

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

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

OFFICE: Upper Willamette Resource Area, Eugene District

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-OR-E060-2015-0016-CX

PROJECT NAME: Gate Fabrication, Installation, and Repair

LOCATION/LLEGAL DESCRIPTION: 15S-02W-03; 19S-02W-29; 17S-01W-15

A. Description of Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The project would include the repair of one existing gate located in 19S-02W-29 on Road 19-2-20.1 and installation of two new gates, one in 15S-02W03 on Road 15-2-3.1 and the second in 17S-01W-09 on Road 17-1-9.0. All work would occur within the existing road prism and there would be no new surface area disturbance. Work would be conducted over approximately 7-14 days from May to October 2015. The existing gate in 19S-02-29 was damaged by a falling tree. A new gate is being proposed on Road 15-2-3.1 which would limit public access to a rock pit. This gate would reduce risk to loss of mineral resources and provide short-term protected equipment storage. A new gate being proposed on road 17-1-15.0 would reduce impacts of unauthorized OHV traffic that is causing soil and timber resource damage.

All gates would be closed year-round and opened as needed for project, administrative, or other uses on a case by case basis.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP), as amended. Date Approved: June 1995.

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions:

“Manage roads to meet the needs identified under other resource programs (e.g. seasonal road closures for wildlife). Road management is mentioned or implied primarily under Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives, Riparian Reserves, Late-Successional Reserves, Water Quality and Soils, Wildlife, Fish Habitat, Special Status and SEIS Special Attention Species Habitat, Timber Resources, and Recreation.” p. 98-101.

“Follow Best Management Practices (see Appendix C) for water quality and soil productivity to mitigate adverse effects on soils, water quality, fish, and riparian habitat during road construction and maintenance.” p. 102

“Part 2.I. Road Closures, Practices 1. “Barricade or block the road surface using gates, guard rail, earth/log barricades, boulders, logging debris or a combination of these methods. Avoid blocking roads that would need future maintenance (i.e., culverts, potential landslides, etc.) with unremovable barricades. Use guardrails, gates, or other barricades capable of being opened for roads needing future maintenance.” RMP, Appendix C, Best Management Practices, p. 165.

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 2, Appendix 516 DM 11.9 G.2 *“Installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, waterbars, gates, or cattleguards on/or adjacent to roads and trails identified in any land use or transportation plan, or eligible for incorporation in such plan.”*

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.

D. Signature

Signature of Project Lead:

/s/ Brian Barr
Brian Barr – Hydrologic Technician

Date: April 24, 2015

Signature of NEPA Coordinator:

/s/ Kristine M. Struck
Kristine Struck – Planning and Environmental
Coordinator

Date: April 28, 2015

Signature of the Responsible Official:

/s/William O’Sullivan
William O’Sullivan – Field Manager

Date: April 28, 2015

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this Categorical Exclusion review, contact: Brian Barr, Hydrologic Technician, 541.683.6497

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES CHECKLIST

DOI-BLM-OR-E060-2015-0016-CX

Gate Fabrication, Installation, and Repair

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	YES	NO
<p>1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.</p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> Repair of existing gate and installation of two new gates would have no significant impact to public health or safety as there is currently no legal public access to these roads. The roads currently have administrative access only. Repair and installation of the gates would reduce the potential for encounters between the public and authorized vehicles such as loaded logging trucks on the narrow, curving road system, and provide resource protection.</p>		X
<p>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.</p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> The project is not located near any special features or designations. Gate installation and repair would reduce impacts to natural resources by limiting vehicle access to portions of road systems and rock pits.</p>		X
<p>3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].</p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> There is no existing legal public access to the area and no unresolved conflicts over use of available resources affected by the presence or absence of gates.</p>		X
<p>4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.</p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> Gate installation and repair is a normal activity on BLM lands in western Oregon. The effects are well known and not significant.</p>		X
<p>5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.</p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> Gate installation and repair is a normal activity that would not establish a precedent for future actions.</p>		X
<p>6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.</p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> The project would not have a direct relationship with other BLM actions in the area.</p>		X

Extraordinary Circumstances	YES	NO
<p>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.</p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> Gate installation and repair would not affect any known listed or eligible properties.</p>		X
<p>8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, as an Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.</p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> Since only lands within existing road prisms would be directly affected, there would be no habitat modification or destruction associated with the action. Disturbance from installation/repair noise and activity would not be expected to exceed current levels; any wildlife in the area would be expected to be already acclimatized to that level of activity. Controlled access behind the new gates (and restored controlled access behind the damaged gate) may result in a very slight reduction to disturbance to special status species if they are present.</p>		X
<p>9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.</p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> Gate installation and repair would not violate any Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law.</p>		X
<p>10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 2898).</p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> Gate installation and repair would have no effect to low income or minority populations. There is currently no legal public access to the area. There would be no effect from the project to commercial opportunities such as timber harvest, Special Forest Products permits, or firewood gathering.</p>		X
<p>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).</p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> Gate installation and repair would not limit access or affect the physical integrity to any known sacred or ceremonial Indian sites.</p>		X
<p>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).</p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> Gate installation and repair may limit the spread of noxious weeds or other invasive species by limiting human access to some road systems, but the effect would be expected to be minimal due to high levels of administrative and management utilization of the area.</p>		X

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

DECISION RECORD
DOI-BLM-OR-E060-2015-0016-CX
Gate Fabrication, Installation, and Repair

Decision

It is my decision to implement this action as described in the categorical exclusion documentation DOI-BLM-OR-E060-2015-0016-CX.

Decision Rationale

The proposed action has been reviewed by BLM staff. The Proposed Action is in conformance with the 1995 Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (as amended). Based on the Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined that the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further analysis is required.

Administrative Remedies

Any person adversely affected by this decision may appeal it to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. If an appeal is taken, a notice of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days of this decision for transmittal to the Board. If a notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, such statement must be filed with this office and with the Board within 30 days after the notice of appeal was filed. A copy of a notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs, must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 805 SW Broadway, Suite 600, Portland, OR 97205.

Signature of the Responsible Official:

/s/ William O'Sullivan
William O'Sullivan
Field Manager
Upper Willamette Resource Area

April 28, 2015
Date: