



In Reply To:

# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
 Lewistown Field Office  
 Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument  
 920 NE Main Street  
 Lewistown, Montana 59457  
<http://www.blm.gov/mt>



## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

<b>Office/Area:</b> Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument & Lewistown FO	<b>CX#:</b> DOI-BLM-MT-L070-2012-0009-CX
	<b>Date Posted:</b> 6/1/2012
<b>Name:</b> <i>Woodhawk Exclosure</i>	<b>Date Due:</b> 6/15/2012
<b>Location:</b> T. 23 N., R. 21 E., Sec. 21: NE¼	Fergus County, Montana

Originator Date/Initials	Title	Assignment
<i>Tom Darrington</i>	Rangeland Management Specialist	Complete Cx

Reviewer	Title	Assignment	Date/Initials
Tom Darrington	Rangeland Management Spec.	Range/Veg/Soils	<i>TD 5/31/2012</i>
Zane Fulbright	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources	<i>ZLF 11/27/12</i>
Jody Peters	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife, T&E	<i>JBP 5/31/12</i>
Kelly McGill	Recreation Planner	Rec., Wilderness, Visual	<i>KAM 6/4/12</i>
Chad Krause	Hydrologist	Water/Riparian	<i>CRK 6/1/12</i>
Jerry Majerus	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Environmental Coordinator	<i>jam 6/1/2012</i>

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

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**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

**DOI-BLM-MT-L070-2012-0009-CX**

**Project Title:** Woodhawk Exclosure

**Location:** T. 23 N., R. 21 E., Sec. 21: NE¼

**Applicant/Address:** On File

**Project Contact:**

**Name:** Tom Darrington  
**Title:** Rangeland Management Specialist  
**Office:** Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument  
**Telephone No.:** 406-538-1914

Central Montana District Office  
920 NE Main Street  
Lewistown, MT 59457  
Phone: 406-538-1900



## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW AND APPROVAL

### A. Background

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: **RIP 015326**

Description of Proposed Action:

**Install one acre enclosure around pit reservoir located in the Woodhawk Allotment. Installment of the enclosure will limit livestock access to the reservoir in order to protect and improve the riparian resources on Woodhawk Creek. The enclosure will be constructed of long lasting, low maintenance steel pipe, and will imitate the "jack fence" type of construction (see attached photo). The enclosure's design will allow year around access to wildlife, while precluding use of the reservoir by livestock during certain times of the year.**

**On July 13, 2009 a final decision was issued implementing the proposed action of the Woodhawk Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal Environmental Assessment (EA) MT-066-08-035. The EA identifies removal of the reservoir as a way to mitigate impacts from livestock grazing along Woodhawk Creek. The reservoir was allowing livestock to remain in the area even after available water from the ephemeral creek had dried up. After completion of the EA, it was determined that the reservoir was a good source of water for wildlife, and implementation of an enclosure around the reservoir would be more beneficial than removal of the reservoir itself.**

### 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>
45 - UMRBNM- RMP	<b>The BLM will maintain and/or improve the riparian-wetland areas based on proper functioning condition and the desired plant community.</b> <b>Activity plan updates, such as watershed plans or allotment management plans, will emphasize riparian habitat restoration and protection.</b>
46 - UMRBNM- RMP	<b>Riparian-wetland objectives will continue to be developed and implemented through the watershed planning process or as a result of monitoring data. Exclosures, change in season of use, refined grazing prescription, riparian pastures, etc. could be use to achieve PFC and/or the desired plant community.</b>

**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:

**J (9) Construction of small protective enclosures, including those to protect reservoirs and springs and those to protect small study areas.**

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 size of the enclosure is small (approximately 1 acre). The area was previously disturbed with creation of the existing reservoir along with an older abandoned reservoir which has been reclaimed. There will be minimal impacts from construction of the enclosure, which will be beneficial to the resource by enhancing the riparian functionality along Woodhawk Creek.**

**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):

**The enclosure will be design to allow wildlife, particularly deer, elk and bighorn sheep access to the available water source, while precluding unwanted use by livestock. The design of the enclosure will meet all applicable fence guidelines and specifications set forth by the BLM, specifically those for Bighorn sheep.**

Authorizing Official: Mark Schaefer Date: 11/28/2012  
(Signature)

Name: Mark Schaefer  
Title: Acting Monument Manager

**ATTACHED PHOTO 1**

