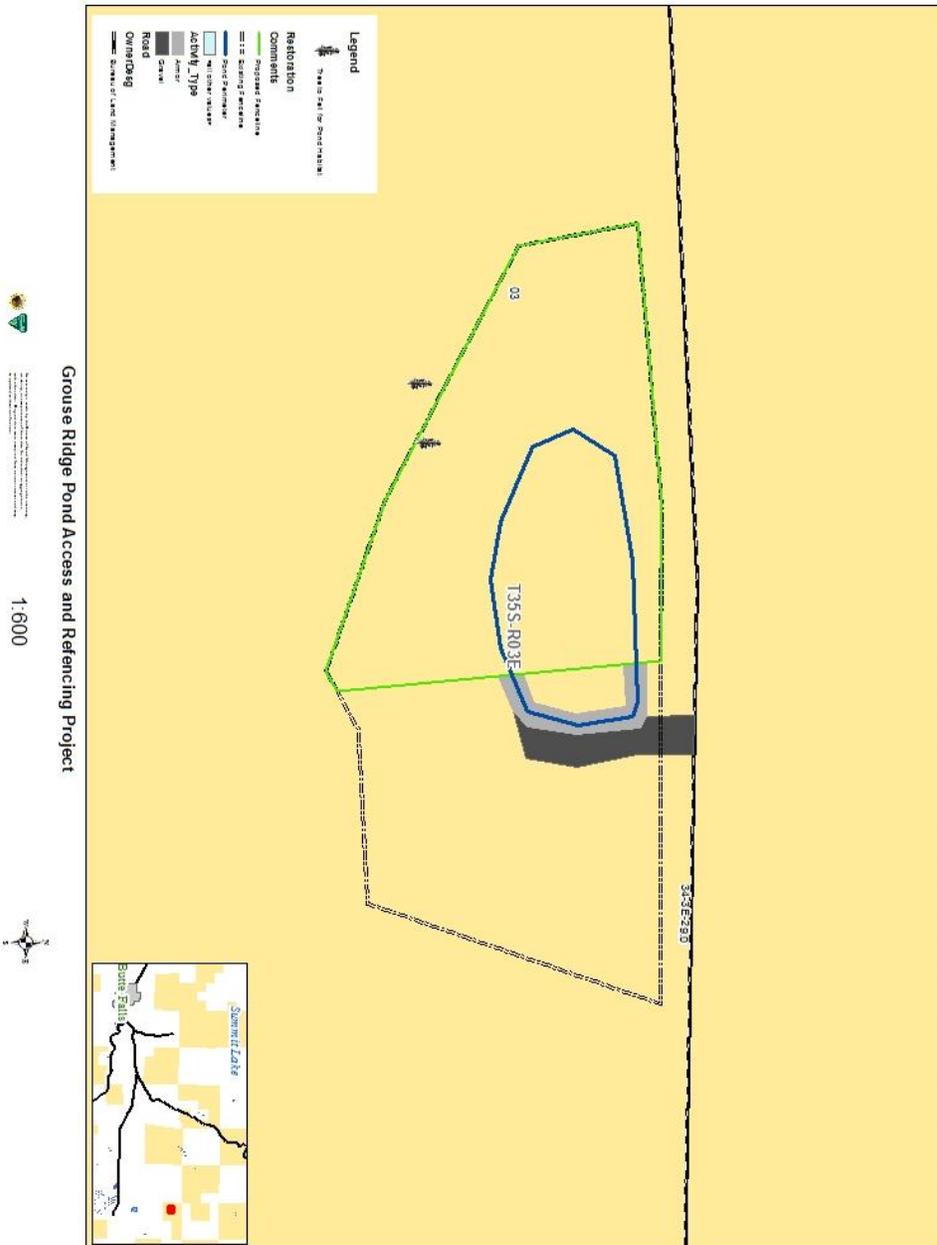
This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion as provided in United States Department of the Interior Departmental Manual 516 DM 11.9, A.2. This section allows for

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

Before any action described in the list of categorical exclusions may be used, the "extraordinary circumstances," included in the Code of Federal Regulations at 43 CFR 46.205(c) must be reviewed for applicability. After review, the BLM determined no extraordinary circumstances exist that would cause the proposed action to have a significant environmental effect. The action will not require additional analysis.

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this project, contact Shawn Simpson, Project Leader, at 541-618-2460.



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review

Proposed Action:

To fence off approximately 2/3 of the Grouse Ridge pump chance with a wildlife friendly fence and harden the approach to the pump chance with crushed rock. The banks of the pond at the access point would also have rock placed for stabilization. Native species would be planted in the fenced portion of the pump chance.

The Code of Federal Regulations at 43 CFR 46.205(c) requires that "any action that is normally categorically excluded must be evaluated to determine whether it meets any of the extraordinary circumstances in section 46.215" (listed below). Additional analysis and environmental documents must be completed for any normally categorically excluded action which may

1. *Have significant impacts on public health or safety.*

Yes No

Initial JW Remarks:

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.*

Yes No

Initial JW Remarks:

3. *Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].*

Yes No

Initial JW Remarks:

4. *Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.*

Yes No

Initial JW Remarks:

5. *Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.*

Yes No

Initial JW Remarks:

6. *Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.*

Yes No

Initial JS Remarks:

7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.

Yes No

Initial AWE Remarks:

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.

Plants Yes No

Initial mw Remarks: not present

Animals Yes No

Initial DR Remarks: Beneficial for wildlife

Fish Yes No

Initial ASD Remarks: Not present

9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

Yes No

Initial SW Remarks:

10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

Yes No

Initial SW Remarks:

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).

Yes No

Initial AWE Remarks:

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).

Yes No

Initial mw Remarks: with PDFS

Categorical Exclusion Reviewers:

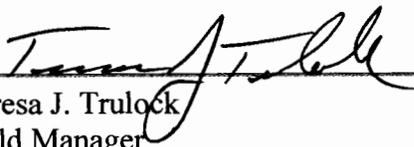
Name	Title	Date	Initials
Jean Williams	NEPA Coordinator	7/7/15	JW
Marcia Wineteer	Botanist	6/29/15	mw
Dave Roelofs	Wildlife Biologist	6/26/15	DR
Shawn Simpson	Hydrologist	6/29/15	SLS
Amy Meredith	Soil Scientist	6/26/15	ACM
Al Mason	Fire/Fuels Specialist	6/25/15	AM
Aaron Ennis	Archaeologist	7/6/15	AWE
Jeff Brown	Engineer	6/30/15	JAB
AJ Donnell	Fisheries Biologist	6/25/15	AJA
Jason Tarrant	Range Specialist	6/25/15	JCT
Trish Lindaman	Outdoor Recreation Planner	7/6/15	TL

Decision

It is my decision to authorize the repair of the irrigation ditch on BLM lands in T. 34 S., R. 3 E., Section 2 (NW1/4 SW1/4), in Jackson County, Oregon as described in the Proposed Action.

Decision Rationale

The proposed action has been reviewed by BLM staff. 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.


Teresa J. Trulock
Field Manager
Butte Falls Resource Area

7/8/2015
Date

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities

Notice of the decision to be made on the action described in this categorical exclusion will be posted on the Medford District internet website. The action is subject to protest under 43 CFR 4.450-2. A decision in response to a protest is subject to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals under 43 CFR part 4.