

Categorical Exclusion Determination and Decision Record for Elderberry Flat Campground Resurfacing and Site Renovation CE #OR115-08-21

Location of Proposed Action: Project is located in the south ½ of the northeast ¼ of section 31, Township 33 South, Range 3 West, Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon.

Description of Proposed Action

Elderberry Flat Campground is in need of refurbishing. The loop road that runs through the campground is deteriorating with potholes, broken down edges, and failing asphalt patches. Parking pads for each campsite are not well delineated or barricaded, allowing off-highway vehicles (OHV) to leave the roadway and enter the campsites and West Fork Evans Creek. The bulletin board has been vandalized and destroyed. Two greywater disposal sites located in the campground and adjacent day-use area are nonfunctional and are no longer necessary. Work to repair these issues would consist of

- resurfacing road and campsite parking pads by hauling and placing aggregate rock and chip sealing all driving surfaces,
- decommissioning two greywater disposal sites by breaking up the cement lids, backfilling, and compacting,
- placing large boulders and fencing to delineate campsite parking pads, keep vehicles on roadway and parking pads, and prevent vehicles from crossing through campsites and entering the creek (three OHV trails entering the campground would be signed and left open to allow motorized access through the campground to other areas), and
- installing signs directing OHVs to stay on the pavement within the campground area and warning motorists of OHV presence on the campground loop.

Plan Conformance Review

The Bureau of Land Management did not scope this proposal and the public was not involved in its development. This proposal is consistent with policy directed by the following:

- *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and 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 FSEIS, 1994 and ROD, 1994)
- *Final-Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision* (EIS, 1994 and RMP/ROD, 1995)
- *Record of Decision To Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from the Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (USDI 2007)
- *Medford District Integrated Weed Management Plan Environmental Assessment* (1998) and tiered to the *Final-Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS, 1985)

The proposed action is in conformance with the direction given for the management of public lands in the Medford District by the Oregon and California Lands Act of 1937, Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Endangered Species Act of 1973, Clean Water Act of 1987, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996), Clean Air Act of 1990 (as amended), and Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

This proposal is consistent with management direction in the Medford District Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP) that directs the BLM to “Provide a wide range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities that contribute to meeting projected recreation demand within the planning area. Provision of recreation opportunities in or adjacent to water will be emphasized” (USDI 1995, p. 63). Best Management Practices from the Medford District ROD/RMP for Road Renovation/Improvement and Road Maintenance also directs the BLM to “Restore or improve a road to a desired standard in a manner that minimizes sediment production and water quality degradation” and to “Maintain roads in a manner that protects water quality and minimizes erosion and sedimentation” (USDI 1995, p. 163).

Project Design Features

1. All equipment will be cleaned prior to arrival on site to prevent noxious weed introduction.
2. Equipment will not be stored in or near stream channels.
3. Equipment will be refueled where there is minimal chance toxic materials could enter a stream.
4. Restrictions will be applied if an active spotted owl nest is located within 0.25 miles of the campground.
5. The campground and facilities will be closed to the public and signed during contracted work.
6. Crushed rock, crushed fines, and boulders, located at the Section 1 pit, will be Government-furnished. Contractor will be responsible for loading and transporting materials to the work site.
7. Appropriate traffic control signs and devices will be used to provide for public safety while work is in progress.

Categorical Exclusion Determination

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion as provided in United States Department of the Interior Departmental Manual 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, 1.7. This section allows for “Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance, renovations, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity (e.g., limited size and magnitude or short-term effects).”

Before any action described in the list of categorical exclusions may be used, the “extraordinary circumstances,” included in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, must be reviewed for applicability. After review, the BLM determined no extraordinary circumstances exist that would cause the proposed action to have a significant environmental effect. The action will not require additional analysis.

Contact Person

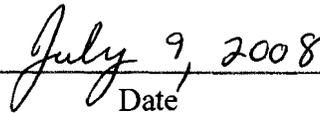
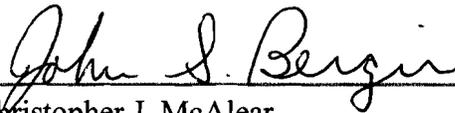
For additional information concerning this project, contact Trish Lindaman, Project Leader, at (541) 618-2266.

Decision

It is my decision to implement the Elderberry Flat Campground renovation projects as described in the Proposed Action.

Decision Rationale

The proposed action has been reviewed by Butte Falls Resource Area staff and appropriate Project Design Features, as specified above, will be incorporated into the proposal. Based on the attached NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further environmental analysis is required.



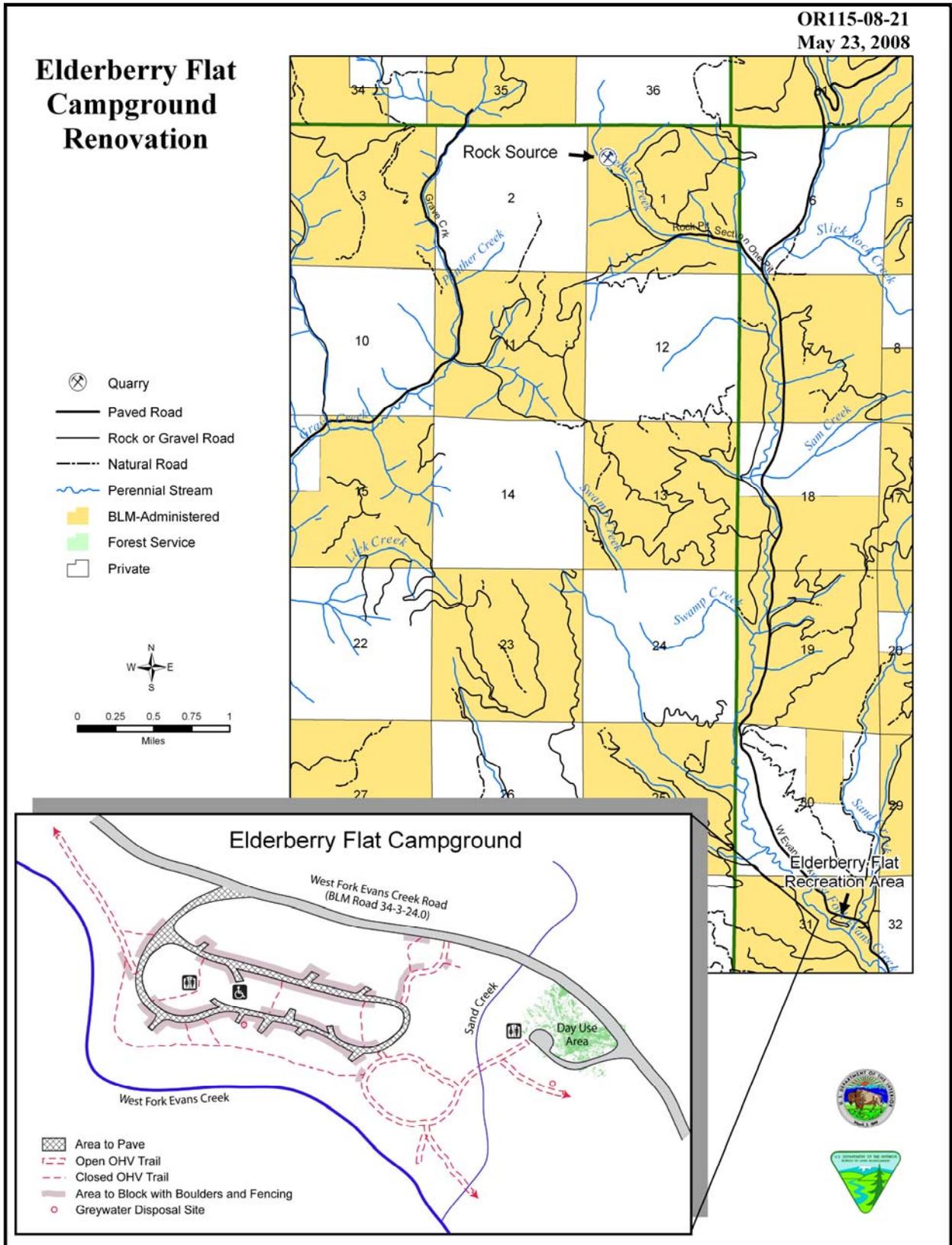
Christopher J. McAlear
Field Manager
Butte Falls Resource Area

Acting

Date

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities

Notice of the forest management decision to be made on the action described in this categorical exclusion will be posted on the Medford 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.



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review

Proposed Action: Elderberry Flat Campground Resurfacing and Site Renovation

Department of the Interior Manual 516 2.3.A(3) provides for a review of the following criteria for categorical exclusion to determine if exceptions apply to the proposed action based on actions which may:

- 1. *Have significant impacts on public health or safety.*
 Yes No
 Initial QW Remarks:
- 2. *Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resource; 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.*
 Yes No
 Initial QW Remarks:
- 3. *Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].*
 Yes No
 Initial QW Remarks:
- 4. *Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.*
 Yes No
 Initial QW Remarks:
- 5. *Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.*
 Yes No
 Initial QW Remarks:
- 6. *Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.*
 Yes No
 Initial SLS Remarks:
- 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.*
 Yes No
 Initial JCM Remarks:
- 8. *Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.*
 Plants Yes No Initial MW Remarks:
 Animals Yes No Initial DR Remarks:

Fish Yes No Initial SL Remarks: Should improve H2O quality

9. *Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.*

Yes No

Initial JCA Remarks:

10. *Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).*

Yes No

Initial _____ Remarks:

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).*

Yes No

Initial JCA Remarks:

12. *Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or nonnative 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).*

Yes No

Initial mw Remarks: with PDF's

Reviewers:

Name	Title	Date	Initials
Jean Williams	NEPA Coordinator	7/9/08	JW
Marcia Wineteer	Botanist	6/13/08	mw
Linda Hale	Wildlife Biologist	Dave Roelofs 6/11/08	DR
Steve Liebhardt	Fisheries Biologist	6/12/08	SL
Shawn Simpson	Hydrologist	6/12/08	SLS
Ken Van Etten	Soil Scientist	7/8/08	KVE
Leanne Mruzik	Fire/Fuels Specialist	6/17/08	LM
John McNeel	Cultural Technician	6/26/08	JCA
Randy Bryan	Engineer	6-12-08	RRB
Trish Lindaman	Outdoor Recreation Planner	6-27-08	TL