

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

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Project Title: Woodhawk Crossing Road Temporary Closure

Location: T23N R21E, Section 21, Fergus County

Applicant/Address:

Project Contact:

Name: Michael Kania
Title: Monument Manager
Office: Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument
Telephone No.: 406-538-1900

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.: DOI-BLM-MT-L070-2013-007-CX

Description of Proposed Action:

Flooding in June of 2013 washed out the the road crossing on Woodhawk Creek. The crossing was constructed of concrete and provided a safe and solid crossing for Woodhawk Creek. The flood and subsequent high water flows removed the concrete crossing and cut a deep, vertical cut, approximately five feet deep, perpendicularly across Woodhawk Creek, creating an unsafe situation for vehicular travel. The road has been closed on site by the emergency authority granted the Monument Manager. A barrier has been erected to stop traffic from approaching the washout.

This is temporary closure. The BLM is proposing to build a new crossing. Several design scenarios have been proposed, but further engineering investigation is necessary to identify the best design solution.

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>
	The temporary closure of roads for safety reasons is not specifically addressed in this plan. However, the BLM Manual 1112 (Safety – section .04 Responsibility) requires the Manager responsible within their respective area of jurisdiction for “eliminating or minimizing physical or environmental conditions which are causing, or which have the potential to cause harm to persons, property, or the environment.”

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:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, (G3) Transportation – Temporary closure of roads and trails.

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 DM2 apply.

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:

This proposal is intended to protect public health and safety and will not have significant impacts on the natural, geographic, historic or cultural resources in the National Monument. Any environmental effects resulting from this emergency road closure would be immeasurable and no adverse direct or indirect effects are anticipated and no cumulative effects would occur.

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):

Authorizing Official:  Date: 7/21/2013
(Signature)

Name: Michael Kania
Title: Monument Manager

Decision
DOI-BLM-MT-L070-2013-0007CX
Woodhawk crossing temporary road closure

Decision and Rationale on Action

I have decided to implement the emergency closure of Woodhawk Crossing Road at the crossing of Woodhawk Creek. Flooding in June of 2013 washed out the road crossing on Woodhawk Creek. The crossing was constructed of concrete and provided a safe and solid crossing for Woodhawk Creek. The flood and subsequent high water flows removed the concrete crossing and cut a deep, vertical cut, approximately five feet deep, perpendicularly across Woodhawk Creek, creating an unsafe situation for vehicular travel. The road has been closed on site by the emergency authority granted the Monument Manager. A barrier has been erected to stop traffic from approaching the washout.

In addition, I have reviewed the plan conformance statement and have determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required under the National Environmental Policy Act (as documented in the attached CX, NEPA Compliance [Section C]).

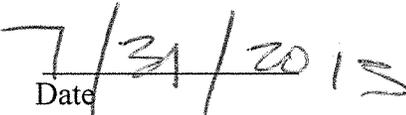
Implementation Date

This project will be implemented on or after July 31, 2013



Signature

Michael Kania
Monument Manager



Date

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities

The decision is not subject to administrative appeal

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this decision, contact Michael Kania, Monument Manager, Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, 920 NE Main, Lewistown, Montana 59457, or 406-538-1900