

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

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW AND APPROVAL

DOI-BLM-MT-L070-2012-0003-CX

Project Title: Loma Bridge Road

Location: Chouteau County, Montana
T. 25 N., R. 10 E., Section 18: Lots 4 & 5, Parcels A & B

Applicant/Address: Chouteau County Commissioners
Box 459
Fort Benton, Montana 59442

Project Contact:

Name: Deb Tucek
Title: Realty Specialist
Office: Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument
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Lewistown, MT 59457
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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW AND APPROVAL

A. Background

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: MTM-78762

Description of Proposed Action:

Chouteau County has submitted an application requesting to renew a current Right-of-Way (ROW) authorization for a county road and bridge located on BLM near Loma, Montana. It is further described as: T. 25 N., R. 10 E., Section 18: Lots 4, 5 - Parcels A & B. The original ROW was issued in 1991, and expires this year (2011). The ROW is approximately 3700' in length – 100' wide, totaling approximately 8.49 acres. This is an existing road and bridge and no new construction or new routing is planned. The road is used by all members of the public for access across and through public land. They have asked for a perpetual term.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance *(select all that apply)*

- Headwaters RMP (approved in July 1984)
- West HiLine RMP (approved in September 1988 and on January 29, 1992 for the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River)
- Judith-Valley-Phillips RMP (approved on September 9, 1994)
- Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Final EIS for Montana and North and South Dakota (approved on August 7, 1997)
- Off-Highway Vehicle EIS and Proposed Plan Amendment for Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota (approved on June 18, 2003)
- Fire/Fuels Management EA/Plan Amendment for Montana and the Dakotas (approved on September 26, 2003)
- Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument Approved Resource Management Plan (approved on December 4, 2008)
- Other *(specify name/date approved)*

Conformance:

The proposed action is in conformance with the land use plan(s) selected above, which states as follows: *(If more than one plan applies, include the page no. and language from all applicable plans):*

<i>Page No.</i>	<i>Language</i>
56	Applications for rights-of-way will also be considered for necessary and adequate access across BLM land ...

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with (select one):

43 CFR 46.210, or

516 DM 11.9

Appropriate CX Number and Text, or Paraphrase of the Text:

E (9) Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.

The proposed action has been reviewed and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having significant effects on the environment.

Explanation of why there is no potential for significant impacts:

The road and bridge have already been constructed and have been authorized since September of 1991. Any maintenance performed shall be within the current right-of-way corridor and will comply with all stipulations attached with the authorization. While there is new information concerning climate change, global warming, and greenhouse gas emissions, the information does not add significantly to the site-specific environmental effects of the proposed action.

D: Signature

I considered this review and determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to approve the proposed action.

Pertinent design features, stipulations or mitigation (if applicable):

Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures will be made by the authorized officer after consulting with the holder.

The holder shall be responsible for weed control on disturbed areas within the limits of the right-of-way. All vehicles shall be power washed free of dirt and plant seeds prior to being brought onto the right-of-way to prevent the spread of noxious weeds. The holder shall be responsible for invasive weed control for the life of the right-of-way plus three (3) years. The holder is responsible for consultation with the authorized officer and/or local authorities for acceptable weed control methods (within limits imposed in the grant stipulations).

Access should be limited to times when it can occur without undue road/resource damage (i.e., rutting in excess of 3", sliding off of the road, erosion, etc).

Authorizing Official: _____



(Signature)

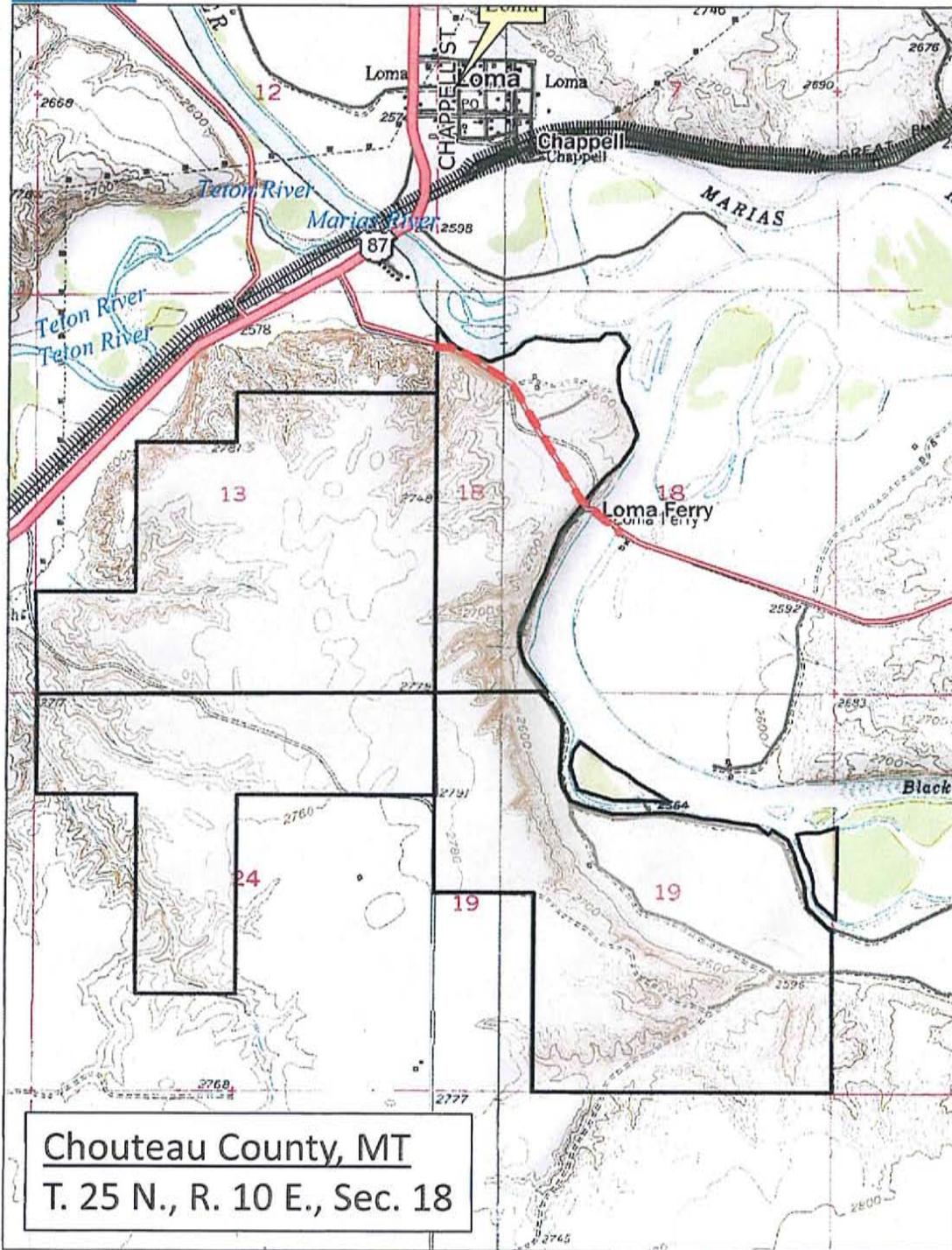
Date: _____

4/29/2014

Name:

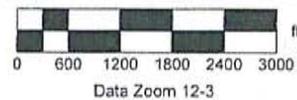
Title:

Monument Manager



Chouteau County, MT
T. 25 N., R. 10 E., Sec. 18

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 Bureau of Land Management Administered Lands –
 Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument

 Right-of-Way MTM-78762