

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: CO-120-2008-57-CX

PROJECT NAME: North Sand Hills Fencing

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T10N, R79W, Sec. 1 & T10N, R78W, Sec. 6

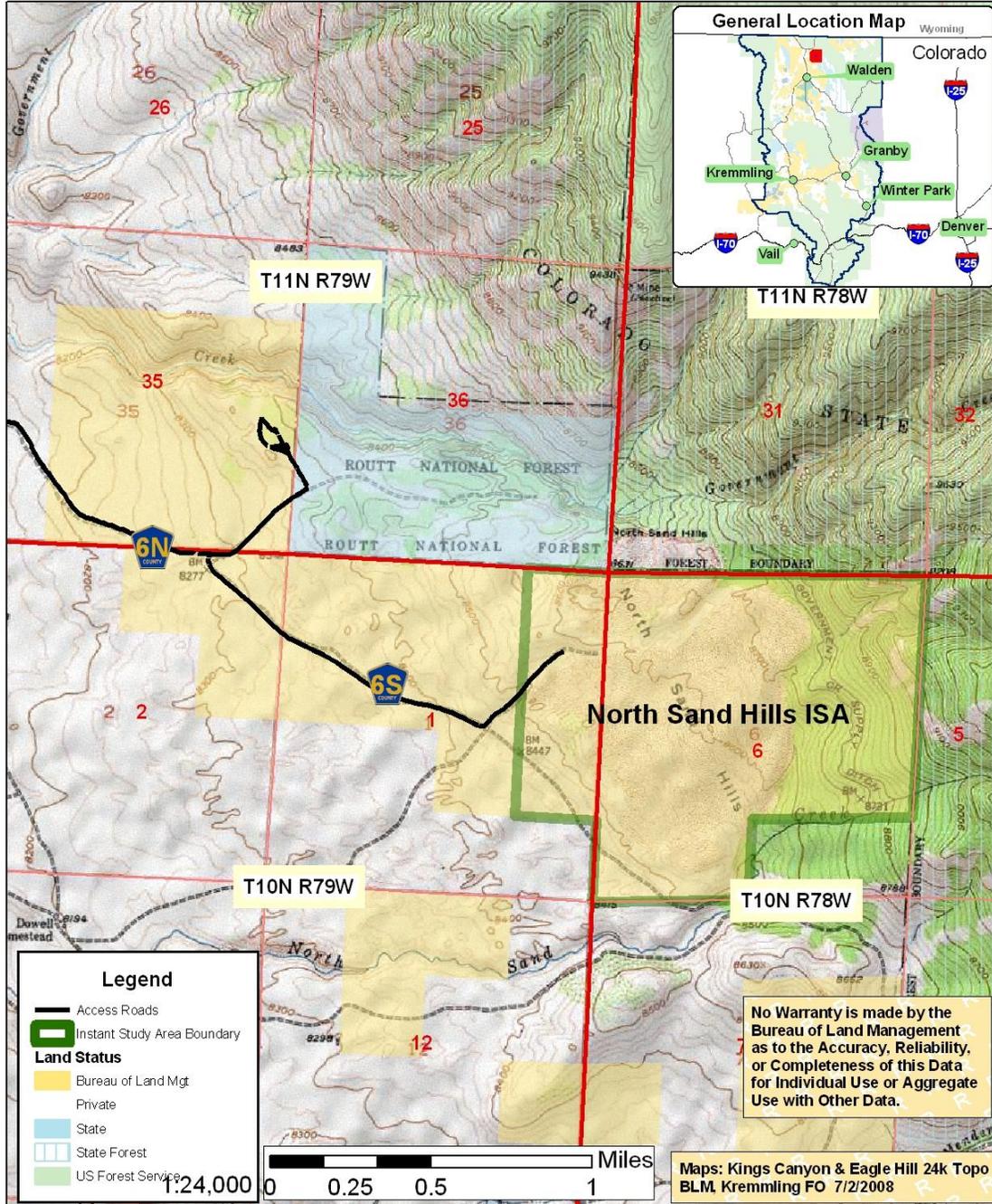
APPLICANT: BLM

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The Proposed Action is to construct protective buck and rail fencing around vegetative areas within the Instant Study Area (ISA) of the North Sand Hills Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). Location of fencing would be placed at areas susceptible to potential impacts such as camping and trailheads.

Project Area Map



North Sand Hills Instant Study Area Protective Fencing



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

Name of Plan: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999

Decision Number/Page: 9, a. Objective/p. 12

Decision Language: “To protect fragile and unique resource values from damage by off-road vehicle (ORV) use and to provide ORV use opportunities where appropriate.”

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4, Number: (H-9) “*Construction of small protective enclosures including those to protect reservoirs and springs and those to protect small study areas.*” None of the following extraordinary circumstances in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Extraordinary Circumstances	Yes	No
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety		X
2.2 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
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)].		X
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
2.7 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
2.8 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
2.9 Violate a Federal Law, or a State, local, or tribal law or		X

requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
2.11 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
2.12 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:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility	Date Review Completed
John Monkouski	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation	7/7/08
Joe Stout	P&EC	NEPA Compliance	7/14/08
Bill Wyatt	Archeologist	Cultural/Native American Religious concerns	7/14/08
Megan McGuire	Wildlife Biologist	T&E Species	7/14/08

NAME OF PREPARER: John Monkouski

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Joe Stout

DATE: 7/14/08

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this CER 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 extraordinary circumstance and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Peter McFadden (acting)

DATE SIGNED: 7/14/08