



Other Federal Agency Categorical Exclusions Adopted by USDA Subcomponents

This document last updated on: **6/16/2026**.

This document will be updated as additional categories are adopted.

Use of Adopted CEs

Per [7 CFR 1b.3\(c\)\(ii\) and \(iii\)](#), once a **categorical exclusion is adopted by one USDA subcomponent, it will be available for use to all other USDA subcomponents**. Non-USDA categorical exclusions that were already adopted by a USDA subcomponent prior to the 2025 revision of 7 CFR 1b are tracked by USDA and may be used by any other USDA subcomponent on proposed actions that fit the categorically excluded actions.

Organization of Adopted CEs

The adopted CEs in Table 1 are organized alphabetically by the agency they were adopted from (first column) and then numerically by the category number (second column).



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Table 1: CEs Adopted by USDA from Other Federal Agencies

Agency Adopted From	Category Number	Category Title/ Brief Description	USDA Agency That Adopted	Date Adopted ¹
Army (DoW)	A30-1	Regeneration of an area to native tree species and other native vegetation species including: site preparation; post-fire rehabilitation activities (such as tree planting, fence replacement, or habitat restoration); timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement activities that do not include the use of herbicides and do not require more than 1 mile of road construction; and restoration of wetlands, streams, riparian areas, and other water bodies.(REC required). This does not include forestry operations (see § 32 CFR 651.12 (d)(7)).	USFS (NRE)	6/12/2026
Army (DoW)	A37-8	Prescribed burning not to exceed 4,500 acres per prescribed burn project, and mechanical vegetation removal not to exceed 1,000 acres per vegetation removal project, for the purposes of: reducing the risks and the biodiversity, stability, and productivity of the natural environment (REC required).	USFS (NRE)	6/12/2026
BIA (DOI)	H(7)	Approval of forest stand improvement projects of less than 2000 acres when in compliance with policies and guidelines established by a current management plan addressed in earlier NEPA analysis.	USFS (NRE)	6/12/2026
BIA (DOI)	K(2)	Activities involving remediation of hazardous waste sites if done in compliance with applicable federal laws	USFS (NRE)	2/14/2025
BIA (DOI)	L(1)	Roads and Transportation: Approval of utility installations along or across a transportation facility located in whole within the limits of the roadway right-of-way.	USFS (NRE)	7/1/2024
BLM (DOI)	A(1)	Fish and Wildlife, fence modification	NRCS (FPAC)	7/15/2025
BLM (DOI)	A(2)	Fish and Wildlife, water developments	NRCS (FPAC)	7/15/2025
BLM (DOI)	A(3)	Fish and Wildlife, structures	NRCS (FPAC)	7/15/2025
BLM (DOI)	C(4)	Pre-commercial thinning and brush control using small mechanical devices.	USFS (NRE)	6/12/2026
BLM (DOI)	C(5)	Disposal of small amounts of miscellaneous vegetation products outside established harvest areas, such as Christmas trees, wildings, floral products (ferns, boughs, etc.), cones, seeds, and personal use firewood.	USFS (NRE)	6/12/2026
BLM (DOI)	D(2)	Rangeland Management: Placement and use of temporary (not to exceed one month) portable corrals and water troughs, providing no new road construction is needed.	USFS (NRE)	7/1/2024

¹ Date the adoption of the categorical exclusion was published in the federal register or a notice provided on a USDA website.



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Agency Adopted From	Category Number	Category Title/ Brief Description	USDA Agency That Adopted	Date Adopted ¹
BLM (DOI)	E(12)	Grants of right-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed rights-of-way.	USFS (NRE)	11/8/2024
BLM (DOI)	E(13)	Amendments to existing rights-of-way, such as the upgrading of existing facilities, which entail no additional disturbances outside the right-of-way boundary.	USFS (NRE)	11/8/2024
BLM (DOI)	E(17)	Grant of a short rights-of-way for utility service or terminal access roads to an individual residence, outbuilding, or water well.	USFS (NRE)	11/8/2024
BLM (DOI)	F(10)	Disposal of mineral materials, such as sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, cinders, and clay, in amounts not exceeding 50,000 cubic yards or disturbing more than 5 acres, except in riparian areas.	USFS (NRE)	11/8/2024
BLM (DOI)	I(1)	Emergency Stabilization. Planned actions in response to wildfires, floods, weather events, earthquakes, or landslips that threaten public health or safety, property, and/or natural and cultural resources, and that are necessary to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover to a management-approved condition as a result of the event.	USFS (NRE)	2/14/2025
BLM (DOI)	K(8)	Installation of minor devices to protect human life (e.g., grates across mines).	USFS (NRE)	6/12/2026
BLM (DOI)	K(10)	Removal of structures and materials of no historical value, such as abandoned automobiles, fences, and buildings, including those built in trespass and reclamation of the site when little or no surface disturbance is involved.	USFS (NRE)	6/12/2026
DHS	B3	Operational Activity, existing structure	NRCS (FPAC)	7/15/2025
DHS	C1	Real Estate Activity, acquisition	NRCS (FPAC)	7/15/2025
DHS	C2	Real Estate Activity, lease renewal	NRCS (FPAC)	7/15/2025
DHS	C4	Real Estate Activity, transfer admin control	NRCS (FPAC)	7/15/2025
DHS	C7	Real Estate Activity, initial lease	NRCS (FPAC)	7/15/2025
DHS	D1	Repair & Maintenance, minor renovations	NRCS (FPAC)	7/15/2025
DHS	D3	Repair & Maintenance, new construction	NRCS (FPAC)	7/15/2025
DHS	E1	Construction, Installation & Demolition, new construction	NRCS (FPAC)	7/15/2025
DOC	A(4)	Siting/construction/operation of microwave/radio communication towers less than 200 feet in height without guy wires on previously disturbed ground.	USFS (NRE)	7/1/2024
DOC	A(6)	Adding fiber optic cable to transmission structures or burying fiber optic cable in existing transmission line rights-of-way.	USFS (NRE)	7/1/2024



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DOE	B1.3	Routine maintenance activities and custodial services for buildings, structures, rights-of-way, infrastructures (including, but not limited to, pathways, roads, and railroads), vehicles and equipment, and localized vegetation and pest control, during which operations may be suspended and resumed, provided that the activities would be conducted in a manner in accordance with applicable requirements.	USFS (NRE)	2/14/2025
DOE	B4.1	Contracts, Policies, and Marketing and Allocation Plans for Electric Power	RUS (RD)	12/02/2024
DOE	B4.4	Power Marketing Services and Activities	RUS (RD)	12/02/2024
DOE	B4.6	Additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities within a previously disturbed or developed facility area.	USFS (NRE)	11/8/2024
DOE	B4.8	Electricity Transmission Agreements	RUS (RD)	12/02/2024
DOE	B4.11	Construction or modification of electric power substations or interconnection facilities (including, but not limited to, switching stations and support facilities).	USFS (NRE)	11/8/2024
DOE	B4.12	Construction of electric powerlines approximately 10 miles in length or less, or approximately 20 miles in length or less within previously disturbed or developed powerline or pipeline rights-of-way.	USFS (NRE)	11/8/2024
DOE	B4.13	Upgrading and Rebuilding Existing Powerlines and Related Provisions	RUS (RD) USFS (NRE)	12/02/2024 (RUS) 11/8/2024 (USFS)
DOE	B4.14	Certain Energy Storage Systems and Related Provisions	RUS (RD)	12/02/2024
DOE	B5.1	Actions to Conserve Energy or Water	RUS (RD)	12/02/2024
DOE	B5.4	Repair or replacement of pipelines	RUS (RD) USFS (NRE)	8/06/2024 (RUS) 2/14/2025 (USFS)



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DOE	B5.5	Short pipeline segments	RUS (RD) USFS (NRE)	8/06/2024 (RUS) 2/14/2025 (USFS)
DOE	B5.16	Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems and Related Provisions	RUS (RD) USFS (NRE)	12/02/2024 (RUS) 11/8/2024 (USFS)
DOE	B5.23	Electric vehicle charging stations	RUS (RD) USFS (NRE)	8/06/2024 (RUS) 7/1/2024 (USFS)
FHWA (DOT)	C(9)	Actions for transportation facilities damaged by an incident resulting in an emergency declared by the Governor of the State and concurred in by the Secretary, or a disaster or emergency declared by the President pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5121)	USFS (NRE)	2/14/2025
FSA (USDA)	E(2)	Construction or ground disturbance actions. <i>(NOTE: This FSA CE was adopted by the USFS prior to the revision of the USDA NEPA Implementing regulations at 7 CFR 1b.3.)</i>	USFS (NRE)	2/14/2025
Navy (DoW)	A153-33	New construction that is similar to or compatible with existing land use (i.e., site and scale of construction are consistent with those of existing adjacent or nearby facilities) and, when completed, the use or operation of which complies with existing regulatory requirements (e.g., a building within a cantonment area with associated discharges and runoff within existing handling capacities). The test for whether this CATEX can be applied should focus on whether the proposed action generally fits within the designated land use of the proposed site.	ARS (REE)	6/12/2026
Navy (DoW)	A154-34	Demolition, disposal, or improvements involving buildings or structures when done in accordance with applicable regulations including those regulations applying to removal of asbestos, PCBs, and other hazardous materials.	ARS (REE)	6/12/2026



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NOAA (DOC)	F(7)	The disposal, demolition or removal of real property and related improvements, buildings and structures, including associated site restoration, and the disposal of personal property and debris in accordance with all applicable agency procedures and legal requirements.	USFS (NRE)	2/14/2025
NPS (DOI)	B(1)	B. Plans, Studies, and Reports. 1. Changes or amendments to an approved plan, when such changes would cause no or only minimal environmental impact.	USFS (NRE)	5/12/2025
NTIA (DOC)	C(4)	New construction or improvement of land, operations, or support facilities, switching stations, maintenance facilities, and other non-tower structures supporting wired or wireless communications systems	USFS (NRE)	7/1/2024
NTIA (DOC)	C(5)	Installing, operating, maintaining, retrofitting, upgrading, repairing, removing, and/or replacement of existing microwave or radio communication towers, instruments, structures, or buildings	USFS (NRE)	7/1/2024
NTIA (DOC)	C(6)	New construction or improvement of temporary buildings or experimental equipment (e.g., trailers, prefabricated buildings, and test slabs)	USFS (NRE)	7/1/2024
NTIA (DOC)	C(7)	New construction of self-supporting (e.g., monopole or lattice) wireless communication towers	USFS (NRE)	7/1/2024
NTIA (DOC)	C(8)	Acquisition, installation, reconstruction, repair by replacement, and operation of aerial or buried utility (e.g., water, sewer, electrical), communication (e.g., fiber optic cable, data processing cable and similar electronic equipment), and security systems	USFS (NRE)	7/1/2024
TVA	16	Construction of new transmission line infrastructure, including electric transmission lines generally no more than 10 miles in length and that require no more than 125 acres of new developed rights-of-way and no more than 1 mile of new access road construction outside the right-of-way; and/or construction of electric power substations or interconnection facilities, including switching stations, phase or voltage conversions, and support facilities that generally require the physical disturbance of no more than 10 acres.	RUS (RD)	5/11/2026
TVA	22	Development of dispersed recreation sites (generally not to exceed 10 acres in size) to support activities such as hunting, fishing, primitive camping, wildlife observation, hiking, and mountain biking. Actions include, but are not limited to, installation of guardrails, gates and signage, hardening and stabilization of sites, trail construction, and access improvements/controls.	USFS (NRE)	12/5/2025



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TVA	23	Development of public use areas that generally result in the physical disturbance of no more than 10 acres, including, but not limited to, construction of parking areas, campgrounds, stream access points, and day use areas.	USFS (NRE)	12/5/2025
TVA	30	Actions to maintain, restore, or enhance terrestrial ecosystems that generally involve physical disturbance of no more than 125 acres.	USFS (NRE)	5/12/2025
TVA	31	The following forest management activities: a. Actions to manipulate species composition and age class; b. Actions to salvage dead and/or dying trees; and c. Actions to regenerate forest stands.	USFS (NRE)	5/12/2025
TVA	37	Modifications, upgrades, uprates, and other actions that alter existing buildings, infrastructure systems, facility grounds, and plant equipment, or their function, performance, and operation. Such actions generally will not physically disturb more than 10 acres. (See full CE for list of actions included but not limited to.)	RUS (RD)	5/11/2026
TVA	38	Siting, construction, and use of buildings and associated infrastructure (e.g., utility lines serving the building), physically disturbing generally no more than 10 acres of land not previously disturbed by human activity or 25 acres of land so disturbed.	RUS (RD)	5/11/2026
USFWS (DOI)	B(3)	The construction of new, or the addition of, small structures or improvements, including structures and improvements for the restoration of wetland, riparian, instream, or native habitats, which result in no or only minor changes in the use of the affected local area.	USFS (NRE)	2/14/2025
USFWS (DOI)	B(6)	The reintroduction or supplementation (e.g., stocking) of native, formerly native, or established species into suitable habitat within their historic or established range, where no or negligible environmental disturbances are anticipated.	USFS (NRE)	2/14/2025
USGS (DOI)	9.5B	Collection of data and samples for geologic, palaeontologic, hydrologic, mineralogic, geochemical and surface or subsurface geophysical investigations, and resource evaluation, including contracts therefor.	USFS (NRE)	9/27/2024
USGS (DOI)	9.5G	Test or exploration drilling and downhole testing, including contracts therefor.	USFS (NRE)	9/27/2024
USGS (DOI)	9.5H	Establishment of survey marks, placement and operation of field instruments, and installation of any research/monitoring devices.	USFS (NRE)	9/27/2024
USGS (DOI)	9.5I	Digging and subsequent site restoration of exploratory trenches not to exceed one acre of surface disturbance.	USFS (NRE)	9/27/2024



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USGS (DOI)	9.5K	Off-road travel to drilling, data collection or observation sites which does not impact ecologically sensitive areas such as wilderness areas, wetlands, or areas of critical habitat for listed endangered or threatened species.	USFS (NRE)	9/27/2024
USGS (DOI)	9.5P	Minor activities required to gain or prepare access to sites selected for completion of exploration drilling operations or construction of stations for hydrologic, geologic, or geophysical data collection.	USFS (NRE)	9/27/2024