

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

A. Background

BLM Office: Prineville Field Office

NEPA Log #: DOI - BLM - OR – P060 - 2009- 0015 - CX

Project/Lease/Serial/Case File #: OR-51574

Proposed Action Title: Western Radio Services Co., Inc. Request for Amendment of Communication Use Lease OR-51574.

Location: Cline Buttes is approximately seven air miles southwest from the center of Redmond. This radio communication site is located on the middle butte.

Willamette Meridian, Oregon
T. 15 S., R. 12 E., Sec. 21, S1/2NE1/4;
T. 15 S., R. 12 E., Sec. 22, W1/2;
T. 15 S., R. 12 E., Sec. 27, NW1/4.

Description of the Proposed Action: The BLM proposes to amend Western Radio Services Co., Inc.'s Communication Use Lease OR-51574 to allow installation of two new 20 foot tall triangular communication towers and one 3 x 8 foot concrete pad on which a back-up power generator would be placed. The new towers would be 11 foot wide on each of their base's three sides.

The proposed towers would be constructed of dull finish grey galvanized steel angle iron material. The new towers, generator pad and associated generator would be placed within the lease site's existing 208.5' by 235.0' footprint. Lighting is not required on the new towers or the generator, and there is no present plan to light the towers or generator. The commercial use lease site area, before the proposed amendment, includes a 12 foot wide by 20 foot long by 10 foot height tan sheet metal exterior storage building and a 130 foot tall guyed tower. The leased area's footprint is outlined on the site map prepared in connection with this Categorical Exclusion Documentation. The leased area is not fenced at this time and there is no present plan to fence the area.

The back-up power generator to be installed on the site would be used in the event of any power outages at the site. The proposed generator would be free standing on its concrete pad and would have length and width dimensions less than the size of its 3 foot x 8 foot pad. The generator's height (including pad height) would not exceed 10 foot.

The proposed lease amendment would permit the above noted equipment additions and would continue the existing lease through its present expiration date of December 31, 2018. The amended lease would include numerous standard and action specific BLM special stipulations that would govern the construction and operation of the proposed project. For example, one stipulation would require that construction equipment be washed prior to entering onto BLM land to assist in preventing the spread of noxious weeds.

The BLM believes that the new towers and associated equipment would provide a public benefit because they would enable Western Radio to upgrade its existing facilities to increase the number of commercial cellular telephone and internet service providers operating at its Cline Buttes site. This increase in providers would increase the service options available to the public served from the site.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: The Upper Deschutes Record of Decision (ROD) and Resource Management Plan (RMP).

Date approved: September 2005.

The proposed action is in conformance with the above plan even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following land use plan decisions, objectives, terms or conditions: Page 135, Transportation and Utilities, Objective TU-1, "Provide new or modified rights-of-way for transportation/utility corridors and communication/energy sites to meet expected demands and minimize environmental impacts". Guideline 1 states, "BLM administered lands will continue to be available for rights-of-way, including multiple use and single use utility/transportation corridors, following existing routes, and roads".

C. Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 Departmental Manual (DM) 516 11.9, E. Realty, (13) "Amendments to existing rights-of-way, such as the upgrading of existing facilities, which entail no additional disturbances outside the right-of-way boundary". (516 DM 11.9, dated 1/30/2008).

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 apply. See attached CX Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation checklist.

D. Signature

I considered this communication site has been in existence for over 10 years and have found that it has had no significant affect either individually or cumulatively on the human environment.

Authorizing official: Molly Brown
Molly Brown, Field Manager, Deschutes Resource Area

6/28/12
Date

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this review, contact, Michael Kroll, Realty Specialist, Prineville Field Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754, telephone (541) 416-6752, or email mkroll@blm.gov.

CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION		YES	NO
The proposed categorical exclusion action will:			
2.1	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
Rationale: All proposed activities would follow established Occupational Safety and Health Administration rules concerning health and safety.			
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: The proposed action would not have an effect 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. The proposed action does not include any actions for Wilderness Study Areas or for lands being managed for wilderness character. There are no wilderness qualities on public lands proposed for the Western Radio Services Co., Inc. Communication Site OR-51574. These public lands did not contain wilderness qualities in the past 1978-9 Wilderness Intensive Inventory, or current Wilderness Inventory Update.			
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 proposed action is for an existing Communication site which has been in operation since 1998, therefore it would not have highly controversial effects or unresolved conflicts with available resources.			
2.4	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
Rationale: Past proposed Communication Site Use Leases have shown no highly uncertain, potentially significant, unique or unknown risks.			
2.5	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: Communication Use Leases have been authorized for many years throughout the BLM with various authorities. There is no evidence that this action has potentially significant environmental effects. This management activity does not commit the BLM to pursuing further Actions, and as such would not establish a precedent or decision for future actions with			

potentially significant environmental effects.		
2.6	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	X
Rationale: Similar past activities where equipment improvements and additions have been added to active communications site locations in the Prineville District have had no significant direct, indirect or cumulative effect. The proponent has notified other communications site operators that might be affected by the proponent's equipment improvements and additions; such operators have concurred with the proponent's modifications to its communications site. Significant cumulative effects are not predicted to occur with respect to this proposal.		
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 BLM has conducted surveys for cultural resources in the project area, and determined that the proposed action would not result in significant impacts to cultural resources.		
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: The main block of the Cline Buttes Area has a general wildlife emphasis and this proposal is for an existing Communication Site that has been used for 10 years in the area. The scope of this project would not change the overall habitat function of the stand or result in the loss of critical habitat.		
2.9	Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	X
Rationale: This proposed action conforms to the direction given for the management of public lands in the Prineville District's Upper Deschutes Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan), which complies with all applicable laws, such as the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and others.		
2.10	Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	X
Rationale: This proposed action would not affect 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: Cultural clearance was completed previously in 2005 and no sacred sites were identified.		
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: Equipment brought into the area for construction or alteration of the lease facility will be washed prior to entering onto BLM land.		