

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIEOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/DECISION RECORD
Kiosk Installation on Bear Camp Road
CE #OR117-08-39

A. Proposed Action

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to install information kiosks in two locations on Bear Camp Road (Road 34-8-36). The kiosks would provide road information on the routes to the coast along the Galice Creek Road and USDA Forest Service Road 23 (collectively called the Bear Camp Road in this document). The signs would also post winter road hazards and potential road closure from snow. One turnout would be constructed and paved and a second existing turnout would be upgraded, graveled and chip sealed. One interpretive panel would be installed.

B. Location/Land Use Allocation: Approximately 15 to 20 miles northwest of Grants Pass, Oregon in T.35 S., R.8 W., Section 2 and T.34 S., R.9 W., Section 35 (See exhibit A).

C. Need / Rationale for the Proposed Action:

In order to improve public awareness and back country safety and to alert travelers of potential hazards, closures, and directions, the Grants Pass Resource Area needs to provide signage to more clearly warn the public of potential dangers of winter travel and the potential for the Bear Camp Coastal Route becoming impassible by winter snows. These upgrades and detailed information would replace existing signs displaying hazards and possible road closures.

As stated in the RMP (p. 66), BLM will “enhance travel and recreation management through...interpretive and informational signs and maps”.

D. Description of the Proposed Action:

Two kiosks would be installed along the Bear Camp Road: one at the junction of the Bear Camp Road and the Peavine Road (Road 35-8-2), in T35S-R08W-Section 2; and one opposite the Hobson Horn turnoff (Road 34-9-35) at an existing turnout in T34S-R9W-Section 35. All activities would occur within the existing right-of-way boundary. Kiosks would be constructed off site and transported for installation.

A turnout would be constructed along the Bear Camp Road at the Peavine Road junction. The turnout would measure 100 ft x 20 ft and would be paved with asphalt. The kiosk would be approximately 96” high and 70” wide with a map and signage indicating route information pertinent to seasonal closures, potential hazards, nearest services, travel distances, safety tips and recommended travel periods. The kiosks will be constructed of treated dimensional lumber and installed on a concrete foundation. It would be installed at the west end of the turnout.

An additional sign of similar construction would be installed to interpret a nearby cultural site. The sign would measure approximately 20” high and 48” wide.

Fill material would be hauled from stockpiled rock approximately ½ mile up the Bear Camp Road. Cleared material from Galice slide would be used as the fill.

The existing turnout in T34S-R9W-Section 35 measures approximately 150 ft x 50 ft. The turnout will be renovated. Potholes would be filled and the area will be graveled and chip sealed. Several small trees at the edge of the turnout would be felled to provide a viewpoint. The kiosk would be installed near the outside edge and approximately in the center of the turnout.

Project Design Features

The turnout widening and installation of kiosks would be completed by BLM road maintenance personnel and project design would adhere to BLM’s Best Management Practices.

To reduce the chance of spread of noxious weeds, heavy equipment would be washed prior to ground disturbing activities.

E. Plan Conformance

The proposed action is in conformance with the following plans:

- (1) *Final EIS and Record of Decision for the Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP)* (June 1995).
- (2) *Final Supplemental EIS on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (February 1994).
- (3) *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and its attachment A entitled the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (NFP)(April 1994).
- (4) *Record of Decision to Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines in Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Plans within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl.* (July 2007)
- (5) *Medford District Noxious Weed Environmental Assessment* (April 1998).
- (6) *Final Supplemental EIS for Management of Port-Orford Cedar in Southwest Oregon* (December 2003)
- (7) *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (FSEIS 2000 and ROD 2001) including any amendments or modifications in effect as of March 21, 2004

F. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act

The Proposed Action qualifies as categorical exclusions under Department Manual 516 DM 11, 11.5:

E. Realty (13) Amendments to existing rights-of-way, such as the upgrading of existing facilities, which entail no additional disturbances outside the right-of-way boundary; and

G. Transportation (4) Placement of recreational, special designation, or information signs, visitor registers, kiosks, and portable sanitation devices.

The proposed action is also covered by Department categorical exclusion 1.7 (516 DM2, Appendix 4.1): *Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance and replacement activities having limited context and intensity; e.g. limited size and magnitude or short-term effects.*

The proposed action has been reviewed to determine if extraordinary circumstances exist that would require further environmental analysis and documentation (516 DM 2, Appendix 2). None have been identified (see attached).

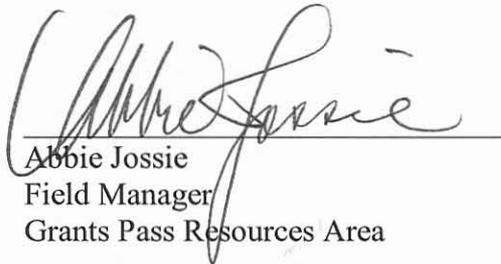
NEPA Preparer/Reviewer / Date

G. Decision

It is my decision to authorize installation of two kiosks along Bear Camp Road as described in the proposed action. A kiosk and new parking area will be located at the junction of the Bear Camp Road (T35S-R08W-Section 2). The other will be located at the Hobson Horn intersection (T34S-R9W-Section 35) with an improved turnout. The cultural interpretive sign will be installed.

Decision Rationale

The proposed action has been reviewed by the Grants Pass 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 that the proposed action involves no significant impact to the environment and no further environmental analysis is required.


Abbie Jossie
Field Manager
Grants Pass Resources Area

9-3-08
Date

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunity

Notice of the decision to be made on the action described in this categorical exclusion will be posted on the Medford District internet website. This decision will remain in effect pending appeal. Any party to the case who is adversely affected by the decision may appeal the decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals under 43 CFR part 4. Persons wishing to seek administrative recourse must do so in accordance with BLM regulations and 43 CFR Subtitle A, Part 4, Subpart E.

NEPA COMPLIANCE

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW Kiosk Installation on Bear Camp Road CE #OR117-08-39

The Department of the Interior Manual 516 2.3A (3) requires the review of the following “extraordinary circumstances” (516 DM 2 Appendix 2) to determine if an otherwise categorically excluded action would require additional analysis and environmental documentation.

1) *Have significant impacts on public health or safety.*

Yes No The project will improve public safety by providing information on routes to the coast and on potential road closures due to inclement weather.

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.*

Yes No There is a cultural site adjacent to one of the sites, but the footprint of the turnouts will not affect the site. Additionally, an interpretive site will also be installed to provide information on the site.

3) *Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].*

Yes No None have been identified.

4) *Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.*

Yes No There are no uncertain or potentially significant effects. Effects of this type of project are well known.

5) *Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.*

Yes No No precedent will be established by this project.

6) *Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.*

Yes No None have been identified.

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 There is a cultural site adjacent to one of the sites, but the footprint of the turnouts will not affect the site. Additionally, an interpretive site will also be installed to provide information on the site.

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.*

Yes No No effects on listed or proposed species are expected.

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

Yes No No violation of law would occur.

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

Yes No

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 No access will be limited.

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).*

Yes No

Reviewers:

John E. Selander 8/27/08
Silviculture, Vegetation Dynamics
& Port-Orford Cedar Date

Robin M. Olson 9/3/2008
Botany Date

Chris Green 9/2/2008
Cultural Resources Date

Steve Jy 8/25/08
Fisheries Date

Joe Reif 8/25/08
Wildlife Date

Michael J. Stasi 8/25/08
Soils/Hydrology Date

J. M. Ke 8/28/08
Visual Resources / Recreation Date

Jim Roper 9/3/08
Engineering Date

Tim Gonzales 8-27-08
Fire and Fuels Date