



United States Department of the Interior



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

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Office/Area: Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument	CX# - DOI-BLM-MT-L070-2014-0009-CX
	Date Posted: August 26, 2014
Name: Upper Missouri Wild and Scenic River Exclosure Fence Repairs	Date Due: August 29, 2014
Location: T26N R12E SEC. 12: NW ¼ T24N R21E SEC. 34: SE ¼	Blaine & Chouteau Counties, Montana

Originator Date/Initials	Title	Assignment
<i>Mark R. Schaefer</i>	Supervisory ORP	CX

Reviewer	Title	Assignment	Date/Initials
Zane Fulbright	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources	ZLF 9/4/14
Ben Hileman	Range Specialist	Range	BJH 9/9/14
Kenny Keever	Natural Res. Spec.	Weeds	KCK 9/10/14
Chad Krause	Hydrologist	Hydrology/Riparian	CRK 9/15/2014
Jody Peters	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife	JBP 8/29/14

 Environmental Coordinator

 Date

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

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Project Title: Upper Missouri Wild and Scenic River Exclosure Fence
Repairs

Location: T26N R12E SEC. 12: NW ¼
T24N R21E SEC. 34: SE ¼

Applicant/Address: On File

Project Contact:

Name: Mark Schaefer
Title: Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner
Office: Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument
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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW AND APPROVAL

A. Background

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: DOI-BLM-MT-070-0009-CX

Description of Proposed Action:

This project encompasses two separate fence repair projects at two separate locations on the Upper Missouri River Wild and Scenic River, located within the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. Each project will be described separately.

1. Little Sandy Developed Boat Camp Enclosure:

This existing enclosure encompasses approximately 12 acres of riparian vegetation adjacent to the Missouri River and Little Sandy Creek. The existing barbed wire fence is in a state of serious disrepair and needs to be repaired. This proposal will repair the existing fence in the same or very close to, same location, with the addition of two barbed wire recreation site fence enclosures comprising approximately 1 acre each at opposite ends of the campground enclosing the areas in and around the existing fire rings and to include the vault toilet on the downstream end of the campground. This will create two four-sided enclosure that will prevent cattle from accessing the enclosed recreation campsite areas. This four strand fence will have three strands of barbed wire, with a bottom strand of smooth wire set 18" up from the ground to facilitate wildlife passage. The fence will have wooden brace posts at all four corners and two post/pole walk thru gates for pedestrian passage. The resultant fence will blend with the existing cultural landscape of wire fences, will not be visually evident from the Wild and Scenic Missouri River, will mitigate conflicts between livestock and recreationists and will not detract from the visual resource.

2. Gist Bottom Primitive Boat Camp Enclosure:

This existing enclosure encompasses approximately 5 acres of riparian vegetation adjacent to the Missouri River. A serious ice jam last winter on the Missouri River resulted in ice barging that destroyed approximately 670 feet of the existing wooden post and pole fence. The proposal is to replace the destroyed 670' of wooden post and pole fence with a barbed wire fence in the same or very close to, same location. This project will re-create the previous four-sided enclosure and will prevent cattle from accessing the enclosed riparian area and campsite. This new portion of four strand fence will have three strands of barbed wire, with a bottom strand of smooth wire set 18" up from the ground to facilitate wildlife passage. The fence will have wooden brace posts where necessary and two four foot gates for pedestrian passage. The resultant fence will blend with the existing cultural landscape of wire and wood fences, will not be visually evident from the Wild and Scenic Missouri River, and will not detract from the visual resource.

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

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 project is to replace fencing that surrounds existing exclosures. The areas are small, each approximately 1-2 acres. The areas were previously disturbed by fence and campsite construction. There will be minimal impacts from the new fence constructions, which will be beneficial to the resources by enhancing the riparian functionality along the Missouri River.

D: Signature

The exclosures will be designed to allow wildlife passage, particularly deer, elk and bighorn sheep, while precluding unwanted use by livestock. Fence design for the exclosures will meet all applicable fence guidelines and specifications set forth by the BLM, specifically those for Bighorn sheep.



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

Authorizing Official: _____

Michael Kania
(Signature)

Date: _____

9/15/2014

Name: Michael Kania

Title: Monument Manager

