

**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-E060-2015-0028-CX

PROJECT NAME: Blue Mountain Barricade and Garbage Removal

LOCATION/LLEGAL DESCRIPTION: T21S R02W Sec.33

A. Description of Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The project would block direct motor vehicle access to the overlook ledge area located at the terminus of Road 21-2-33.1. Currently, vehicles may drive to ledge of cliff, which poses a risk of vehicles and passengers misjudging the distance and falling over edge. A 100-foot long string barricade would be created using 3 - 4 foot boulders. Boulders would be scavenged from two existing breached boulder barricades; one on-site, the other approximately 0.8 miles away on Road 21-2-33.1. Should additional boulder material be needed, boulders would be collected from the BLM rock pit located approximately two miles from the overlook on Road 21-2-33.0. Garbage that has accumulated at the lookout ledge and at base of cliff would be collected, removed from federal lands, and properly disposed of.

The overlook is a popular location for sightseeing and hiking. Previous boulder barricades located further down the road have failed due to public dismantling of barricades. The new barricade would be located at terminus of intended drivable road, thus retaining access to overlook and trailhead by foot, but limit direct access by vehicle to overlook ledge. The result would be to improve public safety and limit the ability or desire to dump large garbage material over ledge of overlook, such as cars, appliances, and boats.

Due to the potential for spotted owls to nest in the vicinity, the action should not occur between March 1 and July 15.

The project's intended goal is to provide public safety by limiting vehicle access to ledge of cliff and deter the dumping of garbage over the lookout ledge.

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.

“Part 4.C. Watershed Restoration and Fish Habitat Improvement Projects, Practice 2. “Use corrective measures to repair degraded watershed conditions and restore to predisturbance conditions with a vegetation cover that will maintain or improve soil stability, reduce surface runoff, increase infiltration, and reduce flood occurrence and flood damages.” RMP, Appendix C, Best Management Practices, p. 169.

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.”*

Appendix 516 DM 11.9 J.8
“Installation of minor devices to protect human life.”

Appendix 516 DM 11.9 J.10
“Removal of structures and materials of no historical value, such as abandoned automobiles, fences, and buildings, including those built in trespass and reclamation of the site when little or no surface disturbance is involved.”

These categorical exclusions are 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: August 26, 2015

Signature of NEPA Coordinator:

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

Date: August 26, 2015

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Signature of the Responsible Official:

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

Date: August 26, 2015

Contact Person

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

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES CHECKLIST

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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. <u>Rationale:</u> Currently, the public can drive to the edge of cliff and dump larger refuse from edge. Barricade construction and refuse removal would improve public health and safety by limiting direct access to cliff edge by motor vehicle.</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. <u>Rationale:</u> The project would not impede or alter any special features or designations as none exist in the project area. Barricade installation would reduce impacts to natural resources by limiting vehicle access to cliff edge.</p>		X
<p>3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]. <u>Rationale:</u> There are no highly controversial environmental effects or unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.</p>		X
<p>4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. <u>Rationale:</u> Barricade installation 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. <u>Rationale:</u> Barricade installation 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. <u>Rationale:</u> The project would not have a direct relationship with other BLM actions in the area</p>		X
<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. <u>Rationale:</u> Barricade installation 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. <u>Rationale:</u> The project is not within Critical Habitat for any species listed or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act. No species listed or proposed for listed are known to occupy the project area. <u>WILDLIFE:</u> Since only lands within existing road prisms would be 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.</p>		X
<p>9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. <u>Rationale:</u> Barricade installation would not violate any Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law.</p>		X

Extraordinary Circumstances	YES	NO
<p>10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 2898). <u>Rationale:</u> Barricade installation would have no effect to low income or minority populations. New barricade would be located at the existing terminus of road. 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). <u>Rationale:</u> Barricade installation 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). <u>Rationale:</u> Barricade installation may limit the spread of noxious weeds or other invasive species by limiting human access to some areas along the cliff edge and adjacent prairie, but the effect would be expected to be minimal due to high levels of administrative and management utilization of the area.</p>		X

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DECISION RECORD
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Decision

It is my decision to implement this action as described in the categorical exclusion documentation DOI-BLM-OR-E060-2015-0028-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

August 26, 2015
Date: