

Categorical Exclusion Review
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Boise District Office
Four Rivers Field Office

Idaho Military Division Range 13, 14, 15 RoW

CE No.: ID-110-2009-CE-412	Lease/Serial/Case File No.: IDI-34887, IDI-35366
Purpose and Need for Action: Idaho Power received requests from Idaho Military Division (IMD) to expand and improve firing ranges 13, 14, and 15 within the Orchard Training Area.	
Description of Proposed Action: The action would be to amend 2 rights-of-way to Idaho Military Division. IDI-34887 would allow them to expand small arms ranges 14 and 15 and to add pistol range 13. The new improvements would include a new observation tower at each range. The area involved is already highly impacted by the current ranges and military training. This action would essentially recognize the already used areas and allow for installation of the towers and some additional targets on the already disturbed areas. IDI-35366 would allow them to add 2 buried powerline spurs to serve range 13 and the nearby tactical base Donaldson. The improvements would be on land that is currently in use as a part of the Orchard Training Area and has already been highly impacted. The right-of-way would be amended subject to the applicable regulations at 43 CFR 2800 and the Boise District standard right-of-way stipulations (Attachment A). The grant terms would remain unchanged. IDI-34887 would encompass an area 656 acres. IDI-35366 would have new lines totaling 2,400 feet in length. The right-of-way would be 15 feet in width. The total acres added to the grant would be 0.83.	
Project Location: Secs 5,6,7, T3S, R4E; Secs 1,12, T3S, R3E; Sec 31, T2S, R4E	
Applicant (if any): Idaho Military Division	
Part I – Plan Conformance Review	
This proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: Snake River Birds of Prey NCA RMP Date Plan Approved: 2008	
The proposed action is in conformance with the RMP which states that BLM would “Authorize military training in a manner that reduces impacts to existing shrub habitats, supports BLM habitat restoration projects, and provides modified and/or new training areas to enhance military training opportunities.	
Remarks:	
Part II – NEPA Review	
A. Categorical Exclusion Review: This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM11.9 E (16). Category description: Acquisition of easements for an existing road or issuance of leases, permits, or rights-of-way for the use of existing facilities, improvements, or sites for the same or similar purpose	
B. Exceptions Review (Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances Review): Review the 12 exceptions which apply to individual actions within categorical exclusion. Environmental documents (EA or EIS) must be prepared for any actions involving these exceptions. The following Departmental List of	

Extraordinary Circumstances apply to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents MUST BE PREPARED for actions which may: (Mark applicable answer for each item. If "yes", prepare an EA/EIS and append this form to it.)

List of Exceptions

1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.

Yes No Specialist Signature/Date: *Michael Borkoski 2-25-2009*

Comments/Explanation: Based upon many right-of-ways that we have granted for similar powerlines and other military uses we do not anticipate any significant impact to public health and safety.

2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; or ecologically significant or critical areas, or is not in compliance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Yes No Specialist Signature/Date: *Michael Borkoski 2-25-2009*

Comments/Explanation: The action would occur within the Snake River Birds of Prey NCA. The Orchard Training Area within the NCA, however, has been designated for military training for many years. The powerlines would be buried in the already disturbed ranges used as a part of the Orchard Training Area. Therefore, there would be no significant impact to this ecologically significant area, natural resources, or unique geographic characteristics.

3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].

Yes No Specialist Signature/Date: *Michael Borkoski 2-25-2009*

Comments/Explanation: The area has already been highly impacted by the ongoing military training and firing ranges. We issue numerous powerline RoWs and RoWs for military training facilities and are not aware of any highly controversial environmental effects or conflicts.

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

Yes No Specialist Signature/Date: *Michael Borkoski 2-25-2009*

Comments/Explanation: Based upon the many right-of-ways that we have granted for similar powerlines and military training areas, we do not anticipate significant environmental effects. The areas are already in use by and highly impacted by military training.

5. Establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

Yes No Specialist Signature/Date: *Michael Borkoski 2-25-2009*

Comments/Explanation: Authorizations of this type are a typical use of the public lands and do not set a precedent for future actions.

6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

Yes No Specialist Signature/Date: *Michael Borkoski 2-25-2009*

Comments/Explanation: The addition of the buried powerlines and the expansion of the firing range areas would be negligible compared to the military and public use impacts that already occur in the area.

7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.

Yes No Specialist Signature/Date: *Dean Shaw 2-19-2009*

Comments/Explanation: A clearance was obtained from the FRFO archeologist and no listed or eligible properties were identified.

8. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: <i>Mark Steiger 11-19-2008 Jill Holdenman 12-11-2008</i>
Plants <i>Comments/Explanation:</i> A Clearance was obtained and there would be no effects		
Wildlife <i>Comments/Explanation:</i> A Clearance was obtained and there would be no effects		
Aquatics <i>Comments/Explanation:</i> There are no aquatics in the affected areas		
9. Violate a Federal, State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: <i>Michael Borikoski 2-25-2009</i>
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> This action would not violate any known law or requirement.		
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: <i>Michael Borikoski 2-25-2009</i>
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> This action should not affect anyone but the Idaho Military Division who requested it.		
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: <i>Michael Borikoski 2-25-2009</i>
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> Access for such use would not be limited as long as there are not live fire exercises being conducted. The IMD consults with the local tribe through the Wings and Roots process.		
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: <i>Michael Borikoski 2-25-2009</i>
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> The addition of the powerlines and modification of the firing ranges would have no more influence on the introduction or spread of these plants than that which is already occurring as a result of the current military training operation. Nevertheless, one of the standard stipulations that we place on right-of-way grants ensures that the holder is held responsible for preventing such conditions.		
I certify that none of the Departmental exceptions (Extraordinary Circumstances) listed in the above Part II (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action; therefore, this categorical exclusion is appropriate for this situation.		
Remarks:		
Authorizing Official: <i>John Sullivan</i>		Date: <i>4-6-09</i>
Name: John Sullivan		
Title: NCA Manager		

Part III – Conclusion

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to pursue the issuance of a right-of-way grant, as described, with the stipulation(s) described above. A final decision will be issued with the RoW and administrative remedies will be identified at that time.

Mitigation Measures/Other Remarks:

Remarks:

Authorizing Official:

Date:

Name: John Sullivan

Title: NCA Manager