

# Categorical Exclusion Documentation

## A. Background

**BLM Office:** Prineville Field Office

**NEPA Log #:** DOI-BLM-OR-P060-2009-0042-CX

**Proposed Action Title:** Install handicapped accessible pathways to Harpham Flat campground toilet.

**Location:** Harpham Flat Recreation Site, Wasco County, Oregon. Township 4S, Range 14E, Section 13. Approximately 2 ½ air miles south of the Town of Maupin, Oregon along the eastern shore of the Lower Deschutes River.

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The campground at the Harpham Flat Recreation Site currently does not have ADA accessible pathways to the toilets. The proposed action is to install level concrete and paving stone pathways from group campsite # 7 and the associated parking spur to the toilet, making the campsite ADA accessible. The affected area of the campground will be about 150 feet by 75 feet (11,250 sq feet) which is to include grading and hardening of the ground surface in group campsite # 7. Additionally, paving stones will be placed, and concrete will be poured for, 1) an ADA accessible parking spur (dimensions of 63 feet by 16 feet, or 1008 square feet), 2) a concrete and paving stone landing in front of the toilet area (dimensions of 30 feet by 20 feet, or 600 square feet), and 3) a concrete and paving stone pathway connecting the ADA accessible parking spur with the concrete and paving stone landing in front of the toilet (dimensions of 4 feet by 40 feet, or 160 square feet). The total amount of new concrete and paving stones will be 1,768 sq feet.

## B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Lower Deschutes River Management Plan Date approved (ROD):  
February 1993

The proposed action at Harpham Flat, campsite number 7 is in conformance with the above plan because it is specifically provided for in the following land use plan decisions: The ROD states on Page 44: “Harpham Flat will be developed for day use and boat launch and landing. Site stabilization including gravel, barricading and toilets will be provided.” The RMP states on Page 74: “Parking areas will be developed or improved adjacent to Highway 26 upstream from Warm Springs as well as at Mecca Flat, Trout Creek, South Junction, Devil’s Canyon, Long Bend,

Harpham Flat, Wapinitia, Boxcar Rapids, Maupin City Park, Sandy Beach, Pine Tree and other suitable areas between Maupin and Sherar's Falls." Additionally the RMP states on Page 63: "Campsites and other developed facilities in roaded segments of the river will be designed for access and use by the handicapped." The land at Harpham Flat Recreation Site is owned by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs of Oregon. The ROD states on page 24: "If private land can be acquired and alternative camping facilities are provided at off-river sites at Maupin, Buckhollow or other suitable locations, overnight camping will be phased out on a case by case basis from Harpham Flat to Sherar's Falls." To date no private land has been identified as available for the purpose of providing alternate camping facilities, nor have any other suitable publicly owned sites been identified. Therefore, the proposed action is in compliance with land management objectives to maintain currently developed campsites, toilets and parking areas, as well as providing access and use by the handicapped in roaded segments of the river.

### **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 1, section 1.7 "Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operation, maintenance and replacement activities; e.g. limited size and magnitude or short term effects.

I considered the inclusion of a small area of concrete and paving stones to facilitate handicapped access from campsite # 7 and the associated parking spur to the toilet, as well as grading and compacting of the soil in campsite #7 at Harpham Flat. Soil impact is anticipated to be minimal because campsite # 7 is relatively flat. Grading and hardening of the surface would be limited to the top few inches of soil in an already heavily used area. An archaeological technician will be present to identify any cultural issues during the soil movement phase of construction. The action will positively impact the user experience by facilitating site identification, selection, and ease of use by members of the public who fall under the auspices of the American's with Disabilities Act.

### **D. Signature**

Authorizing official: /S/ William Dean, Acting for 9/16/09  
Molly Brown, Field Manager Date

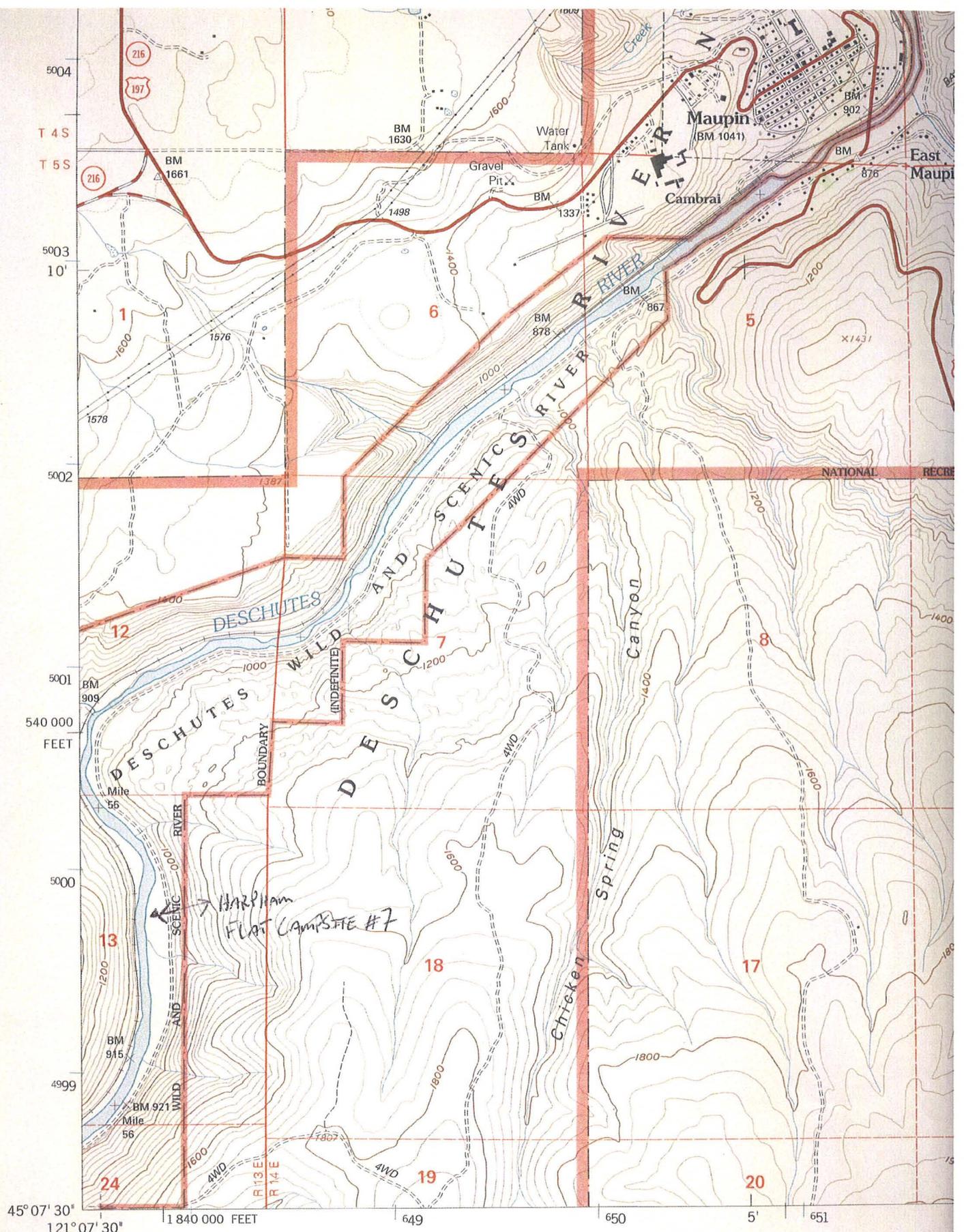
### **Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this review, contact: Michelle McSwain, Prineville Field Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754, telephone (541) 416-66877, michelle\_mcswain@blm.gov

<b>CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION</b> The proposed categorical exclusion action will:	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
<b>Rationale:</b> All proposed activities will follow established Occupational Safety and Health Administration rules concerning health and safety. As needed, BLM officials will contact and encourage visitors to temporarily avoid the area during construction.		
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
<b>Rationale:</b> The site of the proposed action is in an established, developed, and heavily used fee area campsite. The action will have no adverse affects on historic or cultural values due to the small scope of the project which is already in a modified/impacted area, the limited depth of soil disturbance, and because the area is within the boundaries of the 100 year flood plain. The proposed action is within a Wild & Scenic River boundary, however there would be no impact to outstanding fishery, wildlife, scenic, geologic, historic, cultural, botanical, or recreational values as described in the Prineville District's Lower Deschutes River Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, January 1993 pages 23-25, due to the limited size and scope of the proposed action. Furthermore the proposed site is neither in nor near any wilderness areas, national natural landmarks, drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, national monuments, or other ecologically significant or critical areas. No wilderness characteristics exist at Harpham Flat due to its small size and unnatural character. Developed roads, designated campsites, toilet facilities and a boat/raft launch site have altered the natural character of this landscape. No outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive, unconfined recreation exist due to its small size, location and developed landscape. This non-federal parcel of land lacks wilderness character for the reasons stated above.		
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X

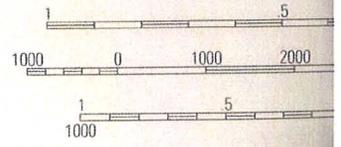
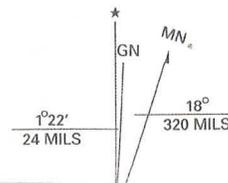
<p><b>Rationale:</b> The proposed action does not have any controversial environmental effects or unresolved conflicts, as it is well within the boundaries of a historically and heavily used fee area campground. Furthermore, the proposed action is in conformance with The Lower Deschutes River Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, January 1993. It is specifically provided for on page 63, which states: “Campsites and other developed facilities in roaded segments of the river will be designed for access and use by the handicapped.”</p>		
2.4	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	X
<p><b>Rationale:</b> Past improvement activities to previously developed fee area campgrounds along the Lower Deschutes River, including the leveling of the surface area at existing campsites, have shown no highly uncertain, potentially significant, unique or unknown risks.</p>		
2.5	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	X
<p><b>Rationale:</b> The management of previously constructed fee area campgrounds is a common practice that has taken place on public lands throughout the United States for years. There is no evidence that the proposed action has any potentially significant environmental effects. This management activity does not commit the BLM to pursuing further actions, and as such will not establish a precedent or decision for future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.</p>		
2.6	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	X
<p><b>Rationale:</b> The proposed action is specifically provided for in land use plan decisions. The installation of ADA accessible pathways at Harpham Flat, group campsite number seven, has been designed to meet management objectives. Similar past activities have had no significant direct, indirect or cumulative effects.</p>		
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
<p><b>Rationale:</b> Cultural resource values will be monitored during implementation of the proposed action by an onsite archaeological technician. If cultural resources are found during the implementation of this action then appropriate mitigation measures will be applied.</p>		
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
<p><b>Rationale:</b> A consultation with the local wildlife biologist and botanist regarding the proposed action has occurred resulting in no anticipated change in overall habitat and no loss of critical</p>		

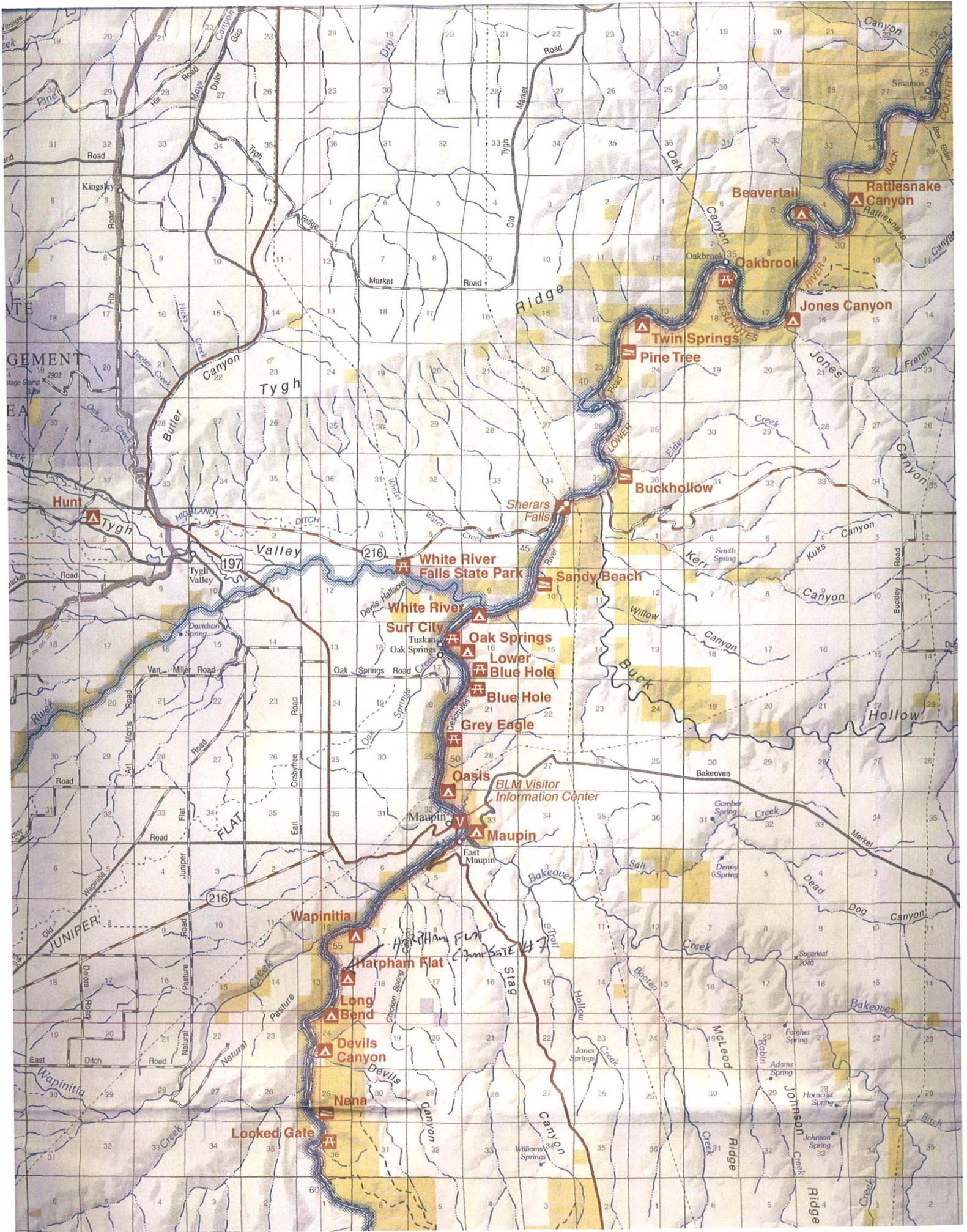
habitat for any proposed or listed threatened or endangered plant or animal species.		
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
<b>Rationale:</b> The proposed action is consistent with the management of public lands as outlined in the Prineville District's Lower Deschutes River Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, January 1993. This document complies with all applicable laws, such as the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and others		
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
<b>Rationale:</b> The effects of installing an ADA accessible pathway and campsite will have no adverse effects on low income or minority populations. Furthermore this action will have positive effects for the disabled minority population by providing unhindered access to fee area sites already being accessed by the able bodied majority.		
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
<b>Rationale:</b> The proposed action will not limit use of or access to Indian sacred sites. In addition, if cultural resources are found by the archaeological technician assigned to monitor the implementation of the proposed action, then appropriate mitigating measures will be applied.		
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
<b>Rationale:</b> The proposed action would not contribute to a change in the introduction , continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or invasive species. Vehicles would remain on existing campground roads reducing the potential for them to pick up and disperse noxious weeds or their seeds. Furthermore this action will not measurably increase the visitation and use of the campground or its associated resources.		



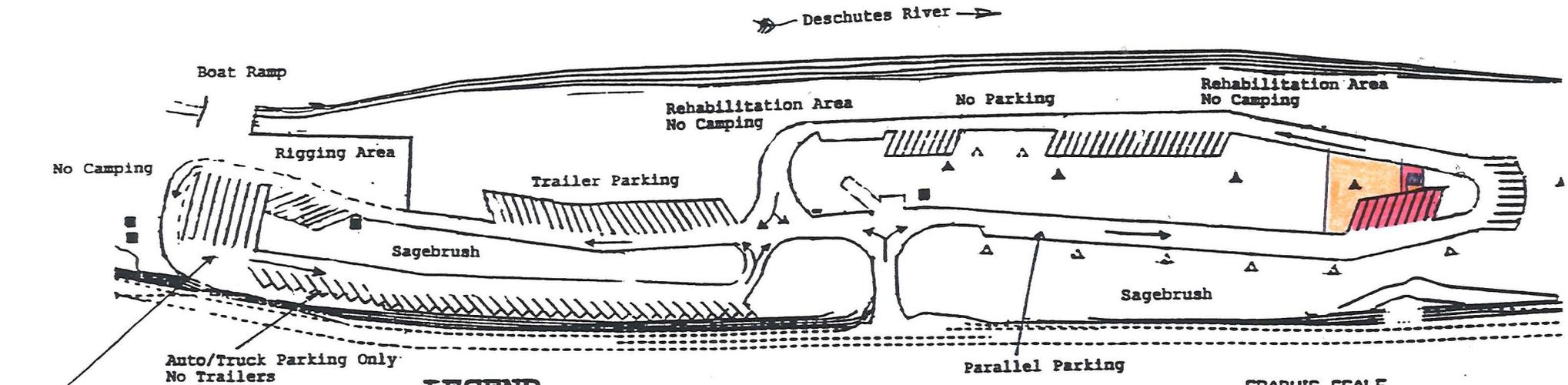
Map prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey  
 and published by the U.S. Forest Service

Map of lands outside the National Forest System lands may not have been revised  
 since they were compiled in 1957. Planimetry derived from imagery taken in 1994  
 is current as of 1962. Partial field check by U.S. Forest Service in 1996  
 using the North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 10 000-foot ticks:  
 UTM coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
 10 000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator ticks, zone 10



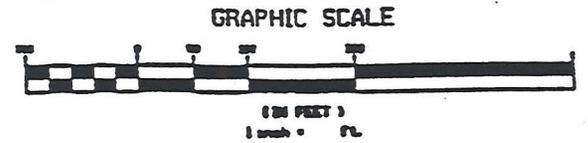


# PARKING AND CAMPING PLAN



## LEGEND

Group Campsite (Maximum 24)	▲
Individual Campsite (Maximum 8)	△
Toilet	■



INDICATES AREA TO BE GRADED & HARDENED

INDICATES ARE WITH NEW CONCRETE/PAVERS

All-through Parking for  
10 foot or longer trailers





