

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

A. Background

BLM Office: Prineville Field Office

NEPA Log #: DOI-BLM-OR-P060-2011-0060-CX

Proposed Action Title: Annual Oregon 100 Horse Endurance Ride

Location: 3 miles southwest of Brothers, OR. See attached map.

Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is to annually approve a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) for the Oregon 100 Endurance ride, as long as the permit remains in good standing and at the manager's discretion. The ride is a fundraising event for the PAC North group of the American Endurance Ride Conference. The ride was most recently cleared by Categorical Exclusion OR-056-07-0107.

This annual endurance ride has been under a BLM SRP and has been monitored since 1995 without any problems or negative impacts. The horse endurance course would use existing vehicle routes and trails on BLM public lands and private lands with written permission. Routes would be delineated with flagging and temporary signs. Ride management and veterinarian vehicles would remain on established roads. All riders would remain on established roads and trails, if any rider strays from the designated course they would be removed from competition. The staging and camping area would be located on private land. The race sponsors would have over 1,200 gallons of water on hand at this campsite for emergencies and would ensure that Hampton/Brothers Rural Fire Department is on hand with a 1500-2000 gallon tanker truck during the event. It is expected that 50-150 event riders would participate and compete against each other over a three day weekend during the month of September.

No camping on public land would be authorized. The permit area is not near nor would it involve any "Special Areas". Camping, main veterinarian check and the staging area would be on private land; the "out vet check" is on public land and is less than one acre in size. The vet check areas include the veterinarian's vehicle, a small trailer with supplies, a table, and chairs. Water troughs with up to 400 gallon capacity would be temporarily placed along existing routes used for this endurance ride and will be filled using a portable water tank. All feeding would be done on private land and certified weed free hay would be required by the permittee and participants. Portable toilet rentals would be placed at the staging area and adequate for the number of riders expected for the event; one portable toilet at the out vet check would be allowed on public land.

All flagging, water sets, signs, garbage, etc. would be removed at the end of the event.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Brothers/LaPine Resource Management Plan

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:

“...Support will also be needed to conduct cultural and threatened and endangered species resource evaluations in association with the issuance of special recreation permits...”(Page 52)

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, Effective Date June 21, 2005., H. Recreation Management., (1) 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 CX cannot be used for commercial boating permits along Wild and Scenic Rivers. This CX cannot be used for the establishment or issuance of Special Recreation Permits for “Special Area” management (43 CFR 2932.5)

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

I considered many social and environmental effects to the land and social experience by allowing this Special Recreation Permit activity. The following mitigation measures discussed in the proposed action must be followed to minimize any effects:

- **Noxious/Invasive Weeds** – Feeding would only be allowed on private land at the staging area and certified weed free hay is required. Ride management and veterinarian vehicles must remain on designated roads. Riders must remain on established roads and trails.
- **Fire** - Permittee will provide water trailer for emergencies and will be sure that Hampton/Brothers Rural Fire Department is on site with a 1500-2000 gallon tanker truck during the event
- **Sanitation** - Permittee will provide portable toilet facilities at camp and at the out vet check area.

Authorizing official: Molly Brown
Molly Brown, Deschutes Resource Area Field Manager

11/28/11
Date

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this review, contact: Jim Beaupre, Prineville Field Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754, telephone (541) 416-6776, jbeaupre@or.blm.gov

| CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION | | YES | NO |
|--|--|-----|----|
| The proposed categorical exclusion action will: | | | |
| 2.1 | Have significant impacts on public health or safety. | | X |
| Rationale: There would be no impacts on public health or safety. Signs would be placed informing the public of riders on roadways. Public use in the area is minimal and conflict would not be expected. Ride management would have adequate first aid supplies and training. Past rides have not resulted in any impacts to public health and safety. | | | |
| 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 trail locations are in areas where no wilderness values have been identified and are not near or pass through any "Special Areas". The proposed action would not have significant impacts on any resource. | | | |
| 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 known controversial environmental effects and this action does not involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. | | | |
| 2.4 | Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. | | X |
| Rationale: There is no evidence that this action has potentially significant environmental effects. The action does not include any unique or unknown environmental risks. | | | |
| 2.5 | Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. | | X |
| Rationale: Authorizing a Special Recreation Permit does not set any precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. Special Recreation Permits are issued at the manager's discretion and could be revoked for violations of the permit. | | | |
| 2.6 | Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. | | X |
| Rationale: Past endurance rides in the area have had no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effect. Currently, there are no other events on the described roadways and trails. Past monitoring has shown no significant impact to the public lands in the area. | | | |
| 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: The project area does not include any property listed or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. | | | |

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| 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: Consultation with a district wildlife biologist has occurred on this project. The scope of the proposed action would not affect any Endangered or Threatened Species or have significant impacts or result in the loss of 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: The proposed action conforms to the direction given for the management of public lands in the Prineville District which 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 |
| Rationale: The proposed action has no adverse effect on any low income or minority population. | | |
| 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: Riders will remain on existing roads and trails. No sacred sites exist on the existing roads and trails. | | |
| 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: The proposed activity would not measurably change the rate of introduction, continued existence or spread of noxious weeds or invasive species. Riders would remain on established roads and trails. Cross country riding is not authorized. | | |

OR PAC 100 Endurance Ride

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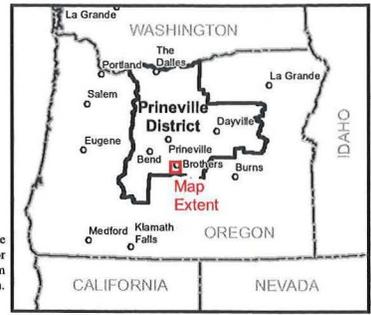
November 2011

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
PRINEVILLE DISTRICT
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0 1 2 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.



Legend

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| Cities | Administered Lands |
| Ride Route | Bureau of Land Management |
| Highways | State |
| Roads | Private |

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