

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Royal Gorge Field Office
3028 E. Main Street
Canon City, CO 81212**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-200-2013-0090 CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional):

PROJECT NAME: Emergency Road Repair – Cactus Cliff Road

PLANNING UNIT: Shelf Road

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: 6 P.M. T. 16 S., R. 70 W., Sections 20 and 28

APPLICANT: BLM

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

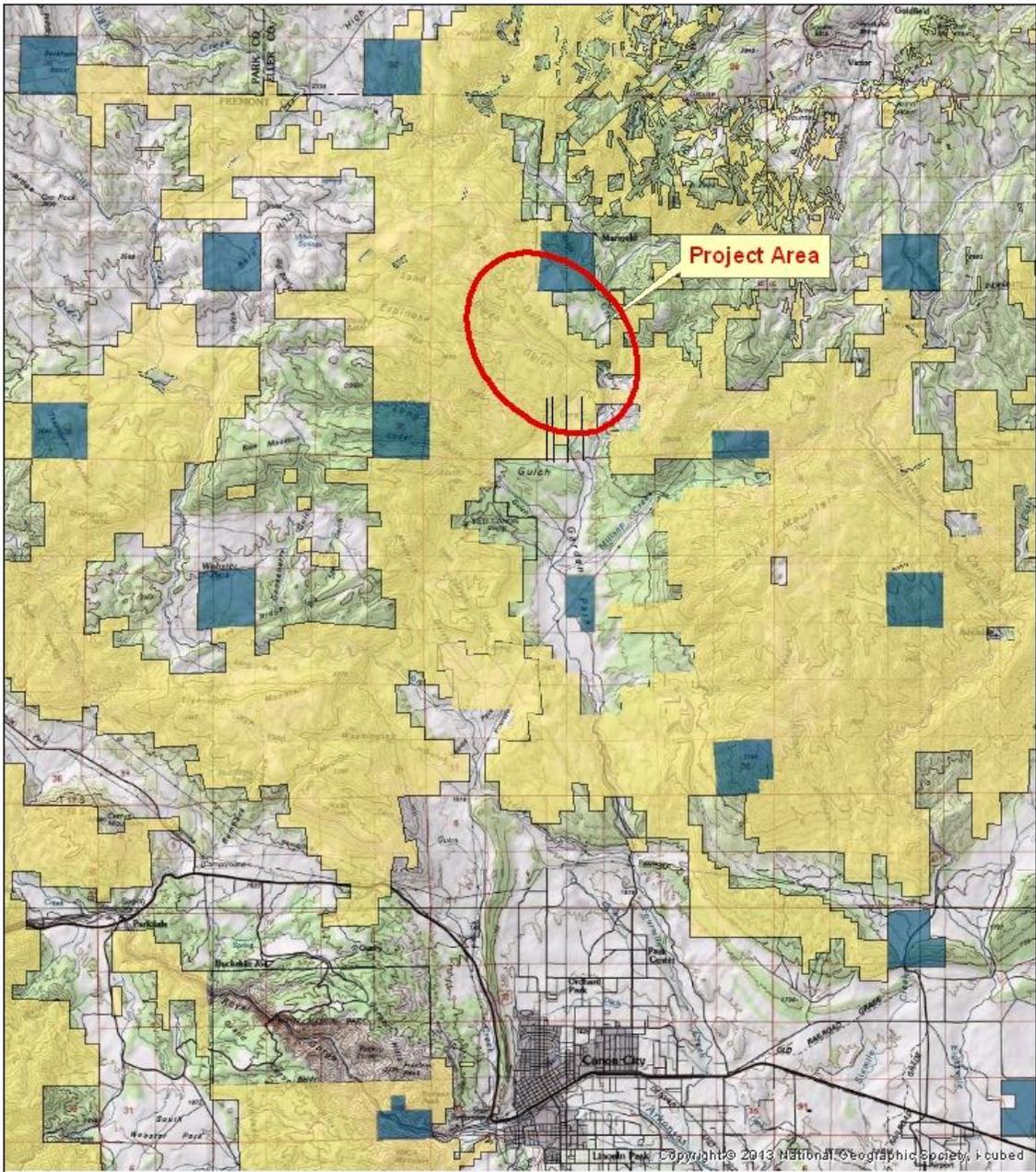
The BLM proposes to re-construct the Cactus Cliff and Trail Gulch Road located off of Shelf Road near the Shelf Road Rock Climbing Area. Both of these roads received extensive damage from a localized rain event on the evening of August 22nd making them impassible to full-size motorized vehicles. Cactus Cliff road services a vault toilet at the highly visited Cactus Cliff Climbing Wall and also provides access to private land. Road re-construction would require heavy equipment to re-shape the road and fill in cut areas. Part of the re-construction requires cutting into the backslope of the road to stabilize the wall and use the material for fill. Additional fill may also be brought in along the County Road. Trail Gulch Road provides important access for upcoming fuels reduction projects and is also highly valued by the public, particularly during hunting season. Road re-construction would require heavy equipment to re-shape the road and fill in cut areas. This work would be accomplished as soon as possible in early September as contractors and funds are available.



Example of damage to Trail Gulch Road



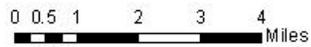
Example of Damage to Cactus Cliff Road



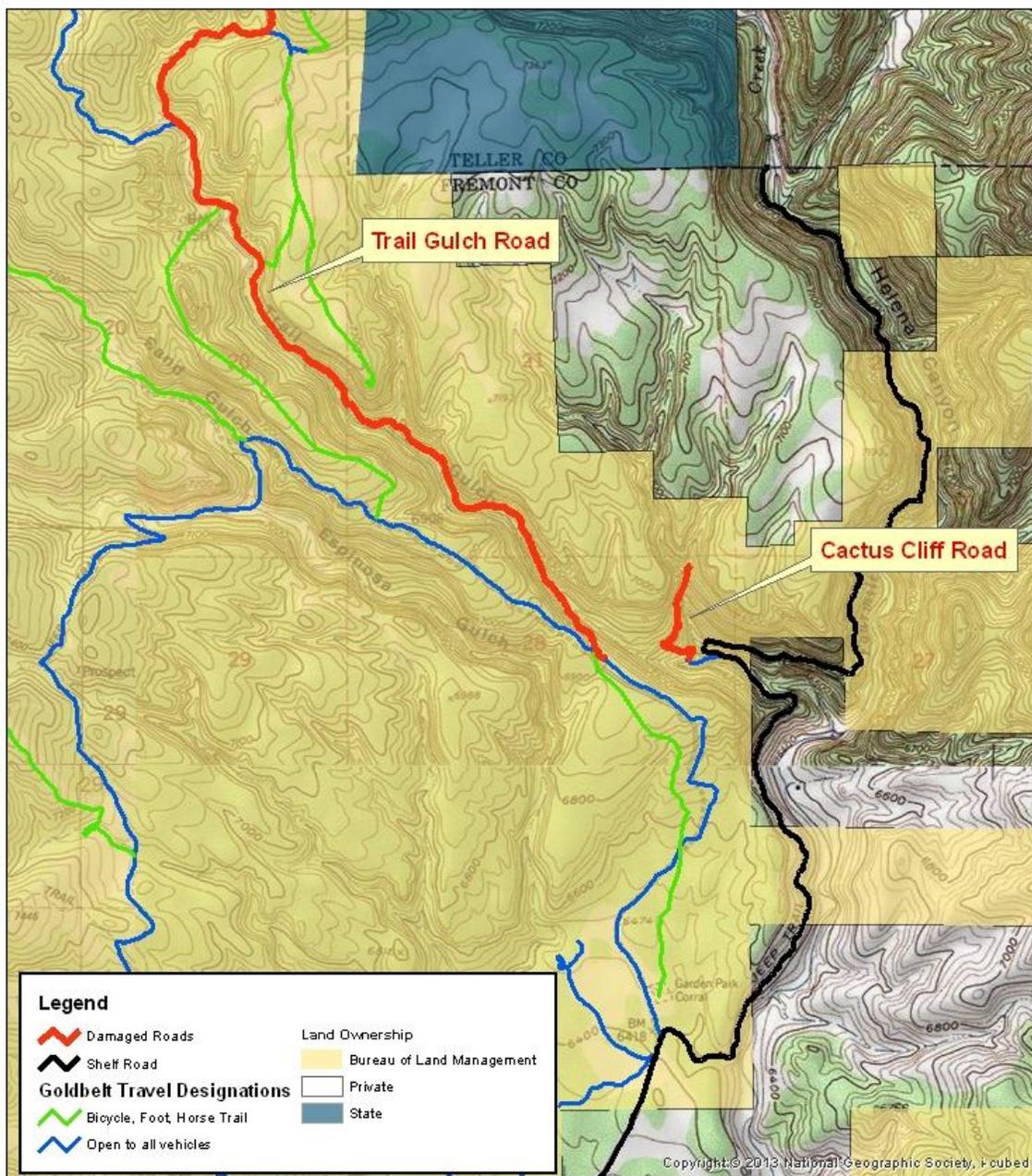
**Emergency Road Repair;
Trail Gulch and Cactus Cliff Road**

DOI-BLM-CO-200-2013-0090 CX

**6th PM, T16S, R70W
Sec. 20 and 28**



NOTE TO MAP USERS
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked or current status on any specific tract of land.



Emergency Road Repair; Trail Gulch and Cactus Cliff Road

DOI-BLM-CO-200-2013-0090 CX

6th PM, T16S, R70W
Sec. 20 and 28

0.07 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6
Miles



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PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

Name of Plan: Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: 5/13/1996

Decision Number: 5-87, 5-90

Decision Language: 5-87; Recreation on the larger part of this subregion will be managed intensively in a special recreation management area.

5-90; Various actions will occur to enhance recreation; upland recreation opportunities emphasizing a balance between resource protection and tourism, coordination with various volunteer and user groups, monitoring and visitor contacts to ensure visitor safety, resource protection and visitor information availability, provide for acquisitions or easements to enhance water-based recreation, mountain biking, off-highway vehicle use, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and natural/cultural resource interpretation.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: This proposed action is listed as a Categorical Exclusion in DOI Departmental Manual Part 516 Chapter 11.9 I(1). None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Exclusion Criteria	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; lands with wilderness characteristics; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; 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.		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.		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.		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.		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Matt Rustand	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds	MR, 8/30/2013
Jeff Williams	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	-----
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	CC, 9/3/2013
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Weeds	JL, 08/30/2013
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG, 9/3/13
Stephanie Carter	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	-----
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology	MJS, 9/04/2013
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 8/30/13
Ty Webb	Prescribed Fire Specialist	Air Quality	mw for TW, 8/13
Jeff Covington	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	JC 8/02/13
Kalem Lenard	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	KL, 9/4/2013
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	-----
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	
Martin Weimer	NEPA Coordinator	Environmental Justice, Noise, SocioEconomics	mw, 8/30/13
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	-----
Michael Troyer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MDT 9/4/2013
Steve Craddock	Realty Specialist	Realty	SRC – 9/4/2013
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	-----
Bob Hurley	Fire Management Officer	Fire	-----

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: No historic properties were found in the area of potential effect [see report CR-RG- 13-117 (P) and CR-RG-14-50 (N)]. Therefore, the proposed undertaking will have no effect on any historic properties (those eligible for the NRHP).

Native American Religious Concerns: No possible traditional cultural properties were located during the cultural resources inventory (see above). There is no other known evidence that suggests the project area holds special significance for Native Americans.

Threatened and Endangered Species: There are no records of any federally listed or BLM sensitive species within or near the project area. The Proposed Action will not result in impacts to TES species.

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics: The parcel of land within the project area does not have apparent naturalness qualities and therefore does not have wilderness characteristics.

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARER: Kalem Lenard

SUPERVISORY REVIEW: Melissa K.S. Garcia

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

DATE: 11/5/13

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this Categorical Exclusion 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 10 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

/s/ Keith E. Berger
Keith E. Berger, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 11/5/13