

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
San Luis Valley Field Office
46525 Highway 114
Saguache, CO 81212**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-FO3-2014-003 CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional):

PROJECT NAME: Road ROW Grant

PLANNING UNIT:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: New Mexico Principal Meridian, T.45 N., R. 8 E., Sec 25, 26, 36,
Saguache County, Colorado

APPLICANT: Bureau of Land Management

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION BLM received an application from the Buddhist Foundation to maintain 3 segments of an open system road to access their year round private property. The segments are LS13047, LS13046, and BLM Road 5300. All three segments of the open system road are currently open to the public under the Travel Management Plan (TMP). The road to be maintained will start from Hwy 285 and end at the Saguache Peak Ranch just east of Saguache. Currently, there are 2 other ROW Grants issued to subdivision residents for maintaining this same portion of road as well. The maintenance will include snow removal and improving segments of the road as needed.

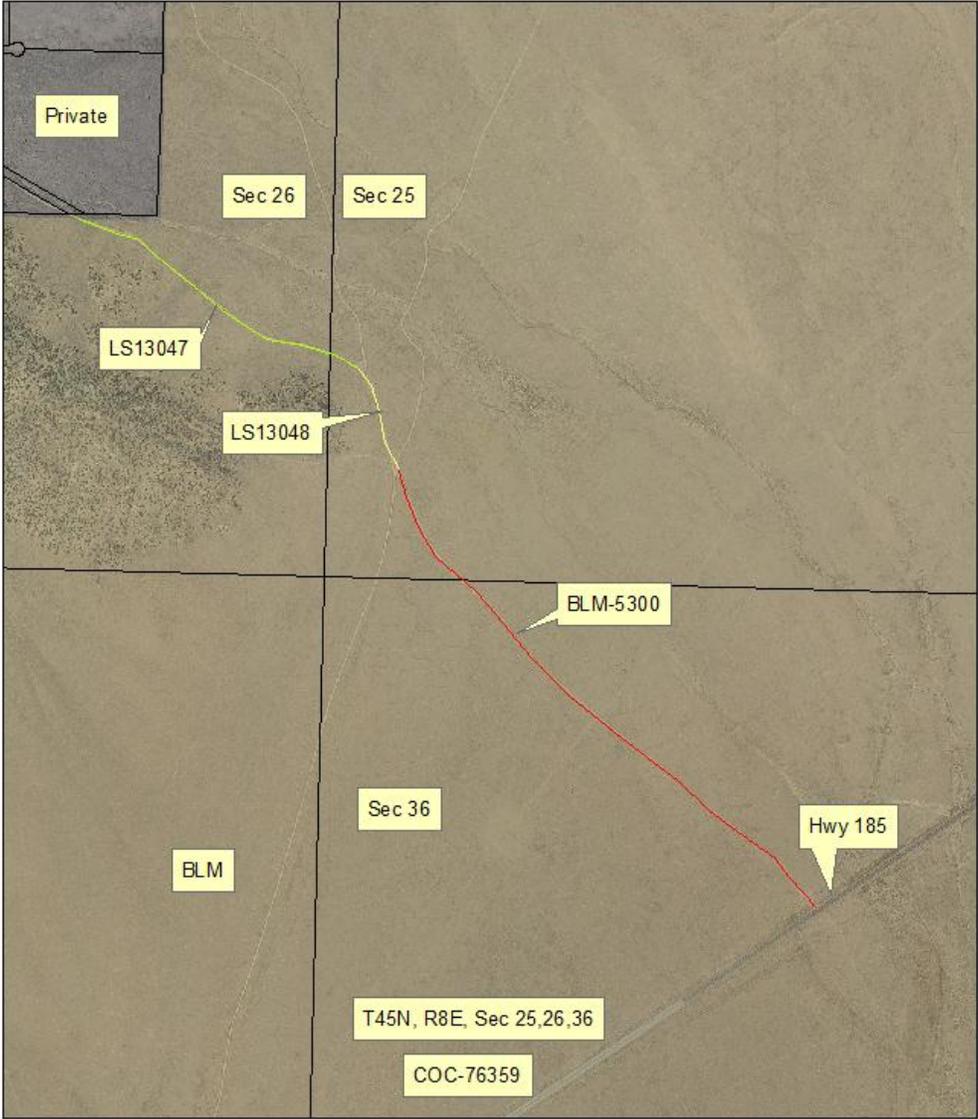
PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

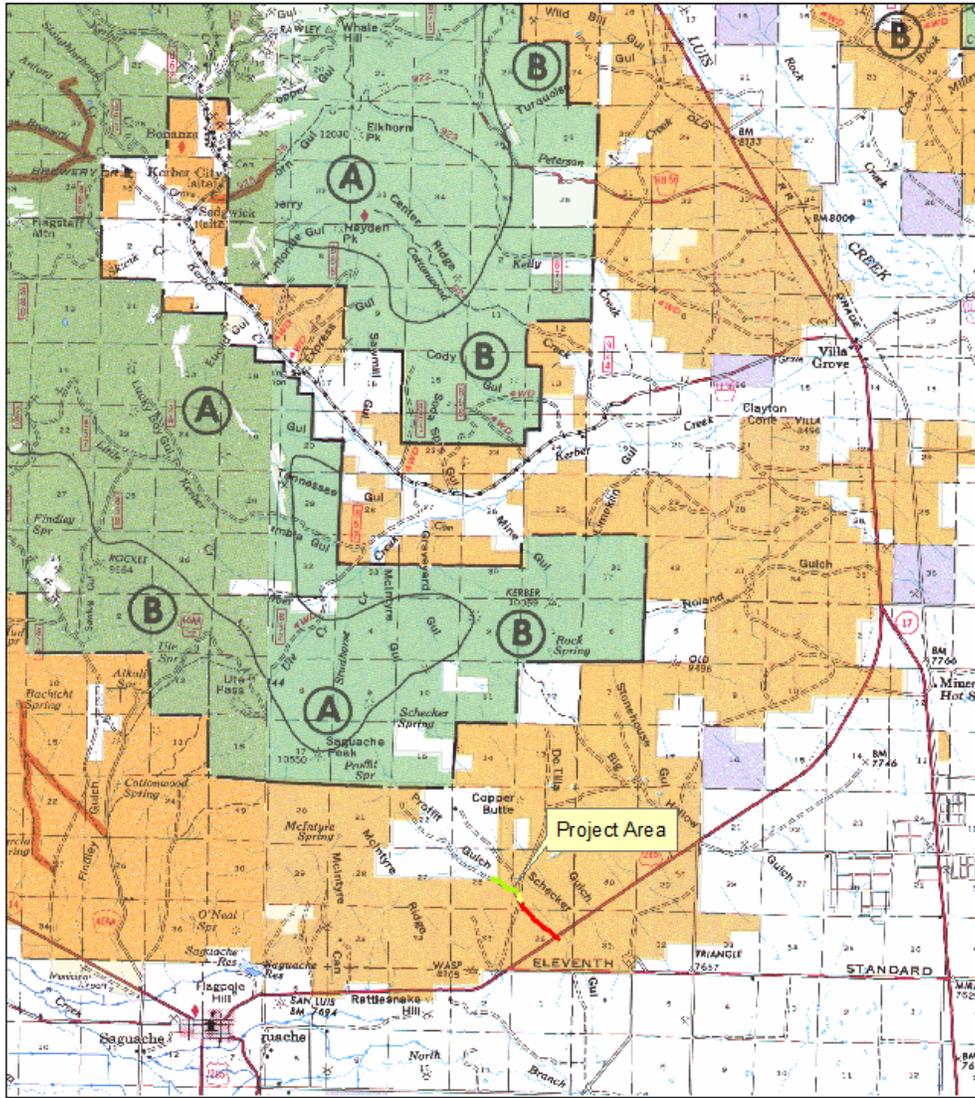
Name of Plan: San Luis Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: December 18, 1991

Decision Number: ROD – 1 -17 (Lands and Realty- LUA), Page 15

Decision Language: All other BLM lands will be open to rights-of-ways for other utility lines, roads, etc... and each request will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for alignment and mitigation stipulations

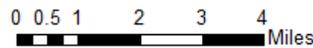




DOI-BLM-CO-F03-2014-003 CX

Buddhist Foundation
COC-76359

T45N, R8E, Sec 25,26,36



CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: This proposed action is listed as a Categorical Exclusion in DOI Departmental Manual Part 516 Chapter 11 E (17). 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
Alyssa Radcliff	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds, Invasive Plants, fisheries	ANR 12/16/13
Melissa Shawcroft	Range Management	Range Management , Vegetation	MS 12/18/2013
Sue Swift-Miller/Jill Lucero	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands	JRL 1/21/2014
Eduardo Duran	NRS	Riparian, T&E Plant species, Prime and Unique Farmland,	END 1/15/2014
Andrew Archuleta	Physical Scientist	Minerals	ASA 1/7/2014
Negussie Tedela	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils, Air Quality	NHT 1/8/2014
Sean Hines/Leon Montoya	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	LM
Sean Noonan	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	STN
Martin Weimer	NEPA Coordinator	Environmental Justice, Noise, SocioEconomics	mw, 12/16/13
Jeff Brown	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	JGB 12/12/13
Leon Montoya	Realty Specialist	Lands & Realty/Waste/Hazmat	LM

REMARKS: Cultural Resources

Cultural Resources: As this is an existing road and the proposed action is the issuance of an additional FLPMA ROW over two similar existing ROWs and no surface disturbing activities are being considered there will be no impacts to historic or cultural resources.

The ROW should stipulate that any proposed surface disturbing activities outside the existing road prism be reviewed by the BLM to ensure protection of cultural and historic properties.

Native American Religious Concerns: There are no known Native American concerns within the Area of potential Effect (APE).

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Threatened and Endangered Species

I have reviewed the current list of Federal listed species (USDI 2013), and BLM Sensitive species. There are no known threatened, endangered, candidate, proposed, special status, sensitive, or other species of concern that would be further affected by the issuance of this ROW. Currently this ROW is

under additional permits for existing road access and associated maintenance involved. Habitat conditions within the ROW for wildlife species have not changed since first creation of this ROW.

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARER: Leon Montoya

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Martin Weimer

DATE:

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/ Andrew Archuleta
Andrew Archuleta,
Field Office Manager

DATE SIGNED: 1/21/14