

1791A
CX-15-18

Whittaker Creek SRP

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

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

OFFICE: Siuslaw Resource Area, BLM Eugene District

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-OR-050-2015-0018-CX

PROJECT NAME: Whittaker Creek Group Camp 2015 Special Recreation Permit (SRP)

LOCATION: Whittaker Creek Campground, BLM Eugene District

APPLICANT: Mary Paige

Description of Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

Mary Paige is proposing to utilize 15 overnight camping sites at Whittaker Creek campground from July 17-19, 2015. The group would be departing the campground by noon on July 19. As part of this proposal Ms. Paige has submitted a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) application, along with signed SRP stipulations which explain all fees and requirements associated with the proposed activity (see attached). There is also an Operating Plan associated with the Special Recreation permit application which describes proposed activities.

The expected number of participants is approximately 40 adults and youth. Activities would include hikes on designated BLM hiking trails, play time along the river, setting up tents and preparing meals.

Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the following LUP: Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP), as amended. Date Approved: June 1995, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions: "Provide a wide range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities that contribute to meeting projected recreation demand within the planning area," and "Support locally sponsored tourism initiatives and community economic strategies by providing recreation projects and programs that benefit short and long-term implementation" (Eugene District RMP, 1995, p.80).

Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, H (1): *Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/ or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use 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 11.9 apply.

Signature

Signature of Project Lead:

/S/ Wade Judy
Wade Judy, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: 4/16/2015

Signature of NEPA Coordinator:

/S/ Sharmila Premdas
Sharmila Premdas, Landscape Planner, Siuslaw
Resource Area

Date: 4/27/2015

Signature of the Responsible Official:

/S/ Michael J. Korn
Michael J. Korn, Field Manager, Siuslaw
Resource Area

Date: 5/08/2015

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this Categorical Exclusion review, contact Wade Judy, Outdoor Recreation Planner, 3106 Pierce Parkway, Springfield, Oregon (541) 687-3457.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES CHECKLIST

DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2015-0018-CX

Whittaker Creek Camping Event SRP 2015

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> The proposed activity is subject to agreed upon and signed stipulations required by the BLM.</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 camping event is consistent with activities that take place in a developed park setting.</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 predicted environmental effects from the proposed action which are considered to be highly controversial nor are there unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses.</p>		X
<p>4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. <u>Rationale:</u> The proposed activity is a an overnight camping, multi-day, group activity, for which the Whittaker Creek campground is specifically designed, and would accommodate this use with no known environmental risks.</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> The proposed camping event is a discrete action and does not commit the BLM to pursuing further actions, and as such would not establish a precedent or decision for future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.</p>		X
<p>6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. <u>Rationale:</u> This action is not related to other SRP’s within the districts.</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> No properties are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places within the units of the proposed action.</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> It was determined that the proposed action is not likely to have adverse effects to any listed species or their critical habitat.</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> The proposed action conforms to the direction given for the management of public lands in the Eugene District ROD/RMP (1995), which complies with all applicable federal, state and local tribal laws.</p>		X
<p>10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 2898). <u>Rationale:</u> The camping event would not affect low income or minority populations. Free Day use of the park would continue to be allowed, and other camping areas are available in the vicinity, of equal or less costs to the visitor.</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> There are no sacred sites identified within the project area.</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> The proposed action does not result in measurable changes to the current baseline of the risk, or actual introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species in or from the project area. Vehicles accessing the project area for the proposed action would stay on existing roads (no additional roads proposed), reducing the potential of picking up and dispersing noxious weeds or seed.</p>		X

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

DECISION RECORD

DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2015-0018-CX
Group Camping Whittaker Creek Recreation Area

DECISION

It is my decision to implement this action on BLM lands as described in the categorical exclusion documentation DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2015-0018-CX. The action is in conformance with the 1995 Eugene District Resource Management Plan.

PLAN CONFORMANCE

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the following LUP: Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP), as amended. Date Approved: June 1995.

RATIONALE FOR SELECTION

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. This project is in conformance with the 1995 Eugene District RMP as amended.

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/ Michael J. Korn
Michael J. Korn
Siuslaw Resource Area Field Manager
Eugene District Office

5/08/2015
Date