

DECISION RECORD & CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

Project Name: Mountain Lakes Challenge SRP

OR-MO40-2012-004CX

BLM Office: Ashland R.A., Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, Medford District.

Contact Person: For additional information concerning this project, contact Nick Schade at (541) 618-2281.

DESCRIPTION & LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: Issue a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) for the Mountain Lakes Challenge road biking event. The Mountain Lakes Challenge is a one day commercial event that takes place in June each year. The Mountain Lakes Challenge offers three scenic and demanding routes in the Southern Oregon Cascades (see attached maps).

Metric Challenge: 58 miles

Century Challenge: 100 miles

Double Metric Challenge: 135 miles

The event takes place in its entirety on improved (paved and/chip sealed) roads. With slight variation, depending on the route chosen, the event begins with riders leaving Ashland, OR traveling Highway 66, riding in the area of Hyatt and Howard Reservoirs, Lake of the Woods, and riding down Dead Indian Memorial Hwy, ending in Ashland, OR.

Each of the three routes that make up the Mountain Lakes Challenge follows the same route when traveling on BLM-controlled and managed roads through the Medford District. The event takes place on East Hyatt Lake Road (40-3E-3.0), the Howard-Hyatt Hookup Road (38-4E-32), and Keno Access Road (39-7E-31) which are under the control and management of the Medford District Bureau of Land Management. The total distance traveled during the Mountain Lakes Challenge on BLM managed and controlled lands is 13.5 miles:

East Hyatt Lake Road: 7.6 miles

Howard-Hyatt Hookup Road: 1.2 miles

Keno Access Road: 4.7 miles

Total: 13.5 miles

Project Design Features (PDFs)

The following PDFs are required in order to protect resource and monument values as well as ensuring the quality of the experience by casual users:

- All riders remain within the legal road right-of-way.
- All trash and garbage will be picked up and disposed of properly.
- Any item brought for use by the permit holder must be removed at the end of the event.
- The permit holder shall comply with all Federal, state, and local laws; ordinances; regulations; postings; or written requirements applicable to the area covered by this SRP.
- Permit holder shall submit final post-use report.

PLAN CONFORMANCE

This proposal is in conformance with objectives, land use allocations, and management direction of the 1995 and 2008 Medford District Records of Decision and Resource Management Plans (ROD/RMP) and any plan amendments in effect at the time this document is published. The proposed action is also located on BLM-administered lands in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and crosses private lands on BLM-controlled roads. It is in conformance with and tiered to the 2008 *Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument ROD and RMP*.

This project also conforms with the 1994 *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).

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 (O&C Act), Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, the Clean Water Act of 1987, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996), Clean Air Act, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

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

Pursue recreation opportunities that will benefit local community economic strategies consistent with BLM land use objectives (USDI 1995, p. 63); and

Enhance recreation opportunities provided by existing and proposed watchable wildlife and wildflower areas and national back country byways (USDI 1995, p. 64).

This proposal is also consistent with management direction in the 2008 Medford District ROD/RMP that directs the BLM to:

Provide a diversity of developed and dispersed outdoor recreational opportunities that contribute to meeting recreational demand and quality visitor experiences (USDI 2008, p. 54).

The proposal is also consistent with management direction in the 2008 Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument ROD/RMP that directs the BLM to:

Allow bicycle use on open roads and on most designated roads open to administrative use but otherwise closed to motorized vehicle access (USDI 2008, p. 94).

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

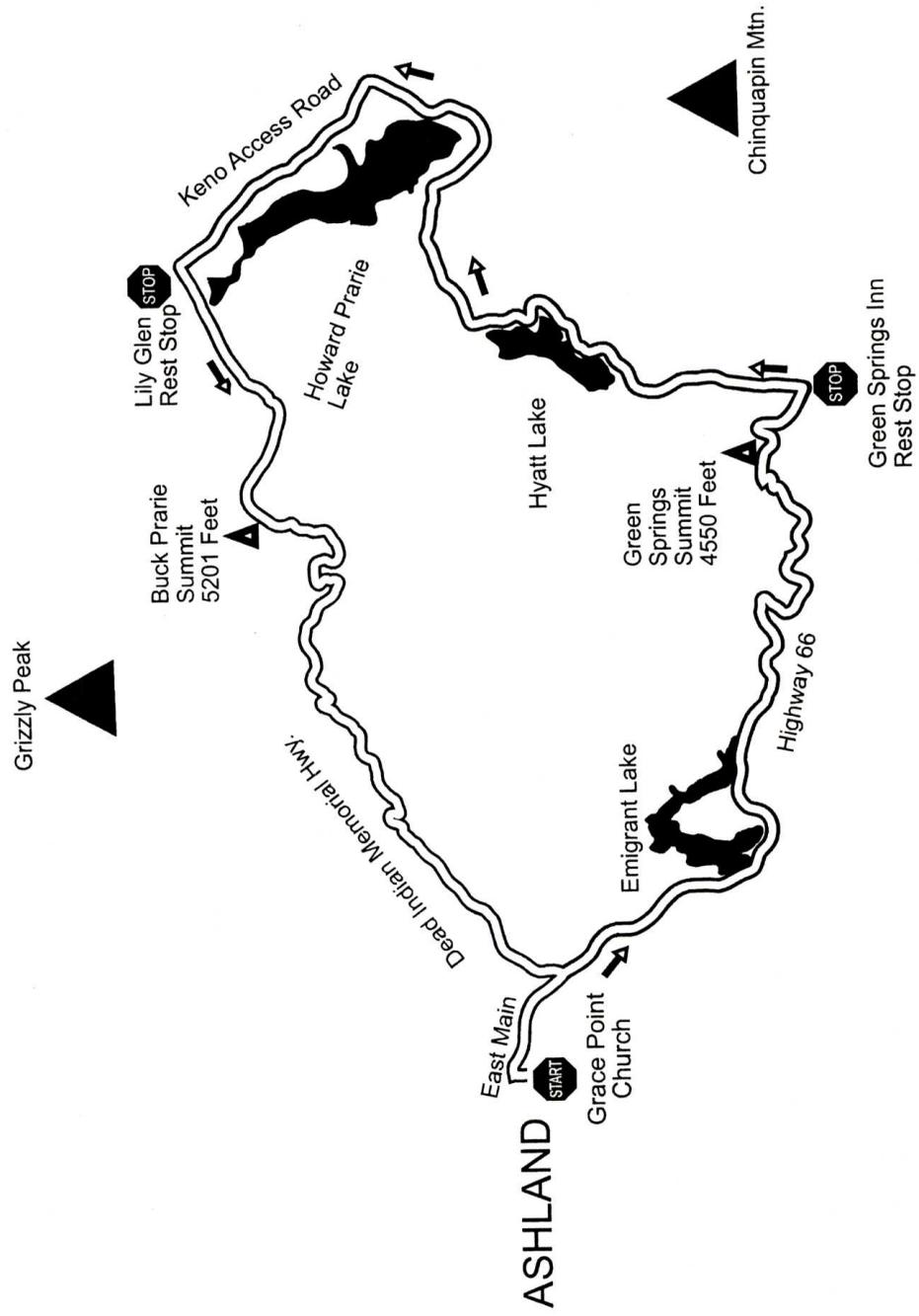
The proposed action would not create adverse environmental effects under the categorical exclusion exceptions, unless as noted. The proposed action will:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Categorical Exclusion Exception</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)] not already decided in an approved land use plan.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but significant cumulative environmental effects. (40 CFR 1508.7 and 1508.25(a)).

- () (X) 7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
- () (X) 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.
- () (X) 9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.
- () (X) 10. Have disproportionate significant adverse impacts on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).
- () (X) 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).
- () (X) 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).

Mountain Lakes Challenge

Metric Challenge Map

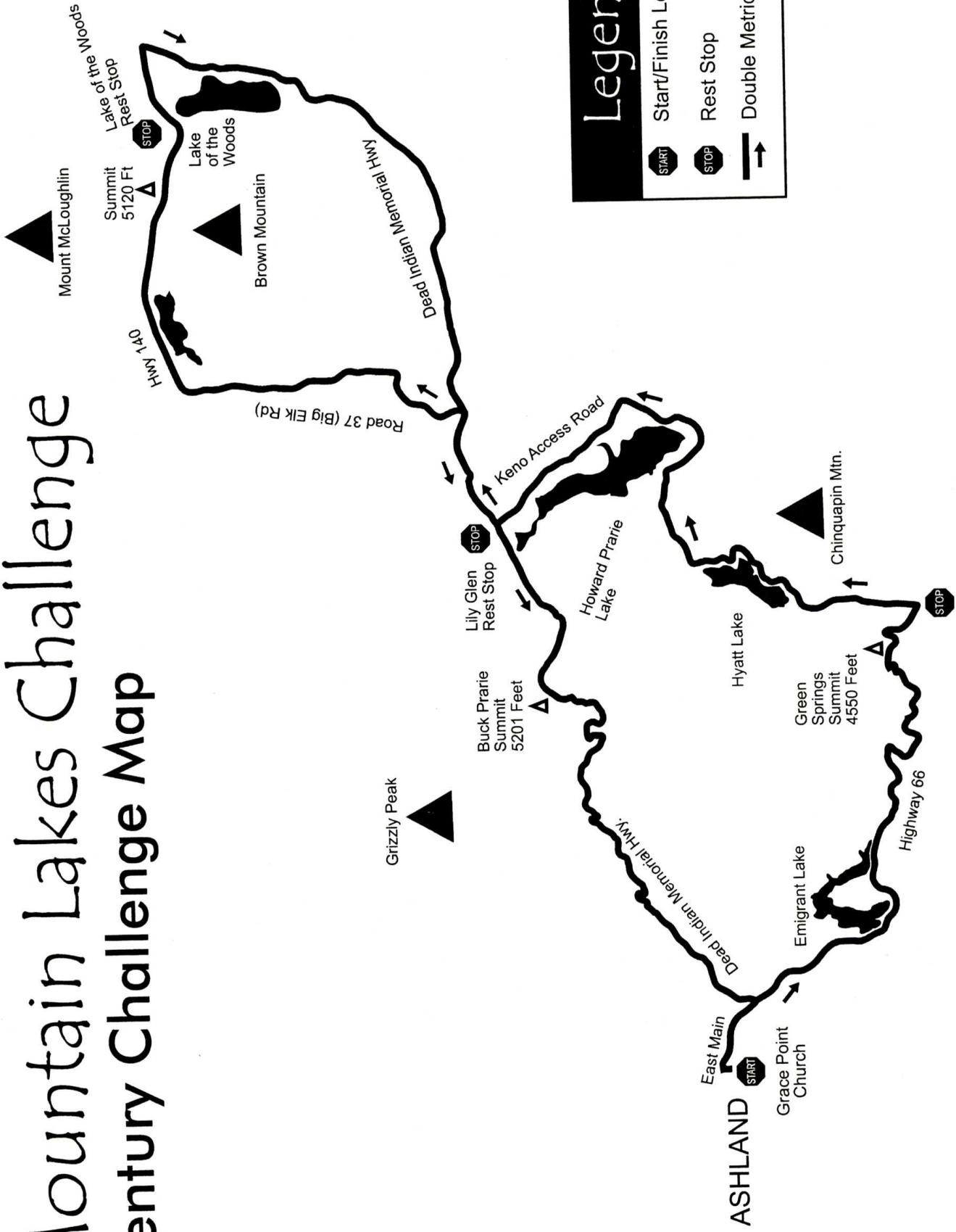


Legend

- Start/Finish Location
- Rest Stop
- Metric Challenge Route

Mountain Lakes Challenge

Century Challenge Map



Mountain Lakes Challenge

Double Metric Challenge Map

