

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MEDFORD DISTRICT  
GRANTS PASS RESOURCE AREA  
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**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION / DECISION RECORD**

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**Rough and Ready Area of Critical Environmental Concern  
Habitat Restoration**

NEPA No.: DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2009-0021-CX

**A. Proposed Action**

The BLM is proposing to pull dirt displaced from tire ruts back into the ruts to restore natural contours to an area that has recently been damaged by illegal OHV use. The area to be restored is just outside the Rough and Ready Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Hand tools would be used to carefully restore the area as close as possible to natural conditions. The area of the ruts is approximately 5 feet by 43 feet.

**B. Location/Land Use Allocation:**

The project is on BLM-owned lands, bordering the Rough and Ready Area of Critical Environmental Concern, which is located in T.40 S., R.8 W., Section 7. The area that has been damaged and where the restoration will occur is Administratively Withdrawn.

**C. Need / Rationale for the Proposed Action:**

Illegal off highway vehicle use has damaged habitat within the population of Cooks' desert parsley (*Lomatium cookii*) within the Rough and Ready ACEC. Ruts approximately 8 to 12 inches deep have been created and there is a need to re-contour the area to restore the habitat and hydrologic regime to prevent future damage to the habitat and negative effects on the population.

**D. Description of the Proposed Action:**

BLM personnel would use hand tools (e.g. rakes, hoes, shovels) to pull soil displaced by the illegal 4WD use back into the ruts, being careful to keep the soil structure intact. The ruts would be filled with soil and the damaged lands would be restored to their original contour.

A wooden post and pole fence would be constructed on both sides of the road to preclude access to the Cook's desert parsley population, and signs would be posted informing the public of authorized and unauthorized uses within the ACEC. Approximately 300 feet of fence would be constructed on the north side of the road and 100 feet of fence on the south side of the road. The fence would be constructed during the time of year when the plants are dormant. Post holes

would be dug where there are no individual Cook's desert parsley plants. The area would be monitored for at least three years to make sure invasive plants do not become established.

### **E. Project Design Features**

Prior to entering BLM land equipment that may be used to make the post holes for the fence would be pressure washed so that it is free of soil and vegetative matter prior to entering BLM land.

### **F. Plan Conformance**

The proposed action is in conformance with the following plans:

- *Record of Decision (ROD) and Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Medford District (2008)*
- *Final EIS for the Revision of the Resource Management Plans of the Western Oregon Bureau of Land Management (2008)*
- *Decision Record and Environmental Assessment for the Medford District Integrated Weed Management Plan (April 1998)*

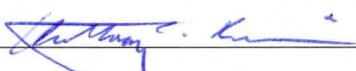
This project conforms to the Medford District's 2008 Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (USDI 2008), and complies with the Management Objectives and Direction of the 2008 Resource Management Plan. In addition, this project fully complies with the management objectives, actions, and direction of the resource management plan in place prior to December 30, 2008, which was the 1995 RMP, as amended (USDI 1995). The design of this project would not have differed under either the 2008 or the 1995 plans. This proposal also complies 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.

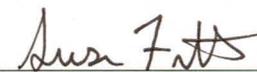
## F. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under Department 43 CFR 46.210(f), "Routine and continuing government business, including such things as . . . maintenance, renovations, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity (e.g. , limited size and magnitude or short-term effects)."

Title 43, Section 46.205(c) of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) requires the review of this action to determine if any of the "extraordinary circumstances" found at 43 CFR 46.215 would apply. If any of the extraordinary circumstances apply, then an otherwise categorically excluded action would require additional analysis and environmental documentation.

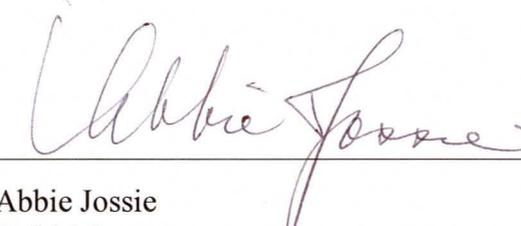
The proposed action has been reviewed to determine if extraordinary circumstances exist that would require further environmental analysis and documentation. None have been identified (see attached review).

 6/2/09  
NEPA Reviewer / Date

 5/27/09  
Preparer / Date

## G. Decision

I have reviewed this CE, plan conformance and NEPA compliance review and have determined the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project as described.

  
Abbie Jossie  
Field Manager  
Grants Pass Resources Area

6-3-09  
Date

**NEPA COMPLIANCE  
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW**

**Rough and Ready ACEC Habitat Restoration  
NEPA No.: DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2009-0021-CX**

Department of the Interior NEPA Regulations at 43 CFR 46.205(c) requires the review of the following “extraordinary circumstances” (found at 43 CFR 46.215) to determine if an otherwise categorically excluded action would require additional analysis and environmental documentation.

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

Yes No 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 Remarks: This project lies just outside the Rough and Ready Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The objective of the project is to restore habitat for Cook’s desert parsley. This project will not degrade the relevance and importance values for which the ACEC was designated.

*3) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].*

Yes No Remarks:

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

Yes No Remarks:

*5) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.*

Yes No Remarks:

*6) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.*

Yes No Remarks:

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

Yes No 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.*

Yes No Remarks: This project will improve habitat for the Federally endangered plant Cook's desert parsley by repairing damage done to a population. Additionally this project will provide protection to the population in the future by creating a barrier to keep vehicles from driving through the population. The habitat repair work would have no effect on the plants as work would be accomplished with hand tools and the plant has a deep taproot that would re-grow the following year if any above ground vegetation was damaged during the work. The barrier building would have no effect on the plants as the work would occur when the plants are dormant and post holes will not be dug where plants are present.

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

Yes No Remarks:

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

Yes No 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 Remarks:

12) *Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native 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 Remarks:

**Reviewers:**

June Fuchs 5/21/09  
Botany / ACEC Values Date

Robert Murray (acting) 5/22/09  
Silviculture, Vegetation Dynamics Date  
& Port-Orford Cedar

Alisa Brun 6/1/09  
Cultural Resources Date

Jon Rabson 5/21/09  
Fisheries Date

Paul Reay 5/21/09  
Wildlife Date

Michael DeBlasi 5/21/09  
Soils/Hydrology Date

Donna Brun 5/21/09  
Visual Resources / Recreation Date

James R. Popper 5/23/09  
Engineering Date

Jon W. Linn 5/21/09  
Fire and Fuels Date