

PMC-ND
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
NEPA DETERMINATION



RECIPIENT: NREL

STATE: CO

PROJECT TITLE : Jefferson County Trail Easement Access to NREL South Table Mountain Campus; NREL Tracking No. 15-022

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL-15-022	GO28308

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have made the following determination:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

DOE/EA-1968 (NREL STM)	SITEWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, U.S. DOE NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY, SOUTH TABLE MOUNTAIN CAMPUS, GOLDEN, COLORADO
B1.13 Pathways, short access roads, and rail lines	Construction, acquisition, and relocation, consistent with applicable right-of-way conditions and approved land use or transportation improvement plans, of pedestrian walkways and trails, bicycle paths, small outdoor fitness areas, and short access roads and rail lines (such as branch and spur lines).

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to provide continued property access to Jefferson County at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL's) South Table Mountain (STM) campus in Golden, Colorado. In June 1999, DOE executed a trail easement with Jefferson County to provide access to the county to develop and maintain a public trail for accessing the trail system on South Table Mountain including those lands owned by the county and DOE lands held in a separate conservation easement. The trail easement property is located in the southeast portion of Section 36, Range 70 west, Township 70 west, Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado, and consists of a rectangular parcel of approximately 8 acres of the eastern extent of the NREL STM campus. A map of the trail easement property is included in the documents uploaded to the PMC database.

The easement allows Jefferson County to design, install, construct, operate and maintain trails on the easement property for public pedestrian and non-motorized vehicle recreational uses, including but not limited to walking, jogging, wheel chair use, equestrian use, bicycle use, snow shoeing and cross country skiing. The easement also provides the county motorized and non-motorized access to conduct its responsibilities per the easement and access to maintain other trails in the trail system. Additional information on the rights and responsibilities of DOE and the county can be found in the 1999 Trail Easement and the July 2006 Trail Easement Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which have been uploaded to the PMC database. Future Jefferson County Open Space activities may include a survey of the trail route, installation of fencing and signage, various improvements to enhance the trail, its drainage, or to decrease erosion. Trail maintenance is expected to be ongoing and would be conducted as needed.

Jefferson County Open Space would be responsible for compliance with applicable federal, state, local regulations, as well as their policies and procedures, for its activities on the easement property. Additionally, DOE has the right to enforce any use limitations on the easement property, including but not limited to environmental, security, and safety enforcement, in accordance with the 2006 MOU. The county will be responsible for making timely notification to DOE of its activities within the easement to minimize impacts on security, vehicle and pedestrian traffic, utilities, and site operations. The county would be responsible for restoring any damage they cause to the easement property to the extent practicable, or would accomplish the needed repair or maintenance to the satisfaction of DOE.

Future trail maintenance by Jefferson County Open Space would include drainage and erosion control, rerouting trail segments, and trail restoration activities that would result in minor ground disturbance. These impacts would be short-term and would usually result in long-term improvement on trail durability, erosion control, drainage, and weed management. Properly maintaining existing trails and discouraging the use or creation of new informal "social" trails would also minimize the impacts to the easement property and its vegetative cover.

Continuing to allow the public recreation and county access to the trail easement property in accordance with the easement agreements would not result in impacts to sensitive resources. Per agency consultations conducted during the Site-Wide Environmental Assessment for the NREL South Table Mountain campus (DOE/EA-1968), no cultural resources, threatened or endangered species, critical habitat, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands are in the vicinity of the trail easement.

Continued county trail maintenance and public recreation access to the trail easement would provide a positive impact to NREL/DOE employees and the surrounding community by providing access to outdoor recreation, wildlife viewing, and educational opportunities in the connected trail system.

DOE has determined based upon the information above, there are no extraordinary circumstances presented by this proposed action. DOE has determined the proposed project is consistent with the actions contained in DOE categorical exclusion B1.13 "pathways, short access roads, and rail lines," and is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Note to Specialist :

NEPA review conducted by Rob Smith on 6/15/2015.
National Renewable Energy Laboratory

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Electronically Signed By: Lori Gray / Lori Gray Date: 6/16/2015
NEPA Compliance Officer

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

Field Office Manager review required

NCO REQUESTS THE FIELD OFFICE MANAGER REVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

- Proposed action fits within a categorical exclusion but involves a high profile or controversial issue that warrants Field Office Manager's attention.
- Proposed action falls within an EA or EIS category and therefore requires Field Office Manager's review and determination.

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager