

**Klamath Falls Resource Area
Optional Plan Conformance Review/NEPA Compliance Record
and/or Categorical Exclusion Review**

Klamath Falls Resource Area Project File Number: Klamath Falls R.A. (OR-O14 KCER-02-02)

Proposed Action Title/Type: Yainax Butte Radio Tower Replacement

Location of Proposed Action: This CX covers the electronic site on Yainax Butte T.37 S., R. 12 E., Sec. 26 within the Klamath Falls Resource area. The project area includes approximately one acre.

Description of Proposed Action:

Replace wooden poles with antennas with one 20-foot metal tower. Near the site of three existing wooden poles, use a rubber-tired backhoe to excavate an 11'-7" x 11'-7" x 4'-0" thick concrete slab foundation and erect the metal tower. Existing poles will be removed, and the new tower will be grounded and connected to existing equipment building. There are no plans to enlarge or replace the existing radio building. However, improvements to this building will be made – either patching and painting, or encasing with metal sheeting.

PART 1: PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW. This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan: Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary, June 1995 (KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS).

The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3).

Signature of Reviewer: D.K. Hoffheins Title: Planner

Remarks: References to the proposed action are found on the following pages of the KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS: Page 42 – Yainax Butte Special Area; Page 69 – Table 15 Yainax Butte Communication Site.

Other Remarks: **Special Area values will not be adversely affected by the proposed action. Location is designated a communication site.**

PART 2: NEPA REVIEW

A. Categorical exclusion review. This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM2.3A (2), Appendix 1, (Exclusion 1.7). It has been reviewed and None of the exceptions described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Signature of Reviewer: D.K. Hoffheins Title: Planner

B. Existing EA/EIS review. This proposed action is addressed in the following existing BLM EA/EIS:

Signature of Reviewer: Not Applicable

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Surveys needed for special status plants and animals, for cultural resources, and other resources as necessary: (Circle/Underline one) 1) are completed 2) will be completed 3) are not needed

Remarks:

1. A population of *Penstemon glaucinus* is present on the mountain but not at the location of the tower.
2. The site was reviewed by the Resource Area Archaeologist and the Klamath Tribes' Cultural Resource Site Protection Specialist. The site is religiously significant to the Klamath Tribes. Cultural resources are found on the mountain, but not in the location where the new tower would be placed. Consultation with the Klamath Tribes has occurred. The Tribal representative was concerned about all the clutter (old wires, car batteries, possibly old lookout tower/building, etc) that exists up on the mountain (mostly unrelated to the electronic facilities). The Tribes verbally requested that the clutter be removed. Most of the material is associated with an old lookout tower belonging to the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). Bill Hunt, ODF, has been contacted and verbally agreed to work cooperatively with the BLM to remove the clutter.

Mitigation Measures/Other Remarks: Interdisciplinary Team review of this project has been completed. The following concerns will be addressed according to Specialist direction. Work will begin only on projects areas that have been surveyed and cleared. Potential impacts can be further mitigated by the following measures:

- A) Archaeologist will have to be on site during work, and will survey the immediate area at that time.
- B) Equipment will be washed off before coming on site to minimize spread of noxious weeds.
- C) Noxious weeds may need to be cut from the middle of access road so that weed seeds are not carried to the top on undercarriages of vehicles.
- D) One pole will remain during tower construction for BLM and State repeater use. When the project is complete, all antennas will be mounted on the new tower.
- E) The temporary placement of antennas during construction will be determined at the start of the project for optimal coverage. Existing equipment at the site will be used for mounting the temporary antennas.
- F) Removed poles should be flush cut to their foundations/footers and then the footers covered with native rock. Removed poles (treated) must be bucked and hauled off site to appropriate landfill.

Categorical Exclusion No. KCER-02-02

Name: Yainax Butte Radio Tower Replacement

Description of Proposed Action: Replace wooden poles with antennas with one 20-foot metal tower. Near the site of three existing wooden poles, use a rubber-tired backhoe to excavate an 11'-7" x 11'-7" x 4'-0" thick concrete slab foundation and erect the metal tower. Existing poles will be removed, and the new tower will be grounded and connected to existing equipment building. There are no plans to enlarge or replace the existing radio equipment building. However, improvements to this building will be made – either patching and painting, or encasing with metal sheeting.

Location of Proposed Action: On Yainax Butte, T.37 S., R. 12 E., Sec. 26, within Klamath Falls Resource Area.

Categorical Exclusion Review: The proposed action has been reviewed and qualifies as a categorical exclusion based on 516 DM 2.3A (2), Appendix 1, Exclusion 1.7, which provides for, “routine and continuing government business, including . . . replacement activities having limited context and intensity”.

The proposal has also been screened to determine if any special circumstances exist that would warrant NEPA analysis and documentation. This project does not meet the criteria for exception under 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 as summarized below:

1. Significant adverse effects on health and safety;
2. Have adverse effects on unique resources;
3. Highly controversial effects;
4. Having significant effects or unknown risks;
5. Establish a precedent;
6. Have a significant cumulative effect, individually or combined;
7. Adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
8. Have adverse effects on Threatened or Endangered Species;
9. Require compliance for Floodplains, Wetlands or Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act,
10. Threaten to violate a Federal, State, Local, or tribal law, regulation, executive order.

Specialist Review and Mitigation Measures: A review of the proposed action was completed by resource specialists and their concerns have been incorporated into project design. Potential impacts can be further mitigated by the following measures:

- A) Archaeologist will have to be on site during work, and will survey the immediate area at that time
- B) Equipment will be washed off before coming on site to minimize spread of noxious weeds.
- C) Noxious weeds may need to be cut from middle of access road so that weed seeds are not carried to the top on undercarriages of vehicles
- D) One pole will remain during tower construction for BLM and State repeater use. When the project is complete, all antennas will be mounted on the new tower.
- E) The temporary placement of antennas during construction will be determined at the start of the project for optimal coverage. Existing equipment at the site will be used for mounting the temporary antennas.
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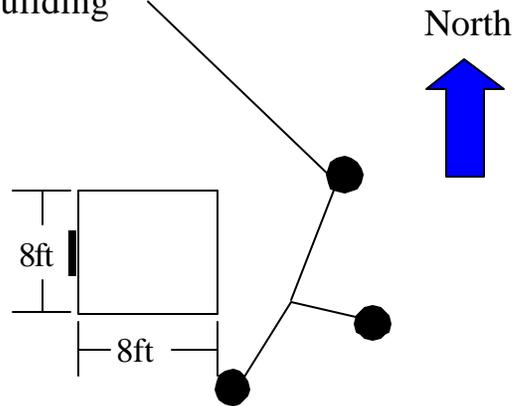
Determination and Decision: I have reviewed the Proposed Action in accordance with 516 DM, the above exceptions, and specialist’s reviews, and determined that the proposed project is a categorical exclusion and does not have any unusual circumstances or overriding resource concerns; therefore, no additional environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, with mitigation measures identified above.

/s/ Teresa A. Raml
Field Manager

12/28/01
Date

Yainax Butte Radio Site

Existing wooden poles
Unsure of distances
between poles and
building



Lat: 42 19 34 Long: 112 16 11
Elevation: 7226
OSDF shares this site with BLM

