

RECORD OF PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION

CX Log #: DOI-BLM-OR-V050-2015-08-CX

CE Exemption category: 516 DM 11.9, E. 19: Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations for such uses as storage sites, apiary sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition

BLM Office: Bureau of Land Management, 3100 H Street, Baker City, Oregon 97814
Phone #: 541-523-1256

BACKGROUND:

Project Name: Juniper Mountain Wind Testing OR-68290

Applicant: Randy Joseph

Location of Proposed Action:

Willamette Meridian

T. 12 S., R. 44 E.

Sec. 31, lots 2, 3;

T. 12 S., R. 43 E.

sec. 34, all;

sec. 35, NW¼.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: Randy Joseph applied for a right-of-way grant for a wind energy site testing and monitoring facility containing 848.11 acres. He has proposed to install up to two meteorological towers to determine the feasibility of commercial wind production. The metal towers would be no higher than 180 feet tall with anemometers, weather vanes, thermometers and recording equipment attached. The towers would be secured to the ground using up to twelve guy wires, anchored to the ground with 1" x 5' steel rebar driven into the ground with a jack hammer, at 110 feet around the tower. Guy wires would have bird diverters attached to reduce the possible impacts to avian species. Installation of the towers would take approximately three days each.

Access to the site would be using the existing road by pickup truck. The ROW would expire on December 31, 2017.

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 right of way 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
	X	1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	CB	4/13/15
	X	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.	CB	4/13/15
	X	3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	CB	4/13/15
	X	4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	CB	4/13/15
	X	5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	CB	4/13/15
	X	6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	CB	4/13/15
	X	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.	CB	4/13/15
	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.	NY - FISH	1/15/15 1/27/15
	X	9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or Tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	CB	4/13/15
	X	10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	CB	4/13/15
	X	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).	CB	4/13/15
	X	12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species	EM	1/27/15

Yes	No	Extraordinary Circumstances	Specialist and/or FM Initials in each box	Date
		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).		

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.

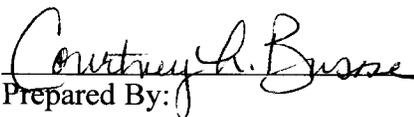
Item No.	Can Be Mitigated	Cannot Be Mitigated	Mitigation Measures	Reviewer	Date
1	X		MET tower (self-supported)	MLG	1/15/15
2	X		Survey for SSS plants	MLG	1/15/15

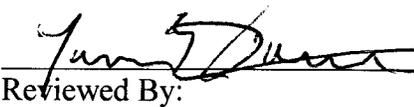
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION

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.

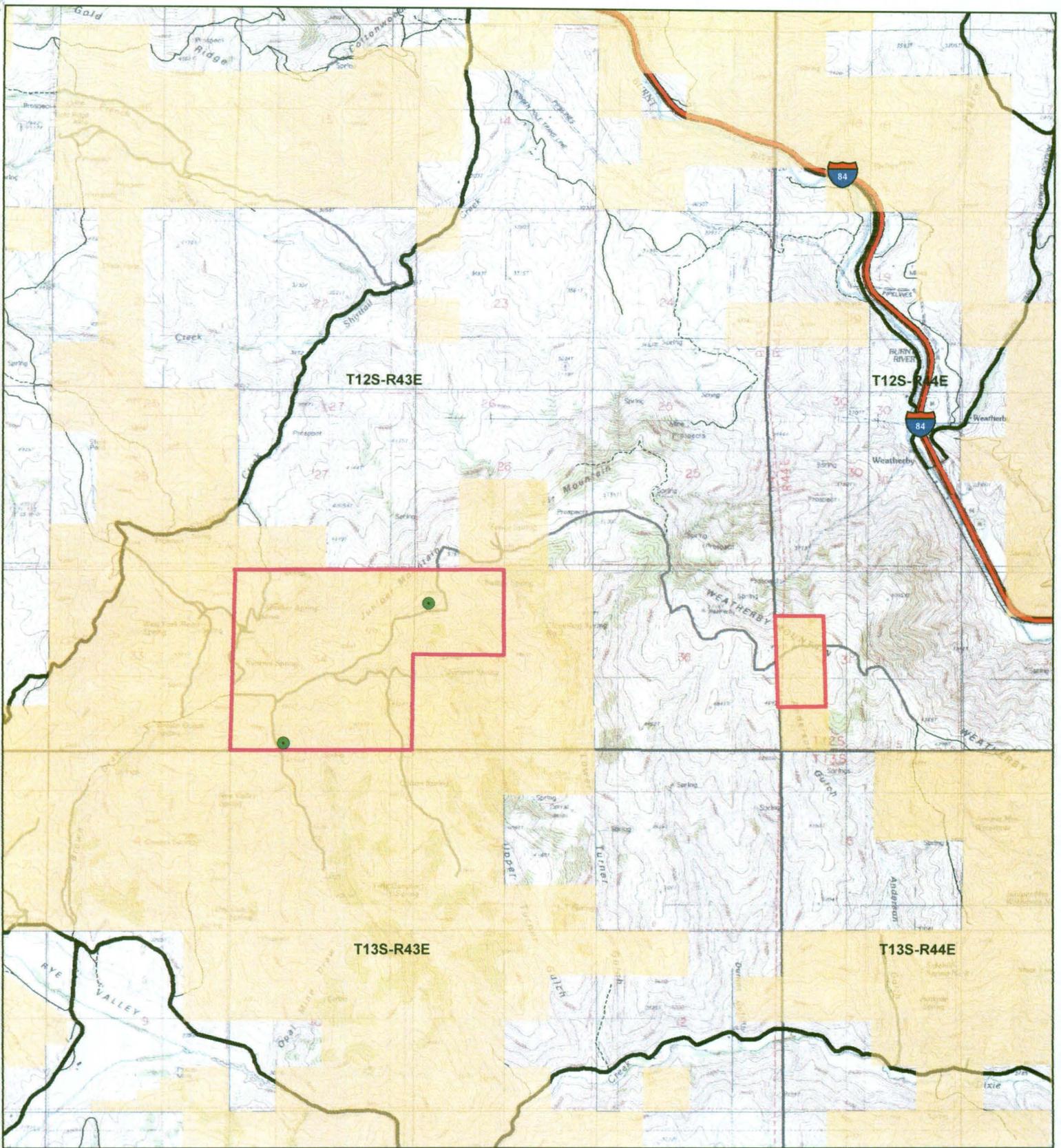
Decision Record

Based on the enclosed Categorical Exclusion Documentation, DOI-BLM-OR-V050-2015-08-CX, I have determined that the proposed action to authorize a right-of-way for a wind testing and monitoring facility (OR-68290) 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 Busse, Vale District, Baker Resource Area, P.O. Box 947, Baker City, Oregon 97814. Phone (541) 523-1449.


 Prepared By: Courtney H. Busse Realty Specialist Title Date 12/29/14


 Reviewed By: James D. Wood Assistant Field Manager Title Date 04/13/15


 Authorizing Official James D. Wood Field Manager Title Date 4/13/15



OR-68290
Randy Joseph
Exhibit B

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- ROW Boundary
- Meteorological Tower



U.S. Department of Interior
 Bureau of Land Management



Vale District
 December 12, 2014

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