

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL

CX Number: DOI-BLM-OR-

Date: August 23, 2010

File Code (Project/Serial Number):

Preparer: Michael Kelly

Title of Proposed Action: Pate Lake /recreation equipment

Description of Proposed Action: The BLM would place 5 to 7 picnic tables on private land at Pate Lake. Tables may be placed with a tractor in already disturbed camp sites. No other ground disturbance is expected to occur such as leveling the ground for table placement. This camp area will help provide over flow camp sites when demand is high at adjacent Fish Lake Campground. This action is described in a 5 year cooperative agreement with landowner Dan Jordan as follows:

**PURPOSE:**

This agreement is made and entered into by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Burns District Office (BLM) and Dan Jordan for the purpose of providing recreational facilities on specific private lands and resource protection on these private and adjacent public lands within the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area.

Legal Description: T32.5S, R33E, sections 21, S1/2SW1/4SW1/4 and 28, NW1/4NW1/4

B. Conformance with Land Use Plan (LUP): The proposed action is in conformance with Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (RMP page 66):

**Recreation:**

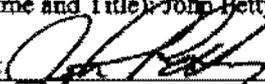
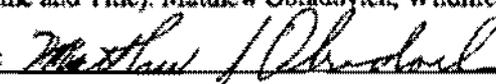
Goal- Provide developed and undeveloped recreation opportunities, while protecting resources, to manage the increasing demand for resource-dependant recreation activities.

**Objectives:**

1. Establish and manage recreation areas where the presence of high quality natural resources and the current or potential demand warrants intensive management practices to protect areas for their scientific, educational, or recreational values while accommodating anticipated increases in use for recreation activities in specific areas.
2. Manage recreation facilities to protect natural resources and to meet user needs.
3. Manage visitor use in the CMPA to protect natural resources and to provide a variety of recreation opportunities.

BLM Categorical Exclusion Reference (516 DM, Chapter 11): G. Transportation: (4) Placement of recreational, special designation, or information signs, visitor registers, kiosks, and portable sanitation devices.

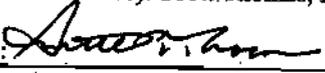
Screening for Exceptions The indicated specialist recommends the proposed action does not:

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION	
2.1	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.
Specialist (Print Name and Title): John Betty, Safety Officer	
Signature and Date:  10/25/10	
Rationale: Since this is an existing dispersed camp site and it is signed to pack out trash and the BLM District Recreation Maintenance crew already does weekly cleanup at this site no impacts on public health and safety are anticipated.	
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); flood plains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
<u>Migratory Birds</u>	
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Matthew Obradovich, Wildlife Biologist	
Signature and Date:  10/25/2010	

Rationale: Disturbance to migratory birds would be minimal since the placement of tables should be only a day or two of movement of the tables with a backhoe and no other ground disturbance. This short period of disturbance will probably take place before nesting season so there should be no disturbance to migratory birds.

Historic and Cultural Resources

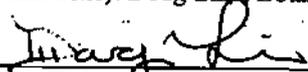
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Scott Thomas, District Archaeologist

Signature and Date:  10/25/10

Rationale: No cultural resources would be affected by the proposed project.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Areas

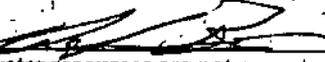
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Doug Linn, Botanist

Signature and Date:  10/27/10

Rationale: No RNAs or ACECs are present.

Water Resources/Flood Plains

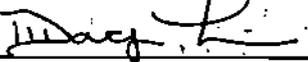
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Daryl Bingham, Fish Biologist

Signature and Date:  25 OCT 2010

Rationale: Effects to water resources are not expected to be measurable. Floodplains are not present.

Soils, Biological Soil Crust, Prime Farmlands

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Doug Linn, Botanist

Signature and Date:  10/27/10

Rationale: No significant effects are anticipated at the locations in question.

Recreation/ Visual Resources

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Michael Kelly, Outdoor Recreation Planner

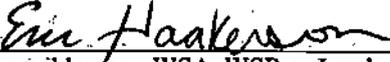
Signature and Date:  10/25/10

Rationale: Recreation: The placement of these picnic tables will enhance the recreation experience at Pate Lake, while not disturbing any new areas as these sites are already established and in use.

Rationale: Visual Resource Management: This is an established camp area that is currently utilized. This action will have no noticeable effects on visual qualities.

Wilderness/Wild and Scenic River Resources

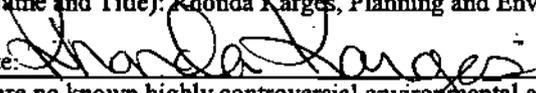
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Eric Haakenson, Wilderness Specialist

Signature and Date:  10/25/10

Rationale: There is no wilderness, WSA, WSR or Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in the project area.

2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].

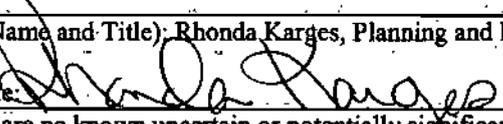
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges, Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Signature and Date:  10/25/10

Rationale: There are no known highly controversial environmental effects or unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. The picnic tables will be placed in already disturbed locations and would be temporary in nature.

2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

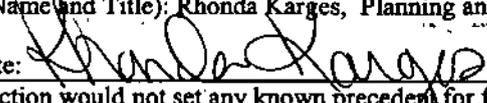
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges, Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Signature and Date:  10/25/10

Rationale: There are no known uncertain or potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks associated with this action. The picnic tables will be placed in already disturbed locations and would be temporary in nature.

2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges, Planning and Environmental Coordinator

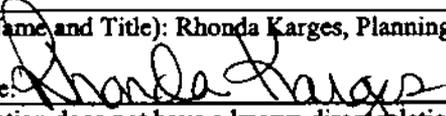
Signature and Date:  10/25/10

Rationale: This action would not set any known precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. The picnic tables will be placed in already disturbed locations and would

be temporary in nature.

2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

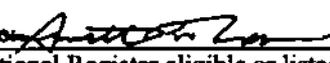
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges, Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Signature and Date:  10/25/10

Rationale: This action does not have a known direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulative significant environmental effects. The picnic tables will be placed in already disturbed locations and would be temporary in nature.

2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register (NR) of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Scott Thomas, District Archaeologist

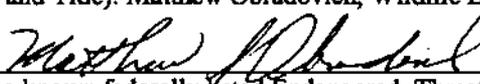
Signature and Date:  10/25/10

Rationale: No National Register eligible or listed sites would be affected by this project.

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.

Endangered or Threatened Species-Fauna

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Matthew Obradovich, Wildlife Biologist

Signature and Date:  10/25/2010

Rationale: There are no known federally listed Endangered, Threatened species or species proposed to be listed or critical habitat for any listed species in the area of this project so there are no impacts to species in any of the listed categories.

Endangered or Threatened Species-Aquatic

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Daryl Bingham, Natural Resource Specialist/Riparian

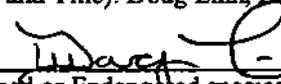
Signature and Date:  August 31, 2010

Rationale:

Threatened or Endangered aquatic species are not known to be present in Pate Lake

Endangered or Threatened Species-Flora

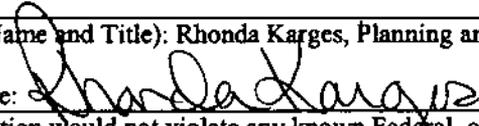
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Doug Linn, Botanist

Signature and Date:  10/27/10

Rationale: No Threatened or Endangered species of flora or associated Critical Habitat are present.

2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

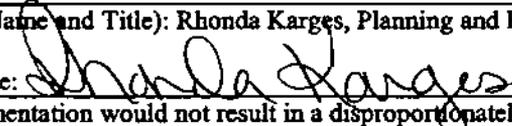
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges, Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Signature and Date:  10/25/10

Rationale: This action would not violate any known Federal, or state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. The picnic tables will be placed in already disturbed locations and would be temporary in nature.

2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

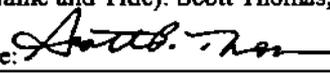
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges, Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Signature and Date:  10/25/10

Rationale: Implementation would not result in a disproportionately adverse effect on minority or economically disadvantaged populations as such populations do not occur in or near the project area.

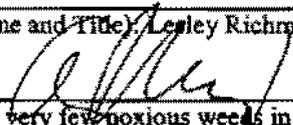
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Scott Thomas, District Archaeologist

Signature and Date:  10/25/10

Rationale: No Indian sacred sites or access to sacred sites would be affected by this project.

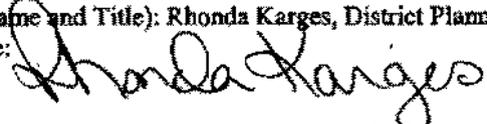
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or nonnative invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Lesley Richman, District Weed Coordinator
Signature and Date:  For Lesley Richman 10.27.10
Rationale: There are very few noxious weeds in the proposed project area. Once the area has been developed, it will be important to monitor more closely for noxious weeds as it may attract more visitors to the area, hence more opportunities for weed introduction. If monitoring and treatments occur in a timely fashion, the potential impacts from noxious weeds would not be significant at this time.

Additional review (As determined by the Authorized Officer):

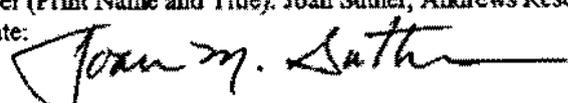
**RMP conformance and CX review confirmation:**

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges, District Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Signature and Date:  10/25/10

**Management Determination:** Based upon review of this proposal, I have determined the Proposed Action is in conformance with the LUP, qualifies as a categorical exclusion and does not require further NEPA analysis.

Authorized Officer (Print Name and Title): Joan Suther, Andrews Resource Area Field Manager

Signature and Date:  10/27/10