

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT

**NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW & DECISION RECORD
GRANTS PASS RESOURCE AREA
DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2014-004-CX**

Proposed Project or Action Title: Grants Pass High School Cross Country Rac'n Dirty Trail Run

Location of Proposed Action: Cathedral Hills (T36S, R5W, Section 31)

Land Use Allocation: The Medford District 1995 Resource Management Plan (RMP) land use allocations for this Proposed Action are Matrix and Riparian Reserve.

Proposed Action: Grants Pass High School Cross Country is proposing to host the 1st Annual Rac'n Dirty Trail Run for 25-50 participants along a portion of the existing Cathedral Hills Park trail system on Saturday, February 22, 2014. The BLM decision is whether to issue a Special Recreation Permit, which is required to hold the event.

The trail run is a competitive fundraiser for the Grants Pass High School Cross Country program. It is open to the public with different age groups competing: 10 and under, 11-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, and 70 and above. Pets are not allowed on the race course. Parking, registration, start and finish are all at the Grants Pass Golf Club. Participants would run from the Golf Club up Espey Road for approximately ¾ mile before entering Cathedral Hills Trail System which is administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). From the Espey Road Trailhead runners would make an approximately 4 mile loop through the park on the following trails: Zed's, Lower Hogback, Outback, and Timber Riders (see attached map).

Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. with the race beginning at 8:30 a.m. (mass start). Event organizers would have signage and volunteers on the road to indicate runners are on the road and to keep participants to one side of the road for traffic to pass by safely. All runners would finish by 10:00 a.m. and a sweep runner would clear the course at the end of the event. The checkpoints would be cleared and all signage removed by 11:00 a.m. the day of the event. Event holders would chalk the course the evening before the event. All other set up would start at 6:30 a.m. the day of the run.

There would be race monitors with radio communication stationed at the Espey Road Trailhead and throughout the course at major trail intersections (see attached map). Water/first aid stations would be located at the Golf Club and on BLM at the top of Zed's trail and another at the intersection of Outback Loop and Timber Riders Trail. Water/first aid stations would have radio communication and first aid certified personnel on hand to assist with medical emergencies, should they arise. Restrooms are at the start/finish and the Espey Road Trailhead.

Grants Pass High School Cross Country has received permission from the Grants Pass Golf Club and the Josephine County Roads Department to hold the event.

Objectives of the Medford District Resource Management Plan includes managing recreation sites and providing a diversity of developed and dispersed outdoor recreational opportunities that contribute to meeting recreational demand and quality visitor experiences.

PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES

The permittee assumes responsibility for inspecting the regulated area for any existing or new hazardous conditions such as slides, rocks, uneven trail surfaces, weather conditions, limbs or trees, hazardous wildlife, or other hazards which present a risk which the permittee assumes.

The requester would not have exclusive use of the Cathedral Hills trail system, including those trails proposed for the run. Runners would be made aware that they may encounter other hikers, mountain bikers, and/or horseback riders along the route.

The BLM would post signs at the Espey Road Trailhead prior to the event to notify other users (hikers, bicyclists, and equestrian riders) of the timing and route of the upcoming event to minimize potential conflict between different user groups.

All runners participating in the event would be identified with a number.

Dogs are not allowed to accompany participants during the event.

The permittee would limit the number of event staff vehicles to no more than 2 vehicles at Espey Road Trailhead and 1 vehicle at the Skycrest Trailhead.

The permittee would be responsible for all medical, safety, clean up, route marking, and personal needs of its runners.

There would be no spray painting of direction on the ground or vegetation. The route may be marked by flagging, chalk, and volunteers stationed at major intersections.

Signs would be placed on Espey Road alerting motorists of runners on road.

On public lands for this event, persons must not dispose of any cans, bottles, and other trash and garbage except in designated places or trash receptacles.

Cleanup of the site is required by 11:00 a.m. the day of the event.

Personal property must not be unattended beyond the day of the event; otherwise such items would be subject to disposal under the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (40 U.S.C. 484(m)).

Motor vehicle operators on public lands must not: exceed posted speed limits, willfully endanger persons or property, or act in a reckless, careless or negligent manner.

The permittee would be monitored for compliance by the BLM.

Pre and post evaluation of the trail surface would be done to determine if any damage has occurred from the event.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the following plans:

- *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)
- *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Management of Port-Orford-Cedar in Southwest Oregon* (FSEIS, 2004 and ROD, 2004)
- *Final SEIS for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (2000), and the *ROD and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (2001)
- *Medford District Integrated Weed Management Plan Environmental Assessment (1998)* and tiered to the *Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program* (EIS, 1985)

COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 H (1) "Issuance of Special Recreation permits for day use or overnight use . . . 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 2, Appendix 2, apply (See attached checklist).

NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

Extraordinary circumstances (CFR § 46.215) 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 (X) No

Remarks: All proposed activities follow established rules concerning health and safety.

2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources, park, recreation, refuge, lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); ecologically significant or critical areas (including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks).

() Yes (X) No

Remarks: The BLM has conducted this type of activity in the past with no significant impacts.

3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(e)).
 Yes No
 Remarks: There are no unresolved resource conflicts or controversial environmental effects.
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.
 Yes No
 Remarks: Past experience from this type of activity has shown no highly uncertain, potentially significant, unique or unknown risks.
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about a future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.
 Yes No
 Remarks: Similar actions have taken place on the Medford District and there is no evidence that this type of action would establish a precedent or decision for future action.
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.
 Yes No
 Remarks: The BLM has conducted this type of activity in the past with no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effects.
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either bureau or office.
 Yes No
 Remarks: There are no listed or eligible historic places within the trail prism.
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed for listed, on the List of Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.
 Yes No
 Remarks: The proposed activity would not disturb any T&E plant, animal, or fish species.
9. Violate a Federal law, or State, local, or tribal law requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.
 Yes No
 Remarks: The BLM has conducted this type of activity in the past. The proposed activities are not anticipated to violated any federal, state, local, or tribal laws or requirements for protecting the environment.
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).
 Yes No
 Remarks: Similar actions have taken place on the Medford District and there is no evidence that this type of action would have a disproportionately high or 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).
 Yes No

Remarks: No sacred sites have been identified by federal recognized Native American tribes.

12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).

() Yes (X) No

Remarks: The activities involved within this potential special recreation permit would not affect current populations of noxious weeds or increase the risk of introducing new sites.

Reviewers:


Fisheries

1/22/14
Date


Wildlife

1/22/14
Date


Botany

1/22/14
Date

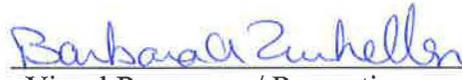

Soils/Hydrology

for Colleen
Bolm

1/22/14
Date


Michelle Calvert
Planning/NEPA

1/21/14
Date


Barbara Zuhellen
Visual Resources / Recreation

1/21/14
Date


cultural

1/22/14
date

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PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed federal action is to issue a Special Recreation Permit to Grants Pass High School Cross Country for hosting Rac'n Dirty, a competitive run, along a portion of the existing Cathedral Hills Park trail system on February 22, 2014.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

I have reviewed this Plan Conformance, Categorical Exclusion Determination and attached NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plans and would not involve any significant environmental impacts. No further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the Project Design Features identified above.



Allen Bollschweiler, Field Manager
Grants Pass Resource Area

1 / 23 / 14

Date

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

Administrative review of special recreation permit decisions requiring National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) assessment will be available under 43 CFR Part 4 to those who have a “legally cognizable interest” to which there is a substantial likelihood that the action authorized would cause injury, and who have established themselves as a “party to the case.” (See 43 CFR § 4.410 (a) – (c)). Other than the applicant for the Special Recreation Permit, in order to be considered a “party to the case” the person claiming to be adversely affected by the decision must show that they have notified the BLM that they have a “legally cognizable interest” and the decision on appeal has caused or is substantially likely to cause injury to that interest (See 43 CFR § 4.410(d)).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF DECISION

This is a land decision on a Special Recreation Permit in accordance with BLM regulations at 43 CFR Subpart 2930. All BLM decisions under 43 CFR Subpart 2931.8(b) “All decisions BLM makes under this part will go into effect immediately and will remain in effect while appeals are pending unless a stay is granted under 4.21(b) of this title”, unless the Director of the Office of Hearings and Appeals or an Appeals Board has determined otherwise in accordance with specified standards enumerated in 43 CFR 4.21(b).

RIGHT OF APPEAL

This decision may be appealed to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Interior Board of Land Appeals (Board) by those who have a “legally cognizable interest” to which there is a substantial likelihood that the action authorized in this decision would cause injury, and who have established themselves as a “party to the case.” (See 43 CFR § 4.410). If an appeal is taken, a written notice of appeal must be filed with the BLM officer who made the decision in this office by close of business (4:30 p.m.) not more than 30 days after the date of service. Faxed or e-mailed appeals will not be considered. Only signed hard copies of a notice of appeal that are delivered to the Grants Pass Field Manager 2164 NE Spalding Avenue, Grants Pass, OR 97526, will be accepted.

In addition to the applicant, in order to qualify as an appellant, a “party to the case,” you have the burden of showing possession of a “legally cognizable interest” that has a substantial likelihood of injury from the decision. (See 43 CFR § 4.410(d)). The person signing the notice of appeal has the responsibility of proving eligibility to represent the appellant before the Board under its regulations at 43 CFR § 1.3. The appellant also has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error. The appeal must clearly and concisely state which portion or element of the decision is being appealed and the reasons why the decision is believed to be in error. If your 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.

According to 43 CFR Part 4, you have the right to petition the Board to stay the implementation of the decision. Should you choose to file one, your stay request should accompany your notice of appeal. You must show standing and present reasons for requesting a stay of the decision. A petition for stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. The likelihood of the appellant’s success on the merits,
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

A notice of appeal with petition for stay must be served upon the Board, the Regional Solicitor and the applicant Grants Pass High School Cross Country, at the same time such documents are served on the deciding official at this office. Service must be accomplished within fifteen (15) days after filing in order to be in compliance with appeal regulations. 43 CFR § 4.413(a). At the end of your notice of appeal you must sign a certification that service has been or will be made in accordance with the applicable rules (i.e., 43 CFR §§ 4.410(c) and 4.413) and specify the date and manner of such service.

The IBLA will review any petition for a stay and may grant or deny the stay. If the IBLA takes no action on the stay request within 45 days of the expiration of the time for filing a notice of appeal, you may deem the request for stay as denied, and the BLM decision will remain in full force and effect until IBLA makes a final ruling on the case.

For additional information concerning this project, contact Leah Schofield, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, at (541) 471-6504.

Additional contact addresses include:

U.S. Department of the Interior Office
of Hearings and Appeals Interior Board
of Land Appeals
801 N. Quincy Street, MS 300-QC

Arlington, Virginia 22203

Regional Solicitor
Pacific Northwest Region
U.S. Department of the Interior
500 N.E. Multnomah Street, Suite 607
Portland, Oregon 97232

Grants Pass High School Cross Country
Bobbi St. Clair
830 NE 9th Street
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

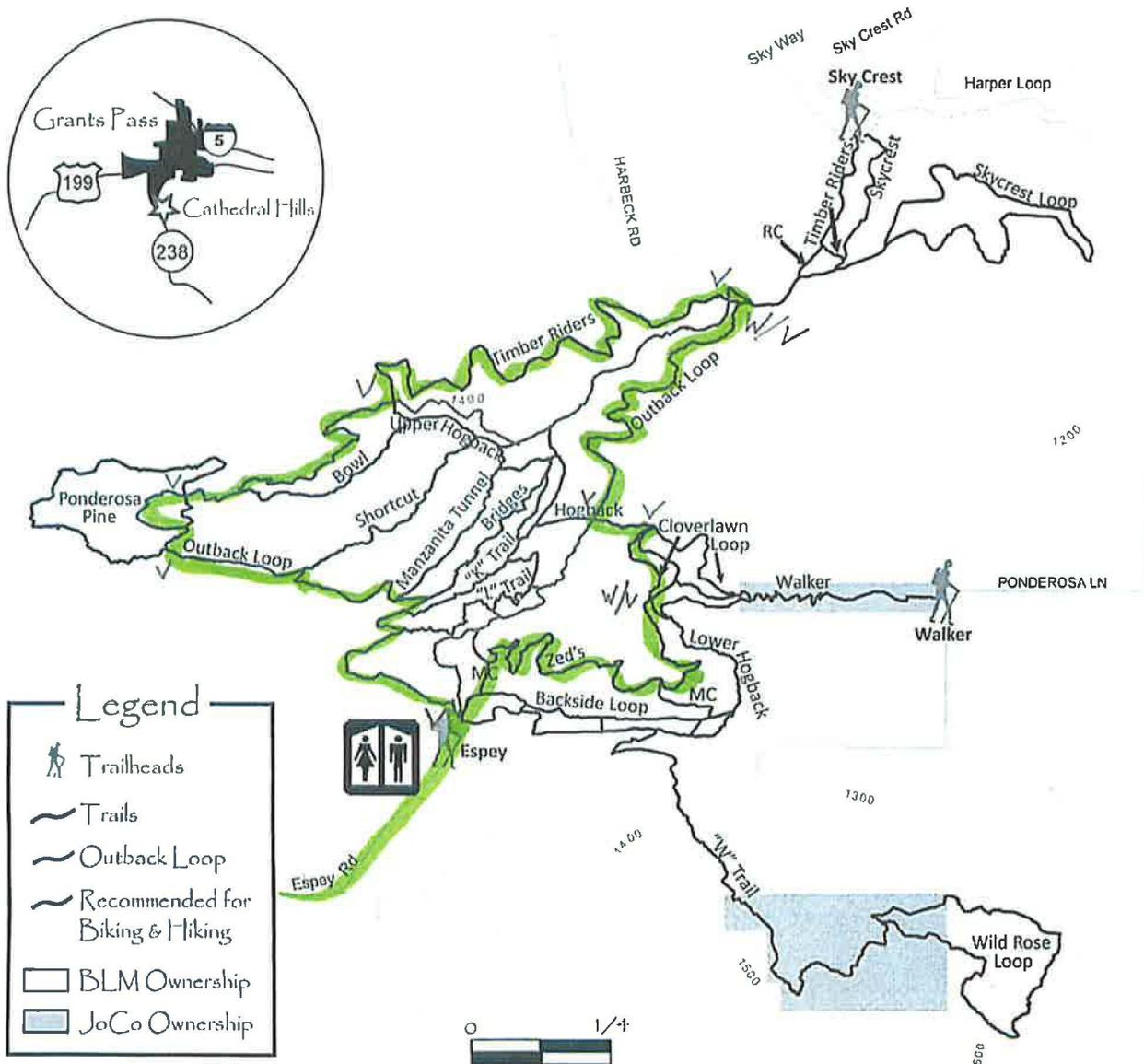
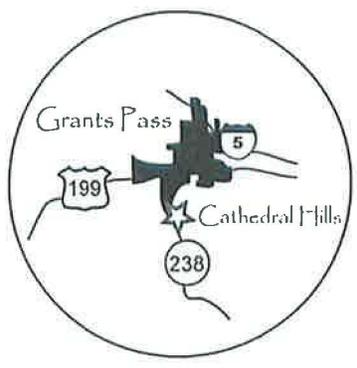
Attachments:

Map
Event Flyer

V - Volunteer
 W - Water

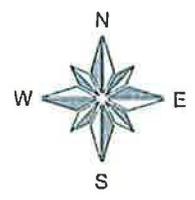
Cathedral Hills Trails

with 20' contour intervals



Legend

- Trailheads
- Trails
- Outback Loop
- Recommended for Biking & Hiking
- BLM Ownership
- JoCo Ownership



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.



RAC'N DIRTY!



Cathedral Hills Trail Run

A Run to Benefit GPHS Cross Country

Distance **5.25 Miles**

Saturday, February 22nd

8:30 am



Start Location: **Grants Pass Golf Club** (230 Espey Rd.)

Parking: Parking spaces are very limited. We highly recommend you carpool.

Age Groups: 10 and under, 11-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70 and above

Awards: Awards will be given to the top three finishers in each age group.

Cost: \$20.00 without a t-shirt, add \$7.00 for a race shirt. Shirts will not be available for entries after February 8th. Size Sm M L XL

Restrictions: For your safety, absolutely no dogs on the race course.

Packet Pick-up: Friday at Competitive Athletics 4:00-6:00PM, Saturday at Grants Pass Golf Club from 7:00-8:00AM.

Make checks payable to: Grants Pass High School

CONTACT: Race Director – Bobbi St. Clair (503) 551-2770 (Cut here and mail in bottom portion)

Name: _____ Age: _____ Gender: M F (Circle One)

(Please Print Clearly)

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

You **MUST** read and sign waiver to participate in this event.

I know that running/walking in a trail race is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter this event unless I am medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of a race official relative to my ability to safely complete the run. I assume all risks associated with running or walking in this event including, but not limited to, falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather, including high heat and/or humidity, and the conditions of the trail; all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of your accepting my application, I, for myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release any and all sponsors including, but not limited to, the City of Grants Pass, Grants Pass High School, and race organizers, the representatives and successors from all claims or liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event even though that liability may rise out of negligent or carelessness on the part of the persons named on this waiver.

Signature (Parent or Legal Guardian Must Sign For Runner Under age 18) Date

** Mail entries to: Grants Pass High School Cross Country, 830 NE 9th St., Grants Pass, OR 97526

**Entries can also be dropped off at Competitive Athletics, 105 NE 7th St., Grants Pass, OR 97526