

-Categorical Exclusion Documentation

A. Background

BLM Office: Prineville Field Office

NEPA Log #: DOI - BLM - OR – P060 - 2011 – 0056 - CX

Project/Lease/Serial/Case File #: OR-66591

Proposed Action Title: Installation of middle mile fiber infrastructure in Central Oregon on existing transmission line structures and in existing transmission line rights of way for Bend Cable Communications LLC.

Location: Prineville to Bend

17S, 13E

Section 8 SESE
Section 9 W2SW, S2NW, NENW, NWNE
SECTION 4 S2SE, 11111111NESE
SECTION 3 NWSW, S2NW, NENW, NWNE

T16S, R13E

SECTION 34 S2SE
SECTION 35 W2SW, NESW, SENW, W2NE, NENE
SECTION 26 SESE
SECTION 25 W2SW, NESW, E2NW, NWNE
SECTION 24 S2SE, NESE

T16S, R14E

SECTION 19 NE, LOT 2, LOT 3
SECTION 20 NWNW,
SECTION 17 SESW

Bend to La Pine

21S, R11E

Section 6 W2E2
Section 7 NWSE, E2SW
Section 18 NW

21S, R10E

Section 13 W2SE, SESW
Section 24 N2NW, SWNW, W2W2SW
Section 25 W2W2W2
Section 35 NESE

22S, R10E

Section 14 Lot 161

Description of the Proposed Action: Bend Cable Communications is proposing to install fiber optic lines covering a major portion of Central Oregon (totaling approximately 132 miles). One section involves approximately 7.5 miles crossing BLM land along the Powell Butte Highway from Bend to Prineville, and approximately 5.8 miles crossing BLM land from La Pine to Bend. The majority of the line between La Pine and Bend and from Bend to Prineville will be hung on existing authorized utility poles. One small portion in La Pine next to the La pine Library (BLM R&PP lease) will be buried beneath the asphalt of the street next to the authorized sewer line.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: The Upper Deschutes Record of Decision (ROD) and Management Plan
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 right-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 2) Appendix 4, E. Realty, (12) "Grants of right-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed rights-of-way" (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 these transmission lines have been in existence for over 50 years and have found that they have had no significant affect either individually or cumulatively on the human environment.

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

10/11/11
Date

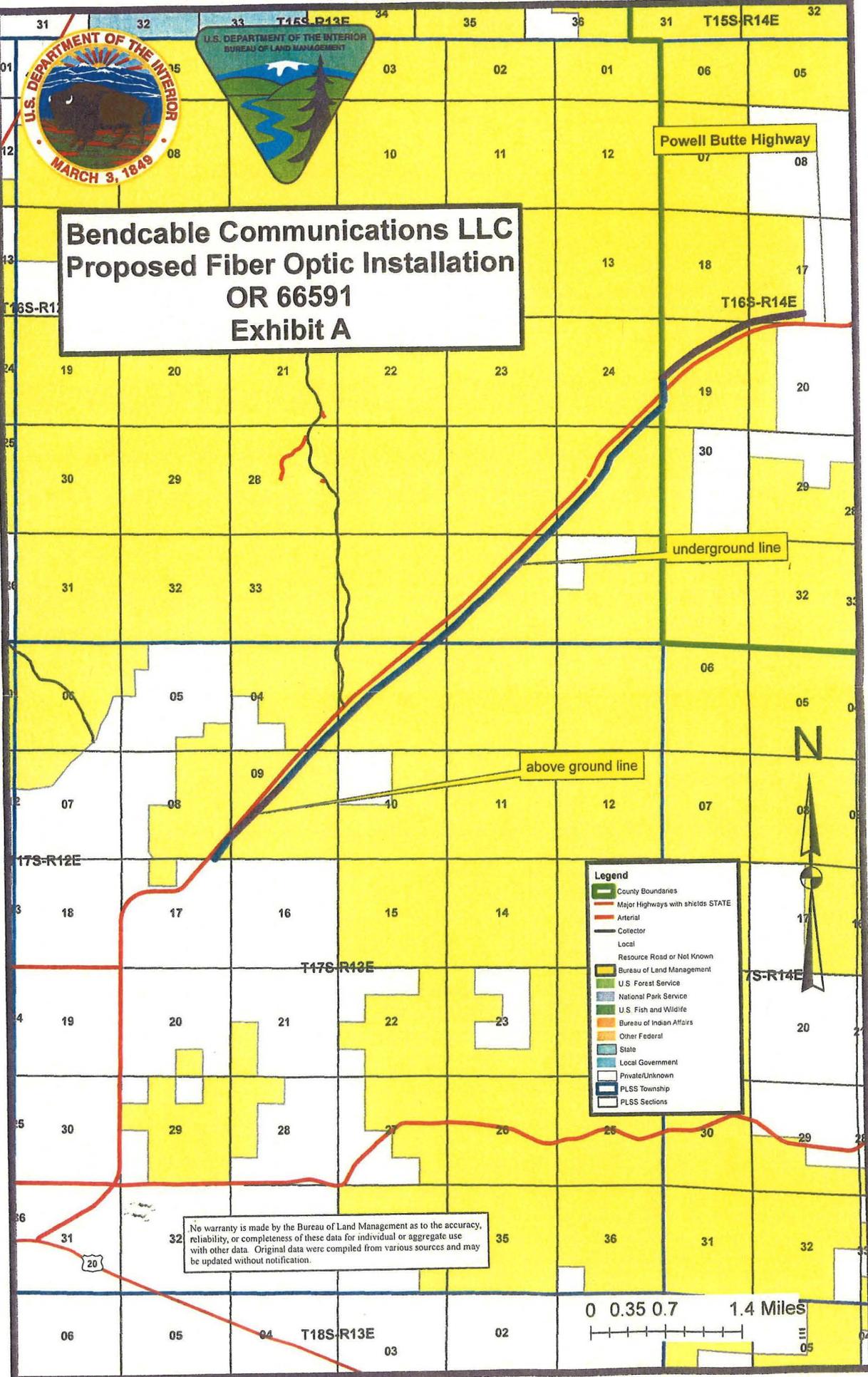
Contact Person-For additional information concerning this review, contact: Julie Freeman, Land Law Examiner, Prineville Field Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754, telephone (541) 416-6701 or email jkfreema@blm.gov.

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: There are no wilderness qualities on public lands proposed for the Bend Cable Communication fiber optic installation OR-66591. 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 above project has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with one or more of the following BLM plans: Upper Deschutes Record of Decision (ROD) and Resource Management Plan (RMP): September 2005. This proposed action is in conformance with the above plan because it is specifically provided for in the following land use plan decision: page 135, Transportation and utilities, "Provide new or modified rights-of-way for transportation/utility corridors and communication/energy sites to meet expected demands and minimize environmental impacts". Also, on page 135, Guidelines, Item 1, "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".			
2.4	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
Rationale: This existing transmission line has 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: Fiber optic transmission lines 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		X

National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		
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: This proposal is to install fiber optic lines on existing utility poles which have been in place for over 50 years. The scope of the 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 has been completed previously, 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 existing poles is planned. However, if equipment is brought into the area, it is to be washed prior to entering onto BLM land. Care is to be taken where vehicles are parked and where staff is working/walking, and personnel, tools, and vehicles are to be checked for plant parts before leaving the site.		



Bendcable Communications LLC Proposed Fiber Optic Installation OR 66591 Exhibit A

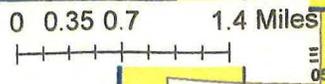


Legend

- County Boundaries
- Major Highways with shields STATE
- Arterial
- Collector
- Local
- Resource Road or Not Known
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- National Park Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Other Federal
- State
- Local Government
- Private/Unknown
- PLSS Township
- PLSS Sections



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources and may be updated without notification.





Bendcable Communications LLC Proposed Fiber Optic Installation OR 66591 Exhibit B

Legend

- Major Highway
- Railroad
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- National Park Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Other Federal
- State
- Local Government
- Private/Unknown
- PLSS Township
- PLSS Sections

underground line

above ground line

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