

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

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

Categorical Exclusion No. DOI-BLM-OR-E060-2010-00002-CX
Row River Trail Culvert Replacements

A. Background

Location of Proposed Action: in T. 21 S., R 2 W., sections 2 and 3 within Special Recreation Management Area Allocations.

Description and Purpose of Proposed Action: The Upper Willamette Area of the Eugene Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to replace five (5) culverts along 1.2 miles of the Row River Trail. The proposed culvert replacements will occur between mileposts 8.6 and 9.8 (milepost 0.0 is located in downtown Cottage Grove, with mileposts markers located on the trail at 0.5 mile increments).

The purpose of the action is to resume intended function to five (5) drainage points along the Row River Trail in order to effectively pass water under the trail structure.

On-the-ground culvert replacement activities would be in effect from approximately October 2010 to December 2011. Prior to culvert replacement activities, signs would be posted at all trail access points in the vicinity of activities notifying the public of trail segment closures and indicating bypasses, if available.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

This project is in conformance the 1995 Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (Northwest Forest Plan {NSO-ROD} USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management, April 1994), and the 1995 Eugene District Resource Management Plan (1995 RMP) including the 2007 Record of Decision To Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl.

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 11.9(G)(2)(3), installation of routine signs, markers, culverts on/or adjacent to roads and trails and the temporary closure of roads and trails.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because the proposed action is in accordance with 516 DM 11.9(G) (2)(3) and there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Eugene District has reviewed the proposed action, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 apply.

Categorical Exclusions Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation

THE PROPOSED CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ACTION WILL:		YES	NO
1.	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
	Rationale: All proposed activities follow established Occupational Safety and Health Administration rules concerning health and safety.		
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.		X
	Rationale: Project activities would not have significant negative effects on park or recreation lands. The project area is not within and does not contain any of the other natural or geographic areas described above.		
3.	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
	Rationale: 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.		
4.	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
	Rationale: Culvert replacements are not unique or involve unknown environmental risk. The Eugene BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar locations without significant environmental effects.		
5.	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
	Rationale: There is no evidence that culvert replacement and possible temporary trail closure have potentially significant environmental effects nor would it establish a precedent or decision for future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		
6.	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
	Rationale: Considering the context and intensity of the proposed action along with project mitigations, it was determined that the action would not have cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
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.		X
	Rationale: There are no eligible or listed properties within the designated trail system.		

THE PROPOSED CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ACTION WILL:		YES	NO
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.		X
	Rationale: For fish there would be no significant impacts to species listed or proposed to be listed as an Endangered or Threatened Species, nor have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species. For wildlife and botany, the action would consist within the trail prism and there would be no habitat modification associated with project activities.		
9.	Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
	Rationale: The proposed action conforms to the direction given for the management of public lands in the Eugene District ROD/RMP, which complies with all applicable laws.		
10.	Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 2898).		X
	Rationale: The proposed action would not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		
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).		X
	Rationale: This project would not limit access or ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites; furthermore, this is a well-established recreation site in which no cultural resources have been identified.		
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).		X
	Rationale: The proposed action would 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.		

D. Decision

I have reviewed this CE, plan conformance and NEPA compliance review and have determined the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project as described.

William O' Sullivan, Upper Willamette Field Manager
Authorized Official

10/14/09
Date

E. Contact Person and Reviewers

For additional information concerning this Categorical Exclusion review, contact Aaron Eklund, Upper Willamette Resource Area Engineer, (541) 683-6246.

F. Administrative Remedies

Notice of this decision will be posted on the District internet website. The action is subject to protest under 43 CFR § 4.450-2. A decision in response to a protest is subject to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals under 43 CFR Part 4.