

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-0049-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: N/A

PROJECT NAME: Monument Gulch Cattleguard on the
Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area (PEDHMA)
Boundary Fence Line

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Township 2 North, Range 99 West, Section 31, SE 1/4

APPLICANT: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), White River Field Office (WRFO)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The WRFO will place a horse-proof cattleguard (12 foot wide with wings) at the intersection of the following fences: Beard-Theos Fence (Range Project #0185), Mobley-Caldwell Extension Fence (Range Project #1847), and the Upper Fletcher Fences (Range Project #4117) (See Figure 1). The Upper Fletcher and Mobley-Caldwell fences are portions of the PEDHMA boundary fence. The cattleguard will be placed on BLM Road #1036 (Monument Gulch) which is utilized heavily by the public year round and because of the fact that the gate is perpetually left open.

A horse-proof cattleguard is simply a standard cattleguard that has been modified by using rebar or sucker rods between the rails to prevent a horse's hoof and leg from becoming trapped between the rails.

The cattleguard will be painted a dark color which will help melt snow so that the functionality of the cattleguard continues during winter months when snow cover conditions could potentially pack and fill the cattleguard allowing the wild horses to cross out of the PEDHMA into areas outside. The WRFO currently has cattleguards in stock and would expect that the placement of this cattleguard could take place by September 2011.

The BLM project lead will inform all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts. If archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the applicant must immediately contact the appropriate BLM representative.

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: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: 2-26

Decision Language: “Manage for wild horse herd ... on 190,130 acres within the Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area (HMA) so that a thriving ecological balance is maintained for all plant and animal species on that range.”

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, G. 2: *Installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, water bars, gates, or cattleguards on/or adjacent to roads and trails identified in any land use or transportation plan, or eligible for incorporation in such plans.*

The Proposed Action has been reviewed with the list of extraordinary circumstances described in the table below. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. None of the following exceptions in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

Exception	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and 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; 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, in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau of office.		X

Exception	YES	NO
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects 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 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 REVIEW:

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on March 1, 2011. A list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office.

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: There are no cultural-related issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action. The proposed project area was surveyed at the Class III, 100% pedestrian level, and no cultural resources were located. (KB 05/12/11)

Native American Religious Concerns: There are no known concerns, and the Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation has expressed the desire to not be consulted with on small range projects such as this. (KB 5/12/11)

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: There are no wildlife-related issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action. (LRB 03/15/11)

Threatened and Endangered Plant Species: There are no plant species issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action. (MJK 07/05/11)

REFERENCES:

Bowen, Kristin
 2011 Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of the Monument Gulch Cattleguard, in Rio Blanco County, CO. Bureau of Land Management, White River Field Office, Meeker, Colorado. BLM Report #11-10-04.

MITIGATION: On-going inspections and monitoring of this area for wild horse use by White River Field Office staff would continue. It may take time for the wild horses that utilize this area to become aware of this cattleguard however it is not expected that a wild horse will become trapped in it since it will be modified (horse-proofed) prior to installation.

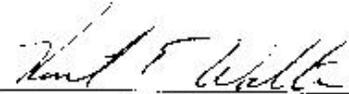
NAME OF PREPARER: Melissa J. Kindall

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Heather Sauls

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this CX and have decided to approve 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 12 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:


Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

07/07/11

ATTACHMENTS: Figure 1: Location of the Monument Gulch Cattleguard

Figure 1: Location of the Monument Gulch Cattleguard

(Note: The fence line is not plotted accurately. However, the location of the cattleguard was recorded with a GPS in the fall of 2010 and is accurate.)



- Cattlegd
- ▭ FieldOffice_Boundary_WRFO
- ▭ North Piceance HA
- ▭ Piceance East Douglas HMA
- ▭ West Douglas HA
- ▭ PLSO_Sectbas_GCD82008
- ▭ PLSO_Township_GCD82008
- Range_ImprovementLine



6/14/2010

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles

Sources:
BLM, USGS, CDDW, etc.

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