

United States Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Medford District

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2010-0004-CX

January 5, 2010

A. Project: Installation and Renovation of Solar Panels

Location: Medford District Office, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford Oregon
Rogue River Ranch, T. 33 S. R. 10 W. Section 10
Winkle Bar Site, River Mile 15 on the Rogue River

Project Description: To install, maintain, and replace solar panels at the above three locations. All of these actions will be of a limited context and intensity.

- The Medford District Office will be receiving new solar panels, to be installed in the fleet parking lot. This will be a 25 KW array grid tie system that will supply electrical power into the transmission grid.
- The Rogue River Ranch presently has a residential solar panel system and this action will be completing needed maintenance and replacing necessary components of the existing system.
- The Winkle Bar Site on the Rogue River will be receiving new panels that will replace and upgrade the present system.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

The proposed action is in conformance with the following plans and decisions:

- a) *Final Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision* (EIS, 1994 and RMP/ROD, 1995)
- b) *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)
- c) *Record of Decision and Resource Plan Amendment for Management of Port-Orford-Cedar in southwest Oregon, Coos Bay, Medford, and Roseburg Districts* (May 2004) and the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Management of Port-Orford-Cedar in Southwest Oregon* (January 2004).
- d) *Decision Record and Environmental Assessment for the Medford District Integrated Weed Management Plan* (April 1998)
- e) *Record of Decision 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. Final Supplemental to the 2004 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines* (ROD, 2007 and FSEIS, 2007).

This project proposal is consistent with RMP objectives This proposal is also in compliance 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, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, and other applicable laws.

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 3, 1.7:

“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).”

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances having effects that may significantly affect the environment as documented in the following table. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR § 46.215 apply. A summary of the extraordinary circumstances is listed below. The action must have a significant or a disproportional adverse effect on the listed categories to warrant further analysis and environmental review.

D. NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review

Department of the Interior Regulations 43 CFR § 46.210 (f) require that any action that is normally categorically excluded must be evaluated to determine whether it meets any of the extraordinary circumstances found at 46 CFR § 46.215. An action would meet one of the extraordinary circumstances if the action may:

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 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.*

Yes No

() Remarks:

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.*

Plants Yes No Remarks:

Animals Yes No Remarks:

Fish Yes No Remarks:

() Remarks:

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 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

() Remarks:

