

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

A. Background

BLM Office: Prineville Field Office

NEPA Log #: DOI - BLM - OR – P060 - 2010 - 0023 - CX

Proposed Action Title: Rock Springs and Fly Spur SRP permits renewal

Location: Tumalo Recreation Area, approximately 7 miles North West of Bend, Oregon. The use area includes the Wierleske Allotment #5018, T 17S, R 11E, Sections, 3, 4, and 10 (see map attached for detail.)

Description of the Proposed Action: To renew two commercial SRP permits for non motorized trail in the Wierleske Allotment #5018. Activities include equestrian, mountain biking and hiking. Use is restricted to day use with no overnight occupancy allowed. Primary use season is May through mid-October. All trails are pre-existing and permittee has operated responsibly in area since early 1990s. Roads/trails available for use are shown on attached map. Distances for each trail type are roads: 2.4 miles; roads/trails: 21.3 miles; and trails: 22.6 miles. All trails and roads shown on public lands are available for permitted activities. Where trails go onto non public lands the permittee is required to provide documentation of permission for use.

Group size is limited to 16 people for all activities. Each permit would be allowed up to 24 people per day. Estimated total clients per month is 300 per permit. Permit would be issued for 5 years. There would be no additional on the ground disturbance related to this use. See attached stipulations for additional restrictions for these permits.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

The above project has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with one or more of the following BLM plans:

Land Use Plan Name: Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan, 2005.

Date approved (ROD): September 2005

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General recreation objective R-5

Provide for projects, programs, and permits that promote a diverse range of recreation opportunities.

Allocation/Allowable Uses

1. Special Recreation Permits (SRP) are required for all commercial and competitive uses on BLM administered lands.

Guidelines

General

1. Prior to the issuance of a SRP, assess the proposed activity to determine if it is in the public interest and to assure adequate mitigation of effects.
2. Manage SRP authorization to allow specified recreational use of public lands and related waters. These permits will be used as a mechanism to accommodate specific recreational uses, protect resources and manage visitor use.

3. For hiking/foot traffic use, emphasize authorizing commercial annual use on designated trails, then consider non-designated routes (in areas where no trail system has been designated) through the SRP process if these routes are mapped and do not present resource or social concerns.

Management Directions for Tumalo Recreation Area

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Objective R – 4: Provide identifiable non-motorized recreation opportunities to provide visitor satisfaction, protect natural resources, and minimize conflicts among public land and visitors and adjacent land owners.

Guidelines:

1. The Tumalo area is designated as Non-motorized Recreation Exclusive.
2. Trail system goals for the area include:
 - a. Roads will be retained in this area only to the extent necessary to create or access parking areas and trailheads.
 - b. Roads not needed for administrative access will be either closed or converted to designated trails.
 - c. Trails will be available for year-round use.
 - d. Provide links to trail systems on adjacent lands.
 - e. Provide a variety of loops that offer a diversity of trail experiences and serve to disperse users and reduce user conflicts.
 - f. Trails will take advantage of scenic and interpretive opportunities.
3. Designate a system of non-motorized trails in both the main Tumalo Block and the area south of Tumalo Reservoir.

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 11.9,

E16

Acquisition of easements for an existing road or issuance of leases, permits, or rights-of-way for the use existing facilities, improvements or sites for the same or similar purposes.

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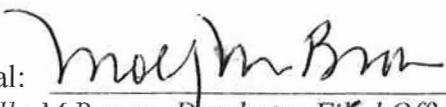
Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan..

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 apply. See attached CX Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation checklist.

D. Signature

Based on a review of the proposal and field office staff recommendations, I approve of the project as proposed and mitigated:

Authorizing official:


Molly M Brown, Deschutes Field Office Manger
Field

5/12/10
Date

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this review, contact: Henry Mottl, Recreation Planner, Prineville Field Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754, telephone (541) 416-6859

CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION		YES	NO
The proposed categorical exclusion action will:			
2.1	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
Rationale: Stipulations associated with this permit provide for safety of the participants and other users of the public lands.			
2.2	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.		X
Rationale: The project area does not contain any of the above listed special areas and does not possess wilderness characteristics.			
2.3	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
Rationale: There are no such effects or conflicts associated with this activity			
2.4	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
Rationale: There are no such effects or risks associated with this activity. The nonmotorized activity does not conflict with the existing ROW to the Tumalo Irrigation District.			
2.5	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: This renewal does not establish such a precedent or decision.			
2.6	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: This activity does not have a cumulative impact with significant environmental effects			
2.7	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.		X
Rationale: There are no such known properties.			

2.8 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
Rationale: This activity would not have such impacts related to T&E or their critical habitat		
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
Rationale: This activity would not violate any such law or requirements		
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
Rationale: This activity does not have an such adverse effects on low income or minority populations		
2.11 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
Rationale: This activity does not limit such access or have such an adverse effects		
2.12 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).		X
Rationale: Stipulations associated with this activity addresses this concern by not allowing supplemental feed.		