BLM

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

Categorical Exclusion

Gilpin County Dump Site Clean Up

PREPARING OFFICE

U.S. Department of the Interior
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Categorical Exclusion
Gilpin County Dump Site Clean Up

DOI-BLM-CO-F020–2015–0011CX

Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Royal Gorge Field Office
Canon City, CO

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Table of Contents

1. Name 1

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List of Figures

Figure 1.1. Map showing location of Dump Site in Gilpin County. 1
Figure 1.2. Map showing location of dump site along Dakota Ridge Road in Russell Gulch. 2
Figure 1.3. Photo of site taken in October 2010 3
Figure 1.4. Photo of site **taken in August 2012** 4
Figure 1.5. Photo of site taken in November 2014. 5
Figure 1.6. Photo of site taken in November 2014. 6

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List of Tables

Table 1.1. Exclusion Criteria 8
Table 1.2. Interdisciplinary Team Review 8

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left blank

Chapter 1. Name

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A. Background

The proposed site has been identified as a threat to public health and safety due to the presence of abandoned mine features, failing structures that were constructed on public lands in trespass and trash. It is located on an isolated parcel of BLM managed land in Gilpin County, Colorado in the Russell Gulch area adjacent to Dakota Ridge Road (Figure 1.1,1.2). The area contains 3 structures that are filled with municipal trash as well as some unidentified drums and appliances including an old refrigerator. Reports from nearby neighbors indicate that the site was used as a home for several years before the BLM found it in 2009. The site was first identified in 2009 as part of an Environmental Site Assessment performed in response to a realty disposal action. Several site visits over the past few years indicate that site conditions have remained stable (Figure 1.3, 1.4, 1.5). Funding has finally been secured for the clean up of the site.

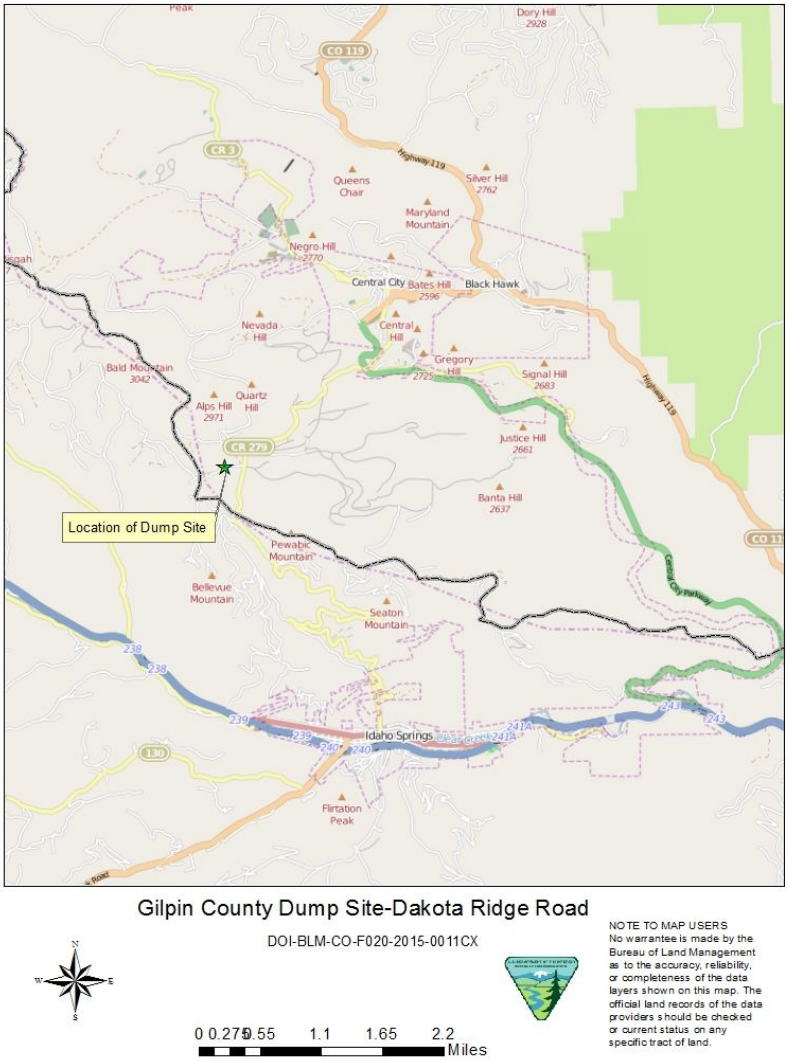

Figure 1.1. Map showing location of Dump Site in Gilpin County.

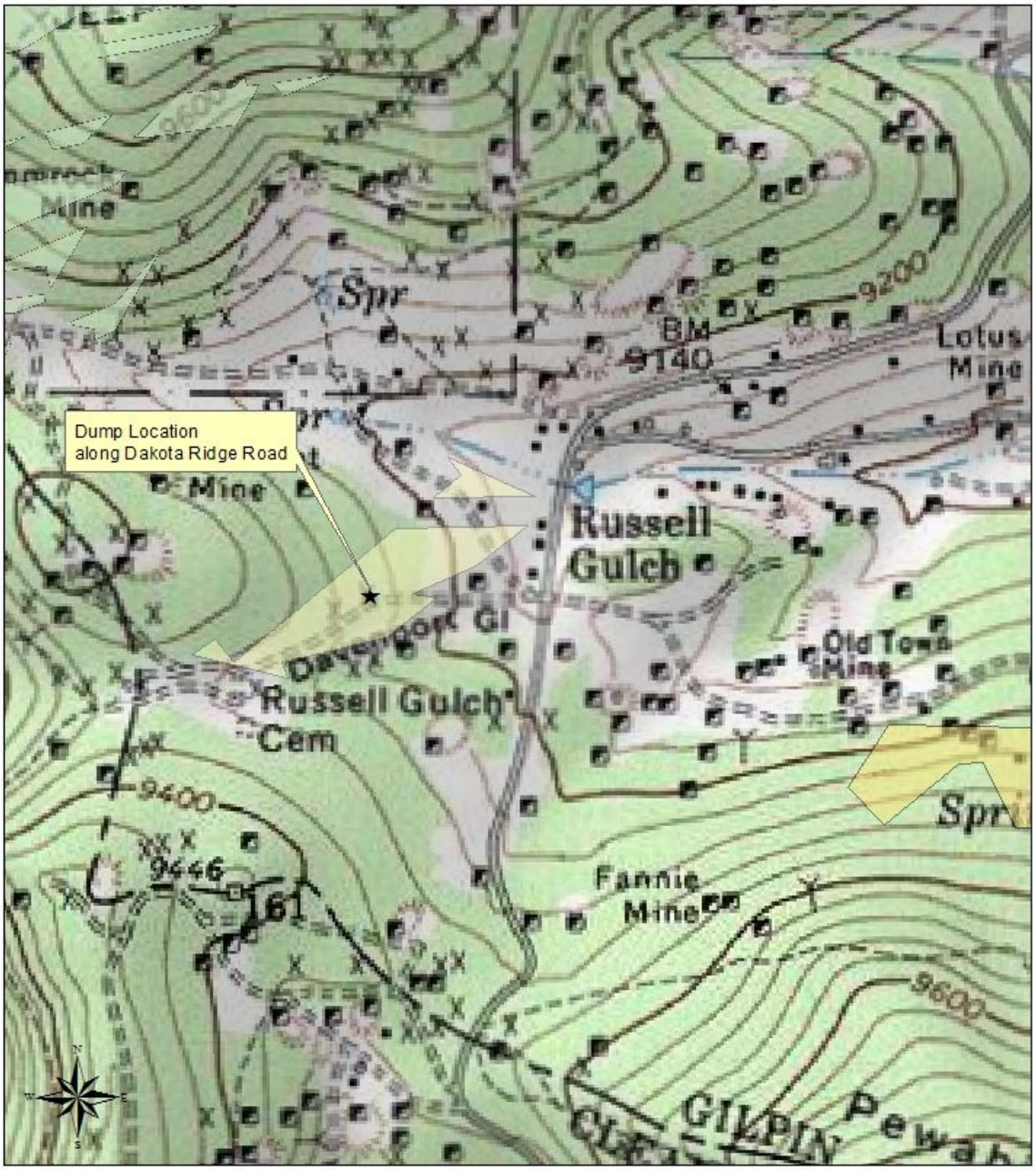

Figure 1.2. Map showing location of dump site along Dakota Ridge Road in Russell Gulch.

Chapter 1 Name
A. Background

Figure 1.3. Photo of site taken in October 2010

Figure 1.4. Photo of site taken in August 2012

Figure 1.5. Photo of site taken in November 2014.

Figure 1.6. Photo of site taken in November 2014.

BLM Office:

LLCOF020000

Lease/Serial/Case File No.:

Proposed Action Title/Type:

Gilpin County Dump Site-Russell Gulch

Location of Proposed Action:

Gilpin County, Colorado 6th PM T3S, R73W, NENE Section 22

Applicant:

BLM

Description of Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to 1) conduct sampling to characterize the waste that is present on site 2) remove and properly dispose of all hazardous and non-hazardous solid waste on site 3)

construct safety closures for abandoned mine features located on the site including one timbered shaft and up to 5 prospect permits.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name:

Name of Plan:

Northeast Resource Area Resource Management Plan

Date Approved:

May 1985

Decision Number:

Managment Unit 802. Gilpin

Decision Language:

None (17B) - Occurrence of significant geologic features or hazards is unknown on the 30,460 acres. Field investigations during the environmental analysis process and/or new information about features or hazards could change the classification to concern area. It is the BLM's policy to mitigate hazards to protect public health and safety.

Date Approved/Amended:

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

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, or 516 DM 11.9,

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 J (8) and (10) Installation of minor devices to protect human life, and Removal of structures and materials of no historical value such as abandoned automobiles, fences, and buildings, including those built in trespass and reclamation of the site when little or no surface disturbance is involved. 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 RESPONSIBIL-ITY**	**Initials/date**
Matt Rustand	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds	MR, 12/11/2014
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland, Weeds	JL, 12/15/2014
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG, 12,22/2014
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	MJS, 3/11/2015
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 12/12/14
Ty Webb	Fire Management Officer	Air Quality	TW, 12/9/2014
Jeff Covington	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	JC, 12/9/2014
Linda Skinner	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	LS, 3/9/2015
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	KR, 12/15/14
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MMW, 2/24/15
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	NA

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	**TITLE**	**AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY**	**Initials/date**
Rich Rotte	Realty Specialist	Lands and Realty	RAR, 12/9/14
Ty Webb	Fire Management Officer	Fire	TW, 12/9/2014

REMARKS:

Cadastral Services: Cadastral Survey completed a Dependent Resurvey and Metes-and-Bounds Survey approved on September 30th, 2009. Based on this approved survey the location of the site is located on BLM public lands.

Cultural Resources: Four sites (5GL546, 5GL2060–2062)and eight isolated finds (5GL2063–2070) were located during the cultural resources inventory, which included the area of potential effect for this undertaking [Report CR-RG-15-71 (P)]. However, none of the cultural phenomena meet the criteria for National Register of Historic Places eligibility. Therefore, the proposed undertaking will not affect historic properties.

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.

Wastes, Hazardous or Solid: If the project involves oil or fuel usage, transfer or storage, an adequate spill kit and shovels are required to be onsite during project implementation. The project proponent will be responsible for adhering to all applicable local, State and Federal regulations in the event of a spill, which includes following the proper notification procedures in BLM's Spill Contingency Plan.

D. Approval and Contact Information

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARER: Melissa Smeins

SUPERVISORY REVIEW: /s/ Jay Raiford

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

DATE: 5/4/15

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: Melissa K.S. Garcia for:

Keith E. Berger, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 5/5/15