

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Categorical Exclusion
Spring Canyon Ranch Road**

PREPARING OFFICE

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management



Categorical Exclusion

Spring Canyon Ranch Road

DOI-BLM-CO-F02_2015-0027 CX

Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Spring Canyon Ranch Road
Canon City, CO

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A. Background

BLM Office: Royal Gorge Field Office

LLCOF02

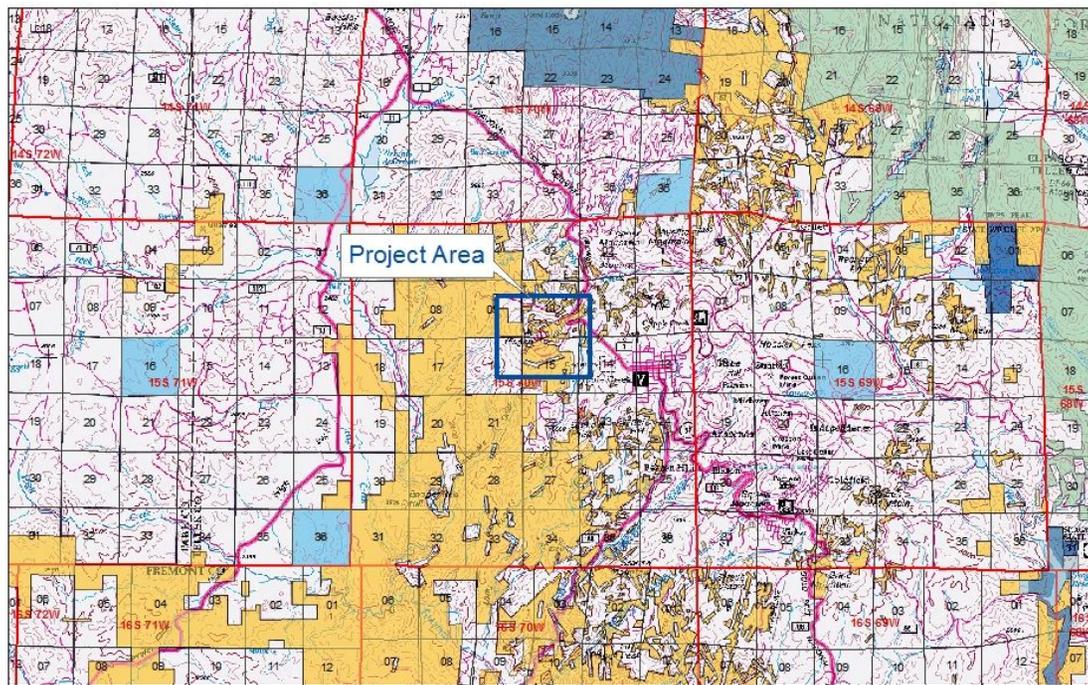
Lease/Serial/Case File No.:COC-76751

Proposed Action Title/Type:Right-of-Way for Access to Private Land

Location of Proposed Action:6th PM, T.15S., R. 70 W., sec 10: W1/2NE1/4SE1/4SE1/4, sec 15: NW1/4SW1/4, SW1/4NE1/4

Applicant: Spring Canyon Ranch Road Association, Inc.

Description of Proposed Action:The Spring Canyon Ranch Road Association, Inc. has requested a right-of-way grant to operate and maintain Spring Canyon Ranch Road. The road is currently a bladed road and will be maintained at current grade and slope to include upkeep and repair of graded natural surface, upkeep and repair of existing drainage facilities, filling potholes with material from off public land, and clearing snow with a plow. No additional improvements have been proposed. The road proposed is 15 feet wide and crosses 2,535 feet of public land. The road is to access private land from Teller county Road 1 to Spring Canyon Ranch.



Proposed ROW COC-76751
Lines Approximate

6PM, T15S R70W Sec. 10, 15



NOTE TO MAP USERS
No warrantee 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.



Proposed ROW COC-76751
Lines Approximate

6PM, T15S R70W Sec. 10, 15

0 0.1 0.2 0.4
Miles



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B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name:

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

Name of Plan: Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: May 1996

Decision Number: 1-54

Decision Language: The Western Utility Group's study for corridor designation will be adopted for major rights-of-way with addition of the existing transportation corridors. Minor rights-of-way will be authorized on a case-by-case basis on proposals outside of exclusion areas. Minor rights-of-way could be authorized in avoidance areas only when stipulations will protect values.

C. Compliance with NEPA:

Chapter 1 Name

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, or 516 DM 11.9 ,

E.16. Acquisition of easements for an existing road or issuance of leases, permits, or rights-of-way for the use of existing facilities, improvements, or sites for the same or similar purposes.

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.

I considered:

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: This proposed action is listed as a Categorical Exclusion in DOI Departmental Manual Part 516 Chapter 11 .9 (E.16). None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Table 1.1. Exclusion Criteria

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

Table 1.2. Interdisciplinary Team Review

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Matt Rustand	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds	MR, 2/17/2015
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	CC, 2/27/15
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland, Weeds	JL, 02/11/2014
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG, 2/17/2015
Stephanie Carter	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	SSC, 3/16/15
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 2/11/15
Ty Webb	Fire Management Officer	Air Quality	TW, 2/9/15
Dave Parker	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	DP, 5/27/15
Linda Skinner	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	LS, 3/3/2015
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	KR, 5/26/15
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MMW, 2/26/15
Rich Rotte	Realty Specialist	Realty	RAR, 1/21/15
Ty Webb	Fire Management Officer	Fire	TW, 2/9/15

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: Although cultural resources were found near the area of potential effect [5TL4112–4116; see report CR-RG-15-85 P], no sites determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) were found. Therefore, the proposed project 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: Threatened and Endangered Species: The Proposed Action will not result in impacts to TES species.

Migratory Birds: To be in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Memorandum of Understanding between BLM and USFWS required by Executive Order 13186, BLM must avoid actions, where possible, that result in a “take” of migratory birds. Pursuant to BLM Instruction Memorandum 2008-050, to reduce impacts to Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC), no habitat disturbance (removal of vegetation such as timber, brush, or grass) is allowed during the periods of May 15 - July 15, the breeding and brood rearing season for most Colorado migratory birds. The provision will not apply to completion activities in disturbed areas that were initiated prior to May 15 and continue into the 60-day period.

An exception to this timing limitation will be granted if nesting surveys conducted no more than one week prior to vegetation-disturbing activities indicate no nesting within 30 meters (100 feet) of the area to be disturbed. Surveys shall be conducted by a qualified breeding bird surveyor between sunrise and 10:00 a.m. under favorable conditions.

Weeds: Equipment used for project implementation must be washed prior to entering project area. Washing is to remove soil, grease, or vegetative mater that may contain noxious or invasive weed seed and other plant parts.

Minerals: All public lands are open to the Mining Law. As of March 2015, an, active claim exists in Section 11. Coordination with claimants is required prior to ground disturbance, if claims are active in the area prior to project implementation.

Wastes, Solid or Hazardous: It is assumed that conditions associated with the proposed project site are currently clean and that no contamination is evident. No hazardous material, as defined by 42 U.S.C. 9601 (which includes materials regulated under CERCLA, RCRA and the Atomic Energy Act, but does not include petroleum or natural gas), will be used, produced, transported or stored during project implementation. Nothing in the analysis or approval of this action by BLM authorizes or in any way permits a release or threat of a release of hazardous materials (as defined under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq., and its regulations) into the environment that will require a response action or result in the incurrence of response costs.

Forestry: No cutting or removing any tree over 5 inches in diameter without BLM authorization and the appropriate permit. Light pruning of limbs and removing trees less than 5 inches in diameter for road clearing and maintenance is authorized.

D. Approval and Contact Information

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARER: Rich Rotte

SUPERVISORY REVIEW: Jay Raiford

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

DATE: 8/13/15

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: 8/14/15