



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado River Valley Field Office
2300 River Frontage Road
Silt, Colorado 81652
www.co.blm.gov



CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2011-0057-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: Colorado River Valley Field Office Lease/Serial/Case File No:
274367, 275528, 275529 and 012783

Proposed Action Title/Type: Vasten Homestead Range Improvement Maintenance

Location of Proposed Action: Sections 16, 21 T. 8 S., R. 87 W., Sixth Principal Meridian, Pitkin County, Colorado. Refer to attached map for location.

Description of Proposed Action: The BLM force account crew and/or the youth conservation corps will repair the Vasten Ponds enclosure fence (0.5 miles) and three spring developments that were constructed in 1994. The proposed action would authorize maintenance of the range improvements. A new Cooperative Agreement will be executed for long term maintenance. The action is in accordance with 43 CFR 4120.3-2.

Project Design Features (Special Conditions):

- Maintenance activities shall be restricted to the footprint (previously disturbed area) of the project as it existed when it was initially constructed.
- The Bureau of Land Management shall be given 48 hours advance notice of any maintenance work that will involve heavy equipment.
- Disturbed areas will be reseeded with a certified weed-free seed mixture of native species adapted to the site.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance: The Proposed Action is subject to and is in conformance with (43 CFR §1610.5 and § 2800, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Name of Plan: Record of Decision and 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; amended in September 2002 – Fire Management Plan for Wildland Fire Management and Prescriptive Vegetation Treatment Guidance; amended in June 2007 – Record of Decision for the Approval of Portions of the Roan Plateau Resource Management Plan Amendment; and amended in March 2009 - Record of Decision for the Designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern for the Roan Plateau Resource Management Plan.

Decision Number/Page: Page 5, Administrative Actions

Decision Language: The proposed action is in conformance with the RMP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following RMP decision:

Various types of administrative actions will require special attention beyond the scope of this plan. Administrative actions are the day-to-day transactions required to serve the public and to provide optimal use of resources. These actions are in conformance with the plan. They include...facility maintenance....

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 2, Appendix 1, Number 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 516 DM 2 apply.

Extraordinary Circumstances	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

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Area of Responsibility</u>
John Brogan	Archaeologist	Cultural and Native American Concerns
Greg Wolfgang	Outdoor Recreation Planner	VRM, Transportation, Recreation
Kimberly Miller	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness, Recreation
Carole Huey	Realty Specialist	Lands and Realty Authorizations
Carla DeYoung	Ecologist	ACEC, T/E/S Plants, Vegetation
Brian Hopkins	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife, T/E/S Wildlife, Migratory Birds
Tom Fresques	Fisheries Biologist	Fisheries, T/E/S Fish
Pauline Adams	Hydrologist	Soils, Water Quality, Air Quality
Mike Kinser	Rangeland Mgt Spec.	Wetlands & Riparian Zones
Monte Senior	Rangeland Mgt Spec.	NEPA Lead, Range Management, Invasive, Non-native Species
Ody Anderson	Fuels Management Specialist	Fire/Fuels Management

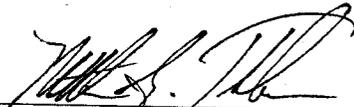
REMARKS/MITIGATION:

Mitigation measures have already been incorporated into the proposed action (Project Design Features).

I considered this action and determined that it 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.

D. Signature

Authorizing Official:


(Signature)

Date: 5-18-11

Name: Matthew Thorburn

Title: Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Monte Senor, Rangeland Management Specialist, Colorado River Valley Field Office, 2300 River Frontage Road, Silt, CO 81652, 970-876-9067.

