

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

A. Background

BLM Office: Prineville Field Office

NEPA Log #: DOI - BLM - OR - P060 - 2011- 0042 - CX

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

Proposed Action Title: Western Radio Services Co., Inc. Communication Use Lease, which includes a 12 by 20 foot metal storage building and a guyed tower. The road access to Cline Buttes entails two segments. Segment one is 40 feet wide and is authorized in a previous ROW to Everett & Eva Thornburgh. Segment two is 16 feet wide and is maintained by Western Radio Services.

Location: Cline Buttes is approximately seven air miles South West 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, SWNE;
T. 15 S., R. 12 E., Sec 22, S2NW;

Description of the Proposed Action: Issue a 10 year Communication Use Lease for an existing Commercial Mobile Radio Service Communication Site.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

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

Date approved (ROD): 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, (9) "Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations". (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 7/20/11
 Molly Brown, Field Manager, Deschutes Resource Area Date

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this review, contact, Julie Freeman, Land Law Examiner, Prineville Field Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754, telephone (541) 416-6701, or email jkfreema@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 statewide BLM Wilderness Inventory of public lands in 1978-9 identified several tracts of public land having wilderness qualities. These public lands were later designated by BLM as Wilderness Study Areas. 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.			

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: This proposed action is specifically provided for in land use plan decisions. Similar past activities have had no significant direct, indirect or cumulative effect.		
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 ROD/RMP, 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: No new construction or alteration to the facility is planned. However, if equipment is brought into the area, it is to be washed prior to entering onto BLM land.		