

# Categorical Exclusion Documentation

## A. Background

**BLM Office:** Prineville Field Office

**NEPA Log #:** DOI - BLM - OR – P060 - 2010 - 0027 - CX

**Proposed Action Title:** Installation of Fee Collection Vaults also known as “Iron Rangers” within 10 Recreation Sites along the Crooked River.

**Location:** Ten Iron Ranger Fee Collection Vaults will be installed in the Crooked Wild and Scenic River (Chimney Rock Segment) Campgrounds located between 18-20 miles south of Prineville, Oregon along State Highway 27. The campgrounds identified for vault installation (one per campground) are: Castle Rock, Stillwater, Lone Pine, Lower Palisades, Upper Palisades, Chimney Rock, Cobble Rock, Devil’s Post Pile, Poison Butte, and Big Bend campground. These sites are located in T16S, R16E, Sec 33; T17S, R16E, Sec 3 & 4.

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Using a mechanical backhoe, crews will dig a surface area 3 feet by 3 feet wide and 3 feet deep for each of the 10 fee vaults being installed. Once the fee vault is in place, the hole will be backfilled with concrete and the removed soil will be spread evenly to blend into the adjacent area. The depth and width of the hole is necessary to make the Iron Ranger difficult for someone to remove or vandalize.

Area of disturbance will be adjacent to the existing frame of the wooden leg of the Kiosk (see attached picture). The project area is known to have been previously disturbed during the installation of the existing information kiosks.

## B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Lower Crooked Wild and Scenic River (Chimney Rock Segment) Management Plan

Date approved (ROD): October 1992

The proposed action is in conformance with the above plan, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following land use plan decisions, objectives, terms, or conditions:

“Overnight fees will be required at Castle Rock, Stillwater, Lone Pine, Lower Palisades, Chimney Rock, Cobble Rock, Post Pile, Poison Butte, and Big Bend campgrounds”; and,

“Operations and maintenance of campground facilities will continue at whatever level necessary to meet BLM standards consistent with level of use, development and maintenance standards.” (LCWSR Mgmt Plan, p. 19)

In support of the conditions identified in the management plan for this area, the Prineville BLM policy requires Iron Rangers to be purchased and installed at recreation sites in order to comply

with campsite fee collection policies, to insure financial integrity, and staff safety and security. This action meets the intent “to prevent or reduce theft of Government monies and securing funds during transport” as indentified in 2009 Audit and According to BLM Manual Rel. 2-295 Supersedes Rel. 2-291 8/7/2006 H-2930-1 RECREATION PERMIT ADMINISTRATION (Public).

### **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 2.3A(2), 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 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.

I considered the fact that the project area was previously disturbed during the installation of the existing information kiosks. In addition, the areas around the kiosks have been maintained to be clear of vegetation and are currently covered with a mixture of native material and foreign gravel. The additional impacts to these areas from the installation of the fee vaults will be minimal and of short duration.

### **D. Signature**

Authorizing official:     /S/ Molly Brown         2/8/10      
Molly Brown, Deschutes Field Manager Date

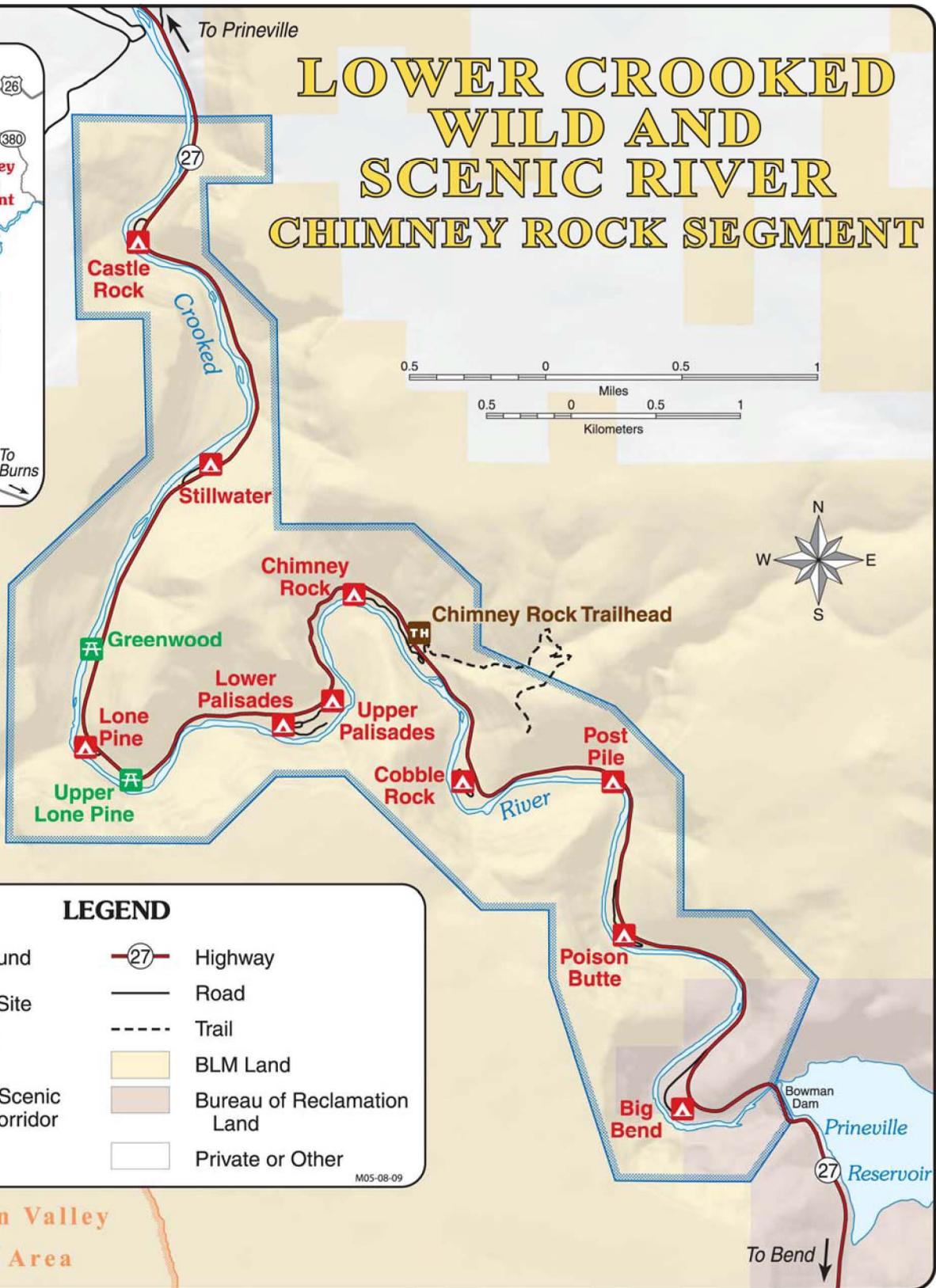
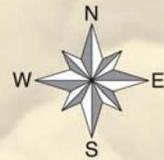
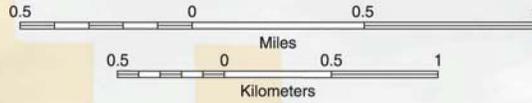
### **Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this review, contact: Jill Benefield, Park Ranger, Prineville Field Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754, telephone (541) 416-6684 (jill\_benefield@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>		
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 project area was previously disturbed during the installation of the existing information kiosks.		
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		x
<b>Rationale:</b>		
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		x
<b>Rationale:</b>		
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		x
<b>Rationale:</b>		
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		x
<b>Rationale:</b>		
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
<b>Rationale:</b>		
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		x

designated Critical Habitat for these species.		
<b>Rationale:</b>		
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>		
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		x
<b>Rationale:</b>		
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>		
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: sites are already maintained to be free of vegetation and no new soil/vegetation will be brought in for this project.</b>		

# LOWER CROOKED WILD AND SCENIC RIVER CHIMNEY ROCK SEGMENT



## LEGEND

- |  |                                |  |                            |
|--|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
|  | Campground                     |  | Highway                    |
|  | Day Use Site                   |  | Road                       |
|  | Trailhead                      |  | Trail                      |
|  | Wild and Scenic River Corridor |  | BLM Land                   |
|  |                                |  | Bureau of Reclamation Land |
|  |                                |  | Private or Other           |

M05-08-09

Millican Valley  
OHV Area