

Attachment 10E(1)

Explanatory Note for the Bureau of Land Management August 2, 2010

Attached is the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) report for projects that are funded under Section 1609 (c) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The BLM NEPA report documents the NEPA status for all BLM ARRA projects through June 30, 2010.

The NEPA reporting procedures and requirements have been completed for BLM ARRA projects. NEPA compliance for BLM ARRA funded projects consist of Categorical Exclusions (CEs), Environmental Assessments (EAs), and Environmental Impact Statements (EISs).

The BLM currently has 464 NEPA actions for Recovery Act projects for 610 ARRA projects. In some cases, ARRA projects have been grouped together and evaluated under one NEPA document where appropriate and shown as one line on the Spreadsheet; the multiple entries have been deleted from the list (see table below).

BLM has completed 464 NEPA actions (100%) for Recovery Act projects. The BLM documents CEs by completing a NEPA compliance checklist for ARRA projects. NEPA documentation for many CEs reported as pending in the previous BLM ARRA NEPA report has been completed. There are currently no pending NEPA actions for Recovery Act projects. On the previous report, BLM had 36 pending NEPA actions. Pending status for NEPA actions were due to seasonal conditions within the project areas and work with various partners during the NEPA process.

NEPA for some ARRA projects were completed several years ago. BLM has reviewed these completed NEPA actions and concluded that there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts, and that the conditions of and around the projects have not changed significantly.

The BLM submits the following explanations summarizing BLM's changes from the previous report.

Reduction of Pending NEPA actions – Between the last reporting period and this one, BLM has reduced our number of pending NEPA actions from 36 to 0. On the last report (March 31, 2010), BLM completed 95% of our NEPA actions. At the end of this reporting period, BLM has completed 100% of our NEPA actions.

Progress towards obligating funds - For the period ending 3/31/2010, BLM obligated \$188,099,877. At the end of this reporting period (6/30/2010), we have obligated \$276,230,015. This is an increase of \$88,130,138 in a 3 month period. The amounts reflected on Recovery.gov are lower than the amounts reflected in this report because this report includes amounts obtained through agreements with other agencies to accomplish various components of the ARRA projects.

Total ARRA appropriations for MLR and Construction Funds – The appropriation totals reflected in this report are only for the project categories and do not include the funds allocated towards administrative support of ARRA.

Withdrawn Projects

There are a total of 42 withdrawn projects. There have been various reasons why these projects have been withdrawn, as shown in the table below.

Row	Title/Project	Project / Activity	Reason for withdrawal
499	Remediation of Abandoned Mines	East Pacific/Chartam Mine Reclamation	The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), which is a cooperating agency on this project has lost its funding for the project and would not be able to meet their obligations.
500	Remediation of Abandoned Mines	Islander Mine - install access barriers and fencing to reduce risks and protect habitat.	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes
501	Remediation of Abandoned Mines	Jelly Roll mine closure project	The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), which is a cooperating agency on this project has lost its funding for the project and would not be able to meet their obligations.
503	Remediation of Abandoned Mines	Utah Shaft Closures - physical safety hazards	Unable to complete in ARRA timeframes
469	Capital Improvement	Baker Oregon, Ground Source Heat Pump replacement	Unable to complete in ARRA timeframes
472	Capital Improvement	Craig Hot Shot Photovoltaic	Unable to complete in ARRA timeframes
474	Capital Improvement	Kipp Campground replace visitor contact station.	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes which is not being funded by ARRA funds.
475	Capital Improvement	LA Posa Recreation Site - Waste Water Facility	Unable to acquire State water permits in ARRA timeframes
476	Capital Improvement	Windy Point Boat Launch	Contracting issues
478	Deferred Maintenance Construction	Castle Gardens Recreation Site replace and relocate Comfort Station to resolve safety and health is	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes which is not being funded by ARRA funds.
479	Deferred Maintenance Construction	Imperial Dam Lagoon remediation of wastewater treatment lagoon from (CASHE), PH I	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes which is not being funded by ARRA funds.
481	Deferred Maintenance Construction	Miles City Ops Building Accessibility Retrofit	Combined with another project not receiving ARRA funding
482	Deferred Maintenance Construction	Paxon Lake Campground Entrance Road Repair for access to the Gulkana National Wild River	Completion of first project eliminated need for this project
483	Deferred Maintenance Construction	Piedras Blancas Lightstation Potable Water System	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes
484	Deferred Maintenance Construction	Replace the chilling unit as part of an on-going contract to repair the aging heating ventilation a	Project funded with appropriated \$ to avoid delays during project selection process
485	Deferred Maintenance Construction	South Park Canyon Bridge	Completion of first project eliminated need for this project
486	Deferred Maintenance Construction	Tyrrell Seed Orchard Pollen Lab Replacement	Unable to meet ARRA Timeframes
487	Deferred Maintenance Construction	Vernon Flood Repair	Funded with non-ARRA money during project selection phase
489	Deferred Maintenance Construction	White Mountain National Recreation Area - rehabilitation of Nome Creek Road	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes
477	Deferred Maintenance MLR	Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite Repair	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes
490	Habitat Restoration	HR Digitize Upper Missouri River Riparian Areas	Did not meet ARRA goals
491	Habitat Restoration	HR Native Fish Enhancement Project	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes
492	Habitat Restoration	HRB Ibapah Biomass Stewardship Contract	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes
494	Habitat Restoration	HRB Knox Mt. Juniper Project	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes
495	Habitat Restoration	HRB Rockhouse Thinning Stewardship - Contract for the thinning of Pinyon and Juniper on 3000 acres t	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes
496	Habitat Restoration	HRB Roseburg Biomass Utilization	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes
497	Habitat Restoration	HRB South Cleghorn/grasshopper Stewardship/bio-mass,	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes

Row	Title/Project	Project / Activity	Reason for withdrawal
498	Habitat Restoration	HRB Uncompahgre Ponderosa	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes
508	Roads and Bridges Deferred Maintenance	Barrell Springs Road Gravel	Completed prior to project approval
509	Roads and Bridges Deferred Maintenance	Black Rock NCA Access Roads	Engineering estimate higher than available funds
510	Roads and Bridges Deferred Maintenance	Lime Kiln Dozer Road Realign and Repair	Engineering estimate higher than available funds
511	Roads and Bridges Deferred Maintenance	Painted Rocks Petroglyph Access Road Surfacing	Engineering estimate higher than available funds
513	Roads and Bridges Deferred Maintenance	Repair the 5-Springs Road - install guard rails and drainage structures on the access road to the r	Completed without ARRA funding
515	Trails Deferred Maintenance	National Historic Trail Interpretive Site Maintenance/upgrade and trail marking	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes
516	Trails Deferred Maintenance	Pot trail repair - Provide sustainable hiking trail in the Bear Trapp Wildernes Area	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes
517	Trails Deferred Maintenance	Sand Mountain Trails - rehabilitation of 10 miles of Off Highway Vehicle trail in the Carson City Ne	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes
518	Trails Deferred Maintenance	Shotgun Off Highway Vehicle Trails Development	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes
519	Trails Deferred Maintenance	Trail Condition Assessments	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes
520	Trails Deferred Maintenance	Trail restoration of 100 miles of OHV intrusions in WSAs	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes
470	Capital Improvement	Campbell Creek Science Center Biomass Unit Upgrade	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes
480	Deferred Maintenance Construction	Lower Birch Creek Parking Facility Rehabilitation	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes
493	Habitat Restoration	HRB Knox Biomass	Unable to meet ARRA timeframes

Rows that have been combined with other ARRA projects:

In the previous report, BLM erroneously reported that the following projects had been withdrawn because they had been combined with projects that were not funded with ARRA funds. The following is a list of ARRA projects that have been combined with other ARRA projects listed in the Spreadsheet page 2.

Title/Project (row number from May 2010 report Spreadsheet)	Project / Activity	Title/Project that this Project has been combined with (Row number from this Report Spreadsheet)
Remediation of Abandoned Mines (row 476)	Sonoma Mine - mercury contamination - EE/CA- mine waste removal	Combined with Sonoma Mine Project (LXABH0170000). New name is Contact Sonoma Mine [row not on page 2, project NEPA is N/A (CERCLA)]
Capital Improvement (row 478)	Aravaipa West Ranger Station Solar Power Installation	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]
Capital Improvement (row 480)	BLM AZ Communications Sites Solar Power Systems Installation (6 Sites - Oatman, Hayden, Smith, Guthr	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]
Capital Improvement (row 482)	Crossman Peak Communications Site Safety & Security Improvements	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]
Capital Improvement (row 483)	Empire Ranch Solar Power Installation (Vail House, Huachuca House, Garage, Tack Room, and Field Stat	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]
Capital Improvement (row 484)	Farmington Photovoltaic (PV) Solar power System	Combined with building construction [row 81]
Capital Improvement (row 485)	Four Mile Campground Solar Power Installation	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]
Capital Improvement (row 486)	Install a wind turbine at a BLM-owned facility to reduce energy costs.	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]
Capital Improvement (row 487)	Install solar panels at the Pinedale Field Office's shop building in order to reduce energy costs.	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]
Capital Improvement (row 488)	Install solar power to the Cody Interagency Dispatch Center to reduce energy costs.	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]
Capital Improvement (row 489)	Install solar power to the Worland Field Office to reduce energy costs.	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]

Title/Project (row number from May 2010 report Spreadsheet)	Project / Activity	Title/Project that this Project has been combined with (Row number from this Report Spreadsheet)
Capital Improvement (row 490)	Installation of 25 solar lighting packages at recreation sites provide safety for the public	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]
Capital Improvement (row 491)	Kanab - GSENM Photovoltaic System	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]
Capital Improvement (row 494)	Oxbow Recreation Site Solar Power Installation	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]
Capital Improvement (row 495)	Phase 3 - Energy Saving Performance Contract - Arizona	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]
Capital Improvement (row 496)	Phase 3 - Energy Saving Performance Contract - California	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]
Capital Improvement (row 497)	Phase 3 - Energy Saving Performance Contract - Colorado	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]
Capital Improvement (row 498)	Phase 3 - Energy Saving Performance Contract - Idaho	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]
Capital Improvement (row 499)	Phase 3 - Energy Saving Performance Contract - Oregon	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]
Capital Improvement (row 500)	Phase 3 - Energy Saving Performance Contract - Utah	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]
Capital Improvement (row 501)	Phase 3 - Energy Saving Performance Contract New Mexico	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]
Capital Improvement (row 502)	Senator Wash Reservoir Boat Ramp Solar Power Installation	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]
Capital Improvement (row 503)	Senator Wash Reservoir South Mesa LTVA Solar Power Installation	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]
Deferred Maintenance Construction (row 514)	West Twin Culvert and Creek Crossing Rehabilitation	Combined with another East Twin [row 100]
Deferred Maintenance MLR (row 516)	Intern House furnace. Replace inefficient furnace and crawl space at the AHC	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]
Deferred Maintenance MLR (row 518)	Replace all the shop windows with energy efficient windows	Combined into ESPC Contract [row 33]
Roads and Bridges Deferred Maintenance (row 531)	Reclaim Old Access Road	Combined with LDRBC47000 for procurement [row 397]
Trails Deferred Maintenance (row 533)	Howry Island Recreation Area - trail repair to provide safe walking paths.	Combined with Project LDTDF0470000 [row 431]
Renewable Energy Authorization (row 540)	Contract for estimated 225,000 pages of patents to be scanned and placed on-line for public use.	Combined with Land Records Project [row not on page 2, project NEPA is N/A]
Renewable Energy Authorization (row 541)	Ecological Assessments Chihuahuan Desert NM	Combined with other projects [row not on page 2, project NEPA is N/A]
Renewable Energy Authorization (row 542)	Green River Basin Sage Grouse habitat Assmts	Combined with other projects [row not on page 2, project NEPA is N/A]
Renewable Energy Authorization (row 543)	Programmatic EIS for the Imperial Valley West Federal Renewable Energy Zone. Funding would support	Combined with other projects [row not on page 2, project NEPA is N/A]

New ARRA Project example(s) that benefitted from the NEPA process

Moab BLM has two project examples where the NEPA process was beneficial.

The first project example is the Moab Travel Plan Implementation Project (LDTDF0700000) (Row 434). This project's NEPA process (Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Environmental Impact Statement) was completed in October 2008.

The Moab Travel Plan Implementation Project is a direct result of the Travel Plan produced in conjunction with the Moab Resource Management Plan (2008) and Environmental Impact Statement, which included a Travel Plan that designated all routes within limited areas as either designated or closed. The ARRA project will implement on the ground those decisions arrived at in the RMP/EIS.

As part of the Environmental Impact Statement, the Travel Plan was subject to public comments during both the scoping and draft stages. In addition, it was reviewed by affected interests such as county governments, other federal agencies, and state government. The EIS process also included Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as well as State Historic Preservation Officer concurrence. The Moab RMP received over 50,000 comments; 90% of these comments concerned travel management. As a result of the NEPA process, input from the public and partners identified resource concerns and recreation opportunities that were addressed in the Travel Plan. With greater public involvement, the Travel Plan is more implementable because difficulties were ironed out during the public comment period. Implementation work began with Fiscal Year 2010.

The same NEPA process also benefitted another BLM project in the Moab Field Office. The Wilderness Reclamation Project (LDTDF0700000) (row 440) is located along the border of Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) within the Moab Field Office. The Resource Management Plan for the Moab Field Office removed all routes from WSAs. That is, all routes in the WSAs were closed to travel, and the WSAs were designated as "Closed". This non-designation of routes within the WSA means that 83 miles of previously inventoried and available roads in the WSAs are closed and will be rehabilitated. The public involvement part of the NEPA process was instrumental in helping to come to the decision to close all routes in WSAs to protect wilderness values.

Previously reported ARRA project example(s) that benefitted from the NEPA process

The BLM-NM Royal Gorge (row 222) Field Office awarded an \$880,000 contract under ARRA to Hydro Resources Colorado, LLC., a well construction and pump installation contracting company based in Fort Lupton, Colorado. The company will drill a new well to replace the deteriorating 80-year old Park Center Well near Cañon City, CO. This well has provided municipal water for more than 40 years to Park Center Water District users. After the project is completed, the BLM will begin work on a second contract for the abandonment of the old well.

Alaska: A \$24,000 contract supporting (row 443)

ARRA project restoration of the Top of the World Trail was awarded on Mar. 18 to the Student Conservation Association. The association is a national organization that places youth from across the country in natural resource agencies. Participants gain skills and experience in natural resource management and conservation principles while serving America's public lands. The project will harden and rehabilitate approximately 3,500 linear feet of the Top of the World Trail. The trail provides access for recreational and subsistence users while also serving as an access route to the Delta National Wild and Scenic River.

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (row 176)

This project focuses on the repair/reconstruction of the NCA's 70 miles of primary and secondary multiple-use, non-motorized trails--many miles of which are highlighted in the Arizona State Trails System. Maintenance (brushing, tread repair, drainage devices, etc.) of these trails has been minimal since NCA designation, over 20 years ago. Work shall include maintenance, plus installation of adequate trail signage, over most of these 70 miles of trails. The SPRNCA trail system ties directly into 11 trailheads, which is the focus of another Recovery Act project.

Umpqua Basin Fish Passage Restoration project (LXHAB0930000) (row 435)

The Umpqua Basin Fish Passage project was part of a programmatic Environmental Assessment for aquatic restoration work that was completed in the fall of 2009. The process ensured that BLM followed all applicable regulations and conducted appropriate surveys for resources that could be affected by the ARRA project such as rare and endangered plants and cultural resources. Because of the NEPA process the location of one of the culverts was changed because potentially significant 3 cultural resources were found at the original location.

Lime Kiln Salvage Road (LDRBC045000) (row 404)

With this ARRA project, approximately 5.3 miles of new road will be built in order to access and salvage blow down timber north of Lewistown, Montana. About the first mile of the road will be permanent and will give the general public motorized access to BLM land and provide future recreational opportunities. The remaining road (4.3 miles) will access both BLM and state of Montana damaged timber. After the timber sale, with the exception of the first mile, the road will be closed to motorized travel and will be rehabilitated to the extent possible. Some portions will be incorporated into the existing Limekiln Trail System. This project will be completed through contract work.

The public involvement (as part of the NEPA) process was instrumental in helping to design a road system to access the blow down timber and recognize the recreational values of the area. The public emphasized the need for the area to be maintained as a non-motorized use area but also the need to address the blow down timber and subsequent forest health issues. Several proposals were laid out and discussed during public meetings and ultimately the decision was made to build a road to access salvage logging and then close the road to motorized use at the conclusion. Additionally, portions of the road would be rehabilitated to the extent possible while other portions would be incorporated to expand the existing recreational trails in the area.

The decisions were made and subsequently no protest/appeals were received on the project due in large part to the public involvement.

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