



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Glenwood Springs Field Office
2300 River Frontage Road
Silt, Colorado 81652



CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2009-0106CX

PROJECT NAME: ROAN CABIN SOLAR RETROFIT

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T5S, R94W, Section 23, SWSW, 6th P.M., Garfield County, CO

APPLICANT/PROPONENT: USDO, Bureau of Land Management Glenwood Springs Field Office

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The proponent would like to install a photovoltaic system to provide power for the existing cabin within the BLM administrative site on the Roan Plateau. These activities would occur roughly northwest of JQS Gulch and adjacent to Road 8009. Ground disturbing activities would tentatively begin mid July 2010 and would include digging 6 holes for the solar array that would be approximately 12 inches in diameter and 3 feet in depth. Solar power from the array would be relayed to the generator shed in a trench approximately 160 feet in length, two feet in width, and three feet in depth. From the generator shed, power would be relayed to the cabin in a trench approximately 180 feet in length, two feet in width, and three feet in depth. These activities would occur using a small track mounted or rubber tired excavator with trenching and hole augering capabilities.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for and is in conformance with (43 CFR §1610.5 and § 2800, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Name of Plan: Glenwood Springs Resource Management Plan.

Date Approved: Jan. 1984, revised 1988, amended in November 1991 - Oil and Gas Leasing and Development - Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; amended Nov. 1996 - Colorado Standards and Guidelines; amended in August 1997 - Castle Peak Travel Management Plan; amended in March 1999 - Oil and Gas Leasing & Development Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; amended in November 1999 - Red Hill Plan Amendment; and amended in September 2002 – Fire Management Plan for Wildland Fire Management and Prescriptive Vegetation Treatment Guidance - Roan Plateau Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision, June 2007 — Roan Plateau Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Record of Decision, March 2008.

Decision Number/Page: Pages ROD-17, 21, 22, 31, and 32 of the Roan Plateau Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision, June 2007.

Decision Language:

S-2: Apply COAs, BMPs, and other site-specific mitigation to minimize erosion, encourage rapid reclamation, retain soils using stormwater mitigation structures, maintain soil stability, and support other resources.

VWR-6: Develop desired future vegetation condition objectives that support quantitative assessment of revegetation success, and adaptive management decisions for other resources.

VWR-15: Implement an integrated weed management program, which includes a weed management plan, pre-disturbance weed mapping, and mechanical, biological, and chemical control techniques.

VWR-17: Require weed control actions for all disturbances, including those less than one acre. To the extent practicable, eradicate all noxious weeds and minimize the occurrence of exotic species.

VWR-18: Require prompt reclamation with native species of all disturbed areas.

VWR-19: Require reclamation practices....on all surface-disturbing project proposals to reestablish and maintain native species.

CR-4, 12, 18: Avoid disturbance of or implement a data recovery plan for sites in the low to high sensitivity zones that are NRHP eligible.

CR-5 and 13: Monitor sites atop the plateau in the high-sensitivity zone and moderate-sensitivity zone that are not NRHP eligible.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with BLM Handbook H-1790-1 Appendix 3:

1.7 Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance, renovations, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity (e.g., limited size and magnitude or short-term effects).

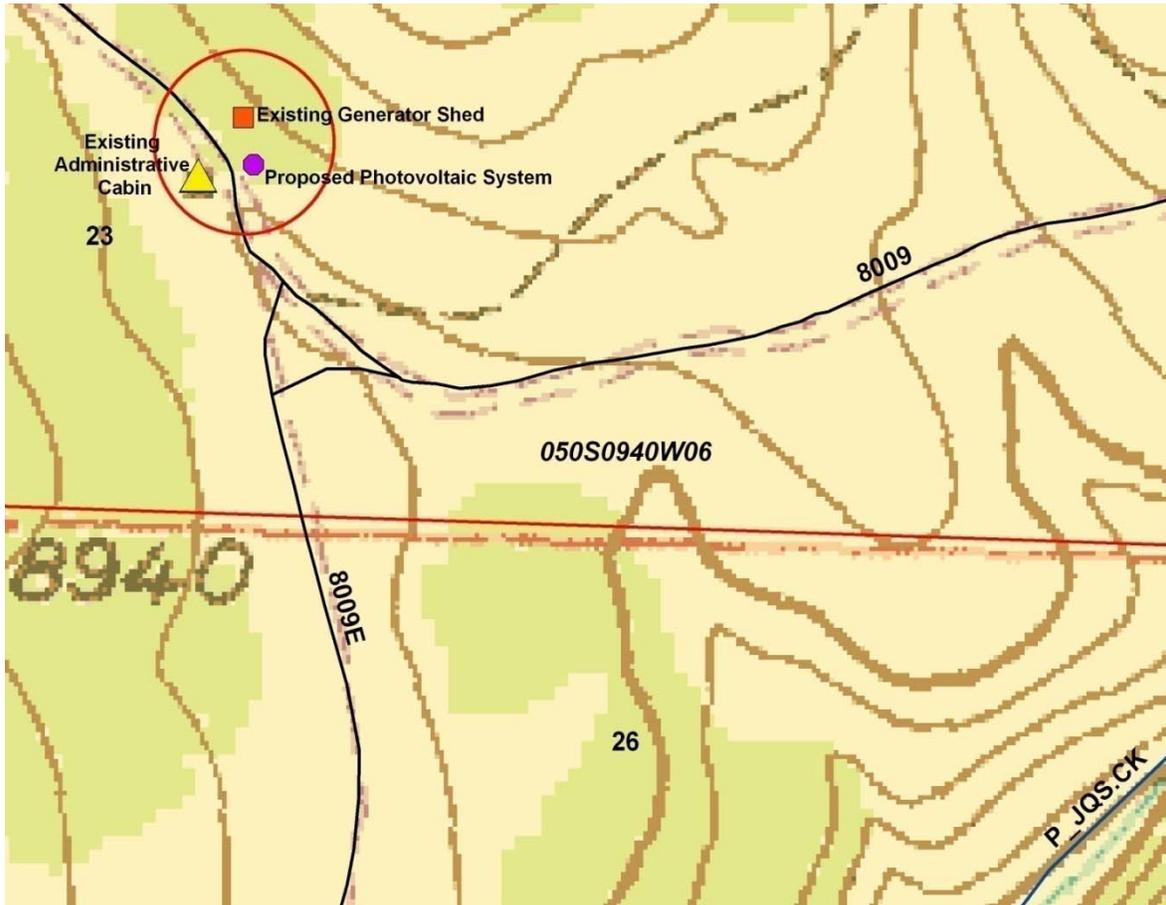
This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in BLM Handbook H-1790-1 Appendix 5 apply.

The BLM Handbook H-1790-1 requires that before any action described in the following list of categorical exclusions is used, the exceptions must be reviewed for applicability in each case. The proposed action cannot be categorically excluded if one or more of the exceptions apply, thus requiring either an EA or an EIS. When no exceptions apply, the following types of bureau actions normally do not require the preparation of an EA or EIS.

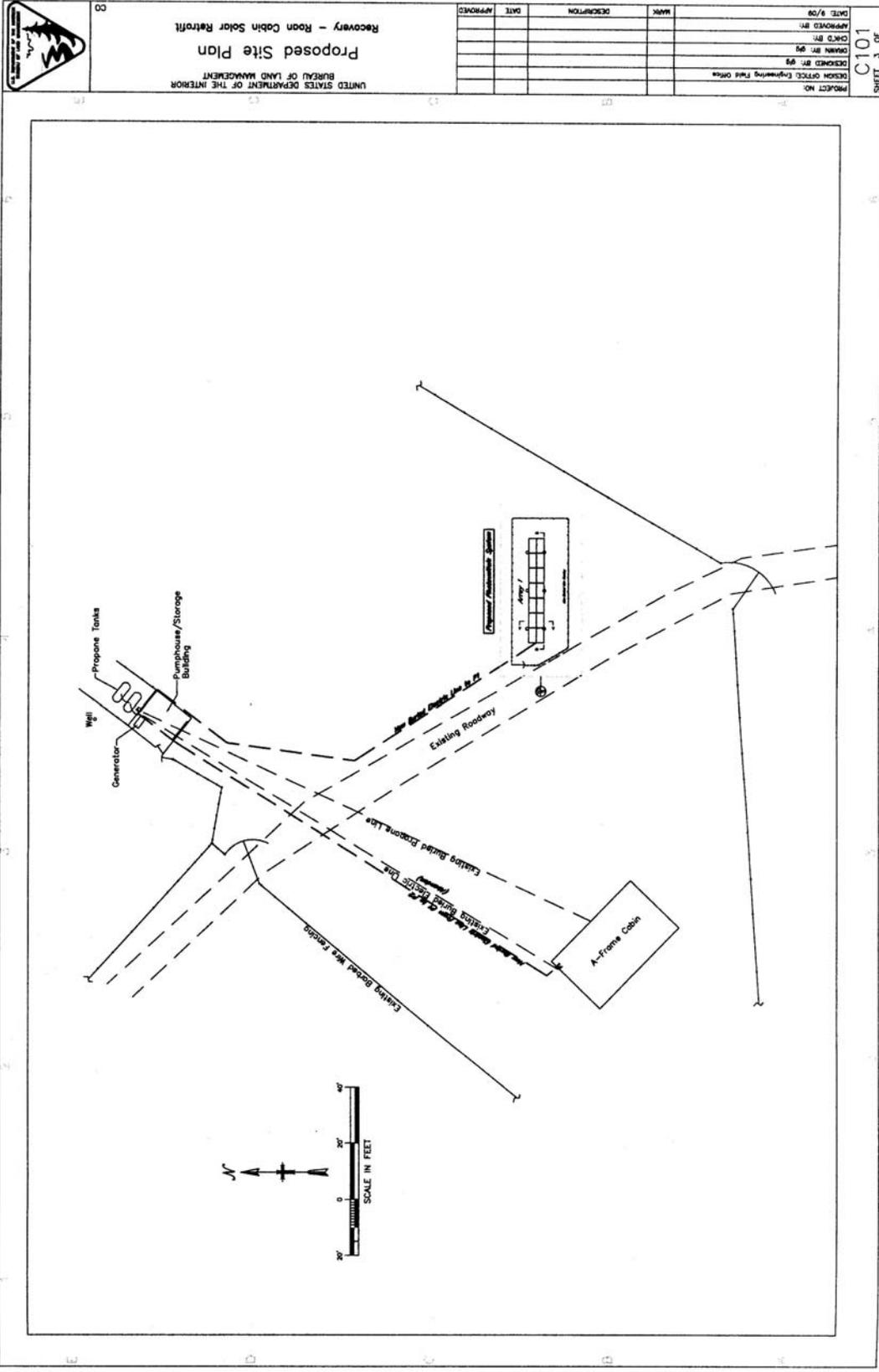
None of the following exceptions in BLM Handbook H-1790-1 Appendix 5 apply.

EXCLUSION	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		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.		X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		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.		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.		X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		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).		X
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

FIGURES & SPECIFICATIONS:







SECTION CO-952-02224

EXCAVATING, BACKFILLING AND COMPACTING FOR STRUCTURES

Recovery – Roan Cabin Solar Retrofit

PART 1: GENERAL

1.1 SUMMARY:

- A. Section Includes: Excavating, backfilling and compacting for the various structures, as shown on the drawings and as specified.
- B. Related Sections:

General Information and Requirements	Section 01009
Minor Concrete	Section CO-952-03306
Miscellaneous Specialties	Section CO-952-10990

1.2 QUALITY ASSURANCE:

- A. Failure Criteria: Not limited to the following:
 - 1. Settlement of backfill that would allow moisture to pond.

1.3 PROJECT/SITE CONDITIONS:

- A. General: The movement and operation of equipment and material shall be limited to those lines shown on the drawings and as staked.
- B. Borrow Sources: Borrow is not anticipated.
- C. Environmental Conditions:
 - 1. Areas that have become saturated with oil or fuel shall be excavated to a depth of 12 inches beyond the contaminated material; backfill with approved material. Dispose of contaminated material at an approve sanitary landfill, according to local county and state regulations.
 - 2. Hand shovel or rake, as necessary, to remove excess material in areas inaccessible to construction equipment and grade to produce a well-drained surface.
- D. Archeological Notification: The Contractor must notify the archeologist at the BLM Field Office in Silt, Colorado (970-876-9077) prior to any excavation. A minimum of 10 days notice is required. The archeologist will be on site during any excavation operations. No ground disturbance will be allowed without the presence of the archeologist. The Contractor

shall be prepared for minor delays, potentially one full day or longer, if any cultural item is discovered. The Glenwood Springs Field Office will be required to compensate the Contractor for any equipment, labor, and materials costs resulting from the delay.

PART 2: PRODUCTS

2.1 MATERIALS:

(There are no applicable requirements.)

PART 3: EXECUTION

3.1 PREPARATION:

- A. Existing Utilities: There are existing underground utilities within the immediate work area. The Contractor shall have the utilities located and marked. If needed, the Contractor may hand dig or hydro excavate near utilities to assure exact location and depth. Damage to utilities shall be repaired by the Contractor, at his expense.

3.2 INSTALLATION:

- A. Caisson Excavation: Perform excavation to the lines, grades, and elevations indicated to allow for safety, placing of materials and inspection. Avoid over excavation. Any over-excavation (depth and width) and subsequent backfill performed by the Contractor for his convenience shall be at his own expense. No excavation shall be left open without adequate safety precautions. All excavations left open overnight shall be fenced or barricaded all around. Public safety shall not be compromised. Provide proper depth with allowance made for forms and backfill, as shown on the drawings and in accordance with Section CO-952-03306, Minor Concrete.
- B. Trench Excavation: Trenching shall have a minimum depth of 18 inches as required by the electrical code.
- C. Backfill: Backfill material shall be placed in layers not exceeding 12 inches, loose depth. A minimum of three passes per lift, full width of excavation, shall be required by a vibratory, mechanical compactor, at a moisture content suitable for such density. Thoroughly compact until a uniform density is attained. Backfill to produce a well graded surface.

PART 4: MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT

4.1 METHOD OF MEASUREMENT:

- A. Units: The work described in this section will not be measured for payment.

4.2 BASIS OF PAYMENT:

A. Payment: No direct payment for the work described under this section will be made. The Contractor shall include consideration for this item in the bid price for other items of the Contract.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
Jeff O'Connell	Hydrologist	Soil, Air, Water, Geology
Cheryl Harrison	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources and Native American Concerns
Carla DeYoung	Ecologist	ACEC, Special Status Plants, Vegetation
Brian Hopkins	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife
Mike Kinser	Rangeland Management Specialist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Dereck Wilson	Rangeland Management Specialist	Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species
Isaac Pittman	Rangeland Management Specialist	Range Management

REMARKS/MITIGATION:

Archeological Notification: To comply with the Roan Plateau Planning Area Cultural Resource Management Plan the Contractor must notify the archeologist at the BLM Field Office in Silt, Colorado (970-876-9077) prior to any excavation. A minimum of 10 days notice is required. The archeologist will be on site during any excavation operations. No ground disturbance will be allowed without the presence of the archeologist. The Contractor shall be prepared for minor delays, potentially one full day or longer, if any cultural item is discovered. The Glenwood Springs Field Office will be required to compensate the Contractor for any equipment, labor, and materials costs resulting from the delay.

Reclamation:

To help prevent invasion of noxious weeds and reestablish native, perennial vegetation on the site, all disturbed areas will be seeded with native grasses and forbs. The seed mix will include species adapted to the site, which may include: Slender wheatgrass var. San Luis; Beardless bluebunch wheatgrass var. Whitmar; and/or Thickspike wheatgrass var. Critana. Seed shall be applied at a rate of 10-15 PLS lbs/ac.

The seed mix will be certified free of noxious weed seeds, i.e. the seed shall contain no noxious, prohibited, or restricted weed seeds and shall contain no more than 0.5 percent by weight of other weed seeds. Prior to seeding, the seedbed shall be scarified and left with a rough surface. No depressions shall be left that would trap water and form ponds.

Where practical, seed shall be installed by drill-seeding to a depth of 0.25 to 0.5 inches. Where drill-seeding is impracticable, seed may be installed by broadcast-seeding at twice the drill-seeding rate shown in the table above. The seeded area shall be raked or harrowed following broadcast seeding to provide 0.25 to 0.5 inches of soil cover.

CONTACT PERSON: For additional information concerning this Categorical Exclusion review, please contact Jeff O'Connell via email at Jeffrey_O'Connell@blm.gov or by telephone at 970-876-9071.

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this categorical exclusion record and have decided to implement the proposed action. This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL:



Steve G. Bennett, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

10/23/09