

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

A. Background

BLM Office: Prineville Field Office

NEPA Log #: OR-056-09-001

Serial Number: OR 17234

Proposed Action: Renew right-of-way (ROW) grant OR 17234 and make its term perpetual to protect the Central Electric Cooperative's (CEC) ROW for an electric power transmission line.

Location: Approximately 5 miles SE of the city of Prineville in Crook County, OR.
Willamette Meridian, Oregon
T.15S., R.16E., section 34, S1/2S1/2.

Description of the Proposed Action: Section 34 has been selected by Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) to fulfill part of the lands debt owed by the Federal Government (Indemnity Selection). When conveyed, section 34 will become the property of the State of Oregon. Conveyance will be subject to current encumbrances. The current ROW grant expired in 2007. This action would renew that grant and make the term of the ROW perpetual. The ROW is 20' wide and 5238' long, totaling 2.4 acres.

Amending a ROW grant to change the term is permitted at the holders request pursuant to 43CFR2806.14(d) and 43CFR2806.20(c). CEC has made this request after notification of the pending conveyance.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: *Upper Deschutes Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan*
Date approved (ROD): September 2005

The proposed action is in conformance with the above plan because it is specifically provided for in the following land use plan decisions:

Transportation and Utilities Management Direction, page 135: Objective TU-1, Guideline 8.

“Objective TU - 1: Provide new or modified rights-of-way for transportation/utility corridors and communication/energy sites to meet expected demands and minimize environmental impacts.”

Guideline 8: “Each right-of-way grant or permit will reserve to the BLM the right to issue additional rights for compatible uses on or adjacent to the project.”

C. Compliance with NEPA

516 DM 11.9, E. Realty, 9, “Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.”

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 DM 2 apply.

I considered the evaluation of the local resource experts. There will be no physical impacts from implementation of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action will renew the existing ROW grant across the land to be transferred to a perpetual ROW grant. CEC will retain its ability to provide service to customers into the future. As nothing changes with the exception of the type of ROW, there is no potential for significant impacts.

D. Signature

Authorizing official: Molly M. Brown 11/17/08
Molly M. Brown Date
Field Manager
Deschutes Resource Area, Prineville District

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this review, contact: Doug Vandergon, Realty Specialist
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