

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

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

Categorical Exclusion No. DOI-BLM-OR-E060-2009-00013-CX
Shotgun North Trail Closure

A. Background

Location of Proposed Action: in T. 15 S., R 1 W., section 7 and T. 15S., 2W., section 13 within Matrix and Riparian Reserves Land Use Allocations.

Description and Purpose of Proposed Action: The Upper Willamette Area of the Eugene Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to temporarily close designated trails 15, 16, 17, and 18 within the Shotgun Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trail system.

The purpose of the action is to mitigate potential user conflict and issues of safety due to proposed timber harvest activities adjacent to these trails.

Trail closure would be in effect from approximately late August 2009 to February 2011. Prior to harvest activities, signs would be posted at all trail access points notifying the public of the closure.

Specific direction for OHV management on BLM lands is to provide for visitor safety, and minimize conflicts between various users (1995 RMP, pg. 80).

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

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).

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)(3), 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)(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.

C. 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: The project area is not within and does not contain any of the 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: There are no predicted effects from the proposed action that are highly uncertain, potentially significant, unique, or involve unknown risks.		
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 temporary trail closure has potentially significant environmental effects; and it would not establish a precedent or decision for future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		

THE PROPOSED CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ACTION WILL:		YES	NO
6.	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
	Rationale: Based upon review of the project, and given current conditions on the grounds, the Eugene District did not find any resource issues of concern that would be affected by this action.		
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.		
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: 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.		
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 temporary closure of some designated trails 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, previous cultural resource surveys did not find cultural resources within the project area.		
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

8/3/09

Authorized Official

Date

E. Contact Person and Reviewers

For additional information concerning this Categorical Exclusion review, contact Liz Aleman, Upper Willamette Resource Area Recreation Planner, (541) 683-7578.

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.