

## **Categorical Exclusion Determination and Decision Record for Table Rock Trailheads Renovation DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2010-0004-CX**

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### **Description of Proposed Action**

The Bureau of Land Management, Butte Falls Resource Area (BLM) is proposing renovation projects at Upper and Lower Table Rock trailheads. Facilities at both trailheads are in poor shape and in need of refurbishing or replacement. The renovation work would be done using contractors, volunteers, and BLM personnel.

At Upper Table Rock trailhead, the concrete slab around the toilets has shifted and broken, allowing rainwater to drain into the holding tank. Many of the wood structures buried in the ground are starting to rot and break off at ground level. Tour buses are unable to negotiate the entrance to the parking lot. The BLM proposes to:

- remove the two existing Romtec toilets and replace with one double CXT toilet, with storage area, at a new location;
- add a cement walkway from the parking lot to the new toilets;
- install benches to provide a group gathering area at the old toilet location;
- replace or repair any rotted fencing, kiosks, benches, and boot scrapers;
- sign, delineate, and surface the area across the road for tour bus and overflow parking (dependent on county approval); and
- install a vandal-proof trail counter.

At Lower Table Rock trailhead, the concrete in front of the existing toilets has settled leaving a ledge that makes the toilets inaccessible to people in wheelchairs. A portion of the parking lot has settled and the entire parking lot needs sealing. The original landscaping around the parking area has been overgrown by weeds. Unprotected trail counters are being vandalized. A gap in the buck and rail fencing allows unauthorized ATV access onto the trail. The adjacent private landowner plans to install fencing on the property line that will partially block the view of the entrance sign. The BLM proposes to:

- remove and replace the sunken concrete pad and asphalt in front of the existing toilets,
- harden the landscaping around the parking area with rocks and native plants to facilitate environmental education gatherings,
- repair a sunken area in the parking lot,
- seal the parking lot,
- install a vandal-proof trail counter,
- install fencing to tie-in to the adjacent neighbor's fencing, and
- move the entrance sign.

The Upper Table Rock trailhead project is located about 6 miles north of Medford, Oregon in the northwest ¼ of the southeast ¼ of section 1, Township 36 South, Range 2 West. The Lower

Table Rock trailhead project is located about 10 miles northwest of Medford in the northeast ¼ of the southwest ¼ of section 4, Township 36 South, Range 2 West, Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon (map 1). The project would occur on lands designated as area of critical environmental concern (ACEC) within the Gold Hill-Rogue River and Shady Cove-Rogue River fifth field watersheds.

### **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 in conformance with policy directed by the following:

- *Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP)*
- *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)*
- *Medford District Integrated Weed Management Plan Environmental Assessment and tiered to the Final-Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program Environmental Impact Statement*

The proposed action was designed to be consistent 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, National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 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), Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, and Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

This proposal is consistent with management direction in the Medford District ROD/RMP that directs the BLM to “Manage scenic, natural, and cultural resources to enhance visitor recreation experience expectations and satisfy public land users” (ROD/RMP, p. 63).

### **Project Design Features**

Project design features are an integral part of the proposed action and have been developed to avoid or reduce the potential for adverse impacts to resources. The following project design features are included in this project:

1. All equipment will be cleaned prior to arrival on site.
2. Store equipment, hazardous materials, and petroleum products outside riparian reserves and locate so accidental spills will be contained and will not drain into the stream system.
3. Refuel and maintain equipment outside of riparian reserves and locate fueling areas so accidental spills will be contained and will not drain into the stream system.
4. Imported fill and gravel will come from approved sources to minimize the introduction of noxious weeds.
5. Material staging and disposal sites for excess material will be preapproved.
6. Follow all applicable State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality guidelines for spill prevention and containment of petroleum products (Oregon Administrative

Rules, Chapter 340, Department of Environmental Quality, Division 142, Oil and Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Requirements).

7. Restrict activities from March 1 through June 30 within 0.25 mile of known northern spotted owl nests.
8. Close and sign trailheads during contracted work.
9. Use appropriate traffic control signs and devices for public safety while work is in progress.

### **Categorical Exclusion Determination**

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion as provided in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 43 CFR 46.210(f), which 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 43 CFR 46.205(c), 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.

**NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review**

**Proposed Action:** The BLM proposes to renovate the Upper and Lower Table Rock trailheads by replacing the vault toilets, repairing sidewalks and parking lots, replacing damaged wooden facilities, and performing landscaping.

The Code of Federal Regulations at 43 CFR 46.205(c) requires that “any action that is normally categorically excluded must be evaluated to determine whether it meets any of the extraordinary circumstances in section 46.215” (listed below). Additional analysis and environmental documents must be completed for any normally categorically excluded action which may:

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

Yes  No

Initial JW 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 JW 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 JW Remarks:

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

Yes  No

Initial JW 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 JW 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 the bureau.*

Yes  No

Initial RAM 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 LH Remarks:

Fish  Yes  No

Initial AS 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 *with implementation of PDFs*

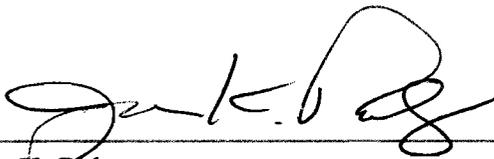
Initial mw Remarks:

**Decision**

It is my decision to implement the renovation projects at Upper and Lower Table Rock trailheads 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 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further environmental analysis is required.



5/17/10

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Jon K. Raby  
Field Manager  
Butte Falls Resource Area

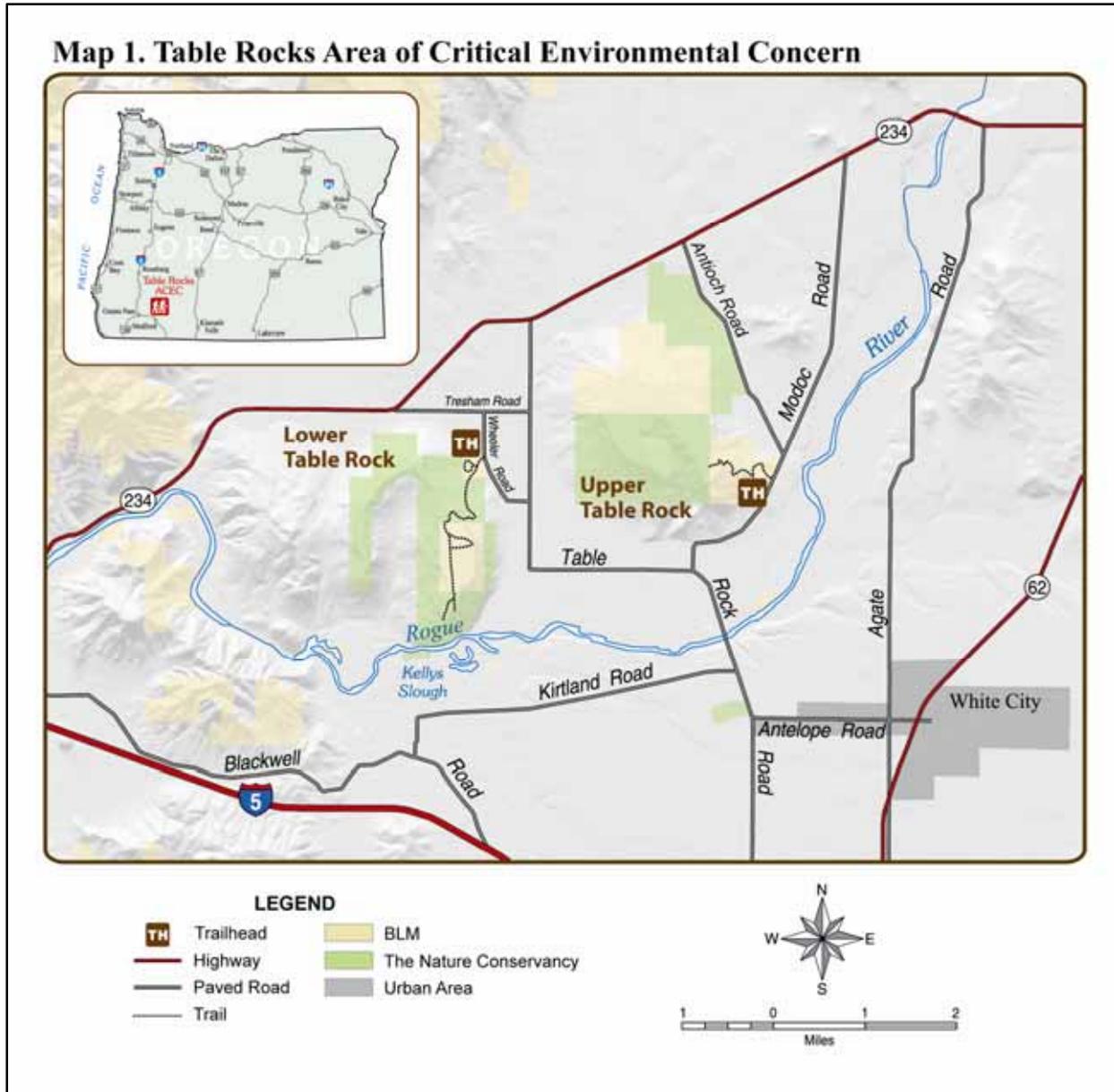
Date

**Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities**

Notice of the decision to be made on the action described in this categorical exclusion will be posted on the Medford District Web site. 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.

**Categorical Exclusion Reviewers:**

Name	Title	Date	Initials
Jean Williams	NEPA Coordinator	5/17/10	JW
Marcia Wineteer	Botanist	5/17/10	MW
Linda Hale	Wildlife Biologist	4/30/10	LH
Angela San Filippo	Fisheries Biologist	4/14/10	AS
Shawn Simpson	Hydrologist	4/22/10	SS
Ken Van Etten	Soil Scientist	4/26/10	KVE
Alan Mason	Fire/Fuels Specialist	4/19/10	AM
Ron Gregory	Archaeologist	5/5/10	R24
Randy Bryan	Engineer	4/21/10	RRB
Trish Lindaman	Outdoor Recreation Planner	5/5/10	TL



Map 2. Site Map of Upper Table Rock

