

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/DECISION RECORD
Verizon Sexton Mt. Communication Site Upgrade, OR 50303
CE# OR117-08-41

A. Proposed Action

Verizon Wireless requested modifications (amendment) to their existing lease at the Mount Sexton communication site. Specifically, Verizon proposes to build two concrete pads approximately 4' x 9' serving as a foundation for a propane powered emergency generator and propane tank. Further, Verizon Wireless proposes to place concrete steps on a walkway to improve safety. All activity would occur within the existing leased area. The pads and the walkway are both in areas that have been previously disturbed. Some brush would need to be removed for placement of concrete pads.

B. Location/Land Use Allocation:

The site sits in T34S-R6W-24, approximately 2 miles North-East of Hugo. The land allocation is general forest management area.

C. Need / Rationale for the Proposed Action:

Verizon's communication site provides cellular service to the I-5 corridor and the greater Grants Pass area. There is a need for maintenance and facility upgrades to improve and enhance telephone and data communications.

Where consistent with protection of threatened and endangered species allow expansion\modification of communication facilities on existing communication sites (RMP p. 84).

D. Project Design features

To protect sensitive plant sites all vehicles and equipment are limited to existing rocked roads; all staging locations for equipment and materials would be approved by the resource area's botanist. The area below ODF lookout and between existing rocked road is off limits to all activity.

E. Plan Conformance

The proposed action is in conformance with the following plans:

1. *Final EIS/ROD for the Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP) (1995)*
2. *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and 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 FSEIS 1994 and ROD 1994);

3. *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (FSEIS 2000 and ROD 2001) including any amendments or modifications in effect as of March 21, 2004;
4. *the Final Supplement to the 2004 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines* (FSEIS, 2007 and ROD, 2007);
5. *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Management of Port-Orford-Cedar in Southwest Oregon* (FSEIS 2004 and ROD 2004);
6. *Medford District Integrated Weed Management Plan Environmental Assessment (1998)* and tiered to the *Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program* (EIS 1985).

F. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under Department Manual 516 DM 11, 11.9 E (13) – *Amendments to existing rights-of-way, such as upgrading facilities, which entail no additional disturbance outside the right-of-way boundary.*

Before any action described in the list of categorical exclusions may be used, the “extraordinary circumstances,” included in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, must be reviewed for applicability (See attached review). 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 Joe Hoppe, Project Leader, at (541) 618-2310.

Prepared and reviewed by:

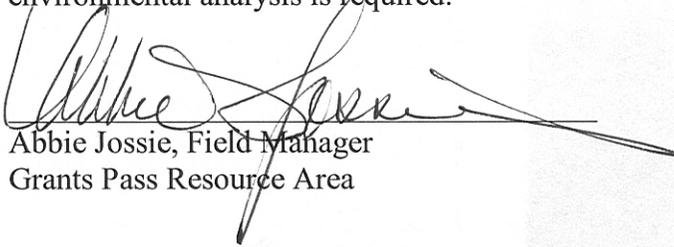
Mike Mathews, Environmental Planner Date
Grants Pass Resource Area

Decision

It is my decision to authorize Verizon's request to upgrade their Sexton Mt. communication site, including placement of two concrete pads and an improved walk way as described in the proposed action.

Decision Rationale

The proposed action has been reviewed by the Grants Pass Resource Area staff and appropriate Project Design Features, as specified above, will be incorporated into the proposal. Based on the attached NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined the proposed action involves no significant impact to the environment and no further environmental analysis is required.



Abbie Jossie, Field Manager
Grants Pass Resource Area

9.3-08
Date

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunity

Notice of the decision to be made on the action described in this categorical exclusion will be posted on the Medford District internet website. This decision will remain in effect pending appeal. Any party to the case who is adversely affected by the decision may appeal the decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals under 43 CFR part 4. Persons wishing to seek administrative recourse must do so in accordance with BLM regulations and 43 CFR Subtitle A, Part 4, Subpart E.

**NEPA COMPLIANCE
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW
Verizon Sexton Mt. Communication Site Amendment**

CE# OR117-08-41

The Department of the Interior Manual 516 2.3A (3) requires the review of the following “extraordinary circumstances” (516 DM 2 Appendix 2) to determine if an otherwise categorically excluded action would require additional analysis and environmental documentation.

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

Yes No

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

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

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.*

Yes No

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.*

Yes No

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

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

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).*

Yes No

Reviewers:

John Schmedeman 8/27/08
Date
Silviculture, Vegetation Dynamics
& Port-Orford Cedar

Lu Ann 8/28/08
Date
Botany

Glenn 9/3/08
Date
Cultural Resources

John Jey 8/25/08
Date
Fisheries

Paul Reed 8/25/08
Date
Wildlife

Michael DeBlasi 8/25/08
Date
Soils/Hydrology

Mike 8/28/08
Date
Visual Resources / Recreation

Jim Roper 9/3/08
Date
Engineering

Tim Gonzales 8-27-08
Date
Fire and Fuels