

**United States
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Eugene District Office**

**Categorical Exclusion Documentation
WEW Meadow Lark Prairie Right of Way Access
DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2009-0011-CX**

A. Background

The City of Eugene has submitted a request for approval to cross BLM land in two locations at Meadow Lark Prairie (See attached map). The City would access the Turtle Swale unit along the east side and along the northern section of the Larson unit. The City's purpose to across BLM land is to gain access to the Amazon Creek for the construction of a low flow rock weir structure as described below. Vehicle and equipment for this project will involve a 10 cubic yard dump truck, a Gradall (wt. approximately 48,000 lbs), and pick up truck.

On Dec. 27, 2007, the USACE Portland District office submitted a hydrologic study to the City of Eugene which provided specifications for certain hydraulic changes necessary to increase summer low flows in the A Channel, or Old Amazon Creek. These specifications were prepared in response to concerns raised by the State Water Master and the City of Eugene that after implementation of the 1135 project, conditions had reduced summer low flows in the A Channel resulting in inadequate flows to satisfy existing permitted water rights.

To address this issue the USACE recommended boring four 6" holes in the lowest section of the concrete weir and installing a notched, 3 ft. diameter "log weir" within the banks of the Amazon Diversion Channel just upstream of the point where the Amazon Diversion Channel and the A Channel diverge. Based on the USACE analysis, these modifications would enable more water to flow into the A Channel and on to the Long Tom River during the summer months while still allowing for sufficient flows into the Diversion Channel and Fern Ridge Reservoir. The holes in the concrete weir were bored last summer (2008) and appear to be functioning as designed.

The "log weir" was not installed after City of Eugene Parks and Open Space staff and its Engineering Geologist consultant determined that the required 40 ft. long, 3 ft. diameter log would be difficult to install securely at this location and would be detrimental to the surrounding wetland landscape during transportation to the project site and during placement. The City also believed that it would be more difficult to keep a log this size in place over the long term during high water conditions due to the buoyancy factor, regardless of the types of anchorages used. With approval from USACE, the City attempted to place corrugated sheet pilings at this location as an alternative during summer 2008. These efforts were unsuccessful due to the fact that the channel has eroded down to bedrock, which was too hard to penetrate with sheet piling materials.

In lieu of the recommended "log weir" structure in the Amazon Diversion Channel, the City proposes to construct an alternate structure consisting of various gradations of large rock to act as a low flow retention structure. The City will construct the rock weir without the grout application. They expect to achieve the balanced goals of having created a natural weir type structure to ensure that some summer flows are backed up and directed to the A Channel while continuing to provide adequate flows to Fern Ridge Reservoir through the Diversion Channel. This second goal is achieved by setting the elevation of the weir at 374 feet and creating a weir that is permeable. The City would like to start with this lower cost, lower technological solution and monitor the channel to see if it is accomplishing the goals. If not, the City can adjust the weir as necessary to either increase flows to Fern Ridge by lowering the elevation or removing rock, or to Amazon Creek by decreasing the permeability (i.e. perhaps using grout) or increasing the elevation, depending on how the actual functionality of the weir is determined.

B. Proposed Action

The proposed action is to allow the City of Eugene Right-of-Way access to across the BLM land to the two locations at Meadow Lark Prairie located on T18S- R4 W-Sect 29 for a term of three (3) years. Specifically the City will utilize the undeveloped maintenance routes to access the Amazon creek from the south and north. The City may cross these BLM locations during the summer months from July 16 – September 30.

C. Land Use Plan Conformance

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the standards and guidelines of the 1995 Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan.

D. Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action meets the criteria for categorical exclusion in the Department of Interior, Departmental Manual 516 DM 11.5 E (19) Issuance of short term (3 years or less) rights-of-way for such uses as construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition.

None of the "extraordinary circumstances" in 516 DM apply. Further, the action is in conformance with the Eugene District RMP, as amended; and the West Eugene Wetlands Plan (1992,2000).

E. Signatures

Prepared by: Sally Villegas-More Date: 7/31/2009
Sally Villegas, WEW Natural Resource Specialist

Reviewed by: Sharmila Date: 7/27/2009
Sharmila Premdas, Environmental Coordinator

Approved by: William E. Hatton Date: 7/27/09
William Hatton, Field Manager, Siuslaw Resource

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this Categorical Exclusion review, contact Sally Villegas, Natural Resource Specialist (541) 683-6291.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE DISTRICT**

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW
Extraordinary Circumstances Checklist**

Proposed Action: Categorical Exclusion No. DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2009-0011-CX WEW Meadow Lark Prairie Right of Way Access

Review the proposed action against each of the 12 "extraordinary circumstances" listed below. Any action that is normally categorically excluded must be subjected to sufficient environmental review to determine whether it meets any of the extraordinary circumstances, in which case, further analysis and environmental documents must be prepared for the action. If the criterion does not apply, indicate "Not Applicable." Any mitigation measures (such as contract stipulations or terms and conditions on permits) necessary to ensure that the proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion should be identified at the bottom of the page.

Extraordinary Circumstances		Comments
1.	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	No
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 (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	No See Design Features below
3.	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA, Sec. 102(2)(E)]	No
4.	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	No
5.	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	No
6.	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	No
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.	No
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.	No See Design Features below
9.	Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	No
10.	Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898).	No
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 (EO 13007).	No
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 EO 13112).	No See Design Features below

Mitigation Measures:

1. Any soil disturbance which may occur as a result of this action shall be seeded with WEW native seed.
2. Access shall occur between July 16 through September 30 until 2011. This would aid in minimizing impacts to ground nest birds and minimize soil compaction.
3. To mitigate for potential impacts to the known Western Pond Turtle population in the area, the City shall inspect the BLM route and "turtle mound" prior to equipment entering the site and during the construction period. See attachment map for location of the turtle mound.
4. The City shall remove vegetation chaff and seeds from all equipment prior to entering and leaving the site.

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DECISION RECORD

Decision:

It is my decision to implement this action on BLM lands as described in the categorical exclusion documentation DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2009-0011-CX

Decision Rationale:

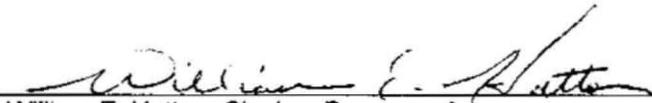
The proposed action has been reviewed by Resource Area Staff and appropriate project Design Features as specified, will be incorporated into the proposal. Based on the NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined that the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment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

On July 16, 2009 the U.S. Department of the Interior, withdrew the Records of Decision (2008 ROD) for the Western Oregon Plan Revision and directed the BLM to implement actions in conformance with the resource management plans for western Oregon that were in place prior to December 30, 2008.

Although project planning and preparation of National Environmental Policy Act documentation for this project began after the effective date of the 2008 ROD, this project was designed to comply with the land use allocations, management direction, and objectives of the 1995 resource management plan (1995 RMP).

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the standards and guidelines of the 1995 Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan.

Authorizing Official:



William E. Hatton, Siuslaw Resource Area
Eugene District Office

7/27/09
Date

Amazon Rock Weir Project Critical Habitat Areas



Legend

- Access Roads
- Rare Plant Locations 2008
- City Owned Taxlots
- Critical Habitat - Fender's Blue Butterfly
- Critical Habitat - Kincaid's Lupine

