

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District
1103 North Fancher Road
Spokane Valley, WA 99212

A. Background

BLM Office: Border Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: OR-135-08-CX-024

NEPA Log Number: OR-135-08-CX-024

Proposed Action Title: Juniper Dunes Traffic Counters

*Location of Proposed Action: Juniper Forest, Franklin County, WA. T10N, R31E, Sec.16, 28
(see attached map)*

Description of Proposed Action: Place two permanently located traffic counters at Juniper Dunes to more accurately count the number of recreational visits to the site. Currently, visitor counts are being obtained via weekend visual counts during peak use seasons, as well as data from sign-in sheets, which combined, provide very inaccurate visitor count data. Accurate data is critical for recreational planning and management of the site, and is utilized in state office budget formula determination of base funding for the Spokane District's Recreation program. The traffic counters to be used utilize inductive wire loop metal sensing technology, and should provide very accurate vehicle counts, especially when compared to the very erratic counts from seismic technology counters previously installed at the site.

Both counters will be contained within vertically placed, lidded galvanized steel culverts 18 inches in diameter and 22 inches long, completely buried in holes dug approximately 24 inches wide and 25 inches deep. The lids will be fabricated from steel. The culverts will be buried from 10 to 20 feet away from the road. The counters are buried to hide their location, and their location will be GPS'd and disguised to prevent tampering by the public. An approximately 8 - 10 inch deep trench will be dug in the road surface, plus the distance to the culvert, to bury the 14-gauge insulated wire. The inductive loop section of cable wire under the road bed for each counter will measure approximately 6 feet x 14 feet, or so that the loop is no farther than 4 feet from each road edge. The holes will be dug with shovels, and trenches will be dug with a power trencher, causing very minimal ground disturbance. The culverts will be filled with sand except to leave approximately 3 inches clearance above the traffic counter to the lid.

One counter will be placed along the north side of Smith Canyon Road, near its junction with Peterson Road. The other counter will be placed along the north side of Juniper Dunes Road, near its junction with Peterson Road.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Spokane Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: Approved 1987/Amended 1992

Option 1 (conforms with LUP): The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s): Chapter 2; General Management Objectives: 7. Manage public lands and keep access routes open for a variety of recreational opportunities/experiences, including both motorized and nonmotorized recreation activities.

OR

(Option 2: not explicitly provided for in the LUP) The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (*objectives, terms, and conditions*):

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9G. (2)

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply, as shown in the following table:

CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION The proposed categorical exclusion action will:	YES	NO
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

F: Signature

___/S/ Rick McComas___ (Acting) _____ 7/15/08 _____
 (Authorizing Official Signature) (Date)

Name: June Hues
 Title: Field Manager, Border Resource Area

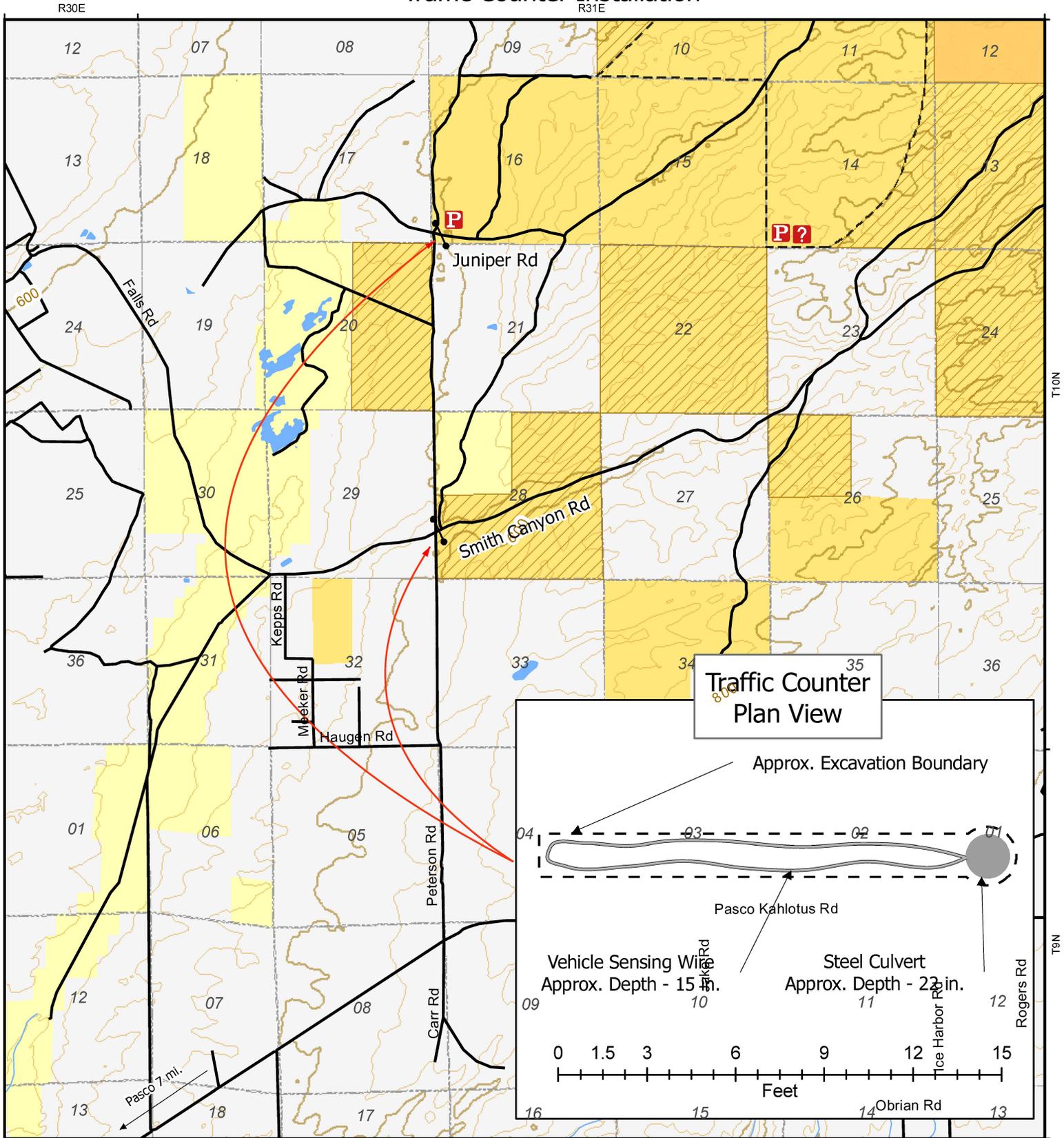
G. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Steve A. Smith, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Border Resource Area, Steve_A_Smith@blm.gov, 509-536-1219

Note: A separate decision document must be prepared for the action covered by the CX.

Juniper Dunes Recreation Area

Traffic Counter Installation



- Proposed Traffic Counter
- Kiosk
- Parking
- BLM Land
- Private Land
- Wilderness Area
- OHV Area
- ACEC
- Bureau of Reclamation



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