

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW for CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION
Rocky Mountain Region, Western Area Power Administration**

**CASPER-ARMINTO VEGETATION MANAGEMENT MAINTENANCE, NATRONA
COUNTY, WYOMING**

A. Brief Description of Proposal: This project, near Casper, Wyoming is to cut greasewood vegetation for approximately two miles from poles 10-5 to 13-1 along a segment of Western's CAS-ATO 115 kV transmission line. The vegetation cutting will be on existing access roadways and around transmission line poles using a rubber tired bobcat with a cutter attachment. Work is along existing access roads and will include work from the access roads to individual poles in order to minimize damage to maintenance truck tires. Several access road culverts in dry wash crossings have had surface erosion and have lost surface gravel. The culverts will not be reset and will have imported gravel fill replaced over them. There will be no in water work.

B. Number and Title of the Categorical Exclusion Being Applied: (See text in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.)

B. 1.3 Routine Maintenance: Routine maintenance activities and custodial services for buildings, structures, rights-of-way, infrastructures (e.g., pathways, roads, and railroads), vehicles and equipment, and localized vegetation and pest control, during which operations may be suspended and resumed...

C. Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410 (b): (See full text in regulation and attached checklist.)

- 1) The proposed action fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to Subpart D.

For classes of actions listed in Appendix B, the following conditions are integral elements; i.e., to fit within a class, the proposal must not:

- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including DOE and/or Executive Orders:
 - Require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recover, or treatment facilities, but may include such categorically excluded facilities;
 - Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; or
 - Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B. (4)).¹
- 2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and

ATTACHMENT A

Conditions That Are Integral Elements of the Classes of Action in Appendix B That Apply to This Proposal

Application of Categorical Exclusions (1021.410)	Disagree	Agree	Unknown
1) The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in appendix A or B to subpart D.		x	
2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effect of the proposal, (e.g. scientific controversy about environmental effects; uncertain effects or effects involving unique or unknown risks; unresolved conflicts concerning alternate uses of available resources (see NEPA 102(2)(E)		x	
3) The proposal is not connected (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1) to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(2)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or § 1021.211.		x	
Conditions that are Integral Elements of the Classes of Actions in Appendix B	NO	YES	UNKNOWN
1) Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders ¹ .	x		
2) Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage disposal, recovery, or treatment actions.	x		
3) Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or intermittent releases; or	x		
4) Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. Including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property of historic, archaeological, or architectural significance designated by Federal, state, or local governments or property eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places 	x		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat (including critical habitat), federally-proposed or candidate species or their habitat, or state-listed endangered or threatened species or their habitat; 	x		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands regulated under the Clean Water Act and Floodplains; 	x		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas having a special designation such as Federally- and state-designated wilderness areas, national parks, national natural landmarks, wild and scenic rivers, state and Federal wildlife refuges and marine sanctuaries; 	x		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime agricultural lands; 	x		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special sources of water (such as sole-source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and other water sources that are vital in a region); and 	x		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tundra, coral reefs, or rain forests. 			

<p>¹Applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders (in addition to those listed above)</p>
<p>Clean Air Act Complies with U.S. DOE Clean Air Act Conformity Requirements</p>
<p><u>Department of Energy Floodplain and Wetland Regulations (10 CFR 1022)</u></p>
<p>Clean Water Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complies with Section 404 requirements Complies with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permitting requirements
<p>Complies with <u>Executive Order 12898. Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations</u> (February 11, 1994, with Presidential Memorandum)</p>
<p>Complies with Executive Order 13186, Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds. (January 10, 2001)</p>