

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

A. Background

BLM Office: Prineville Field Office

NEPA Log #: DOI - BLM - OR – P060 - 2010 - 0051- CX

Project/Lease/Serial/Case File #: N/A

Proposed Action Title: Three Wells BLM Road Maintenance

Location: The Three Wells BLM Road # 6539-0-00 begins on the south side of U.S. Highway 20, at Hampton, Oregon, extending 17.4 miles to the south-south east, joining another BLM road. The attached map identifies the location of this road and land ownership.

Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is to rehabilitate road segments of the Three Wells BLM Road # 6539-0-00 in Township 22 South, Range 20 East, Sections 26 and 35, W.M. and in Township 23 South, Range 20 East, Section 2, W.M., that have been damaged from use during the Spring and Winter months, primarily by repeated vehicle use by SageWalk, a wilderness therapy group.

The proposed action will also correct areas where surface run-off has eroded the roadway, by installing rolling dips or water bars at these locations. The attached map identifies proposed road maintenance locations where ruts and large potholes exist on 7 miles of this BLM road, which is just south of Hampton, Oregon. (Standard drawings for rolling dips and water bars that will be installed are available for public review at the BLM Prineville District office. Contact the BLM office to arrange an appointment to review these drawings).

Up to 300 cubic yards of native rocky borrow material would be purchased from a private commercial rock source for the proposed action. Rock would be hauled to nine locations, totaling 450 feet on this road, to restore this road back to a condition absent of vehicle ruts and large potholes within the roadbed. Rehabilitation of BLM roads used by SageWalk is required condition of commercial use by BLM, so this maintenance cost will be billed and paid by SageWalk.

Random rolling dips, or water bars extending up to ten feet out from the BLM road on the downhill side will also be installed at random locations, where needed, along the the 7 mile segment of the Three Wells road segment. The total number of rolling dips/waterbars installed will not exceed 14. These actions are needed to reduce the propagation of roadway width expansion caused by traffic going around damaged road segments, thus impacting vegetation and soils.

Botanical Constraints; No road maintenance will occur on a short road segment of this BLM road just south of Highway 20, due to the presence of American pillwort (*Pilularia Americana*), which is located in a small pond along the edge of the road. Just south of Hampton and north of the old guard station just inside the BLM managed lands. The only work that will be performed in this area is on the road itself with no action being taken off road, such as the creation of ditches off the roadway.

Cultural Constraints; Cultural Project Design criteria is required. Sensitive areas to protect are between 2 to 6 miles south southeast of Hampton. No road work would be allowed outside the road prism between Hampton and 2 miles SE and 6 miles SSE of Hampton. Cultural specialists will flag or identify sensitive areas to avoid.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Brothers/LaPine Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement; Record of Decision. Date approved (ROD): July, 1989

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:

Administrative Actions; ... Administrative actions are the day- to- day transactions required to serve the public and to provide optimal use of the resources. These actions are in conformance with the plan. They include....facility maintenance; law enforcement; enforcement and monitoring of permit stipulations..... The degree to which these actions are carried out will be based upon BLM policy, available personnel and funding levels.”
Page 7.

C. Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with:

- a) 516 DM 11.9, Actions Eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CX), effective Date August 14, 2007, Appendix A(2); ...1.7 G. Transportation, 2. “Installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, waterbars, gates, or cattleguards on/or adjacent to roads and trails identified in any land use or transportation plan, or eligible for incorporation in such plan....” and
- b) June 21, 2005, 516 DM 2.3A, Appendix A(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.

D. Signature

H. F. "Chip" Faver

Authorizing official: _____

Homer "Chip" Faver, Central Oregon Field Manager

9/30/10
Date

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this review, contact: Berry Phelps, Recreation Planner, Prineville Field Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754, telephone (541) 416-6723. bphelps@blm.gov.

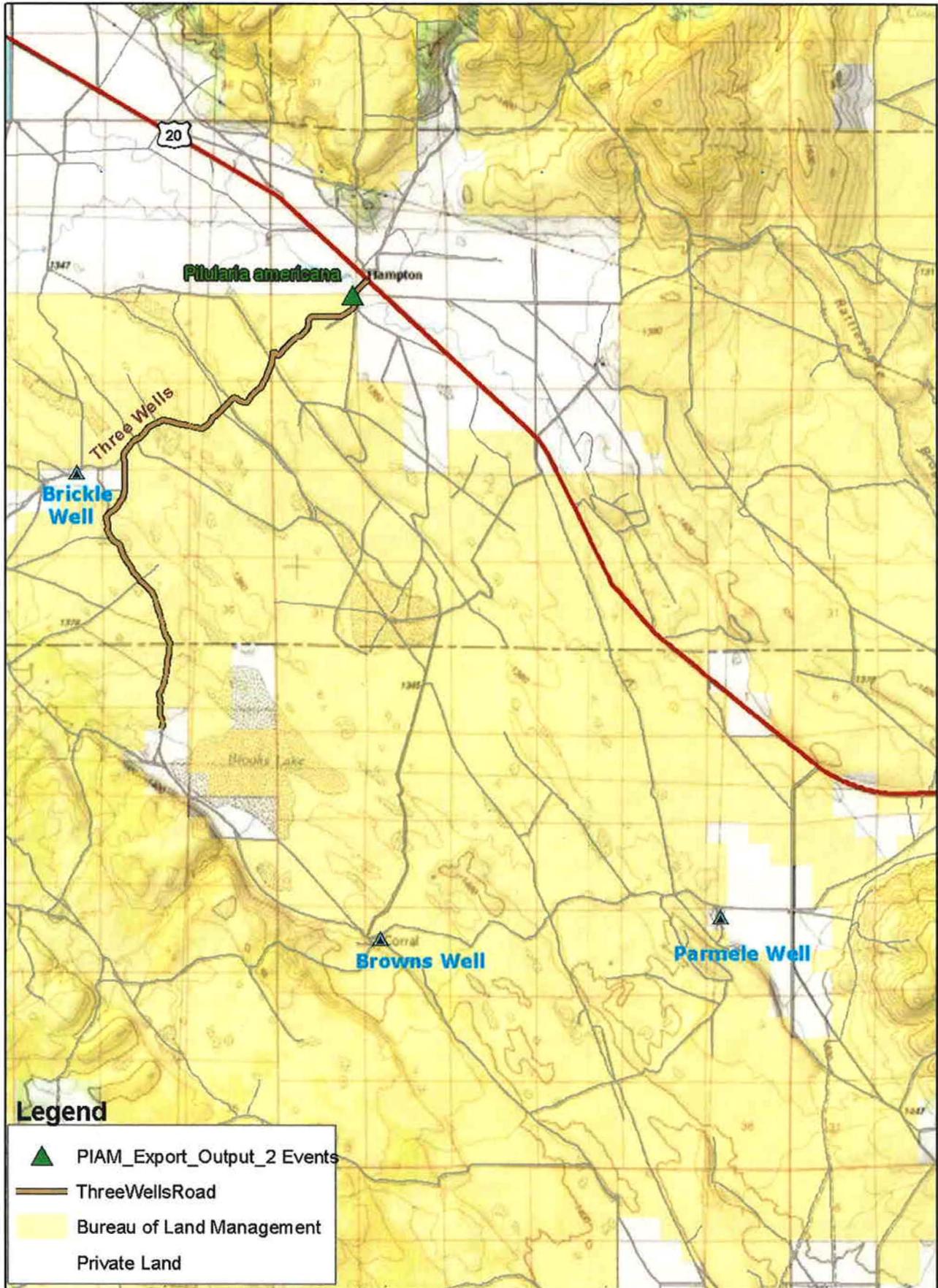
CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION The proposed categorical exclusion action will:		YES	NO
2.1	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
Rationale: There would be no significant impacts on public health and safety because BLM Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) helps ensure safe equipment operation for BLM employees and for public health and safety. Safety to the public would be enhanced by maintaining this road.			
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 would not affect any potential Wilderness values in the area, because all maintenance work would either be on an old established Three Wells BLM road, or immediately adjacent to this road. Past and current Wilderness Characteristic Update inventories have determined that no wilderness values exist on this road or adjacent to this road.			
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 because the proposed action is continued rehabilitation and/or maintenance of a roadway in existence over 35 years.			
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, which is doing road rehabilitation			
2.5	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: Continuing road maintenance of this road for over 35 years has not and would not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.			
2.6	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X

<p>Rationale: Road maintenance would not have a cumulative impact with significant environmental effects, due to the nature of this authorization that limits all actions to the existing road bed, or immediately adjacent to the existing roadbed. All these restrictions limit any potential for this use to have “significant environmental 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>Rationale: There are no known impacts that would result from this authorization. The Cultural Specialist constraints on the proposed action, and all rehabilitation work would be confined to the roadway ensure no impacts would occur to this resource, even if it existed in the project area.</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>Rationale: Road maintenance on the Three Wells BLM Road would not have any impact with significant environmental effects, due to the nature of this authorization that limits all actions to the existing road tread, or immediately adjacent to the existing roadbed.</p> <p>All these restrictions limit any potential for this use to have “significant environmental effects” on any T&E specie, or their habitat, due to almost all maintenance being limited to the existing Three Well Roadbed, or immediately adjacent to this roadbed.</p>		
2.9	Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	X
<p>Rationale: This activity would not violate any such law or requirements.</p>		
2.10	Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	X
<p>Rationale: This activity would not have adverse effects on low income or minority populations</p>		
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
<p>Rationale: Continued road maintenance would not limit access to and ceremonial use of any Indian sacred sites on Federal lands in this area.</p>		
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: Road maintenance and spot native rock filling of up to nine road depressions on the Three Wells Road would not result in any spread of noxious weeds, or non-native invasive species known to occur in this area because BLM maintenance crew would use sub-surface rock. The spread of noxious weeds would be prevented by requiring the following actions; a) all Equipment (graders, towers, cats, dump trucks, trucks) used as part of this project would be cleaned prior to coming to the project area, b) gravel would be used from a weed free source and c) the project area would be monitored for noxious weeds for three years following any ground disturbance.

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Three Wells - BLM Road #6539-0-00 Maintenance



Prineville District Office



August 31 2010

1 0.5 0 1 Miles



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources and may be updated without notification.

MXD: P:\prngis_projects\facilities\CxProject Locations\ThreeWellsRoad\ThreeWellsRoad.mxd

Rept. No.: 10034
Date: September 27, 2010

SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SURVEY WAIVER

Project name: Three Wells BLM Road Maintenance

Anticipated impacts: To correct road segments that have been damaged from use during the spring and winter months, install rolling dips or water bars and spreading up to 300 cubic yards of native rocky borrow material from an adjacent BLM rock pit in nine locations, totaling 450 feet on this road, in order to restore this road back to a condition absent of vehicle ruts and large pot holes within the roadbed.

Descriptive location: 7 miles of the Three Wells BLM Road # 6539-0-00, just south of Hampton, Oregon.

Legal Description: Township 22 South, Range 20 East, Sections 26 and 35, W.M. and in Township 23 South, Range 20 East, Section 2 and 23; W.M.

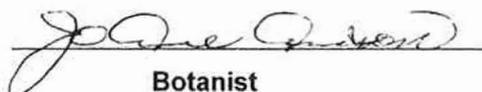
USGS quad name(s)(map on reverse): Hampton and Potato Lake

Environment as described by project initiator or from other information: BLM Road # 6539-0-00, Three Wells Road has been damaged by repeated use during wet weather. Road maintenance is required to bring this road back up to BLM standards, includes but is not limited to blading, installing water bars and rocking the road.

Special status plants which would be suspected of occurring in the project area, their habitat and known locations: *Pilularia americana* (American pillwort) is known from a small pond adjacent to this road project. It is a member of the pepperwort family, is an assessment species found irregularly from central Oregon south to California, with disjunct populations in Arkansas, Georgia and Chile. One population is known in the Prineville District adjacent to a livestock pond near Hampton. Reproducing by spores, its habitat is shallow, vernal pools.

Results of other botanical inventories in the general area: Clearance # 96006 found no special status plants.

For the following reasons, I have determined that there will be no impact to special status plants and have waived the need for a field clearance: It has been agreed that only grading may occur in the vicinity of the pond and no off road type maintenance will occur in the first ¼ mile once access is gained to BLM managed lands just south of Hampton.


Botanist

WAIVER OF CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY
PRINEVILLE DISTRICT, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Waiver No. 542010W18

Date: September 2, 2010

Resource Area: Central Oregon Resource Area

County: Deschutes, Lake

Project Name: Three Wells – BLM Road #6539-0-00 Maintenance

Legal Description: T. 22 S. R. 20 E., Sections 26 and 35; T. 23 S. R. 20 E., Section 2.

USGS Quad(s): Hampton, West of Hampton, Brooks Lake, Benjamin Lake and Potato Lake

Proposed Action: The BLM is proposing to maintain and correct road segments along an estimated 7 miles along the Three Wells BLM Road 6539-0-00. The road has been damaged from use primarily during spring and winter seasons. Corrective measures would be used where surface run-off has caused erosion by installing rolling dips or water bars. Ruts and potholes would be improved as well. Native rock would be added to restore road conditions. Random rolling dips or water bars extending up to 10 feet from the BLM road on the downhill side would be installed where needed. The rolling dips or water bars would not exceed 12. The work is scheduled to occur fall or early winter 2010.

Project Design Features for cultural: Road maintenance limited to road prism except where cultural clearance has been completed.

- **No road work outside of road prism from Hampton south 2 miles.**
- **Avoid 3 sensitive areas between milepost 2 and 6 for any work that would extend outside the road prism (see attached map). Working outside the road prism in this segment (2 milepost 2 to 6 se of Hampton) while avoiding sensitive areas is OK.**

Based on this information, additional cultural resource survey will be waived for the Three Wells road maintenance proposal. This waiver complies with Appendix E, Transportation 5. Road maintenance (exclusive of major road improvements) under the Protocol for Managing Cultural Resources on Lands Administered by the BLM in Oregon.

Archaeologist (Date) Shana Halpern 9 Sept 2010

Central Oregon Resource Area Manager (Date) H.J. "Chj" Zed