

RECORD OF PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION

CX Log #: DOI-BLM-ORV050-2014-047-CX

CE Exemption category: 516 DM 11.9, E. 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 E. 12: Grants of right-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed rights-of-way.

BLM Office: Bureau of Land Management, 3285 11th Street, Baker City, Oregon 97814

Phone #: 541-523-1256

BACKGROUND:

Project Name: Lime Hill Communication Site

Applicant: Oregon Department of Transportation (OR-35536)

Location of Proposed Action:

Willamette Meridian

T. 13 S., R. 45 E.,
sec. 18, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: On November 14, 2013, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) submitted an application (SF-299) requesting the renewal of their existing communications use lease on Lime Hill which expired on March 14, 2013. The site would provide a critical link in a statewide microwave and radio system that links public safety communications systems throughout the state.

Along with the request for renewal, ODOT has proposed to construct a new 60' self-supporting lattice tower on a three pier foundation adjacent to the existing shelter. Once the new tower is complete, the old tower would be removed and ODOT has proposed to place a new 10' x 12' generator shelter on a concrete pad at the old tower location. The existing propane tank would be relocated to a new location and placed on a concrete pad.

Ground disturbance would occur during construction of new tower and preparation of concrete pad for the new shelter and propane tank. The new shelter would be delivered prefabricated and installed on a concrete slab. A propane line would be trenched from the propane tank to the generator shelter and a telemetry line from the tank to the existing equipment shelter. A conduit for commercial power would be buried between the existing shelter and the new generator shelter. Equipment used on site would be a backhoe, drilling rig, crane, gravel truck and concrete truck. The improvements are compatible with the communication site management plan of 5/31/2007. Construction on BLM land is expected to take approximately 8 weeks. The communication use lease would expire on December 31, 2033.

PLAN CONFORMANCE

All actions approved or authorized by the BLM must conform to the existing land use plan where one exists (43 CFR 1610.5-3, 516 DM 11.9). Although it is not a NEPA requirement, the BLM includes within all its NEPA documents a statement about the conformance of the proposed action and alternatives with the existing land use plan. The BLM's planning regulations state that the term "conformity" or "conformance" means that "... a resource management action shall be specifically provided for in the plan, or if not specifically mentioned, shall be clearly consistent with the terms, conditions, and decisions of the approved plan or amendment" (43 CFR 1601.0-5(b)).

The proposed action is in conformance with the program-specific direction for realty management of the Baker Resource Management Plan (RMP), cited on page 23 of the RMP. The communication site is not within a designated exclusion/avoidance area. Exclusion areas are: wilderness areas and wild river segments. Avoidance areas are Wilderness study area, ACECs, and scenic and recreation river segments.

DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS: EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

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 circumstances described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, and listed below apply.

Yes	No	Extraordinary Circumstances	Specialist and/or FM Initials in each box	Date
	✓	1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	CJ	6/16/04
	✓	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.	CJ	6/16/04
	✓	3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	CJ	6/16/04
	✓	4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	CJ	6/16/04
	✓	5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	CJ	6/16/04
	✓	6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	CJ	6/16/04
	✓	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.	CJ	6/16/04
	X	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.	JQ - Fish	4/27/14
	✓	9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or Tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	CJ	6/16/04
	✓	10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	CJ	6/16/04
	✓	11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or	CJ	6/16/04

Yes	No	Extraordinary Circumstances	Specialist and/or FM Initials in each box	Date
		significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		
	✓	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).	CJ	6/16/14

DOCUMENTATION OF RECOMMENDED MITIGATION

For any item(s) above checked "Yes", proposed mitigating measures for those items are listed below. If the extraordinary circumstances cannot be mitigated, the criteria required for a CE are not met and BLM must prepare an EA or EIS.

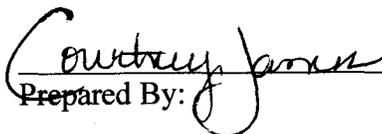
Item No.	Can Be Mitigated	Cannot Be Mitigated	Mitigation Measures	Reviewer	Date

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with the Departmental Manual Categorical Exclusions list, sections of which are cited and quoted above. The proposed action has also been reviewed in relation to the above listed 12 Extraordinary Circumstances in accordance with the Departmental Manual, and none of these circumstances apply.

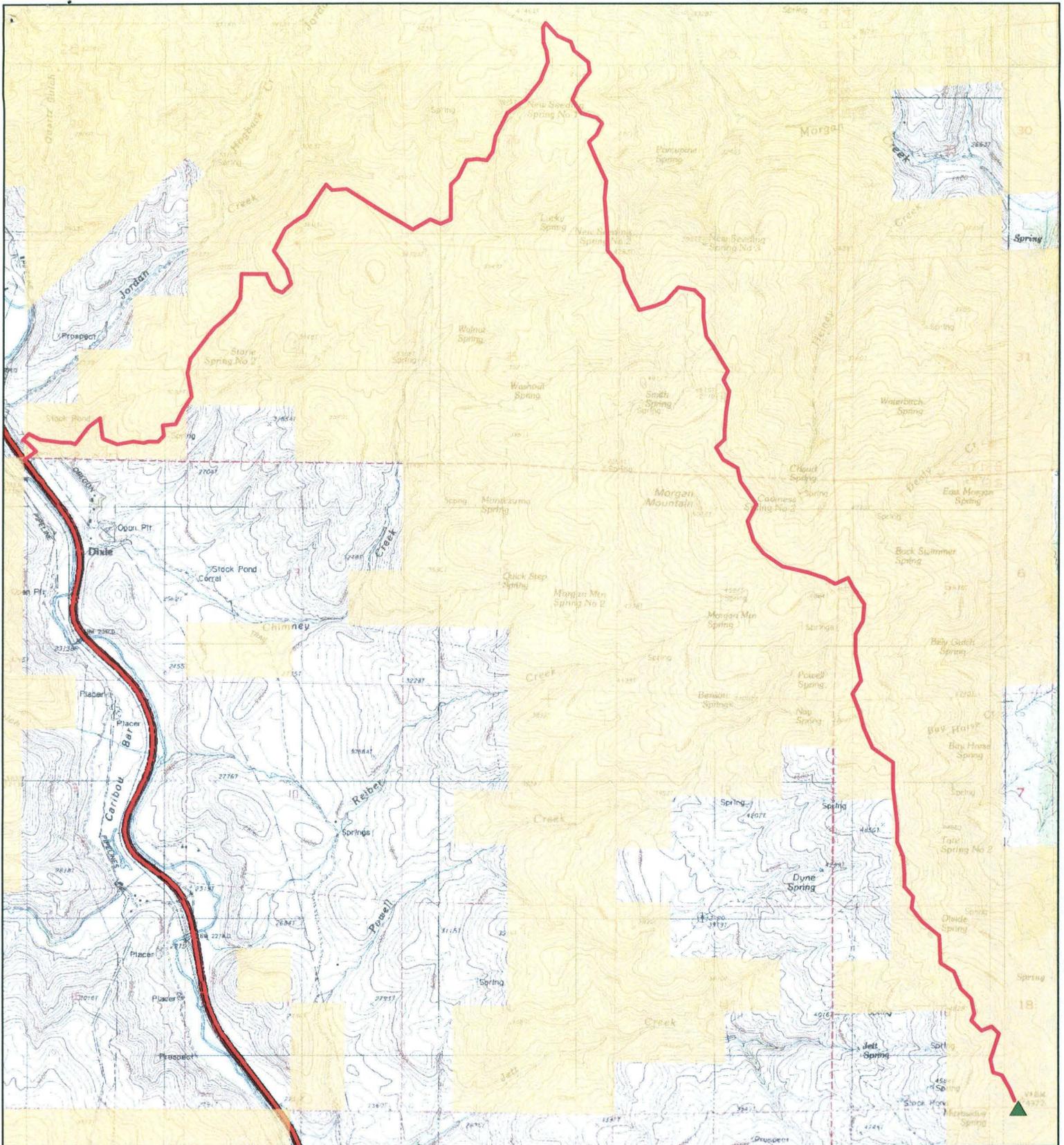
Decision Record

Based on the enclosed Categorical Exclusion Documentation, DOI-BLM-OR-V050-2014-047-CX, I have determined that the proposed action to authorize the renewal of an existing communications use lease along with the approval of additional facilities involves no significant impacts to the human environment and requires no further environmental analysis. It is my decision to authorize this action as proposed. For additional information concerning this project, contact Project Lead Courtney James, Vale District, Baker Resource Area, P.O. Box 947, Baker City, Oregon 97814. Phone (541) 523-1449.


 Prepared By: Realty Specialist Title 4/22/14 Date

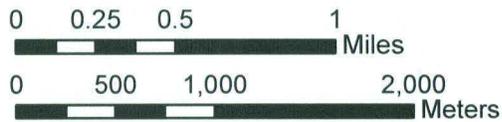
Reviewed By: _____ Assistant Field Manager Title _____ Date


 Authorizing Official ACTING Field Manager Title 06/19/14 Date



OR-35536
Oregon Department of Transportation
Exhibit B

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- Access Road
- Lime Hill Communication Site



U.S. Department of Interior
 Bureau of Land Management



Vale District
 April 18, 2014

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