



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Coos Bay District Office

1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459

Web Address: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay>

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Telephone: (541) 756-0100 Toll Free: (888) 809-0839 Fax: (541) 751-4303



IN REPLY REFER TO

1791/8323/8366 (ORC030)

Loon Lake Vault Toilets Installation

DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2014-0001-CX

June 17, 2015

Dear Concerned Citizen:

I have signed the Decision Record for the Loon Lake Vault Toilets Installation Categorical Exclusion (CX) (DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2014-0001-CX). The BLM is proposing to install single and double vault toilets within the Loon Lake Recreation Site. The BLM has posted these documents at the BLM internet site: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay/plans/index.php>.

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed with the Umpqua Field Office, Coos Bay BLM, 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459 (43 CFR 4.411 and 4.413). A copy of the Notice of Appeal must also be sent to the BLM Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region, 500 NE Multnomah St. Suite 607, Portland, OR 97232.

The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision being appealed is in error.

For further information, contact Heather Partipilo at 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459, or (541) 756-0100, or email at BLM_OR_CB_Mail@blm.gov, Attn: Heather Partipilo.

Sincerely,

/s/ Todd D. Buchholz

Todd D. Buchholz

Umpqua Field Manager



United States Department of the Interior

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Loon Lake Vault Toilets Installation

DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2014-0001-CX

Decision Record for Categorical Exclusion DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2014-0001-CX

Decision:

It is my decision to implement the Loon Lake Recreation Site Vault Toilets Installation Project as described in DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2014-0001-CX.

Decision Rationale:

The proposed action has been reviewed by Field Office Staff and appropriate Project Design Features as specified will be incorporated into the proposal. Based on the NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined that the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further analysis is required.

Signature of Authorizing Official:

/s/ Todd D. Buchholz

Todd D. Buchholz

Umpqua Field Manager

Date: June 17, 2015

Administrative Remedies:

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with regulations contained in 43 CFR 4. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed with the Umpqua Field Office, Coos Bay BLM, 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459 (43 CFR 4.411 and 4.413). A copy of the Notice of Appeal must also be sent to the BLM Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region, 500 NE Multnomah St. Suite 607, Portland, OR 97232.

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United States Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay District

Categorical Exclusion Review (CX)

DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2014-0001-CX

Date: June 10, 2015

A. Background

Project: Loon Lake Recreation Site Vault Toilets Installation

Location: T. 23 S., R. 10 W., Sec. 02 (See the attached map for all vault toilet locations)

Project Description:

The Loon Lake Recreation Site's potable water supply is pumped from two ground wells. The "old well" (circa 1960s) historically yielded 23 gallons per minute, and provided potable water for the campground during the summer. A back up well (i.e., the "new well") was drilled in 2007, with an initial yield of 13 gallons per minute. In 2013, the static level in the "old well" dropped and the turbidity increased. The resulting turbidity exceeded the DEQ's limit for potable water. Attempts at reducing the turbidity in the "old well" were unsuccessful. The BLM typically operated the "new well" during the winter, when the "old well" was too turbid (i.e., a time when the low production of the "new well" was not a concern). The "new well" now yields less than 5 gallons per minute and produces only 3,000 gallons per day. Geophysical surveys (i.e., seismic soundings) in 2014 indicated a low probability for any new wells to produce yields meeting campground needs.

The current level of potable water production at the Loon Lake Recreation Site is not adequate to maintain the high volume of water currently needed to maintain full campground operations during the peak season. The BLM's 2014 Loon Lake campground season was limited to weekend camping only, because of the limited water resources available. Shower facilities within the campground are now closed. The Loon Lake Recreation Site currently has flush toilet facilities; however, flush toilets require more water resources than vault toilets.

This project involves the installation of four vault-style toilet facilities within the campground portion of the Loon Lake Recreation Site. Vault toilets would decrease water dependence at the site and allow the BLM to maintain the normal campground open season (Memorial Day weekend through September 30).

Installation activities would occur during the off-season when the campground is closed. Installation of three double vault toilets would occur at existing campground sites (i.e., Sites #12, #23, and #43/45). Installation of a single vault toilet would occur adjacent to and northwest of the Tent Meadow parking area. Site preparation at Site #43/45 may include the removal of 3 bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) trees ranging in size from 15-26.5 inches diameter at breast height (DBH). If large underground boulders prevent installation operations at Site #43/45, the BLM would use Site #40 or #41.

Installation operations would involve motorized equipment such as a backhoe, crane, lowboy trailer and tractor, cement truck, and mechanical tamping machine. Rock hammer use would occur, if needed. Heavy equipment would remain on paved campground routes.

Ground disturbance would consist of a 5 foot deep hole approximately 12' x 7' for each double vault. The disturbed area for the single vault toilet would be the same depth, but proportionally smaller in width.

The above ground structure would measure approximately 12' × 17' × 12' tall for the double vaults, with the single vault structure proportionately smaller in width. Incidental ground disturbance by equipment would span approximately 40' × 40'.

The BLM expects noise levels during the approximately 5-10 day installation period to range from the typical 50-70 dB for ambient campground maintenance activities to short durations of 96-130 dB during use of motorized equipment as described above.

Project Design Features:

1. Installation would not occur during the critical breeding periods for northern spotted owl (March 1 – September 30) or marbled murrelet (April 1 – September 15).
2. Installation equipment would be washed prior to entering the project area to prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds.
3. Ground-disturbing actions would be monitored by a professional archaeologist. Ground-disturbing activities would be suspended if significant cultural material is encountered, and work would not resume until authorized by the Field Manager.
4. Material removed during vault site excavation would be reused onsite for campground maintenance (e.g., filling low spots).
5. Exposed and disturbed soils would receive applications of native grass seed and certified weed-free mulch and fertilizer, as well as annual maintenance for weed mitigation.
6. Vaults would be winterized for the off-season.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance Review:

The BLM developed this project under the management direction of the 1995 *Coos Bay District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (1995 ROD/RMP). The analysis supporting this decision tiers to the *Final Coos Bay District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* (USDI 1994). This 1995 Record of Decision is also supported by, and consistent with, the 1994 *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) on Management of Habitat for Late Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* and its associated *Record of Decision* (USDA/USDI 1994).

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable RMP because it is specifically provided for in the following RMP decision(s):

Continue to operate and maintain 11 developed recreation sites and 4 developed trails (p. 49).

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with the United States Department of Interior Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 43 CFR 46.210 (f):

Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance, renovations, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity (e.g., limited size and magnitude or short-term effects).

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 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

<u>Extraordinary Circumstances</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Initials</u>	<u>Date</u>
(a) Health & Safety			
Hazardous Materials	Reviewed by Hazardous Materials Coordinator	<u>DCN</u>	<u>6/15/2015</u>
(b) Unique Resources	Reviewed by Port-Orford Cedar Coordinator	<u>hp</u>	<u>6/16/15</u>
(c) Controversial Effects	Reviewed by NEPA Coordinator	<u>hp</u>	<u>6/15/2015</u>
(d) Risks	Reviewed by NEPA Coordinator	<u>hp</u>	<u>6/15/2015</u>
(e) Precedent	Reviewed by NEPA Coordinator	<u>hp</u>	<u>6/15/2015</u>
(f) Cumulative	Reviewed by NEPA Coordinator	<u>hp</u>	<u>6/15/2015</u>
(g) Cultural & Historic	Reviewed by Archaeologist	<u>SRS</u>	<u>6/15/2015</u>
(h) T & E Species	Reviewed by: Wildlife Biologist, Fisheries Biologist, Botanist	<u>JMS</u> <u>JF</u> <u>JS</u>	<u>6/15/15</u> <u>6/15/15</u> <u>6/16/15</u>
(i) Violate Laws	Reviewed by NEPA Coordinator	<u>hp</u>	<u>6/15/2015</u>
(j) Environmental Justice	Reviewed by Environmental Justice Coordinator	<u>SRS</u>	<u>6/15/2015</u>
(k) Native American	Reviewed by District Native American Coordinator	<u>SRS</u>	<u>6/15/2015</u>
(l) Noxious Weeds	Reviewed by Noxious Weed Coordinator	<u>CN</u>	<u>6/16/15</u>

A summary of the extraordinary circumstances is listed below. The action must have a significant or a disproportional adverse effect on the listed categories to warrant further analysis and environmental review.

THE PROPOSED CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ACTION WILL:	YES	NO
(a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
<p>Rationale: Proposed installation activities would follow established Occupational Safety and Health Administration rules concerning health and safety. Installation would occur when the Loon Lake Recreation Site is closed to the public. Installation of vault toilets at recreation sites is a common occurrence and no significant impacts to health and safety have been experienced.</p>		
(b) 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 principle drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (EO 11988), national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
<p>Rationale: The project area is within a previously disturbed campground area.</p> <p>There are no unique geographic characteristics, park or refuge lands, wilderness or wild and scenic rivers, national landmarks, principle drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands or wetlands, or national monuments. The project would have no significant effect to the migratory bird population migrating through southwestern Oregon.</p>		
(c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102 (2)(E)]		X
<p>Rationale: Based on past experience, this type of activity is not highly controversial. Installation of vault toilets at recreation sites are a common occurrence. The Coos Bay District ROD/RMP authorizes this activity, and as such, there are no unresolved conflicts regarding uses of these resources.</p>		
(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks		X
<p>Rationale: The District has previously installed vault toilets at numerous campsites for the past several decades. Experience from this type of activity in the past has shown no highly uncertain, potentially significant, unique, or unknown risks.</p>		
(e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
<p>Rationale: This project does not establish a precedent for future actions, nor does it represent a decision about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. There is no evidence that this type of activity has potentially significant environmental effects.</p>		
(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects		X

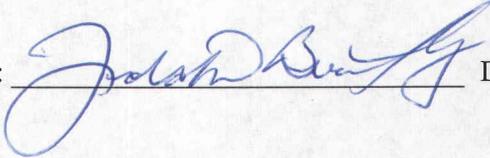
THE PROPOSED CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ACTION WILL:	YES	NO
<p>Rationale: The District has previously installed vault toilets at numerous campsites for the past several decades. There is no evidence that this type of activity has potentially significant environmental effects.</p>		
(g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
<p>Rationale: The project area is within an area that was previously disturbed; it is not within an area listed, or eligible for listing, on the National register of Historic Places.</p>		
(h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Threatened or Endangered Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
<p>Rationale: The campground is within marbled murrelet unsurveyed suitable habitat, northern spotted owl critical habitat and, and is approximately 0.25 miles from a northern spotted owl activity center. However, vault toilet installation would 1) occur outside of the critical breeding periods, 2) not remove or modify any habitat, and 3) occur within a disturbed site that is a dedicated recreation area. Therefore, this vault toilet installation project is not expected to have disturbance/disruption effects beyond those analyzed in the <i>Biological Opinion Addressing Fiscal Years 2014-2018 Programmatic Suite of Activities that May Affect Spotted Owls, Murrelets and their designated Critical Habitats Proposed by The Coos Bay District BLM and the Coquille Indian Tribe</i> (FWS Reference No #: 01EOFW00-2014-F-0163).</p> <p>The project areas are uplands and are not in proximity to streams that may contain Oregon Coast Coho Salmon. The vault toilet installations would be approximately 700 to 1,100 feet from Mill Creek and approximately 210 to 785 feet from Loon Lake.</p>		
(i) Violate a Federal, State, Local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
<p>Rationale: The proposed action conforms to the direction given for the management of public lands in the ROD/RMP, which complies with all applicable Federal, State, local and tribal laws.</p>		
(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
<p>Rationale: This type of project is not known to have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.</p>		
(k) 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).		X
<p>Rationale: The project area is within an area that has been previously disturbed; however, the area has been used by Native Americans in earlier times. Excavation will be monitored by an archeologist to assess any unsuspected discovery. Vault toilet installation within an existing campground would not act to limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or significantly affect the physical integrity of a sacred site.</p>		

THE PROPOSED CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ACTION WILL:	YES	NO
(I) 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).		X

Rationale:

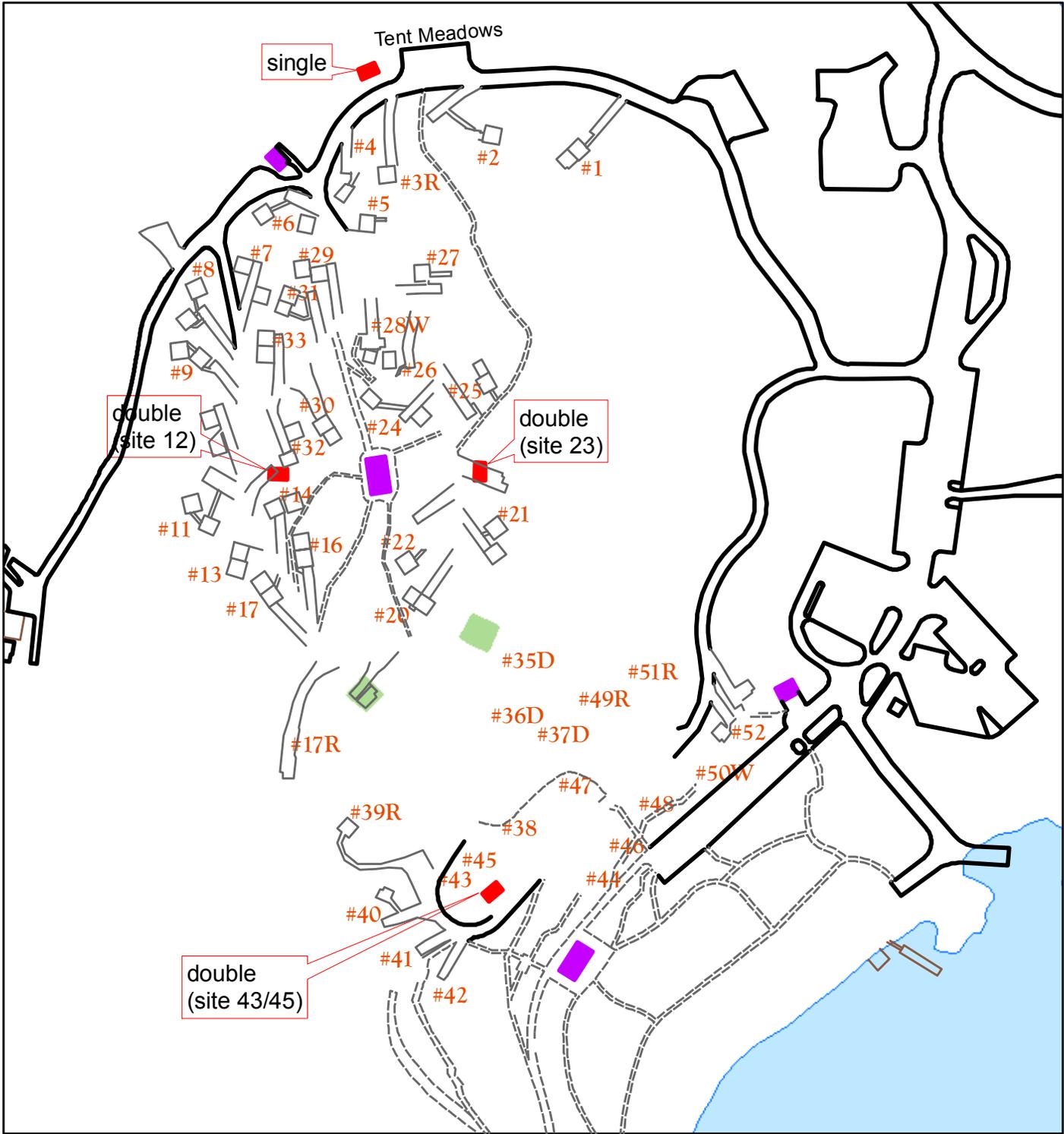
The proposed action does not introduce any vector for noxious weed spread, or introduce noxious or non-native invasive species beyond such vectors already found. Motorized equipment utilized in vault toilet installation and accessing the project area would stay on existing roads, reducing the potential of picking up and dispersing noxious weeds or seeds. Installation equipment (motorized and non-motorized) would be washed prior to public land entry to eliminate vectors for the spread of noxious weeds.

D. Signature

Authorizing Official: Field Manager:  Date: 6-17-15

E. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Heather Partipilo, Planning & Environmental Coordinator, Coos Bay District, 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459, (541) 751-4348.



- Vault Toilet (proposed)
- Existing Bathroom
- Camp Host
- Building or Structure
- Camp Site
- Path
- Paved Road
- Picnic Site
- Road

Loon Lake Vault Toilet Installation

