

Categorical Exclusion Determination and Decision Record for Crowfoot-Camel Hump JACTMA Parking Area Improvement DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2009-0049-CX

Description of Proposed Action

Butte Falls Resource Area, Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to improve an existing parking area on road 34-1E-15 near the intersection with Crowfoot Road. The project is located in Township 34S, Range 1E, Section 15 in Jackson County, Oregon.

The road is an access point into lands included in Jackson Cooperative Travel Management Area road closure (JACTMA). JACTMA is a cooperative agreement between BLM, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and private timberland owners that restricts motorized vehicle access into deer and elk winter range during certain times of year that varies according to the opening of general elk season, generally from mid-October through April. The road closure seasonally restricts vehicle access into the area near Camel Hump Mt. that is designated as "Deer and Elk Winter Range"

A rocked landing used for timber harvest during the Lower Big Butte Timber sale located on road 34-1E-15 just off Crowfoot Road. This area is currently designated as a parking area for vehicles where hunters and other users can park and walk into the area during the seasonal motorized vehicle closure.

During the winter of 2009, vehicles were driving off the rocked area into an adjacent meadow, leaving deep ruts. The proposed action will place additional rock on the old landing in the area that is already disturbed to improve the parking area and prevent further degradation from vehicles driving off the rocked surface.

The additional rock would improve the rocked surface to allow turn-around and parking space for vehicles pulling trailers. All work would occur within the previously disturbed area. Boulders would be added at the edge of the rocked parking area to prevent vehicles from being driven into the meadow. Boulders would also be placed at the upper gate to restrict ATV traffic from driving around the gate.

Plan Conformance Review

This proposal was not scoped 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); and
- *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).

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This proposal is consistent with management direction in the Medford District 1995 ROD/RMP that directs the BLM to

- “Restrict motor vehicle use within designated deer and elk winter range...” (USDI 1995 ROD, p. 48).
- “Improve and/or maintain soil and water conditions by closing selected areas to off-highway vehicle use and/or limiting such use to existing or designated roads and trails.” (USDI 1995 RMP, p. 42).

Project Design Features

1. Project area would be surveyed for sensitive plants prior to implementing the project. If any sensitive plants are found, they would be avoided by the action.
2. Area would be monitored for weeds, and treated as needed.
3. If any cultural resources are located during project implementation the activities around the site would stop, and a cultural resource specialist would be contacted to determine the importance of the site.

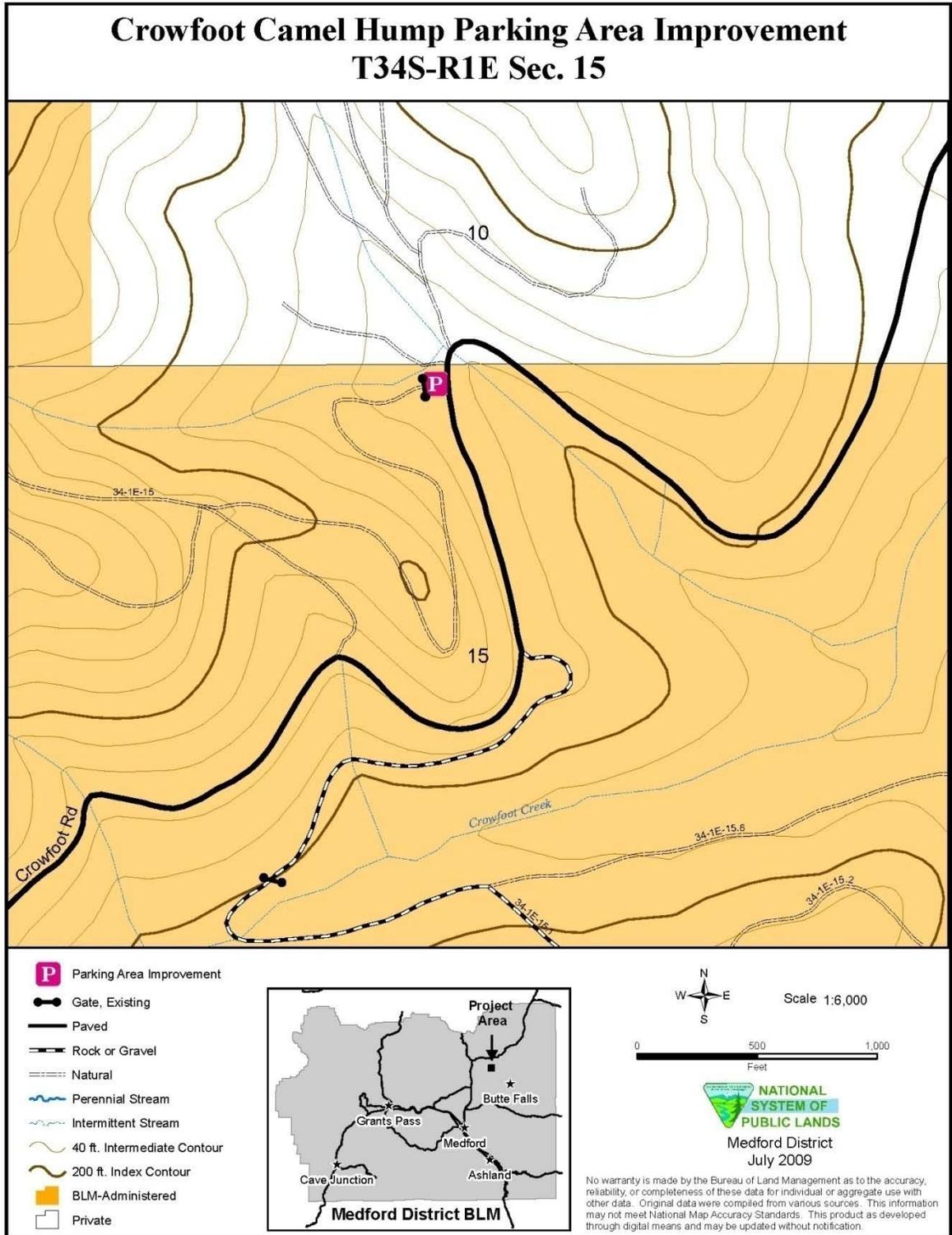
Categorical Exclusion Determination

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion as provided in United States Department of the Interior Manual 516 DM 2, Appendix 3, 1.7 which allows routine maintenance, renovation, 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 the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 43 CFR 46.205(b) 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 Persons

For additional information concerning this project, contact Linda Hale, wildlife biologist at (541) 618-2257 or Marcia Wineteer, botanist, at (541) 618-2494.



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review

Proposed Action: The proposed action would add rock surfacing to the designated parking area on BLM Road 34-1E-15. The purpose is to improve and slightly enlarge the rocked parking area to allow more parking and prevent people from driving off the rocked surface into the adjacent meadow.

The Code of Federal Regulations at 43 CFR 46.205(c) 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 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

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:

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7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.

Yes No

Initial JB 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: *surveys completed - no sites*

Animals Yes No

Initial LH Remarks:

Fish Yes No

Initial LZ Remarks:

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

Yes No

Initial JW Remarks:

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

Yes No

Initial JW 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 JW 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: *no weeds as of July 2009 in the area of the proposed gravelled area*

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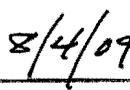
Decision

It is my decision to place additional rock on the old landing area and slightly enlarge the rocked area to improve the parking situation. This would improve the surface where people currently park and prevent driving in the meadow.

The additional rock would also allow vehicles pulling trailers to turn around and park while remaining on the rocked surface. All work would occur within the previously disturbed area. Boulders would be added at the edge of the rocked parking area to prevent vehicles from being driven into the meadow. Boulders would also be placed at the upper gate to restrict ATV traffic from driving into the closed area.

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.

Jon K. Raby Date
Field Manager
Butte Falls Resource Area

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.

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Categorical Exclusion Reviewers:

Name	Title	Date	Initials
Jean Williams	NEPA Coordinator	8/4/09	JW
Marcia Wineteer	Botanist	7/13/09	mw
Linda Hale	Wildlife Biologist	7/8/2009	LH
Steve Liebhardt	Fisheries Biologist	7/8/09	SL
Shawn Simpson	Hydrologist	7/10/09	SLS
Ken VanEtten	Soil Scientist	7/24/09	SLS acting
Alan Mason	Fire/Fuels Specialist	7/9/09	APM
Lisa Brennan	Archaeologist	7/28/09	LB
Randy Bryan	Engineer	7/9/09	RRB
Trish Lindaman	Outdoor Recreation Planner	7/9/09	TL