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

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-120-2009-0062 CX

PROJECT NAME: Independence Mountain Road Repair

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T. 12 N., R. 81 W., Section 28

APPLICANT: BLM

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

Independence Mountain Loop Road is in need of emergency repair. This road is travelled by the public and provides a health and safety concern. Several vehicles have been trapped and stranded for some periods of time. The road work area is located on the northern end of Independence Mountain in Jackson County off of Jackson County Road 6, north of Wheeler Creek.

There are two areas of immediate concern. The first concern is a clogged culvert that needs to be excavated on the downhill side of the road to ensure proper drainage. The second area involves excavating and moving saturated soils to the out slope side of the damaged road. Once this saturated road substrate is properly drained, a new culvert or French drain system will be installed to ensure proper movement of the water to drain efficiently.

The adjacent road cut banks contain suitable borrow material to replace the saturated soils excavated from the road. These areas of borrow material are within current road grades that have been cultural cleared of any historic and pre-historic significance. The adjacent road ditch on the cut bank side of the road will also be maintained by pulling out materials blocking the proper flow of the seasonal water flow and runoff.

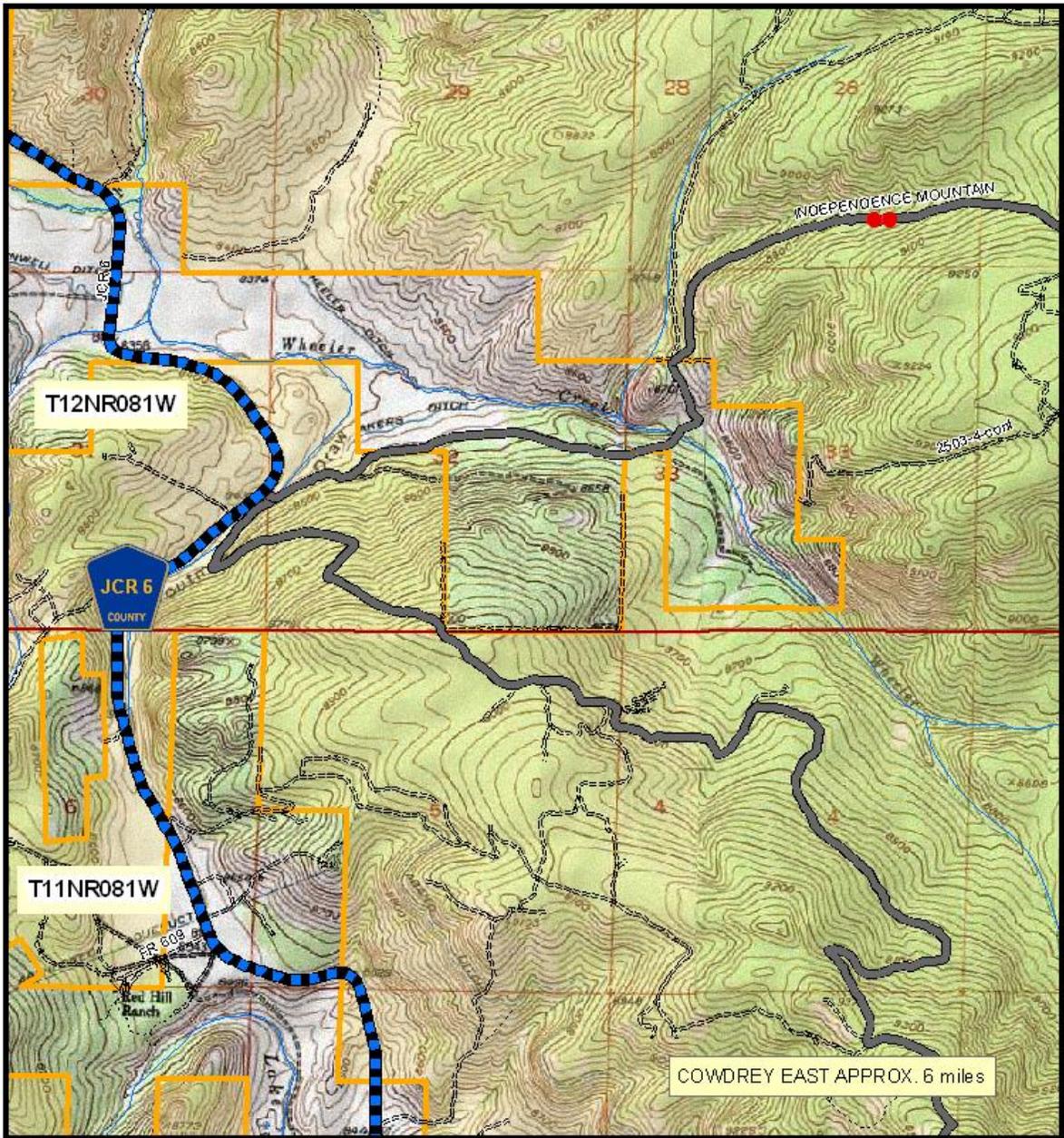
Road improvements will occur during dry weather conditions, August 1 to September 1, 2009.

Mechanical equipment (e.g., graders, loaders, backhoes etc.) will be cleaned of all soil and vegetative material before entering the project area to ensure prevention of invasive or noxious plants.

Native grass seed or an approved seed mix will be applied on areas of highly disturbed soil (e.g., new road cut and fill slopes, etc.). There should not be significant disturbance.

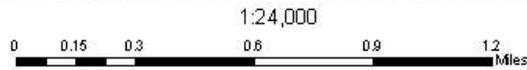


# Road Maintenance Area



### Legend

- Road Work Area
- Jackson County Road
- Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Mgt
- Private
- State



Tom Adamson  
BLM, Kremmling CO  
July 31, 2009  
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CountyStewardship\Road\_maintenance

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

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

Date Approved: February 1999

Decision Number/Page: Transportation and Access, P.14, "Provide access to allow multiple use management of public lands.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, Section I (1) "Planned actions in response to wildfires, floods, weather events, earthquakes, or landslips that threaten public health or safety, property, and/or natural and cultural resources, and that are necessary to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover to a management approved condition as a result of the event....". None of the following extraordinary circumstances in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

<b>Extraordinary Circumstances</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
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		X

significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		
2.9 Violate a Federal Law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
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
Paula Belcher	Hydrologist	Soil, Water, Air & Riparian	8-11-2009
Bill B. Wyatt	Fire Archaeologist	Cultural Resources and Tribal Consultation	8-10-2009
Megan McGuire	Wildlife Biologist	T&E Species and Wildlife	8-11-2009
Peter McFadden	Associate Field Manager	NEPA	8/12/2009

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: No cultural resources were located within the proposed road repair area which is within the bladed road bead. The emergency material extraction area was originally inventoried for report CR-09-36. The project is a no effect, no historic properties would be affected.

Native American Religious Concerns: Tribal consultation was not conducted for the road repair because the work lies within the maintained road. Tribal consultation was conducted for the area of material extraction for the Wheeler Timber Sale (CR-09-36). No tribe to date has identified any area of traditional spiritual concern.

COMPLIANCE PLAN: There will be a B.L.M. employee on sight to assure road is repaired to requested specifications. A post inspection will be performed to verify that proper drainage is being achieved on the repaired road sections.

NAME OF PREPARER: Thomas Adamson

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Peter McFadden

DATE: 8/12/2009

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

DATE SIGNED: 8/12/09