

DECISION RECORD

Fremont's combleaf fencing to protect population

DOI-BLM-OR-134-2013-0006

Bureau of Land Management

Wenatchee Field Office

915 N. Walla Walla Ave

Wenatchee, WA 98801

Decision and Rationale on Action

It is my decision to authorize the installation of a fence to protect the habitat and individual plants of *Polycatenium fremontii* (S. Watson) Greene, Fremont's combleaf, as described in the attached document (DOI-BLM-OR-134-2013-0006-CX) and shown in the attached maps. The actions of installing fence around this rare plant population will protect the site from further impacts from trampling and increased non-native propagule introduction through trailing. This rare plant population is the only known occurrence of this species in the state of Washington, and occurs in a vernal moist area. In addition, I have reviewed the plan conformance statement and have determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required.

There are no potential significant impacts to the human or natural environment that would result from implementing this project, as indicated in the attached Categorical Exclusion Documentation.

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. To appeal you must file a notice of appeal at the BLM Wenatchee Field Office, 915 N. Walla Walla Ave., Wenatchee, Washington 98801, within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appeal must be in writing and delivered in person, via the United States Postal Service mail system, or other common carrier, to the Wenatchee Field Office as noted above. The BLM does not accept appeals by facsimile or email. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (a) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (b) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits, (c) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and (d) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413); Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 805 SW Broadway, Suite 600, Portland, OR 97205; at the same time the original documents are filed with this office.

/s/ Linda Coates-Markle

04-21-2014

Linda Coates-Markle
Field Manager

Date

Attachments: Categorical Exclusion Documentation
Project Area Map

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District
1103 North Fancher Road
Spokane Valley, WA 99212

A. Background

BLM Office: Wenatchee Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No.:

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-OR-134-2013-0006

Proposed Action Title: Fremont's combleaf fencing to protect population

Location of Proposed Action: T28N R30E Section 28 NE1/4 NW1/4

Description of Proposed Action: The proposed action is to install a fence to protect the habitat and individual plants of *Polycytenium fremontii* (S. Watson) Greene, Fremont's combleaf. Fremont's combleaf is a BLM sensitive species and WA threatened plant, with only one known population in the state, found here. Site visits to this population have noted a decline in the number of individuals from 100-200 plants found in 2001 to 17 plants in 2009. In 2012 the site was revisited and 68 plants were found, indicating fluctuating conditions of the habitat. Threats to this population include grazing and weedy grass encroachment (annual bromes). This parcel is an active grazing lease but is in non-use status. However, observations at the site in 2012 and 2013 showed hoofprints in the seasonally moist depression where the plants occur and herbivory of grasses in the immediate area. Additionally, new construction on a communication tower adjacent to the pond has resulted in an increase or introduction of Dalmatian toadflax, Russian thistle, wooly mullein, and bur buttercup. Constructing a fence around this vulnerable population would prevent direct mortality due to trampling and increased competition due to introduction of non-native propagules through trailing.

A post and wire fence would be built to restrict access by livestock and game to the shallow vernal depression where Fremont's combleaf grows. The total length of new fence is expected to be approximately 0.10 miles. The proposed fence would be built along the rim of the vernal depression, up and away from the rare plants. Brush will be cut only as needed to install the fence. Fence construction would be four strands of woven steel wire with T-posts every 16.5 feet. The top and bottom wires would be smooth and the center wires barbed. The top wire will be no higher than 42 inches from the ground and the bottom wire no closer than 18 inches to the ground. Corners would be secured using ez-panels connected to T-posts. The top wire will be flagged using two fence flags evenly spaced between each 16-20 foot span of T-posts. No wire stays will be used.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Spokane Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: Approved 1987/Amended 1992

Option 1 (conforms with LUP): The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

OR

(Option 2: not explicitly provided for in the LUP) The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (*objectives, terms, and conditions*): The Spokane District Resource Management Plan (RMP) of 1987. BLM-administered lands in the Action Area (Northrup Canyon / Castle Rock) were not specifically addressed as part of a Management Area. However, General Management Objectives for the entire Plan Area include to "consider the protection and or enhancement of state listed threatened or endangered species habitat." (RMP ROD 1987, pg. 12). Additionally, "whenever possible, management activities in habitat for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species would be designed specifically to benefit those species through habitat improvement or protection" (RMP ROD 1987, pg. 21).

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with

516 DM 11.9.J (9) Construction of small protective enclosures, including those to protect reservoirs and springs and those to protect small study areas.

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 43 CFR 46.215 apply, as shown in the following table:

CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION The proposed categorical exclusion action will:	YES	NO
(a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b) 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cultural surveys have been completed in the Area of Potential Effect (APE); have determined that the fence will have no effect on cultural resources. Concurrence on this determination was received from Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) on December 10, 2013.		
(h) 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fremont's combleaf is not currently listed or proposed to be listed. No other listed or proposed species occur in or near the project area.		
(i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(k) 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).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(l) 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).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

F: Signature

/s/ Linda Coates-Markle

04-21-2014

(Authorizing Official Signature)

(Date)

Name: Linda Coates-Markle

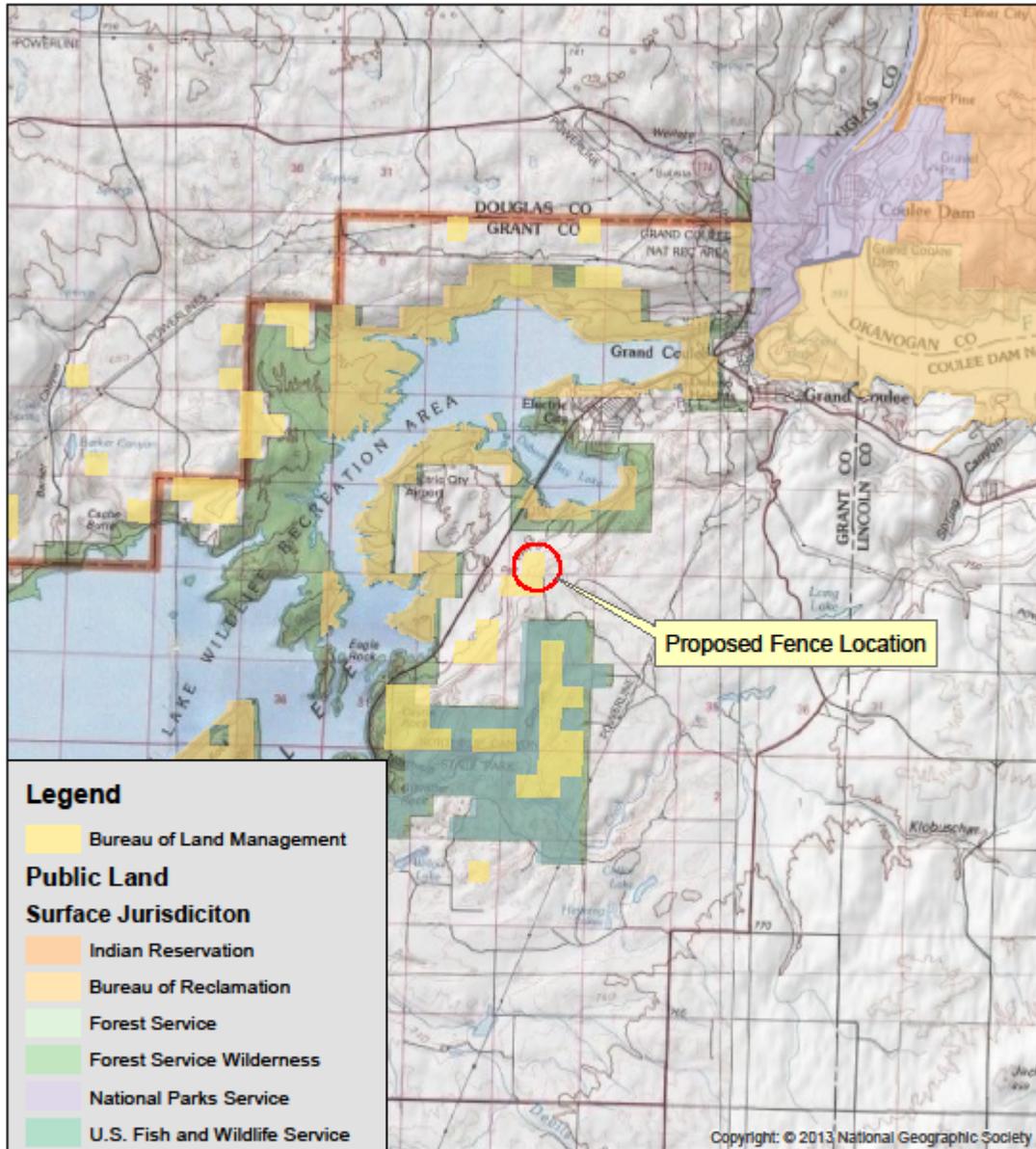
Title: Field Manager

G. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Molly Boyter at 509-665-2100.

Note: A separate decision document must be prepared for the action covered by the CX.

Fremont's combleaf Proposed Fence Location



Legend

- Bureau of Land Management
- Public Land**
- Surface Jurisdiction**
- Indian Reservation
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Forest Service
- Forest Service Wilderness
- National Parks Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Other Federal
- WA State Parks and Recreation
- WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- Other State Government
- County or City Government

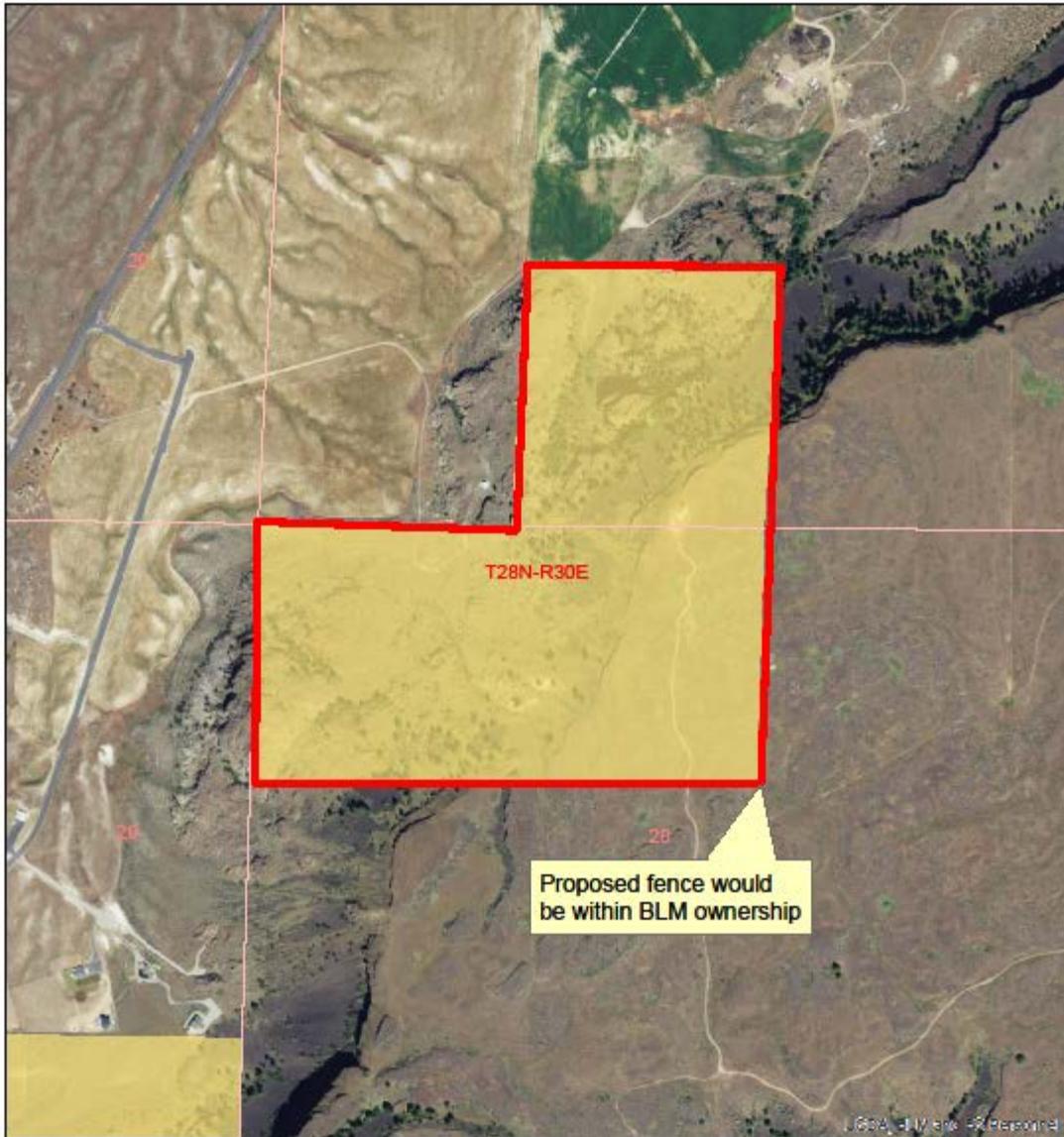


February 2014



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.

Fremont's combleaf Proposed Fence Location

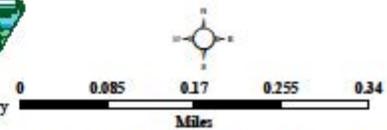


Legend

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