

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

NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW & DECISION RECORD

Medford District #: DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2009-0010-CX

Proposed Project or Action Title: Cycle Oregon 2009

Location of Proposed Action: Grants Pass, Glendale, and Butte Falls Resource Areas

Land Use Allocation: NLCS, LSR, RR, Timber Matrix Lands

Proposed Action: Cycle Oregon is proposing a 7 day bicycle ride for 2,000 people that traverses approximately 427 miles beginning and ending in Medford, Oregon between September 12 and September 17, 2009. Overnight stops along the way include the towns of Yreka and Happy Camp (CA.), Selma, Glendale, and Grants Pass (OR.). The proposed ride includes multiple access points onto BLM lands administered by the Medford District via various secondary, paved roads.

The Medford District will be affected specifically on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, September 14-16 (days 3-5 of the ride). Day 3 segment will be from Happy Camp (CA.) to Selma traversing approximately 6 miles of Medford BLM controlled roads beginning on the Bear Creek Road (38-7-27) and continuing on Thompson Creek Road (39-7-21). Day 4 segment will be from Selma to Glendale traversing approximately 4 miles of Medford BLM controlled roads beginning and ending on the Galice Road (34-8-13). This segment of the ride is also within the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River Corridor for approximately 20 miles following county and BLM controlled roads. Day 5 segment will be from Glendale to Grants Pass traversing approximately 24 miles of Medford BLM controlled roads beginning on the Snow Creek Road (32-3-5) and continuing on West Evans Creek Road (34-3-24).

Both a scheduled water stop and lunch stop will occur on Medford BLM lands on Day 5. The location of the water stop is on Snow Creek Road (32-3-5). The site has been previously used as a gravel stockpile area, log landing, and heavy equipment staging area. Equipment at the water stop will include one vehicle with a 500 gallon potable water tank/trailer, eight portable toilets and a hand washing station, signing, and trash receptacles. Staff at the water stop will include one site supervisor. The lunch stop will be at BLM's Elderberry Campground on West Evans Creek Road (34-3-24). Equipment at the lunch site will include one refrigerated truck to dispense food, twenty portable toilets with hand washing stations, one tanker truck with 1,000 gallon potable water tank/trailer, tent canopy, folding chairs, beverage containers, signing, and trash receptacles. Staff at the lunch stop will include two Cycle Oregon employees, 18 community volunteers, two bicycle mechanics, and one ambulance with paramedics.

Cycle Oregon provides each agency with a comprehensive operating plan which describes their responsibility and actions for all medical, safety, clean up, route marking, and personal needs of its riders.

One of the objectives stated in the 1995 Medford District Record of Decision and Resource

Management Plan is to “Pursue recreation opportunities that will benefit local community economic strategies consistent with BLM land use objectives” (Medford District RMP, 1995, p.63).

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 Supplemental to the 2004 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation measure Standards and Guidelines from Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans Within the range of the Northern Spotted Owl*
- *Medford District Integrated Weed Management Plan Environmental Assessment (1998)* and tiered to the *Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program (EIS, 1985)*
- *Final Supplement to the 2004 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation measure Standards and Guidelines from Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl.* (FSEIS, 2007 and ROD, 2007).

COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National 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.”

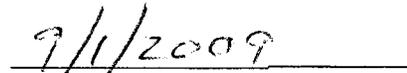
This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply (See attached checklist).

DECISION AND RATIONALE

I have reviewed this Plan Conformance, Categorical Exclusion, 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 mitigating measures identified below.



Timothy B. Reuwsaat,
District Manager



Date

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

Department of the Interior Manual 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 provides for a review of the following criteria to determine if exceptions apply to this proposed action:

1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety. Yes No
Remarks: None

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).

Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Hydrology	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Soils	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Remarks: None

3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(e)). Yes No
Remarks: None

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. Yes No
Remarks: None

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: None

6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. Yes No
Remarks: None

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.
Cultural Resources Yes No
Remarks: None

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.

Botany	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Remarks: None

9. Violate a Federal law, or State, local, or tribal law requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.
Yes No

Remarks: None

10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).
Yes No

Remarks: None

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: None

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).

Botany Yes No

Remarks: None