

# Categorical Exclusion Documentation

## A. Background

**BLM Office:** Prineville Field Office

**NEPA Log #:** DOI - BLM - OR - P060 - 2013 -0037 - CX

**Project/Lease/Serial/Case File #:** OR-39979

**Proposed Action Title:** PacifiCorp Communication Site Lease Renewal

**Location:** This communication site is located approximately 10 miles Northwest of Prineville on Grizzly Mountain.

Willamette Meridian  
T. 13 S. R. 15 E.  
sec. 17, SE¼;

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Authorize the renewal of PacifiCorp's existing Communication Site Lease for their facility located on Grizzly Mountain. There would be no new disturbance or construction. **THIS IS A RENEWAL ONLY.**

## 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, (8) "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 25 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

8/28/13  
 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](mailto:jkfrema@blm.gov).

<b>CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
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: This 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 this communication site. It's a renewal only.			
2.3	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
Rationale: This proposed action is for an existing communication site which has been in operation since 1986, 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		X

about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		
Rationale: This proposed action is to renew this communication site lease only, and would not establish a precedent for future action with potentially significant environmental effects.		
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: There are no known significant activities in the project area that have an impact on or that would be impacted by the proposed action. Accordingly, significant cumulative effects are not predicted to occur with respect to this proposal. It is a renewal only.		
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: This proposed action would not 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. This is an existing site.		
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 previously 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: The proposed action would not 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.		