BLM

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

Categorical Exclusion

DOI-BLM-CO-F020–2015–0067
Boulder County Four Mile Canyon Recreation Trail

July 2015

PREPARING OFFICE

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

Categorical Exclusion
DOI-BLM-CO-F020–2015–0067
Boulder County Four Mile Canyon Recreation Trail

DOI-BLM-CO-F020–2015–0067 CX

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

July 2015

This page intentionally
left blank

A. Background

BLM Office: Royal Gorge Field Office

LLCOF02000

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: COC-74130

Proposed Action Title/Type: Right-of-Way Amendment

Location of Proposed Action:

Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado

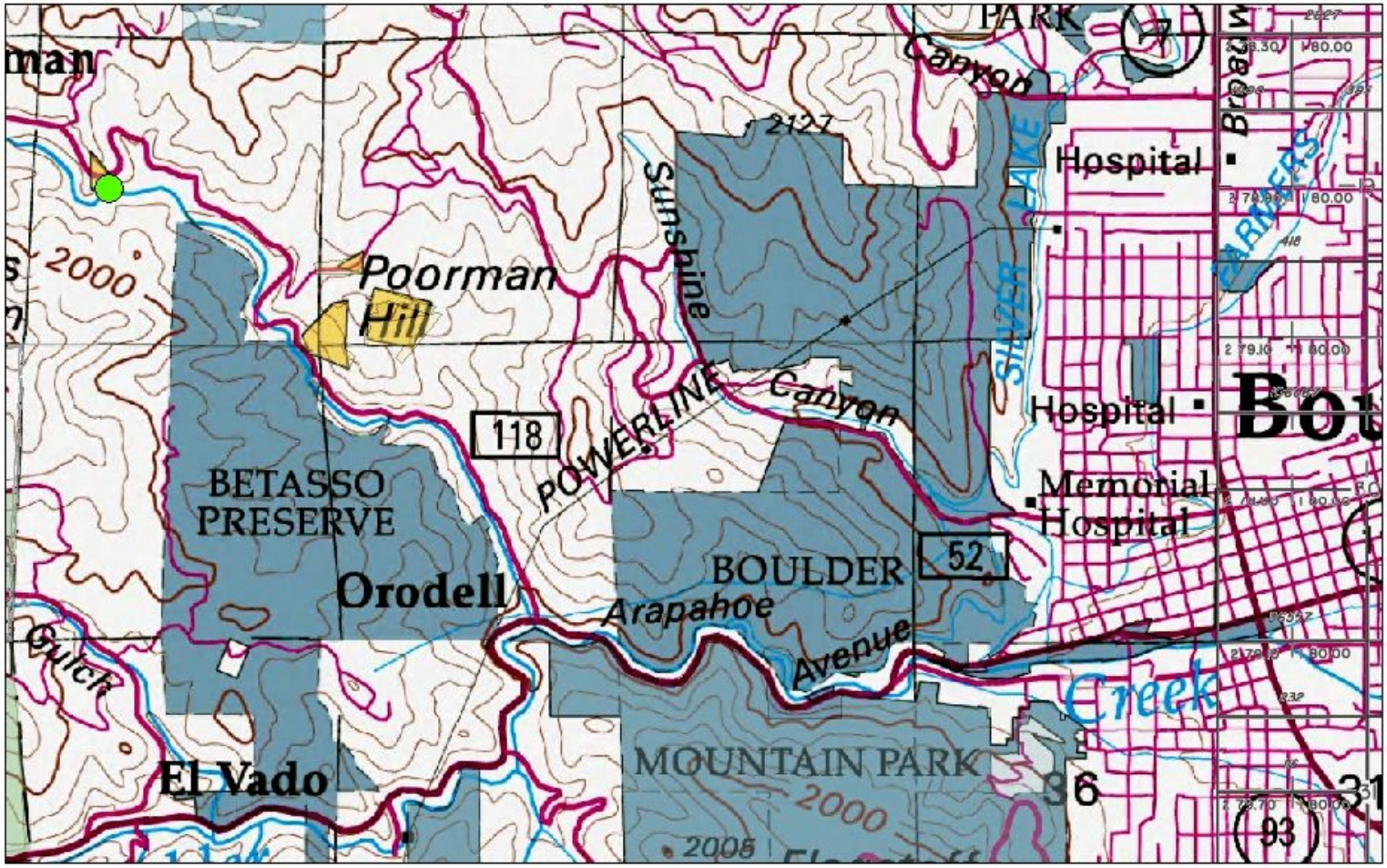
T. 1 N., R. 71 W.,

sec. 21, lot 49.

Applicant: Boulder County Parks and Open Space

Description of Proposed Action: Boulder County Parks and Open Space (BCPOS) holds a right-of-way (ROW) grant for a non-motorized trail in Four Mile Canyon above Boulder, Colorado. The area receives high usage by outdoor recreationalists. The trail allows non-motorized public access to Boulder County's Betasso Preserve.

The proposed action is to amend the original ROW grant to allow for the restoration of the pedestrian bridge that was damaged in the September 2013 flood event, to pre-flood function. The new bridge design specifications will be similar to that of the previous bridge.



Boulder County Parks and Open Space Trail ROW Amendment

DOI-BLM-CO-F020-2015-0067 CX

6PM, T. 1 N, R. 71 W, sec. 21

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Legend

Four Mile Canyon Recreation Trail

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.

Figure 1.1. Four Mile Canyon Recreation Trail ROW Amendment Overview Map

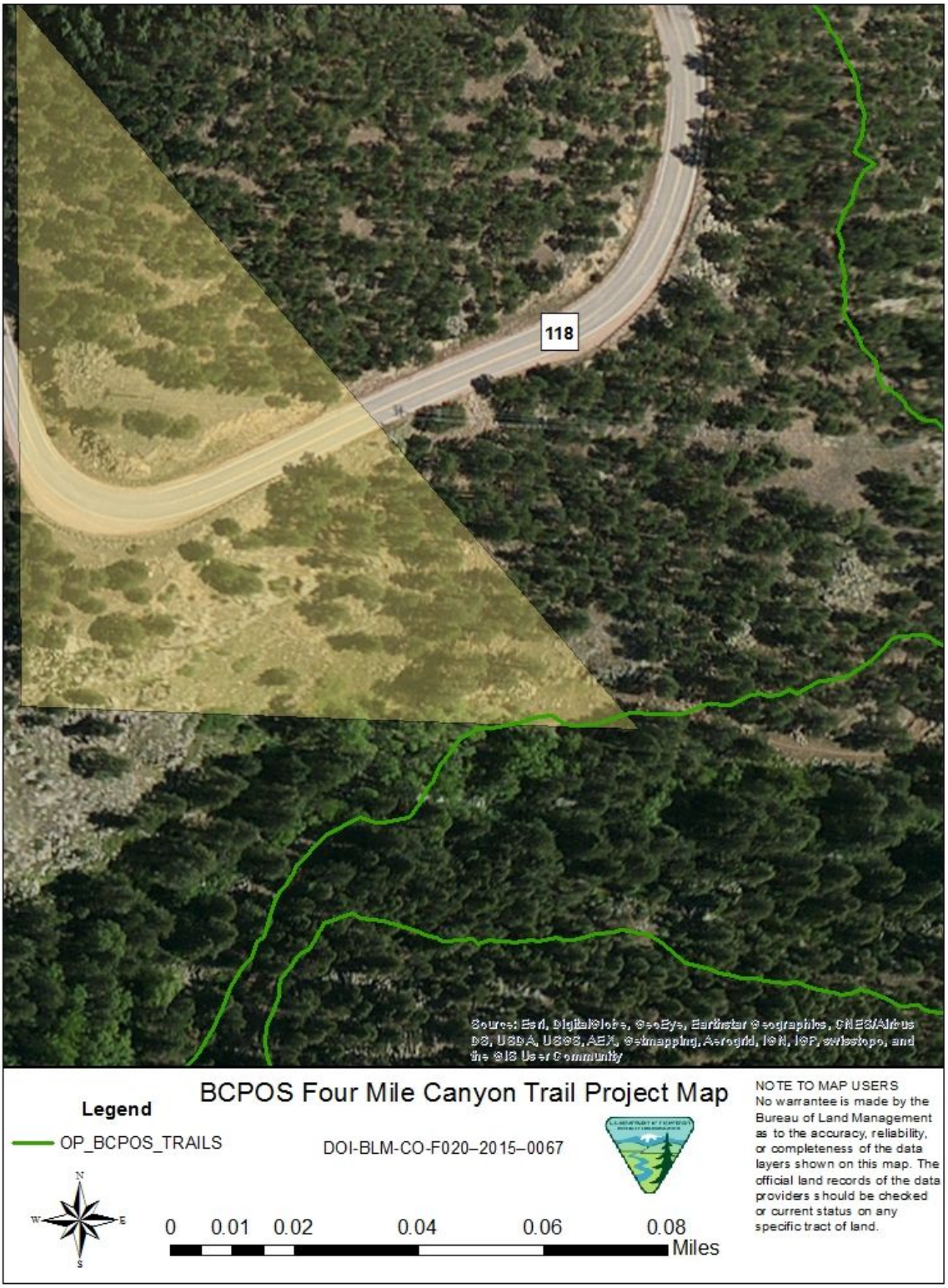


Figure 1.2. Four Mile Canyon Recreation Trail ROW Amendment Project Map

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name:

Name of Plan: Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: May 13, 1996

Decision Number: C—116

Decision Language: Authorize minor ROWs on a case-by-case basis utilizing criteria for ROW objectives in each specific eco-subregion.

Date Approved/Amended: May 13, 1996

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s): C—116: Authorize minor ROWs on a case-by-case basis utilizing criteria for ROW objectives in each specific eco-subregion.

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, E (13): Amendments to existing rights-of-way, such as the upgrading of existing facilities, which entail no additional disturbances outside the right-of-way boundary.

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 E(13). 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

Exclusion Criteria	YES	NO
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**
Lara Duran	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds	LD, 8/13/15
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland, Weeds	JL, 8/7/2015
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG, 8/6/2015
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	MJS, 8/7/2015
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 8/7/15
Ty Webb	Fire Management Officer	Air Quality	TSW, 8/3/15
David Parker	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	DP, 8/12/15
Linda Skinner	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	LS, 7/28/15
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	N/A
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	KR, 7/29/15
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MMW, 7/28/15
Greg Valladares	Realty Specialist	Realty	GDV, 07/27/2015
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	N/A
Ty Webb	Fire Management Officer	Fire	TSW, 8/3/15

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: One site was located during the cultural resources inventory [Report CR-RG-11–56 P] Site 5BL358.7). Although the site is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, it will not be adversely affected by the action. 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: Of the federally listed threatened, endangered and proposed species that occur in Boulder County, suitable habitat does not occur within 1/4 mile of the action area for Interior least tern, piping plover, whooping crane, Canada lynx, Preble's meadow jumping mouse, Colorado butterfly plant, Ute ladies'-tresses orchid, and Western prairie fringed orchid. There would be direct or indirect effects to federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species or their habitats. There would be no cumulative effects to these species or their habitats. Therefore, there would be NO EFFECT to federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species. There is no need to consult with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. No mitigation measures would be necessary.

BLM Sensitive Species, Terrestrial Wildlife & Migratory Birds: Although suitable habitat for fringed myotis, Townsend's big eared bat, northern goshawk, and prairie falcon occurs within ¼ mile of the proposed action area, the foraging, roosting and breeding habitats for these species would not be affected by the proposed reconstruction. Individuals would not be affected. There would be no cumulative effects since there would be no direct or indirect effects. Therefore, there would be NO EFFECT to fringed myotis, Townsend's big eared bat, northern goshawk, and prairie falcon from this project. Similarly, the proposed reconstruction would not have an effect on migratory birds or terrestrial wildlife utilizing that space and there would be no cumulative effects to those 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.

Geologic and Mineral Resources: The regulations of 43 CFR 2801.1-1(d) provide for the grant holder to pay for all materials used except for those that are necessarily removed in the construction of a project and will be used in the same right-of-way grant or permit. Material removed from a cut can be used on the same right-of-way for a necessary fill operation without a sales contract. However, material excavated from a right-of-way where cuts are not necessary are subject to disposal by BLM and cannot be used without a permit or a contract.

D. Approval and Contact Information

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARER: Jennifer Whyte

SUPERVISORY REVIEW: /s/ Jay M. Raiford

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

DATE: 8/19/15

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: 8/19/15